
News from the Hill

October 2017

Congregational Church of Easton



*We have
waited for him,
so that he might
Save Us.*

ISAIAH 25:9, NRSV

Minister

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“The circumstances and events that we see as setbacks are often times the very things that launch us into periods of intense spiritual growth”.

Charles Stanley

Change is perhaps one of the most frustrating parts of life for everyone. Yet everything in life changes, it is a reminder that God continues to create anew in our world. In small churches, change and transition can be full of angst, doubt, and questions. If there were ever a time to place our trust in God it would be now. All over America mainline Christian churches are feeling pains of these changes and this unique moment of transition in religion. In a conversation, I was in 7 years ago, shortly after I started my ministry here, I was told that we (meaning the entirety of Christianity) were embarking on something new. He believed that we were embarking on a new Great Awakening. And as the years have gone by, this notion has not been too far from my mind.

It intrigues me yet still sparks a little fear as well. What will those changes be? What will they look like? Will we (Christianity as a whole) respond to the need or will people be left behind? As I prepare for a training in Simsbury this month, I have been researching and reading about just this and how other churches throughout the United States have already begun to speak to these changes. They do so by courageously facing these transitions and listening to the community around them, opening their doors and hearts to anyone who searches, and they are constantly trying new things. As we move forward into a new era of Christianity, I believe that there will be less distinction between the denominations and more unity; large groups will become small groups as people are seeking a more intimate relationship with their faith and faith communities. In response to this, TAC, the deacons, and I have been thinking about the direction of our own turnaround process. We will be having an informal gathering on October 15th during coffee hour to talk about what we have done to date and what and where we need to go moving forward. In preparation for this, I urge each of you to talk to your neighbors, your friends, and your coworkers and find out what they feel is lacking in Easton as a town and perhaps Fairfield County. We can then use this information to make our church and our programs more useful in ministering to the town and inviting to people to participate and join in on activities and worship. I hope that you will plan to attend that day, as all ideas **and suggestions will really help focus us moving forward into the next year’s worth of work.** We can each be instrumental in shaping the future of Christianity and our church. We are being offered a unique opportunity to launch ourselves into a period of deeper spiritual growth.



BOARD OF DEACONS

Kickoff Sunday took place on September 10. Focus on this year's Children's Worship program is to delineate areas where we may include the young people in our adult Worship Service, as is appropriate.

KEEP IN MIND:

Adult Bible Study commenced (weekly, Wednesdays at 3:30) on September 13; the topic of study is the Book of John.

October 7 at 11:00 A.M: Alan Schutts Memorial Service,

October 8: Church Council Meeting

October 12 at 7:00 PM: Program entitled *Parent Forum*, which addresses how one retains personal and professional identity while raising children at home. Four speakers have been selected for this panel; sponsored by the Church Turnaround & Planning Committee.

October 15: All Church Turnaround & Planning Meeting to review progress of the past year.

On October 25: Rev. Ostrove will attend a 6.5 hour workshop in Simsbury. Entitled *Weird Church*, its objective is to determine how Church and Ministry can redefine itself for the 21st Century

November 18: Date set for our traditional Harvest Dinner.

Upcoming Holiday events: Hanging of the Greens, Advent activities. Joel Barlow Christmas Caroling event set for December 9 with December 16 as a snow date.



BOARD OF FACILITIES

In the past few years we have done some major work to our church and the Old Academy building. In addition to the new roofs and the exterior painting of both buildings, we also were able, with the generosity of a donor, to refurbish the sanctuary.

Two new furnaces have been installed in the Old Academy building which required some extensive electrical rewiring. The grounds are in good shape and with the fall coming and the leaves turning—we'll have people stopping to take pictures of our church all season long.

But this work isn't inexpensive—the furnace fund is still open— if you haven't made a donation please consider a gift—it will help greatly.

In October, a maple tree before your window lights up your room like a great lamp. Even on cloudy days, its presence helps to dispel the gloom.

