

First Church of Christ, Congregational in East Haddam



TIDINGS



Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

November/December 2016

A LETTER FROM LAURA



November 1st, 2016

Dear Beloved Church,

What makes you grateful these days? At the school where I work, we are involved in the Look for the Good project. Founder and CEO of "Look for the Good", Anne Kubitsky, is a young Connecticut woman who began this as a public art project to promote gratitude and healing in herself and others. Now, it has grown into a global initiative in schools and its mission is to promote gratitude, reduce bullying and engage children of all ages to look for the good in themselves and others. See <http://www.lookforthegoodproject.org>.

Especially in this season of Thanksgiving, heated election campaigns and growing darkness, it is a profound blessing to consider all the good that surrounds us as a faith community. We hope that you, too, will remember the scriptural promise that you are precious in God's sight (Isaiah 43:4).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from Laura.....	1&3
Save the Dates, Birthdays.....	2
Poinsettia form, Music Report.....	3
Board of Membership, Clerk position.....	4
Fuel Bank Collection, Giving Tree.....	5
Christmas Tea, Christian Ed.....	6
Advent Schedule.....	7
Directory updates, Cemetery Assoc, quilting.....	8
Sanctuary Committee, EH Fuel Bank, Clothing Bank, MMG.....	9
Prayer Chain, Book Club, Harvest House.....	10
Calendars (hard copy only).....	11&12
From the Editor, New email, online mailing list.....	inside page
Lectionary Series	cover page

We want to remind you that you and your loved ones matter to us here at First Church and we are grateful for your presence and engagement in the ministries of our church. Our children in God's Garden Sunday school, too, over the next month will be helping us to "look for the good" and experience gratitude and God's love in numerous ways.

As the author Melody Beattie wrote, "gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend."

Entering the holiday season, we hope you will be able to participate in some of our offerings from the Adult and Children's Choirs for Christmas services to the Veteran's Day Potluck and Christmas Tea among other events. We hope you'll take a nametag from our Gift Giving Tree and make a child's Christmas Morning very special this year. Please note that our annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, November 20th this year at Hadlyme Congregational church at 2 pm. All are welcome

To feed your soul, we also are offering An Advent Bible Study series (see the calendar) and a mid-December Healing service Date TBA). Our Holiday services include our Christmas Pageant on Sunday,

(cont'd on page 3)



Save the Dates!!

Nov. 2, 6-7 Christmas Tea meeting downstairs

Nov. 2, 7-8 Standing Rock Stories and Music with Travis Harden.

Nov. 6, New Member Coffee Hour following Worship

Nov. 13, Veteran's Pot Luck Luncheon following Worship

Nov. 19-9-noon town wide Fuel Bank Collection

Nov. 20, New Member Sunday

Nov. 20, 2pm, Ecumenical Service hosted by Hadlyme Congregational Church

Nov. 27 1st Sunday in Advent

Nov. 30 1st Advent Bible Study

Dec. 10, 10-2 Christmas Tea

Dec. 14, 6:30pm Advent Healing Service

Dec. 18, 10 Christmas Pageant

Dec. 24, 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

Dec 25, 10:00am Christmas Day Worship Service



Birthdays

November

**6 –Margaret Charney
Christopher Gerth
Carolyn Perkins**

16-Chuck Boyce

24-Joshua Hughes

December

4 –Holly Coleman

8 –Karl Stofko

21-Emitt Cancryn

**28-Kenny Conover
Diane Osalza**



(cont'd from page 1)

December 18th during worship, as well as, our Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols on December 24th at 5:30 pm. Our Christmas Day service will be on Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 am. See our church calendar of events and holiday giving ministries inside this issue and join us in "looking for the good" that abounds here at First Church and in our community!

Thank you for making a difference in the life of our church! May the blessings of God's grace and peace be yours,

Laura



Music News

Children's Angel Choir– Children of all ages (and interested adults) please join our seasonal choir as we practice for the holidays. Our pianist, Lynn Rossi, will teach us some special songs for Christmas!

