



# TIDINGS



Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

July/August 2017

## A LETTER FROM LAURA



*Whether you turn to the right or to the left,  
your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying,  
"This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30.21*

Dear Beloved Church,

Happy Summer! Where will your travels take you this summer? I recently saw the Disney movie, *Moana* (2016), an adventurous Pacific Island teenager sets out on a mission to save her people and culture. It is an inspiring and engaging story and features the ancient Polynesian practice of wayfinding. Among the hits from the movie is "We Know the Way."

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubZrAmRxy\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubZrAmRxy_M)

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Just last week, crewmembers of Polynesian voyaging canoe, *Hokulea*, docked in Honolulu after a three year voyage circumnavigating the globe using only ancient techniques of "reading" the ocean waves, stars and wind. The voyagers hope to continue to spread the message of peace and caretaking of our earth's rich and fragile resources. Their homecoming celebration, *Lei Ka'apuni Honua*, meaning "A Lei Around The World," and honors the journey of connecting cultures and people around the world.

This global message of responsibility to the earth and connection with our neighbors near and far is a biblical mandate for us, as well- and is central to our gospel mission and ministries. We are charged to welcome and follow Jesus' calling to "care for the least" among us (Matthew 25:31-46), especially needed in these times of conflict, misunderstanding and prejudice.

( cont'd on pg 3)



## Church News



### Summer Hospitality

**The Hospitality Committee will be offering lemonade, Iced Tea and water during July and August.**

**The committee will not be offering food or coffee during the summer months. There may be exceptions for special events.**

**Our Hospitality participation has been getting smaller and people will be going on vacation. This seems to be the best solution because we no longer have the people to take care of setting up/cleaning up every Sunday.**

**We need people to participate on Hospitality!**

**If you would like to be included on this Committee, please see Kathy Sewell. You only need to commit to 1 Sunday a month and there are always 2 people to a team.**



## Birthdays

### July

1 Anita Hayn  
 7 Joan Osalza  
 13 Don Osalza  
 15 Audra Lisowicz  
 17 Nicholas Lombardo  
 19 Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager  
 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 pg 1)*

*We hope you'll join us this summer for Sunday worship or one of our summer events. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, we'll be considering a future Habitat for Humanity Project at our Fellowship Forum following the service. In addition, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Women's Friendship Retreat with women and children from IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services) will be held at the Stony Creek Church in Branford, CT.*

*However your summer travels unfold, may you know the way home and that First Church is here for you when you return. Drop us an email and a photo or two so we can keep in touch (wherever the ocean waves may lead you!)*

*Please keep me in your prayers as I travel to Baltimore (June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 4<sup>th</sup>) as a first time Delegate to the UCC's General Synod representing our church and Middlesex region. See the [ctucc.org](http://ctucc.org) website for more information.*

*Blessings all around,*

*Laura*



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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!





## IT'S QUILT RAFFLE SEASON!

This year's raffle quilt is finished and the tickets have been printed. We will start selling them on July 8th. There are standard locations that we sell tickets at--the **local Stop & Shop** stores, **Shagbark**, **Gristmill**, and **The Farmer's Market**, to name a few. We also plan to have a booth at the **Chester Fair** and the **Haddam Neck Fair**. In order to be successful with our tickets sales, we need volunteers to help. Please consider spending a couple hours to sell tickets and help promote our Quilt Show. There will be a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or you can contact Margaret Charney at 860-537-3323 or email: [monkeywrench52@sbcglobal.net](mailto:monkeywrench52@sbcglobal.net).



MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

*Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>~ Special Event: "Navigating our Faith in Politically Turbulent Waters" at St. Stephens Church, EH. Picnic Supper begins at 5:30 pm with Panel from 6:30-8 pm. Sponsored by KairosEarth.org and the Episcopal Church in CT.*

<http://kairosearth.org/river/events/july-7-2017-east-haddam-ct>

*Save the Date: Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> Women's Friendship Retreat held at Stony Creek Church in Stony Creek, Branford, CT. We'll meet from 11-3, enjoy a potluck luncheon, donate new baby items for expectant mothers and even take a 45 minute cruise around the Thimble Islands! Sign up in Fellowship Hall. Please email Lydia Sherman at [lydgeosherm@aol.com](mailto:lydgeosherm@aol.com).*

*Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> will be our Communion Sunday. Following worship, our Fellowship Forum will be offered by Maria Santos of Habitat for Humanity in Middletown. Join us for a light brunch and a discussion about a future service project.*

*Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>: (9-12am) All Ages Kayaking and Canoeing morning trip. All smooth sailing adventurers wanted for a Please email Laura at [lfitz.nager@gmail.com](mailto:lfitz.nager@gmail.com). Destination to be announced. Capt. Don Messmer will have his boat for anyone who wishes to come but not kayak...*

*Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, Join us for Outdoor Worship under the shade of our playground trees at 10 am. Weather permitting.*

*Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, Music on the River from 6:30-8:30 pm. Join us as we gather at Goodspeed Landing for Plywood Cowboy. Bring a picnic and we'll see you there.*



## Calling all Superheroes!!

Vacation Bible School will be amazing as we learn about all of God's super power.

Please join us **August 14-18**, from **5pm-8pm**, supper will be provided.

If you want to volunteer for supper prep/clean up or to assist for one evening or all in our activities, call Val Seaver at 860-818-1561.





## From the Board of Trustees

At our congregational meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup>, we voted to except the proposed balanced budget based on the pledges and bridge the gap commitments we received as of that date. Our budget for 2017/2018 will start at \$94,663. It was voted that any additional pledges received in the next few months would be allocated as follows – Music & Arts 20%, Building & Grounds 20%, Christian Ed 15%, Outreach 15%, Deacons 15%, Office 10% and Marketing 5%. These are all the areas that we cut from to balance the budget.

Before we reviewed the budget, I felt it was important to thank our many First Church Family members that make it possible for us to maintain this very lean budget and keep the doors of our Big White Church open wide for all.

- **Our Monday Morning Guys** that fix and tweak anything from plumbing, to heating, to changing light bulbs, replacing and repairing water damaged medallions, moving gravel back onto the driveway . . .
- \* **Our cleaning angels** that show up every week to vacuum & dust the sanctuary, clean the kitchen, fellowship hall, new parlor, halls, keep our bathrooms sparkling . . .
- \* **Our office fairies** that make sure we have a bulletin, direct phone messages and emails to the appropriate people, sort mail, prepare mailings, Tidings . . .
- \* **Our musicians** that share the very special gift of their music to enhance our spiritual experience.
- \* **Our CE Director and teachers** who put together lessons and activities for our children from very young to middle school – not an easy task.
- \* **Our church historian** who records our weekly activities so that our heritage will be preserved, and can be built on into the future. And maintains the historical records for our church going back to 1704.
- And **our Pastor Laura** – She's our part-time employee but always a phone call, text or email away. She is our Spiritual leader, advisor, mentor and friend. She said "sure" when she was called to join us and has helped us to grow, not only in numbers but as a team working together for the good of this church.

**If you add up what volunteers do for our church, we would easily have to add \$50,000 plus to our budget if we paid for these services. To all of those volunteers we say - THANK YOU SO MUCH for ALL YOU DO!**

We also voted to split any surplus left from 2016/2017 budget between Pulpit Supply and Building & Grounds. Why those two areas? Laura is eligible for Sabbatical when she completes her time with us in December 2018. That means, she will have 3 months Sabbatical time that we compensate her for and will need to pay for Pulpit Supply. This would start to build those funds so we're prepared when the time comes. Building & Grounds pulled about \$7500 from discretionary funds to repair the air conditioning late last summer. We're now left with only \$3333 in those funds. Should we have a major repair to the boiler, AC, etc., we would not have the reserve to address it immediately.

Many thanks to everyone that made a pledge to financially support this church, as well of those that volunteer their time and talents.



