

First Church of Christ, Congregational in East Haddam



TIDINGS



Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

July/August 2016

A LETTER FROM LAURA



*Be still and know that I am God.
Psalm 46.10*

Summer Day by Mary Oliver

Who made the world?

Who made the swan and the black bear?

The grasshopper, I mean--

The one who has flung herself out of the grass...

Now, she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down into the grass, how to kneel in the grass, how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?

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Dear Friends,

Summer is officially here! What is it you plan to do with this one wild and precious summer? As the warm breeze ruffles the flowing waters of the Connecticut River, it's a great treat to sit at a picnic table with friends and watch the boats go by...I hope you and your family and friends will be finding relaxing ways to "be idle and blessed" this summer.

I'm adding books to my beach reading pile and hope to get some good suggestions along the way, too. If you're looking for inspiration, I've just finished Brian Doyle's book of essays called *Leaping: Revelations and Epiphanies* (2003). His essays, like Mary Oliver's poetry, help me to stay near to the miracles that live in the simplest of things; an unexpected call from a long-missed friend, the humming of a nephew as he plays with his racecars in the sandbox, and the Strawberry June moon shining brightly into our woods the other evening.

We continue with our prayers for Orlando and for the ongoing needs of that community and all our suffering brothers and sisters who are the objects of rejection, derision and violence. The gospel call to us is always to invite, welcome and serve "the least of these" among us (Matthew 25.40). At this moment, that might be a member of the LGBTQ community, a newly relocated

(cont'd on page 3)



Summer Coffee House

July 22, 2016 6:30pm– 9ish

Please join us under the stars as we, once again, present our Summer Coffee House.

Music is provided by local musicians of all ages.

Beverages provided by Two Wrasslin' Cats.

Light dessert refreshments and snacks will be available.

Bring your family, friends, lawn chairs, or blankets and join us at the church playground for an evening of music, friendship and laughter!



Birthdays

July

- 1—Anita Hayn
- 7—Joan Osalza
- 13-Don Osalza
- 15-Audra Lisowicz
- 17-Nicholas Lombardo
- 19-Perley Lockard
- 22-Betty Haines
- 30-George Mitchell

August

- 1—Larry Fraser
- 3—Jon Hughes
- 6—Stan Conover
- 17-Alan Ponanski
- 31-Bob Ballek



(cont'd from page 1)

refugee family or a Muslim neighbor being subjected to stereotyping...Perhaps as a church community in the coming months, we can engage in purposeful conversations and explore what else hospitality might look like for us as a meetinghouse of God's welcome.

This summer, we have a new Bible study series called, "*Summer with the Psalms*" meeting on four Wednesday evenings in July. We'll reflect upon a different psalm each evening, read various translations and explore how the Spirit might be moving in us.

Also, we are planning for two outdoor worship services to take place on July 10th and August 7th (weather permitting). We also hope to see you at our 2nd Annual Outdoor Coffeehouse on July 22nd starting at 6:30 pm. Keep reading for the other events and activities taking place this summer at First Church!

May this summer bring you days of stillness, adventure and joy.

Blessings all around,

Laura



Music Report

We are grateful to have some money in the Music budget for the coming year. We are hoping to expand by having an organist more often to play our beautiful instrument. Lynn Rossi will continue to play piano for some of the Sunday services and also our faithful **volunteer musicians**--Bud Haines, Sue Merrow, Margaret Charney and Carol Butler. **The Choir** sings when we have an accompanist, so anyone interested watch for rehearsal times. If you have musical talent, think about participating in our worship services.



Please contact Margaret Charney for more information!



Quilt Raffle Tickets are Ready!!!

Quilt Raffle tickets will go on sale July 9th and finish with the drawing at the 21st Annual Quilt show on Oct 9, 2016. We sell the raffle tickets at many venues-**The East Haddam Farmer's Market, Moodus Plaza, Gristmill Market, Stop & Shop stores, the Chester Fair and the Haddam Neck Fair, plus many others.** Please consider spending some time to help sell the tickets and promote our Show! Speak to Margaret Charney , Betty Haines or Holly Coleman to schedule a date.



21st ANNUAL QUILT SHOW---OCT. 8th & 9th, 2016---

It's time to start planning for this year's show! The Vendor/Advertiser letters were sent out in May. If you know anyone who would like to be a vendor, contact Margaret Charney.

Letters to display or sell your quilts and needlework will be going out soon. Please contact Margaret if you would like to participate in any way.

Betty Haines has been working all winter on this year's raffle quilt, shown above. It is another spectacular work of art!

