

News from the Hill

The Congregational
Church of Easton

July 2018

Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Church Council Chair

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Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9 am to 2 pm

Friday

9am to 1 pm



Your
KINGDOM
is an everlasting
KINGDOM...

Psalm 145:13

Meditations from the Pastor

"No one ever sees or hears a miracle when they are talking over it."

Gary Rudz

As we get ever closer to my due date in August, I want to take this opportunity to let you know that in my absence Doug Halley will be running worship for me. I thank him for his willingness to take on the time commitment and being so flexible around the start date. I hope that you will come and be inspired by his sermons and worship experiences.

This is a time when I have had to learn to rely on God and to trust in his plans. This is frustrating for me as I am ever the planner and knowing, that though I have a due date, I have absolutely no control over when Madeleine makes her appearance. She could be early, right on time, or late. I know that I must not be the only person who would like to know the answers to all the questions in life. What will happen and when. These are questions that humanity has **been struggling with since the beginning of time. We don't like the unpredictable. Unpredictable** is scary for most people.

Yet in our scriptures and in life if we slow down and listen long enough we will hear God comforting us and asking us to trust in him, to place our lives into his hands. We are constantly being reminded that God has a plan for our lives, our families, and our communities. We just need to trust where that plan is going and to trust that though God will not reveal those plans until just the right time, that he is doing right for us. So this summer, trust in the direction of God. Allow him to reveal himself to you. Follow the path that he has laid out for **you. Take the time to listen and to see the wonders of God's grace alive all around you, let it** transform your lives for tomorrow.

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

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

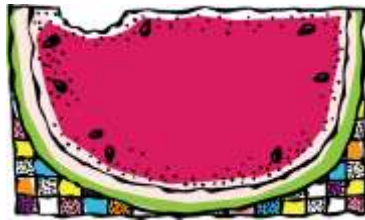
Board and Committee Reports

Deacons

As many of you are aware, Pastor Amanda's three year contract is soon coming to an end. She has agreed to a renewal of it. This verbiage is to remind you to watch for the upcoming date of a Congregational meeting where you may vote on the proposal.

In continuing our Turnaround commitment, we are entering into a Covenant with her and pledging our prayers and support in stewardship of time, talent, and monetary contributions.

Your support and input are vital, valuable, and much appreciated.



Board of Facilities

We are in the process of getting estimates for the driveway and parking lot — repair and/or replace.

A Prayer for the Fourth

Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.

—Peter Marshall, before the U.S. Senate



Board and Committee Reports



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children's Worship and Education

Vacation Bible School

There is still time to sign up for VBS, July 9th to the 13th from 9 am to 12 noon. We will be doing the 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 to join us.

Vacation Bible School Registration

Name: _____

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

Parent's Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

E-mail: _____

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 July 17th
Chicken—any style—or your specialty, Starches, Vegetables, Salad, Fruit, Desserts

We served about 40 meals on June 19th. Thanks to our cooks/bakers/shoppers — Suzanne Herlihy, Jane Kondratovich, Connie Wing, Barbara Trup, Daisy Colonnese, Sara Scoran, Barbara van Achterberg, Sara Baczewski, Claudia Nielsen, Pat & Steve Glaser, Caren Laskay

And our Preparers, Transporters and Servers — Cynthia Landry, Sue Farmer, Lucas Farmer, Suzanne Herlihy, Sara Scoran, Rev. Amanda

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!

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 June 24th 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, and ways to increase our income.

We would like to take this moment to thank Rob Wahler for his informative class on computer safety.

Here is what we have coming up this summer:

July 9th to 13th: Vacation Bible School

Late August: Welcome packets for the new people in town

September 8th: Church Family Picnic

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.



Our Annual Church Family Picnic is scheduled for 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!

Events



July 8th – Independence Day Worship 10AM

July 9th - 13th – Vacation Bible School 9 AM to Noon

July 17th—Food Kitchen

September 8th – Church Family Picnic 2PM

Bible Quiz

1 How did Jesus heal the blind man at the pool of Siloam?

- A. Put mud on his eyes and told him to go wash in the pool.
- B. Laid his hands on the man's head and prayed.**
- C. Touched his eyes, but at first the man said people looked like trees walking, so Jesus had to do it again.
- D. Told him to go to the priests; as the man went, he was healed.



2 Who was the first king of Israel?

- A. David
- B. Solomon
- C. Saul



Was he a tall or short man?

Answers
1. C—tall (See John 9: 6-7)
2. Answers to both questions can be found in 1 Samuel 10: 17-24



Our Graduates

Paige Twombly — Paige recently graduated from Boston University with a B.S. in Advertising and a concentration in Computer Science. She looks to pursue graphic design post-grad.

David Landry — David graduated from Joel Barlow H.S. He'll be attending RPI (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) in Troy NY.

Maeve Bassett— Maeve recently graduated from New Academy Nursery School and will be in Kindergarten at Samuel Staples.

Events

Heifer Project

With help from the preschool and our own church family, we have chosen to provide communities in need with 2 heifers and 2 water buffalo. We thank all people for their contributions and help in this important project of ours. We look forward to doing it again next year.

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

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.

Serving Schedule

July Confirming and Welcoming Deacon — Nathalie Taranto

	Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
July 1	D.Colonnese, N. Taranto	The Twomblys	B. van Achterberg
July 8	The Marches	N. Taranto, C. Partridge	D. Colonnese
July 15	P. McCarty/ N. Taranto	The Glasers	
July 22	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	S. Lovejoy
July 29	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	The Twomblys	J. Stock

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	S. Lovejoy
August 26	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	N. Taranto, C.Partridge	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 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.



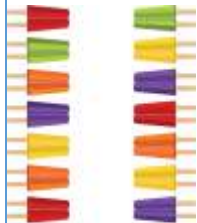

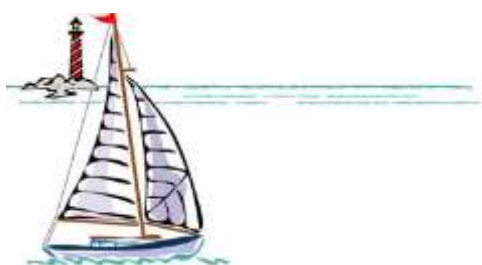
Hosting a *Coffee Hour* is a wonderful way also to celebrate a special occasion.

- 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.







July



2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 Worship w/ Communion 11 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons	2	3	July 4 1776  Independence Day	5	6	7
8 10 Worship 11 Coffee Hour 11:30 Council Meeting	9 Vacation Bible	10 School Week	11 9 am 12 noon	12 Super Heroes of the Bible	13 	14
15 10 Worship 11 Coffee Hour	16	17 3:45 Soup Kitchen	18	19	20 	21
22 10 Worship 11 Coffee Hour	23 	24	25	26	27	28
29 10 Outdoor Worship 11 Coffee Hour	30	31				

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 
5 10 Worship w/ Communion 11 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons	6	7	8 	9	10	11
12 10 Worship 11 Coffee Hour	13	14 	15	16	17	18
19 10 Worship 11 Coffee Hour	20 10:00 a.m. Backpacks due in church hall	21 3:45 Food Kitchen	22	23 	24	25
26 10 Worship 11 Coffee Hour	27	28	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



Outdoor Worship

Looking a little bit of a different worship experience? Then join us July 29th at 10AM for our first ever outdoor worship experience. We will be meeting on the church lawn for a worship service centered on the **beauties of creation and God's continued role in creating the world** around us. There will be seating, music, and plenty of opportunity for reflection and appreciation of God in the world around us. We highly encourage everyone to join us for worship that day.