
News from the Hill . . .

Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Pastor

JULY / AUGUST 2019

E-Mail: CChurchEaston@gmail.com

Meditations from the Pastor

“Life is a journey. When we stop, things don’t go right”.

Pope Francis

This summer we say goodbye to Jeanne Sedelnik, our church administrator of 20 years. She has been a constant and faithful presence in our church office for many years and through many pastorates. She will be missed. For both Jeanne and the church, this will be a time of transition and change. She will be missed for her sense of humor and her dedication. But we hope to welcome a new administrative assistant to our church family soon.

In light of these changes, it is important that we take the time to honor and thank Jeanne for all that she has meant to our community. The best way to do this is to join us for our church Family Picnic on August 3rd to celebrate her years of service. You can also send cards or stop by to see her and thank her in person before she leaves us on July 26th.

Change is constant in life and our scriptures remind us that change is normal and healthy for personal and spiritual growth. Life is all about our spiritual journeys and to stop or halt progress would be harmful to the life of the word of God. So we move forward. Once we hire a new person please stop in to welcome them to the position and remember that how we welcome a new person to our church family will set the foundations for a successful transition.

Let’s continue to move forward on this journey together. This is a perfect opportunity to appreciate and honor all of the hard work of our volunteers and our church staff. So remember on Sundays that it is important to thank Sara, our church sexton, for the beautiful and clean sanctuary we worship in every week and to thank Carole, our church organist, for her beautiful service music. Giving suggestions and comments at these times, is a great way to show appreciation and helps us to grow in our positions in the church and helps our church to better meet the spiritual needs of our church family. Let’s embrace this time of change, this time of appreciation, and allow it to be the catalyst of deeper religious expression in our everyday lives.

**St. Luke/St. Paul’s
Food Kitchen**
Tuesday, July 16

Church Family Picnic
Saturday
August 3, 2 PM

**St. Luke/St. Paul’s
Food Kitchen**
Tuesday, August 20

August Hymn Sing

Many of us come from different traditions and have fond memories of certain hymns. For the month of August, we will be taking hymn suggestions in advance for Sunday services. So just email the titles or parts of the songs you remember and we will try to sing them; or speak directly to Rev. Amanda.

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

Though the months of July and August are usually a fairly quiet time in the life of our church, that is not so this year.

For starters, sadly our indefatigable, “girl-Friday,” Church Office Administrator is retiring the end of July. She will be deeply missed by all of us for many reasons - professionally and personally. On the upside, there is ample opportunity for all to share in a celebration of her tenure with us. One of these occasions will be at the Church Family picnic scheduled for August 3rd. Mark your calendars, call or visit the office to find out in what capacity you may be of help in planning and executing the celebration.

Needless to say, the search is on for the best candidate to fill the position as soon as possible.

Pastor Amanda will be on vacation from August 5 through August 11. Mr. Doug Halley will be our worship leader on August 11th.

Next Deacons meetings: 8-4-2019 and 9-1-2019 @ approximately 11:30 AM in the Bishop Room. You are welcome to join us at a meeting to keep up to date for ongoing events and decisions.

Facilities

Lights are our focus right now.

We need to replace a fixture in the Nursery School and are planning on replacing it with a LED fixture. Easier maintenance and hopefully less expensive to maintain.

We are also planning on replacing the indirect lights in the church hall with LED fixtures. This work will not be inexpensive to do and we are seeking donations toward this project. For any questions on this work, email the office or talk to Pat McCarty



As most of you know by now, I will be retiring at the end of July. It's been almost 20 years that I have had the pleasure of being part of the Congregational Church of Easton Family. And it's a wonderful family. I hope to keep in touch with you and see you at the Picnics, Tag Sales, and Cookie Walks.

And of course, I will be stopping by to have a coffee break with Amanda every now and then.

This little church family will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.

Love, Jeanne

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 7, 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 _____

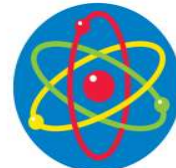
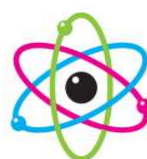
Relationship to child _____ Phone _____

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 will resume on September 8th. We will be kicking off the year with a special Ice Cream Social Coffee Hour. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming our children back.

Bible Study will be resuming later that week on Wednesday, September 11th. We meet on Wednesday afternoons at 3 PM in the Bishop Room. We will be studying 2 Kings this fall. We hope to see you there.

Summer Rain

Oh, what is so pure as the glad summer rain,
That falls on the grass where the sunlight has lain?
And what is so fair as the flowers that lie
All bathed in the tears of the soft summer sky?

The blue of the heavens is dimmed by the rain
That wears away sorrow and washes out pain;
But we know that the flowers we cherish would die
Were it not for the tears of the cloud-laden sky.

The rose is the sweeter when kissed by the rain,
And hearts are the dearer where sorrow has lain;
The sky is the fairer that rain-clouds have swept,
And no eyes are so bright as the eyes that have wept.

—Fannie Sherrick

TAC Turnaround Committee

TAC will be working in conjunction with the Deacons in the fall to put together community experiences that will work with the sermon series themes for the year. These experiences will be open to the community, educational, service oriented and great ways to bond and expand our spiritual understanding of the movement of the spirit in our lives. We hope you will join us for these activities.

