
News from the Hill

May 2017

Congregational Church of Easton



Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Church Council Chair

Phillip A. Doremus

Board of Deacons

Chair

Nathalie Taranto

Church Secretary

Jeanne Sedelnik

Sexton

Sara Scoran

Phone

203-261-2527

E-mail

echurch@snet.net

Website

www.eastonchurch.org

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9 am to 2 pm

Message from the Pastor

“But they were silent. Then he took him and healed him, and let him go. And he said to them, ‘Which of you, having a son^[a] or an ox that has fallen into a well, will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?’”

Luke 14: 4-5

In our Lenten Study, we learned about the call for compassion that is the inheritance of the followers of Christ. We are called to live into compassion even amongst the pain of life and the world. We have each felt loss; we have all been troubled by the world, and in response Christ calls us to love; not fear or hate, to love extravagantly and fully. In Luke, Jesus went against the teachings of the synagogue leaders when he healed the suffering individual from the scriptures above and follows it up with a particularly poignant question. Here he teaches a full lesson with one question. The lesson is simple, we should treat the strangers, the outcasts, those living on the fringes of society with the same compassion as we would for those we love and value the most in life. This is what all Christians, no matter their backgrounds, no matter their spiritual gifts, are called to live. Actions are just as important and vital as faith. Our actions are a sign of our faith come to life.

We are called to love first, to care first, to reach out a helping hand first. With this in mind, we will be joining the other churches in the town of Easton to help a refugee family in need, in conjunction with the state department and an organization called IRIS, who are specialized in this work. This is an opportunity to live our faith, to live the message of Christ we talk about every single Sunday. This is a time for us to expand our outreach and care. In May, there will be a meeting of all the churches to discuss the different ways we can get involved, so keep an eye on your emails to know when this meeting is, so you can join us for that event and have an opportunity to ask questions.



“I remember my mother’s prayers, and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.”

Abraham Lincoln

Board of Deacons

Tenebrae and Easter worship services took on a more than usual reverence and ambience in our humble newly pristine sanctuary. Thank you to Amanda, and member contributors.

Well attended and with the eager faces of partakers, we began the study of the Bible book of “Daniel” began on April 19th. Classes are from 3:30 to 4:30 PM on Wednesdays for nine weeks.

Church Secretary Jeanne Sedelnik will be on medical leave from May 19 to July 1st. Rev. Ostrove is addressing the issue of alternative office coverage. Check your calendars and let the office know when you could donate time to assist as needed.

Covenant Church has adopted a refugee family; and other local Churches have agreed to participate. This initiative, sponsored by Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS), aims at helping new people for a 13 month assimilation period after arrival. There are multiple ways to provide assistance: help with paper work, food, clothing, or pick up at the airport. Covenant is currently raising \$10,000 to provide rent within the aforesaid assimilation period. The Board of Deacon members unanimously agreed that our Church should participate. Further details will be discussed at an Easton Clergy group meeting on April 24. Be alert for further information on what shape our church involvement may take.

For planning consistency, the Deacons have decided to schedule their meeting on the first Sunday of each month at or near 11:30 AM, in the Bishop Room. All minutes are available, in the office, for your perusal at will.

Turnaround Committee

TAC wants to thank all the volunteers who have helped to make our Tag Sale a success! We are still looking into new ways to invite the community into our church activities. We welcome anyone to join us for our meetings or to share any suggestions.

Sunday School

Sunday School

Sunday School continues and we urge all families to feel free to bring friends and family to church. All children are welcome to join us in our Sunday School program.

- Curriculum: All Together Now by Group
- Teachers: Suzanne Lovejoy, Marj Klar, and Sara Scoran
- Spring Theme: Resurrection, and the apostles

Upcoming: Children's Day June 14th

Please consider registering your child for Vacation Bible School August 7 to the 11.



Vacation Bible School

Please join us for VBS, August 7th to the 11th from 9 to 12. We will be doing the VBS program called *God & Me@Sea*. We will be learning about Jonah, Noah, and Jesus. This is promising to be a week full of adventure, fun, arts and crafts, music, and games. All children from all religious backgrounds are invited to join us. Please see the registration form on page 7. Please feel free to invite your neighbors and friends to join us.



In May you will be receiving emails about giving opportunities for VBS. We are still looking for volunteers. If you are interested please contact Rev. Amanda Ostrove.

Spring Bible Study

We are continuing the study of the book Daniel. We meet on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 in the Bishop Room. This is be a nine week study which will reveal the historical context of the scriptures, the intent behind their writing, the origins, messages they impart, and the promises and advice they still hold for us today. So please join us for our study and discussion.

