



TIDINGS



March/April 2018

A FINAL LETTER FROM LAURA



March 1st, 2018

Dear Beloved Church,

As green shoots emerge through the cold ground in the First Church garden patch, Ecclesiastes' wisdom resounds:

"There is a time for every season under heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;... a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. "(Ecclesiastes 3:1-4)

In this season of warming light and renewed life, change is in the air! Last Sunday, many of you joined in the remarkable worship service held to mark the many life passages found on the journey of faith. We celebrated the sacrament of baptism in the new baptismal font, welcomed new members and shared in the Litany of "Holy Goodbyes."

Thanks to Mike and Val Seaver and the First Church hospitality angels, the reception flowed with abundance.

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Most of all, I'm savoring the joys and the tears we shared, Your many kindnesses and thoughtful affirmations reminded me of how blessed I have been for the opportunity to have served with you as your minister.

I don't know exactly how to say goodbye today except to say "Thank you!"

Thank you for your passion in our shared ministry of discipleship. Thank you for taking a leap of faith with me over these 4 plus years.. Thank you for listening, encouraging and teaching me what it means to really walk the walk of being church in this changing time.

As we bid farewell and make plans for next steps in ministry, I must share with you that as my first church, you will always be first in my heart! This dynamic, dedicated and blessed faith community on Town Street will be a gift to whomever you choose for your next minister-- and whomever walks through the historic wooden doors searching for a meaningful, relevant place of grace to call home.

(cont'd on page 3)



*Palm Sunday, March 25th,
10am Worship with Rev. Milton
Brasher-Cunningham.*

*Maundy Thursday, March 29th
7pm Service of Tenebrae and
Communion with Rev. Milton
Brasher-Cunningham.*

*Good Friday, March 30th, Cross
Walk. Gather at 8am at St
Bridget's Church. There will be 7
stops along the way, ending at St
Stephen's Church.*

Easter Sunday

*6:30am Sunrise Service at Gil-
lette's Castle. Val Seaver, preach-
ing*

*Easter breakfast follows at
Hadlyme Congregational Church.*

*10am Easter Service and Com-
munion with Rev Milton Brasher-
Cunningham.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



March

3~ Val Seaver

4~ Kathy Boyce

Nathaniel Kinsman

10~ Don Messmer

Judy Dawson

Olivia Lisowicz

13~ Michael Lacy

17~ Joe Dawson

April

17~ Mark Freeman

18~ Ruth Gerth

22~ Zach Hughes



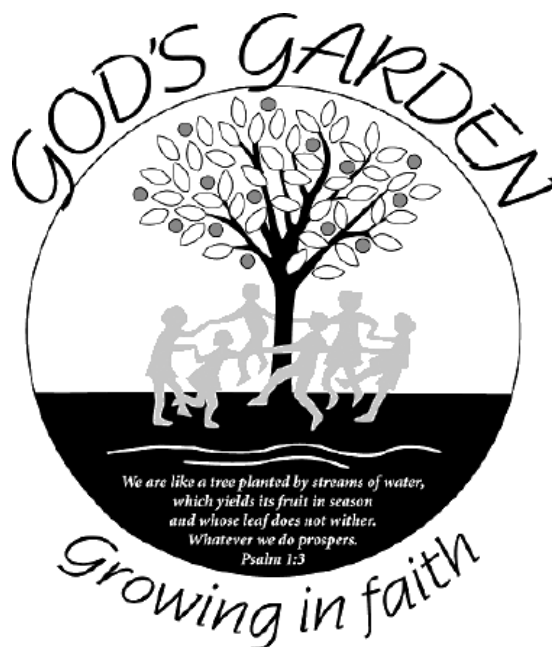
(cont'd from pg 1)

My charge and hope to you as First Church is that you trust in one another; trust in the seeds we've planted, in the ancestors in faith that have walked this path before you and in the Spirit of God that shimmers through each of you and this community of compassion. Keep reaching out to neighbors near and far. And, whenever you wonder what the faithful response might be to a given situation, keep asking and praying into this guiding question: "What would Jesus have us do here in this moment?"

May God bless you and keep you,

Gratefully Yours,

Laura



God's Garden has been busy learning about the teachings of Jesus. We have made shiny fish for Jesus making his disciples fishers of men. We painted bird houses for our story about how God cares for the birds, and how he will take care of us. As we prepare for Easter we have focused on prayer as something we can do more of during Lent.

Our monthly Wednesday night Supper and Sunday school is being attended consistently by families who are sometimes challenged with other Sunday morning commitments.

Dates for Youth Sunday and Vacation Bible School will be settled on and announced soon.

Happy Spring!!

Loving Spoonful Snack Bar

Loving Spoonful is open for its 5th Season. Once again we are 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 until 3/27/2018 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 are posted in fellowship hall. *If you can help in any way, 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





Choir Schedule

The choir will be participating in the services for Palm Sunday on March 25th and Easter on April 1st. We will be rehearsing after church on Sundays in March. All interested persons come join us to prepare for these special days.



