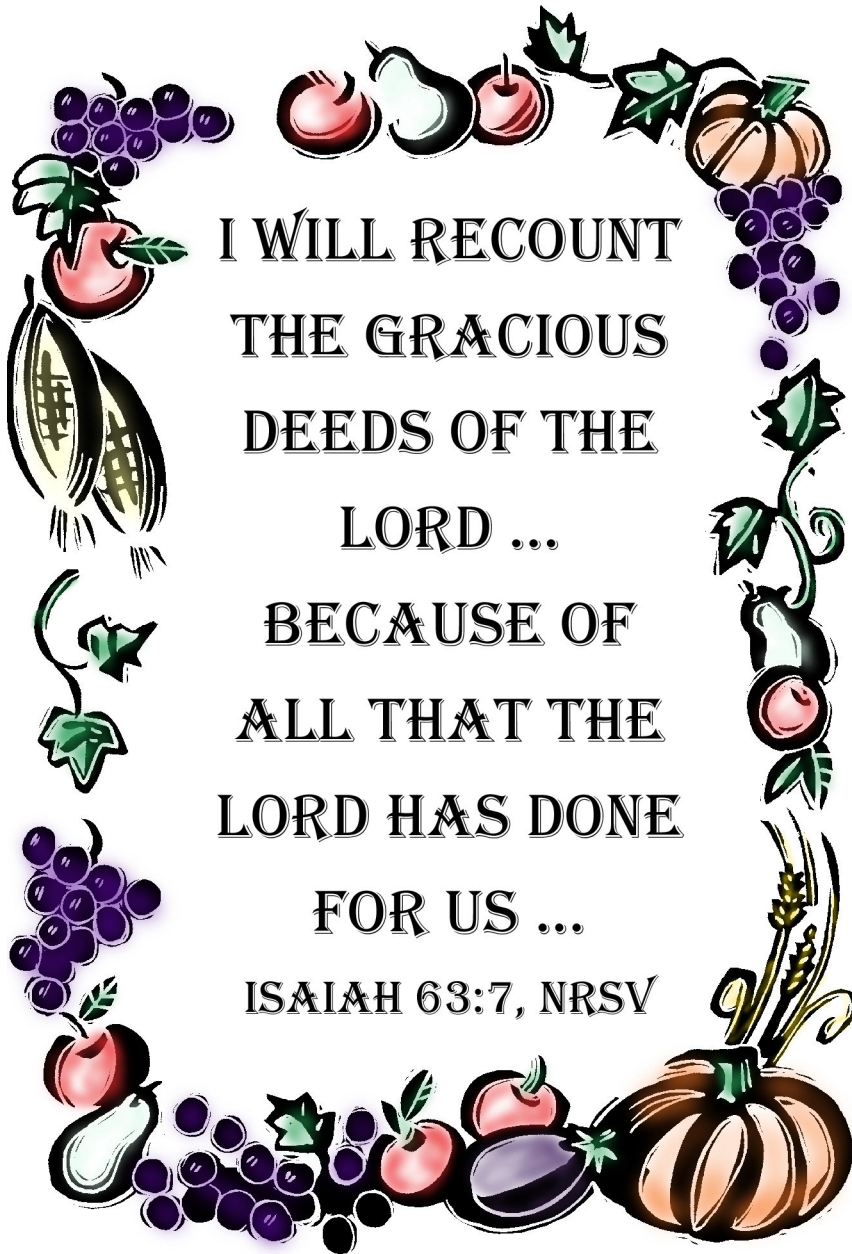

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NOVEMBER 2016

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON



I WILL RECOUNT
THE GRACIOUS
DEEDS OF THE
LORD ...
BECAUSE OF
ALL THAT THE
LORD HAS DONE
FOR US ...
ISAIAH 63:7, NRSV

Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Church Council Chair

Phillip A. Doremus

Board of Deacons Chair

Nathalie Taranto

Church Secretary

Jeanne Sedelnik

Sexton

Sara Scoran

Phone

203-261-2527

E-mail

echurch@snet.net

Website

Eastonchurch.org

Office Hours

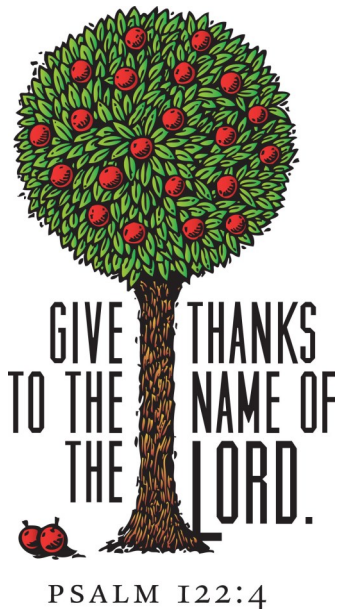
Monday-Friday

9 am to 1 pm

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Gratitude can
transform common
days into
thanksgivings,
turn routine jobs into
joy and change
ordinary
opportunities into
blessings.

