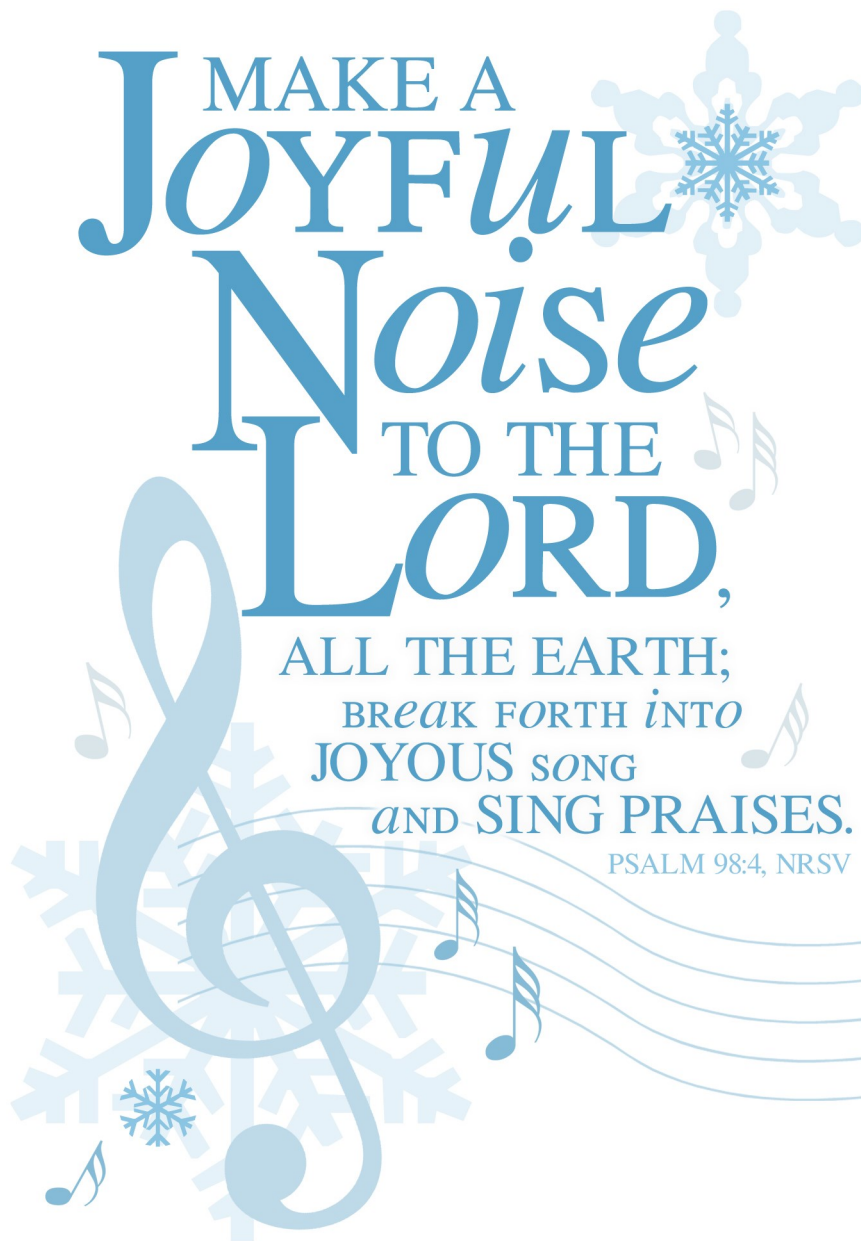

NEWS FROM THE HILL
DECEMBER 2016
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON



Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Church Council Chair

Phillip A. Doremus

Board of Deacons Chair

Nathalie Taranto

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Sexton

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
9 am to 1 pm

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

*Joy to the world!
The Lord is come:
let earth its praises
bring:
Let every heart
prepare him room,
and heaven and
nature sing,
and heaven and
nature sing,
and heaven
and heaven and
nature sing.*



“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Luke 2:15

I love Christmas. I love the time with friends and family. I love the decorations and the music. I love the excitement in children’s expectant faces. I love the food. But most of all, I love the mystery and curiosity of the story of our Savior’s birth. I feel called each year to approach the manger yet again searching for what the Lord has made known to my heart. I feel very much a kin to the shepherds of our scriptures above. I feel as if in that manger there are answers to the questions of life. In that manger, there is comfort for a person in need. In that manger there is possibility for a world that is in need of some direction. I come to the manger with hope, with joy, with love, and in search of a peace that will transcend the struggles of this world.

