



The Congregational Chatter

December 2018



Musings From Tom...

The month of
December is upon us!
How time flies!

Here are some events
to highlight our time
together:

Men's Night Out will be held on Tuesday,
December 11, at 5:30 at Rossini's. I need
reservations for those men planning to attend.

On Sunday, December 16 the church will
hold a Christmas Potluck Luncheon and Christmas
Carol sing. Participants are invited to bring
whatever dish or food they desire to share. I hope
you can attend this festive occasion. That Sunday
will also include the children's Christmas Pageant
during morning worship.

Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelighting
service will be held in our sanctuary on Monday,
December 24 at 7 pm. with Second Congregational
Church of Middle Haddam. The service will feature
lessons and carols and a string quartet.

The church office will be closed after
Christmas and will be open on December 28.

I will be off on Study Leave from December
25 until December 29. I will be conducting worship
on Sunday, December 30. The service will feature a
Christmas story and will be festive.

There will be no Teens for Lunch gathering
this month. The next meeting will be on Sunday,
January 27.

Lois and I wish you a merry and blessed
Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tom

Christmas Season Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Service: 7:00 pm:

*Traditional Service of Lessons and
Carols*, combined with Second
Congregational Church of Middle
Haddam, in our sanctuary, featuring the
singing of *Silent Night* by candle light,
and a string quartet for musical
accompaniment.

First Sunday after Christmas, December 30:

The pastor will lead worship at 10 am.
The service will feature a Christmas
story.

Epiphany Service, Sunday, January 6:

The Deacons will be leading worship
with a Christmas carol sing.
(*Holy Communion will be celebrated
on Sunday, January 13.*)



Tree of Ribbons & Love

Our tree is up in the Sanctuary. Please
continue our tradition of placing red
ribbons on the tree in memory of loved
ones who have passed away.

Tie as many ribbons on the tree as you would like.
Ribbons will be located in a basket next to the tree.

A Wall of Christmas Greetings



Remember to send a Christmas card to the church
where they will be displayed in Fellowship Hall
for all our church family to enjoy.

(P.O. Box 237)



Holiday Vendor Fair

SATURDAY, December 8th
9:00am – 1:00pm
Congregational Church
59 Main Street • East Hampton



NYR Organic
Ethical Organic
Health & Beauty



thirty-one



WISHES
FAMILY TRAVEL



Sunshine
Gift Baskets



GRACE & HEART



TASTEFULLY
SIMPLE



TOUCHSTONE
CRYSTAL BY SWAROVSKI



Tupperware



MARY KAY



The Pampered
Chef



dōTERRA
pure essential oils



USBORNE
BOOKS & MORE
Open a world of possibilities



Norwex
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE™



LulaRoe



PARTYLITE



Contact: **Kim Clouser** clsfrnk@aol.com



Poinsettia

Order Form

Help decorate our sanctuary this holiday season by ordering a 6½" poinsettia in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special occasion or in celebration of the season, any reason will do!

Please include payment of \$8. per plant with your order.

Checks should be made payable to "CCEH" with "Poinsettia" on the memo line.

**Orders are due
Sunday, December 9th**

☐

Red

☐

White

Please let us know what you would like
printed in the Christmas Eve Bulletin:

Given by: _____

Email or Phone: _____

In Celebration of: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

**Following the Christmas Service,
would you like to...**

take your plant home... OR

leave your plant for delivery to a
member or friend of the congregation

Seeds of Hope



Thank you to everyone who ordered Christmas greens. They will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 2nd in Fellowship Hall.

Gift cards are available to order every Sunday from hundreds of merchants. *Seeds of Hope* receives a percentage of the face value of each card and you get your Christmas shopping done!

**Order by Sunday, December 16th to receive by
Sunday, December 23rd, in time for Christmas!**

Yarners Busy Season - The East Hampton Yarners are making hats, mittens, and scarves for the Food Bank and St. Vincent DePaul. We always need lap robes, prayer shawls, chemo hats (for men and women), prayer squares, baby things, crocheted or knitted stuffed animals and dolls.



**We will meet on Thursdays,
December 6th & 20th
10am-noon & 7-8:30pm**

Knitters & crocheters of all skill levels are invited!

Please contact Judy Hoffhine at jhoffhine@gmail.com or 860-365-0327 for more information.



LADIES GATHERING!

Monday, December 10th at 6:30pm

Host: Martha Lynch – 29 Flat Brook Road

Bring a dish share and a friend!

Is anyone interested in hosting?

Please contact Kim Clouser

765-714-1501 or clsfrnk@aol.com

Men's Night Out

The next Men's Night Out dinner will be held on **Tuesday, December 11, at 5:30 at Rossini's**. This dinner is open to all and any men of the church who would like get together for stories, good conversation and food! If you would like to attend, please tell the pastor so he can make reservations.

