



# TIDINGS



Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

January/February 2017

## A LETTER FROM LAURA



Dear Beloved Church,

*"We must join with the tens of millions all over the world who see in peace our most sacred responsibility." — Paul Robeson*

The Palestinian-American poet Naomi Shihab Nye captures a life-altering moment in her poem, *Cross that Line*. In it, she depicts the occasion in 1952 when the 20<sup>th</sup> century performer and human rights activist, Paul Robeson, shared his gift of music with the world in spite of the arbitrary boundaries set up to silence him. Leaning in to listen, perhaps you, too, can almost hear his famous rendition of 'Ole Man River...

### *Cross that Line by Naomi Shihab Nye*

*Paul Robeson stood on the northern border  
of the USA and sang into Canada  
where a vast audience sat on folding chair  
waiting to hear him.  
He sang into Canada.  
His voice left the USA when his body was  
not allowed to cross that line.  
Remind us again, brave friend.  
What countries may we sing into?  
What lines should we all be crossing?  
What songs travel toward us  
from far away to deepen our days?*

Reading the gospels during this Lenten season, we'll encounter Jesus modeling all the ways one can cross boundaries to embrace our neighbors. Jesus teaches the disciples how to "love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44), meet the Samaritan stranger at the well (John 4:7-), and extend  
(cont'd on page 3)

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### Lenten Calendar Dates

**Wed, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Sacred Pause: Lenten Service and Bible Study

6:30-7:30

Fellowship Hall

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>** Sacred Pause Bible Study

6:30-7:30

New Parlor

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** Sacred Pause Bible Study

6:30-7:30

New Parlor

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Lenten Potluck following worship

**Fellowship Forums: Adult Education at First Church**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** Rev. Allie Perry, Shalom UCC in New Haven, CT, shares her travels and experiences in witnessing for peace in the Holy Land.

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**

In honor of Women's History Month, local resident and John F. Kennedy Service Award recipient, Teresa Govert shares her experiences working overseas in the Peace Corps with women and girls in Botswana.



### *Birthdays*

#### *March*

*3 Val Seaver*

*4 Kathy Boyce, Nathaniel Kinsman*

*10 Don Messmer, Judy Dawson,*

*Olivia Lisowicz*

*13 Michael Lacey*

*17 Joe Dawson*



#### *April*

*17 Mark Freeman*

*18 Ruth Gerth*

*22 Zachary Hughes*

(Cont'd from page 1)

healing touch to the leper (Matt 8:5) when others may recoil. Reaching beyond our comfort zones, how can we welcome and extend, challenge and embrace one another? As Shihab Nye writes, "What lines should we all be crossing?"

Reviewing the myriad offerings on our church calendar, we give thanks for all the ways First Church continuously reaches out to include and share hospitality and friendship. Our Lovin' Spoonfuls Soup Bar continues its feeding and fellowship ministry through the end of March. And on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, we're hosting an ice cream social for our East Haddam community as part of "Unplug East Haddam" sponsored by East Haddam Youth and Family Services.

We'll also nourish our souls during Lent with "Sacred Pause" Bible Study beginning Wed evening March 1<sup>st</sup>. Over the next several months, participating in an Interfaith Dinner and Scripture Series with our Jewish, Muslim and Christian neighbors (starts March 9 at the synagogue Congregation Beth Shalom). Further details on dates and locations will be forthcoming. In addition, we're welcoming women refugees to a Women's Friendship Retreat with us on March 18<sup>th</sup> held at Mercy Center in Madison, CT.

Thanks to our Membership Resources team, our Stewardship season, "Stewardship is Heart Work" has begun with great gusto. It is with your generous support, shared ministry and gifts that First Church is able to keep growing and witnessing to God's love in our world.

Blessings all around,  
Laura

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### Coming Events in March

**Unplug East Haddam**, Friday night, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, First Church and St. Stephen's together host an ice cream social in First Church's Fellowship Hall from 6-8 pm as part of "Unplug East Haddam". This family event runs from 6-8pm. The LPC will be hosting bingo at the Grange and the Library/Leos will also have an activity running during that time. Sponsored by East Haddam East Haddam Youth & Family Services, Inc. Sign up in Fellowship Hall if you'd like to volunteer (and eat ice cream!)