William Arthur Ward



“The important question to ask is not ‘What do you believe?’ but ‘What difference does it make that you believe?’ Does the world come nearer to the dream of God because of what you believe?”

Verna J. Dozier, 20th Century Theologian

I can’t even begin to say how many times I have heard the words, “Actions speak louder than words”. They are a bit of a cliché in our culture. Yet there is truth behind those words. So often, I hear complaints that people call themselves Christians yet they don’t reach out to those in need, they don’t live compassionately, that Christians are hypocrites because some are judgmental of those who believe or act differently than themselves. It is easy to expect everyone should want to believe and experience God in the same way that we do. Yet it is the diversity of the Christian faith that shows the world that God creates and nurtures a unique conversation and relationship with each and every person who seeks him.

I came across the quote above by Verna Dozier this week in my reading and it really hit me hard. So often we get caught up in titles and affiliations that define us. On October 16th, I was away at a training in Massachusetts and the first thing everyone asked me when we met was “Oh where are you from?” or “What conference do you belong to?” As if in those answers they would know everything they needed to know about me and my congregation. Titles don’t say anything about what we believe. Titles don’t say anything about how we live our lives. Titles don’t bring us closer to making God’s dream of a loving compassionate world come alive.

It is what we do in this life that makes that dream come alive. It is in the way we live our lives and the work we do for others in the name of the Lord that makes the difference and shows the beauty of who we are in all of our diverse faiths and beliefs. So this month, I would urge you to read the newsletter very carefully. There are many ways to deepen our faith and to work to show that world just what the love of Christ means to us and how we work to live into God’s work. You will find lists of all of the upcoming activities and opportunities to make a difference, build community, and help support the functions of our church family. We are beginning our Stewardship campaign which is when we are called reflect upon this work as we begin to plan for the next year’s activities and work. We look forward to working together to build our faith, to deepen our compassion and love for humanity, and to continue to grow together in Christ.

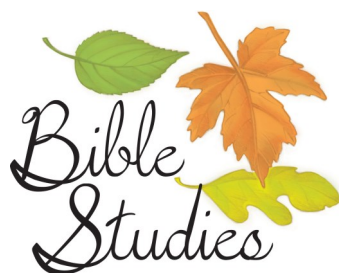


SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School continues. We urge all families to feel free to bring friends and family to church. All children are welcome to join us in our Sunday School program.

- Curriculum: All Together Now by Group
 - Teachers: Suzanne Lovejoy, Marj Klar, and Sara Scoran
- Fall theme: The Exodus

We are already beginning to prepare for the Christmas Season and look towards a Christmas Pageant to be held on December 18th during worship. To fill out the pageant, Rev. Amanda will be asking for participation from all families and invites the New Academy Preschool families to feel welcome to participate as well.



FALL BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

The Fall Bible Study was a fun, educational, and thought provoking experience. We will be finishing our study on November 16th. We will take up our study again in the Spring following Easter with a new study.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Rev. Amanda is looking to put together some classes for families looking to join in membership for the Spring. It would be a four week course at the end of which you would officially be a member of the church in a special worship service. Please speak to Rev. Amanda either by phone, email, or in person if you are interested. Child care will be provided.

THE MEANING OF LIFE

The greatest thing is to give thanks for everything.

He who has learned this knows what it means to live.

He has penetrated the whole mystery of life: giving thanks for everything.

Albert Schweitzer



BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF DEACONS

At our October 9, 2016 meeting, the Deacons continued to discuss initiatives aimed at making our Worship Service and outreach more friendly and attractive for newer younger members as well as for long standing members. It is a work in progress. Further discussion went to building an active Holiday Season schedule. Which brings me to a reminder to ask you to make a careful review of the November and December church calendar (here in so I will not repeat) which will inform you of some of the interesting and exciting future events, activities and special worship services planned for our church family, our community and our friends.

Please know that all Deacon meeting minutes are available for your perusal in the church office. Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 6th at approximately 11:30 AM in the Bishop Room.



DEACONS MEETING
Sunday
November 6th
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room



We have begun our annual stewardship campaign. This is a special time of year where we commit ourselves: talents and resources to supporting the continued work of Christ through the hands of this community. This is how we support our current missions, allow for the development of new missions, support our functions to educate people in the scriptures and ways of Christ, and allows for us to continue to maintain our beautiful historic buildings so future generations will continue to enjoy their beauty. Everyone's pledge is important and essential to the life of our church. So we ask that you fill out your blue pledge card and mail it back to the church. Please remember to send your cards back as soon as possible to help us plan for the coming year. Your participation helps us to continue to serve Easton and our neighboring communities.

