
News from the Hill . . .

Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Pastor

March 2019

E-Mail: echurch@snet.net

Meditations from the Pastor

"Forgiveness is the economy of the heart. Forgiveness saves the expense of anger, the cost of hatred, the waste of spirits."

Hannah More, 19th Century English Writer and Philanthropist

Lent begins on March 6th with Ash Wednesday. Lent, for Christians, is a very important time in the life of the church. Lent is our time of atonement, when we consider the conflict and pains in our lives and work towards forgiveness just as Christ faced the conflict in his world for the forgiveness of sins. This is incredibly important spiritual preparation for the true celebration and appreciation of the meaning of Easter. With this in mind, I will be starting a sermon series that will last from March 10th to April 21st called *From the Pain of Conflict to the Healing of Forgiveness*. In this series, we will be looking at Biblical conflict and the teachings that encourage us to offer up forgiveness of self, God, and others in order to free ourselves from the bonds that conflict, hate, and anger place upon our lives. I urge you to join me each Sunday in this time of Lenten journey.

This leads also into our Lenten Supper series where we will be learning about Ash Wednesday through a special Ash Wednesday service and supper on March 6th at 5:30PM, then on March 20th we will be looking at the healing power and restorative time of journey as we learn about the history of Lenten journeys and the development and use of the labyrinth, and then we will finish with a Seder Experience on April 3rd as we remember the Last Supper. I hope you will consider joining us for these experiences and delicious suppers. All are welcome.

We should all enter into this Lenten season with purpose, using this time to examine our lives: to look into the anger, conflict, and pain in we sometimes harbor and to work towards freeing ourselves from pain and to accept the forgiveness of God to walking the path towards offering forgiveness and new beginnings in our own relationships in life. For to hold onto anger and the desire for revenge, costs each of us too much in life and wastes too much time. Time that should be spent loving one another.

Ash Wednesday

Lenten Supper

March 6

5:30 PM

Lenten Supper

March 20

5:30 PM

Food Kitchen

St. Luke/St. Paul's
Tuesday, March 19th

Children's Church

March 10, 17, 24, 31

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

Sexton—Sara Scoran Secretary—Jeanne Sedelnik

Phone — 203-261-2527

Website — www.eastonchurch.org

Boards and Committee Reports

Deacons

As we evolve into and through the fourth year of our Turnaround decision, please join in to let your voice be heard in the conversations, meetings and vital proactive decisions.

And talking about being proactive, plan to enjoy participation and fellowship in upcoming Lenten activities and events:

Read on for the schedule:

Our Lenten Season Soup Suppers will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6, (at 5:30 PM in our fellowship hall). This gathering will include an Ash Wednesday Worship Service with a tactile experience of spirituality.

March 20 – 2nd Lenten supper will focus on the journey to the cross with meditative guidance.

April 3 – 3rd Lenten supper meeting will look at the final hours of Jesus and will incorporate a Mini-Passover meal.

April 14 – Palm Sunday

April 18 – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service, 7:30 PM in the sanctuary

April 21 – Easter morning worship @ 10:00AM followed by an Easter egg hunt

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.

Next Deacons meetings: - 3/3/2019 and 4-7-2019 @ approximately 11:30 AM in the Bishop Room.

Christian Education

Children's Worship and Education

We're continuing with our study of David becoming King

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

Boards and Committee Reports

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 March 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.

On February 19th we served 18 meals. Thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers: Barbara van Achterberg, Sara Scoran, Claudia Nielsen, Jane Kondratovich, Sue Farmer, Suzanne Herlihy, Connie Wing, Pat & Steve Glaser, Caren Laskay, Susan March, Lorry McLaughlin.

Thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers: Sue Farmer, Lucas Farmer, Barbara van Achterberg, Suzanne Herlihy, Cheryl Solfolly.

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 any-time and place in the basket at the entrance to the church hall.

Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Easter Dinner Baskets for Covenant to Care

Our adopted Social Worker Jorge Ball has given us a list of families in need of assistance to provide an Easter Dinner. If you would like to provide a basket of food and/or a gift card for the families of Covenant to Care please see the sign up sheet. “Baskets” and gift cards should be in the church hall no later than Sunday, April 14th.

Some notes from Jorge: Gift cards from ShopRite, Price Rite and Stop & Shop are always good. **And candy from the Easter Bunny is most helpful.**



Easter Baskets for Covenant to Care

Boards and Committee Reports

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



Earth Day Outreach Sunday

Join us on April 28th for an Outreach Sunday where we have a short worship followed by a hands on project that will help take care of our Earth.

Please stay posted for more details to come later this month.

Boards and Committee Reports

Easter Egg Hunt

Immediately following Easter Sunday worship

Join us to hunt for some Easter Eggs and Candy that the



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. Thought we met our pledge goal, please remember that this does not balance our budget. So any additional gifts are greatly appreciated.

