

# News from the Hill

The Congregational  
Church of Easton

February/March  
2020

Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Church Council Chair

Phillip A. Doremus

Board of Deacons Chair

Nathalie Taranto

Church Secretary

Laura Tulley

Sexton

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Website

eastonchurch.org

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9 am to 2 pm

Friday

9am to 1 pm



## Meditations from the Pastor

“God doesn’t want us to just feel gratitude. But for us to show it by giving thanks to God with our lives”.

R.C. Sproul

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. But 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 be guiding our decisions, our actions, and our experiences. That 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 the day.

As we 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 daily living, a change that will place God back into the driver’s seat taking us where he needs us to be 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 for God promises to instruct and teach us and to offer up counsel. We only need to seek him out and see what he has planned.

So invite God into your daily lives and start with gratitude, prayer, and raising your voices in thanksgiving and in so doing you will find that God is a greater part of your daily lives than you ever thought. I know that I thank God every day for my many blessings from a supporting loving Congregation to the beautiful family I have been gifted with. I am grateful for my newest family member Isaac Louis Ostrove born in February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:58 am weighing 7lb 6oz and measuring at 19.5” I cannot wait to introduce him to his church family.



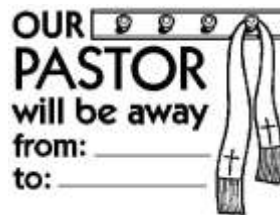
## Boards and Committees Reports

### BOARD OF DEACONS

At our February 9, 2020 meeting, the Deacons welcomed newly elected (1/26/2020) Sara Trup to the Board. Soon you will see her name crop up as she joins in the many related tasks.

The Deacons will continue to meet regularly while Rev. Amanda is on maternity leave (2/12/20-3/24/2020). Mr. Doug Halley will lead our Sunday worship February 16, February 23, March 1 and March 15; The Rev. Frank Basler leads in the pulpit on March 8 and 22. While on leave, our Pastor will continue writing for the newsletter. She will also plan the April Bible Study and for this coming summer Vacation Bible School.

The next Deacons meeting will be March 1, 2020 at approximately 11:30 AM. Members of our church family are welcome to visit a meeting at any time and all Deacon meeting minutes are readily available at the church officer for your perusal.



Rev. Amanda will be out on maternity leave February 12—March 24. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact the office during business hours or call Laura Tulley at 203-260-8210 if after 1:00 pm, and she will relay a message to Rev. Amanda.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## Children's Worship and Education



Join us for our Spring Bible Study starting on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm in the Bishop Room. We will be studying Paul's First letter to the Corinthians and the struggles early Christians had defining their faith and faith communities and the timeless guidance Paul gives to help us all with our faith formation. 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.cchurcheaston@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.cchurcheaston@gmail.com) or at 203-261-2527.

What: 1 Corinthians

When: April 15<sup>th</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup> 3:30-4:30

What do I Need: Bible, notepad, pencil

**Who: All people from all traditions are welcome**

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### Vacation Bible School

Please join us for VBS, August 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 12 pm. 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, please email the church office at [cchurcheaston@gmail.com](mailto:cchurcheaston@gmail.com)

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





## Register me for Vacation Bible School

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Grade completed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child \_\_\_\_\_

Please place my child with

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of home church

\_\_\_\_\_

Food allergies Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ List :

\_\_\_\_\_

Medical concerns Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ Explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Stewardship Campaign

We would like to say a special thank you to all of you who pledged for the 2020 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 yet pledged and would like to do so, it is not too late. You can pledge via email or pick up a card at the church office or in the information centers located in the Old Academy building or in the church.

Pledge goal 2020: \$60,000

Current Pledges: \$61,450.00



### Lenten Pot Luck Supper

March 14th, 5:30 pm, Church Hall

Please see the food sign up sheet in the Church Hall

RSVP to the office by March 7th

Join us on April 12th for Easter morning worship at 10:00 am  
followed by an Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn.



Daylight Savings Time Begins at 2:00 am Sunday, March 8th.  
Don't forget to turn your clocks back on Saturday night, March 7th.

# Boards and Committee Reports



## Looking Towards Lent

Don't forget to mark your calendars! Lent begins on February 26th with Ash Wednesday. We will not be having our traditional Lenten Suppers in Rev. Amanda's absence. We will have a very good Lenten Devotional this year to help walk you through this year's Lenten journey called *Take Up Your Cross* by David Boyd. We hope you will pick one up after worship and use it to guide you towards Easter.

### Lenten and Easter Schedule

Here is our holiday schedule. Please mark your calendars.

February 26<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday

March 1<sup>st</sup> – First Sunday in Lent worship with Doug Halley at 10 am

March 8<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday in Lent worship with Rev. Frank Basler at 10 am

March 14<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Pot Luck dinner in the Church Hall at 5:30 pm

March 15<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday in Lent worship with Doug Halley at 10 am

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Fourth Sunday in Lent worship with Rev. Frank Basler at 10 am

March 29<sup>th</sup> – Fifth Sunday in Lent and Rev. Amanda returns

April 5<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday worship service at 10 am

April 9<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service at 7:30 pm

April 12<sup>th</sup> – Easter morning worship at 10 am followed by an Easter Egg Hunt



Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you've ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn't a bad image for Lent — or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it's no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we're traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: "Jesus, set me straight again!" Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don't get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling!

—adapted from Carlos Wilton, in *Homiletics*



# Boards and Committee Reports

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

### Harvest Dinner Update

Our Harvest Dinner was a huge success this year. We hosted 73 people. Our volunteers made wonderful food, our turkeys made by Phil Doremus were delicious. And we thank everyone for their participation, help, and generous gifts to our Pastor's Discretionary fund. This year's gifts went to a local family in need identified by our town social worker, Alison Witherbee, to provide child care for her children while she works. We have really made a difference in the life of this family, and I know they appreciate all of the help they can get. So thank you again.