In that search, I find more than just a baby each year. I find purpose for tomorrow. C.S. Lewis wrote, “Look for Christ and you will find Him. And with Him everything else.” So in this advent season I encourage you to search for Christ with curious hearts, as those shepherds did. I encourage you to seek him out, to be inspired, to find some peace and to know that once we truly find Christ we will find exactly what we need to live into his message and to make meaning in this life. So this advent season contemplate what you are longing for. What you are seeking? And search for Christ and come to know his love, joy, and hope and live into those as you search for the peace we all work towards in life.

Updates and Reminders!

Please remember, that we have quite a busy calendar this December. We ask that you come to our events and show support for our congregation, and the children who come to share their talents with us. Please take a look at our upcoming events and mark your calendars.

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
- Holiday theme: The Story of Christmas

We are already beginning to prepare for the Christmas Season and look towards a Christmas Pageant to be held on December 18th during worship. To fill out the pageant, Rev. Amanda will be asking for participation from all families and invites the New Academy Preschool families to feel welcome to participate as well.

Upcoming Schedule:

Sunday School will not be held December 18th for the Christmas Pageant

Sunday School will not be held on December 25th but we encourage all families to come and enjoy the celebration of the Christ Child in this world and to have a day of carol singing!

Sunday School will resume on January 1st



Join us for our Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 18th during worship.

Everyone is welcome to participate, please call or email the office and let us know if you would like to take part.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Rev. Amanda is looking to put together some classes for families looking to join membership for the Spring. It would be a four week course at the end of which you would officially be a member of the church in a special worship service. Please speak to Rev. Amanda either by phone, email, or in person if you are interested.



*O little town of
Bethlehem,
how still we see
you lie!
Above your deep and
dreamless sleep the
silent stars go by;
Yet in your dark
streets shines forth
the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears
of all the years are
met in you tonight.*

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS



DEACONS MEETING
Sunday
December 6th
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

BOARD OF DEACONS

Annually, the month of November holds one of the most well attended and enjoyed events in the life of our Church. That being the “Harvest Dinner” which took place on November 12th, last.

Thanks to the leadership crew made up of Reverend Amanda, Jeanne and Phil Doremus, the logistics fell strategically into place. Adding to their efforts, all of you who supplied the potluck foods, and decorations completed the setting for fellowship and a delicious joyful meal. The clean-up volunteers/crew made swift work of the take-down. Thank you, one and all. A further thank you to Phil for the giving of supplemental goods and prep time.

Advent and the month of December will hold a number of special worship services; worship related events as well as enjoyable fellowship opportunities. Please check the published calendar so as not to miss any of the celebrations.

All Deacon meeting minutes are available for your perusal in the church office. Our next meeting will be Sunday, December 11th at approximately 11:30 AM in the Bishop Room.



Our annual stewardship campaign is underway. This is a special time of year where we commit ourselves: talents and re-

sources to supporting the continued work of Christ through the hands of this community. This is how we support our current missions, allow for the development of new missions, support our functions to educate people in the scriptures and ways of Christ in the world, and allows for us to continue to maintain our beautiful historic buildings so future generations will enjoy their beauty. Everyone's pledge is important and essential to the life of our church. So we ask that you fill out your blue pledgecard and mail it back to the church. Please remember to send your cards back as soon as possible to help us plan for the coming year. Your participation helps us to continue to serve Easton and our neighboring communities.

