

News from the Hill

The Congregational
Church of Easton

April 2018

Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

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Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9 am to 2 pm

Friday

9am to 1 pm



Meditations from the Pastor

“But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.”

Mark 16: 6

Easter is a time of great joy in Christianity. But we often forget that for those who loved Jesus, that first Easter was one of great anxiety, fear, and sorrow. They did not yet understand the implications of Jesus' death nor did they fully understand the empty tomb. To the Marys and Salome, the empty tomb meant that someone robbed Jesus' grave which would have been a great desecration. It was yet another reason to grieve. It wasn't until they heard from the angel sitting in Jesus' place that they learned that something truly unique and special had occurred.

Resurrection was not entirely a new idea to these ladies, the disciples, or the Jewish world. The Jewish scriptures spoke of a future resurrection of the righteous as the sign that God's new Jerusalem was to begin. A new life was being ushered in. And this is exactly what happened. Jesus was ushering in a new life but not just for Jewish peoples, or those whom humanity dubs righteous, but he ushered in a new life for all of us.

With his crucifixion and resurrection, Christ was showing the world the depth of God's love for humanity. Our lives may at times be painful, there may be hardships and suffering, but this life is not all there is. There is more to life than what we experience here. Through the resurrection, we are given hope and confidence that when the time comes we will all be offered new life. A life in paradise with God. We are only asked to do our best to make this life count as much as we can. We are asked to spread love and compassion to those who are experiencing hardship. We are asked to share what we have and to live as Jesus lived, for the well being of one another. So while we are here, all people can **experience those reminders of God's love and the promise of the resurrection for tomorrow.**

So as you prepare for Easter and the weeks to follow, I challenge each one of you to look for ways to make this world a better place. Consider joining with me in our study of Christianity in the 21st century on Sunday's following worship in the month of April. Join with us in our study of the scriptures, as we search for meaning. Join with me, as we reach out to others in food kitchen work, the Heifer Project, and giving to Merton House. And if there are other ways to reach out to those in need, share your ideas with me. I pray that everyone has a safe, healthy, and happy Easter celebration.

Join Us for the Heifer Project

We are continuing to raise funds for the Heifer Project through until the end of April. In your bulletins, you have been getting envelopes to place your contributions in during worship. This is an important opportunity for us to live the Christian mission across seas as we help a family in need gain financial sustainability, access to health care and education through the donation of animals. Our kick-off event raised \$173.00 which will buy a community a goat, some rabbits and some honeybees. Our goal is to raise \$500 to send a heifer to a community in Bangladesh or Vietnam.



Boards and Committees

Deacons

As we swiftly move along into Rev. Amanda's third year of her part time ministry with us, we're looking at more opportunities to participate in fellowship, study and outreach activities/events (to mentions a few) such as:

- April 1st - Easter Sunday Worship @ 10:00 AM followed by an Easter Egg Hunt
- Turnaround Book Discussion-Brunch following worship on 4/8, 15, 22, 29 and 5/6. The book "Weird Church" will be the focus of our discussion. The theme of this publication is to help struggling churches like us find our way in the 21st century.
- Bible study of the Old Testament Book of First Samuel meets on Wednesdays @ 3:30 PM beginning 4/11 through 6/6/2018.

The Deacons continue to evaluate those worship practices which bring your positive responses as well as being open to new ideas and actions. Your support and input are vital, valuable and much appreciated. Next meeting of Deacons: - 4/11/2018 @ 6:30 PM (Wednesday)

Join Us for Our Book Study on *Weird Church*

Please consider joining us on Sundays during coffee hour for our study of the book *Weird Church* which looks at the changes happening in Christianity in the 21st century and the way churches like ours are speaking to these changes. Each session is one hour and all people are invited to attend. To make this event more enjoyable, we are asking that each week two people work together to host a light brunch while we discuss. Brunch suggestions: Bagels and cream cheese, finger sandwiches, fruit, quiche, coffee and tea, etc. Please sign up after coffee hour or contact the church office to sign up for a week.

When: April 8th to May 6th at 11 AM

Where: Fellowship Hall of the Congregational Church of Easton

How Long: One Hour

Facilities

We are still working on our project to improve the lighting in the church hall.

