
News from the Hill

November 2017

Congregational Church of Easton



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“Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket – safe, dark, motionless, airless – it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable impenetrable, irredeemable”.

C.S. Lewis

Lately, we have really looked at God’s love. I have focused a number of sermons on it because it is essential to being Christian and it is something that all too often gets lost in society and the world. Jesus boiled down all of the laws to two laws, that if appropriately honored and lived, will make everything else fall into place. Jesus said that we should love the Lord our God with all of our hearts and souls and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Love was the central focus of his ministry to a world in need. The Messiah came to this world not as a political figure to raise a military to fight a war. The Messiah came to remind the world that God only asks that we love.

As C.S. Lewis noted, this is not an easy command to live into. To love someone or something else, we need to take on the risk that we will experience pain. When we truly love, pain is inevitable. But it is precisely because of that pain that we have compassion for others, that we want to reach out and to do what we can to lessen some of the pain that is in this world. I pick November to speak about this because it is in November and December that most people think about those who are in need. This is when most people reach out to those in need lovingly offering gifts and services. But I would challenge each person to think about living this more than just around the holidays when we are reminded about love, family, and giving. I would urge you to think about joining in the efforts of God’s love throughout the year. Volunteer to read to children, volunteer with the elderly, volunteer to help those who are struggling financially. Take a moment to really think about our world, our towns, our communities, and you will see that everyone could use a little more care in their lives.



I know the lands are lit, with all the autumn blaze of Goldenrod.

Helen Hunt Jackson

BOARD OF DEACONS

EVENTS FOR YOU TO ENJOY AND THAT NEED YOUR SUPPORT:

Adult Bible Study continues (meeting weekly, Wednesdays at 3:30) through November 8th; the topic of study is the Book of John.

November 5: next Deacons meeting

November 12: Service to honor veterans

November 18: Sign up for our delicious Harvest Dinner
Happy Hour at 4:30M; Dinner-5:30 PM.

December 2: Cookie Walk fundraiser – needs cookies and helpers

December 3: Advent begins with the Hanging of the Greens,
and lighting of the Advent Candles

****Please note - Communion will be celebrated the following Sunday*

December 9: Breakfast with Santa

December 9: Joel Barlow Select Choir Christmas Carol Sing Along
(snow date - December 16)

December 10: Communion Sunday Children participate in worship service

December 24: Christmas Eve Service *only* (NO Sunday morning worship)

An energetic time of year with lovely and loving opportunities for fellowship.
The Deacons invite and encourage all of you to be part of all of it.

BOARD OF FACILITIES

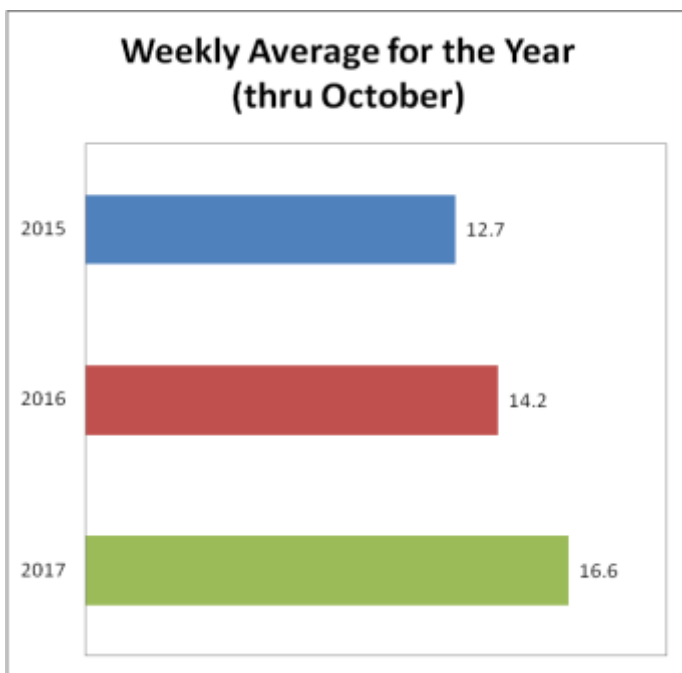
The two new furnaces are installed and running! The building will be a comfortable place for staff, visitors and the nursery school this winter. We thank everyone who has made a contribution to the Furnace Fund— **and if you haven't made a donation, please consider a gift—it will help greatly.**



A wind has blown the rain away and blown the sky away and all the leaves away, and the trees stand.
I think, I too, have known autumn too long. e. e. cummings

TURN AROUND CHURCH COMMITTEE

TAC will be meeting on November 12th this month following coffee hour. We will be discussing future activities for the church as well as the results from the congregational discussion in October. This month we would like to remind people that Sunday morning church attendance has increased in the past couple years but weekly attendance is a great way to show your support for our continued Turnaround efforts. Here are some of the stats on Church Attendance. Your support is essential to a vital spiritual life in our church.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Rev. Amanda will be leading a book discussion in the winter on *Weird Church: Welcome to the Twenty-First Century* by Beth Ann Estock and Paul Nixon. This will be a look at current church trends and projected trends as we move further into the 21st century. It also looks at the changing face of faith and spirituality and how churches are speaking to these changes. Come join us in this discussion and help guide us into the next half century.

Furnace Fund

The furnace replacement in the Old Academy Building is complete! To this date we have raised \$3,950. 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 **pre-school 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

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

November 21st — **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! On October 17th we served 93 meals.