The UCC Puerto Rico Mission Trip is planned for the week of June 22nd – 29th, 2019.

**THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE
TO SIGN UP!**

Please contact Deb McLellan for details
860-267-4544 / dmclellan60@comcast.net



A special thank you to COSA members for making mini loaves of pumpkin bread to add to holiday bags for families from the Food Bank. Your time and talents are much appreciated.

Thank you to Teri Schlosser and her team for preparing a delicious Pot Roast dinner for all to enjoy. Thanks to Katie Nikolov for organizing members of the High School Band who provided entertainment during dinner.

On Thanksgiving Sunday we enjoyed a delicious lunch of subs and salads put on by Parish Life and the Intentional Giving Committee.

Thanks to Jerry Gerkey for fixing the dishwasher just in time for the fall Dinner!

Thank you Jed Dolde and Brian from Airline Cycle for snaking out the sewer line and keeping everything flowing freely.

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COSA made around 180 pumpkin breads for the East Hampton Food Bank for the holiday baskets! A big thanks to all the Volunteers, Julie & Martha!

COSA has also put up the **Christmas Tree** in Fellowship Hall to help support kids from the Middletown DCF and the East Hampton Food Bank for the holidays. All the tags have been taken. Please note that the Food Bank is looking for all those items. You can buy it all, split with someone else, or let us know what you plan on buying and we can make a second tag for someone else to take the other items. Gift cards are okay but items are better! **Make sure to turn in the gifts by 12/2!**

Please be in touch if you have any questions.  
Lily ~ 860-301-2835

Thanks so much for your support, Lily, Anita, Julie, Alka, Martha, Jackie, Alan, Winnie, Bob

## Christmas Pageant!

Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>



Invite your family and friends to share in our telling of the Christmas story.

## Pot Luck & Plum Pudding Christmas Celebration

Join us following the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> for a Pot Luck Lunch, a return of Plum Pudding and singing Christmas Carols.

*Bring a dish to share, dessert & drinks provided.*

**Please sign up in Fellowship Hall to provide Christmas Cookies and/or a Pot Luck dish.**

**Also, please sign up to help set up on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> or on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>.**

*See the sign-up sheets for specific times.*

**The church school children will lead the processional of Plum Puddings and begin the singing of Christmas Carols.**

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Middlesex Hospital is no longer be able to notify the church of a patient's presence in the hospital. If you or a loved one are in the hospital, please let the person caring for you know that you wish to see the hospital chaplain. They will be sure to see you and make the call to let us know you are in the hospital.

East Hampton Human Services

Social Services is now scheduling appointments for the **Connecticut Energy Assistance Program**. This program is designed to offset winter heating costs.

Please call the Case Manager, Christine Wiesner at 860-267-7300 ext. 208 to schedule your appointment.

Teens For Lunch



The next Teens for Lunch gathering will be held during the church luncheon on **Sunday, January 27**. *There will be no meeting in December.*

Helping Hands

Let Lisa Aarrestad know if you or someone you know of from our church is in need of helping hands (860-918-1170).

Or call the office (860-267-4959) so we can arrange for meals, rides, help with simple household tasks or just come by and visit!



PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

Email Lisa Aarrestad at laarestad@comcast.net or call 860-918-1170

to have a prayer concern listed for our "pray-ers".

Let Lisa know if you would like to be added to our group and a bi-monthly or as-needed list of prayer concerns can be emailed to you.

Prayer is a powerful way to connect with God during the good or difficult times in life.



43 West High Street
(860) 365-5978

Mon. & Thurs. 9am - noon

The Food bank is busy and we appreciate your support.

Here is a list of some of our needs:

Canned Fruit	Instant Mashed Potatoes
Instant Rice	Hamburger Helper
Tuna	Jelly (not grape)
Cereal	Mustard Ketchup
Syrup	Cake/Brownie Mix
Rice-A-Roni	Paper Towels
Toilet Paper	Pet Food
Cleaning Supplies	Laundry Soap
Kleenex	Diapers (sz. 4)

*Thank you for your generosity.
Deb, FB volunteer*



Book Share ~ For a \$1 donation you can take a book.

Please leave donated books on the shelf located in the hallway outside of Fellowship Hall – if there is space.

(limit of 3 – gently used, appropriate content only)

Do Not leave books in boxes or on the floor.

Sponsored by our Music Committee.

All proceeds will be used to purchase new sheet music.

A Note from our Building & Grounds Committee:



It's time the church becomes more environmentally conscious.

Unfortunately, a recycling dumpster is not in the budget at this time. So our plan is to have a recycling station in Fellowship Hall.

