

News from the Hill

Congregational Church of Easton

January 2019



In his days may
righteousness
flourish and
peace abound...

PSALM 72:7, NRSV



Meditations from the Pastor

"As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way."

Mary Anne Radmacher, 21st century

January always starts with Epiphany. Epiphany comes from the Greek word for appearance or manifestation. In Christian tradition, January 6th is celebrated as the day Christ was made manifest to the Gentiles with the coming of the Magi to the Christ child. Because of the connection with the Magi, Epiphany has come to be connected to light or the star that shone over the spot where the Christ child was born.

It is fitting that we start each new year with the remembrance of the journey of the magi to the cradle and the manifestation of Christ to the gentile world. We are reminded that the true light that led the Magi to the cradle was not the star that shone to the east but rather was Christ himself. Christ is still the true light that leads those, who are open enough to see it, to a fulfilling relationship with God and towards understanding life in the world around us.

In a world where there is still war, suffering, division, and harshness, it is important that we each spend time contemplating the light of Christ and how we allow for the light to emanate through our actions. When we work to live into the message of Christ, by living lives of compassion, service, and empathy, then we are allowing Christ's message to shine brightly into the darkness of the world around us. By doing so, we are opening our mind's eye to the light that will light our way in life as well.

So for 2019, ask yourselves how you can live into the light of Christ more fully. Ask yourselves how you might open the message of Christ for others and for yourselves through the works of your hands, and in so doing how you can help bring about the promised peace of God to a world that is searching for a way out of the darkness. To help us find the light of Christ alive in our lives, there are several opportunities through our church activities: Outreach, Christian education, Sunday services, volunteering of talents on one of our boards or committees, and through the gifting of your annual pledge. We hope you will take advantage of one or all of the opportunities to search together with us for ways to make the light of Christ shine brightly into 2019.



Cookie Walk— Our 3rd Annual Cookie Walk was a sell out! We had “orders” to fill before we even opened and we only had a few cookies left over and they were sold on Sunday. Many thanks to the many talented bakers who donated so many dozens of delicious cookies!

Thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to our Covenant to Care Christmas Gifts mission. Our adopted Social Worker Jorge Ball knows to bring a big car to pick them up—and it was full! He always says “You guys are the best!”

Board and Committee Reports

Board of Deacons

What a month December has been in the life of our church! Advent Season brought several opportunities for more meaningful worship as well as occasions for necessary and pleasurable fellowship. For example:

- Hanging of the Greens
- Lighting of the Advent Candles by several families
- Sunday School study (Notice the meaningfully decorated display board)
- Cookie Walk fundraiser
- Breakfast with Santa
- Joel Barlow Select Choir Sing Along and reception
- Gift donations for Covenant to Care families
- The Christmas Pageant
- A small but exuberant choir (Thank you, Carole)
- Christmas Eve Candlelight worship

Last but certainly not least, the congregation received another generous bequeath, from our benefactress, toward help in paying for the two new furnaces for the Old Academy building.

While many of these noted proceedings are not of the Deacon's responsibility, the Deacons wish to recognize and thank all those who aided in planning and executing the worshipping and fellowship.

Sincere thanks to Rev. Amanda and Jeanne for directions from the office that kept needed supplies and volunteers on schedule.

Further, recognition and thank you to Leon March (& his helpers) for their expertise in setting up props, adding to the ambiance of the Christmas sanctuary; plus all extra necessary tasks the December Confirming Deacon must assume such as the personal touch of the luminaries for the Christmas Candlelight Worship.

At our January meeting (1-7-2018), the Deacons will be hearing the results of the ongoing Stewardship Campaign and the plans for the church Annual Meeting.

All past Deacons meeting minutes are available to you in the office.

Board of Facilities

The Nursery School has been informed that the fencing around the playground must be adjusted to meet new current state regulations. This will mean an adjustment of the height of the fence. We are currently looking at several alternatives to solving this problem in conjunction with the Nursery School.

Just as a reminder: donations toward the cost of the unexpected plumbing repairs in the Old Academy building would be gratefully and joyously received.



We hope we don't get record breaking snow this year, but we may have to cancel at some time. If the weather is bad, please check Channel 6 (NBC CT), Channel 8 (News8/My TV9) or Channel 12 (News12 Connecticut) or WICC radio.

Board of Christian Education

We've taken a break from learning about King David to learn about everyone's path to the stable for Christmas. We'll have one more lesson about the Three Kings' visit, and then we'll continue with David's mercy toward Saul in the transition to David's becoming King.

Extra craft supplies are always needed. Please talk to Connie Wing to see what may be needed for our Sunday School Projects!