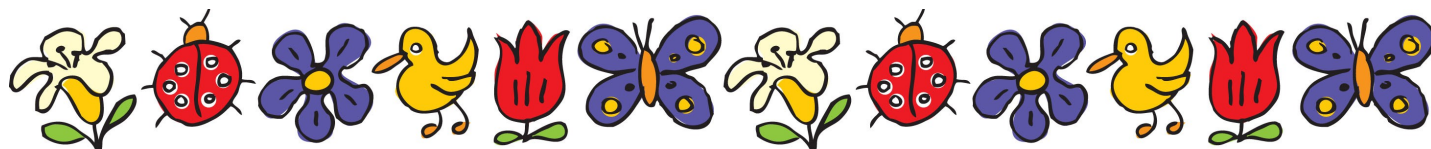
- When: Wednesdays until June 14th at 3:30PM
- What Do I Need: A Bible and a Note Book If you need a Bible please speak to Rev. Amanda

Syllabus and weekly Discussion info will be available at www.eastonchurch.org under the Christian Education page.

Board of Facilities

As a church we have been very blessed to have a benefactress help us refurbish our church inside and out. We have also been very blessed internally as well. We have come together to fund the replacement of our roofs, the repainting of the Old Academy Building, replacing the shutters on the church, and fixing the steeple.

Now we have another unexpected need. Both of the furnaces in our Old Academy Building need to be replaced which will cost us \$12,000. We would greatly appreciate it if we could come together yet again to make this possible with additional giving.



Stewardship Campaign

Stewardship is a great way for us to support and grow our ministries. If you have not considered pledging we urge you to do so. If you have forgotten to send in your pledge card, it is not too late. If you have misplaced your pledge card, you can pick one up in the church office or email us and we will send one to you.

Pledge challenge goal 2017: \$65,000

Current Pledge Count: \$58, 100

"Nothing is too great and nothing is too small to commit into the hands of the Lord." —A.W. Pink

Board of Christian Outreach

May 16th - St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen

Our menu is chicken—any style — or your specialty
Side dishes of starches, vegetables, with salad, fruit and desserts. Donations of ingredients for any dish (chicken, frozen vegetables) are always welcome. We try to coordinate with Jesse Lee members on the menu items, so please sign up as soon as possible!

Thanks to our April Food Kitchen volunteers
Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers!

Phil Doremus, Barbara van Achterberg, Sara Scoran, Daisy Colonnese, Connie Wing,
Cynthia Landry, Jane Kondratovich, Rev. Amanda, Pat Davis, Suzanne Herlihy,
Marj Klar, Claudia Nielsen, Pat & Steve Glaser and Cove

On April 18th we served 98 meals thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers
Sara Scoran, Cynthia Landry, Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Suzanne Herlihy,
Barbara van Achterberg and Pat Davis

St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Pantry

Non-perishable food is collected on the First Sunday of the month, when we share Communion and remember those in need of experiencing God's abundance. They are asking for donations of healthy food options such as:

- brown rice
- whole wheat pastas
- low sodium items

They are delivered the day of the food kitchen and can be dropped off at the Old Academy building during the month. We also deliver gently used clothes and books/toys at this time.

Merton house

Please don't forget your Merton House donations that go toward supporting adults and children who find themselves in need. We continue to collect sample or travel sized toiletries for Merton House. These small items make a big difference to those in need. Please drop them off anytime and place in the basket at the entrance to the church hall.

Your donations are greatly appreciated.

The charity that is a trifle to us can be precious to others. Homer

Vacation Bible School Registration

Name: _____

School Grade: _____ Birthday ____/____/____ Age: _____

Parent's Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Main Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Emergency Information

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship _____

Main Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

Vital Information

Food Allergies (please circle) Y N List: _____

Medical Concerns (please circle) Y N List: _____

Child's Doctor: _____ Phone (____) _____

Siblings Attending VBS (names and ages) _____

People who may pick up child: _____

Permission

I hereby give permission for my child(ren) or legal ward to attend Vacation Bible School (VBS) at the Congregational Church of Easter between August 7 and August 11, 2017.

Signature

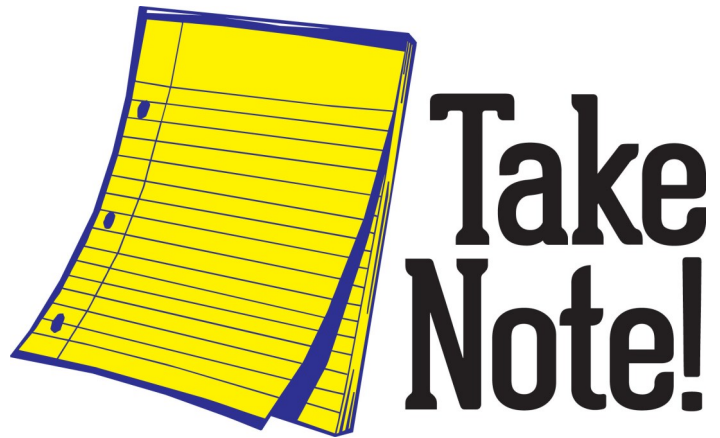
Name

Date

Note: VBS leaders have permission to photograph/film the minor(s) attending in any manner or form for any lawful purposes associated with this VBS program.

