

First Church of Christ, Congregational in East Haddam



# TIDINGS



Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

September/October 2017

## A LETTER FROM LAURA



September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19*

Dear Beloved Church,

Fall is upon us. Cooler temperatures and the quieting of birdsong are sure signs of the changing days. One of the gifts of summer I'm taking into the fall season is a Blessing Basket. Handmade by an artist from Ghana by the name of Akolpoka Atindaana, this woven basket has become a symbol for me of the fruits of this summer and hopes for the coming months.

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What stories might be in your blessing basket these days? What new blessings and habits of the heart might unfold this September

As we turn our sights on the gilding of autumn leaves and hear the yellow school bus rounding the next bend, our church calendar is filling up with events, classes and projects. Among them, is our new Christian Education model of ministry for children and adults. On Rally Day, Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, bring your children, youth and folks of all ages to register and participate in our "Opening Day"!

In order to broaden our offerings to more people, we are planning monthly "Faith, Fellowship and Food" nights. On these Wednesday evenings, all who join us will share a simple, healthy meal prepared by volunteers in Fellowship Hall starting at 6:00 pm. Following the meal, Adult Bible Study will be from 6:45-7:30 in one room and God's Garden Club in the other. Our Director of Christian Education, Valerie Seaver and I, will coordinate these evenings (with a little help from our friends!) Each night will have a theme and a scripture passage that all of us will be exploring. We hope you'll be interested in joining us in this new endeavor beginning with the theme of God's Vision of Shalom for all.

In addition, during our Sunday worship, God's Garden Sunday School

## How We Can Help



### Response to Harvey Disaster

#### Pray, Organize, and Pitch In!

See page 5 on how Outreach is actively involved with collecting and putting together CWS Emergency Clean-Up Buckets. Thirty buckets have been donated and they need your help to fill them.

Beginning Sunday, September 10th, Outreach will be collecting change to be donated to Houston.

The UCC is involved in relief efforts and you can read the letter from Connecticut Conference Minister, Kent Siladi.

[www.ctucc.org/newsdetail/responding-to-hurricane-harvey-9142720](http://www.ctucc.org/newsdetail/responding-to-hurricane-harvey-9142720)



## SEPTEMBER

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

## OCTOBER

- 6– Tony Boyce
- 12– Autumn Smith
- 13– Wayne Brandt  
Robert Charney
- 19– Eric Bernard
- 25– Kevin Osalza



will take place two Sunday's a month (see church calendar). On other Sundays, services will be intergenerational and open to all with a regular Children's Message and "in the pew" activities for children available. Fellowship Forums will offer Adult Education following coffee hour twice a month. If you have ideas for presenters/topics for our Fellowship Forums, please let us know.

One Sunday evening per month, Darcy Allen, and myself, will oversee the Middle School Youth group for ages 4<sup>th</sup> grade-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Please contact Darcy Allen at darcyballen@comcast.net.

Our first Middle School meetings will begin on September 24th in the evening (time TBA) Likewise, we are organizing a High School Youth Group for once a month activities as well. Stay tuned!

As our school, work and life activities increase in speed with the Fall season, we hope you will take the opportunity to join us in all or some of our church offerings and journey in faith with us. Everyone is welcome.

We hope to see you all on Rally Day, Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Bring your children, youth and folks of all ages to register and participate in our "Opening Day"!

Blessings to all,

*Laura*



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### Mark your Calendar

**September 10th**– Rally Day!

**September 15th**– 6pm-9pm, Coffee House. Join us as we celebrate fall under the changing leaves at the playground and listen to great music from local musicians playing Celtic, classical, folk, pop and Jazz! Free beverages sponsored by Two Wrasslin' Cats. Bring your own picnic. Free will offering will be donated to East Haddam Youth and Family Services

**September 17th**– Fellowship Forum, Stories From the Front: Dealing with the Opioid Epidemic. Join us we hear from parents in East Haddam who have been directly affected by this epidemic.

**September 20th**– Faith, Fellowship, Food. See Pastor Laura's Letter, page 1.

**September 23rd**– Inside church cleaning, 9am-noon. Our church is cleaned each week by our team of cleaning angels. Many thanks to Holly Coleman and Anita Hayn. As we move into the Fall Season, it's time for a good cleaning of the sanctuary and parish hall in preparation for the Annual Quilt Show.

*Sign up sheets will be posted in the Fellowship Hall.*

***Outside cleaning is scheduled for November 5th following Worship.***

*(cont'd on pg 9 )*

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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.

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### 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.

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### 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 will 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.

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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.**



### WE CAN HELP!

As rain, flooding and wind have devastating wide swaths of Texas and Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries is turning to church congregations to help overcome a shortage of much-needed cleanup buckets, stocked with essential supplies that are used after a disaster strikes.

For families that have lost everything, CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets and other CWS Kits are more than just relief supplies, they are an expression of love and symbol of hope for the future," said Zach Wolgemuth, UCC Disaster Ministries executive. "It's energizing to see congregations engaged in hands-on ways, reaching out to people they will likely never meet."



We will have a donation of THIRTY Buckets with lids that we can begin to fill with the required items from the following list.

### BUCKET CONTENTS AS SPECIFIED BY CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

- \* One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (*We have 30 ready to be Filled!*)
- \* Four scouring pads
- \* Seven sponges, including one large
- \* One scrub brush
- \* reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Easy Wipes)
- \* 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- \* One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- \* One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- \* package of 48-50 clothespins
- \* Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- \* Five dust masks
- \* 2 pairs non surgical latex gloves
- \* One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- \* 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- \* One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

All cleaning items must be new – all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

List will be posted in Fellowship hall and the Outreach Committee will be coordinating the collection. Stay tuned for details.