John Burroughs

TURN AROUND CHURCH COMMITTEE

Here is a list of the upcoming events that TAC has been working on:

October 12th Parent Forum: In conjunction with NAPS we will be putting on a forum for parents to talk and seek advice about maintain a sense of self during parenthood. This will be open to all people seeking help and community in town.

October 15th Update from TAC: Following church we will be hold an informal update from TAC about our turnaround process. Please mark your calendars to attend.

December 2, 2017 Cookie Walk: We are planning our next cookie walk which helps to raise funds to support the ministries of our church. We will be asking for more cookies this year but in batches so please check out the cookie walk announcement in the newsletter.

December 9th Joel Barlow Select Choir Sing-a-long: We have booked the Joel Barlow Select Choir again (this time with a snow/bad weather date) to lead Easton in a Christmas Carol sing a long. We urge you to mark your calendars.

End of January: A game day with food and lots of fun!
Open to all people looking for something to do in the middle of winter.

As usual please remember that all people are welcome to join in our TAC meetings and discussions.

Cookie Walk News



We are looking to do a *Cookie Walk* on December 2 and will be asking people to bake some delicious cookies for us to offer. If you like to bake, or know someone who does, please consider sharing your talent this holiday season. Keep your eye on your email because we will start asking people to begin baking this month. Emails will be sent out.

We would like to collect our first batch of cookies by October 30th

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 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

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

October 17th — **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 September volunteers

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers! Cynthia Landry, Sara Scoran, Barbara van Achterberg, Daisy Colonnese, Connie Wing, Claudia Nielsen, Sue Farmer, Pat Davis, Rev. Amanda, Marj Klar, Jane Kondratovich, Joan Bennett, Denise Bigelow, Suzanne Herlihy, Caren Laskay, Susan March

On September 19th we served 99 meals. Thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers — Sue Farmer, Lucas Farmer, Rev. Amanda & Bill Ostrove, Suzanne Herlihy, Denise & Bill Bigelow, Pat Davis, Sara Scoran

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.



Upcoming outreach projects

Thanksgiving baskets

Jorge Ball, our adopted social worker will be giving us names of families that are in need of help to provide a dinner for Thanksgiving. We provide "baskets" of non-perishables and a gift card for perishable needs. A sign up sheet will be available for providing food and/or gift cards. Extras are always welcome! Look for the sign up sheet in the church hall toward the end of October.

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.

I trust in nature for the stable laws of beauty and utility. Spring shall plant and autumn garner to the end of time. Robert Browning

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: \$58,680

Number of Pledges Received: 28



Thank you to all who have already generously given.

Emergency USA Fund for Hurricane Relief

Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Hurricane Irma in the Caribbean & Florida and now Hurricane Maria in the Caribbean and Puerto Rico have caused devastation for millions of people. The images and stories of loss that people have suffered is heartbreaking.

The United Church of Christ is active in networks that meet immediate needs and focuses on long-term recovery that may well last 5 + years.

You can walk with families in this holistic recovery effort through your generous contributions on the UCC website. For information on donating online please go to the UCC website— <https://transactions.ucc.org/CampaignForm/UCChrist/Hurricane+Harvey+relief>

If you prefer to donate by mail, make checks payable to United Church of Christ, with **"Hurricane Relief" in the memo**. Mail to: United Church of Christ c/o Financial Services, 700 Prospect Ave E, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100



Blood Drive

Covenant Church of Easton,
1 Sport Hill Road, Easton, CT

Sunday, October 15th from 7:45 a.m. to 12: 45 p.m.

For an appointment visit REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG

or call 1-800-RED-CROSS

Children's Worship and Education

In the turnaround purpose, we decided to work to create a more family friendly environment. One of the choices we made was to reestablish our Sunday School program. This year we seek to create a more welcoming feeling to our Sunday School program. This is why we have changed the name from Sunday School to **Children's Worship and Education**. We are using a one room school house model of curriculum that includes storytelling, crafts, and opportunities to participate in regular worship.