**March Pottery Workshop at Walt's Pottery Studio** at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme. For adult beginners, this Basics of Wheel Throwing starts Tuesday evenings March 7<sup>th</sup> led by Paul Nager. Fee: \$75.00 for 6 weeks and 10 pounds of clay. Contact Stephanie Kenny for details at [stephaniekenney@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniekenney@gmail.com).

**Our Women's Friendship Retreat** with Women Refugees will take place at Mercy Center in Madison on **Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>** from 11-4 with lunch included. Sign-Up Sheet in Fellowship Hall. Space is limited. Free (thanks to grant from Middlesex Region of CT UCC)

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## Loving Spoonful Snack Bar



**Loving Spoonful Snack Bar** is in its 4th year of serving our community with something warm to eat! It is open **Tuesdays, through March 28th, from 12 noon – 5:00 pm.** This time overlaps the hours for the **EH Food Bank and EH Clothing Bank.** Volunteers are needed for the afternoon shift, 2:00-5:00. The morning shift 11:00-2:00 can also use people to fill in as needed. We're also in need of soup chefs, bakers, donations of beverages and monetary donations to purchase grinders each week.

Sign-up sheets are available in the Fellowship Hall or you can contact Patti Lombardo, [wjpalombi@yahoo.com](mailto:wjpalombi@yahoo.com) or evenings at 860-873-9835.

**Thank you for your help and support. Together we'll offer our community assistance to get through the winter months.**



**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.**

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## Board of Membership Resources

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

**Members are needed on the Board of Christian Outreach, Deacons 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.**



## Stewardship Campaign 2017-2018 February 12, 2017– April 9, 2017

**Stewardship is Heart Work.** On February 19 we turned our hearts once again to stewardship – the process that we ask each of us to go through of looking into our hearts and thinking about what this church means to us, to our community, to our place in history, and to our faith. By now you should have received a letter asking you make a commitment of support in the form of a pledge. Those pledges are what allows those hard-working people who do so much to keep our church moving forward to plan for the future. Please find the pledge form in this issue (on page 6 ) and enclosed with the letter and once again consider your support. We will wrap up our campaign by Palm Sunday (April 9), in time to prepare our budget.

We have kicked off our campaign by honoring the “heart work” of Lydia Sherman, our tireless Chair of Deacons, who puts heart and soul into all she does for our church family. The Greek word for heart is also the root word for the word courage, and over the next few weeks, we will also honor the people whose courage it took to build the foundation of our faith and how we carry it out in our community. Stay tuned for more about stewardship as winter turns to spring!



## Stewardship is Heart Work!

My Financial Commitment Pledge to First Church of Christ, Congregational for July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 is:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Per year

I will give in one of the following ways; (check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Per week \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Per month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ One time donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number, Home \_\_\_\_\_ cell \_\_\_\_\_

## Stewardship is Heart Work!

Please let us know your interests and talents

\_\_\_ Nursery

\_\_\_ Teaching Sunday School

\_\_\_ Youth Work

\_\_\_ Greeting/Welcome

\_\_\_ Reader (during worship)

\_\_\_ Church Choir

\_\_\_ Music for Service

\_\_\_ Office Work

\_\_\_ Help Cleaning the Church (weekly)

\_\_\_ Computer—General

\_\_\_ Computer—Website Mgt

\_\_\_ Marketing/Publicity

\_\_\_ Newsletter

\_\_\_ Financial Skills

\_\_\_ Mechanical/Handyman

\_\_\_ Construction Projects

\_\_\_ Fund-raising Events

\_\_\_ Loving Spoonfuls Snack Bar

\_\_\_ Hospitality

\_\_\_ Outreach in the Community

\_\_\_ Visitation of elderly/shut-ins

\_\_\_ Maintaining Church Gardens

\_\_\_ Bible Study

\_\_\_ Membership Services

\_\_\_ Hobbies you would like to Share

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> Winter Film Series

7:00-9:00 pm featuring the documentary "13<sup>th</sup>" Filmmaker Ava Du-Vernay (Selma) explores the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with African-Americans. (running time : 1 hr 40 min) Fellowship Hall. Free.

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### Back Pack Ministry

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!



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### Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry would like to thank each knitter who has shared their gift of knitting with those that need to feel the presence of God's love.

For our record keeping, when you leave a shawl in the knitting room, please place your name with it so that we know who knitted it. Also, if you take a shawl, please leave the completed ticket (for our records) on top of the desk.

