
News from the Hill . . .

Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Pastor

February 2019

E-Mail: echurch@snet.net

Meditations from the Pastor

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my moving eye on you”.

Psalm 32: 8

Have you ever thought about your morning routine? Since having a child, I am constantly reassessing my morning routine. Most often to assess what I can take out of the morning routine because there is just simply not enough time between getting up and getting out of the house. But how often do we really spend time thinking about what we could add to our early morning routines? How often do we think about doing something to center ourselves for the whole day? As busy people, we often do not think about centering ourselves spiritually for the day's work. On Monday morning, we forget to invite God into our daily experiences.

On Sundays, we think about God and we may even leave church feeling motivated to work harder at living into God's work. But when the week's responsibilities roll around on Monday morning, all of that goes out the window and it is a mad dash to Friday. Our scriptures remind us that faith is not just for the Sabbath day. Our faith is meant to be a daily experience, a daily journey, and something we work on every single day. Our faith should guide our decisions, our actions, and our experiences. This happens by taking time in the morning to pray and in the process inviting God into our day, asking God to give us his knowledge, his guidance, his courage, and to make his presence known in the happenings of life.

As we come upon our annual meeting, and fly towards our Lenten season, this is the perfect time for us to think about changing how we live our every day lives in a way that brings God back into our daily experiences. A change that will place God back into the driver seat taking us where he needs us to do his work. As Congregationalists, we come to meeting once a year to be brought together in prayer for the coming year. Through prayer, we are inviting God to be a part of our decision making. We are inviting God to reveal God's self to us as a community leading us in his work. Just as we do this as a community, we are asked to do this as individuals because God promises to instruct and teach us and offer up counsel. We just need to seek him out and see what he has planned.

With this in mind, I would like to remind all members of the importance of joining us for this time of prayer and meeting. Your presence is greatly needed and appreciated.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 24, 2019 immediately following worship

Food Kitchen at St. Luke/St. Paul's

Tuesday, February 19th

Children's Church

February 10, 17, 24

Kitchen Clean Up

Sunday, February 10, following Coffee Hour

Council Chair—Phillip A. Doremus Deacon Chair—Nathalie Taranto

Sexton—Sara Scoran Secretary—Jeanne Sedelnik

Phone — 203-261-2527

Website — www.eastonchurch.org

The
CONGREGATIONAL



CHURCH of EASTON
The church on the hill

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON
WARNING**

252nd ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2019

The Governing Body (Membership) of the Congregational Church of Easton is hereby warned to meet in their Church Sanctuary on Sunday, February 24, 2019 after 11:00 a.m. for the following purposes:

- To hear and act on reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees for the year 2018
- To hear a report of the Stewardship Campaign
- To consider and act on the Church Budget for 2019
- To act on any other business proper to come before this meeting.

Phillip A. Doremus
Chair, Church Council

Jonathan C. Stock
Clerk of the Church

Deacons

While it's not under the Deacons purview, we do remind you that all hands are needed and welcomed at the February 10th Kitchen Clean-Up project. It will be a satisfying deed.

The Lenten Season is quickly approaching. Read on:

Our Lenten Season Soup Suppers will begin on Ash Wednesday which is March 6th (at 6:30 PM in our fellowship hall) and which will include an Ash Wednesday Worship Service. The next two Suppers are scheduled for March 20 and April 3. The April 3rd meeting will incorporate a Mini-Passover meal. Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service will be on April 18th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Our congregation will be celebrating another profound sacrament during the Lenten Season – the baptism of Madeleine Rose Ostrove is scheduled for March 10th during our worship service. After worship Coffee Hour will encompass some special treats so mark your calendar.

Christian Education

Children's Worship and Education

We're continuing with our study of David becoming King. Sara Scoran will be substituting for Connie Wing on February 10th and 17th.

Extra craft supplies are always welcome! Please talk to Connie Wing to see what projects are planned and what may be needed. Thanks!

Spring Bible Study

Join us for our Spring Bible Study starting on April 24th at 3:30PM in the Bishop Room.

