
NEWS FROM THE HILL

JUNE 2016

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON



Psalm 118:24, NRSV

Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Church Council Chair

Phillip A. Doremus

Board of Deacons Chair

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9 am to 1 pm

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Remember the Giver

God wants us to enjoy
the good gifts that he
gives to us, provided
that we don't so focus
on the gift that we
forget the Giver.

When the gift
becomes more
important than the
Giver, you have
idolatry;
when the Giver is seen
through the gift, you
have worship.

Warren Wiersbe

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ".

Galatians 6: 2

Our scriptures for this month speak about compassion. They challenge us to look at the humanity of one another first and away from the titles that society places upon people. We all hold titles. I am a daughter, granddaughter, sister, sister-in-law, daughter-in-law, dog owner, home owner, taxpayer, politically unaffiliated, minister. I have been known as a seminarian, a student, a teacher, a manager, a maintenance lady, a librarian assistant, a friend, a wife, a Christian, a Congregationalist, white, female. Titles and designations are given to each of us pretty much from the moment we are born and we live into those titles and take on new ones. But sometimes these titles are not kind. Sometimes these titles are used not to define who a person wants to be or sees themselves as but they are a way of separating them from others showing that those individuals are different and not wanted by others around them. This causes hurt, pain, fear, and resistance. And it clouds the compassion and love of God, preventing people from living into the word of Christ; who took great risks to reach out to those who were labeled.

Christ healed the sick, the lame, those seen as the cursed of God. Christ ate and taught the tax collectors who stole what people could not afford. He raised up the fishermen who were seen amongst the lowest and most uneducated strata of their society. So I ask what would Christ have us do in our society? I believe we would be encouraged to look beyond the titles that even we give to ourselves and to see all people as the children of God created in God's image. We should find ways to honor one another and to hold compassion in our hearts. So as you prepare for the summer ahead, remember to reach out to those in need, care for the sick, show compassion for those who struggle, and honor each person as a unique and valuable member of society.

So join us this summer in the work that we do. Invite people to join us for worship, invite them into our outreach work at St. Luke/St. Paul's. Remind people that our Vacation Bible School is open to all peoples. And encourage all peoples to join us in conversation about the love and care of God and how we need to be living into it.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

We hope you visited our Garden on Memorial Day weekend when flags in memory of the veterans were placed at their niches. We hope you noticed also the cleaning that has been underway.

Memorial Stones and Niches are available for purchase, as of June first the price for niches is \$1,000. For more information contact the office.

BOARD OF FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

We are obtaining estimates from contractors for the repair of the steeple, which will require the use of scaffolding and special equipment. The tree that is to be removed in the Memorial Garden area is still planned, but has been delayed. A Dogwood has been donated by the family of Glenn and Shirley Meeker in the circle in front of the church.

Note from Rev. Amanda and Jeanne: Many thanks to Pat for installing our air conditioners.



Many thanks to everyone who has pledged so far! We have a total of \$47,910 as of May 31st. If you haven't sent in your pledge card yet, please get it in soon. Your pledge helps support this year's activities. Our recent Congregational meeting approved the budget for 2016.

TURN AROUND CHURCH COMMITTEE

The Turn Around committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped at our first annual community tag sale. We learned a lot, made a profit, created connections with local businesses, and created fun memories. As we move forward, we will begin to plan for the next upcoming events. We will be assessing our progress so far in our turn around process and looking forward to sharing our outcomes and plans for the next year.



Apple

Although Genesis 3 doesn't identify the forbidden fruit eaten by Adam and Eve, it has traditionally been thought of and portrayed as an apple. This may be because in Latin, "apple" and "evil" are the same word (malum).

An apple, then, often represents humanity's fall into sin. When Christ is shown holding an apple, however, it symbolizes his conquest over sin and death. "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive"

(1 Corinthians 15:22, NIV).



TAC MEETING
June 19th
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

DEACONS MEETING
June 12th
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

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

CHURCH COUNCIL
September 4, 2016
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

BOARD OF DEACONS

Reverend Amanda and the Deacons engage in ongoing discussion of and procedure for enhancing our worship and church family experience. We are enjoying increased consistent attendance and participation in the worship service and other activities such as signing up to host the Coffee Hour fellowship and to provide flowers for Sunday worship.

Open to the greater community, weekly Bible study has been well attended by church members as well as non-members.

Our church brochure has been updated by Reverend Amanda. For your convenience, the brochures may be found on the table just to the right of the entrance door to the Old Academy building. Help yourself so that you may have them on hand to pass on to someone who may be looking for a church home.

Likewise, the Director of New Academy Pre-School has refurbished her brochure which is also available for distribution as occasioned.

Thank you to all who participated in the execution of the Shirley Meeker Memorial Service and reception. The family has indicated that they were well pleased with the celebration of Shirley's life and connection with our church.

Mark your calendars for June 18, 2016 when Rev. Amanda and the church family will hold a Memorial Service for the late Dr. James Harshbarger.

