
News from the Hill

April 2017

Congregational Church of Easton



"I am the
resurrection
and the
life."

J O H N 1 1 : 2 5

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9 am to 1 pm

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?”

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

Psalm 27: 1-2

Our Lenten Book Study this year, *24 Hours that Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton has really brought a lot of contemplation and insight into Christ’s last hours for me. It brought to life the fears of Christ, the experiences of Christ, and the scriptures that likely brought him comfort in his last hours. Those scriptures, being the Psalms, have been opened to me in a new way and they make more sense now in the light of my life now that I know how Christ may have used them in his. I hope that you have found the same insights.

Seeing God in our struggles, in our battles, in the troublesome times of our lives is really one of the hardest things to do. It is easy to fall into the depressing self pity cycle that seems to spiral us further and further away from feeling God’s presence. All humanity experiences this. A study done by Psychologists, S. Davidai and T. Gilovich, called *The Headwind/Tailwind Asymmetry Study*, is all about how we are programmed to see the our troubles, anxieties, fears, and struggles as being worse than anybody else’s and yet forget the many blessings, and reasons for thanksgiving in all of our lives. Yet Christ was able to rise above this very human response to adversity and to keep his mind focused on God and God’s presence. And he did so by turning back to the scriptures, the Psalms which are meant to be reminders to us that no matter how bad things might feel, how frustrated we might become, that God is still there. We should not fear the experiences of humanity for God will be our champion.

If Jesus could do this, affording him the courage to face the torture, humiliation, and pain of the cross, then we could certainly do this in our life experiences. This passage from Psalms reminds us that God loves us even when we struggle to feel his presence. God loves us even when the world looks as if it is falling apart. God loves and there is nothing and no one we need to live in fear of. So as we approach the cross and resurrection with our holiday services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday’s Tenebrae Service, and finally ending up on Easter Sunday, let us remember to focus on what we are thankful for in our personal lives, in our community lives, and in our societal lives. For we have been blessed, we are not alone, and God is there. Do you see God at work today?

“Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won’t stay there.” Clarence W. Hall

Lenten Devotionals:

There are still a few Lenten Devotionals available in the church hall and in the church Narthex for anyone still looking for a devotional in this Lenten season. It's never too late!

Service Schedule:

Palm Sunday is 10AM April 9th

Come join us as we welcome Christ with joyous song and shouts Hallelujah

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service will be 7:30PM April 13th

Tenebrae is one the most ancient Christian services of the year. It means the deepening of the shadows. It is a candle light service remembering the last hours of Christ.

Easter Morning Service will be at 10AM April 16th

Join us as we welcome the Resurrection of Christ into our lives and the promises that the empty tomb holds.

Easter Morning Easter Egg Hunt 11AM April 16th

All Children are invited to join us for our Easter Egg Hunt put on by our Sunday School team following worship.



Upcoming Special Service

In honor of our newly renovated church sanctuary, we will be having a church rededication service on April 30th at 10AM. All people are encouraged to attend and to bring friends as we celebrate the wonderful history and ministry our church has had over the past 255 years. This promises to be a meaningful celebration for all.

We give many thanks to all those who helped to make this possible from our anonymous benefactress, to our contractor who did beautiful and timely work, to the guidance of many church members in the decisions that needed to be made along the way. Let us be gathered in celebration, in blessing and in thanksgiving.



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

In April, the children will learn about Christ's journey to Jerusalem and his final days leading to the cross and the resurrection on Easter morning. Children will learn about Christ's message and work and have fun doing it! We hope your children will join us on Sunday mornings for Sunday School. All children are welcome to come.

Holiday Schedule: No Sunday School on Easter.

There will be a Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday following worship so please have your children bring their baskets for the hunt! All children are invited to come and participate.

Spring Bible Study

I have been planning and working on our next Bible Study. We will be using the MacArthur Bible study curriculum as our guide through 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 from April 19th to 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

Our newly painted Sanctuary is beautiful! The carpets will be cleaned shortly so everything will be especially bright and joyful on Easter Sunday.

One furnace in the Old Academy is in need of replacement and the second furnace has been working overtime this winter. Estimates for replacement are under discussion.

There will be grounds keeping underway in the next month or so as the long awaited warm weather arrives.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Lenten Simple suppers and study have been well attended with active and thought provoking discussions lead by Pastor Amanda and using the study guide: “24 Hours That Changed the World” by Adam Hamilton. (Soups have been delicious too, thanks to the “soup makers.”) There are copies of the book available in the church office should you like to follow up with it when you have the opportunity.

Worship services have been moved back in to our beautiful sanctuary. A rededication will take place Sunday, April 30th.

Rev. Ostrove presided at a Memorial Service honoring Jean Bromer on March 18th and on March 25, a private interment service for Timothy Knapp, in the Memorial Garden.

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 at will perusal.



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: \$56, 900

Number of Pledges Received: 24

Thank you to all who have already generously given.

Thank you!

A big thanks to the Board of Deacons.



Their dedication (and good cookin') always makes our Simple Suppers and Lenten Discussions a warm, comforting and engaging evening.

Board of Christian Outreach

April 18th— **St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen**

Our menu is chicken—any style!

Side dishes of starch and 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 March Food Kitchen volunteers

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers!

Daisy Colonnese, Sara Scoran, Rev. Amanda & Bill Ostrove, Connie Wing, Marj Klar, Suzanne Lovejoy, Barbara van Achterberg, Phil Doremus, Bill Bassett, Jane Kondratovich, Cynthia Landry, Suzanne Herlihy, Claudia Nielsen, Caren Laskay, Jim Bromer, and Pat & Steve Glaser.

March 21st we served 83 meals thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers

Barbara van Achterberg, Sara Scoran, Cynthia Landry,
Bill Bassett, Suzanne Herlihy and Mark Roselle.

