

News from the Hill

The Congregational
Church of Easton

MARCH 2021

Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

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Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9 am to 2 pm

Friday

Closed



Meditations from the Pastor

“You cannot trust, believe, hope, love, what memory fails to represent to you. And when you remember him, you cannot fail to trust, believe, hope and love”

Henry Hitt Crane , 20th century Methodist Clergyman

I love the Lenten season because it is my reminder to stop and be introspective for a while. This month, I think it is important that we take the time to think about the passion and the last hours of Christ. **As Christ celebrated the Passover with his disciples he said “do this in remembrance of me” . This remembrance comes down to Christians through the act of communion.** Yet I fear that all too often there is little in the way of introspection and thought placed into the meaning of Communion.

It is a remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ for the forgiveness of sins; the beginning of a new covenant with humanity sealed in the blood of Christ. This is a special time to remember the love that Christ must have had for each one of us to willingly experience the pain and suffering of the cross for us. That is some kind of dedication, in remembrance of that dedication we are called to do so much more than to participate in the act of communion once a month. We are called to let communion act as a reminder that we should be allowing the new life given to us to shine through our works, our interactions, and the way in which we live our lives.

The signs of the covenant at work in our souls appears in our faith, our trust in God, the love that exudes from our lives, the way that we live our lives with hope of a better tomorrow, a hope that Christ is working through us and the promises of the kingdom to come. **Ask yourselves, in this time of Lent, “Does my life reflect the hope, love, and joy of Christ?” Then go forth and do one thing each day that will let the world know that you care, that you have chosen to allow for your lives to be the living remembrance of the works and teachings of Christ.**

Please read further to find out what activities are up and coming in the life of our church and ways that you can participate or support our ministries.

At our February 7, 2021 meeting, Rev. Ostrove offered a detailed Pastoral Report regarding all church missions, activities and operations. With Lent starting on February 17th, designs for services and activities were disused and adopted as we move remotely, for the first time, into this season of worship. See the schedule in another section of this publication.

Nathalie reported on an announcement by the First Selectman that, on March 11 at 7:30 p.m., the Town will host a virtual Welcoming Meeting for new residents aiming to showcase resources and opportunities available in our community. Rev. Amanda has submitted introductory information for our church.

The next Deacons meeting will be March 7, 2021 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.

Board member are: Daisy Colonnese, Leon March, Sara Trup, & Nathalie Taranto.

Lenten Bible Study

Don't forget to mark your calendars! We are continuing our Lenten Bible Study. We are studying the scriptures pertaining to the last hours and resurrection of Christ. Come with your questions, your curiosity, and your desire to connect to something more. We have 2 zoom sessions left.

When: March 3rd and March 17th

Time: 7:00PM for Lenten Bible Study

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86929899126>

Who: Anyone interested in spiritual development or just learning more about Christ's last moments

Boards and Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children's Worship and Education

Children's Worship and Christian Education

This year Children's worship and Christian education will be offered online. Weekly online activities will be emailed out to families by the church office. Connie Wing our Sunday school teacher has put a lot of thought into these activities and offers links to watch as well. Parents are urged to do these activities with their children either on Sundays or another day during the week to continue their religious education during this time of social distancing. We will email out the lessons to you on Fridays.

Bible Study

Join us for our Spring Bible Study starting on April 14th via Zoom. We will be studying Genesis: **the beginnings of our world and God's covenantal relationship with humanity and we will** discover how God has interacted with humanity throughout history and perhaps how God interacts in our lives and world today. 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 or at 203-261-2527.

What: Genesis

When: April 14th to June 9th 3:30-4:30

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86929899126>

Or by Phone: 1 929 205 6099 meeting ID# 869 2989 9126

What do I Need: Bible, notepad, pencil

Who: All people from all traditions are welcome

WHAT'S NEW

Easter Baskets for Covenant to Care:

This year we received the names of 8 families in need from our adopted social worker, Jorge Ball. I want to thank every one who quickly responded and signed up for families. If you are still interested in participating in this activity, we are accepting additional baskets that Jorge will share with other families in need. So here are the bullet point reminders about these baskets.

- Due: March 28th
- What Goes in a Basket: Easter candy, egg dying kits, non-perishables for a meal, a gift card for the perishables for the meal, and anything else you would like to add to brighten their Easter morning

ONGOING PROJECTS

Easton Senior Center:

we are still accepting food donations for the Easton Senior Center. Our adopted Social Worker, Jorge Ball, gladly accepts any extra items. This is an ongoing project, and response has been fantastic. Many of the food items that are donated are for families.

Community Outreach Opportunity:

Many church members have requested wanting to do more to help those less fortunate. We are continuing to collect blankets for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. Blankets should be new, or please be sure they are clean before dropping them off. **Baby and child blankets will be accepted as well. There is a bin marked, "Blankets for Bridgeport Rescue Mission" outside the church hall doors. This is a separate bin from the food for the Senior Center.** We will drop off donations on a weekly basis or as needed.

If you have any other ideas or suggestions for Outreach, please contact the church office at 203-261-2527, or e-mail: cchurcheaston@gmail.com

Merton House: We continue to collect sample or travel-sized toiletries for Merton House. Please drop them off any time, and place them in the basket in the entryway of the church hall.



**Easter Baskets for
Covenant to Care**

All your donations are greatly appreciated!
Thank You!

Lenten Calendar

Here is our holiday schedule. Please mark your calendars.