Pledge challenge goal 2017: \$65,000

Due date for pledges: November 28, 2016

Pledges as of November 28, 2016: \$27,790.00

Annual Meeting: *Early 2017 please stay tuned for a confirmed date*

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

DECEMBER 20TH – ST. LUKE/ST. PAUL'S FOOD KITCHEN

Our menu is chicken—any style!

Side dishes of starch and vegetables, with salad, fruit and desserts

THANKS TO OUR NOVEMBER FOOD KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers!

Barbara van Achterberg, Daisy Colonnese, Claudia Nielsen, Connie Wing,
Sara Scoran, Bill Bassett, Amanda, Maria Seaman, Jane Kondratovich,
Suzanne Herlihy, Caren Laskay, Cynthia Landry, Pat Glaser, Jon Stock,
Lorry McLaughlin, Marj Klar

November 15th we served a large group, thanks to our preparers,
transporters and servers — Bill Bassett, Barbara van Achterberg, Bill &
Rev. Amanda Ostrove and Mark Rozelle

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. This month's challenge: two item from your pantries. 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

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.

Thank you.

Christmas Gifts for

Children of Covenant to Care

We have received names from our Adopted Social Worker, Jorge Ball, of children and some adults who are in need of presents for Christmas.

Please see the sign up sheet in the church hall or call the church office to sign up.



*Silent night,
Holy night,
all is calm,
all is bright
Round yon virgin
mother and child.
Holy infant so
tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly
peace,
sleep in heavenly
peace.*

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS



O come,
all ye faithful, joyful
and triumphant,
O come ye,
O come ye
to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
born the
King of angels;
O come,
let us adore him,
O come,
let us adore him,
O come,
let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

TURNAROUND COMMITTEE

TAC has been working hard on putting together opportunities for us to serve our community. We are working on different opportunities to invite the public to trainings and lectures that might be of interest or help in their lives. In February, we are having a computer lecture to help people navigate the ever changing world of computer operating systems and the even more confusing world of social media. In the Spring, we are hoping to bring in a speaker to help people who have taken time off from employment to be caretakers. These are opportunities for us to help support education and families here in Easton. We also, strongly urge all people to attend and to support our upcoming fundraiser, the Cookie Walk Bake sale on December 3rd and are very grateful to Caren Laskay for her leadership on this event.

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 to rest. Please contact the church office for details.

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our Thanksgiving baskets for Covenant to Care.

Your generous donations of food, gift cards and extras will be greatly appreciated by the families!



Harvest Dinner



A big thanks to everyone who attended and participated in the **Harvest Dinner!** It was a lovely evening for getting together with friends and family.

And great food!!!

We also appreciate all those who gave us the leftovers to bring to the St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 2016

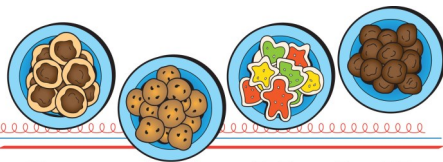
News from the Hill

Upcoming Events

December 3 rd	Cookie Walk Bake Sale 9am – 12pm
December 10 th	New Academy PreSchool Breakfast with Santa From 8 to 11 am
December 17 th	Holiday Sing-a-long with Joel Barlow Choir 6 pm Hot Chocolate & Cookies in OA to follow
December 18 th	Christmas Pageant Choir Practice 11:30 am Christmas Gifts for Covenant to Care due today
December 24 th	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30 pm Choir Practice 4:30 pm
December 25 th	Christmas Day Worship 10 am



*Away in a manger,
no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus
laid down his
sweet head.
The stars in the sky
looked down
where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus,
asleep on the hay.*



Cookie Walk

December 3rd from 9-12

We will be hosting a Cookie Walk bake sale. If you have volunteered, please be at the church hall between 8 and

8:30 a.m. If you volunteered to bake cookies, please have them at the church hall Friday morning, December 2nd. This promises to be a fun way to bring in the holidays!