### **Trustees Report on First Church Conditions Assessment**

Noyes-Vogt-Architects of Chester CT submitted the first draft for their assessment of our church the last week of August. The Trustees and review committee will be meeting with Tom Gribbin to discuss the findings and begin the process of planning priorities.

The report includes the assessment of 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. They will follow up with a long-term Master Maintenance & Restoration Plan once they have pricing to finalize that portion of the report.

**Stay tuned for a date mid-late September to learn about the findings and discussion plans to move forward.**

Remember - **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! We'll need your help with this exciting and rewarding process!

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## The 22nd Annual Quilt and Needle Arts Show

This year's show is scheduled for October 7th & 8th. The show hours are Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 1 to 5 pm. Set up is Friday the 6th from 10 am to 6 pm. We will have many beautiful quilts displayed in our sanctuary and needle arts, such as knitted or crocheted items, in the Fellowship Hall. One of our special exhibitors this year is Sheri Cifaldi-Morrill from Whole Circle Studio. She designs and makes modern themed quilts. Our raffle quilt, named 'Gathering Basket' will be on display with tickets for sale at \$1.00 each. If you would like to exhibit, please send your application to Holly Coleman by September 26th. Forms are available from Holly or Margaret and also at the website: [ehquiltshow.sc43.org](http://ehquiltshow.sc43.org).

The show will include vendors and a boutique for your shopping pleasure and a cafe where you can purchase homemade soup and pies to enjoy!

This event is one of our church's biggest fundraisers. In order to make it successful, we need lots of help, so please reserve some time Columbus Day weekend to join your friends to help out at this special event. For more info contact Margaret Charney at [860-537-3323](tel:860-537-3323) or Holly Coleman at [860-873-8567](tel:860-873-8567).





## **First Church Teams Up with Middlesex Habitat for Humanity A Day of Service - Sat. October 28<sup>th</sup>**

The Outreach team is coordinating a "Day of Service" with Habitat for Humanity to work at a home on Julia Terrace in Middletown that is being renovated for a family. The maximum number for our group may be limited to 10 people depending on the stage of construction. Volunteers are expected to arrive together and remain the entire day, 8:30 am-3:30 pm. Further information and sign-up sheets will be available soon. We'll have opportunities to share time, talents and treasures as we prepare for this day.

Middlesex Habitat For Humanity is a volunteer-driven organization. They welcome people from all walks of life to join building simple, decent, affordable homes in partnership with God and families in need. There is no need to be an expert in construction to help out on a work site. All that is required is a willingness and desire to contribute alongside others.

Helping a family move into a decent, affordable Habitat home helps them build a better life. It provides a pathway toward financial stability, safety for their children, and a healthy environment in which the whole family can thrive.

*"Working together, side by side, we can help a family take the first step toward a brighter future."*

### **Here's another way to support Middlesex Habitat for Humanity**

They're a Finalist for the Liberty Bank Foundation 20th Anniversary Grant Competition!

"This is a huge honor, and we are beyond thrilled. Three of Nine...one in each category – affordable housing, basic needs, and education that leads to economic success – will walk away with a big check. We are hoping to walk away with one of them!"

The public is invited to sign onto [libertybankfoundation.org](http://libertybankfoundation.org) beginning today to watch the finalists' videos, which explain each agency's project and how they would put the funds to work. From September 5 to 15, the public is invited to vote (up to once per day) for their favorite organization in each of the three categories. Your vote(s) could help to award MHFH a \$20,000 grant!



## **Board of Membership Resources**

### **Help Wanted 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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### 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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### Mark Your Calendar ( cont'd from page 3)

**September 24th**— First Church Annual Meeting. Watch for emails and the web-site for the formal call.

**September 24th**— 5pm Middle School Youth Group

**October 1st**— Fellowship Forum, Environmental Justice Workshop presented by Pam Arifian. [www.ctucc.org/environmentaljustice](http://www.ctucc.org/environmentaljustice)

**October 18th**— 6pm-7:30pm, Faith, Fellowship, Food

**October 21st**— UCC Super Saturday, Framingham MA. One of the presenters is Pastor Laura who will offer a workshop entitled: ***All in This Together: Support on the Rollarcoaster of Illness.*** Go to [www.macucc.org/eventdetail/6451820?month=10&year=2017&day=1&display=m](http://www.macucc.org/eventdetail/6451820?month=10&year=2017&day=1&display=m) to view the details and register. This is a fun, informative and spiritual event!

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### From the Sanctuary Committee

Plants and flower arrangements are always welcome! Celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.



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

### The East Haddam Fuel Bank

Winter is coming!!

Sat November 18, 2017 is Fill The Fuel Bank Day. Information in the November/December Tidings.

The next 5th Sunday for Fuel is October 29, 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 November/  
December 2017 Tidings is October 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 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.

## **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



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TIDINGS  
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER  
2017

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**Lectionary Series**

<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>
<b>3 - Rom 12:9-21</b> <b>Matt 16:21-28</b>	<b>1 -Ps 25:1-9</b> <b>Matt 21:23-32</b>
<b>10 - Ex 12:1-14</b> <b>Matt 18:15-20</b>	<b>8 -Ex 20:1-4,7-9,12-20</b> <b>Matt 21:33-46</b>
<b>17 -Ex 14:19-31</b> <b>Matt 18:21-35</b>	<b>15-Ex 32:1-14</b> <b>Matt 22:1-14</b>
<b>24 -Ex 16:2-15</b> <b>Matt 20:1-16</b>	<b>22-Ex 33:12-23</b> <b>Matt 22:15-22</b>
	<b>29-Deut 34:1-12</b> <b>Matt 22:34-46</b>

**Contact us**

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