Pledge challenge goal 2017: \$65,000

Due date for pledges: November 28, 2016

Annual Meeting: *Early 2017 please stay tuned for a confirmed date*



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

NOVEMBER 15TH – ST. LUKE/ST. PAUL'S FOOD KITCHEN

Our menu is chicken—any style!

Side dishes of starch and vegetables, with salad, fruit and desserts

THANKS TO OUR OCTOBER FOOD KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers!

Claudia Nielsen, Daisy Colonnese, Sally Schwerdtle, Connie Wing, Suzanne Herlihy, Pat Davis, Bill Bassett, Caren Laskay, the Glasers, Cynthia Landry, Barbara van Achterberg, Lorry McLaughlin, Sara Scoran, Jane Kondratovich, Marj Klar and Rev. Amanda

October 18th we served 121 meals!

Thanks to our preparers, transporters, servers and cleaner-uppers!
Sara Scoran, Cynthia Landry, Bill Bassett, Suzanne Herlihy, Barbara van Achterberg, Pat and Karen Davis and Mark 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: two 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.

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for drivers and servers, especially those that have all-wheel or 4-wheel drive for the winter months to transport food and serve at the food kitchen. If you can help, please email the office.

MERTON HOUSE

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.

Thank you.

To give thanks in solitude is enough. Thanksgiving has wings and goes where it must go. Your prayer knows much more about it than you do.

Victor Hugo



BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

A GRATEFUL HEART

Thou hast given so
much to me,
Give one thing more
— a grateful heart;
Not thankful when it
pleaseth me,
As if thy blessings had
spare days,
But such a heart whose
pulse may be thy
praise.

George Herbert



TIME CHANGE!!!!

Remember
Daylight Saving
Time Ends!
Set your clock back
before you
go to bed!

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

We have had a wonderful response to the Thanksgiving Baskets collection. Please let us know if you are able to make up a "basket" of non-perishables or would like to donate a gift card from the grocery store. Please have them at the church hall by November 20th so Jorge Ball, our adopted social worker can deliver them in time for families to prepare for Thanksgiving.

UPCOMING OUTREACH PROJECTS

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR COVENANT TO CARE

Right after Thanksgiving we will start our collection for Christmas gifts for the children of the families of Covenant to Care. There will be a sign up sheet with the children's name and wish for a gift or a gift card for the older kids.

TURNAROUND COMMITTEE

This month we have a lot going on. We have begun to look at replacing the church directional signage that was damaged in one or all of the very heavy winters and storms we have had over the years. We are also planning and preparing for our second fundraiser of the year a Cookie Walk Bake Sale on December 3rd from 9am-12pm. We are working on several opportunities to open our church to our community through special speakers, special worship services, and fellowship opportunities. We are also looking to continue our work on a revised church logo that both honors the artistic talents of the original logo and some of the newer generations we welcome into our church family.

MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

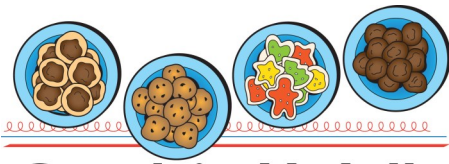
Memorial Garden stones are a great way to honor loved ones who have passed in the beautiful shade of our church's memorial garden. Niches are available for those seeking a restful place for their loved ones to be laid to rest. Please contact the church office for details.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVEMBER 2016

News from the Hill



Cookie Walk

The Congregational Church of Easton, will be having their second fundraiser of 2016 on December 3rd from 9-12. We will be hosting a Cookie Walk bake sale. We have asked for people to bake 5 dozen Christmas Cookies to donate to the sale and we have had a lot of success getting bakers. We are up to 60 dozen cookies promised. We could always use more so please think about joining our baking effort. We could also use more volunteers for the day of to help with set up, clean up, cashier duties, and kitchen duties. This promises to be a fun way to bring in the holidays!

NEW COMPUTER NEEDED

We have started a “fund” for a new office computer and printer. We have already received a generous gift to start us off, but any donation is gratefully accepted. We will have a box in the church hall for checks, your loose change, the odd dollar or two in your pocket. . .

Thank you!

ABUNDANT BLESSING

We thank you for the
turkey,
The gravy and the
dressing.

Dear Lord, this table
overflows
With Thy abundant
blessing.

Let us always be aware
That all gifts come
from You,
And may we serve Your
heavenly will
In everything we do.
Amen.

