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# News from the Hill

March 2017

Congregational Church of Easton

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Minister

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9 am to 1 pm

*“The greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the one who serves.”*

*Luke 22: 26*

Lent is upon us. Lent, in the Christian calendar, calls us into the wilderness with Christ. In the wilderness, Christ meditated, prayed, and fought off evil. And so too we are called to a time of meditation, prayer, and an introspective look into our souls and lives. In our Lenten journey we hope to come to peace with our struggles and to seek a deeper relationship with the Lord. It is a time to come humbly before our God, to seek his forgiveness for our weaknesses, and to allow for God to heal us preparing our hearts for the new life afforded us each Easter morning. Often times people give something up for Lent as a way to remind them of the sacrifice of Christ, others take on new habits that encourage a deeper spiritual connection to the Holy and recognizes the constant striving we face in life to attain a closer relationship to our maker.

But we are reminded in our scriptures that in this time we seek not to make ourselves great but to recognize that we are flawed and to seek the guidance, care, and healing of the Lord. We must be like children, like the youngest, who seek only to serve and to work in the name of the Holy. So this Lenten season, as we contemplate our relationship with God and one another, let us remember to pray, read the scriptures, and feel **that connection to the words of Christ. Let’s allow for him to lead us in our daily interactions.** We seek to do this in our own personal lives. However, as Christians we belong to a fellowship of people offering up support and companionship in our spiritual journeys too. So join us for our Simple Suppers where we will be doing a book study **that will help us in our quest to understand the final hours of Christ’s life and the message for us in today’s world. This is a time to ask our questions and to connect spiritually** with one another and thus with Christ. See our Lenten Schedule for information on days, times, and the book we will be studying. Please remember that if you need help acquiring a book to call the office and we will help you.

#### Spring Bible Study

This spring our Bible Study will be on the Book of Daniel. It will be and MacArthur Study. All people are invited to attend. You may come to one, two or all Bible sessions. The only thing you will need is your Bible. Keep an eye on our website in the upcoming weeks for more information.

*“Music comes from an icicle as it melts, to live again as spring water.” Henry Williamson*

## Ash Wednesday Service:

Join us for our first Ash Wednesday Service in the church hall. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and traditionally seen as a day of fasting set to mirror the forty days that Christ fasted in the wilderness before **starting his ministry. On Ash Wednesday, we will gather for a service to commemorate God's gift to the world in the life and work of Jesus.** At this time, we are reminded of our humanity and our struggles in life as we symbolically enter into a time of fasting as we journey through the wilderness with Christ. This will be the start of our Lenten journey and will be the start of our 6 week journey to the cross and resurrection. Service will be integrated with our Simple Supper at 6:30 PM. All are welcome to attend. We will be using the ashes from the Palms of last Palm Sunday.

## Simple Suppers:

Join the Congregational Church of Easton for our Simple Suppers and Lenten Study every other Wednesday night in Lent, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. This year our Lenten study will be *24 Hours that Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton which can be ordered online at <https://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=1350209> or on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). If you need help acquiring a book please contact the church office. **Come and work together to understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death.** We ask that you join us in this journey together enjoying the discussion and fellowship. All people are eagerly invited to join us in this time of unity and devotion. Please RSVP to the church if you plan to attend 203-261-2527 or by email at [echurch@snet.net](mailto:echurch@snet.net).

Simple Supper Schedule:                    March 1<sup>st</sup>  
    March 15<sup>th</sup>  
    March 29<sup>th</sup>

## Lenten Devotionals:

**Devotionals are a great way to center yourself in preparation for the day, or as a great way to calm one's mind and heart for a better night's rest. This year's Lenten devotional is called *Living the Gospel Life* edited by David Mead.** You can pick up your devotional in the Old Academy Building or in the church sanctuary. If you can't make it to pick up a devotional but would still like to have one please call the church office or email and we will send you one. Have a blessed and enlightening Lenten Season.

## Service Schedule:

Lenten Worship remains the same every Sunday morning at 10AM  
Additional services for Holy Week:  
Maundy Thursday service will be April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM please plan to attend.  
Easter Morning Service will be at 10AM



### 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



Winter Theme: John the Baptist and Jesus

In March, we will be learning about the miracles, healings, and life of Jesus Christ. 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.

### BOARD OF DEACONS

What: Lenten Simple suppers and study, 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall

Dates: Ash Wednesday 3/1, Wednesday 3/15 and Wednesday 3/29/2017

Study Guide: **"24 Hours That Changed the World"** by Adam Hamilton

Should you not be free to attend each session - - **that's fine.**

Should you not be able to get your hands on the book - - no matter. Simply join in the discussion by adding your personal views on the theme.

At the same time, keep alert for the soon to be announced date we will return to worship in, and the rededication of, our beautiful sanctuary. It is spectacular in its pristine, clean and repaired look! Be prepared to be awed.

### 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.



### Board of Facilities

The repair and interior painting of the Sanctuary is almost complete. Some other concerns, such as carpet cleaning and duct cleaning is necessary before we move back in. We hope to celebrate Easter in our newly renovated church!



We have been well underway in our stewardship campaign for 2017. 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 2017: \$65,000

Current Pledge Count: \$53,900

Annual Meeting: *March 5, 2017*



### Memorial Service for Jean Bromer

The Memorial Service for Jean Bromer has been set for Saturday, March 18. Friends and family of Jean are invited to celebrate her life at a memorial service at 2:30 pm at the Congregational Church of Easton. **In addition to words from Rev. Amanda, scripture and some of Jean's favorite hymns,** people who loved Jean may share brief stories about what made her special. Following the service we will have food and conversation at the Church Hall across the street.

