

News from the Hill

Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Pastor

NOVEMBER 2019

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Meditations from the Pastor

"Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach."

Clarissa Pinkola Estes, 20th century

Thanksgiving is the time of year where we often think about other people. We think about charity and caring for humanity. But, so often, when we go to volunteer at the holidays, we realize that the soup kitchens are overflowing with volunteers and will even at times ask you to come back on another day. In reality, when it is not a holiday like Thanksgiving or Christmas the flow of volunteers to help feed the poor and homeless, to help clothe those without, and to reach out to those in need in general seems to dry up and is tough to find.

I would ask you to consider volunteering on a regular basis as a way to live into the life of service that we as Christians are called to and not just at the holidays when we are feeling particularly generous. Consider volunteering at our monthly food kitchen, donate to our food pantry collection once a month, drop off travel sized toiletries for the Merton House, suggest new volunteer opportunities, volunteering in our local church to help with the planning of suggested outreach opportunities. Share of yourself. We make the greatest difference in our world one life at a time, one day at a time, when we do as Clarissa Pinkola Estes suggests and work to mend the part of the world that is within our reach.

So volunteer all year and remember to support the activities of our church, our community, and to bring your thoughts and suggestions to **leadership's attention. The hours that you volunteer whether here with** committees, donations at stewardship time (which is coming), or with our many hands on opportunities throughout the year is our way to make a difference in our little corner of the world and in so doing working to bring the love of Christ alive in the lives of those who need it the most.

Please read further for more details on our upcoming volunteer opportunities, giving opportunities, and news on what we have accomplished so far.



St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen

Tuesday, November 19th

Children's Worship Sundays, 10:15 AM

Fall Bible Study Wednesdays, 3:30 PM through November 13th



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

Sexton: Sara Scoran Secretary: Laura Tulley

Phone 203-261-2527

Website www.eastonchurch.org

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Our upcoming sermon series will be all about communication and the importance of communication in worship and our spiritual lives, as well as out in the world, and in our personal lives. Communication is essential to talking to God, to having healthy and happy relationships with one another, and to being able to be more successful in our chosen careers and hobbies. To start our thoughts on communication, I urge each of you think about how you communicate with God, how you open yourself to the presence of God, and how you help each other with those goals in mind. I ask that we start small by thinking about worship and then as the month goes on to think about how we extend that to our lives outside of worship.

This is a perfect time for us to reiterate what we worked on in September: the idea of preparing ourselves for Sunday morning worship. In worship, there are several ways that we urge communication with God, opening one's heart to the presence of the holy, and helping one another find that rare moment to allow for God to communicate with us. It is present in the moments of silence that come with the time of prayer and the time of confession. It is there in the moments of silence that come during our communion service where we allow for the music of our organist to guide our hearts closer to God. It is there in the hymns, the scriptures, the unison prayers, and the sermon. So the next time you are in church, allow these parts of the worship service to focus your minds and hearts on the presence of God. Then during coffee hour allow for God to flow freely between you in those moments of community and fellowship where we practice communicating God's love and care.

For more details and words of inspiration, please remember to join us each Sunday morning for worship. There we will branch out from just Sunday morning worship and find out how the techniques we use to communicate with God can be used in how we communicate with one another and the world.

Board and Committee Reports

DEACONS

Adult Bible Study: (weekly, Wednesdays at 3:30); this session of study is the Book of Kings II.

Upcoming important and Holiday events: Traditional Harvest Dinner (November 23rd, 5:30 pm), Hanging of the Greens (December 1st) followed by Advent activities, Joel Barlow Christmas Carol sing-along (December 14th, 6:30 pm), Christmas Eve candlelight worship (December 24th, 5:30 pm) - to name a few.

Next Deacon's meetings: November 3rd, 2019 and December 1st @ 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. Deacon meeting minutes are available to all by contacting the office (203-261-2527), Nathalie Taranto (203-268-7441) or Rev. Amanda (860-449-4439)

Board and Committee Reports

FACILITIES

At the October Council's Meeting, new lights for the Fellowship Hall were approved. Pat is currently working with an electrician on an estimate.