There will be space to collect ALL your recyclables; plastic, glass, food cans, foil, and paper, of course. Deposit bottles and cans will still be collected for *Seeds of Hope*. Church members will need to take recyclables home to put in their BLUE barrels.

This will have to be a team effort. But it won't be difficult if everyone pitches in and the benefits for our beautiful Earth will be.....PRICELESS.



Please sign up to provide a baked good to share during coffee hour. Purchase an item or share a home-made treat such as cookies, bars, breads... whatever you like. Your participation will make coffee hour pleasant and inviting to our members and friends!



First Church of Christ, Congregational
499 Town St. (Rt. 151) East Haddam, CT

CHRISTMAS TEA AND CHILDREN'S FAIR

Sat. December 8, 2018

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Santa Arrives at 10:00 a.m.

Featuring:

- Photos with Santa
- Cookie Decorating
- Special Penny-wise Gift Shop for Children
(personal assistants available for young shoppers) and
Free Gift Wrapping
- Adults can shop our Christmas White Elephant
Sale and Purchase Cookies by the Pound
- Mrs. Claus' Kitchen will be serving warm drinks
and cookies for all!

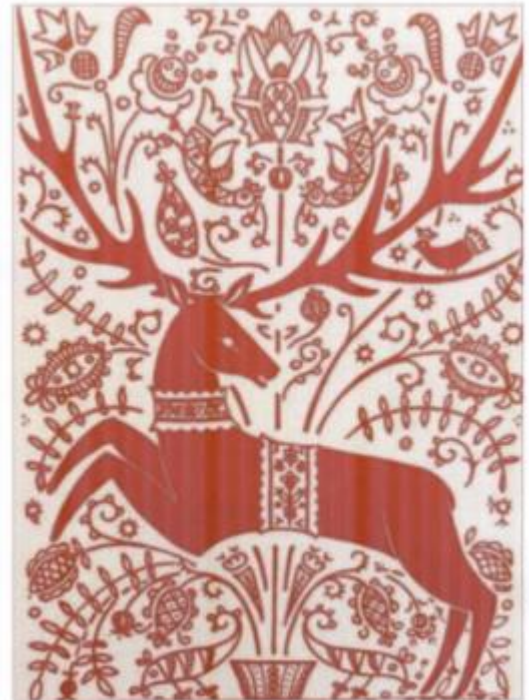
Free Will Donations Benefit

The East Haddam Fuel Bank and Food Bank.

Members of the
New England Chamber Choir
Present

A Christmas Carol Sing

Richard Wm. Donohue, Conductor



Traditional Christmas carols sung by the audience
and solos sung by members of the choir

Friday, December 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

The Second Congregational Church
Route 151
Middle Haddam, Connecticut
Phone: 860-267-2918

Donations Accepted – Reception following concert

A Simple, Generous Choice ~ *Electronic Giving*

Electronic Funds Transfer

(Direct debit from your checking or savings account)

Now available at the Congregational Church of East Hampton

Participate Today.

Electronic Giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our church.

Open your heart without opening your checkbook

Electronic Giving is the term used to describe automatic methods for making contributions on a regular basis without the need to write checks, carry cash or prepare envelopes.

Frequently Asked Questions About Direct Debit Giving

Q. What are the major advantages of electronic giving by direct debit?

A. Direct debit is all about convenience for you and consistency for the church. Electronic giving eliminates frequent check writing and helps members stay on track with pledges even when they are unable to attend services. The church in turn benefits from much-needed donation consistency and a reduction in the volume of check and cash contributions that must be handled and manually processed in the church office.

Q. How does Direct Debit Giving work?

A. Contributions are transferred automatically from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

Q. How are my automatic contributions deducted and transferred?

A. First, you sign and return an authorization form to the church indicating the amount you wish to contribute on a regular basis. Contributions are then transferred through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network—the same network already used by families to make mortgage and utility payments or to receive payroll earnings and Social Security income. Direct debit goes by other names including Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), automatic payment, or simply, ACH.

Q. When will my contribution be debited from my account?

A. A debit to your account will occur each month on the date you specify on your authorization form.

Q. How will I keep track of contributions in my check register?

A. Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date. Electronic contributions will appear on your bank statement.

Q. What can I use to prove I made a contribution?

A. Your bank statement will show an itemized list of electronic transactions that can be used as proof of your contributions.

Q. Is giving by direct debit risky?

A. It is certainly less risky than writing checks or carrying cash to church. To process electronic donations, the church uses Vanco Services, LLC—an established and highly-regarded company that moves funds directly from church members to the church on the same day without any delay. Vanco processes contributions for more than 10,000 churches and nonprofit organizations.