## Board of Membership Resources

### Help Wanted

Do you like numbers? Do you know Quick Books? Well we have the job for you. First Church is seeking someone to serve as our **Treasurer**. Duties include keeping our books, paying the bills, and giving monthly reports to the Council. Hours, per week, are flexible (which can be done at your convenience). The present treasurer, Carol Faraci, will work with you to help you get up to speed. The treasurer is a voting ex officio member of the Board of Trustees and a member of Church Council. The Treasurer is a one year term. The Treasurer has the satisfaction of knowing that he or she is helping keep us squared up and moving forward. Would you like more information? Call Michael Sewell at 860-873-1333.

### Board openings

**The Board of Trustees** is responsible for the building and grounds. If you enjoy working with numbers and like the business end of things, this is the place for you!

**The Board of Deacons** assist the pastor in the spiritual life of the church. If you like meeting and helping people, consider becoming a deacon!

**The Board of Christian Ed** is responsible for the Christian education of all from God's Garden Sunday School through Vacation Bible School. Do you love kids? This may be where you can be of service!

**The Board of Christian Outreach** reaches out to the community both near and wide. Do you enjoy making a difference? Outreach could be for you!

**The Board of Membership Resources** is responsible for Stewardship, Membership and Nominations. Are you a go getter? You could love this board!

**The Hospitality Committee is in need of workers!** This is a great committee to start with. There are not any meetings and we ask that you only commit to 1 Sunday a month. Do you like to serve people? Everyone gathers in the kitchen!

**Please contact one of the following Board of Membership members if you would like more information; Sue Merrow, Heather Vigue, Michael Sewell or Kathy Sewell.**

**GET  
INVOLVED**  
Be a volunteer and reap the rewards

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## Trustees Report on First Church Conditions Assessment

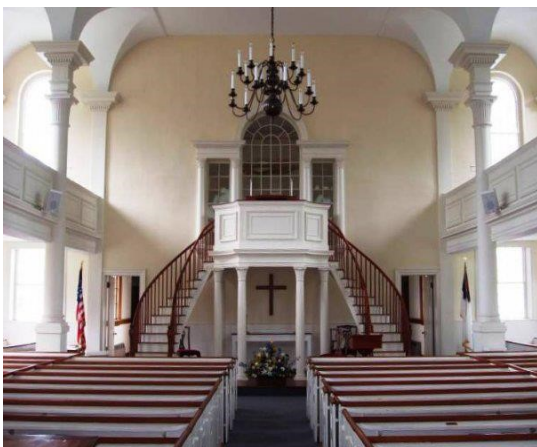
After reviewing proposals from four architect firms, our team (Karl Stofko, Larry Fraser, Stan Conover, Stu Coleman, Susan Kinsman and Patti Lombardo) selected Noyes-Vogt-Architects of Chester CT to do a conditions assessment of our church. They come with extensive historic preservation, restoration and rehabilitation experience.

While we all can see that the outside needs painting, there may be other areas, that we can't see, that need attention first. The Project shall assess the condition of the exterior envelope (roofing, siding & trim & decorative woodwork, rainwater gutters and leaders, stone foundation and steps, windows), water infiltration and site drainage, mechanical heating and cooling systems, electrical distribution, fire alarm and life-safety systems and overall code compliance.

The cost for this assessment will be about \$15,800. We've been approved for a grant from The State Historic Preservation Office for \$5000. The balance will come from the ***Drouin Funds*** that we voted to use for restoration and repair of our building.

The condition assessment and report will include a long-term Master Maintenance & Restoration Plan. From this we'll be able to make a plan that may spread of the next ten years, as to how best to preserves this beautiful building for many generations to come. They'll begin the work on or around July 10<sup>th</sup> and we should have the report by early fall.

This is just the first phase. Once the plan is reviewed and accepted, the work of fund-raising, grant research & writing and requesting & reviewing bids begins! Let us know how you'd like to help with this exciting and rewarding process!



First Church Sanctuary



Some of our Trustees with Pastor Laura





### Family Directory Updates

Margaret Charney's phone # is 860- 537-3323  
Helmur & 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.

### 2016 Historian's Report

The 2016 Historian's Report has been published in limited quantity. See Karl Stofko, church historian, to arrange for a copy.