Rehearsals; November 6th, November 20th, December 4th (with an extra one before the Pageant on Saturday, December 17th, time to be announced).

Attention Adult Choir– We need you! Anyone interested in singing November 20th with Eileen Sypher on the organ, please come to rehearsal on November 17th at 7:00pm. The choir will sing at the Christmas Eve Service, please join us!

Rehearsal times will be announced. Please contact Margaret Charney at 860-537-3323 for schedule details and information about the Children's Choir.

Christmas Eve Memorial Poinsettias



6" pots \$12.50 per plant



____ Red

____ White

____ Pink

Name Phone #.....

Address.....

(Please circle one) In memory/honor/celebration of.....

.....

☐ I will pick up my plant(s) on Christmas Eve, following Service.

☐ Please deliver my plant(s) to a shut in.

Make checks out to First Church and write poinsettias on memo line.

Final order date is December 11, 2016

Board of Membership Resources

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

We are looking for a **Church Clerk, please see information below.**

Members are needed on the Board of Christian Outreach and the Hospitality Committee.

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.



Board of Christian Outreach

This 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 sales and pick up a backpack to donate!



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.

Fuel Bank Collection



We'll hold our town wide "Fill the EH Emergency Fuel Bank" November 19th. Sign up to help with this very important collection. Last Year 12 volunteers collected just over \$1000 in 3 hours! Let's see if we can double that this year!

Christmas Giving Tree

First Church has shown **the true meaning of giving** by purchasing Christmas gifts for a list of children that the **Dept. of Children & Families, Middletown CT** provides us each year. We rely on the donations from members and friends to full the list each year. And every year we complete the request (and then some), so area children experience the joy of opening a gift on Christmas morning.

We'll start in early November, asking for donations of Wal-Mart, Target and Toys R Us gift cards (\$25 to \$50) or cash donations (please note: Outreach Giving Tree). Just prior to Thanksgiving we should have the Giving Tree up and you can select gift tags if you prefer. Start your Christmas shopping early and help us to full the gift list quickly.



We thank you for generous support.

Patti Lombardo and Margaret Charney

Save the Date!!

The Christmas Tea and Children's Fair, Dec. 10, 2016

The Christmas Tea and Children's Fair will be held Saturday December 10th from 10am-2pm. We need your help! We need you to bake cookies and sign up to work the day of the event as well as set up and clean up!



We will have a pennywise room where kids through age 12 can purchase gifts for their family for 25 cents per item. Then they can visit our gift wrapping room where our elves will wrap their presents for free!

There will be a White Reindeer Table and a Teacup Auction, Photos with Santa and Cookie Decorating. Cookies by the Pound will be offered and free cookies, coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be served.

Look for the sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall.

See Patti Lombardo or Kathy Sewell for more information

Christian Education

God's Garden started off its 2016 year with a big bang. The downstairs has stayed decorated from **Vacation Bible School**, and has provided a fun atmosphere for our area. We are happy that two new families have begun attending and adding to our rich mixture of Children.

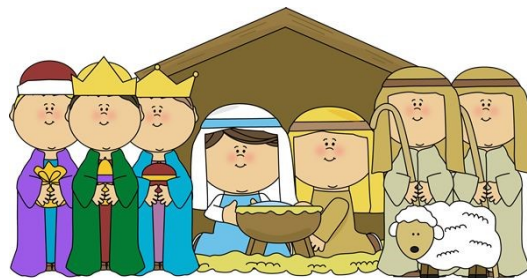
Our curriculum this year is based on the lectionary; this means that most of the time the bible verses read during worship will be the same verses the children are learning about.

This provides fertile ground for further conversation at home.



We are excited to be starting an Angel choir this year! We are practicing our Christmas carols which are always fun to sing.

Our Christmas pageant will be held on December 18th, the distinguished Dr. Karl Stofko will be our dramatic narrator this year. Once again our pageant will be open to all, there are not speaking parts for this one, so adults and children alike are welcome to participate. This is a great way to enrich the holiday and take time to remember the reason for the season.