We are always in need of donations to buy more yarn or if you prefer, you can purchase the yarn yourself, 3 skeins of Lion Brand Homespun yarn will complete one shawl.

If you don't knit and would love to learn, we meet the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm in the knitting room (The Old Parlor). Please join us!







**Butter Braid (Kansas Maid)**  
**Orders due by March 12th**  
**Delivery March 25th**



It is that time of the year again! Butter Braid FUN-Raiser. Here is some information on the business and why they changed their name:

"In 1993, our family opened a pastry shop as a franchise of Country Maid, producing frozen loaves of sweet treats that the customer could bake up fresh and enjoy warm from the oven in their own home. With rolling pins and pizza cutters, we shaped each Butter Braid loaf by hand. In 1999, we began marketing our products as a fundraiser, allowing us to deliver directly to our customers and help them successfully reach their financial goals. In 2008 our franchise contract with Country Maid dissolved and we became an independent business. After one year of "non-compete" production, we were again able to make and market the braided pastry everyone loves using the original recipe but with a new name Kansas Maid pastries. We've expanded our inventory to include cinnamon rolls and caramel sticky buns as well as the original braids. We remain a family owned and operated company that is committed to 'helping others help themselves achieve their goals'.

It is the same delicious product under the name of Kansas Maid.

It is \$13 for the Butter Braids and the flavors are Strawberry Cream Cheese, Cinnamon, Apple, Cream Cheese and Raspberry. Also, they have rolls and breads for \$13 and there are Caramel Rolls, Cinnamon Rolls and Italian Herb Bread. We will also be selling Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough. They have over 30 years' experience making cookie dough that people love. Now we can take advantage of their experience to raise money for our cause. Because everyone loves cookies, cookie dough is one of the most popular fundraising approaches, and Otis Spunkmeyer is the #1 cookie dough in fundraising. The flavors are Chocolate Chip, Carnival (colorful chocolate candies), Oatmeal Raisin, Peanut Butter or White Chocolate Macadamia Nut. They come pre-portioned, frozen and make 36 cookies, for \$17."

As always, I depend on all of you the Church members to get the word out. All you have to do is tell your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. that you are selling Butter Braid (Kansas Maid) and cookie dough. It will sell itself. All money raised from this FUN-Raiser helps to pay for our fuel and electricity at First Church. So please come to Church and pick up a form as well as a free sample of what we are selling. If you need more information just call Lydia at [860-873-3380](tel:860-873-3380) or Kathy at [860-873-1830](tel:860-873-1830). This FUN-Raiser can only be successful with everyone's help, so please help us to get the word out. Thank you!



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### Family Directory Updates

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

*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

No one has come forward to help find a carpenter/painter to do repairs on the cemetery shed building, I will be advertising in the local newspaper. Last chance!

Lastly, the Cemetery Association does not allow plowing of it's driveways and grounds in the winter. However someone did do some plowing recently in the new section of the cemetery, which caused severe damage to the driveway. If you see anyone plowing in the cemetery during the winter months, please contact Karl Stofko immediately at 860-873-9375.

Respectively Submitted, Karl P. Stofko  
President and Superintendent

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### 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.**



## Holy Week at First Church

### **Palm Sunday** Worship 10 am, April 9th

Following Fellowship Hour Kick off Holy Week with a "read through" of the Gospel of Mark in its entirety. It's a powerful way to enter Holy Week. We'll start with chapter 1 and keep reading until we reach chapter 16. Food, beverages and bibles provided! No preparation necessary!

### **Maundy Thursday**, evening service, April 13th

Join us for an Agape meal at 6:15 Maundy Thursday: The Agape Meal (Love Feast) commemorates Jesus' last supper with disciples and foot/hand washing. Communion is served. Held in Fellowship Hall. Followed by a Service of Tenebrae service (meaning the extinguishing of the Light) in the Sanctuary at 7:15 pm. marking the betrayal and arrest of Jesus.

### **Good Friday Cross Walk**

A brief prayer service offered at 10:00-10:30 am in First Church sanctuary for walkers and those seeking quiet prayer. All welcome.

### **Easter Sunday Services:**

Sunrise service at 6:45 Gillette's Castle. Joint worship with Hadlyme Congregational and Lyme Congregational churches.