Family Directory Updates

Margaret Charney's phone # is 860- 537-3323

Helmut & Rose Dijer live in East Hampton 06424

Alex & Eloise Leslie, 120 Hollister Way South, Glastonbury, 06033

*Joan & Don Osalza no longer have a landline. Their phone numbers are;
Don- 860-949-5058 and Joan- 860-334-7785*

If you notice any incorrect addresses, phone numbers or email addresses contact Kathy Sewell.

Gentle Yoga for Adults at East Haddam Congregational Church

Come join us for three free gentle yoga classes this summer

Wednesday July 13th, 20th, and 27th

at 11:00 am

Improve your posture, increase flexibility, build strength, and reclaim your ability to balance with this gentle yoga class series. Practice yoga poses that meet your physical needs now while expanding your abilities over time, and enjoy breathing and relaxation techniques to invite inner calm and release tension. We will be transitioning from standing to chair poses to seated and reclining poses. However, there are no expectations. Start where you are, honor your body, and find your place between effort and ease.

Please dress in comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat, a water bottle and a small blanket or towel.

Janice Sina received her 200-hour certification at CrossRoads Yoga Teacher Training in Southington in 2015 and teaches yoga at the East Haddam Senior Center.

Quilting on Tuesdays

Quilting sessions will continue on Tuesdays from 9am-12 noon. We will be working down stairs, making items to sell at the **Chester Fair and Haddam Neck Fair**. Come join the fun of sewing and fellowship! Contact Margaret Charney for more information.



Youth Group Friday Night Movie and Pizza

Friday July 8th

6:30pm



What Does Outreach Mean To You?

Outreach means different things to different people. Yet we all seem to understand that at its heart, outreach involves extending ourselves, our talents, and our resources, in some way to help others.



Here at First Church we have a Board of Christian Outreach to coordinate events and ways for everyone to participate. As of now, we have just three members, Margaret Charney, Karan Conover and me. Below you'll see the list of activities we helped to carry out for our 2015/2016 program year. Now imagine how much more we could do with more members on this board.

Please consider joining us to help grow our **Outreach Ministry** for this coming year. Speak to anyone of us for more information or to express your interest to join the board.

- * **Christmas in July** we collected \$175 in cash and (1) Gift Card for the Giving Tree in Dec.
- * We served meals at **Harvest House** 8/16/15, 11/8/15, 2/7/16 and 6/5/16
- * **Winter clothing for IRIS** (Integrated Refuge & Immigrant Services) in New Haven was collected in Oct & Nov.
- * Fill the **Fuel Bank** community wide collection was held on Sat. Nov. 14th. Our efforts collected \$1001.34. An additional \$195 came in as checks made out to the Fuel Bank after 14th. We held 5th Sunday for Fuel collections on 1/31/16 \$255.35 and 5/27/16 \$203
- * **Back Pack Ministry** - Helping Women Re-enter the Community From York Correction Institute . . . Making the first day in the community easier. We filled 2 complete back-packs and had one complete duffle bag. Members of the Guilford Congregational Church joined us with members from Marts House on 12/06/15 to share how the program has made a difference and we blessed of the back packs. Members from our church went to Marts House for the Christmas party in Dec. We delivered two Full Backpacks to First Congregational Church in Guilford for their Palm Sunday blessing.
- * **Giving Tree** gift collection for Middletown DCF once again had great support from our members. We delivered 60 gifts for 26 individuals under the care of DCF
- * **Christmas Tea** to benefit the EH Food and Fuel Banks collected \$1701.98. Checks went out this month to each for \$851.
- * **Loving spoonful** finished up the season on 3/22/16. We opened 11 Tuesdays. The average weekly servings recorded were 45 but we know our dedicated volunteers aren't always focused on recording. They welcomed and enjoyed fellowship with friends and guest. 42 servings got delivered
- * **Ongoing collection of Coupons for military families and Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House**

Colossians 3:23-24 *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

Patti Lombardo, Board of Christian Outreach

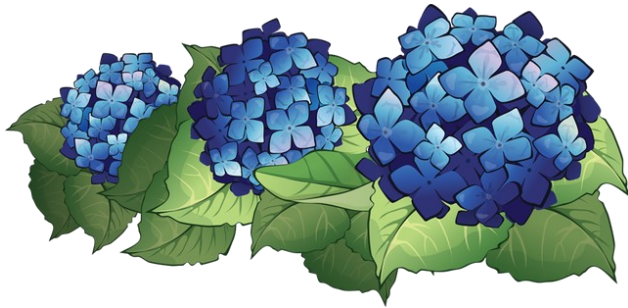
THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: HELPING TO KEEP OUR CHURCH TOGETHER AND MOVING FORWARD

I hope you will consider serving with us on this committee. It's not a heavy lift. We meet after church roughly once a month, and a little bit of work between meetings is not burdensome because everyone pitches in. Call me or tap me on the shoulder in coffee hour if you would consider being a part of our "small but mighty" effort.

