
News from the Hill . . .

Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Pastor

MAY 2019

E-Mail: CChurchEaston@gmail.com

Meditations from the Pastor

"The proof that God raised Jesus from the dead is not the empty tomb, but the full hearts of his transformed disciples. The crowning evidence that he lives is not a vacant grave, but a spirit-filled fellowship. Not a rolled-away stone, but a carried-away church."

Clarence Jordan

Easter has come and gone yet the mood of Easter, the emotion, and the spiritual richness should not end after our celebrations. We are called to live an Easter life. It should be the joy and passion that drives us forward as Christians in our life's work. Our hearts should be so filled with joy that we long to live differently, to live into the truth, and into the gift that is Jesus.

We do so by committing ourselves to new projects like outreach, by discovering God in new ways through exploring different types of worship, we do so by taking on leadership roles to learn about how God is working through our hands in the lives of others around us. Through our work, we let the world know that nothing can get in the way of God's work and God's love. No violence can scare us away from a message that rises above human desire to control and dominate. No loses can beat us so far down that we cannot feel the presence of a God that is with us through everything.

The resurrection was just the beginning of what God was creating and what he is continuing to create in the world. He is working through you and me to bring peace, to bring joy, to bring heavenly warmth in a world that seems so cold and uncaring. So consider joining us as we welcome new members, baptize a new generation into our church family, as we celebrate our children and the work of our hardworking employees and volunteers, as we learn of the works of God in the past, and as we reach out to seek God in new and exciting ways.

This is our opportunity to bring the joy of Easter morning, the message of life, with us into the months and weeks to come. Let's not allow for Easter to end on April 21st this year, let's carry it with us, letting it inspire our hearts to explore God, to open our souls to the movement of the spirit, and to learn to live differently unhindered by the concerns of today for Christ the Lord has risen and given renewed life, opening the doors of heaven to all. Think about what that means and how we have a responsibility to use this information to change the world for the better.

4th Annual Tag Sale

Saturday, May 18

8 AM to 3 PM

New Members Sunday

May 19

10AM

Last Day of Sunday School

Sunday, May 26

St. Luke/St. Paul's

Food Kitchen

Tuesday, May 21

Bible Study

Wednesdays

3:30—4:30 PM

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

Sexton—Sara Scoran Secretary—Jeanne Sedelnik

Phone — 203-261-2527

Website — www.eastonchurch.org

Email: CChurchEaston@gmail.com

Boards and Committee Reports

Deacons

We had a very meaningful Lenten season and joyous Easter celebration. Many thanks to everyone who participated and attended.

Everyone is looking forward to the baptism of Madeleine Rose on Sunday, May 5th. Everyone is invited to join us as we celebrate with Rev. Amanda and Bill.

Bible Study is underway again. Our study this season is the continued story of David and his family! Come join us—Wednesdays at 3:30 in the Bishop Room.

While our Service Sunday for planting was rained out, we are looking to get the plants in the ground following worship on May 12th.



Join Us in Welcoming New Members

Join with us as we welcome Jim Bromer and Cynthia Landry on as new members on May 19th during worship. This is an exciting time not only for the church but for both Jim and Cynthia as they now commit to their faith and to a church family. If you are interested in becoming a new member please speak with Rev. Amanda in person, by phone, or by email at pastor.cchurcheaston@gmail.com.

Facilities

We are looking forward to our Earth Day plantings taking root and bringing color to our grounds. The plantings will also attract pollinating insects to help our environment. Thanks to everyone who donated plants and seeds and who will do some gardening work!

James Scoran's crew has been working on doing maintenance at the playground for NAPS and will continue with weeding and clean up around the church and Old Academy building.

Boards and Committee Reports

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School

Please join us for VBS, August 12th to the 16th from 9 AM to 12 Noon. 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.

