

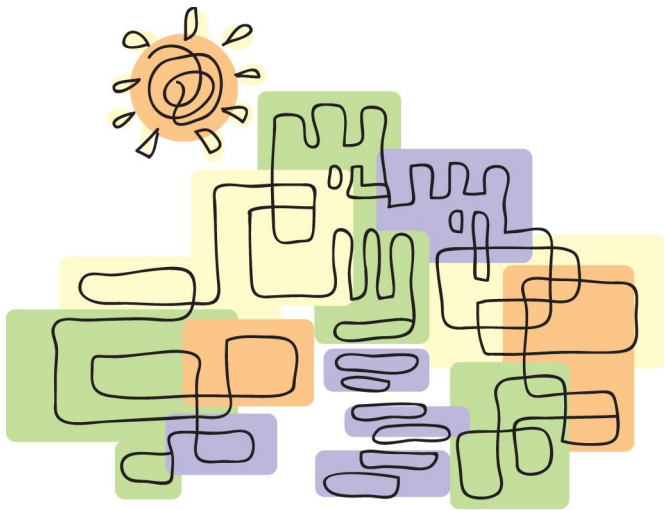
---

# NEWS FROM THE HILL

MAY 2016

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON

---



**“THE LORD IS  
MY ROCK,  
MY FORTRESS,  
AND MY  
DELIVERER....”**

**2 SAMUEL 22:2**

Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Church Council Chair

Phillip A. Doremus

Board of Deacons Chair

Nathalie Taranto

Church Secretary

Jeanne Sedelnik

Sexton

Sara Scoran

Phone

203-261-2517

E-mail

[echurch@snet.net](mailto:echurch@snet.net)

Website

[Eastonchurch.org](http://Eastonchurch.org)

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9 am to 1 pm

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Prayer lays hold of  
God's plan and  
becomes the link  
between his will and  
its accomplishment  
on earth.

Amazing things  
happen, and we are  
given the privilege of  
being the channels  
of the  
Holy Spirit's prayer.

—Elisabeth Elliot

*"For this child I prayed; and the Lord granted me the petition that I made to him"*  
*1 Samuel 1: 27*

Mother's Day is right around the corner and I couldn't help but think of the sacrifice, love, compassion, acceptance, and at times forgiveness that I have been lucky enough to experience not only from my own mother but from my mother-in-law as well. I think of the joy that new mothers feel and the way many mothers look upon their children as blessings in their lives just as Hannah did in 1 Samuel 1. She prayed to God to become a mother after many years of challenges and God granted her her petition. In many ways, we look at the care, compassion, and love that God showed towards Hannah and we can see the attributes of parental love. We can see God's compassion and we can feel that same warmth that we might from our mothers.

This month is a busy month for us in the life of our church but let us not forget to honor the love and faithfulness of our God by honoring our mothers whether they are present or not. There is always a way to honor their influence, care, and patience in our every day lives in the way we care for others, and in the memories that we share with others. When we come together as a congregation God is challenging us to do so with that same patience, love, compassion, and forgiveness that our mothers used to raise us up. The church is our spiritual family a place where we learn together and grow together in faith and God guides us forward with love and care.

Please don't forget to support our upcoming busy calendar of church events. We need everyone's work to bring us forward in our mission as a church. We have our first annual Trunk Tag Sale on May 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are still looking for a way to volunteer please speak with Rev. Amanda and see what we still need.

# BOARDS & COMMITTEES

May 2016  
News from the Hill

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON WARNING SPECIAL MEETING MAY 22, 2016

The Governing Body (Membership) of the Congregational Church of Easton is hereby warned to meet in their Church Sanctuary on Sunday May 22, 2016 after 11:00 a.m. for the following purposes:

- To Review a Proposed Preliminary Budget for the Year 2016.
- 
- To Act on any other business proper to come before this meeting.

Phillip A. Doremus  
Chair, Church Council

Jonathan C. Stock  
Clerk of the Church



### MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

The Memorial Garden will be getting a spring cleaning! And we will be honoring veterans interred there with flags on this Memorial Day.

The committee is considering adding new committee members that are connected to, but not members of the church.

If you would like to purchase a memorial stone or niche please contact the office for more information. Discussions are underway for a change in pricing of the niches. We would like to raise the price to \$1,000 on June 1st. Memorial Garden Committee will meet again on May 29th.



Many thanks to everyone who has pledged so far! We have a total of \$45,860 as of May 1st. If you haven't sent in your pledge card yet, please get it in soon. Your pledge helps us plan for the year's activities.

### BOARD OF FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

The painting is finished at the Old Academy building—it's looking great. We'll soon have one tree taken down, but we'll have a new Dogwood which is being donated in memory of Glenn and Shirley Meeker.

"For happiness one  
needs security,  
but joy can spring  
like a flower even  
from the cliffs of  
despair."

