
NEWS FROM THE HILL

JULY 2016

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON



Children
of the
living God.

H O S E A 1 : 1 0

Minister

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Office Hours

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9 am to 1 pm

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

*“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let everyone who hears say,
‘Come.’ And let everyone who is thirsty come”.*

Revelations 22: 17

DESTINATION DEVOTIONS

Planning a summer trip? Take along a Scripture passage befitting your vacation to use for devotions and prayer time.

Check the sidebars this month to match your vacation to a passage that might inspire you.

Inspiration comes for the most surprising of places. I believe this to be the work of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit made alive to us in the small moments and the chance encounters of life. Bill and I just came back from our vacation in Newport, while we were there I had the opportunity to visit the oldest synagogue in the United States. It was built in 1763 by Sephardic Jews who left Spain during the Inquisition and went to Holland to seek refuge. Eventually, their community came to the same decision, as our forefathers and mothers of faith did, to leave Holland and to seek a home here in the New World. Once here they established themselves in Newport as merchants and in 1763 were able to establish the first synagogue which still stands largely unchanged today. Today the congregation is mostly Ashkenazi Jews from Eastern Europe. But what struck me was how similar their history was to the Puritan and Separatists history and their establishment in the states. These Jewish people came here, for the opportunity to live and worship as they saw fit without fear of persecution. They were a peaceful people seeking only to be accepted into the society around them and this is exactly what happened.

This is what makes America the wonderful melting pot that it has always been. It is a place where people who are seeking a better tomorrow, who are seeking freedom from tyranny can find opportunity, peace, and liberty. I sat in those pews of the synagogue and was in awe of how the Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews were able to come together and meld two traditions that are still at odds with each other throughout the world. And they did so successfully. There is the work of the Holy Spirit in that history. It is our inspiration that no matter our struggles, our differences, or our beliefs, that if we are truly open to the inspiration and love of God, he will bring his children together to create something truly wonderful. The wonders in this world don't come from political parties or from the lone abilities of humanity. When people allow the work of God to take place and to guide them towards a world where there is no tyranny, no oppression, and fighting no longer reigns supreme, then we see something truly wonderful. Our scriptures show Christ's invitation, God's invitation for all people to seek solace together. It is a call to place aside differences and to come united to Christ. It is a call that rings out today, as it will at the end of days. We are called to open our hearts and to open our minds to the work we are called to in his name. A work that will help bring freedoms, comfort, compassion, and care to all those who seek, as our ancestors once did. So what is God calling you to do this summer?

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

Memorial Garden stones are a great way to honor our 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.

Many thanks to Phil Doremus for installing the American Flags for Memorial Day for our veterans in the Garden.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



BOARD OF FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

We are still obtaining estimates for the steeple roof repairs. We are also replacing one of the doors on the Old Academy building.

The mulch and stone work around the Old Academy Building continues as we work for the continued maintenance and beautifying of our historic buildings.



CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council will meet after Coffee hour on Sunday, July 10 in the Bishop Room. If you are a council member, please mark your calendars.

DESTINATION DEVOTIONS

In the mountains:

“The mountains and hills will burst into song before you”
(Isaiah 55:12).

Near an ocean
or river:

“Let the sea resound
... let the rivers clap
their hands”
(Psalm 98:7-8).



TAC MEETING
July 17th
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

DEACONS MEETING
August 7th
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

MEMORIAL GARDEN
COMMITTEE
September 25, 2016
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

CHURCH COUNCIL
July 10th
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

BOARD OF DEACONS

During the month of June, Rev. Amanda officiated at an off-site funeral service and Union Cemetery interment for long time member Lillian Kocsis. Likewise Rev. Amanda, the Deacons and the church family held an in-church Memorial Service and Memorial Garden interment for Dr. James Harshbarger.

Both families are in our thoughts of comfort.

Rev. Amanda was on vacation from June 20 through June 26. Doug Halley, one of our favorite supply pastors, led our worship on Sunday, June 26. Lynn Ewald, our organist, will be on vacation July 17 and 24.

The next Deacons meeting will be August 7, 2016 or earlier if needed.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

EAGLE

Eagles came to symbolize the Resurrection thanks to ancient legends that they renewed their youth, plumage or eyesight by flying near the sun, then diving into water. The eagle's upward movement made it a symbol of Jesus' ascension. John the Evangelist is represented by an eagle, for his "soaring" description of Christ's divinity. God's care is likened to an eagle in Bible verses such as Exodus 19:4: "I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you myself" (ESV).



BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

UPCOMING OUTREACH PROJECTS

Christian Outreach has been working on our summer outreach projects. We have received a list of children's names from Jorge Ball, our adopted social work who will be in need of backpacks for the fall. We have a list of children's names and have sign ups available at your convenience. We continue with our work with the Merton House where we collect toiletries for those in need. We also continue to serve the food kitchen at St. Luke/St. Paul's in Bridgeport.

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) or Barbara van Achterberg (phone 203-261-2156 or email: barbaravanachterberg@gmail.com). This mission is only possible with many hands making light work! Thank you.

JULY 19TH – ST. LUKE/ST. PAUL'S 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!

JUNE FOOD KITCHEN THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers! Daisy Colonnese, Sara Scoran, Barbara van Achterberg, Suzanne Herlihy, the Kocsis Family, Jane Kondratovich, Connie Wing, Vera Knapp, Cynthia Landry, Caren Laskay, Suzanne Lovejoy, Susan March, the Harshbarger Family

June 21st we served 92 meals with many children attending. Prepped, transported and served by: Cynthia Landry, David Landry, Barbara van Achterberg, Suzanne Herlihy

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. This month's challenge: one canned protein, and one mystery item from your pantries. 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.