Please see the list of items needed for VBS on page 9, your contributions are so important! 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

Christian Education

Children's Church 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

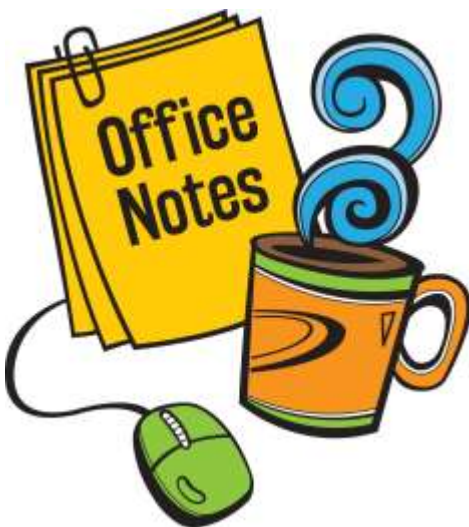
I have been planning and working on our next Bible Study. We will be continuing the story of David and his descendants with 1 Kings. We will see Israel's Kings, and the appearance of prophets. We meet on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 in the Bishop Room. This will be a nine week study which will reveal the historical context of the scriptures, the intent behind their writing, the origins, messages they impart, and the promises and advice they still hold for us today. So please join us for our study and discussion.

When: Wednesdays from April 24th to June 19th at 3:30PM
What Do I Need: A Bible and a Note Book.

If you need a Bible please speak to Rev. Amanda.



Syllabus and weekly Discussion info will be available at www.eastonchurch.org under the Christian Education page.



You can now reach us at:

CChurchEaston@gmail.com

The office has changed internet providers—this change was needed to provide the office with better connectivity and faster internet speed.

But it means a new email address! Please make sure you put the new address in your contact list so we don't get sent to Spam!

Boards and Committee Reports

Board of Christian Outreach

The St. Luke/St. Paul's Next St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen — Menu for May 21st

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

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 3PM. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 3:30PM to help load cars. We will carpool to St. Luke's/St. Paul's in Bridgeport, leaving Easton church hall at 3:45PM. Volunteers return by 6:30-6:45 PM.

On April 16th we served 37 meals. Thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers: Daisy Colonnese, Sara Scoran, Barbara van Achterberg, Barbara Trup, Suzanne Herlihy, Suzanne Lovejoy, Claudia Nielsen, Connie Wing, Caren Laskay, Pat & Steve Glaser, Susan March, Cynthia Landry.

Thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers: Barbara van Achterberg, Sara Scoran, Barbara Trup, Cynthia Landry, Suzanne Herlihy.

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.

We thank Barbara van Achterberg for her many years of service to the Outreach mission and her dedication to the St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen. Barbara will be moving to be closer to family. God bless you Barbara!

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.

Easter Dinner Baskets for Covenant to Care

A giant thank you to everyone who provided Easter food, candy and gift cards to the families of Covenant to Care!



Boards and Committee Reports

Stewardship

Stewardship Campaign

We thank everyone for their very generous pledges for 2019. Because of your generosity we did meet our modest pledge goal for this. This, however, does not mean that we are meeting our financial needs for 2019. We are still working at a deficit. So any additional donations would be greatly appreciated.

Pledge challenge goal 2018: \$58,000

Current Pledges: \$59,870

*If you have a garden and a library
you have everything you need.*

Marchus Tullius Cicero



TAC Turnaround Committee

TAC met on April 28th and put a lot of time and energy into making plans for the turnaround process. We discussed plans for a possible concert series that will utilize our beautiful donation of the baby grand piano and got contact information for an individual willing to work with us for a test show. We discussed a new fundraiser where we will be collecting, putting together, and selling cookbooks by the chapter at our other events. Our first chapter will be Cookie Walk and Holiday dessert themed and we hope to roll it out in December in time for our cookie walk. We hope everyone will donate recipes and time to help make this possible. We do have needs for volunteers and people to share their talents to help our congregation move forward.

