

First Church of Christ, Congregational in East Haddam



TIDINGS



Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

September/October 2016

A LETTER FROM LAURA



A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture...that is what our life in community is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world...others who see us together can say, "They make God visible." Community is where humility and glory touch.

-Henri J.M. Nouwen, Bread for the Journey

September 2016

Hi Beloved Church! It is time again to enter another season of new beginnings. Walking along the dusty path to our lake the other afternoon, I looked down at a red leaf at my feet. It took

my breath away. Before I knew it, a gold flutter caught my eye...and yet another leaf sailed by signaling autumn's changes just around the corner. These late summer days are a disappearing treasure as school and busy schedules start up once again.

As we turn our attention to the new season, there is the hope of fresh starts and unexpected blessings in the air. We welcome new and familiar friends back from summer sabbaths and travels, near and far. Just as we keep our prayers going for all who are in need in our community and in the neighborhoods of our challenging world.

Here at First Church, we look forward to seeing everyone at our annual Rally Day celebration on September 11th. Our God's Garden Christian Education program kicks off during the 10 am worship service followed by an ice cream social during Fellowship hour. In addition, our Youth Group hosts and cooks up a menu for Harvest House on the 11th from 4-6 pm. Please check out our upcoming events and offerings as they are listed throughout this issue.

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Church News



Rally Day is September 11th! On this day we will rally for all our children to come back to Sunday School!! This will be a fun day as we gather to share our adventures from the summer and celebrate the start of our Sunday school year! We hope everyone will make it to this festive occasion!!!

“Make Your Own Sundae” Ice Cream Social will follow Worship!

All are Welcome !



Birthdays

September

1—Bud Haines
5— Patti Lombardo
13— Hillary Ballek
20— Erica Conover
21— Myra Brandt

October

6— Tony Boyce
12— Autumn Smith
13— Marilyn Fraser
Wayne Brandt
Robert Charney
19— Eric Bernard
25— Kevin Osalza



(cont'd from page 1)

We look forward to gathering together again as a church of welcome, shared ministries and mutual love. We invite you to join us in our worship, music, educational programming, fellowship opportunities and service, as we keep growing in faith together as God's beloved community. Your presence and gifts among us add to the mosaic of blessing that is First Church.

With love,

Laura



Coming Events

Sept. 18th, following worship a Fellowship Forum is being planned.

Oct. 2nd, There will be a Blessing of the Animals at Ray of Light Farm led by Rev. Adam of St. Stephen's.

Oct. 22nd, Youth Group and Friends will meet in the am at FCCOL

Oct. 23rd or 30th Fellowship Forum is being planned by Christian Ed for teachers, parents and friends to discuss God's Garden Watch for details.



Music At First Church



We have some exciting things to offer this Fall!! Lynn Rossi will start us off by providing music for **Rally Sunday on September 11th** and continue to play piano for us on the first Sundays of the month. **She is going to start rehearsals in October for a children's choir, so watch the bulletins for the schedule.** The children will perform during the Christmas season. **Our adult choir will perform on September 11th** and again for the holidays. **Anyone interested in singing is welcome to come to rehearsal on September 8th at 7pm.** We are having an organist, Stephen Roberts, come and play for the services on September 18th and October 23rd. It will be enjoyable to hear our beautiful instrument played during worship. Rev. Eileen Sypher, who has done holiday services in the past, will be the organist on November 20th, Thanksgiving Sunday, and also for Christmas Eve .



Board of Membership Resources

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 vacancies on the boards and committees. We are also looking for a **Church Clerk, please see information below.**

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!

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



Immediate Volunteer Position Opening

We are looking for an organized person who loves keeping records and has basic computer skills. The position of **Church Clerk** is open and needs to be filled **ASAP!** Below is the description as it appears in our Constitution and By-laws.

D.4. Clerk

D.4.1 The Clerk has the responsibility for the issuing of calls for Congregational Meetings.

D.4.2 The Clerk keeps a complete record of the transactions at all business meetings of FESEHC and is responsible for maintaining a register of names of Members with dates of admission, termination of membership or death, together with a record of baptisms, weddings and funerals. The Clerk maintains a file of copies of all letters of transfer and dismissal.

D.4.3 The Clerk is elected at the Budget and Elections Meeting for a one (1) year term corresponding to the program year.

D.4.4 The Clerk is a member of the Church Council.

D.4.5 The Clerk determines the current membership of Church Council based on written notification of elections or vacancies of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Boards and Standing Committees.

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.
-

Quilt Raffle Tickets!!!

