

News from the Hill

The Congregational
Church of Easton

November 2018

Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Church Council Chair

Phillip A. Doremus

Board of Deacons Chair

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Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9 am to 2 pm

Friday

9am to 1 pm



Love

the Lord your God
with all your HEART
and with all your SOUL
and with all your MIND
and with all your STRENGTH.

Mark 12:30, ESV

“Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs’”.

Luke 21: 15

Many people wonder how we as Christians can make a difference in our world. There is so much suffering, so much conflict, and so many people pitted against one another. This is no different than **the world that Jesus was born into. Yet Jesus asked Peter to “Feed my lambs” not once, not twice,** but three different times. We read about it in our scriptures because like Peter, we too are being called and asked to risk everything to care for our fellow human beings.

We are called to care and comfort one another despite the judgments of the world around us, despite what our neighbors might think. We are called to lead lives of compassion. We are called to be compassionate to all people no matter what. Jesus was compassionate to tax collectors and known sinners. This November as we give thanks for the gifts in our lives, we need to also commit ourselves to caring for those who find themselves in times of need. Those who find themselves in times of suffering.

So in honor of that, I would like you to consider joining us for one or all of our outreach opportunities and to suggest new ones. Join us for our first Service Sunday. This month we will be assembling care packages for our service members across seas on November 11th. This is an opportunity to **support our veterans and troops and it is an opportunity to live into Christ’s call to care for his lambs.** Please donate and join us for work. Join us for our Food Kitchen in Bridgeport on November 20th or consider assembling a thanksgiving meal basket for covenant to care. And we hope that you will consider making service a life long journey.

Please read further for more details on our upcoming service projects and events.



Boards and Committee Reports

Deacons

The Deacons are breathing a bit easier since Pastor Amanda is back in the office and pulpit. Rev. **Amanda was honored on "Clergy Appreciation Day", October 14th**, with a few words of appreciation and a gift card. She and Bill celebrated their 9th wedding anniversary on October 18th. Congratulations.

On Veteran's Day, November 11th, we will have an abbreviated worship in the fellowship hall, followed by the introduction of service type projects. **The project on Veteran's Day will be to pack supplies to** send to members of the military serving abroad. The office will have emailed you the list of needed items. Also on that day, we ask those who are able to help move some of the unused chairs from the fellowship hall to the upstairs.

Looking further ahead, Rev. Amanda, the Deacons and other church family members are earnestly **planning and preparing for our annual and spectacular "Harvest Dinner" scheduled for November 17th**. You will soon be hearing details from the office. A couple weeks following that event, on Sunday December 2nd, **is the beginning of Advent. On that day we will celebrate the annual "Hanging of the Greens."** For December, the celebration of Communion will be changed from the first Sunday of the month to the second Sunday-December 9th. The Joel Barlow Select Choir will be leading our annual carol sing on December 15th with a snow date for December 22nd.

Pastor Amanda and the Deacons will be announcing a "Member Sunday" in early 2019 for the convenience of anyone wanting to become a member of the church.

Board of Facilities

We have had some plumbing work done that affected the Nursery School and the kitchen water supply. New hot and cold water lines were necessary to repair damaged pipes. Some carpentry work was necessary in the Nursery School to replace part of the ceiling and soffits. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the investigation and speedy resolution of this problem.

Have you seen our new little "Christmas Tree" on the corner in front of the Old Academy building? Many thanks to Ken Twombly for the tree.



Boards and Committee Reports

Christian Education

Children's Worship and Education

This fall Children's Worship and Education has been studying about Joshua taking the Israelites to the Promised Land. (This past week the walls of Jericho came tumbling down amidst loud trumpeting!) Connie Wing continues as our teacher with Sara Scoran as sub.

Bible Study

We enjoyed our spring Bible Study of 1 Samuel and are enjoying our time with the story of King David and the story of King Solomon with the study of 2 Samuel.

Our Fall Bible Study
Wednesdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.



Turn Around Church

We have acquired two new directional signs for the town of Easton. We will need volunteers to place them in their new homes. We also invite all people to join us for our annual Harvest Dinner and to give thanks with us for the blessings we have experienced as a church.

TAC will be meeting again on November 25th.

Ways to Support our Turnaround Process

- Regular church attendance and giving
- Inviting friends, family, and neighbors to join us on Sunday mornings
- Support our many outreach projects
- Sharing ideas for church growth, fellowship, education, and finance
- Volunteering to sit on committees

Board and Committee Reports

Board of Christian Outreach

Next St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen — Menu for November 20th

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

We served 70 meals on October 16th. Thanks to our cooks/bakers/shoppers Phil Doremus, Daisy Colonnese, Claudia Nielsen, Sara Baczewski, Barbara van Achterberg, Suzanne Herlihy, Connie Wing, Barbara Trup, Pat & Steve Glaser, Sue Farmer, Cynthia Landry

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

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.



