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# News from the Hill

August 2017

Congregational Church of Easton

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*Will you not revive  
us again,  
that your people  
may rejoice  
in you?*



Minister

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Monday-Friday

9 am to 1 pm

*"Moses led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed... Then God said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.'" - Exodus 3:1b-2, 5*

Do you trust that God can do the unthinkable in your lives, and in our community? **He's done it before. Our scriptures from Exodus point to it though we may no longer see it because we have lost the meaning of the Hebrew word. Horeb means barren, desolate, and in general completely uninviting. Moses was shepherding his flock in a desolate area which meant that there wasn't much there.** There were small scruff shrubs, nothing in the way of grass, and most certainly nothing in the way of water and thus society. It was a dead looking area.

But Moses had inadvertently stumbled upon something unique in the desert wastelands. He stumbled upon the dwelling place of God. And because of this encounter this mountain would turn from a desolate wasteland to a holy place of pilgrimage for generations to come. This was where people would journey to interact with God. God turned that place into something remarkable. God also took a lowly shepherd, who was a fugitive from Egypt, a murderer, and a man with a significant speech impediment and in that moment changed his life forever. He went from being an average person to being the salvation of his people and the voice of God to those in need.

So what does this say about us and our communities? This says that God can and does use all of us no matter how unqualified we may feel, no matter how ordinary our lives, or how unremarkable we may feel and in his time he will use us for great things, he will bring life to others through our works, just as he brought life to the lifeless Mount Horeb through his interaction with Moses. So **don't be discouraged, don't lose faith, search for God and allow him to do the remarkable in the ordinary.**

### BOARD OF FACILITIES

Forger-Kunkel will be replacing our furnaces in the Old Academy Building the first week of August. We have also begun looking into septic system cleaning. We have several bushes and gardens in need of pruning and we are looking into getting that taken care of as well.

### BOARD OF DEACONS

Jean is back! She was missed! We are thankful that she has recuperated well and quickly.

Rev. Amanda and Nathalie attended The United Church of Christ Annual Conference Meeting (June 16 & 17 in Hartford) at which the major topic was a proposed tri-state merger unifying Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island Conferences into one entity. This meeting spoke to whether the representative from each Conference should continue to lay out a plan for unification. Voters from the three Conferences gave the go ahead to the representatives to construct a format which will be again discussed and accepted, or not, at the 2018 annual Conference meeting. Please contact Rev. Amanda for details to date.

At the Deacons July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, Rev. Amanda announced that a Memorial Service remembering Alan Schutts will take place on October 7 at 11:00 a.m.

Also, during the 9 July meeting, Leon March suggested a review program blending two closely related elements: where we now stand with our Turnaround Church progress and a review of our church Covenant. Tentatively, this event is planned for sometime in October.

Another Bible Study session, led by Rev. Amanda, will begin on September 13<sup>th</sup> and will end November 8<sup>th</sup>. All dates except one are Wednesdays. The exception arises from a workshop and training session our Pastor will attend on October 25. Entitled *Weird Church*, the event addresses how individual congregations might adapt to current changes in Christianity.

Rev. Amanda will have been on vacation and have returned (July 24 through July 30<sup>th</sup>) by the time you receive this epistle. We hope she had an enjoyable and restful time. She, too, was missed. Filling in for her on July 30<sup>th</sup> was one of our favorite supply persons-Mr. Doug Halley.

For planning consistency, the Deacons have decided to schedule their meetings 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.