Pledge challenge goal 2018: \$58,000

Current Pledges: \$59,870

TAC

TAC will be meeting this month on March 31st to discuss the potential of reestablishing a team to work on next year's stewardship needs. We will also be discussing an upcoming Outreach Sunday for Earth Day and finishing work on our calendar of events, working on use of the facilities, and much more in our plans. All people are welcome to join us for any of these meetings. We continue to urge you to share your ideas and thoughts for our turnaround process by speaking to Rev. Amanda, Leon March, Suzanne Lovejoy, or Jonathan Stock.

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 March 31st following coffee hour.

Board and Committee Reports

Church Kitchen Clean Up

THANK YOU to all our Kitchen
Clean-Up Volunteers.
We have had several comments on how
nice and clean it is!



*All are invited to join us Sunday, March 10
for the baptism of Madeleine Ostrove
during our regular worship service.
There is a special reception to follow.*

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>

I SAW GOD BARE HIS SOUL

I saw God bare his soul one day
Where all the earth might see
The stark and naked heart of him
On lonely Calvary.

There was a crimson sky of blood
And overhead a storm;
When lightening slit the clouds
And light engulfed his form.

Beyond the storm a rainbow lent
A light to every cloud,
And on that cross mine eyes beheld
The naked soul of God.

William L. Stidger



Fourth Annual Community Tag Sale

We are accepting reservations for Tag Sale Spots, we have a limited area, so if you would like a spot, let us know as soon as possible.

TAG SALE SPOT REGISTRATION

Saturday, May 18, 2019

8 AM to 3 PM

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email address _____
Phone number(s) _____

Tag Sale Spots are \$35 for a 12' x 12' space.

Cars may be parked inside the spot and you may put up tables, racks and displays within that area only.

In the case of rain the sale will be held in the church hall.

Set up begins at 7:00 a.m. — Tag Sale closes at 3:00 p.m.

Please make checks payable to the Congregational Church of Easton.

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

Telephone: 203-261-2527 Email: echurch@snet.net

Website: www.eastonchurch.org

Signature _____ Amount \$ _____

Also that day!
Bake Sale
Tea Cup Auction



If you or someone you know would be interested in being a Sponsor of this event, please contact the office.

Area Events

Ecumenical Event

Easton Clergy will be offering “Ashes On The Go” on
March 6th from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. in front of Greiser’s
Ashes are available to all.

Caroline House

invites you to

‘Starry Night – A Roaring ‘20s Soirée

Friday, April 5, 6:30 – 11:00 pm

An evening of cocktails, dinner, live & silent auctions, music & dancing

The Inn at Longshore, Westport

Caroline House award recipients:

*The Honorable Daniel Caruso (posthumously)
and The Staples Service League of Boys, S.L.O.B.S.*

*To be a sponsor, purchase a program book acknowledgment or purchase a ticket please
visit www.thecarolinehouse.org or contact Christine Paine at cpaine@thecarolinehouse.org.*

Easton Senior Center

Navigating a Rehabilitation Stay—Tuesday, March 12 @10 AM - What to expect during a rehab stay including: insurance coverage, therapy services, clinical capabilities, etc. Please RSVP

Medicare Saving Plan—March 26th 11AM, learn about the Medicare Saving Plan, as well as how to avoid Medicare Fraud. Call to reserve a spot.

Phone: 203-268-1125

www.eastonseniors.com

Email: eseniorc@optonline.net



Daylight Saving Time Begins at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, March 10.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back on Saturday night, March 9!

Serving Schedule

March Welcome and Confirming Deacon — Daisy Colonnese

	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	Volunteer needed
March 31	S. Lovejoy, L. March	The Twomblys	J. Stock

April Welcome and Confirming Deacon — Leon March

	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
April 7	Children's Church	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	B. van Achterberg
April 14	March	The Glasers	S. Lovejoy
April 21 Easter	P. McCarty, N. Taranto		Easter Sunday
April 28	T. Linley, D. Colonnese	N. Taranto/ C. Partridge	N. Taranto

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.

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 Ash Wednesday 5:30 Lenten Supper	7	8	9 
10 10:00 a.m. Worship Children's Church Madeleine Rose Baptism 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 10:00 a.m. Worship Children's Church 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour St. Patrick's Day 	18	19 3:30 Food Kitchen	20  5:30 Lenten Supper	21	22	23
24 10:00 a.m. Worship Children's Church 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00 a.m. Worship Children's Church 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 TAC						

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 5:30 Lenten Supper	4	5	6 NAPS Bunny B'fast and Egg Hunt
7 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Deacons	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Palm Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship Children's Church 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	15	16 3:30 Food Kitchen	17	18 7:30 Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service	19 Good Friday (office closed)	20
21 Easter 10:00 a.m. Worship followed by Easter Egg Hunt	22 (office closed)	23	24 3:30 PM Bible Study	25	26	27
28 10:00 a.m. Worship Children's Church 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	29	30				

March



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