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.

Planning Ahead

Christmas Gifts for Families of Covenant to Care

Put it on your list for Christmas— our adopted Social Worker Jorge Ball will be giving us the names of children and adults who need some help with Christmas gifts.



"I have never understood why anyone would roast the turkey and shuck the clams and crisp the croutons and shell the peas and candy the sweet potatoes and compote the cranberries and bake the pies and clear the table and wash the dishes and fall into bed exhausted when they could just as easily sit back and enjoy a hamburger or a pork sandwich."

—The Turkey



3rd Annual Cookie Walk!

Preparations are beginning!

Saturday, December 1st

10:00 AM to 2 :00 PM

We're looking for bakers who can make some delicious cookies for us to offer. If you like to bake or know someone who does, please consider sharing your talent this holiday season. We have about a dozen different kinds of cookies already, but can use more.

Sign up sheets are in the church hall for bakers and volunteers to work the day of the Cookie Walk.

Thanksgiving Baskets for Covenant to Care



Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanks to everyone who has signed up to provide families from Covenant to Care with a dinner for Thanksgiving.

Please have baskets and gift cards at the church hall by Sunday, November 18th.



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

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON

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.

Stewardship Campaign 2019

October 30, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of the Congregational Church of Easton,

Stewardship Campaign

November 28th will be an important day in the life of our church. This is the day that we ask members and friends to express their intended support in the church for the coming year. **Although we don't always think of financial giving as an opportunity to tangibly express our love, devotion and thankfulness to God, it is nothing less than that.**

As this day approaches, we would like to remind you that our church continues at a crucial juncture as we work to rebuild our community in Christ based on what we hold to be important: **community, belonging, and the sense of being needed for Christ's mission.** We carry on with the "Turnaround Church" initiative and we hope that you will continue to join us in our efforts to **re-build: continuing to realize Christ's mission, and working towards a future of deeper spiritual enlightenment.**

We have had a busy year in 2018 full of activities and fellowship. We look forward to another year filled with outreach opportunities, educational opportunities, and community events. **We are hopeful in continuing our revitalization efforts with our children's programs and other church activities in the wider community.** We believe that part of our continued mission must be to solidify our dedication to upholding our Christian works and education and our historic buildings through our annual gifts to the congregation: financially and personally. Our challenge goal this is \$58,000 in pledges.

To that end, please see the pledging options suggested on the pledge card (on previous page) which you may mail in, drop at the office or in the offertory plate; or respond electronically. Please remember that your pledge helps support our church family in all of our ministries including **increasing our work with our Christian Education program and children's activities, as well as** maintaining the inviting beauty of our historic buildings, and allowing us to come together to realize the call of Christ through our increasing outreach efforts. We strongly urge submission of your intent by November 28, 2018 so we have solid budgeting information at our Annual Congregational Meeting to be held in early 2019.

We pray that this coming year will continue to lift up each one of you in Christ's work.

Many Blessings and Thanks,

Phillip A. Doremus
Chair of Church Council

Rev. Amanda Ostrove
Pastor

P. S. It is time to solidify our dedication to the works of Christ through your annual gifts to the Congregation, financially and personally.

Upcoming Events

Special Service Sunday	Sunday, November 11 th , Veterans Day, 10:00 a.m.
Harvest Dinner	Saturday, November 17 th , 4:30 Social Hour, 5:30 Dinner
Thanksgiving Baskets	Due in church hall by Sunday, November 18 th
3 rd Annual Cookie Walk	Saturday, December 1 st , 10 AM – 2 PM
Hanging of the Greens	Sunday, December 2 nd
Joel Barlow Concert	Saturday, December 15 th (<i>snow date 12/22</i>)
Christmas Eve Service	Monday, December 24 th , 5:30 p.m.

Keep an eye out for details about these events in the coming week's bulletins and next month's Newsletter.



The Easton Senior Center Holiday Boutique
November 5-December 20, 8am-3:00pm weekdays.

Brand new gifts. Holiday décor, hand knitted gloves, hats, and scarves, kids' corner. Outstanding selection at a fraction of the retail cost. Free gift wrapping is also available for purchases of \$5 or more.

In addition, we are holding a "12 Days of Christmas" raffle until December 19. Twelve drawings (\$50 value each) will be held on December 19th at noon. Tickets are \$2.00 each and can be purchased at The Easton Senior Center. Please call 203-268-1145 for information.



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 4 at 2:00 AM
Don't forget to turn your clocks back Saturday night!

Service Sundays

The Deacons are planning some Service Sundays. These Sunday will begin with a special shortened worship service followed by a service project.

Our first will be on November 11th, **Veteran's Day**. **This project is to gather and assemble care packages for our soldiers across seas.** This is a great way to show support for our service men and women as they face dire challenges for our country.