*Anne Morrow Lind-  
bergh*

## BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS



TAC MEETING  
May 8th  
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

DEACONS MEETING  
May 15th  
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

SPECIAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING  
May 22nd  
11:30 a.m. Sanctuary

MEMORIAL GARDEN  
COMMITTEE  
May 29th  
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

### TURN AROUND CHURCH COMMITTEE

Turn Around Committee has been busily preparing stuff for the upcoming tag sale on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 until 2. We would like to invite all of our church members to purchase a spot in our church parking lot for the tag sale. Each spot, will cost \$35.00 and you bring whatever you would like to sell from the trunk of your car. If you are interested in purchasing a spot please contact the church office by email or phone and we will sign you up. This fundraiser will help support the functions and activities of our church and encourage all peoples to participate in one way or another. We look forward to working together as a team on this event. If you know anyone else who might like to purchase a spot please send them our way as well. We are also in need of volunteers to help with several different items that need to be taken care of before the event so please contact the office to see what you can do to lend a hand.

### TAG SALE SPONSORS

We are very happy that we have received such  
generous support from local businesses.

Many thanks to

Forger Kunkel Plumbing & Heating

Greiser Store

Maple Row Farm

Northern Fairfield Insurance

Old Bluebird Garage, Inc.

The Olde Bluebird Inn Restaurant

*Please see the insert for more information about our sponsors!*

# BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

May 2016  
News from the Hill

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH



St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen & Pantry

The third Tuesday of every month, the Board of Christian Outreach prepares a meal to bring to St. Luke/St. Paul's Church in Bridgeport. This ongoing mission project is totally dependent on the generosity of members and friends from our church and those from Jesse Lee.

Our monthly menu is chicken legs and thighs, side dishes of potatoes, rice or pasta, prepared any style you choose. Vegetables, salads, fruit and desserts round out the menu. These items are usually donated by members and friends and we try to coordinate with Jesse Lee so your early sign-up is appreciated. Some standard items and condiments are purchased and monetary donations towards their cost are very welcome. We also need help with transportation and serving the dinner at St. Luke/St. Paul's.

If you would like to donate or assist in any way, please see the Menu in the Church Hall for sign-ups for food and serving. You can also contact the church office (phone: 203-261-2527 or email: [echurch@snet.net](mailto:echurch@snet.net)) or Barbara van Achterberg (phone 203-261-2156 or email: [barbara-vanachterberg@gmail.com](mailto:barbara-vanachterberg@gmail.com)). This mission is only possible for the church with many hands making light work! Thank you.

### **ST. LUKE/ST. PAUL'S FOOD PANTRY**

Non-perishable food for the St. Luke/St. Paul Food Pantry is collected on the First Sunday of the month, when we share Communion and remember those in need of experiencing God's abundance. These are delivered on the day of the food kitchen and can be dropped off at the Old Academy building any time during the month. We also deliver gently used clothes and books/toys at this time.

### **MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FOOD KITCHEN**

Our menu is chicken—any style!

Side dishes of starch and 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!

### **APRIL FOOD KITCHEN THANKS**

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers!

*Daisy Colonnese, Barbara van Achterberg, Sara Scoran, Connie Wing, Pat Davis, Rev. Amanda, Cynthia Landry, Jane Kondratovich, Suzanne Herlihy, Pat Glasers, Caren Laskay, Susan March, Marj Klar, Claudia Nielsen.*

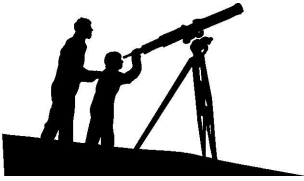
April 19th we served 88 meals. Prepping, transporting and serving were: *Sara Scoran, Barbara van Achterberg, Pat Davis, Suzanne Herlihy & Cynthia Landry.*

*We continue to collect sample or travel sized toiletries. These small items make a big difference to those in need.*

*If you can help, please drop them off anytime and place in the basket at the entrance to the church hall.*

*Thank you.*





## CLOSE TO GOD

I can take my telescope  
and look millions and  
millions of miles into  
space.  
But I can lay it aside,  
go into my room,  
shut the door,  
get down on my knees  
in earnest prayer,  
and see more of heaven  
and get closer to God  
than I can assisted by  
all the telescopes and  
material agencies on  
earth.

*Isaac Newton*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Also that day!  
Bake Sale  
Raffle and Silent Auction

Saturday, May 14  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Trunk Tag Sale**  
**Church Parking Lot**

Pull in  
Open your trunk  
Sell your junk

Call - 203.261.2527 or email the church office [echurch@snet.net](mailto:echurch@snet.net),  
for information

### *Fairfield East Association Spring Meeting*

Wednesday, May 25th at 6:00 pm.

Newtown Congregational Church

We need 2 delegates, if you are interested, please talk to Rev. Amanda

### Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ 149th Annual Meeting

Friday, June 10 & Saturday, June 11, 2016

University of Hartford

200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford

If you wish to attend either day of the meeting as a delegate, please speak to Rev. Amanda. Information on the resolutions, program, speakers and schedule is at the Connecticut UCC website— [www.ctucc.org](http://www.ctucc.org).



