


News from the Hill

December 2017

Congregational Church of Easton

TO THE ONLY
WISE GOD BE

glory
FOREVERMORE
THROUGH 
Jesus
Christ!
ROMANS 16:27, ESV

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9 am to 1 pm

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good-will to men."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow from *Christmas Bells*

Longfellow's poem *Christmas Bells* is one of my favorite Christmas poems and hymns. I feel like this hymn captures the entire purpose of the season. Christmas is not about gift giving, or shopping, or baking, or decorations. At the heart of the holidays is the hope, joy, peace, and love that Christ came to this world to bring. This poem reminds us that though there are hardships, though there is at times great sorrow and loss, there is still hope in Christ. There is still the reminder that God is good and God **is present throughout it all. God is there proclaiming "peace of earth, good will to men"**.

Longfellow wrote this poem as the United States was coming out of the civil war and following the death of his wife. He wrote of hope that came from deep sorrow and hardship. This is the hope Christ came to inspire into the hearts of humanity. Jesus was born into a world where the Romans ruled his home land, poverty, and exclusion were the norm. Yet Jesus came at this time as a baby to remind all people of the love and hope that we should seek in life. Just like holding a baby reminds us of the new life all around us and provides joy and uplifting hope, so too does Christ do this each Christmas season for us.

So this holiday season, join with us as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Join in the joyous song of our Greening of the Church service, caroling with Joel Barlow, our Christmas Pageant, and our traditional Candle Light Christmas Eve service. Come join in the joy, love, and hope that is so inherent in these activities. And remember to share that joy with others that you meet. Christmas is the time to remind all people that God is good, that God is love, and that God is present.

Merry Christmas All

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
As you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, give thanks and sing.

The Board of Deacons invites you to join them this
Christmas Season
for any or all of our special events

Saturday, December 2 for our Second Annual Cookie Walk
Sunday, December 3 Worship for our Hanging of the Greens
and lighting of the Advent Candles

Saturday, December 9 for New Academy Pre School's Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 9 at 6 p.m. for the Joel Barlow Select Choir &
Christmas Carol Sing Along (snow date - December 16)

Sunday, December 17 Worship for our Annual Christmas Pageant
&

Sunday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m. for our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

BOARD OF FACILITIES

The furnaces are in and working wonderfully. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Furnace Fund!

We are looking at some options for possibly replacing and updating the lighting in the church hall and offices. Facilities is working with an electrical firm to get some information on extent of the work that would be necessary.

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

Choir Practices

Dec 17th at 11:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m.



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



Children's Worship and Education

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: Connie Wing and Sara Scoran
- Winter Theme: John the Baptist and Jesus

In January, we will be learning about John the Baptist and the beginning of Christ's life and ministry. 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.



Join us for our Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17th during worship.

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



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

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

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.



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

December 19th— **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. We try to coordinate with
Jesse Lee members on the menu items, so please sign up as soon as possible!

Thanks to our November volunteers

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers!
Connie Wing, Cynthia Landry, Barbara van Achterberg, Sara Scoran, Phil Doremus,
Daisy Colonnese, Amy Hanson, Joan Bennett, Bill Bassett, Claudia Nielsen,
Rev. Amanda, Suzanne Herliy, Denise Bigelow, Caren Laskay

On November 21st we served 90 meals. Thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers —
Cynthia Landry, Rev. Amanda, Pat Davis, Suzanne Herlihy,
Amy Hanson, Joan Bennett, Denise Bigelow

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 delivered the day of the food
kitchen and can be dropped off at the Old Academy building during the month.



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. Please drop them off anytime and place in the basket at the entrance to the church hall.

Your donations are greatly appreciated.

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led to thee.

Stewardship REPORT

Stewardship Campaign

We have been well underway in our stewardship campaign for 2018. We would like to send out a special thank you to all those who already sent in their pledge card. Remember our pledges help to 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 continue to enjoy their beauty. Everyone's pledge is important** and essential to the life of our church. So if you have not already done so, please fill out your blue pledge card 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 2018: \$65,000

Current Pledge amount: \$27,600

Current Pledge Count: 9

Annual Meeting: *Early 2018 please stay tuned for a confirmed date*

Upcoming Events

- 
- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| December 2 nd | Annual Cookie Walk |
| December 3 rd | Greening of the Church |
| December 9 th | Breakfast with Santa 8am to 11am
Caroling with Joel Barlow Select Choir 6PM |
| December 17 th | Baczewski Baptism and
Christmas Pageant |
| December 24 th | Christmas Eve Candle Light
Service at 5:30PM |

Note: No morning service on December 24th



Cookie Walk

*Saturday, December 2
9 AM to 12 Noon*

*Join us for An Evening of Carols with the
Joel Barlow Select Choir on Saturday, De-
cember 9th at 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 9th

8 AM TO 11 AM

Call the Nursery School for Details:

203- 261-6700

Serving Schedule

December Confirming and Welcoming Deacon —Leon March			
	Ushers & Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
December 3	S. Lovejoy, M. Seaman	D. Collonese, C.Partridge	B. van Achterberg
December 10	The Marches	The Twomblys	D. Colonnese
December 17	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	The Glasers	J. Stock
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30			
December 31	D. Colonnese, C. Nielsen	N. Taranto, M. Perkins	S. Lovejoy

January Confirming and Welcoming Deacon —Jon Stock			
	Ushers & Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
January 7	S. Lovejoy, M. Seaman	D. Collonese, C.Partridge	B. van Achterberg
January 14	The Marches	The Twomblys	N. Taranto
January 21	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	The Glasers	S. Lovejoy
January 28	D. Colonnese, C. Nielsen	N. Taranto, M. Perkins	D. Colonnese

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 is a wonderful addition to our services. You may provide the flowers yourself, have a florist deliver them, or have the office order them.

Coffee Hour is an exciting part of our congregational life. If you would like to host for a special **Sunday, please contact the office. We'd love to have your participation. Call or e-mail** the church office for more information.



A Memorial Service for Jean Croll has been set for Saturday, December 16 at 11:00 a.m. The family invites friends to join them at that time for a service of celebration and thanksgiving for her life. There will be a reception in the church hall following the service.

December 2017







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 1st Sunday Advent 10 AM Greening of the Church 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons Collection for Food Pantry Cove	4	5 	6	7	8	9 NAPS Breakfast with Santa 6 PM Joel Barlow Choir & Sign A Long
10 2nd Sunday Advent 10:00 Worship w/Communion 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour	11	12	13	14	15 	16 Memorial Service for Jean Croll 11:00 a.m.
17 3rd Sunday Advent 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour	18	19 3:30 pm St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen	20	21	22	23
24 4th Sunday Advent No morning worship 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour						

january



2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Feast of the Epiphany
7 10 AM Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons Collection for Food Pantry	8	9	10	11 	12	13
14 10 AM Worship 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Office closed	16 Food Kitchen	17	18	19	20
21 10 AM Worship 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour	22 	23	24	25	26	27
28 10 AM Worship 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour	29	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.

Poinsettia Sign-Up

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 \$18.00.

Name: _____

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

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

“Virtual” Poinsettia order

_____ @ \$18.00 each

Virtual Total \$_____

Poinsettia Plant order

_____ Red or _____ White _____ @ \$18.00 each

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 Wednesday, December 6th

Virtual Orders should be in by Friday, December 15th

____ Please bring my flowers to someone in need.



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



*Join us Sunday, December 24th for our
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:30 p.m.*

No morning service on December 24th