We will be studying 1 Kings and the way God acted through the lives of Kings and Prophets in history and what it reveals about God in our world and lives. All people are welcome to join us for one, two, or all of our sessions. If you are interested in joining us please contact Rev. Amanda Ostrove at pastor.echurch@snet.net or at 203-261-2527.

What: 1 Kings

When: April 24th to June 19th 3:30-4:30

What do I Need: Bible, notepad, pencil

Who: All people from all traditions are welcome

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School

Please join us for VBS, August 12th to the 16th from 9 to 12. We will be doing Time Lab VBS program. We will be looking at God and Jesus throughout time with fun activities, science experiments, and arts and crafts. I look forward to another fun year! If you are interested in registering your child forms can be found online at www.eastonchurch.org, in the office, in the information center in the Old Academy Building as well as in the Church.

A Registration Form is provided below.

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

Register me for Time Lab!

Child's name _____

Gender: Male _____ Female _____ Birthdate ____/____/____ Grade completed _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parents/Guardian _____ Home phone _____

Work phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____

Emergency contact _____

Relationship to child _____ Phone _____

Please place my child with _____

Name of home church _____

Food allergies Y _____ N _____ List _____

Medical concerns Y _____ N _____ Explain _____

Boards and Committee Reports

Board of Christian Outreach

The St. Luke/St. Paul's Next St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen — Menu for February 19th

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

Please see the sign up sheet at the church hall or call the church office or email during the week.

Food may be dropped off and put in the freezer or refrigerator ahead of time. Please mark that it is for **Soup Kitchen**. Paper/pens/tape are next to the refrigerator.

On the day of the soup kitchen, food should be fully defrosted and delivered to the church hall by 3 p.m. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 3:30 p.m. to help load cars. We will carpool to St. Luke's/St. Paul's in Bridgeport, leaving Easton church hall at 3:45 p.m. Volunteers return by 6:30-6:45 p.m.

For questions or to make monetary donations towards miscellaneous items, please contact the office.

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.



Stewardship

Stewardship Campaign

We would like to say a special thank you to all of you who pledged for the 2019 year. Your pledge helps us to plan for our annual budget and to plan for the future activities of our church. If you have not pledge yet and would like to, it is not too late. You can pledge via email or pick a card at the church office or in the information centers located in the Old Academy building or in the church.

Pledge challenge goal 2018: \$58,000

Current Pledges: \$59,870

Annual Meeting: *February 24, 2018*

Looking Towards Lent

Don't forget to mark your calendars! Lent starts on March 6th with our first Lenten Supper. We will be using a different format for our Lenten Supper experiences this year. Our first Lenten Supper will be all about Ash Wednesday and a tactile experience of Spirituality as we prepare our hearts for the season of atonement. Our second Lenten Supper will be focused on the journey to the cross and the need to experience the meditative quality of journey with the history and use of the Labyrinth. And our final Lenten Supper will be focused on Passover and the Last Supper experience as we join Christ in his final hours. We hope you will join us for 2019's Lenten journey.

When: March 6th, March 20th, and April 3rd

Time: 5:30PM

Who: Anyone interested in spiritual development or just learning more about Christ's last moments

Lenten and Easter Schedule

Here is our holiday schedule. Please mark your calendars.

March 6th – Ash Wednesday, start of Lenten Suppers at 5:30PM

March 20th – Lenten Supper at 5:30PM

April 3rd – Lenten Supper at 5:30PM

April 14th – Palm Sunday Services 10AM

April 18th – Maundy Thursday Service 7:30PM

April 21st – Easter Morning Services followed by an Easter Egg Hunt 10AM

Board and Committee Reports

Church Kitchen Clean Up

We seek to have a more organized and cleaner church kitchen. In preparation to open our hall up to birthday parties and to make more money off of our facilities. So we will be have a church kitchen clean up day following church worship and coffee hour. At this time, we will be cleaning our ovens, stove tops, pantry, counters, freezer and fridgerator. If you have not signed up to help out, please do so via email echurch@snet.net or at coffee hour on the sign up sheet.