TAC Turnaround Committee

Through TAC, Outreach, and Deacons we were able to have a second Service Sunday where we worshipped God by living into Christ's call to care for his lambs. We were able to assemble 371 activity packets for children undergoing treatments in hospitals for various different illnesses through Project Sunshine. We want to thank everyone who helped make that day a success. We are still accepting donations to help offset some of the costs of that day. We would also like to extend an invitation to all people to join us for our Annual Harvest Dinner and to give thanks with us for the blessings we have experienced as a church. Please read further and take note of all the activities coming up in the life of our church this fall. Your participation in all of these events helps in our turnaround process. We are still in need of volunteers to bake cookies for the cookie walk. For more details please read the article on the cookie walk. TAC will be meeting again on November 24th.

Ways to Support our Turnaround Process

Regular church attendance and giving
Inviting friends, family, and neighbors to join us on Sunday mornings
Support our many outreach projects
Sharing ideas for church growth, fellowship, education, and finance
Volunteering to sit on committees

Children's Worship and Education

Children's worship and education started on September 8th. Children attend worship with their families in the church until after the children's talk and then go over for children's worship in the fellowship hall.

Any child is welcome to join us for Children's Worship on a Sunday morning.



Fall Bible Study

Our last week of Fall Bible study of 2 Kings is Wednesday, November 13th at 3:30 pm in the Bishop Room.

A date for the Spring Bible Study will be announced once it is confirmed.

Boards and Committee Reports

4th Annual Cookie Walk!

Saturday, December 7th

10:00 am—2:00 pm

Thank you to everyone who has signed up! We could still use a few more bakers if anyone is interested. We are asking each baker to provide 10 dozen cookies.

Sign up sheets are in the church hall for bakers and volunteers to work the day of the Cookie Walk.



Thanksgiving Baskets for Covenant to Care

Jorge Ball, our adopted social worker, has provided us with names of families who are in need of help to **provide a dinner for Thanksgiving. We provide “baskets” of non-perishables and a gift card for perishable needs. THANK YOU to everyone who has signed up to provide non-perishables, a gift card or both! It’s wonderful that we can be a source of light for some these families during the holidays.**

Baskets are due in the church hall by Sunday, November 24th.



Boards and Committee Reports

Board of Christian Outreach

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

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

Please see the sign up sheet in 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 4:15 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 the **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 3:30 pm. 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 will return by 6:30-6:45 pm.

On October 15th, we served approximately 45 meals. Thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers: Connie Wing, Barbara Trup, Claudia Nielsen, Jane Kondratovich, Suzanne Herlihy, Suzanne Lovejoy, Caren Laskay, Cynthia Landry, Sue Farmer, Pat and Steve Glaser, Susan March and Jeanne Sedelnik.

Thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers: Cynthia Landry, Connie Wing, and 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 them in the basket at the entrance to the church hall.

News from the Community

UPCOMING EVENTS

Harvest Dinner	Saturday, November 23rd, 4:30 Social Hour, 5:30 Dinner
Thanksgiving Baskets	Due in church hall by Sunday, November 24th
4th Annual Cookie Walk	Saturday, December 7th, 10 am – 2 pm
Hanging of the Greens	Sunday, December 1st
Joel Barlow Concert	Saturday, December 14th 6:30 pm (snow date December 21st)
Christmas Pageant	Sunday, December 15th
Christmas Eve Service	Tuesday, December 24 th , 5:30 pm

Keep an eye out for details about these events in the coming week’s bulletins
and next month’s Newsletter.



The Easton Senior Center Annual Holiday Boutique

November 4th - December 18th 8:00 am -3:00 pm weekdays.

There are sensational new gifts for the holiday season. The 12 Days of Christmas Raffle tickets
will be available on October 22nd.



“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces,” Martin Luther reportedly said, “I would still plant my apple tree.”
Instead of constantly despairing about this broken-down world, we can remain determined to serve God and our neighbors,
planting seeds of life and hope in the process.

News from the Community

UCC and CT UCC

As of the November 1st and 2nd annual meeting of the UCC in Wooster, MA the three conferences, MA/RI/CT, are now officially one conference. Our new local conference name is the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. This is a historic moment and it will mean continued changes for our three conferences as conference staffing is centralized and balancing of policies and procedures continue to be hammered out. For more information on these changes please visit: <https://www.ctucc.org/>. You may also email, call, or speak to Rev. Amanda about any questions you may have regarding these changes.

Notes and Reminders

Poinsettias are among the most beautiful decorations in our sanctuary at Christmas time. This year, as is our custom, we will have “virtual Poinsettias” as well as real plants. Your gift of a “virtual” Poinsettia will be used for Outreach. You may purchase either in honor or memory of a loved one. The list of donor and dedications will be included in the Order of Worship. The Poinsettia plants will decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. You are invited to take them home with you after the Christmas Eve Service, or if you wish they will be brought to a homebound member.