### 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 in the church hall. "Baskets" and gift cards should be in the church hall no later than Wednesday, April 8.

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!*





# Boards and Committee Reports

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

### **Next St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen — Menu for February 18th and March 17th**

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

Please see the sign up sheet in the church hall or call or e-mail the church office 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 the church hall at 4:15 pm. Volunteers will return by 6:30-6:45 pm.

On January 21st we served approximately 43 meals.

Thank you to our cooks, bakers and shoppers: Daisy Colonnese, Barbara Trup, Suzanne Lovejoy, Jane Kondratovich, Caren Laskay, Steve and Pat Glaser, Susan March and Sue Farmer.

Thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers: Cynthia Landry, Connie Wing, Joan Bennett and her mother, Sue Farmer and Pat McCarty.

### **Merton House**

Please don't forget your Merton House donations that go toward supporting adults and children who find themselves in need. 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.*

## Area Events

Council of Churches Fundraiser-Spring Fling Event April 30th

Matilda the musical at the Downtown Cabaret Theatre in Bridgeport.

For more information please e-mail [helenyeotsas@ccgb.org](mailto:helenyeotsas@ccgb.org)

COVE Fundraiser February 29th 6:00 — 10:00 pm

Fundraising dance supporting camp Erin CT to be held at the Monroe Congregational Church.

For more information please e-mail [donna@covect.org](mailto:donna@covect.org)



Thank you to all of those who attended the annual meeting and to those who submitted reports.



Thank you to everyone who planned and attended the Sprinkle for Isaac.

Your love, care, and generosity made the event a surprising and happy day.

My family is so grateful to everyone in our church family. My children will be very lucky to grow up with such wonderful people as part of their lives.



## LILIES AND TULIPS



Lilies are the traditional decoration for Easter and tulips are a sign of new life and new beginnings. We invite you to help us decorate our sanctuary with these traditional flowers. We will again have both “virtual flowers” and live plants. The Board of Outreach will use the gifts from “virtual flowers” for mission work.

You may purchase a Lily (8” pot/2 stems) or Tulip (8” pot/8 bulbs) or a “virtual” flower in honor or memory of a loved one. The list of donors and dedications will be included in the Order of Worship on Easter Sunday. The plants will decorate the sanctuary on Easter, and you are invited to take them home with you after worship. Both plants are priced at \$18.00 each.

If you wish to purchase a “virtual” flower you will continue to remember loved ones and honor them by giving to those in need. The “virtual” flower offering is also \$18.00.

Your Name:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(exactly as you want it to appear in the Order of Worship)*

In Memory of

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

“Virtual” flower order \_\_\_\_\_ @ 18.00 each

Virtual Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lily Plant order \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$18.00 each

Lily Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tulip Plant order \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$18.00 each

Tulip Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **The Congregational Church of Easton** and memo: **“Flowers” or “Virtual flowers”**.

Order forms with checks can be mailed, left in the church office, or placed in the offering plate.

Orders for Lily or Tulip plants are **due by April 3rd**. Virtual orders are **due by April 8th**.

## Fifth Annual Community Tag Sale



We are currently accepting reservations for spots at our Annual Community Tag Sale. As we have limited space, please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to reserve a spot.

### TAG SALE SPOT REGISTRATION

**Saturday, June 6, 2020**

**8 AM to 1:30 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 inside the church hall.

Set up begins at 7:00 am — Tag Sale closes at 1:30 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](mailto:cchurcheaston@gmail.com)

Website: [www.eastonchurch.org](http://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.

## Serving Schedule

<b>February Confirming and Welcoming Deacon — Daisy Colonnese</b>			
	<b>Offering</b>	<b>Collectors</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
February 2	S. Lovejoy	D. Colonnese, C. Partridge	Jon Stock
February 9	The Marches	The Twomblys	Julia Bassett
February 16	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	The Glasers	Barbara & Sara Trup
February 23	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	N. Taranto, M. Perkins	Barbara Constable

<b>March Confirming and Welcoming Deacon — Nathalie Taranto</b>			
	<b>Offering</b>	<b>Collectors</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
<b>March 1</b>	S. Lovejoy	D. Colonnese, C. Partridge	Nathalie Taranto
<b>March 8</b>	The Marches	The Twomblys	Suzanne Lovejoy
<b>March 15</b>	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	The Glasers	Barbara Trup
<b>March 22</b>	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	N. Taranto, M. Perkins	The Marches
<b>March 29</b>	S. Lovejoy	D. Colonnese, C. Partridge	Jon Stock

All of our members and friends are invited to serve as Ushers. If you would like to participate, 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 confirming Deacon for the month.

### *Altar Flower and Coffee Hour Hosting for 2020*










The Flower Calendar for 2020 is posted so you may select your special dates in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries or special occasions. 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 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10 am Worship w/ Communion 11 am Sprinkle!	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Deacons Meeting  Cove	10	11	12  Isaac Ostrove's Arrival! 	13	14 	15
16 10 am Worship with Doug Halley 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour	17 	18 Food Kitchen 	19	20	21	22
23 10 am Worship with Doug Halley 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour Cove	24	25 Shrove Tuesday 	26  ASH WEDNESDAY	27	28	29 

# March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10 am Worship with Doug Halley Communion 11 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Deacons Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10 am Worship with Rev. Frank Basler 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Lenten Potluck 5:30 pm 
<b>15</b> 10 am Worship with Doug Halley 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Food Kitchen 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  FIRST DAY of Spring	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10 am Worship with Rev. Frank Basler 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 3	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 am Coffee Hour	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 				





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

# 2020