BACKPACKS FOR COVENANT TO CARE

We already have names/ages of children who need backpacks this year!
If you can donate a back pack and/or supplies, see the sign up sheet in the church hall for details or call or email the church office.

We continue to collect sample or travel sized toiletries for Merton House. 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.



DESTINATION DEVOTIONS

At a lake, perhaps on a
fishing trip:

“They were casting a net
into the lake, for they
were fishermen. ‘Come,
follow me,’ Jesus said,
‘and I will send you out
to fish for people’”
(Matthew 4:18-19).

NEWS FROM THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

On Saturday June 11th, I attended the annual meeting of the Connecticut Conference in Hartford. Many items came up for a vote and then we were split into focus groups to discuss an item slated to come up for a vote either next year or the following year. The Connecticut Conference is looking to make some drastic changes to their structure to include in our conference the Massachusetts Conference and the Rhode Island Conference. This could take one of two forms: Federating or Merging. Federating would mean that all three of the conferences maintain their own staff but would share support staff, meetings, and trainings. Merging would mean becoming a regional Conference that shared all staff and funding. As they are just starting to reach out in a time of discernment to the churches and their clergy for their feelings, thoughts, and questions, this is a good opportunity to express your opinions, concerns, and questions, which I can then relay back to the board discussing what this would look like. This would mean there would be changes for the churches locally and on the state level. It means the possibility of increased per capita dues to bring CT churches in line with the other two state conferences. It would also mean more resources and opportunities for the churches. Nothing is definite yet. This is our time to express our opinions before any action is taken.

Please speak with Rev. Amanda or send the church an email with your questions, thoughts, or concerns. This is our way of having a voice in the happenings of our conference, so I urge you to please share your thoughts.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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.



Looking for something fun, educational, free, and creative for your children to participate in this summer? Sign them up for VBS with the Congregational Church of Easton. We are offering a free, interfaith based program called "The Great Treasure Hunt." We will provide plenty of fun, laughter, crafts, games, object lessons, snacks, and memories.

- Dates: August 8th to the 12th
- Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Ages: 4 to 12, accepting volunteers ages 13+

If you have any questions or would like to register we welcome calls at 203-261-2527 or you can fill out our [contact form](#) on our website under Christian Education on the ministries page and send it in.

DESTINATION DEVOTIONS

On a "staycation" close
to home:

"Love the
LORD your God
These commandments
that I give you today are
to be on your hearts. ...
Talk about them when
you sit at home and
when you walk

July 2016 Confirming Deacon — Leon March

	Greeters	Ushers/Offering	Collectors
July 3	The Schwerdtles	Vera Knapp, Daisy Colonnese	The Twomblys
July 10	Marj Klar	The Glasers	Carol Partridge
July 17	The McCartys	The Schwerdtles	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
July 24	Daisy Colonnese	The Marches	The Glasers
July 31	Vera Knapp	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	The Twomblys



August 2016 Confirming Deacon — Nathalie Taranto

	Greeters	Ushers/Offering	Collectors
August 7	Vera Knapp	The Schwerdtles	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
August 14	Daisy Colonnese	The Marches	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
August 21	The Marches	Nathalie Taranto Maria Seaman	The Glasers
August 28	The Schwerdtles	The Glasers	The Twomblys



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.

July

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10 a.m. Worship Guest Musicians: Baldwin Players 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	4 Office Closed 	5	6	7	8	9
10 10 a.m. Worship w/Communion 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Church Council Meeting	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. TAC	18	19 St. Luke/St. Paul's 3:00 Food Kitchen	20	21	22	23
24 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour						

August 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10 a.m. Worship w/Communion 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Deacons	8 Vacation Bible School!	9	10	11	12	13
14 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	15	16 St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen	17	18	19	20
21 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	29	30	31			

BIBLE QUIZ

1

Who said to the prophet Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD"?

- A. Reuben, for selling Joseph into slavery
- B. Jacob, for deceiving Isaac and stealing his brother's birthright
- C. Rahab, a prostitute
- D. David, considered Israel's greatest king



2



What was the first plague God brought upon the Egyptians when Pharaoh refused to let the Hebrews leave his land?

- A. Water turned to blood
- B. Dense darkness for three days
- C. Death of all Egyptian firstborn males
- D. Swarms of gnats

3

In 2 Chronicles 7:11-22, there is a promise given by God to the Israelites. God asks them to do three things before he would forgive their sins and heal their land.

The first requirement was to humble themselves. The second was to pray and seek his face. The third requirement was one of the three choices below. Check the correct answer.

- A. ____ Sacrifice a young bull.
- B. ____ Turn from their wicked ways.
- C. ____ Choose a new leader.



DESTINATION DEVOTIONS

In the woods:

"Blessed is the one ...
whose delight is in the law
of the LORD

That person is like a tree
planted by streams of
water, which yields its
fruit in season"
(Psalm 1:1-3).

- 1. D (See 2 Samuel 12:13.)
- 2. A (See Exodus 7:20-21 ff.)
- 3. B

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



**Sunday School
begins
September 18th**

One Room School House

We would like to have a few teachers that
would be able to rotate
Sundays so no teacher is
responsible for every week.

Please contact Rev. Amanda
for more information about
the program and
curriculum.



**Teachers
Needed**