

# First Church of Christ, Congregational in East Haddam



## TIDINGS



Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

January/February 2018

### *A LETTER FROM LAURA*



To Glow

Like light in the sun  
spilling out of the sun,  
the spirit within beams its way though all our cracks  
til our most treasured walls come down.

The coming down of those walls  
is the blessing we crave and resist.

The coming down of those walls--  
so the light of the soul  
like the light of the sun can help  
the world grow--  
that is the call of calls  
-Mark Nepo, *The Way Under the Way*

January 1st, 2018

Dear Beloved Church.

Happy New Year! Once the ball drops in Times Square on another year, we are on the threshold of the new; new changes new possibilities and new undertakings. There's something magical about being able to start afresh and imagine dreams for the year ahead.

Among the gifts under the tree this year in our family were magic wands. As we sat around the kitchen table with our Harry Potter wands, each person shared a hope or wish for themselves and also for the world. It was quite enlightening to listen to one another and hear the desires spoken aloud. Among the common wishes for health and prosperity, were shared hopes for more peace, less conflict and greater generosity in the wider world toward neighbors near and far. What is it that you hope for in 2018? How can you share those with one another at your tables?

While we know that God isn't Santa Claus and doesn't wave a magic  
(cont'd on page 3)

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from Laura.....	1&3
New Members, Reception info, Birthdays.....	2
Loving Spoonful Snack Bar.....	3
God's Garden, Tea Update.....	4
Stewardship.....	5
Refugee Crisis, Directory, Historian, Quilting.....	6
Recovery Sunday, Book Club, Prayer Chain.....	7
Coffee House.....	8
Sanctuary, Fuel Bank, Clothing Bank.	
Monday Morning Guys.....	9
Young At Heart.....	10
Calendars (hard copy only).....	11&12
From the Editor, online Mailing List email.....	inside page
Contact us, Lectionary.....	outside



### **Become a Member of First Church!**

Sunday, January 14th -Interested in becoming a member of First Church?

Following worship and coffee, all are welcome to meet for conversation and to answer any questions about membership in our First Church community. Gathering in the New Parlor with deacons and Laura.

### **A Reception is being planned!**

Sunday, February, 25th 10 am there will be a Service of Sending and Blessing as we say goodbye to Rev. Laura and Welcome New Members into the life of our church. Reception to follow.

A planning meeting for the reception will take place in January. If you are able to help, have any thoughts or ideas please contact Kathy Sewell at 860-873-1333. You don't have to be at the meeting but we want as much input as possible.



### **January**

**7 Wayne Lombardo,  
Michael Sewell**

**9 Allison Ballek**

**14 Nicholas Kinsman**

**18 Brittney Lombardo**

**19 Scott Feulner**

**20 Sharon Fritz**

**26 Benda Collis**

### **February**

**8 Susan Kinsman**

**9 Justine Cancryn**

**10 Kathy Lisowicz**

**11 Kathy Guidi, Kathy Sewell**

**18 Anita Ballek**

**20 Nadine Lisowicz**

**21 Karan Conover**

**23 David Nelson, Julia Freeman**



(cont'd from pg 1)

*what we can trust in as we cross into the unknowns of 2018, is a God who entrusts us with the fragility and frailties of one another's hearts. And, the God of love and mercy named Immanuel, who accompanies us through the darkness and the daylight.*

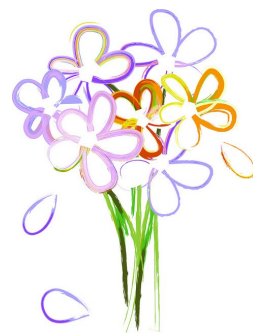
Looking ahead at our church calendar, we begin the year in service. Tuesday, January 2nd is the opening day of our Loving Spoonful Soup and Snack Bar. It is the 4th year of this steadfast gospel ministry that warms not only bellies but souls. Truly, the soup is on in the kingdom of God at First Church every Tuesday from 12:00-5:00 pm through the end of March. Another highlight of the new year is our winter coffeehouse which will be held on February 2nd at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Musicians wanted so spread the word!

As you know, my final Sunday at First Church will be on February 25th, 2018. We hope you'll join us for a special service of Sending and Blessing held at 10:00 am with a reception to follow. We will also welcome new members to First Church on that day so we hope you'll join us for the celebration. My heart will be full as I say goodbye to all of you. Your dedication, commitment to outreach, activism, hospitality and compassion is an ongoing sign of God's living Spirit on Town Street. I'm so grateful for having been able to walk some of the way with you!

May the God who crosses every threshold with us be with you and be gracious unto you in the New Year.