### **Easter breakfast following service (location TBA)**

### **Easter Joy, 10 am worship**

Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus with our choir and organ. Service followed by Easter Egg Hunt outside in the playground (weather permitting!)

### *Easter Memorial Flower Order Form*

6 in pots

\_\_\_\_\_ Tulips - \$9

\_\_\_\_\_ Daffodils - \$9

\_\_\_\_\_ Lilies - \$12

Name .....

Address .....

Tel #.....

In Memory / Celebration / Honor of .....

.....

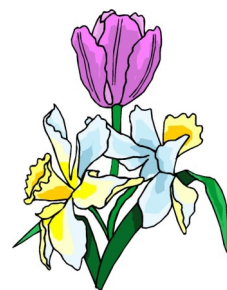
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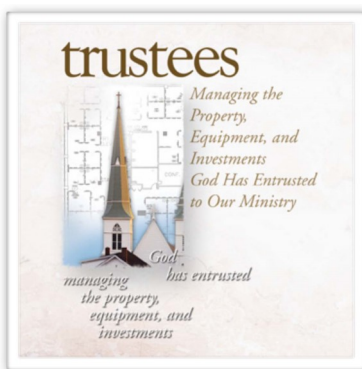
\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my flowers after service

\_\_\_\_\_ Please deliver my flowers to a shut-in (left over plants will be planted in the church gardens)

Make checks payable to First Church of Christ, Easter Memorial Flowers on memo line.

Last day to order April 2, 2017





## Trustees Corner

*We function as Christian stewards of the property God has entrusted to the congregation.*

The winter days are getting longer and we've enjoyed some warmer days, which means using less heating oil to get through the winter months. We've had 4 snow events which required plowing and shoveling. Finding someone to shovel walkways and entrances is a challenge and we'd welcome any references if you know of someone in the area that would be interested in the job.

Trustees continue to maintain and look for ways to improve our building and grounds. As our boiler is aging, we have had to do some maintenance and repair work. We've installed new energy efficient spot lights in our parking lot areas, so the area is well lite for evening events. New blinds have been installed in the fellowship hall thanks to a generous donation in memory of Marilyn Fraser. Over the next few months, it would be great if we could get a team together to paint the Christian Education wing. Please let Patti Lombardo know if you're interested [wjpalombi@yahoo.com](mailto:wjpalombi@yahoo.com).

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

***Mark your calendar for our Spring Cleaning and sign up to help:***

**Sat. April 1<sup>st</sup> 9:00am-Noon**

A team is needed clean the sanctuary and other interior areas, as well as another team to work outside.

It's the time of year when we work with the Membership Resources team to prepare our Church Mission Spending Plan for the coming fiscal year. Your generosity and financial support, shows your wish for the church to exist. It is our job to outline the ministries the church intends to provide with the support you have freely committed to provide. Stay tuned for a date in late April, early May when we'll present a plan and have an open discussion to get your feedback.

A subcommittee has been working hard to review the proposals we received from architects to evaluate and make recommendations for 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 requesting grants and raisings the funds needed to move forward. The team members are Larry Fraser, Dr. Karl Stofko, Stu Coleman, Stan Conover, Susan Kinsman and Patti Lombardo. We're happy to report that the team has selected an architect firm and is in the final phase of formalizing a contract. Stay tune for further details.

Thank you for all the support and **Heart Work** *our members and volunteers put into First Church!*