Cooks, bakers and shoppers— Daisy Colonnese, Barbara Trup, Sara Baczewski, Barbara van Achterberg, Connie Wing, Cynthia Landry, Sara Scoran, Denise Begelow, Suzanne Herlihy, Caren Laskay, Sue Farmer, Rev. Amanda, Jane Kontratovich, Claudia Nielsen

Preppers, transporters and servers— Suzanne Herlihy, Sara Scoran, Cynthia Landry, Sue Farmer, Lucas Farmer, Barbara van Achterberg

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.*



Thanksgiving baskets

We are holding our annual Thanksgiving Basket mission of providing non-perishables and a gift card for a Thanksgiving dinner for those in need. Please contact the office if you would like to participate. Non-perishable extras are always welcome. Also your leftover Halloween Candy!

“Baskets” must be in the Church Hall by Sunday, November 19th
in time for Thanksgiving delivery

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.
William Arthur Ward

Stewardship Campaign

We are beginning our stewardship campaign for 2018. You will be receiving your letters and blue stewardship cards in the mail shortly. We would like remind you that your support allows for us to continue our vital outreach programs, our activities in the community of Easton, our spiritual formation groups, our Sunday **School and children's programs. Your increased giving allows us the flexibility to** continue and increase our work in Christ. I would like to extend an advanced thank you, as I am sure that our community in Christ will respond to our call.

Pledge challenge goal 2017: \$65,000

Due date for pledges: November 28, 2017

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



Notes and Reminders



Order forms for Poinsettias will be in the bulletin when the price for the plants is finalized.



Daylight Saving Time ends
Sunday morning
November 5th at 2:00 a.m.

Set clocks back
Saturday night!!!

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
- Fall Theme— The Exodus

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.



Fall Bible Study Program

The Fall Bible Study was a fun, educational, and thought provoking experience and we will be finishing our study on November 8th. We will take up our study in the Spring following Easter with a new study.



Second Annual Cookie Walk Bake Sale!
Saturday, December 2nd
9 a.m. to 12 noon.

We have asked people to bake 10 dozen Christmas Cookies to donate to the sale and we have had a lot of success getting bakers. We are up to over 60 dozen cookies promised. We could always use more so please think about joining our baking effort. We could also use more volunteers for the day of to help with set up, clean up, cashier duties, and kitchen duties. This promises to be a fun way to bring in the holidays!

Unless a tree has borne blossoms in spring, you will vainly look for fruit on it in autumn.
Walter Scott

Serving Schedule

November Confirming and Welcoming Deacon — Nathalie Taranto			
	Ushers & Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
November 5	The Marches	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	B. Van Achterberg
November 12	P. McCarty & N. Taranto	The Twomblys	D. Colonnese
November 19	The Glasers	The Glasers	J. Stock
November 26	D. Colonnese, C. Nielsen	N. Taranto, C. Partridge	S. Lovejoy

December Confirming and Welcoming Deacon — Leon March			
	Ushers & Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
December 3	S. Lovejoy, M. Seaman	D. Colonnese, 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			
December 31	D. Colonnese, C. Nielsen	N. Taranto, C. Partridge	S. Lovejoy

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.



Altar Flower and Coffee Hour Hosting for 2018

The Flower Calendar for 2018 will be posted soon so you can select your special dates in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries or special occasions. You may order or provide the flowers yourself or have the office order them.

Hosting a Coffee Hour is a wonderful way also to celebrate a special occasion.

- Why: Celebrating a special day with your church family, to welcome people to moment of fellowship.
- How: Call the church office or send an email if you would like to be on our rotation to host Coffee Hour or would like to just do one date.



November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30 Bible Study	2	3	4 
			5 10:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons Collection for Food Pantry Cove	6	7	8 3:30 Bible Study
12 10:00 Worship Veterans Day Service 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour	13	14	15	16	17	18 4:30 p.m. 
19 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour Thanksgiving Baskets Due Cove	20	21 3:30 St. Luke/ St. Paul's Food Kitchen	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving 	24 Office Closed	25
26 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour	27	28	29	30		

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 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
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 Service	25 CHRISTMAS Joy 	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30
31 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour	January 1 					

1. After Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown, bound, into a blazing furnace for refusing to worship false gods, how many men did King Nebuchadnezzar see walking around in the fire?



- A. None — they were all dead
- B. Three — unbound and unharmed
- C. Four — and the fourth looked like a divine being
- D. Too many to count

2. The book of Exodus contains many laws for living. One law deals with harvesting crops. God instructed people to plant and gather for six years. What does he say to do in the seventh year?



- A. Plant double what you usually plant.
- B. Plant only grass for the animals.
- C. Let the land rest and lie fallow.
- D. Give away all your crops to the poor.

Christian Symbols

Scepter and crown

The scepter and crown are symbols of a king's authority. In Christian tradition, they represent Christ's triumphant rule over all. The final Sunday of the liturgical year — November 22 this year — is Christ the King Sunday, when we celebrate this very thing. Hebrews 1:8 (NIV), echoing the book of Psalms, reads: "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom."



- Answers:
1. C (See Daniel 3:25.)
2. C (See Exodus 23:10-11.)

Coming in December!

*Christmas Gift/Gift Card
Collection for Children of Covenant to Care*





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

Mark Your Calendar!

Annual Harvest Dinner

Saturday, November 18th

4:30 Happy Hour

5:30 Dinner