March 3rd – Lenten Bible Study at 7:00 PM
March 17th – Lenten Bible Study at 7:00 PM
March 28th – Palm Sunday Zoom Service 10AM
April 1st – Maundy Thursday Zoom Service 7:30PM
April 4th – Easter Morning YouTube Worship Service
10AM



TURNAROUND CHURCH COMMITTEE

TAC met on February 28th following worship, we discussed plans for potential activities for our community. We are planning some fellowshiping opportunities involving baby pictures or childhood pictures. So we will be collecting those you can scan and email them into the church office or drop or mail them in to be scanned and used in this virtual activity. We will be sending out an email reminder as well. We would like to hold this event at the end of April or early May. We also talked about postponing our annual trunk tag sale until the fall when we hope to be further along in the return to normal.

We also discussed some other fundraising ideas related to our cookie walk at different times of the year. As always all members are welcome to join us for these meetings or to submit ideas. To do so please email or call Rev. Amanda.

We are continuing to collect recipes to assemble a cookbook in the Spring. Right now we are collecting favorite comfort food recipes. Please send all recipes to Suzanne Lovejoy at suzanneEL612@gmail.com

Boards and Committee

BOARD OF FACILITIES

As we continue to think towards the future for our buildings, Santa Fuel has informed us that our fuel tank in the church needs to be replaced. If you can donate towards that replacement that would be great! The more people who donate, the easier it will be to cover this cost. We will keep everyone up to date when we have an estimate.

STEWARDSHIP

We would like to thank everyone who committed themselves to the continued work of our church in **Christ for 2021. If you still haven't made your pledge but intend to, it isn't too late. If you need a pledge form please either email, call, or stop into the church office.**

Pledge challenge goal 2021: \$60,000.00

Current Pledges: \$65,000.00

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Beginning February 11, 2021, Connecticut residents age 65 and older are now eligible to sign up to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Please see the link below that enables you to upload your information into the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) which is the online enrollment system you will use to register for vaccination

<https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/OnlineVaccine>

Please note that EACH individual MUST have his or her own unique email address to be entered into VAMS. No duplicate emails can be used. If you do not have email, please have a family member help you obtain an email address so you are able to sign-up in VAMS. Each individual will receive an email from CDC.GOV/VAMS which will allow you to make an appointment to receive the vaccine. Numerous locations for vaccination are available; please choose a location most convenient for you.

Schedule on the phone by calling the CT COVID Vaccine Appointment Assist Line at 877-918-2224.

Beginning Monday, February 8, 2021, 125 trained contact specialists will be available to take phone calls to schedule vaccine appointments from 8a.m. to 8p.m., seven days per week.

Serving Schedule

Confirming and Welcoming Deacon for March – Nathalie Taranto

Confirming and Welcoming Deacon for April – Leon March

Updates on Worship

We are working on plans to return to in person worship in our church sanctuary. To make this possible we will need to run internet over to the church. This will cost approximately \$2,000.00 a year. We are looking for special donations to make this possible. All checks should indicate in the memo line: Internet Access. This allows us to continue serving those who still need remote worship options.

We continue to meet remotely via Zoom during this time of pandemic. If you know someone who would like to join us for worship please share their email address so I can send them a link to worship. Or share the link below.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88440646436?pwd=REEzdGVVhFNTFwMkZSMHlpU29LZz09>

To join by telephone: 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 884 4064 6436, Passcode: 469663



Pastoral Care Needs

As this pandemic drags on, there may come a time when you find yourself or someone you know in need of someone to talk to. Please contact me either at the church office at

203-261-2527, by email at pastor.cchurcheaston@gmail.com, or by cellphone at 860-449-4439 and I would be happy to talk to you or to contact the person in need. Please remember that for many people a friendly chat with church family members can do a lot to make this time of isolation more bearable. **Don't forget to contact your friends and people you haven't**

chatted with in a while.

Flowers are the traditional decoration for Easter. We invite you to honor and remember your loved ones while helping to support the needs of our church. **This year we will be doing “virtual” flowers only due to the pandemic.** We will be including the words of remembrance and honor in our Easter morning bulletin. The cost is \$18.00 per virtual plant.



Your Name:

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

In Memory of

In Honor of



“Virtual” flower ___@ \$18.00 each Virtual Total \$_____

Please make check payable to: The Congregational Church of Easton and memo:

“Virtual flowers”.

Order forms with checks can be mailed or left in the church office.

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 7:00PM Lenten Bible Study	4	5	6
7 10 am Zoom Worship w/ Communion 11:30 Dea- cons Zoom Meeting	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 10 am Zoom Worship	15	16	17 7:00PM Lenten Bible Study	18	19	20
21 10 am Zoom Worship 11:30 TAC Zoom Meeting	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 PALM SUNDAY 10 am Zoom Worship/ Communion Baskets Due	29	30	31			

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday Zoom Worship 7:00PM	2 Prayer Watch 9:00 to 1:00	3
4 EASTER MORNING 10:00AM YouTube Worship/ Communion	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:00AM Worship 11:30AM Deacon's Meeting	12	13	14 3:30 Zoom Bible Study	15	16	17
18 10:00AM Worship 11:30AM TAC Meeting	19	20	21 3:30 Zoom Bible Study	22 Happy Earth Day	23	24
25 10:00AM Worship	26	27	28 3:30 Zoom Bible Study	29	30	



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