Q. How much does direct debit giving cost?

A. It costs you nothing and it costs the church very little. It is the lowest cost method of transferring funds.

Q. What if I try electronic giving by direct debit and don't like it?

A. You can cancel your authorization at any time by notifying the church.

Q. How can I sign up for electronic giving by direct debit?

A. Complete, sign and return the authorization form on the following page to the church office.

AUTHORIZATION FORM

Congregational Church of East Hampton

UCC080570

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	ENVELOPE/DONOR #	DATE
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Effective date of authorization: _____		
Type of Authorization Form:	<input type="checkbox"/> New Authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date	<input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation
Last Name		First Name
Address		
City	State	Zip
Email Address		
Please debit my donation from my: (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below) <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #)		Routing Number: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: _____ <small>C 1234567890 123 1234567 0001 Routing Number Account Number Check Number</small>
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____	FREQUENCY OF DONATION: (check only one) <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 st and 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th	FUNDS AND AMOUNTS: <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ \$ _____ Total \$ _____
AGREEMENT I authorize the above church to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____		

Please attach voided check here.

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The Congregational Church 59 Main Street, P.O. Box 237, East Hampton, Connecticut 06424 860-267-4959 / cceh@juno.com <u>Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 8am-noon</u>						1
2 Advent 1 Worship, Communion 10am AA – 8pm	3 Wolves, 6pm Webelos, 6:30pm	4 Boy Scouts 7pm	5 Art Class, 9:30-11:30am AA – 8pm	6 EH Yarners 10:30-noon & 7-9pm Scout Parents & Leaders, 7-9pm Choirs: Bell 6:00 Adult 7:10	7	8 Holiday Vendor Fair 9am-1pm
9 Advent 2 Worship, 10am Deacons, 11:30am AA – 8pm	10 Women's Pot Luck, 6:30pm Host: Martha Lynch Wolf Den 6-7pm	11 Men's Night Out, 5:30 <i>Rossini's</i> Boy Scouts 7pm	12 AA – 8pm	13 Choirs: Bell 6:00 Adult 7:10	14 Food Bank Holiday Meal Set-up	15 Food Bank Holiday Meal Distribution 8:30am
16 Advent 3 Christmas Pageant, 10am Celebration Lunch AA – 8pm	17 Boy Scout Pack Meeting 7pm	18 Boy Scouts 7pm	19 Lions, 6:30pm AA – 8pm	20 EH Yarners 10:30-noon & 7-9pm Choirs: Bell 6:00 Adult 7:10	21	22
23 Advent 4 Worship, 10am AA – 8pm	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7pm	25 Christmas Day!	26 AA – 8pm	27 Choirs: Bell 6:00 Adult 7:10	28	29
30 Worship, 10am AA – 8pm	31 New Year's Eve	The DEADLINE for submissions to the <u>JANUARY 2019 issue of</u> <i>The Congregational Chatter</i> <u>is Wednesday, December 26th</u>				



Christmas Fun



T H S U A L C A T N A S E P W
 H B S S T N E M A M R O I G R I N
 T G E S R E I N D E E R A E N T
 F T L G N I V I G C H N P R I E R
 I S Y T B L E S N I T E M N R S
 Y A A D L S O W S B M D I T N T S
 T G I L L S E P L T E I R N S G N
 N E Y L I M A F E I K C B S T I K
 W B O I P T N G C R R E O H K C
 T S H E B H Y S S U O L D O C D
 C H R I S T M A S T R I C S L T
 M A S D E C O R A T I O N S



Complete the maze to hang the stockings!

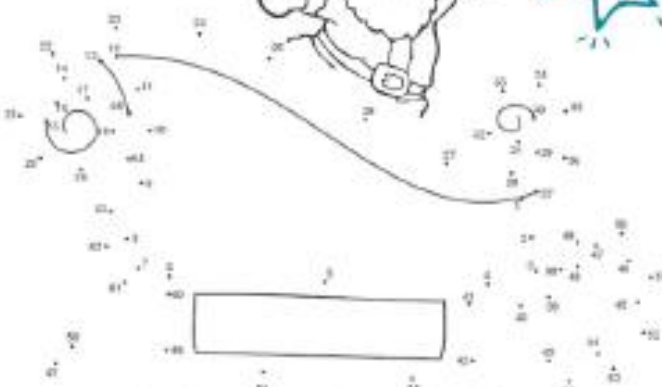


PRESENT
 LIGHTS
 HOLIDAY
 GIVING
 FAMILY
 DECORATIONS
 DECEMBER
 CHRISTMAS TREE
 CELEBRATE
 ORNAMENTS
 WREATH
 WINTER
 TWENTY-FIFTH
 TURKEY DINNER
 TINSEL
 STOCKINGS
 SANTA CLAUS
 RIBBONS
 REINDEER
 WRAPPING PAPER



HO
HO
HO

LET IT
SNOW!



CONNECT THE DOTS