With the coming of spring James and his crew will be starting the grounds clean up soon.



Boards and Committees

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children's Worship and Education

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

- Curriculum: All Together Now by Group
- Our Spring teacher: Connie Wing

We're starting the Spring book in our Christian Education series.

Vacation Bible School

Please join us for VBS, July 9th to the 13th from 9 to 12. We will be doing a VBS program called *Super Heroes of the Bible*. We will be learning about David, Esther, Daniel, Jesus, and many more. This is promising to be a week full of adventure, fun, arts and crafts, music, and games. All children from all religious backgrounds are invited to join us. Please see the registration form below and invite your neighbors and friends.

Vacation Bible School Registration

Name: _____

School Grade: _____ Birthday ____/____/____ Age: _____

Parent's Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Main Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

In April you will be receiving emails about giving opportunities for VBS. We are looking for volunteers. If you are interested please contact Rev. Amanda Ostrove.

Boards and Committee Reports

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Next St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen – Menu for April 17th

Chicken—any style—or your specialty, Starches, Vegetables, Salad, Fruit, Desserts

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 delivered the day of the food kitchen and can be dropped off at the Old Academy building during the month.

Thanks to our cooks/bakers/shoppers — We served 93 meals on March 20th. Daisy Colonnese, Claudia Nielsen, Barbara Trup, Susan March, Barbara van Achterberg, Suzanne Lovejoy, Connie Wing, Caren Laskay, Suzanne Herlihy, Steve & Pat Glaser, Barbara Trup, Jane Kondratovich, Rev. Amanda, Lorry McLaughlin, Cynthia Landry, Sue Farmer, Joan Bennett.

And our Preparers, Transporters and Servers — Cynthia Landry, Suzanne Herlihy, Barbara van Achterberg, Sue Farmer, Lucas Farmer.

Thanks!

Merton House

We continue to collect sample or travel sized toiletries for Merton House. Please drop them off anytime and place in the basket at the entrance to the church hall.

Your donations are greatly appreciated.

**Thanks,
Everyone!**

Many thanks to everyone who participated in our Covenant to Care Easter Basket mission. Your generous donations help families in need have a happy Easter.



Holiday Baskets
for families of
Covenant to
Care

A big thank you to the Deacons for their tasty dinners for our Lenten Suppers this year.

**Lenten
Suppers**

A big thank you to our friends in the community who shared their animals and knowledge with us for our Heifer Petting Zoo! Thanks to everyone who helped with set up and clean up!

Petting Zoo!

Boards and Committee

TURN AROUND CHURCH COMMITTEE

Turnaround Committee

TAC met on March 11th after coffee hour to discuss the many projects we have moving forward. These are the projects we are working on and will be asking for volunteers to lend a hand.

March: We have begun work on the Annual Trunk Tag Sale and will be emailing for volunteers for this event.

April 8 to May 6: At coffee hour we will be hosting a book study on Weird Church, where we will be studying about the changes Christianity is experiencing in the 21st century and how churches are speaking to these changes.

We will be asking people to work together in pairs to plan and put on a light brunch for these coffee hours. See article for me information.

Idea Sharing: TAC will be having easel paper with topics out during the week and at coffee hour. We ask that you add your ideas for activities and events to those lists for TAC to use for planning purposes.

You may also email in your ideas.

STEWARDSHIP

We have been well underway in our stewardship campaign for 2018. We would like to send out a special thank you to all those who already sent in their pledge card. Remember our pledges help to support our current missions, allow for the development of new missions, support our functions to educate people in the scriptures and ways of Christ in the world, and allows for us to continue maintaining 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 if you have not already done so, please 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 2018: \$65,000

Current Pledges: \$52,040.00

Current Pledge Count: 27

Events

Upcoming Events

Here are our upcoming events.