Blessings all around,

*Laura*



### Loving Spoonful Snack Bar

Loving Spoonful will open for its 5<sup>th</sup> Season in just a few days. Once again we look forward to seeing friends and neighbors for some warm soup, a hearty snack and fellowship time. The snack bar opens on Tuesdays during the winter months of January, February and March, in coordination with the opening of the East Haddam Food Bank and the East Haddam Clothing Bank.

**The Loving Spoonful Snack Bar will be open Tuesdays starting 1/2/2018 from 12 noon – 5:00 pm.** We're located in the lower level next to the Clothing Bank and serve both eat-in or take out. **Volunteers are needed for the morning shift, 10:30-2:30, and the afternoon shift, 2:30-5:30.** We also need soup chefs, bakers, donations of beverages and monetary donations to purchase grinders each week. Sign-up sheets will be poster in fellowship hall. *If you can help in any way for our opening day, Tues. 1/2/18, please contact Patti Lombardo so we can insure that we have everything we need to serve our guests.*

**Thank you for your continued support of this ministry**

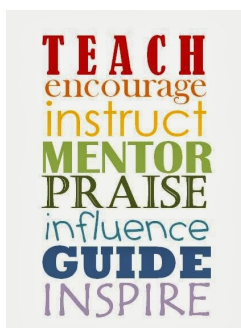
# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## God's Garden

January holds for us a lot of excitement in God's Garden. **We will begin our journey through the New Testament and study the teachings of Jesus through Art, Music, Storytelling and Dance.**

**Christian Ed would like to try new teaching approaches this year but we need YOU to make that happen. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering to assist in Sunday school! It is fun and a great way to learn about the bible.**

See Val if you are interested.



Blessings, Val Seaver  
Director of Christian Education



## Christmas Tea and Children's Fair Update

We had a very successful Christmas Tea and Children's Fair! Our Pennywise Children's Shopping Room sold out! Our Elves wrapped hundreds of presents, Many cookies were decorated, Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand for photos, cookies were served along with coffee, tea and hot chocolate. We had a beautiful assortment of cookies sold by the pound, handmade gifts and candy treats. There was a Tea Cup Raffle and live music provided by Margaret Charney on the flute, Bud Haines on the keyboard and Carol Butler on the piano.

As of this writing, \$1565.74 was collected to be distributed evenly to The East Haddam Fuel Bank and The East Haddam Food Bank.

**Thank you to everyone who donated, baked, set-up, cleaned-up, worked, attended craft night, and came to the Tea!**



## STEWARDSHIP

Have you ever noticed that at this time of year, with the world blanketed in snow and the thermometer hovering below zero, seed catalogues begin to show up in your mailbox? Those pictures of bright flowers and healthy veggies remind us when we need it most that, even when the world seems cold and inhospitable, the seeds of new growth are there, already planted (or coming soon in the mail!). It's not a coincidence that this is the time of year that we ask you to think about what it takes to steward the seeds that we have planted together here at First Church. We have grown so much over our years together. Our church spirit is strong. The light of God's love has shone forth brightly from our little corner. We have honored the work of the many who have come before us in our church's history. This is only so because people just like you stepped forward and said, "I can help. Here's my pledge." Stewardship, the act of our considering what First Church means to us and making that pledge of support, is how we water the seeds and tend the garden we've planted together. In the next few weeks, we will be talking about stewardship and sending out our letters asking for your support.

Your Board of Membership Resources deeply appreciates all you do to keep us growing strong.



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### **Syrian Refugees and the Refugee Crisis - January 26th Congregation Beth Shalom, Chester, Connecticut**

Hosts an evening devoted to the refugee crisis and honoring Haitham and Shiyam Dalati, Syrian refugees living in New Haven. The Dalatis, who left Syria for Lebanon after their home was destroyed in 2014, came to the U.S. in February 2017, but the rest of their family has remained stuck in Lebanon as a result of the U.S. government's restrictions on travel. We will begin with our traditional Shabbat evening service at 7:30pm, Following the service, we will have refreshments and discussion, including with the Dalatis, about the stories and issues from this international crisis. The public is welcome.

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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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### **Quilting on Tuesdays**

Quilting will continue on Tuesday mornings from 9-noon.

We meet downstairs in the multi-purpose room.

We will, also, be serving Loving Spoonful Snack Bar.

**Contact Margaret Charney for more information.**



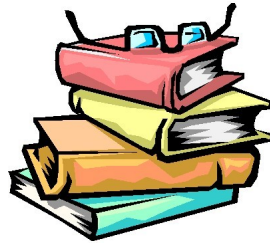
**Sunday, January 28th,**  
Annual Recovery Sunday at 10:00 am

This service features speakers who will share their stories of recovery as we honor those grappling with addiction.