When: February 10th following coffee hour

Where: Old Academy Building

What do we need: Oven cleaner, gloves, kitchen cleaner, paper towels, sponges

UCC and CT UCC

Updates from the Denomination

Over the past two years the Connecticut Conference of the UCC has been in a time of discernment with the Rhode Island Conference and the Massachusetts Conference about coming together to form one larger conference. This is done to better meet the needs of southern new England. At the annual meeting in 2018, it was overwhelmingly supported. This vote allowed for the committee to move forward with plans and consolidation. Our new conference name for now is *Together As One*. However, the new conference will not be officially recognized by the United Church of Christ until it is officially voted on at General Synod.

The full transition is scheduled to happen in January of 2020. These are the talking points and reasons for the change.

- We understand the local church exists to make disciples of Jesus and we welcome all people unconditionally to share in this calling
- We commit to making God's love and justice real by loving our neighbors, children, and all of creation through our collective work, such as seeking racial, economic, environmental, and LGBTQ justice.
- We believe God calls us to bring new life as agents of change and so we embrace and encourage adaptive and transformational leadership wherever the Body of Christ is gathered.

We encourage local congregations and varied ministry settings, inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, to form covenant partnerships with all who work for the common good in their local communities and throughout.

To support these goals, the three conferences are looking to pool their resources and talent to have a more effective ministry. To read more about these changes and to educate yourselves about *Together As One* please follow the link below. For general news about the annual work and finances of the Connecticut Conference please follow the second link provided.

Together As One Link

<https://www.ctucc.org/newsdetail/together-as-one-planning-team-9254052>

Connecticut Conference Annual Report

<https://www.ctucc.org/newsdetail/2018-year-end-report-12681534>

Community Events

Monroe Senior Center, 235 Cutlers Farm Road
Wednesday, February 6, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The Monroe Senior Center is hosting a Panel Discussion with local experts on various topics concerning seniors.

Form more information and to make reservations (seating is limited) please call Amy @ 203-452-2815 or Sharon @ 203-814-3686

Easton Senior Center News

- The Easton Senior Center has help available for fuel cost assistance and with food items.
- Long Term Care Planning Round Table Discussion—will take place on Wednesday, February 13th at 10:00 a.m. with Attorney Christine Tenore. RSVP
- Loving Your Dog—Friday, February 22, 10:30 a.m. With Michael Konstantaras, Dog Behavioral Therapist. Dog training and boundaries. RSVP

To RSVP or for more information— call the Senior Center at 203-268-1145

Boards and Committee Reports

Serving Schedule

February Welcome and Confirming Deacon — Nathalie Taranto

	Ushers & Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
Feb 3	Children's Church	The Twomblys	S. Baczewski, B. Trup
Feb 10	The Marches	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	B. van Achterberg
Feb 17	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	The Glasers	March
Feb. 24	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	N. Taranto, C. Partridge	Annual Meeting

March Welcome and Confirming Deacon — Daisy Colonnese

	Ushers & Offering	Collectors	Coffee Hour
March 3	Children's Church	The Twomblys	B. van Achterberg
March 10	The Marches	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	N. Taranto, B. Constable
March 17	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	The Glasers	S. Lovejoy
March 24	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	N. Taranto, C. Partridge	
March 31	S. Lovejoy, L. March	The Twomblys	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 2019

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.

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Council Meeting	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:00 a.m. Worship Children's Time 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Kitchen Clean Up 3:30 Cove	11	12	13	14  NAPS No School	15	16
17 10:00 a.m. Worship Children's Time 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	18  PRESIDENTS' DAY Office Closed No School	19 St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen	20	21	22	23
24 10:00 a.m. Worship Children's Time 11:00 a.m. Annual Meeting	25	26	27	28		

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Deacons	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:00 a.m. Worship Children's Time 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 10:00 a.m. Worship Children's Time 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:00 a.m. Worship Children's Time 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00 a.m. Worship Children's Time 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour						



FEBRUARY



NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .
THE CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF EASTON
Westport Road at Center Road
P.O. Box 37
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