### Letter about Furnaces

The furnace replacement in the Old Academy Building is set to take place sometime after August 1st. To this date we have raised \$2,950. We are still asking for donations to help off-set the costs of such a big job. The new furnaces allow us to have a warm place to fellowship in the winter months, warm offices for the office staff, a warm place for meetings, Bible Studies and the preschool and the other organizations who use our facilities throughout the year. So if **you haven't considered a donation to our furnace fund, then I ask you to consider one and to make checks payable to the church with furnace fund written on the memo line.**

With You in Fellowship, Rev. Amanda G. Ostrove



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Looking for something fun, educational, free, and creative for your children to participate in this summer? Sign them up for VBS with the Congregational Church of Easton. We are offering a free, interfaith based **program called “God & Me@Sea.” We will provide plenty of fun, laughter, crafts, games, object lessons, snacks, and memories.**

- Dates: August 7<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>
- Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Ages: 4 to 12, accepting volunteers ages 13+

If you have any questions or would like to register we welcome calls at 203-261-2527 or you can check out our website at [www.eastonchurch.org](http://www.eastonchurch.org).

We need some items for snacks for VBS—Can you help???

### Snacks

Parsley	Shredded cheddar cheese (2 bags)	Milk (2 gallons)
Triscuits (2 boxes)	Marshmallow Fluff	Sugar cookies
Rainbow sprinkles	Tortillas (2 packages)	Sour cream
Chocolate instant pudding	Goldfish Crackers	Onion dip packets

## TURN AROUND CHURCH COMMITTEE

TAC has met and will be ordering replacement directional signage to be placed at some major intersections in town. We will need help to install these signs once they arrive. We have also begun planning for the annual church fellowship Family Picnic. We have begun plans to offer more talks open to the town starting in the fall with a discussion on maintaining personal Identity as new parents and a separate one on the changing roles associated with caretaking of an aging parent. We are also planning an outreach event with the Heifer Project that will invite the participation of the town and preschool downstairs. We ask that you keep your eyes on your emails with updates and requests for help with our various projects.

*Looking for Ways to Support Our Turnaround?*

*Here are some ways to help:*

1. *Regular participation in Sunday worship*
2. *Volunteering to help with activities*
3. *Sign up to host Coffee Hour*
4. *Invite a friend or neighbor to church or church activities*
5. *Share ideas for activities*

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

August 15 — **ST. LUKE /ST. PAUL'S FOOD KITCHEN**

Our menu is chicken—any style — or your speciality  
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 June & July Food Kitchen volunteers

Barbara Van Achterberg, Connie Wing, Sara Scoran, Cynthia Landry, Jim Bromer, Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Jane Kondratovich, Caren Laskay, Pat and Steve Glaser, Marj Klar, Denise Bieglow, Suzanne Herlihy, Joan Bennett, Pat Davis, Claudia Nielsen, Daisy Colonnese, Susan March, Sally Schwerdtle

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers!

On June 20 we served 107 meals and on July 18th we served 95 meals. Many thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers. Barbara van Achterberg, Cynthia Landry, David Landry, Suzanne Herlihy, Pat Davis, Joan Bennett, Sue Farmer, Denise Bigelow, Rev. Amanda and Bill Ostrove

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### **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 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.

**"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawn mower is broken."**

—James Dent

### Backpacks for Covenant to Care

We have received the names of students that are in need of backpacks for this coming school year.

A sign up sheet is in the church hall along with a list of suggested items that the students may need.

You may also call or email the church office to sign up to provide a backpack. Your participation is vital to helping these students start the school year off right.

Thank you!



"Summer"

*Oh! long happy days, when 'tis full of delight*

To roam in the meadows from morning till night!

Oh! summer, sweet summer! glide slowly away,

For I love in your warmth and your fragrance to stay.

—H.P. Nichols

## 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: \$56,900

Number of Pledges Received: 24

Thank you to all who have already generously given.

**"Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse and cool the earth, the air and you."**

—Langston Hughes



### FALL BIBLE STUDY

Our fall Bible Study will begin on September 13th at 3:30 p.m. and it will last for 9 weeks. This fall we will be studying the Gospel of John. This will give us a window into the early Christian communities: their struggles and their practices. But it will **also help us to discover new depths of faith and service in God's name.**

When: Wednesdays, September 13th to November 8th 3:30—4:30 p.m.

Where: Bishop Room

Materials: Bible and a notebook

If there are any questions, please contact Rev. Amanda.