Poinsettia Pre Order

Name: _____



I would like to Pre-Order Poinsettia Plants/Virtual for Christmas Eve as follows:

Poinsettia Plant order

_____ Red or _____ White _____ Total # Plants _____

“Virtual” Poinsettia order

_____ @ Virtual Total _____

Please call/email me when the price is established _____

(Your phone or email address)



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 3rd at 2:00 am. Set your clocks back on Saturday night!

Stewardship Campaign 2020

Stewardship Campaign

Typically, this is the time of year where we ask people to consider their donation for the next fiscal year. Donations are essential to the life of our church and your donations have allowed for us to continue on our work in Christ extending our ministry from only about 4 years left 5 years ago to maintaining that 4 year goal each and every year. Our goal is to keep extending those years from year to year, so we can continue to make a difference in the lives of our parishioners, local community, and community at large.

We are very grateful and appreciative to each and every one of you for your continued generosity to our church community. We would not be where we are today without the various ways that you support the work that we do. To that end, the council, who are diligently working and planning for 2020, would like to have a clearer idea of people's intentions to complete their 2019 pledges. This number helps us plan for our pledge goals for the coming year. So we would greatly appreciate it if friends and congregants alike would be willing to recommit themselves to finishing their 2019 pledges. If you need reminding about what those pledges are please feel free to contact the church office and if there are discrepancies between your records and those of the office please contact us and let us know.

Many Blessings and Thanks,

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Pastor



Serving Schedule

November Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Nathalie Taranto			
	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
November 3	Leon March	N. Taranto / C. Partridge	Jon Stock
November 10	P. McCarty / N. Taranto	D. Colonnese / M. Perkins	Leon March
November 17	D. Colonnese / T. Linley	The Glasers	Nathalie Taranto
November 24	S. Lovejoy / N. Taranto	The Twomblys	Suzanne Lovejoy

December Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Leon March			
	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
December 1	Leon March	N. Taranto / C. Partridge	Jon Stock
December 8	P. McCarty / N. Taranto	D. Colonnese / M. Perkins	Daisy Colonnese
December 15	D. Colonnese / T. Linley	The Glasers	Nathalie Taranto
December 22	S. Lovejoy / N. Taranto	The Twomblys	Suzanne Lovejoy
Christmas Eve	P. McCarty / T. Linley		No Coffee Hour
December 29	Leon March	N. Taranto / C. Partridge	Jon Stock

Altar Flower and Coffee Hour Hosting for 2019 and 2020

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 also a 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 be on our rotation to host Coffee Hour or would like to just do a special date.

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 
3 10 AM Worship w/Communion 11 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacon's Meeting	4	5 10AM Outreach Meeting	6 3:30 PM Bible Study	7	8	9 11:00 am Joan Fabso Memorial Service
10 10 AM Worship Children's Church 11 AM Coffee Hour COVE	11 	12	13 3:30 PM Bible Study	14	15	16
17 10 AM Worship Children's Church 11 AM Coffee Hour	18	19 Food Kitchen 4:00	20	21	22	23 4:30 Social Hour, 5:30 Dinner
24 10 AM Worship Children's Church 11 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 TAC Meeting Baskets due COVE	25	26 National Cake Day	27	28 Office Closed Thanksgiving 	29 Office Closed	30

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Hanging of the Greens</i> 10 AM Worship 11 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacon's Meeting	2	3 10 10AM Outreach Meeting	4	5	6	7 Cookie Walk 10-2
8 10 AM Worship w/Communion 11 AM Coffee Hour	9	10	11	12	13	14 Joel Barlow Concert 6:30 pm (12/21 snow date)
15 10 AM Christmas Pageant 11 AM Coffee Hour COVE	16	17 Food Kitchen 4:00	18	19	20	21 
22 10 AM Worship 11 AM Coffee Hour	23	24 Office Closed 5:30 pm 	25 Office Closed 	26	27	28
29 10 AM Worship Children's Church 11 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 TAC Meeting	30	31				



Saturday, November 23rd

4:30 Social Hour

5:30 Dinner

*Please make reservations by calling or emailing the church
office or sign up at the church hall.*



NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .
THE CONGREGATIONAL
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