March 29th – Maundy Thursday, Tenebrae Service at 7:30 PM

April 1st – Easter Morning Services followed by an Easter Egg Hunt 10AM

April 11th – Start of Bible Study

In the Neighborhood

Easton Public Library

During the month of April, explore the diversity of libraries all over Connecticut! Pick up your passport at the first library you visit, then try to visit as many libraries as possible. You will receive a small gift at **each one you visit. Don't forget to get your passport stamped! Visit at least 5 libraries to be eligible for a raffle prize.**

Thursday, April 5 – 7:00 p.m. Join us for a discussion of our One Book/One Town Community Read, *The Yellow Envelope*, by Kim Dinan. Tell us what you liked or didn't like about the book, and whether it inspired you. Registration is suggested.

Christian Symbols



Phoenix

According to ancient legend, the phoenix lived for 500 to 1,400 years (depending on the version of the myth), at which time it would set its nest ablaze and be consumed in the flames. After three days the bird would be reborn and was said to repeat this cycle, “rising from the ashes” again and again. Early Christians saw in the phoenix a symbol of Jesus’ resurrection and of eternal life.



Third Annual Community Tag Sale

We are accepting reservations for Tag Sale Spots, we have a limited area, so if you would like a spot, let us know as soon as possible.

TAG SALE SPOT REGISTRATION

Saturday, May 19, 2018

8 AM to 3 PM

Rain or Shine

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email address _____

Phone number(s) _____

Tag Sale Spots are \$35 for a 12' x 12' space. Cars may be parked inside the spot and you may put up tables, racks and displays within that area only.

In the case of rain the sale will be held in the church hall.

Set up begins at 7:00 a.m. — Tag Sale closes at 3:00 p.m.

Please make checks payable to the Congregational Church of Easton.

336 Westport Road, P.O. Box 37, Easton, CT 06612

Telephone: 203-261-2527 Email: echurch@snet.net

Website: www.eastonchurch.org

Signature _____ Amount \$ _____



Also that day!
Bake Sale
Tea Cup Auction



If you or someone you know would be interested in being a Sponsor of this event, please contact the office.

Serving Schedule

April Confirming and Welcoming Deacon — Leon March			
	Ushers & Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
April 1 Easter Sunday	J. Stock, T. Linley		
April 8	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	The Twomblys	N. Taranto, D. Colonnese
April 15	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	C. Partridge, N. Taranto	S. Lovejoy, L. March
April 22	T. Linley, D. Colonnese	The Glasers	J. Stock, B. van Achterberg
April 29	The Marches	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	B. Trup, S. Baczewski

May Confirming and Welcoming Deacon — Daisy Colonnese			
	Ushers & Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
May 6	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	The Twomblys	C. Nielsen,
May 13	The Marches	C. Partridge, N. Taranto	B. van Achterberg
May 20	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	The Glasers	S. Lovejoy
May 27	T. Linley, D. Colonnese	M. Perkins, D. Colonnese	N. Taranto

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.

Altar Flower and Coffee Hour Hosting for 2018

Please see our **Flower Calendar** if you would like to celebrate a special date of a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion. You may order or provide the flowers yourself or have the office order them.

Hosting a Coffee Hour is a wonderful way also to celebrate a special occasion.

- Why: Celebrating a special day with your church family, to welcome people to a moment of fellowship.
- How: Call the church office or send an email if you would like to be on our rotation to host Coffee Hour or would like to just do a special date.



April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Sunday 10 am Worship w/ Communion 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt	2 Office Closed	3	4	5	6	7
8 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour Weird Church	9	10	11 3:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Deacons Meeting	12	13	14
15 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour Weird Church	16	17 3:45 Food Kitchen	18 3:30 pm Bible Study	19	20	21
22 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour Weird Church	23	24	25 3:30 pm Bible Study	26	27	28
29 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour Weird Church	30					

May 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 3:30 pm Bible Study	3	4	5  Cinco de Mayo
6 10 am Worship w/ Communion 11 am Coffee Hour Weird Church	7	8	9 3:30 pm Bible Study	01	11	12
13 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour  HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY	14	15 3:45 Food Kitchen	16 3:30 pm Bible Study	17	18	19 TAG SALE 8-3 PM
20 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour	28  Memorial DAY Office closed	29	30	31		



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



Spring Bible Study Session

1 Samuel

Begins April 11

Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 in the
Bishop Room.

Please join us, everyone welcome!