Personal Care Items

Wet wipes, individually wrapped
For Men and Women: Body wash, lotion,
face wash, mouth wash, Q-tips,
shampoo,

Foot powder and the like
Hand Sanitizer
Sunscreen
Chap sticks

Food

Cookies, crackers

Chocolate Candy/Candy Bars

Dried fruits in re-sealable containers

Tins and packets of flavored coffee and cappuccino

Liquid creamers in little plastic cups with a foil top
packed in a sturdy plastic or metal container.

Beef jerky/Slim Jims

Breath mints



Goods

Laundry PODS packed in a sturdy plastic or
metal container.

Magazines (*clean content*)

3M Sticky Wall Hooks

\$25 VISA and M/C gift cards (*gives
them maximum flexibility, for WIFI, etc*)



Cards, letters, group photos (*we want the troops to know real
people did this for them*)

All items must be NEW, not used items.



Poinsettias are among the most beautiful decorations in our sanctuary at Christmas time. This year, as is our custom, we will have “virtual Poinsettias” as well as real plants. Your gift of a “virtual” Poinsettia will be used for Outreach. You may purchase either in honor or memory of a loved one. The list of donor and dedications will be included in the Order of Worship.

The Poinsettia plants will decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. You are invited to take them home with you after the Christmas Eve Service, or if you wish they will be brought to a home-bound member.

If you wish to purchase a “virtual” poinsettia you will continue to remember and honor loved ones. The “virtual Poinsettias” offering will be the same as the plants.

This year the flowers will be coming from Gilbertie’s. We will not know the exact price (for a 7” pot) until mid November, but you may pre order them if you wish.

Poinsettia Pre Order

Name: _____

I would like to Pre-Order Poinsettia Plants/Virtual for Christmas Eve as follows:

Poinsettia Plant order

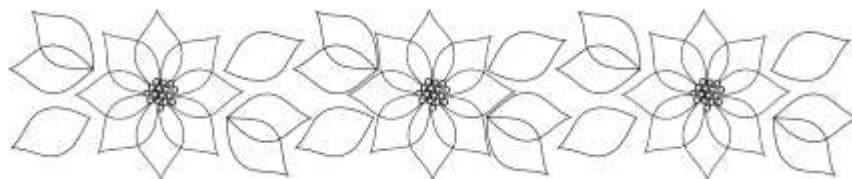
_____ Red or _____ White _____ Total # Plants _____

“Virtual” Poinsettia order

_____ @ Virtual Total _____

Please call/email me when the price is established _____
(Your phone or email address)

Flower Orders must be in by Sunday, December 9th



Serving Schedule



November Confirming and Welcoming Deacon — Nathalie Taranto

	Ushers/Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
November 4	Sunday School	The Twomblys	B. van Achterberg
November 11	P. McCarty & N. Taranto	N. Taranto and C. Partridge	S. Baczewski, B. Trup
November 18	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	D. Colonnese & M. Perkins	S. Lovejoy
November 25	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	The Glasers	



December Confirming and Welcoming Deacon — Leon March

	Ushers/Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
December 2	Sunday School	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	B. van Achterberg
December 9	The Marches	The Twomblys	D. Colonnese
December 16	N. Taranto, P. McCarty	The Glasers	N. Taranto
December 23	S. Lovejoy, D. Colonnese	N. Taranto, C. Partridge	
Christmas Eve	Bassett/Raymond/Baczewski		
December 30	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	J. Stock

If you would like to participate in worship by doing the offering, or hosting coffee hour, 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.

November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 
4 10 Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Children's Time 11 Coffee Hour Deacons	5	6	7 3:30 Bible Study	8	9	10
11 <i>Service Sunday</i> 10 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11 Coffee Hour	12	13	14 3:30 Bible Study	15	16	17 
18 10 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11 Coffee Hour	19	20 3:45 Food Kitchen	21 3:30 Bible Study — Rescheduled	22 Thanksgiving	23 Office closed	24
25 10 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11 Coffee Hour TAC	26	27	28 3:30 Bible Study	29	30	

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Cookie Walk 10 to 2
2 <i>Hanging of the Greens</i> 10 Worship 11 Coffee Hour Deacons Cove	3	4	5 3:30 Bible Study	6	7	8 NAPS B'fast with Santa
9 10 Worship with Communion 10:15 Children's Time 11 Coffee Hour	10	11	12	13	14	15 Joel Barlow Concert
16 10 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11 Coffee Hour Cove	17 Covenant to Care Gifts Due	18 Food Kitchen	19	20	21	22 Snow Date Joel Barlow Concert
23 10 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11 Coffee Hour	24 5:30 PM Christmas Eve 		26 Office Closed	27	28	29
30 10 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11 Coffee Hour	31 New Year's Eve					



Saturday, November 17

4:30 Social Hour

5:30 Dinner

Please make reservations by calling or emailing the church office or sign up at the church hall.



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