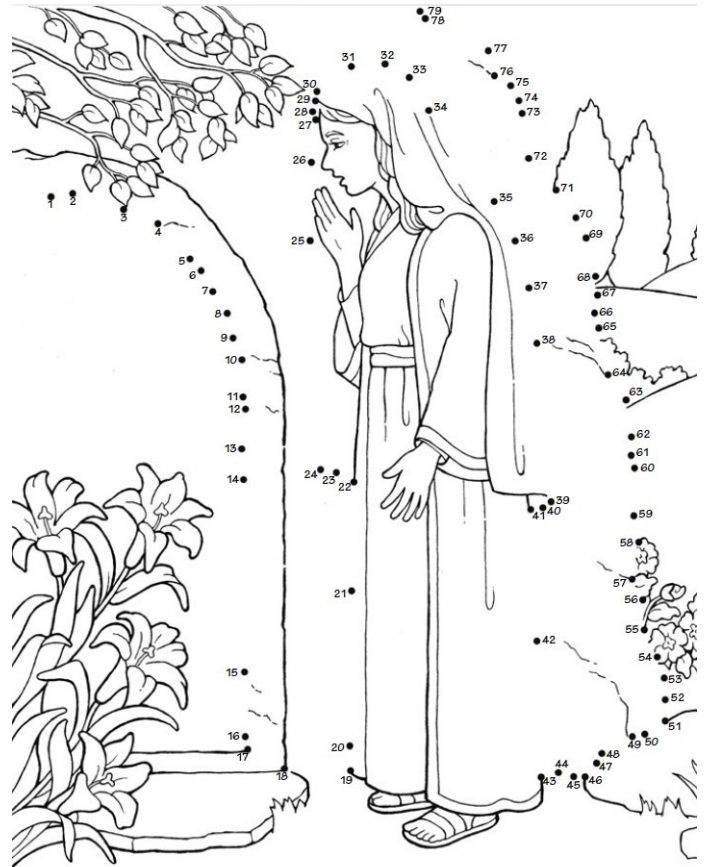
Patti Lombardo  
Chair of Trustees

## A Page to Color

### Palm Sunday



### Easter Morning



## God's Garden

God's garden has enjoyed our latest segment on love. We have talked about loving others, and how hard it is sometimes. Through games and song we have given the children tools to learn how to deal with those who may not be very "loving" to us.

It will not be long before God's Garden begins to bloom into Spring, we look forward to activities about growth, faith the size of a mustard seed, and throwing seeds on rocky soil.

**Conversations about Vacation Bible School have begun, Our theme this year will be "God's Heroes".**

The dates will be decided and announced soon...It may be February but August will be here before you know it!





### From the Sanctuary Committee

Worship Services for the months of January, February and March, except for the first Sunday of the month, will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Small plants or arrangements would help to brighten up the cold winter days.



**Form for the Easter plants is on page 10. Easter is April 16th! Final date to order, April 2, 2017.**

### East Haddam Fuel Bank

**Please note that the next 5th Sunday for Fuel will take place April 30, 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](mailto:barbara-bernard@sbcglobal.net) or call 860-705-8842.

### God is still listening to our prayers for:

Perley, Bob Johnson, LuAnn, Marilyn, Bill, Eileen Carney, Will, Lillian Sewell, Stella, Nancy, Marie, Helen, Suzanne, Rosa, 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, A bride, Kenny, Cindy, Dominic, George's family, A local family, Kelly, Rob, Rick, Anna, Madeline, John, Charlie, Rose, Eddie, Timea, Julie, Don, Lisa, ,Paul, Will, Connie, Laurie, Heather.

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## Tag Sale



### Mark your calendars! May 20, 2017

The Tag Sale is fast approaching! Clean out your closets, basements and garages!

Watch for dates when you can bring your treasures to the church (after Easter).

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We will be printing and mailing fewer copies of the Tidings in 2017.

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

You can contact me at  
schleppsister35@gmail.com.

**The deadline for the May/June 2017 Tidings is April 15th.**

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

Blessings, Kathy Sewell

## **Join Our Online Mailing List**

If you would like to receive The Tidings on line, please email me at [contact@firstchurcheh.org](mailto:contact@firstchurcheh.org), Attention Kathy for Tidings in the subject line. I will add or subtract you from the Tidings email list.

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.

## **Read the Tidings on our Website!**

Tidings is available to read on our website, [firstchurcheh.org](http://firstchurcheh.org).



## **Our email has changed!**

Please note that the general church email address has changed from  
[firstchurcheh@juno.com](mailto:firstchurcheh@juno.com)  
to  
[contact@firstchurcheh.org](mailto:contact@firstchurcheh.org)

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



TIDINGS  
MARCH/APRIL  
2017

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**Lectionary Series**

**March**

**5**— Rom 5:12-19  
Matt 4:1-11  
**12**-Gen 12:1-4a  
John 3:1-17  
**19**-Ps 95  
John 4:5-42  
**26**-1 Sam 16:1-13  
John 19:1-41

**April**

**2**- Rom 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45  
**9**— Isa 50:4-9a  
Matt 26:14-27:66  
**16**-Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18  
**23**-Ps 16  
John 20:19-31  
**30**-1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35

**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

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