**MEMORIAL  
DAY**

### Memorial Day Parade

We will again be at the Masonic Lodge to hand out church information. If you would like to volunteer, please let us know.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 2016  
News from the Hill

## ALTAR FLOWERS

A donation of Altar Flowers for a Sunday worship would be a wonderful addition to our services. 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

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.

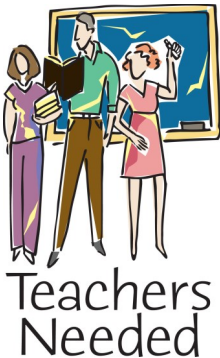
Thank you!



Rev. Amanda has  
selected a VBS  
program that will run  
August 8—12.

**Teachers are needed**

If you like working with children and can  
volunteer 2 or 3 mornings contact the church office.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 18TH

with a One Room School House program.  
We would like to have a few teachers that would be  
able to rotate Sundays so no one person is responsible  
for every week. Please contact Rev. Amanda for more  
information about the program and curriculum.

*A Memorial Service for Shirley Meeker  
will be Saturday, May 21st at 11:a.m.*



“Mothers write on  
the hearts of their  
children what the  
world’s rough hand  
cannot erase.”

*Author unknown*

<b>May 2016 Confirming Deacon — Daisy Colonnese</b>			
	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers/Offering</b>	<b>Collectors</b>
<b>May 1</b>	Marj Klar	The Marches	The Glasers
<b>May 8</b>	The McCartys	Vera Knapp Nathalie Taranto	The Twomblys
<b>May 15</b>	Daisy Colonnese	The Glaser	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
<b>May 22</b>	Nathalie Taranto	The McCartys	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
<b>May 29</b>	Vera Knapp	The Marches	The Glasers

<b>June 2015 Confirming Deacon — Jonathan Stock</b>			
	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers/Offering</b>	<b>Collectors</b>
<b>June 7</b>	Nathalie Taranto	The McCartys	The Twomblys
<b>June 14</b>	Vera Knapp	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
<b>June 21</b>	Nancy Wintter	Tom Linley, Maria Seaman	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
<b>June 28</b>	The Marches	The Marches	The Glasers

All of our members and friends are invited to serve as greeters or ushers. If you would like to participate, please call a member of the Board of Deacons or call Jeanne at the church office (203-261-2527). If you are unable to serve as assigned, please contact the confirming Deacon for the month.

# May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10 AM Worship w/Communion 11AM Coffee Hour  Cove	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  3:30 Bible Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  Clean Up Day 9– finish
<b>8</b> 10 AM Worship 11 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM TAC  <i>Mother's Day</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  3:30 Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Community Tag Sale 9 to 2
<b>15</b> 10 AM Worship 11 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Deacon's	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> FEA Board Meeting St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen	<b>18</b>  3:30 Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  1 PM Memorial Service for Shirley Meeker
<b>22</b> 10 AM Worship 11 AM <b>Special            Congregational            Meeting</b>  Cove	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  3:30 Bible Study 6:00 FEA meeting	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10 AM Worship 11 AM Coffee Hour	<b>30</b> Office closed  Memorial Day Parade	<b>31</b>				

# JUNE 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 10 AM Worship w/Communion 11AM Coffee Hour	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10 AM Worship 11AM Coffee Hour  Cove	13	14	15	16	17	18  Memorial for "Dr. Jim" Harshbarger
19 10 AM Worship 11AM Coffee Hour  Father's Day	20	21  FEA Meeting  3 PM Food Kitchen	22	23	24	25
26 10 AM Worship 11AM Coffee Hour	27	28	29	30		

# BIBLE QUIZ

1



Which books of the Bible include an account of Jesus' ascension?

- A. Luke and Acts
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four gospels



## VINE

A vine symbolizes Christ, the foundation of life and nourishment of all people, who, in turn, are like branches. When separate from the vine, we branches can't survive — at least not spiritually. "Apart from me," says Jesus, "you can do nothing" (John 15:5, NIV). But as God the gardener tends this relationship, we branches grow stronger and more mature in Jesus and alongside one another.

2



According to Acts 2, on Pentecost some people accused the disciples of being drunk. Why?

- A. Because they were still asleep at 9 in the morning.
- B. Because all the wine was gone.
- C. Because they were all speaking in foreign languages.
- D. All of the above.

1. A (See Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:9.)  
2. C (See Acts 2:4, 13.)

Answers:

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



*The church on the hill*



We will be continuing to use the Yale Divinity Bible study curriculum as our guide through the study of the letter to the Hebrews. We will continue with our study of the letter of Hebrews on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 in the Bishop Room. This is a nine week study which will reveal the historical context of the scriptures, the intent behind their writing, the origins, the struggles of the community for which they were written, and the promises and advice they still hold for us today. So please join us on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 in the Bishop Room of the Old Academy Building. All people are welcome. Bring your friends and family.