Rev. Amanda will be on vacation from June 20, 2016 through June 26, 2016. Doug Halley – one of our favorites – will be our supply Pastor for the June 26th 2016 worship service.

Rev. Amanda and Nathalie attended the May 25th Fairfield East Association Annual Spring Meeting and Dinner during which Amanda was elected "Program Coordinator." Congrats, Reverend Amanda!

The next Deacon's meeting will be on June 12, 2016 at 11:30 AM.



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 worker who will be in need of backpacks for the fall. So please keep an eye out for emails, sign-ups and more details for this project. 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.

JUNE 21ST 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!

MAY FOOD KITCHEN THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers! Sara Scoran, Daisy Colonnese, Connie Wing, Rev. Amanda, Cynthia Landry, Pat Davis, Barbara van Achterberg, Suzanne Herlihy, Pat Glaser, Caren Lakay, Lorry McLaughlin, Marj Klar, Claudia Nielsen.

May 17th we served 85 meals. Prepped, transported and served by: Sara Scoran, Rev. Amanda, Barbara van Achterberg, Pat Davis, Suzanne Herlihy and Mark & Blake Rozelle

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Every man who desires to become a true father has to look continually to the Lord, that he might learn of him how to relate to his own children.

—Sunday Adelaja

149th Annual Meeting
Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ
Friday, June 10 & Saturday, June 11, 2016
University of Hartford
200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford
More information on speakers, schedule and registration is available online at ctucc.org

A Huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who made the first Community Trunk Tag Sale a great success!



We made \$1,682.95!

Thanks again to our sponsors!

Old Bluebird Garage, Inc.

Greiser Store

The Olde Bluebird Inn Restaurant

www.facebook.com/bluebirdinneastonct

Maple Row Farm

www.mrfarm.com

Northern Fairfield Insurance

www.northernfairfieldinsurance.com

Forger Kunkel Plumbing & Heating

Snow's Farm

www.snowsfarm.com



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.

The gift of yourself

If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of.

There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person.

Fred Rogers



A Memorial Service for Dr. James E. Harshbarger is scheduled for Saturday, June 18th at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Jim became a member in 2002 and had served on the Facilities and Memorial Garden Committees. All members and friends are welcome.

June 2015 Confirming Deacon — Jonathan Stock			
	Greeters	Ushers/Offering	Collectors
June 5	Nathalie Taranto	The McCartys	The Twomblys
June 12	Vera Knapp	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
June 19	Daisy Colonnese	Tom Linley, Maria Seaman	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
June 26	The Marches	The Marches	The Glasers







July 2016 Confirming Deacon — Nathalie Taranto			
	Greeters	Ushers/Offering	Collectors
July 3	The Schwerdtles	Vera Knapp, Nathalie Taranto	The Twomblys
July 10	Marj Klar	The Glasers	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
July 17	The McCartys	The Schwerdtles	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
July 24	Daisy Colonnese	The Marches	The Glasers
July 31	Nathalie Taranto	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	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.



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 CT UCC Annual Meeting
12 10 AM Worship 11AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Deacons Cove	13	14  Flag Day	15	16	17	18 11 AM Memorial for Dr. James Harshbarger
19 10 AM Worship 11AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM TAC 	20  First Day of Summer Rev. Amanda starts vacation	21 FEA Meeting 3 PM Food Kitchen	22	23	24	25
26 10 AM Worship Guest: Doug Halley 11AM Coffee Hour	27	28	29	30		

July

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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1

2

3
10 a.m. Worship
w/Communion
Guest Musicians:
Baldwin Players
11:00 a.m. Coffee
Hour

4
Offices Closed



5

6

7

8

9

10
10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Coffee Hour

11

12

13

14

15

16

17
10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Coffee Hour

18

19

20

21

22

23

3:00 Food
Kitchen

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

BIBLE QUIZ

1



Which of the following is an accurate husband-wife match from Scripture?

- A. Abram and Ruth
- B. Boaz and Ruth
- C. Hosea and Ruth
- D. Ananias and Ruth

2



Of the 66 books in the Protestant Bible, 39 have people's names as titles. Some names indicate the person credited as author — for example, Matthew; others name the book's main character — such as Ruth. How many books are written to the person named in the title?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 13
- D. 21



3

In the second chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans, Paul says that God's kindness is meant to lead people to a certain action. Which of the choices below is the correct one?

- A. To respond with kindness and love
- B. To repent
- C. To cry
- D. To rejoice

1. B (See Ruth 4:13)
2. B (See 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4; Philemon 1:1.)
3. B (see Romans 2:4)



"Rest is not idleness," said John Lubbock, "and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water or watching the clouds float across the sky is hardly a waste of time."

Most of us need more, not less, rest built into our daily routine. Only when we are quiet can we hear God's whisper.

Summer is a great time to find a peaceful, outdoor spot to read, rest and pray — even if only for a few minutes.

God is eagerly waiting for us to make space for him.

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**