
News from the Hill

September 2017

Congregational Church of Easton

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BLESS

THE LORD,

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PSALM 103

Minister
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“There is a hidden connection to all our comings and goings; they are wondrously linked together. When I realize this, I feel “wholeness,” and that is the source of peace – the knowledge that all my opposing energies are somehow linked and part of a single whole. True peace must have wholeness as its foundation”.

Rabbi David Zaslow

In preparation for a training I will be going to in October, I have been reading the book *Weird Church: Welcome to the Twenty-First Century* by Beth Ann Estock and Paul Nixon. In my reading, I have come across the continued use of the word Shalom. Not really truly understanding the Hebrew meaning of this word I did a little bit research. What I discovered was interesting and has opened my mind to where people think religion and church are going in the future. But it has helped shape my ever changing and growing sense of God in my life personally as well as in the world around us.

Many of you might already know that in literal translation from Hebrew to English shalom means peace. But when you read the writings and the discussion on shalom amongst Rabbis, you come to understand that shalom does not mean peace in the way we might think of peace. In the ancient Hebrew, shalom means the coming together of opposites, of two sides. It speaks to the root of all peace. It is more about that divine feeling of wholeness that comes when opposites come together and see themselves as part of one whole. Paul spoke to this **when he said, “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27)**. Here he was trying to teach people the true meaning of shalom that would bring greater unity, love, and peace and less competition and judgment of one another.

I am encouraged by this renewed discussion about shalom. I am encouraged about this idea that we come together in respect and love for one another in all of our differences and in all of our similarities in an attempt to reach that wholeness together, a wholeness that cannot be attained separate from community. This fall, I encourage you to invite people to community with you, to reach out in the true sense of shalom, not just to the people who think and believe like you, but to all peoples recognizing that the road to true peace and wholeness comes when we welcome and greet one another openly, inviting them to join us on our journey towards understanding God in life, in community, and in the larger world.



It is only the farmer who faithfully plants seed in the Spring, who reaps a harvest in Autumn.

B. C. Forbes

BOARD OF DEACONS

All Deacon updates are contained in the well published minutes of the Board's August 8, 2017 meeting. Minutes are readily available in the office and on the hallway bulletin board which is just to the left of the office door.

Next Deacons meeting will be September 3, 2017
at approximately 11:30 AM, in the Bishop Room.



BOARD OF FACILITIES

The new furnaces are installed and have been fired up!
Some rewiring is being done to correct some creative wiring that
has mystified

Jeanne, Rev. Amanda, Leon, Pat, Tom, and Phil for years.
We hope that now the furnaces will not be blasting heat out of
the hallway registers when it is 90 degrees in July!



Letter about Furnaces

The furnace replacement in the Old Academy Building is complete! To this date we have raised \$2,950. 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



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

TURN AROUND CHURCH COMMITTEE

The Turn Around Committee worked hard this summer attaining a list of new residents in town so we could put together welcome packages introducing new residents to the town of Easton. We have also put together ideas around an outreach opportunity working with the Heifer Project as way for us to invite the town into our outreach efforts and a way to come together with the New Academy Preschool in a joint project. We are still awaiting approval for the joint project from their parent board of directors which is set to happen the first week of September. We have also worked in conjunction with the preschool downstairs to set up a community event for young parents addressing ways to maintain personal identity while being a full time stay at home parent. We will be having a mixed panel of individuals to share their stories and allow time for people to ask questions and to air their concerns in a safe environment. This event is scheduled to be on October 12 at 7 p.m. in respect to the public school events going on in September.

As usual please remember that all people are welcome to join in our TAC meetings and discussions. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 24th following coffee hour.

Looking for Ways to Support Our Turnaround?

Here are some ways to help:

1. *Regular participation in Sunday worship*
2. *Volunteering to help with activities*
3. *Sign up to host Coffee Hour*
4. *Invite a friend or neighbor to church or church activities*
5. *Share ideas for activities*



Parent Forum

The Congregational Church of Easton, along with the support of the New Academy Preschool, will be hosting a parent forum on October 12 at 7 p.m. to provide a safe place for parents to come together to ask questions, voice concerns, and hear about how others have adjusted to the changes of stay at home parenting 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.

Backpacks for Covenant to Care

Thank you! We had a great response to our call for Backpacks and Supplies! Jorge Ball, our adopted Social Worker was able to pick them up with plenty of time to get them delivered before the first day of classes! Many thanks to those who donated and participated!



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

September 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. 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 August
Food Kitchen volunteers

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers!

Barbara van Achterberg, Cynthia Landry, Connie Wing, Daisy Colonnese, Phil Doremus, Jane Kondratovich, Suzanne Herlihy, Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Caren Laskay, the Glasers, Jon Stock, Susan March, Claudia Nielsen, Tom Linley, Marj Klar, Lorry McLaughlin, the Hansons

On August 15th we served 140 meals—another record breaking evening.
Thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers!