Quilt Raffle tickets are on sale and will end 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! Sign up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall or speak to Margaret Charney , Betty Haines or Holly Coleman to schedule a date.



21st Annual Quilt Show

Our Quilt Show this year is **October 8th & 9th.** We have been selling raffle tickets for the beautiful queen size quilt called '**Sunset Stars**', made by Betty Haines. Exhibitor letters have been mailed and we hope to have many gorgeous quilts to display in the sanctuary and needle arts for the Fellowship Hall. Anyone with items to loan can submit a form. Contact Margaret Charney or Holly Coleman. There will be a sign up sheet for the many opportunities to help at the Quilt Show---White Glove ladies, Kitchen helpers, Boutique, Admissions, Sleep over, Set up on Friday and take down on Sunday.

Come and be part of the fun!!

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 address-



Vacation Bible School was Awesome!

God's Garden had a wonderful time, during the week of August 8-12, at the **Surf Shack!!** The children learned about **Gods Creation, Gods Calm, Gods Love, Gods Help and how God sent us his son.** The children started the evening with supper, which provided a nice calm environment for the group. There were lots of crafts, game playing and of course singing and dancing!

We are looking forward to 2017's Vacation Bible School **FUN FACTORY!!!!**



Quilting on Tuesdays

Quilting will continue on Tuesday mornings from 9-noon.
We meet downstairs in the multi-purpose room.

Contact Margaret Charney for more information.



Board of Christian Outreach

September is a great time to **purchase Backpacks** to be filled with a collection of personal hygiene items that will be distributed by the **Prison & Re-entry Ministries** to women upon release from York Correction Institute. Look for the back-to-school sales and pick up a backpack to donate!



We'll hold our town wide "Fill the EH Emergency Fuel Bank" in November. Watch for the confirmed date and sign up to help with this very important collection. In three hours, 12 volunteers collected just over \$1000, let's see if we can double that this year!

Outreach is in need of members to coordinate and help carry out programs that can make a difference in our town, our state, our country and our world. Please consider joining the committee and sharing your talents to build our Outreach presents here at First Church.

Margaret Charney and Patti Lombardo

We are Collecting Food 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 entryway 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.

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.



From Your Board of Trustees

Trustees began the new program year with the task of replacing the air conditioning unit that cools one side of the upper level in the new wing. The new unit has been installed and all those that meet or work in the offices, can now do so in a cool space.

The Christian Ed area got a much needed cleaning in preparation for Vacation Bible School. We have approved the purchase of paint and supplies if a team of volunteers can be assembled to paint the area.

Our church is cleaned each week by a team of just *TWO cleaning angels*. Many thanks to *Holly Coleman and Anita Hayn*. As we move into the Fall Season, it's time for a good Fall Cleaning and we'll need more than two volunteers to accomplish all that needs to be done.

Mark your calendar and sign up to help:

Sat. October 1st 9:00am-Noon

Clean the sanctuary and parish hall in preparation for our Annual Quilt Show.

Sat. October 22nd 9:00am-Noon

Outdoor Fall Clean Up

We have been approved for a grant to explore the cost of repairs and refurbishing the exterior and interior of our church. This is the first step to prioritize what areas need attention first and preparing a plan for raising the funds needed to move forward. Volunteers are needed to create a committee that can lead us through this process. Please speak to Susan Kinsman or Patti Lombardo if you're interested in being a part of this team.



From Your Sanctuary Committee



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.

East Haddam Fuel Bank

Balance April 26, 2016.....\$6,802.41

Income June 7—Aug 2, 2016... \$1,103.61

(of this amount,\$203.00 donated

by First Church)

Expenditures- fuel for 1 family \$ 300.00

Balance Aug. 2, 2016\$7,606.02

Please note that the next 5th Sunday for Fuel will take place October 30, 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 during these hours. 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;

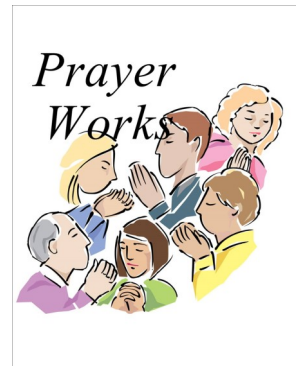
**Larry Fraser, Don Osalza, Don Messmer,
Roy Butler, Joe Dawson**



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

In The Spirit Book Club with Laura

The selection for September is "Jesus Freak: Feeding, Healing, Raising the Dead" by Sara Miles.



Please Join us September 25th! No sign up necessary!

Mark Your Calendar!