Next TAC Meeting: July 28th following coffee hour

Idea Sharing: Please share your thoughts and ideas for new projects and ways to improve our turnaround process. And consider joining us for a meeting.

Boards and Committee Reports

Board of Christian Outreach

The St. Luke/St. Paul's Next St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen — Menu for July 16th and August 20th
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.

We could always use more volunteers to transport and serve. Please note that we will not be meeting at the church until 4 PM on Food Kitchen Tuesdays.

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 4 PM to help load cars. We will carpool to St. Luke's/St. Paul's in Bridgeport, leaving Easton church hall at 4:15 PM. Volunteers return by 6:30-6:45 PM.

On June 18th we served 35 meals. Thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers: Barbara van Achterberg, Sara Scoran, Daisy Colonnese, Sara Baczewski, Suzanne Lovejoy, Suzanne Herlihy, Jane Kondratovich, Connie Wing, Caren Laskay, Susan March, Cynthia Landry, Pat & Steve Glaser, Rev. Amanda, Claudia Nielsen.

Thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers: Cynthia Landry, Barbara van Achterberg, Meg van achterberg, Seth Sabar, 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.

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.



Board and Committee Reports

Stewardship



UCC and CT UCC

At the general synod meeting in June, the proposed merging of the CT, RI and MA conferences was officially approved. Now the three conferences begin the process of figuring out the specifics of what that will look like.

For more information on CT UCC activities and the Connecticut Conference Special meeting, check the website at: <https://www.ctucc.org/>



Backpacks and Supplies for Covenant to Care

Jorge Ball, our adopted Social Worker, has given us the names of children in need for backpacks and supplies for going back to school.

School begins the end of August, so please sign up soon! See the sign up sheet in the church hall, or you can call or email the office. Extra supplies are always appreciated.

Back packs and supplies should be dropped off by Monday, August 19th



VBS Needs

Plastic bead necklaces	5/16" flat washers	Star stickers
Plastic chip containers	Glue dots	Foam pipe insulation
Hole reinforcement stickers	Candy canes	

Snack items needed for VBS:

Hostess Ding Dongs—2 boxes

White frosting

A bag of tortilla chips

A bag of Doritos

A bag of blue tortilla chips

Cinnamon muffin mix

Pretzel sticks

A bottle of Ranch dressing

1 bag of Carrots

A Tub of Cookie Mix

Brownie Mix

Mini Marshmallows

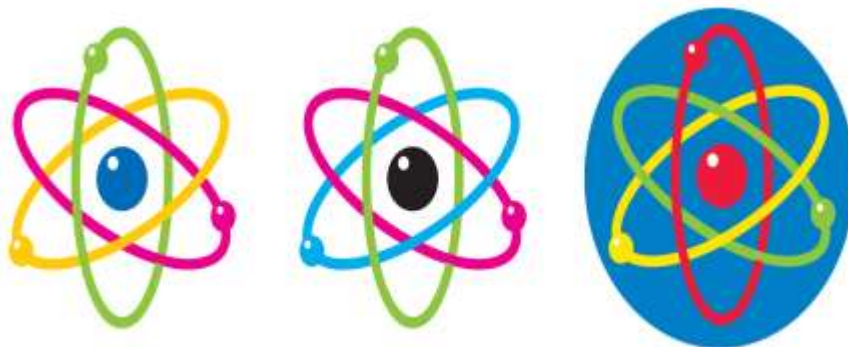
A box of Fruit Loops

Apples

A couple boxes of Ice Cream Sandwiches

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

Thanks!



Church Family



Saturday, August 3
2 PM

If you haven't signed up yet,
let us know if you are coming.

The sign up sheets are in the church hall.

The church office will be in contact with you for
what food items may be needed, or see the sign
up sheet in the church hall.



Serving Schedule

July Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Leon March

	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
July 7	S. Lovejoy, T. Linley	The Twomblys	J. Stock
July 14	The Marches	C. Partridge, N. Taranto	N. Taranto
July 21	P. McCarty/ S. Lovejoy	The Glasers	D. Colonnese
July 28	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	S. Lovejoy

August Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Nathalie Taranto

	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
August 4	S. Lovejoy, P. McCarty	N. Taranto, C. Partridge	Need Volunteer
August 11	The Marches	D. Colonnese, M. Perkins	L. & G. Raymond
August 18	P. McCarty, S. Lovejoy	The Glasers	D. Colonnese
August 25	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	P. 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 (\$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.

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3		5 Office Closed	6
7 10:00AM Worship with Communion 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Deacons	8 	9	10	11	12	13
14 10:00AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour	15	16 Food Kitchen 4 PM	17	18	19 	20
21 10:00AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour	22	23 	24	25	26 <i>Jeanne's Last Day</i>	27
28 10:00AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour	29	30	31			

August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 2 pm Church Picnic
4 10:00AM Worship with Communion 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Deacons	5	6	7	8	9	10
Amanda on Vacation						
11 10:00AM Worship Guest Preacher Doug Halley 11:00 AM Coffee Hour	12	13	14	15	16	17
Vacation Bible School 9 AM to 12 Noon						
18 10:00AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour	19	20 Food Kitchen 4 PM	21	22 	23	24
25 10:00AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour	26	27	28	29	30	31 

Join us for our Annual Church Picnic



Saturday, August 3rd at 2 PM



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