Susan Merrow, Member of Board of Membership Resources



From The Sanctuary Committee



Please feel free to bring in flowers from your gardens this Spring and Summer!

We would like to have flowers in church on the 2nd Sunday of the month to honor the birthdays/anniversaries of that month. If you would like to bring in flowers or plants for a special occasion see Kathy Sewell or Holly Coleman at least one week before the event and we will put it in the bulletin.

Board of Christian Outreach

We are collecting coupons for the military!

Coupons help the troops and their families everyday, worldwide, at home and abroad. Expired coupons can be used for several months after the expiration date. Donate your coupons and Kathy Boyce will clip and mail to the military.

You may leave the coupons on the table in the entry-way for Kathy.

Please save those drink can tabs! Bring them in and leave on the table in the fellowship hall. These tabs help people who need to use the Ronald MacDonald House. This is a great way to donate to an awesome cause. Ronald MacDonald House does not charge families who need them.

Board of Membership

The members of The Board of Membership Resources are , Sue Merrow, Michael Sewell, Heather Vigue and Kathy Sewell.

For the next few issues, we will be focusing on 2 or 3 boards and committees. We will give you an overall view of the boards and committees and hopefully generate your interest. Many of us are on 2 or 3 or more committees and we are being stretched thin. We need new blood to help. More hands, less work. Not to mention more fun!

See pages 6 and 7 for the articles.

Contact one of the people above if you are interested in helping our church grow.



There are a limited number of directories available for those who did not have their picture taken for our directory. Contact Kathy Sewell if you would like one.

There have been some changes to addresses and phone numbers. Please see page 5 for updates!

SURF'S UP!

At

First Church of Christ
499 Town St., East Haddam

Join Us for VBS

August 8-12

5pm - 8pm

Supper will be served at 5pm.

Games, songs, crafts and
fun!

Contact Val Seaver at
valfalfa@comcast.com
or

860-818-1561

For More Information

20th Annual Venture Smith Day

Festivities will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 1-4pm at Venture's grave in First Church Cemetery on Town St, Route 151, East Haddam, CT.

Come and celebrate the life of famed African slave/freeman, Broteer-Venture Smith (1729-1805). Venture spent the majority of his freedom years in East Haddam and in Haddam Neck. His grave is one of the original sites on the Connecticut Freedom Trail.

Among the speakers will be Dr. Karl Stofko, East Haddam's Municipal Historian and a Venture Smith researcher and family genealogist since the 1970's and Susi Ryan, a Venture descendant and a member of the quilting group "Sisters in Stitches Joined by the Cloth".

Displays will include African American quilts made by "Sisters in Stitches Joined by the Cloth" a quilting group of African American women from eastern Massachusetts.

Refreshments will be in the Fellowship Hall of the church following the ceremonies in the cemetery. Displays will be available at this time, also.

Spread the news to your family and friends. We look forward to seeing you at the festivities. Bring a comfy lawn chair or a blanket.

Please contact Karl if you are able to help in any way. Refreshments and set up help would be appreciated!



Your Historian Reports

Historical tid-bits gleaned from the pages of the 1873 Connecticut Valley Advertiser newspaper concerning First Church:

1. The original shingles placed on the roof of First Church in 1793 were still in place and in good condition 80 years later in 1873.
 2. The whipping post, which stood near First Church in the Great Highway, was used for the last time in 1822 when one George Primus, a colored man, received a certain number of lashes at that whipping post. The sentence, which was for theft, was rendered by Esq. Isaac Chapman and Capt. Asa Smith inflicted the punishment. Both of these men were members of First Church.
-

East Haddam Food Bank

The Board of Outreach is accepting non-perishable food items each week. You may place your donations on the stairs to the high pulpit on Sunday morning before worship.

Toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, toiletries, cake mixes, canned frosting and birthday candles are always appreciated.

Questions? Contact Karan at karancon@yahoo.com

Please see our article on page 6 to learn more about the Board of Christian Outreach and the role that it plays in our community.



East Haddam Fuel Bank

Balance April 26, 2016.....\$6,445.87

Income Apr 26-June 6, 2016.....356.54
(community donations & Interest)

No expenditures for fuel Apr 26– June 6

Balance June 6, 2016\$6,802.41

Please note that the 5th Sunday for Fuel will take place July 31, 2016. You may contribute at anytime by sending a check made out to First Church of Christ, PO Box 445, East Haddam, CT. 06423. Please note EH Fuel Bank on the memo line.