Christian education helps to provide the foundations in life that allow for future generations to develop their faiths, their sense of call, and their sense of service to the greater world.

Here is the general information about our program.

- Curriculum: All Together Now by Group
- Teachers: Connie Wing and Sara Scoran
- Fall theme: The Exodus
-

We ask that you keep your eyes peeled for updates and ways to help support our **children's program**.



A Memorial Service for Alan Schutts will take place on Saturday, October 7, at 11 a.m.

The church family is invited to attend.



Parent Forum

The Congregational Church of Easton, along with the support of the New Academy Preschool, will be hosting a parent forum on October 12th at 7PM to provide a safe place for parents to come together to ask questions, voice concerns, and hear about how other people have adjusted to the changes of stay at home parents and their personal identity through that process. If you know anyone who would be interested in attending please pass on this information. Or if you would like to bake for this event please contact the church office.

From the cup of mid-October the spice of life is poured, and with the zest of autumn's noontide comes a welcomed sense of rest.
—Anonymous

Serving Schedule

October Confirming and Welcoming Deacon — Jonathan Stock			
	Ushers & Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
October 1	The Marches	N. Taranto, C. Partridge	B. Van Achterberg
October 8	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	N. Taranto
October 15	The Glasers	The Twombleys	D. Colonnese
October 22	D. Colonnese, M. Klar	The Glasers	S. Lovejoy
October 29	S. Lovejoy, M. Seaman	N. Taranto, C. Partridge	Marches

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

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 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. If you would like to host for a special Sunday, please contact the office and we will rearrange our rotation. If you would like to be in the rotation for hosting Coffee Hour, **please contact the office. We'd love to have your participation.**



October is the fallen leaf, but it is also a wider horizon more clearly seen. It is the distant hills once more in sight, and the enduring constellations above them once again.

Hal Borland

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons Collection for Food Pantry Cove	2	3	4 3:30 PM Bible Study	5	6	7 11 AM Alan Schutts Memorial
8 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Council	9  <i>Columbus Day</i> Office Closed	10	11 3:30 PM Bible Study 6 PM Easton Community Ctr. Vigil	12 7 PM Parent Forum	13	14 
15 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour TAC	16	17 Food Kitchen	18 3:30 PM Bible Study	19	20	21
22 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour Cove	23	24	25 Rev. Amanda at Clergy Training	26 3:30 PM Bible Study	27 	28
29 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour 4:00 Trunk or Treat NAPS	30	31 Happy Halloween				

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	9	10	11 
12 10:00 Worship Veterans Day Service 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour	13	14	15	16	17	18 Harvest Dinner
19 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour Thanksgiving Baskets Due Cove	20	21 Food Kitchen	22	23  Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25
26 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children 11:00 Coffee Hour	27	28	29	30		

1.



Acts 17 describes Paul speaking about God to the people of Athens in front of — incredibly! — a site that still exists. What is that site?

- A. The Panathenaic Stadium
- B. The Areopagus
- C. The Acropolis and the Parthenon
- D. The Temple of Hephaestus

2.

Of what ethnicity was the one leper out of 10 healed who returned to thank Jesus?

- A. Syrophenician
- B. Samaritan
- C. Syrian



Christian Symbols



Stone Tablets

The tablets of stone symbolize God's giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They're often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

2. B (See Luke 17:16.)

1. B (See Acts 17:22.)

Answers:





NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .
THE CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF EASTON
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Easton, CT 06612-0037

FALL BIBLE STUDY



We continue our study of the Gospel of John finding new meaning and discovering how our questions and doubts can be used to interact with the scriptures and God more intensely. We meet on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 in the Bishop Room. So please join us for our continued study.



Mark Your Calendar!

Annual Harvest Dinner

Saturday, November 18th

Watch for more details in the bulletin
and November Newsletter!

Harvest
Dinner