Needs: Someone to head up collecting and compiling recipes for cookbooks, someone to work with us for 2020 stewardship campaign, and someone to help us assess our sound system needs. If you can help please email the church office at CChurchEaston@gmail.com

Ongoing projects: New Directional Signage, Tag Sale Preparation (Spots are available), Collecting recipes for cook book, Music series, and better usage of the Facilities.

Idea Sharing: TAC asks you to share your ideas to help with the turnaround process. Ideas may be submitting to the church office either through email at pastor.cchurcheaston@gmail.com or in person to Rev. Amanda or any member of TAC.

Board and Committee Reports



Report on Earth Day Project

Thanks to everyone who contributed plants or seeds for our Earth Day Service Sunday.

The weather wasn't cooperating with our plans so the planting of bulbs and sowing of seeds will take place after church on May 12th.

Please join us!

UCC and CT UCC

Fairfield East Association Meeting

The Fairfield East will be hold their Spring meeting on Wednesday May 30th at Redding Congregational. All individuals are invited to attend. We need our delegates to register for this event. If you are a delegate please contact the church office for registration.



Here are our upcoming events.

May 5th – Baptism of Madeleine Rose Ostrove 10 AM

May 18th – Annual Trunk Tag Sale 8 to 3

May 18th – Special Conference Meeting

May 19th – Welcoming New Members

May 26th – Children's Day and Staff Appreciation Sunday

April 24th to June 19th – Wednesday afternoon Bible Studies 3:30PM

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

Rain or Shine

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 AM — Tag Sale closes at 3:00 PM

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: CChurchEaston@gmail.com

Website: www.eastonchurch.org



Bakers Needed!

We need baked goods for the Bake Sale!

Cookies, brownies, breads, cakes, pies!

(Note: Nothing that has to be refrigerated)



See the sign-up sheet or contact the office if you can help!



VBS Needs

Hand Sanitizer	Sandwich Bags	Goldfish Crackers
Plastic bead necklaces	5/16" flat washers	Clear plastic cups
Play Dough	Red, orange, yellow tissue paper	LED flicker lights
Cardboard	Craft foam	Card stock
Clear push pins	Rainbow Loom bands	Colored masking tape
Plastic chip containers	Pastel printer paper	Star stickers
Neon printer paper	Empty soup cans	Glue dots
Hole reinforcement stickers	Geometric foam shapes	Construction paper
Pompoms	Foil	Dot stickers
Black roll paper	Vinegar	Clear glass jar
Candy canes	Plastic water bottles—empty	Funnels
Play sand	Electrical tape—2 rolls	Flash light
Rulers	Foam pipe insulation	Marbles
Painter's tape	Index cards	Uncooked white rice
Dry black beans	Dry kidney beans	Duct tape
Dish soap	Glitter	

Please let the office know if you can provide any of these itmes for VBS. We'll try to have an updated list every week.

Thanks!

Updates from the Denomination

By Tiffany Vail, Associate Conference Minister for Communications

The current Conference Ministers in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island have each announced that they will not put their names into consideration to take on leadership of the new, unified conference.

The Rev. Kent Siladi, who has served as the Connecticut Conference Minister for six years, as well as Transitional Conference Ministers the Rev. Don Remick in Massachusetts and the Rev. Marilyn Kendrix in Rhode Island, have each informed the Together As One Board of Directors of their decisions.

At its meeting last Saturday, the Together as One Board agreed that the three current leaders will stay on in a bridge capacity through the end of 2020.“

I believe that new executive leadership is necessary for the TA1 Conference to flourish,” Siladi said. “I have been blessed to serve as the Conference Minister of the Connecticut Conference and I look forward to providing bridge leadership in 2020. I am open to ‘what’s next’ and trust God’s Spirit to guide my ongoing discernment.”