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**In the Spirit Book Club**

Winter book and discussion for Jodi Picoult's best seller, *Small Great Things*, after Fellowship Hour on January 28th. *Small Great Things* has been called the most important novel Picoult has ever written. "Frank, uncomfortably introspective and right on the day's headlines, it will challenge her readers." Join us for a thoughtful discussion on the issues raised in this story.



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*We Believe In The Power Of Prayer*



**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:**

Bill, Eddie, a mother who died. Those having surgery, our neighbors in Puerto Rico and Northern California. Those in recovery, and teachers everywhere.

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**Friday, February 2nd, 2018  
Coffeehouse**

6:30-8:30 pm Fellowship Hall  
Featuring Local Musicians  
Hot Beverages Donated by Two Wrasslin Cats.



Free Will Offering Will Benefit IRIS  
(the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services) in New Haven, CT.  
Contact Pastor Laura if you want to take part.



## From the Sanctuary Committee

Please bring in your plants/flowers to share.



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

## The East Haddam Fuel Bank

Winter is here!!

The next 5th Sunday for Fuel is April 29, 2018. 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 for January, February and March are every Tuesday afternoon from 2:30 –5:30pm. This coordinates with Loving Spoonfuls. 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?

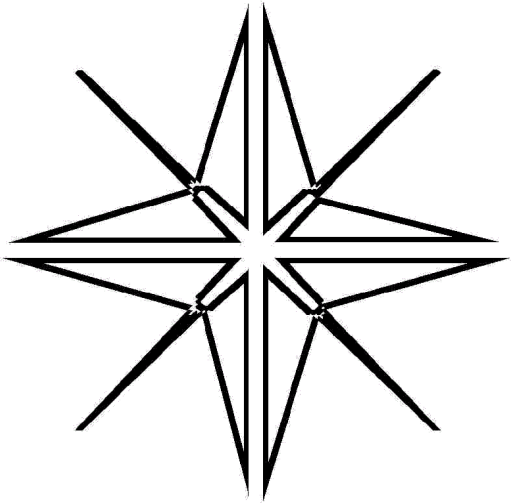
Do you work 2nd or 3rd shift?

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





**STAR OF  
BETHLEHEM**



### *Valentine's Day Word Search*

c	g	f	l	o	w	e	r	s	i	p
j	s	w	e	e	t	h	e	a	r	t
e	f	p	a	c	u	p	i	d	a	e
v	h	o	i	k	a	c	p	s	r	t
a	o	g	u	y	h	e	a	r	t	s
l	o	v	e	r	r	d	e	g	o	f
e	k	r	a	p	t	r	r	o	w	r
n	r	i	r	o	s	e	s	p	x	i
t	o	h	s	d	r	d	e	i	r	e
i	s	u	h	s	p	i	n	n	h	n
n	r	g	a	r	e	l	l	k	t	d
e	o	s	c	h	o	s	r	o	s	h
s	w	e	e	r	t	s	f	r	i	e
v	c	h	o	c	o	l	a	t	e	k

valentine  
arrow  
cupid  
hearts  
love

red  
fourteenth  
hugs  
chocolate  
pink

roses  
friend  
flowers  
sweetheart  
kisses



We will be printing and mailing fewer copies of the Tidings in 2018. If we have your email address we will not be sending hard copies out unless you request it. This will begin with the next issue.

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

You can contact me at  
schleppsister35@gmail.com.

**The deadline for the March/April 2018  
Tidings is February 15th.**

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

Blessings, Kathy Sewell

### **Our email has changed!**

Please note that the general church email  
address has changed

to

**contact@firstchurcheh.org**

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### **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 and our events calendar is,  
also, posted. firstchurcheh.org.



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TIDINGS  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY  
2018

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**Lectionary Series**

**January**

**7-** Gen 1:1-5  
Mark 1:4-11  
**14-**Ps 139:1-6, 13-18  
John 1:43-51  
**21-** 1 Cor 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20  
**28-** Deut 18:15-20  
Mark 1:21-28

**February**

**4-** Ps 147:1-11,20c  
Mark 1:29-39  
**11-** 2 Kings 2:1-12  
Mark 9:2-9  
**18-** Ps 25:1-10  
Mark 1:9-15  
**25-** Gen 17:1-7,15-16  
Mark 8:31-38  
or Mark 9:2-9

**Contact us**

**Church Office Phone Number**

860-873-9084

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lfitz\_nager@comcast.net

**Tidings Editor**

Kathy Sewell at  
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