### First Church Cemetery Association

**Venture Smith Day will be held on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4 pm at Venture's grave in the cemetery.**

The speakers will be Karl Stofko and Russell Shorto. Shorto may take orders for his book during refreshments.

The quilts will be back and placed on the shed walls by the "Sisters In Stitches Joined by the Cloth".

If you can help with set up on Friday the 8th around 4:30pm, Set up Saturday morning around 11am or clean up on Saturday around 4pm, please contact Karl Stofko.

If you can bake for the refreshment table, contact Kathy Sewell.

**There will be a Cemetery Clean up Day on Saturday, September 2, 2017 from 1-3pm to prepare for Venture Smith Day.**

For more information or to volunteer for any of these activities, contact 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.**





## **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:**

Heather, Noel's friend, Julie Fritz, LuAnn, 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, 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, Kenny, Cindy, Dominic, George's family, A local family, Kelly, Rob, Rick, Anna, John, Charlie, Rose, Eddie, Timea, Paul, Russ.

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### **Coming in September!**

**Join us for Rally Day and  
Welcome Home Day!  
September 10, 2017**

**Watch for New Members  
Coffee with Pastor Laura This  
Fall!**



**New Members were received on June 11, 2017**

**Welcome the O'Connor/Singer Family (pictured) and the Richards Family  
(not pictured)**

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### From the Sanctuary Committee

The flower season is here! Please bring in a vase of your garden flowers to share with us during worship.



If you have questions about the Sanctuary Committee, see Holly Coleman or Kathy Sewell.

### The East Haddam Fuel Bank

The next 5th Sunday for Fuel is July 30, 2017. Look for the pink envelopes in the bulletins.



### 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





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 September/  
October 2017 Tidings is August 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,  
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 organiza-  
tions that we think you may be interested in.

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

Tidings is available to read on our  
website, firstchurcheh.org.

## **Our email has changed!**

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





# Ministries

**The following is a list of the ministries, activities and community events that First Church of Christ, Congregational in East Haddam supports and participates in!**

Backpack Ministry      Venture Smith Day      Tag Sale      First Church Newsletter

Quilt Show      Baptisms      Fellowship Forums: Knowing Our Neighbors      Weddings

Movie Nights      Funerals      **EHYFS** Ice Cream Social      Interfaith Dinners and Text Study

Venture Smith Day      Pastoral Care      **Monday Morning Guys**      Cleaning the Church

Butter Braids      Council      **First Church** Choir      Trustees      Deacons

Holy Week      Lenten Offerings      Music and Arts      **Special Services**      Outreach

Recovery Sunday      Membership Resources      God's Garden Sunday School      Pastoral Relations

Vacation Bible School      Bible Study      First Church Choir      Hospitality

Deacons Retreat      Knitting Ministry      Potluck Lunches      Prayer Chain

Community Outreach      First Church Cemetery Association      Loving Spoonfuls

Women's Friendship Retreats with Refugees      In the Spirit Book Club      Volunteer Musician Ministry

Winter and Summer Coffeehouses      Middle School Youth Group      Harvest House

East Haddam Food and Fuel Bank      Christmas Giving Tree      Ecumenical Worship Services

Visitation      Mother's Day Flower Sale      Christmas Tea      Tag Sale      Butterbraid

Creative Sunday Worship



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



**TIDINGS**  
**JULY/AUGUST**  
**2017**

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## **Lectionary Series**

<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>2</b> – Gen 22:1-14 Matt 10:40-42	<b>6</b> -Gen 32:22-31 Matt 14:13-21
<b>9</b> – Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Matt 11:16-19, 26-13	<b>13</b> – Gen 37:1-4, 12-28 Matt 14:22-33
<b>16</b> -Gen 25:19-35 Matt 13:1-9,18-23	<b>20</b> – Gen 45:1-15 Matt 15:(10-20), 21-28
<b>23</b> -Gen28:10-19a Matt 13:24-30, 36-43	<b>27</b> -Rom 12:1-8 Matt 16:13-20
<b>30</b> – Gen 29:15-28 Matt 13:31-33,44-52	

## **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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