

News from the Hill

The Congregational
Church of Easton

August 2018

Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Church Council Chair

Phillip A. Doremus

Board of Deacons Chair

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Website

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Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9 am to 2 pm

Friday

9am to 1 pm



Meditations from the Pastor

At some point this month, Bill and I will be welcoming our first child to our family. In my absence Doug Halley will be stepping in to lead worship. I will be back in six weeks. I strongly urge all members and non-members to join him for worship on Sunday mornings, hear his inspiring words, and feeling God speaking in those moments. I look forward to visiting everyone at the Church Family Picnic on September 8th where Bill and I plan to introduce Madeleine to her new church family. We look forward to seeing you there.

While I'm away the life of the church will continue to thrive. So, please remember to support our many outreach opportunities and the start of our Sunday School in September. Please keep an eye on your emails and bulletins for the start of Bible Study which will be in October, and signups for our picnic, and Sunday School kick off in the fall.

Prayer

Great God, I ask thee for no meaner self
Than that I may not disappoint myself,
That in my action I may soar as high
As I can now discern with this clear eye.

And next in value, which thy kindness lends,
That I may greatly disappoint my friends,
**Howe'er they think or hope that it may be,
They may not dream how thou'st distinguished me.**

That my weak hand may equal my firm faith,
And my life practice more than my tongue saith;
That my low conduct may not show,
Nor my relenting lines,
That I thy purpose did not know,
Or overrated thy designs.

Henry David Thoreau

Oh, how beautiful is the summer night, which is not night, but a sunless, yet unclouded, day, descending upon earth with dews and shadows and refreshing coolness! How beautiful the long mild twilight, which, like a silver clasp, unites today with yesterday!

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Board and Committee Reports

Deacons

At a specially called meeting, on July 27, 2018, the attending congregants voted to enter in a second three year covenant with Reverend Amanda.

Congratulations Reverend Amanda! Our church family appreciates your energy, creativity, enthusiasm and initiative.

In continuing our Turnaround commitment, we are enrolling in a Covenant with her by pledging our prayers and support in stewardship of time, talent and monetary contributions. Your support and input are vital, valuable and much appreciated.

A further item discussed and voted on was whether we should renew our lapsed membership in the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport and its Mission. Rev. Ostrove observed that we were, in fact, among the original founding Churches. It was through this organization that much Outreach evolved--including Covenant to Care and the St. Paul's/St. Luke's food kitchen. Membership renewal would entail a nominal voluntary offering of \$100.00 to \$150.00.

There is a standard obligation to send one delegate to the organization's Annual Meeting. Attending members unanimously voted to rejoin.

All Deacon meeting minutes are readily available at the church office. The next Deacons meeting will be September 2, 2018 at 11:30 AM.

Board of Facilities

During one of the many recent storms we had some damage from a lightening strike. There was damage to the phone lines, internet line, and the fire alarm.

We were experiencing some problems with inner office connectivity related to those problems. **Thanks to Bob Wahler, we're working now!**



Board and Committee Reports

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children's Worship and Education

Vacation Bible School

A big thank you to all who volunteered and made donations to support our Vacation Bible School in July. It was a lot of fun and a great success.

Join us for Kick-off Sunday

September 9th at 10:00 AM

This is the perfect opportunity to bring friends, neighbors, people new to town to join us for our **first day of Children's Worship, followed by** an ice cream social and time of fellowship.

This promises to be a fun Sunday event filled with new beginnings and fellowship.

Needs: Ice Cream, chocolate sauce, sprinkles, whipped cream and cherries. If you can help, please let us know.



We hope to see you there!

Bible Study

Spring Bible Study

We finished our Spring Bible study on June 6th. We enjoyed our study of 1 Samuel and look forward to continuing on with the story of King David and the story of King Solomon in the fall with the study of 2 Samuel. Rev. Amanda will inform everyone when the first class will be based on when the baby makes her entrance into the world.



Boards and Committee Reports

Board of Christian Outreach

Next St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen – Menu for August 21

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

We served about 50 meals on July 17th. Thanks to our cooks/bakers/shoppers Daisy Colonnese, Barbara van Achterberg, Sara Scoran, Connie Wing, Sue Farmer, Barbara Trup, Sara Baczewski, Joan Bennett, Eunice Hanson, Claudia Nielsen, Caren Laskay, Cynthia Landry, Susan March, Suzanne Herlihy, Pat & Steve Glaser

And our Preparers, Transporters and Servers – Cynthia Landry, Sue Farmer, Suzanne Herlihy, Barbara Trup, Joan Bennett, Barbara van Achterberg

Thanks!

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.

Backpacks and School Supplies! School begins early – When you see sales this summer pick up some bargains for our backpack and school supply collection for children of Covenant to Care. Please have backpacks/supplies in the church hall by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 20th. Thank you to everyone who has signed up and dropped off extra supplies!



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.