Karl P. Stofko, treasurer

**Many Thanks for your
Generosity!**



The East Haddam Clothing Bank

The East Haddam Clothing Bank is located on the lower level of the church. You may enter through the back entrance.

The hours are ,the 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons from 2:30 –5:30pm. You may drop off your clean, gently used clothing on the last Tuesday of the month. As there isn't any storage space available, they ask that you bring seasonal clothing only.



The Monday Morning Guys

The Monday Morning Guys are a group of gentlemen who love this church and lovingly maintain it. Their numbers are getting smaller and they need some new blood!

Are you retired?

Do you work 2nd or 3rd shift?

Do you have a couple of hours on Monday mornings?

If you answered “yes” to one or more of these questions, call one of the gentlemen named below;

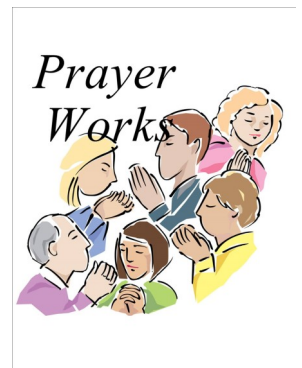
**Larry Fraser, Don Osalza, Don Messmer,
Roy Butler, Joe Dawson**



Prayers, Joys and Concerns



The Prayer Chain is one of the Ministries of First Church. If you would like to pray with this group, there is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. For more information please contact Barbara Bernard at barbara-bernard@sbcglobal.net or call 860-705-8842.



Please pray for.....

Bob and Laura Johnson, LuAnn, Marilyn, Bill, Eileen Carney, Will, Lillian Sewell, Stella, Nancy, Marie, Helen, Suzanne, Rosa, First Church, Glen Landers, Lisa, Georgianna, Beverly, Jean, Randy W, Wayne, Dorothy, Pauline, Karen Z, Patty, Liz, Baby Emma, Emmitt, Patrick, Beth, Paul, Joanne, Sandy, Kim, Emma, Mike, James, Cindy, Emma's Friend, Laurie N, Amanda, Joe, Tommy, Debi, Susan G, John, Mark, Linda, Irene, Jennifer, Robert, Glendoris, Carol & Hank, Bates Family, A bride, Alex & Eloise, Kelly Ruhe, Kenny, A Dad-Perley, Cindy, Dominic

2015 Historian's Report

The 2015 Historian's Report for First Church has been compiled and is awaiting publication. See the Church Clerk, Karan Conover, about arranging for a copy.



In the Spirit Book Club with Laura

The book selection is *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Harif
Book discussion is following worship, date to be announced

Please join us! No sign up necessary!

Mark your Calendar!

July 10th & August 7th we will have worship outdoors (weather permitting)

July 11th Meet at the Summer Sounds Concert on the Goodspeed Lawn.

Come early! Livingston Taylor is the musician!!



Join Our Online Mailing List

Receive (optional) subscriptions of:
weekly Word & Worship Notes, Prayer Chain updates, and Severe Weather Alerts for worship cancellations.

- Help us save paper and reduce printing and postage costs.

How to join?

- Visit FirstChurchEH.org and enter your email address under "Join Our Mailing List" in the right column.
- Visit our Facebook page and click on "Join Our Mailing List."

Scan this QR Code right now with your tablet or smartphone.



Our mailing list is never shared or sold. We may, however, occasionally pass along an offer from affiliated organizations that we think you may be interested in.

I am excited to announce that we are on the website and we are emailing the Tidings. We are mailing out a few hard copies as well. You can also pickup a hard copy at the church.

You can contact me at
schleppsister35@gmail.com.

The deadline for the September/October 2016 Tidings is August 15th.

This is a good advertising tool for any events coming up!

Blessings, Kathy Sewell

Our email has changed!

Please note that the general church email address has changed from
firstchurcheh@juno.com
to
contact@firstchurcheh.org

First Church of Christ, Congregational
499 Town St
PO Box 445
East Haddam, CT 06423



TIDINGS
JULY/AUGUST
2016

Lectionary Series

JULY	AUGUST
3 - 2 Kings 5:1-14 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	7 — Heb 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40
10 — Ps 82 Luke 10:25-37	14 — Ps 80:1-2, 8-19 Luke 12:49-56
17 — Gen 18:1-10a Luke 10:38-42	21 — Heb 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17
24 — Gen 18:20-32 Luke 11:1-13	28 — Heb 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14
31 — Hos 1:1-11 Luke 12:13-21	

Contact us

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