Joanna Fuchs

Upcoming Events

November 6 th	Special Veteran's Day Service
November 12 th	Harvest Dinner at 4:30PM
November 15 th	Food Kitchen at St.Luke/St.Paul's
November 20 th	Due date for Thanksgiving Baskets
November 27 th	Greening of the Church and 1 st Sunday in Advent
December 3 rd	Cookie Walk Bake Sale 9am – 12pm
December 10 th	New Academy PreSchool Breakfast with Santa
December 17 th	Holiday Sing-a-long with Joel Barlow Select Choir
December 18 th	Christmas Pageant
	Christmas Gifts for Covenant to Care due today
December 24 th	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30 pm
	Choir Practice 4:30 pm

every day
is **thanks** giving

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER CONFIRMING AND WELCOMING DEACON — NATHALIE TARANTO

	USHERS & OFFERING	COLLECTORS
November 6	Maria Seaman and Suzanne Lovejoy	Daisy Colonnese and Marianne Perkins
November 13	The Marches	The Twomblys
November 20	Vera Knapp and Nathalie Taranto	The Glasers
November 27	The Glasers	Nathalie Taranto and Carol Partridge

DECEMBER CONFIRMING AND WELCOMING DEACON — LEON MARCH

	USHERS & OFFERING	COLLECTORS
December 4	The McCartys	Daisy Colonnese and Marianne Perkins
December 11	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	The Twomblys
December 18	Maria Seaman, Suzanne Lovejoy	The Glasers
Christmas Eve	The McCartys	
Christmas Day	Nathalie Taranto, Daisy Colonnese	

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 would be 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. 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.

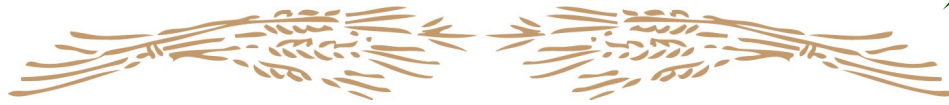
Thank you!



In the event of inclement weather,
we will try to make a decision about cancellation of services as soon as possible.
Please listen to radio station WICC 600 or TV channel 6, 9 or 12 for information.

If you feel uncertain about being on the road in bad weather,
please stay home and stay safe.

November 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><i>Thanksgiving</i></p>		1	2 3:30 Bible Study	3	4	5  <p>SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK</p>
6 Veterans Day Service 10 a.m. Worship w/Communion 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons 3:00 Cove	7	8	9 3:30 Bible Study	10	11  <p>VETERANS Day</p>	12 4:30 Harvest Dinner
13 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour	14	15 3:30 St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen	16 3:30 Bible Study	17	18	19
20 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour Thanksgiving Baskets Due 3:00 Cove	21	22	23	24 Happy Thanksgiving 	25 Office Closed	26
27 1st Sunday Advent 10 a.m. Worship Hanging of the Greens 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	28	29	30			

2016



2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 9 am-12 noon <i>Cookie Walk</i> 
4 10 a.m. Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	5	6	7	8	9	10 8—11 am NAPS B'fast with Santa
11 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	12	13	14	15	16	17 6 pm Holiday Sing-A-Long with Joel Barlow
18 10 a.m. Worship Christmas Pageant 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	19	20 3:30 pm St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen	21	22	23 Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve 4:30 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25 Christmas Day 10 a.m. Worship	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve!!

BIBLE QUIZ

1

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from a psalm of thanksgiving: "Bless the LORD, O my _____, and forget not all his benefits."

- A. people
- B. soul
- C. heart



2



What was the source of Samson's strength?

- A. His huge muscles
- B. The Spirit of God
- C. His uncut hair
- D. He inherited it from his father

3

Paul urged Philemon to welcome back his run-away slave as a brother in the Lord. Name the slave.

- A. Onesimus
- B. Timothy
- C. Aristarchus
- D. Barnabas



MORAVIAN BLESSING

Come, Lord Jesus,
our guest to be
And bless these gifts
Bestowed by Thee.
And bless our loved ones
everywhere,
And keep them in Your
loving care.

GRATITUDE'S GIFTS

Gratitude gets us through the hard stuff. To reflect on your blessings is to rehearse God's accomplishments. To rehearse God's accomplishments is to discover his heart. To discover his heart is to discover not just good gifts but the Good Giver.

Gratitude always leaves us looking at God and away from dread. It does to anxiety what the morning sun does to valley mist. It burns it up.

Max Lucado, *You'll Get Through This*



Psalm 95:2, NIV

3. Answer: A (See Philemon 1:10.)

2. Answer: B (See Judges 14:19.)

1. Answer: B (See Psalm 103:2, ESV.)



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

Harvest Dinner



Annual Harvest Dinner

Saturday, November 12

4:30 Social 5:30 Dinner

*Please call or email the church office to make reservations or
to find out what you can bring to the celebration!*