Starting Jan. 1, when the new conference officially comes into being, their roles will shift. Instead of having their responsibilities defined by geography, they instead will be divided by program area. So, for example, one Conference Minister may head up justice and witness efforts for the whole new conference, while another oversees interim ministry. The board and Conference Ministers are working out those details now.

“I am excited about this plan for Kent, Don and me since it demonstrates in a real way the progress that we are making in our efforts to plant a new conference of the United Church of Christ, and it is true to our expectation that this new conference will be about doing something new,” Kendrix said.

“For me, that means calling a new Conference Minister, but at the same time it allows some of the deep thinking that we three have been doing for some time to bridge the gap between the old and the new,” she said. “It assures that many of the great things that each of our conferences have been doing will continue into a future focused on God’s call.”

Remick said he looks forward to working together with Siladi and Kendrix for the bridge year. “From the beginning of my time as a Transitional Interim Conference Minister I have often said that there is a time when all three of us need to be in executive leadership positions and there will come a time when none of us should be,” Remick

“As we have moved through this chapter of our new conference’s formation I am even more convinced that calling a new Conference Minister is critical to the birth of the new and that new perspectives are essential. And I look forward to the unfolding of our next chapters in the hands of our resurrected Christ.”

A resolution is coming before General Synod in June that would dissolve the historic Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island conferences from a denominational standpoint, replacing them with a new conference, which is provisionally being called the “Together As One Conference.”

The three historic conferences will continue to exist as nonprofit corporations, with their own boards, in order to handle endowments that were left to those conferences. But for ecclesiastical purposes, the UCC will only recognize the new conference.

“We all have been blessed by the gifts that our current Conference Ministers have brought to this innovative work,” said The Rev. Corey J Sanderson, President of the new Together As One Conference.

“One hallmark of superb leadership is knowing how and when to make room for others to lead. We are grateful our three executive leaders have the faith, wisdom, and the vision to ‘pass the baton’ to the next generation,” he said.

If the resolution is approved at Synod, the new conference will have its first
Annual Meeting Nov. 1 - 2 in Worcester, MA.

Serving Schedule

May Welcome and Confirming Deacon— Daisy Colonnese			
	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
May 5	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	P. Twombly	The Ostroves
May 12	L. March,	C. Partridge, N. Taranto	B. van Achterberg
May 19	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	Glasers	S. Lovejoy
May 26	T. Linley, L. March	M. Perkins, D. Colonnese	Need Volunteer

June Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Jon Stock			
	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
June 2	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	P. Twomblys	B. van Achterberg
June 9	The Marches	C. Partridge, N. Taranto	D. Colonnese
June 16	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	The Glasers	S. Lovejoy
June 23	T. Linley, D. Colonnese	M. Perkins, D. Colonnese	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 (\$35).

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.

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30 PM Bible Study	2	3	4
5 10:00AM Worship with Communion 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Deacons Madeleine's Baptism	6	7	8 3:30 PM Bible Study	9 11 AM Memorial for Nancy Wintter	10	11
12 Mother's Day 10:00 AM Worship Children's Church 11:00 AM Coffee Hour	13 	14	15 3:30 PM Bible Study	16	17	18 TAG SALE 8 AM-3 PM
19 New Members Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Children's Church 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Deacons	20	21 3:30 Food Kitchen	22 3:30 PM Bible Study	23	24	25 
26 Children's Day Staff Appreciation Day 10:00 AM Worship Children's Church 11:00 AM Coffee Hour	27  Office Closed	28	29 3:30 PM Bible Study	30	31 	

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2 10:00AM Worship with Communion 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Deacons	3	4	5 3:30 PM Bible Study	6	7	8
9 10:00AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour	10 	11	12 3:30 PM Bible Study	13	14	15
16 Father's Day 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour	17	18 Food Kitchen 3:30 PM	19 3:30 PM Bible Study	20	21 1st Day of Summer 	22
23 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 AM Worship Children's Church 11:00 AM Coffee Hour						



NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .
THE CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF EASTON
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