Harvest House

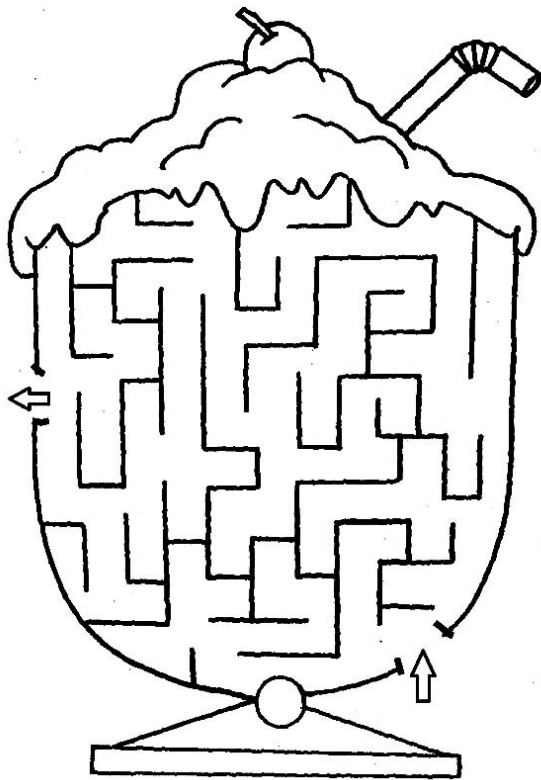
We will be hosting Harvest House at St Stephen's on Sunday September 11th
The Youth Group will be participating on this .

November 6th, We need volunteers to help cook, serve and/or bake.

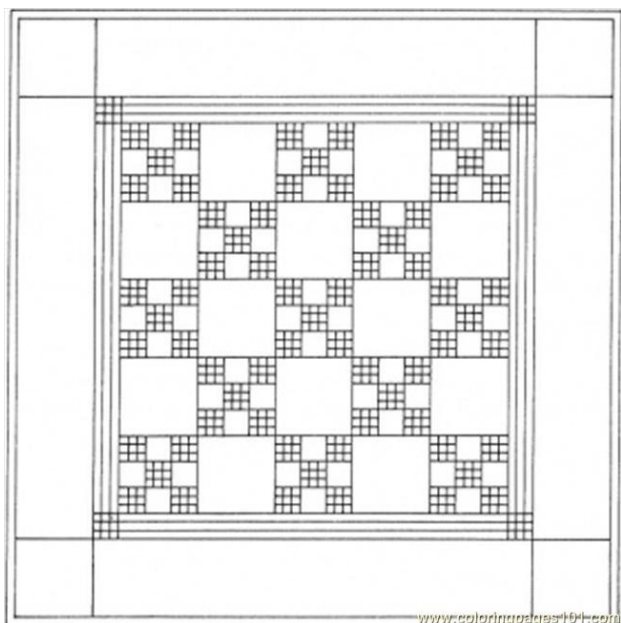
Please contact Patti Lombardo if you can help in any way.

Rally Day is September 11th

Ice Cream Sundae Maze

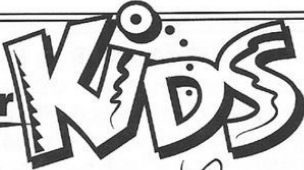


Color this Beautiful Quilt
Quilt Show is October 8th & 9th



www.coloringpages101.com

For The Young At Heart




Bugs in the Bible

Whether at a picnic, on the beach or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests – bugs! Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.

Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse.
 Circle them in the puzzle below.

Proverbs 6:6 _____	Exodus 16:20 _____
Psalms 78:45 _____	1 Sam. 24:14 _____
Matt. 23:24 _____	Isaiah 50:9 _____
Judges 14:8 _____	Isaiah 59:5 _____
Acts 12:23 _____	Leviticus 11:22 _____
Leviticus 11:22 _____	Leviticus 11:22 _____
Leviticus 11:22 _____	
Deuteronomy 7:20 _____	



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S

Answer: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket



From the Editor

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 November/
December 2016 Tidings is October 15th.

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

Blessings, Kathy Sewell

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 organiza-
tions that we think you may be interested in.

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

Quilt Show



TIDINGS SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

Lectionary Series

September	October
4– Philem 1-21 Luke 14:25-33	2– Ps 37 Luke 17:5-10
11– 1 Tim 1:12-7 Luke 15:1-10	9– Jer 29:1, 4-7 Luke 17:11-19
18– 1 Tim 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13	16– Ps 121 Luke 18:1-8
25– Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15 Luke 16:19-31	23– 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14
	30– Ps 32:1-7 Luke 19:1-10

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