*If you'd like to join us, please
call or email the office.*

Choir Practices

Dec 18th at 11:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m.





*The first Noel,
the angel did say,
Was to certain poor
shepherds in fields as
they lay;
In fields where they
lay keeping their
sheep, On a cold win-
ter's night that was so
deep. Noel, Noel,
Noel, Noel,
Born is the
King of Israel.*

Join us for An **Evening of Carols** with the Joel Barlow
Select Choir on Saturday, December 17th—6 PM
in the Church Sanctuary
Come and sing along with the Joel Barlow Choir as we
celebrate the season with an evening of
Carols and Christmas Songs

*We'll end the evening with some
hot chocolate & cookies in the Old Academy
Bring the kids! Bring your friends!*



NEW ACADEMY PRESCHOOL
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 10th

8 AM TO 11 AM

Call the Nursery School for Details:

203- 261-6700



New Computer Needed

We have started a "fund" for a new office computer and printer. We have received some generous gifts to start us off, but any donation is gratefully accepted. We will have a box in the church hall for checks, your loose change, the odd dollar or two in your pocket. . . Thank you!

2016



2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 9 am-12 noon 
4 Advent 2 10 a.m. Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	5	6	7	8	9	10 8—11 am NAPS B'fast with Santa
11 Advent 3 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Deacons	12	13	14	15	16	17 6 pm Holiday Sing-A- Long with Joel Barlow
18 Advent 4 10 a.m. Worship Christmas Pageant 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Choir Practice	19	20 3:30 pm St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen	21	22	23 Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve 4:30 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25 Christmas Day 10 a.m. Worship	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING SCHEDULE

DECEMBER CONFIRMING AND WELCOMING DEACON — LEON MARCH

	USHERS & OFFERING	COLLECTORS
December 4	The McCartys	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
December 11	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	The Twomblys
December 18	Maria Seaman, Vera Knapp	The Glasers
Christmas Eve	The McCartys	
Christmas Day	Nathalie Taranto, Daisy Colonnese	

JANUARY CONFIRMING AND WELCOMING DEACON — JONATHAN STOCK

	Ushers/Offering	Collectors
January 1	The Marches	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
January 8	Suzanne Lovejoy, Maria Seaman	The Glasers
January 15	Vera Knapp, Nathalie Taranto	The Twomblys
January 22	The Glasers	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
January 29	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins

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 the event of inclement weather,
we will try to make a decision about cancellation of services as soon as possible.
Please listen to radio station WICC 600 or TV channel 6, 9 or 12 for information.
If you feel uncertain about being on the road in bad weather,
please stay home and stay safe.

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 AM Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour	2 Office Closed	3	4	5	6	7
8 10 AM Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 10 AM Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour	16	17 St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen	18	19	20	21
22 10 AM Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10 AM Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour	30	31				



Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias are among the most beautiful decorations in our sanctuary at Christmas time. This year, as is our custom, we will have “virtual Poinsettias” as well as real plants. Your gift of a “virtual” Poinsettia will be used for Outreach. You may purchase either in honor or memory of a loved one. The list of donor and dedications will be included in the Order of Worship.

The Poinsettia plants will decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. You are invited to take them home with you after the Christmas Eve Service, or if you wish they will be brought to a homebound member. The 7” pot (1 plant) is \$17.00.

If you wish to purchase a “virtual” poinsettia you will continue to remember and honor loved ones. The “virtual Poinsettias” offering will also be \$17.00.

Name: _____

(exactly as you want it to appear in the Order of Worship)

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

“Virtual” Poinsettia order

_____ @ \$17.00 each

Virtual Total \$ _____

Poinsettia Plant order

_____ Red or _____ White

_____ @ \$17.00 each

Plant Total \$ _____

Please make check payable to: **The Congregational Church of Easton** and memo: “**Poinsettias**” or “**Virtual Poinsettias**” Order forms with checks can be mailed or left in the church office or put in the offering plate.

Flower Orders must be in by Sunday, December 11th

_____ Please bring my flowers to someone in need.