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 and 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

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.

"We have not the reason to despair, quite simply because Christ has risen."

Richard John Neuhaus



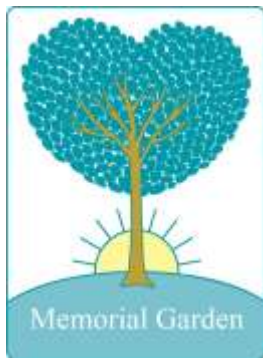
Easter Baskets for
Covenant to Care

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to provide a basket of food and gift cards for families of Covenant to Care.

The baskets and gift cards should be in the church hall by Sunday, April 9th. This will let Jorge have time to deliver them to the families for their Easter meal.

Turnaround Committee

TAC has been putting a lot of work into reaching out to our community here in Easton. We are still planning our next training that will help caretakers maintain their identity as they take on new and different roles in life. We have also kicked off work on our Annual Trunk Tag Sale bringing in \$750 in sponsorships already. We are very grateful for the generosity of our town community for supporting this event. We will be meeting on April 9th to discuss more plans and where to go next in our ministries to reach out to the community in an inviting way. Please see the tag sale page on the website for more information regarding



MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

Memorial Garden stones are a great way to honor loved ones who have passed in the **beautiful shade of our church's memorial** garden. Niches are available for those seeking a restful place for their loved ones to be laid

"Behold ... the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!"
Sitting Bull

Easter Flowers



Lilies are the traditional decoration for Easter and Tulips are a sign of new life and new beginnings. We invite you to help us decorate our sanctuary with these traditional flowers. We will again have “virtual flowers” as well as real plants. You may purchase a Lily, Tulip or a “virtual flower” in honor or memory of a loved one. The list of donor and dedications will be included in the Order of Worship on Easter Sunday. The plants will decorate the sanctuary on Easter and you are invited to take them home with you after worship, if you wish. Plants and “virtual” flowers are \$18.00.

Your Name: _____
(exactly as you want it to appear in the Order of Worship)

In Memory of

In Honor of

“Virtual” flower ____ @ \$18.00 each Total \$ _____

Lily Plant ____ @ \$18.00 each Lily Total \$ _____

Tulip Plant ____ @ \$18.00 each Tulip Total \$ _____

Please make check payable to: The Congregational Church of Easton and memo:
“Flowers” or “Virtual flowers”.

Order forms with checks can be mailed, left in the church office or put in the offering plate.
Orders for Lily or Tulip plants are due April 3rd.

____ Please bring my flowers to someone in need.



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 a.m.

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 \$ _____

Advertising space for sponsors is also available. If you know of anyone who would like to purchase some advertising space, please contact the church office.

Also that day!
Bake Sale
Tea Cup Auction

APRIL CONFIRMAING AND WELCOMING DEACON — LEON MARCH		
	Ushers & Offering	Collectors
April 2	The Marches	The Twomblys
April 9	Vera Knapp, Nathalie Taranto	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partride
April 16	The Glasers	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
April 23	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	The Glasers
April 30	The McCartys	The Twomblys
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

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 (Irene's). There is a sign up sheet in the church hall. Call or e-mail the church office for more information.

Coffee Hour is an exciting part of our congregational life. Hosting a coffee hour is a great way to celebrate a birthday or anniversary with your church family. Perhaps you can join a friend in hosting a Sunday. The deacons will be glad to assist you. A sign-up sheet is in the Church Hall or of course you can call or e-mail the church office for more information.

Thank you!

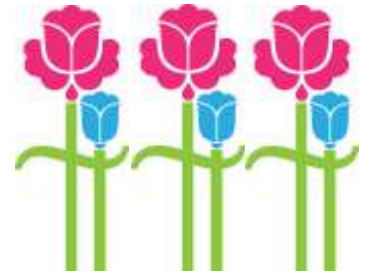


april 2017 april

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons Cove	3 Flower Orders due today	4	5	6	7	8
9 Palm Sunday 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 TAC Meeting 2:00 Sunday School Meeting	10 Easter Baskets for Covenant to Care Due April 9	11	12	13 7:30 PM Maundy Thurs- day/Service of Tenebrae	14 Good Friday Office Closed	15
16 Easter Sunday 10:00 Worship 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt <i>Allhail!</i>	17 Office Closed	18 Food Kitchen	19 3:30 PM Bible Study	20 9 AM Outreach Meeting	21	22
23 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour Cove	24	25	26 3:30 PM Bible Study	27	28	29
30 10:00 Worship Dedication Service 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour						



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 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 	15	16	17 3:30 PM Bible Study	18	19	20 11:00 AM Alan Schutts Memorial Service
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 11:30 ????	29	30	31 3:30 PM Bible Study FEA Spring Meeting			

1.



According to St. Matthew’s gospel, something unusual happened to the earth on the Friday when Jesus was crucified. The same thing happened again when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb on the following Sunday.

What happened on those two days?

- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days.
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days.

2.

By what other name(s) does the Bible identify the disciple we call “Doubting Thomas”?

- A. Didymus
- B. The Skeptic
- C. The Twin
- D. A and B
- E. A and C



Agnus Dei



This image is known as the Agnus Dei, Latin for “Lamb of God.” When pictured standing and with a banner, it represents the risen Christ, victorious over death. John the Baptist, seeing Jesus approach, famously declared, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin

- Answers
- 1. If you need help, Matthew 27:51 recounts Friday’s events, while Matthew 28:2 reports on Sunday’s occurrences.
 - 2. E (See John 20:24, NIV and ESV.)

Christendom has had a series of revolutions, and in each ... has died. Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave.”

G.K. Chesterton, The Everlasting Man



NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .
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