Board of Christian Outreach

March 21st – **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 February Food Kitchen volunteers

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers!

Jim Bromer, Cynthia Landry, Jane Kondratovich, Barbara van Achterberg,  
Caren Laskay, Sara Scoran, Daisy Colonnese, Claudia Nielsen, Pat Glaser,  
Connie Wing, Nathalie Taranto, Vera Knapp, Marj Klar, Rev. Amanda Ostrove

February 21st we served 95 meals thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers  
Barbara van Achterberg, Sara Scoran, Rev. Amanda and Bill Ostrove,  
Jim Bromer, 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 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.

*Your donations are greatly appreciated.*

*"Faith is permitting ourselves to be seized by the things we do not see." —Martin Luther*





**Easter Baskets for  
Covenant to Care**

Our annual collection to provide holiday dinners for families of Covenant to Care is underway. Each Easter basket contains non-perishable food and gift cards. Jorge has given us names of families who are in need.

The “baskets” consist of non-perishables and a gift card for the family’s use to purchase fresh ingredients. You may sign up for a full basket or a partial basket.

Please call or email the church office to sign up for a family or see the sign up sheet in the church hall.

Baskets should be in the church hall no later than Sunday, April 9th.

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### Turnaround Committee

TAC has been putting a lot of work into reaching out to our community here in Easton. We had our first community training opportunity with our computer program and we extend a warm thank you to Rob Wahler for leading the course for us. We are already beginning to plan for our next event, a 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. Please see the tag sale page for more information regarding the event. We still are working on the logo and tagline for the church and hope to have something to present soon.

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*From LENT*

It's true, we cannot reach Christs forti'th day;  
Yet to go part of that religious way,  
Is better then to rest:  
We cannot reach our Saviours puritie;  
Yet we are bid, *Be holy e'en as he.*  
**In both let's do our best.**

Who goeth in the way which Christ hath gone,  
Is much more sure ot meet with him, than one  
That travelleth by-waves:  
Perhaps my God, though he be farre before,  
May turn, and take me by the hand, and more  
May strengthen my decayes.

George Herbert

# 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 in-

cluded 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:

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

In Memory of

In Honor of

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“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 or left in the church office or put in the offering plate. Orders for Lily or Tulip plants are due March 20<sup>th</sup>.





Saturday, May 6

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Trunk Tag Sale

Church Parking Lot

Also that day!

Bake Sale

Tea Cup Auction

Pull in

Open your trunk

Sell your junk

Reserve your spot: \$35.00

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

Call - 203.261.2527 or  
email the church office at  
echurch@snet.net  
for information

*"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."*

*—Hal Borland*

## Serving Schedule

MARCH CONFIRMING AND WELCOMING DEACON — NATHALIE TARANTO		
	<u>Ushers &amp; Offering</u>	<u>Collectors</u>
March 5	The Glasers	The Twomblys
March 12	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
March 19	The McCartys	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
March 26	Suzanne Lovejoy, Maria Seaman	The Glasers
APRIL CONFIRMAING AND WELCOMING DEACON — LEON MARCH		
	<u>Ushers &amp; Offering</u>	<u>Collectors</u>
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

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.

2017



2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Daylight Saving Time Begins on March 12th</p>			<p>1</p> <p>Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm Service &amp; Lenten Supper</p>	2	3	4
<p>5</p> <p>10:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Annual Meeting</p>	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>12</p> <p>10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour Deacons Meeting</p> <p>Cove</p>	13	14	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 pm Lenten Supper</p>	16	17	18
<p>19</p> <p>10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>3 PM Food Kitchen</p>	22	23	24	25
<p>26</p> <p>10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour</p> <p>Cove</p>	27	28	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 pm Lenten Supper</p>	30	31	



# april 2017



# april 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Annual Meeting Cove	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour	10	11	12	13 7:30 Maundy Thursday/ Service of Tenebrae	14 Good Friday Office Closed	15
16 Easter Sunday 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour	17 Office Closed	18	19 3:30 Bible Study	20	21	22
23 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour Cove	24	25	26 3:30 Bible Study	27	28	29
30 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour						

1.



In John 4, Jesus talks with a woman about living water. Where does that conversation take place?

- A. Sychar
- B. Samaria
- C. Galilee
- D. Jacob's well

2.

Moses was a prophet and lawgiver for God's chosen people, the Israelites. What does the name Moses mean in Hebrew?

- A. "Out of the water"
- B. "Giver of the Law"
- C. "Prophet"
- D. "God is good"



St. Patrick's Day trivia



You may know that St. Patrick used shamrocks to teach about the Trinity, but did you know these other facts about him?

**St. Patrick wasn't Irish. (His parents were Roman citizens living in either Scotland or Wales.)**

He was kidnapped and sold as a slave at age 16. After escaping six years later, he joined a monastery in England.

**March 17 is the date of St. Patrick's death, not his birth. He died in 461 A.D.**

Answers  
1. A, B and D (See John 4:4-7ff.)  
2. A (See Exodus 2:10.)

*The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves.*  
Helen Keller



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



Please note change of date:  
Annual Meeting, Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>  
immediately following worship in the Church Hall.

Ash Wednesday Service & Lenten Supper is on March 1st at 6:30 p.m.  
Lenten Supper 6:30 on March 15th  
Lenten Supper 6:30 on March 29

Deacons will meet on Sunday, March 12<sup>h</sup> at 11:30 a.m.  
in the Bishop Room