Turn Around Church

TAC met on December 30th to discuss plans for the future work of our church. We discussed opening our committees and boards to the talents of more people in our community of worshipers. We discussed our calendar of events and activities. We discussed a possible fundraiser of a church cook book and which church functions to attach them to. We discussed future service Sunday projects and ways to prepare our facilities to be used by outside groups for birthday parties and other functions for the people of Easton.

In that discussion, it was noted that our church Kitchen is in desperate need of cleaning and reorganizing. In light of that, we would like to invite the congregation to join us in cleaning and organizing our church kitchen on February 10th following worship and coffee hour. Please keep an eye out for sign ups.

If you would like to help with our turn around planning, please consider joining us for one or more of our planning meetings. Our next meeting date will be JANUARY 27th following coffee hour.

Stewardship Campaign 2019

The 2019 Stewardship Campaign is underway. Many thanks to every who has already sent in their pledge. If you haven't, please do so as soon as you can. This will help us in preparing and setting up the Budget for 2019.

Pledge challenge goal 2019 — \$58,000

Current Pledges — 55,920

Current Pledge count— 23

Save the Date!



Volunteer Sign-Up
is in the Church Hall
or call the office

Board of Christian Outreach

Food Kitchen

St. Luke/St. Paul's December Food Kitchen served 40 people. Many thanks to our cooks/bakers/shoppers — Daisy Colonnese, Connie Wing, Barbara van Achterberg, Suzanne Herlihy, Claudia Nielsen, Sara Baczewski, Jim Bromer, Barbara Trup, Pat & Steve Glaser, Susan March, Cynthia Landry.

Thanks to our prep team, transportation and serving crew — Sara Scoran, Barbara Trup, Cynthia Landry, Jim Bromer, Barbara van Achterberg, Suzanne Herlihy.

We thank all our volunteers who give of their time and talents to make this monthly outreach project possible. Rev. Alba, our point person for the Food Kitchen, will be leaving St. Luke/St. Paul's. There will be no Food Kitchen for the month of January, it will resume in February.

Food Pantry

An important part of our mission is donation of food. Non-perishable food should be dropped off at the Old Academy building any time during the month; the first Sunday of the month is designated as Food Sunday when we share Communion and remember those in need of experiencing God's abundance.

Clothing, books and toys are also brought to the Food Kitchen at this time.

Thank you for your generosity.



Merton House — We collect sample or travel sized toiletries for Merton House. These small items make a big difference to those in need. If you can help, please drop them off anytime and place in the basket at the entrance to the church hall. Thank you.



Serving at Worship & Contact Information

January Confirming Deacon — Jon Stock			
	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour Host
January 6	S. Lovejoy,	The Twomblys	B. van Achterberg
January 13	The Marches	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	N. Taranto
January 20	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	The Glasers	S. Lovejoy
January 27	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	N. Taranto, C. Partridge	D. Colonnese

February Confirming Deacon — Daisy Colonnese			
	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour Host
February 3	S. Lovejoy,	The Twomblys	B. van Achterberg
February 10	The Marches	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	N. Taranto
February 17	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	The Glasers	S. Lovejoy
February 24	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	N. Taranto, C. Partridge	D. Colonnese

All of our members and friends are invited to serve as greeters or ushers. If you would like to participate, please call a member of the Board of Deacons or call Jeanne at the church office. If you are unable to serve as assigned, please contact the confirming Deacon for the month.

Altar Flower and Coffee Hour Hosts for 2019

Please see the Flower Calendar for 2019 if you would like to sign up early to celebrate a special date of a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion with a donation of our Sunday flowers. You may provide them yourself or have the church office order them from our usual florist (Rudy's—\$35.00).

Hosting Coffee Hour is another wonderful way 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 host a special date or if you would like to be on our rotation to host Coffee Hour.

The Congregational Church of Easton

Pastor — Amanda Ostrove

Council Chair—Phillip Doremus




Secretary—Jeanne Sedelnik

Deacon Chair— Nathalie Taranto

Sexton—Sara Scoran

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9 a.m.—2 p.m. Friday—9 a.m.—1 p.m.
Office Phone: 203.261-2527 Email: echurch@snet.net Website—www.eastonchurch.org

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Children's Time 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons Cove	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11:00 Coffee Hour	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11:00 Coffee Hour Cove	21  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office Closed	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11:00 Coffee Hour	28	29	30	31		

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Children's Time 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11:00 Coffee Hour Kitchen Clean Up Cove	11	12	13		15	16
17 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11:00 Coffee Hour	18 Presidents Day  Office Closed	19 St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen	20	21	22	23
24 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Time 11:00 Coffee Hour Cove	25	26	27	28		