### *Unwrap the Gift*

*At church one Sunday, I noticed a woman carrying a Bible neatly wrapped in colorful ribbon, like a package. My first thought was that she must be giving it to someone as a present.*

*Throughout the next few weeks, however, I realized that was the woman's own well-used Bible. Whenever a worship service or Bible study ended, she carefully rewrapped the Scriptures with that shimmery strand.*

*What a great reminder that God's Word is a precious, practical gift meant to be opened and reopened regularly.*

—Stephanie Martin



Mark your calendars for the  
Church Family Picnic  
Saturday, August 12 at 2 PM



Invite your friends and neighbors to join us!!

We're asking everyone to bring something to share.

A sign up sheet is in the church hall, or you can call the church office to let us know how many are coming.

## Serving Schedule

JULY CONFIRMING AND WELCOMING DEACON — Nathalie Taranto		
	Ushers & Offering	Collectors
July 2	The Glasers	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
July 9	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
July 16	Suzanne Lovejoy, Maria Seaman	The Glasers
July 23	The Marches	The Twomblys
July 30	Pat McCarty, Nathalie Taranto	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
AUGUST CONFIRMING AND WELCOMING DEACON — Leon March		
	Ushers/offering	Collectors
August 6	The Glasers	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
August 13	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	The Glasers
August 20	Suzanne Lovejoy, Maria Seaman	The Twomblys
August 27	The Marches	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge

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!

**“In summer, the song sings itself.”**

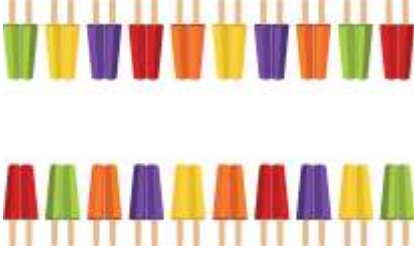



William Carlos Williams





# august

# 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons <i>Collection for Food Pantry</i>	7 9-12 VBS	8 9-12 VBS	9 9-12 VBS	10 9-12 VBS	11 9-12 VBS	12  2:00 Church Family Picnic
13 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	14	15  Food Kitchen	16	17 	18	19
20 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour  Backpacks Due	28	28	30	31		

# September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00 Worship w/ Communion 11:00 Coffee Hour Collection for Food Pantry	4  Office closed	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons Kick-Off Sunday	11 	12	13 1st week Bible Study 3:30-4:30 pm	14	15	16
17 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	18	19 Food Kitchen	20 Bible Study 3:30-4:30 pm	21	22 	23
24 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	25	26	27 Bible Study 3:30-4:30 pm	28	28	30

1. Jacob had two wives, two concubines (his wives' maids), 12 sons and one daughter. Who gave birth to the daughter, Dinah?

- A. Zilpah
- B. Bilhah
- C. Leah
- D. Rachel



2.



Before Job's great misfortune, how many animals did he own?

- A. 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen and 500 donkeys
- B. 70 sheep, 30 camels, 50 yoke of oxen and 50 donkeys
- C. 2,000 oxen and 4,000 camels
- D. 250 sheep and 250 goats

## Christian Symbols



Scales

In biblical context, scales symbolize judgment, particularly divine judgment. In Daniel 5:27, the king is told he has been “weighed on the scales [by God] and found wanting.” Job also uses scales as a metaphor for judgment: “Let God weigh me in honest scales and he will know that I am blameless” (Job 31:6, NIV). Finally, scales may represent the archan-

2. Answer: A (See Job 1:3.)

1. Answer: C (See Genesis 30:19-21.)



NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .  
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF EASTON  
Westport Road at Center Road  
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Upcoming Events!



Food Pantry Collection — Sunday, August 6



Church Family Picnic — Saturday, August 12—2 p.m.



Vacation Bible School—August 7 thru 11 9 a.m. to Noon

**St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen** — Tuesday, August 15th



Sunday School Kick Off — Sunday, September 10



Fall Bible Study begins—Wednesday, September 13