Sara Scoran, Rev. Amanda Ostrove,
Barbara van Achterberg, Cynthia Landry, Sue Farmer

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.

"Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons."

Jim Bishop

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: \$58,200

Number of Pledges Received: 26



Thank you to all who have already generously given.



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

The church family is invited to attend.

The 16th Annual Connecticut Remembers 9/11 Memorial Ceremony will take place at Sherwood Island State Park on Thursday, September 7, at 5:30 p.m.



Emergency USA Fund for Hurricane Harvey Relief

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 Harvey" in the memo. Mail to: United Church of Christ c/o Financial Services, 700 Prospect Ave E, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100



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. So here is the general information about our program.

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

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



FALL BIBLE STUDY

Fall Bible Study Program

I have been planning our next Bible Study. We will be using the MacArthur Bible study curriculum and the Yale Bible Study Curriculum as our guide through the study of the Gospel of John. We meet on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 starting on September 13th in the Bishop Room. This is be a nine week study which will reveal the historical context of the scriptures, the intent behind their writing, the origins, messages they impart, and the promises and advice they still hold for us today. So please join us for our continued study.

When: Wednesdays, September 13th to November 8th 3:30—4:30 p.m.

Where: Bishop Room

Materials: Bible and a notebook

If there are any questions, please contact Rev. Amanda.

O world, I cannot hold thee close enough!
Thy winds, thy wide grey skies!
Thy mists, that roll and rise!
Thy woods, this autumn day, that ache and sag
And all but cry with color! That gaunt crag
To crush! To lift the lean of that black bluff!
World, World, I cannot get thee close enough!

Edna St. Vincent Millay

Serving Schedule

September Confirming and Welcoming Deacon— Daisy Colonnese			
	Ushers & Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
September 3	N. Taranto, P. McCarty	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	S. Lovejoy
September 10	The Glasers	The Glasers	B. Van Achterberg
September 17	D. Colonnese, M. Klar	The Twomblys	J. Stock
September 24	S. Lovejoy, M. Seaman	N. Taranto, C. Partridge	C. Nielsen
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	C. Nielsen

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.



**"I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house."
Nathaniel Hawthorne**

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower</i></p> <p><i>Albert Camus</i></p> 					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>10:00 Worship w/ Communion 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons Collection for Food Pantry</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>Office closed</p>	5	6	<p>7</p> <p>9/11 Memorial Sherwood Island</p>	8	9
<p>10</p> <p>10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Council Kick-Off Sunday</p>	<p>11</p> 	12	<p>13</p> <p>1st week Bible Study 3:30-4:30 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Outreach</p>	15	16
<p>17</p> <p>10:00 Worship Guest Doug Halley 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour</p> <p>Cove</p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>Food Kitchen</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Bible Study 3:30-4:30 pm</p>	21	<p>22</p> 	23
<p>24</p> <p>10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 TAC</p>	25	26	<p>27</p> <p>Bible Study 3:30-4:30 pm</p>	28	28	30

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 Worship w/ Communion 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 11:00 Coffee Hour	9 Columbus Day Office Closed	10	11 3:30 PM Bible Study	12 7 PM Parent Forum	13	14
15 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	16	17 Food Kitchen	18 3:30 PM Bible Study	19	20	21
22 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour Cove	23	24	25 3:30 PM Bible Study	26	27	28
29 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour Cove	30	31 Happy Halloween				

1. It's intriguing to think of people in Bible times experiencing the same cycle of seasons we do. Which of these books doesn't mention autumn?

- A. Matthew
- B. Jeremiah
- C. Proverbs
- D. Jude



2. Which of the following sports does Paul use metaphorically to describe the Christian life?



- A. Fishing
- B. Running a race
- C. Boxing
- D. Both B and C
- E. All of the above



Christian Symbols



Deer

The deer symbolizes safety in God's care, as seen in David's praise of God for delivery from enemies: "[The Lord] makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights" (2 Samuel 22:34; Psalm 18:33, NIV). The deer also represents faithfulness and eager devotion: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God" (Psalm 42:1, NIV).

Answers:

1. A (See Proverbs 20:4, ESV; Jeremiah 5:24; Jude 1:12.)
2. D (See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.)





NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF EASTON
Westport Road at Center Road
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Emergency USA Fund for Hurricane Harvey Relief

August 2017 - Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas on the 25th as a category 4 hurricane. This is the first category 4 hurricane to make landfall in the US since 2004. **The next week's extensive rainfall of over 40 inches** has caused even more widespread destruction. The word Catastrophic has become synonymous with Harvey. 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. See page 6 for the web address and how to donate by mail.