Board and Committee Reports

Turn Around Church Committee

TAC met on July 22nd where we discussed putting together our plans moving forward into the next three years of the turnaround process. Some of the topics we discussed were ways to help people who come regularly transition into membership roles, ways to increase the usage of our Old Academy building, directional signage replacement, and working on welcome packages for new residents of Easton.

Here is what we have coming up this summer:

Late August: Welcome packets for the new people in town

September 8th: Church Family Picnic 2PM

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.



Please join us for our
Annual Church Family Picnic

Saturday, September 8th beginning at 2 pm

Please keep an eye out for sign-ups for food and volunteers. We will also be asking for a head count sometime this summer.

We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events

September 8th – Church Family Picnic 2PM

September 9th – **Children’s Worship & Education**
Ice Cream Social to follow



Bible Quiz

1 Who had a staff sprout, bud, blossom and produce almonds, indicating that God had chosen him for a special reason?

- A. Moses
- B. Zechariah
- C. Aaron
- D. Nathan



2



Jesus illustrated the future coming of the Son of Man and his kingdom: When the _____ tree sprouts leaves, he said, you know that _____ is near; **when various cosmic signs take place, you’ll know the Son of Man and the kingdom of God are near.** Choose the correct pair of words to fill in the two blanks.

- A. pine; winter
- B. beech; spring
- C. fig; summer
- D. olive; autumn

Answers
1. C (See Numbers 17:1-11, specifically v. 8.)
2. C (See Luke 21:29-31.)

Christian Symbols



Olive Branch

The Olive Branch is a symbol of peace, harmony and healing. Olive trees provide shelter, as well as oil used for ointment and consecration. The Olive Branch

also represents deliverance from hardships and anxiety because a dove brought an olive leaf back to **Noah’s ark after the flood ended** (Genesis 8:11).

STEWARDSHIP


Stewardship



We are officially half way throughout the year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have generously pledged their support through monetary donations so far this year.

And if you have not yet pledged, it is not too late. We need the generosity of all of our members to make this a successful year. If you are a friend of the church, your donations are also greatly appreciated.

Please see the pledge card below to fill out and mail in for the rest of the year. And if you already have pledged, **please don't forget your pledging over the summer.**


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

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON
 2018 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

I plan to give \$ _____ Weekly Monthly Quarterly for an annual total of \$ _____

I understand this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the church office.

I would like Offering Envelopes.
 I would like to talk with someone about including the church in my will.

Signature _____ Date _____



Serving Schedule

August Confirming and Welcoming Deacon – Leon March			
	Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
August 5	The Marches	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	B. van Achterberg
August 12	McCarty/Taranto	The Glasers	D. Colonnese
August 19	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	The Twomblys	N. Taranto
August 26	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	N. Taranto, C.Partridge	S. Lovejoy

September Confirming and Welcoming Deacon – Daisy Colonnese			
	Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
September 2	The Marches	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	B. van Achterberg
September 9	McCarty/Taranto	The Glasers	B. Trup, S. Baczewski
September 16	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	The Twomblys	S. Lovejoy
September 23	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	N. Taranto, C.Partridge	N. Taranto
September 30	The Marches	D. Colonnese	J. Stock







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 church office.

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.

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 
			8 	9	10	11
5 10 Worship w/ Communion 11 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons	6	7	12 10 Worship 11 Coffee Hour	13	14 	15
19 10 Worship 11 Coffee Hour	20 10:00 AM Backpacks due in church hall	21 3:45 Food Kitchen	22	23 	24	25
26 10 Worship 11 Coffee Hour 11:30 TAC Work meeting	27	28	29	30	31	



September 2018

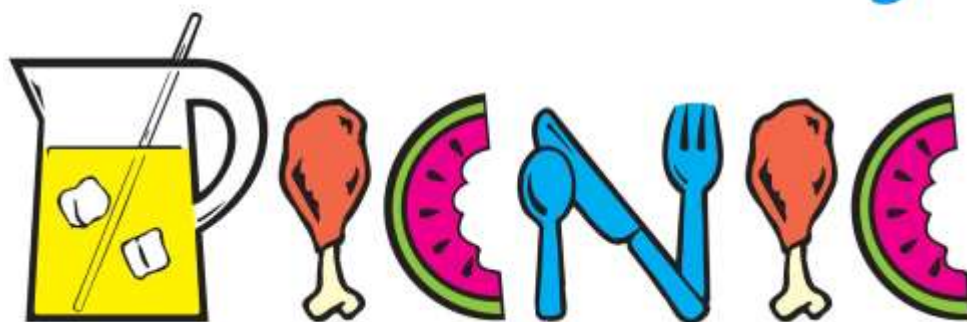
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10 Worship w/Communion 11 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons	3 Office Closed	4	5	6	7	8 2 PM Church Family Picnic
9 Kick-off Sunday 10 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11 Ice Cream Social	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 10 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11 Coffee Hour	17	18 3:45 Food Kitchen	19	20	21	22
23 10 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11 Coffee Hour	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11 Coffee Hour						



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

Save the Date

Church Family



2 PM

September 8