Advent Services and Events

1st Sunday in Advent: November 27th

2nd Sunday in Advent: December 4th

3rd Sunday in Advent: December 11th

4th Sunday in Advent: December 18th

There will be an Advent Bible Study Series: A Star-filled Grace.

It will be held at the church on 4 Wednesday mornings:

November 30th, 11:00-12:00

December 7th, 10:30-11:30

December 14th, 10:30-11:30

December 21st, 10:30-11:30

An Advent Healing Service will take place on Wednesday December 14th from 6:30-7:15.

“Comfort, comfort now my people..” Isaiah 40:1

Come and enter a quiet space of prayer, meditation, music and healing as we gather in the sanctuary.

Come bless and leave the stress of the season.

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols will be held December 24th at 5:30pm.

Christmas Day Worship will take place 10:00am

Family Directory Updates

*Margaret Charney's phone # is 860- 537-3323
Helmut & Rose Dijer live in East Hampton 06424
Alex 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.



First Church Cemetery Association

Burials in First Church Cemetery since June 1, 2016

Mary Faircloth on July 1, 2016

Anna Brodus on August 15, 2016

Margaret Sievers on September 17, 2016

Marilyn Fraser on October 22, 2016

The Cemetery Association is in need of a secretary, which involves the taking of minutes at the annual meeting in June of each year. If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please speak to Karl Stofko.

Respectively Submitted, Karl P. Stofko
President and Superintendent

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.



From the Sanctuary Committee

It's time to order your poinsettias!



Please fill out the form on Page 3 and place it in the collection plate or mail it with your payment to the church.

We get our plants from Ballek's

East Haddam Fuel Bank

Balance Aug 2, 2016.....\$7,606.02
 Income Aug 3 through Oct 24.....\$ 764.67
 (of this amount,\$163.99 donated
 by First Church)
 Expenditures- fuel for 6 families \$1,800.00
 Balance October 24, 2016.....\$6,570.69

Please note that the next 5th Sunday for Fuel will take place January 29, 2017. 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.



God is still listening to our prayers for:

Bob and Laura , LuAnn, Marilyn, Bill, Eileen, Will, Lillian Sewell, Stella, Nancy, Marie, Helen, Suzanne, Rosa, First Church, Glen, 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, A bride, Alex, Kenny, Perley, Cindy, Dominic, George's family, Sheri, A local family, Kelly, Rob, Rick, Anna, Madeline, The Freeman family, John, Charlie, Rose, Eddie, Timea,

In The Spirit Book Club with Laura

The selection is "Jesus Freak: Feeding, Healing,

Raising the Dead" by Sara Miles.



Please Join us! No sign up necessary!

Harvest House

The Youth Group and Friends will host our next Harvest House at St Stephen's on Sunday November 6th, We need volunteers to help cook and/or bake.

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



We will be printing and mailing fewer copies of the Tidings beginning in January.

We will continue to email the Tidings and post on our website.

You can contact me at schleppsister35@gmail.com.

The deadline for the January/February 2017 Tidings is December 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 organizations 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



TIDINGS
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
2016

Lectionary Series

November	December
6 - 2 Thess 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38	4 -Isa 11:1-10 Matt 3:1-12
13 – Isa 65:17-25 Luke 21:5-19	11 -Isa 35:1-10 Luke 1:47-55
20 – Col 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43	18 -Isa 7:10-16 Matt1:18-25
27 – Ps 122 Matt 24:36-44	25-Christmas Day Isa 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Contact us

Church Office Phone Number

860-873-9084

Our Pastor

Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager at
lfitz_nager@comcast.net

Tidings Editor

Kathy Sewell at
schleppsister35@gmail.com

Church Email address

contact@firstchurcheh.org

Church Website

firstchurcheh.org

Like us on facebook

facebook.com/fccceh