First Church Cemetery Association, Inc. Report

The Venture Smith Day Committee and The Haddam Historical Society, along with The East Haddam Historical Society, are planning another talk by Russell Shorto, best selling author of the book "Revolution Song". The book intertwines the life of Venture Smith and the lives of 5 other prominent persons, including George Washington. It is a new telling of the Revolutionary period in American history. The talk will be held on Saturday, April 14th at 7pm at the Brainard Academy, next to the Town Office Building in Haddam. All are welcome

Easter Memorial Flower Order Form

6 in pots _____ Tulips - \$9 _____ Daffodils - \$9 _____ Lilies - \$13

Name

Address

Tel #.....

In Memory / Celebration / Honor of, (circle One)

.....

.....

.....

_____ 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 March 18, 2018



A Message from your Membership Committee: Be Like Polly Pledgewell!

Polly Pledgewell is a regular member of the Little Church on the Hill. Polly is feeling good about her church today because she just filled out and turned in a pledge form for the first time. Polly helps out with activities and projects whenever she can at her church and always puts her offering in the collection plate every Sunday, but she has never made a pledge before today. She cares deeply about the Little Church's ministry that provides rides for the elderly to medical appointments in the neighboring city, and she has been thinking that she would love to see the program expanded next year to include more people needing help. Last week, she had spoken to Tammy Trustee in coffee hour to see if the church could budget a bit more for outreach this year. Tammy loved the idea, but she told Polly that, in order to be responsible planners, the budget committee could only count what was actually pledged on the income side of the budget sheet when planning for the future. "Hmmm," thought Polly. "I'm going to go home, dig out that form they sent me, and put my offering support in the form of pledge. That way I can help Tammy Trustee do better planning....and maybe even help us do more for programs I love."

Your membership Committee wants to encourage you to be like Polly. When you put your much -appreciated support in the form of a pledge, devoted volunteers planning for next year can put it on the income side of the budget, and we all get our church off on a solid and secure footing. If at any time during the year you find that you can't fulfill your pledge, don't worry, these things happen. You only need to let us know that you must make an adjustment. If you haven't filled out your pledge form this year, it will help us, greatly, to be the best church that we can be if you find that form...or ask us for another...and pledge your support. Thanks!



2017 Historian's Report

The 2017 Historian's Report has been compiled and should be published by the first of March. Email the church office at contact@firstchurcheh.org or see the church historian, Karl Stofko, to obtain a copy.



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.

Tuesday Quilters

The First Church quilters have been multi-tasking on Tuesdays since the beginning of the new year, that would be helping with Loving Spoonfuls. We will continue this routine through March and then concentrate on quilting alone starting in April. We have fun making things to sell at the summer fairs and our Quilt Show Boutique. So, if you are feeling creative, or want to learn about quilting, come join us from 9 am - 12 pm on Tuesdays.

Contact Margaret Charney at 860-537-3323





Become a Hospice Volunteer, Training Offered

At Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care, volunteers are an integral part of our interdisciplinary team, reaching out to patients and families as they cope with the challenges of terminal illness. Volunteers are eligible to begin after completing 12 hours of classes and a 12-hour mentorship on our inpatient hospice unit. Training is held on Saturday April 7, 2018 8:30 am-2:00 pm and April 21, 2018 8:30 am-2:00 pm. Both sessions are mandatory. ***We are specifically looking for individuals who would like to work in homecare and nursing homes visiting patients.*** For more information and to begin our application process, please contact Jackie Orlowski, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at [\(860\) 358-6955](tel:8603586955) or jaclyn.orkowski@midhosp.org at your earliest convenience.

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 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.

From the Sanctuary Committee

April 1st is Easter! See page 4 for the Easter Memorial Plants form. Tulips, daffodils and lilies are being offered.

Please return your form by Sunday, March 18th.



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

The East Haddam Fuel Bank

Bal. as of Jan. 1, 2018\$11,651.01

Income 1/1-2/18/2018.....\$ 3,016.98

**Exp. For fuel for 12 local families.....
\$ 3,600.00**

Bal. as of Feb. 18, 2018.....\$11,067.99

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 noon–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**





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.

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 2018
Tidings is April 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

T

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



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



TIDINGS
MARCH/APRIL
2018

Lectionary Series

March	April
4– Psalm 19 John 2:13-22	1– Easter Acts 10:34-43
11– Num 21:4-9 John 3:14-21	Mark 16:1-8
18– Jer 31:31-34 John 12:20-33	8– Acts 4:32-35 John 20:19-31
25–Palm Sunday Mark 11:1-11 Mark 14:1-15	15– Psalm 4 Luke 24:36b-48
	22– Acts 4:5-12 John 10:11-18
	29– Acts 8:26-40 John 15:1-8

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