Mail to:

The Congregational Church of Easton
P.O. Box 37
Easton, CT 06612



Volunteer Opportunities for the Tag Sale

Baking! We need baked goods for our Bake Sale Table.

Cookies, cup cakes, breads, brownies, and pies —

nothing that needs refrigeration-please.

Volunteers to work at the Bake Sale
and Silent Auction Tables

Set up and Clean up Crews

General Help

Contact the church office to let us know how you can help!

*"Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."
Martin Luther*



TAG SALE SPOT REGISTRATION

Saturday, May 6, 2017
8 am - 4 pm, Rain or Shine

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email address _____

Phone number(s) _____

Tag Sale Spots are **\$35** for a 12' x 12' space. Cars may be parked inside the spot and you may put up tables, racks and displays within that area only.

Set up begins at 7:00

Tag Sale Closes at 4:00 p.m.

In the case of rain the sale will be held in the church hall.

Please make checks payable to the Congregational Church of Easton.

336 Westport Road, P.O. Box 37

Easton, CT 06612

Telephone: 203-261-2527

Email: echurch@snet.net

Website: www.eastonchurch.org/

Signature _____ **Amount \$** _____

Also that day!

Bake Sale

Tea Cup Auction

MAY CONFIRMING AND WELCOMING DEACON — DAISY COLONNESE

	Ushers & Offering	Collectors
May 7	Suzanne Lovejoy, Maria Seaman	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
May 14	The Marches	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
May 21	Vera Knapp, Nathalie Taranto	The Glasers
May 28	The Glasers	The Twomblys

JUNE CONFIRMING AND WELCOMING DEACON — JON STOCK

	Ushers & Offering	Collectors
June 4	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
June 11	The McCartys	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
June 18	Suzanne Lovejoy/Maria Seaman	The Glasers
June 25	The Marches	The Twomblys

All of our members and friends are invited to serve as Ushers. If you would like to participate, please call a member of the Board of Deacons or call or email the church office. If you are unable to serve as assigned, please contact the confirming Deacon for the month.



A donation of Altar Flowers for a Sunday worship would be a wonderful addition to our services in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries or special occasions. You may provide the flowers yourself, have a florist deliver them, or have the office order them (we use Irene's in Monroe).

Coffee Hour is an exciting part of our congregational life. Hosting a coffee hour is a great way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or special occasion with your church family. You and a friend can host a Sunday. The deacons will be glad to assist you.

A sign-up sheets are in the Church Hall or you can call or e-mail the church office for more information. Thank you!



MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 3:30 PM Bible Study	4	5  Cinco de Mayo	6 2nd Annual TAG SALE 8 AM-4PM
7 10:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Sunday school 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons Meeting Cove	8	9	10 3:30 PM Bible Study	11	12	13
14 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour  Mother's Day	15	16 Food Kitchen	17 3:30 PM Bible Study	18	19 Jeanne out until July	20
21 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday school 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Sunday School Meeting Cove	22	23	24 3:30 PM Bible Study	25	26	27
28 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday school 11:00 Coffee Hour	29  MEMORIAL DAY	30	31 3:30 PM Bible Study FEA Spring Meeting			

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Note: Jeanne out until July	1	2	3
4 10:00 Pentecost Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Sunday school 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons Meeting Cove	5	6	7 3:30 Bible Study	8	9	10
11 10:00 Worship Baptism 10:15 Sunday school 11:00 Coffee Hour Cove	12	13	14 3:30 Bible Study	15	16	17 CT Conference Annual Meeting
18 10:00 Worship Children's Day 11:00 Coffee Hour Father's Day	19	20 Food Kitchen	21 	22 9:00 Outreach meeting	23	24
25 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday school 11:00 Coffee Hour	26	27	28	29	30	

1.

Which books of the Bible include an account of Jesus' ascension?

- A. Luke and Acts
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four gospels



2.



According to one account of Jesus' ascension, commonly called the Great Commission, he told the disciples to do several things. Which of the following was not part of Jesus' instructions?

- A. Make disciples
- B. Perform miracles
- C. Teach
- D. Baptize

Three Interwoven Circles

Each circle in this symbol represents one of the Persons of the Holy Trinity — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The circles, having no beginning and no end, signify the Trinity's eternal nature. The circles' interlacing symbolizes unity. In the center is a triangle, an ancient symbol of the Trinity.



1. Answer: A (See Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:9.)
2. Answer: B (See Matthew 28:19-20.)

Answers

"We are not here to be successful. We are here to be faithful." —St. Teresa of Calcutta



NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .
THE CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF EASTON
Westport Road at Center Road
P.O. Box 37
Easton, CT 06612-0037



So Blessed by You, Mom

*A mother who always cares,
A mother who's always there.
A mother who always prays,
A mother who always stays.*

When things get rough,

When life gets tough,

When all is just too much to bear,

God's Word she shares.

God's light she shines.

So blessed God made this mother mine.

Author Unknown