

# News from the Hill . . .

Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Pastor

APRIL 2021

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## Meditations from the Pastor

“But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.”

Luke 24: 12

Last Easter, I was one week back from maternity leave and as I sit here and reflect on all the changes and challenges we have seen in since last Easter, I am baffled by how life has changed. I remember struggling with the isolation, not going out to restaurants, not seeing friends and family, not signing my kids up for swim classes, and always being in fear of what would happen if the daycare closed again. Now I have learned to go with the flow. Yes sometimes daycare closes down. Yes, we still haven't seen members our family or friends in over a year and we miss them dearly. But we have learned to spend time with people via the internet. We order out instead of going out. We've instituted family movie night to break up the monotony. And now, I can recite *Finding Nemo* from memory.

As much as it seemed like it at the time, life did not end with this pandemic. It just changed and shifted but time marched on. Just like for the disciples, it must have felt like life was ending with the death of Christ on that cross. But in reality, life was really just beginning for them. Things shifted, they changed, some things died but new life as born out of that suffering and death. And the same is happening now. This is what Easter is really all about. It is about endings and new beginnings. It is about both life and death. It is about new realities, new responsibilities, and new opportunities.

Our lives may never return to the way things were before the pandemic. But perhaps they shouldn't. So much has happened both good and bad. Life has been forever changed. It is up to us how we use it. We can be like the disciples. Like Peter and allow for these experiences to leave a lasting imprint and to use it as a reminder for us to live this life more fully into Christ's work and mission; caring for the world. Or we can sit in despair complaining about all that has happened and allow for the changes to embitter us to the world. We can choose either bitterness and fear or we can choose life and love. It is up to us. This Easter I pray we each choose the new life being offered to us in Christ. Yes it is a changed life. Yes it is new and sometimes uncertain. Yes in that new life there is lose and grief. But if we trust in Jesus then we can follow the lead of Peter and believe and walk confidently into the future created for us.

**Maundy Thursday**  
April 1  
**Tenebrae**  
7:30 p.m.  
In Person and Zoom  
available

**Easter Sunday**  
April 4  
10:00 a.m.  
YouTube only



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

Sexton— Sara Scoran    Secretary— Erica Caldwell

Phone — 203-261-2527

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

Email: [CChurchEaston@gmail.com](mailto:CChurchEaston@gmail.com)

Reminders and Updates -:

In person worship has begun in the church hall. We still need RSVPs so we can be cautious with our seating. Masks are also still required and any socializing after worship should be done outside where there is plenty of fresh air.

Easter worship will be on YouTube this year so we can use our beautiful organ and have our sanctuary as the background. We are working on getting internet and the equipment need for worship in the church sanctuary. The internet will be installed within the next couple of weeks and we should have our external webcam in the same time frame. To make this happen, we will need volunteers to run the zoom session during worship and to help mark off pews. Please email Rev. Amanda at [pastor.cchurcheaston@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.cchurcheaston@gmail.com) if you can help with any or all of this.



Instructions for Joining us on Zoom

To join us on zoom, follow the link or call the phone number that I will email to you before worship. To follow along in worship open the files posted on the church website or emailed to you earlier in the week. You do not need the files to join. All are welcome to come and feel the community at worship, to join us in prayer, and to hear the scriptures and feel the word of God.



## Boards and Committee Reports



### Board of Deacons

The Deacons will continue to meet via an online link at approximately 11:30 a.m. the first Sunday of the month. For the month of April, the deacons will be meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>

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

April Confirming and Welcoming Deacon – Leon March

May Confirming and Welcoming Deacon – Daisy Colonnese

#### New Membership Opportunity:

As we begin to enter back into worship in our sanctuary it is time we start thinking about new membership. If you have been joining us for worship or supporting our church. Then this is the perfect opportunity to join our community of believers by becoming members. Please speak to Rev. Amanda for more information.

### Turn Around Church Committee

We are looking for fun Easter recipes for our community cook book. If you have any that you would like to share please remember to send them to Suzanne at [suzanneEL612@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneEL612@gmail.com).

We have been discussing moving our annual Trunk Tag Sale to the fall in an attempt to get closer to a safer environment for the fundraiser. All TAC meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend, share ideas, and help come up with new ways to stay connected and to reach out to our community.

We are working on a baby picture fellowshiping event. We have received some baby pictures for **this activity but we need more. So please scan and email in your baby pictures. If you don't have or** know how to scan the pictures you may drop them off at the office and we will do it for you. Leon March will also go to your homes and help you as well. Then we can have some zoom fun and guess which parishioner belongs to which baby face! We really hope everyone will join us whether you are local or joining us from far away.

**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](mailto:pastor.cchurcheaston@gmail.com) or in person to Rev. Amanda or any member

## Boards and Committee Reports

### Christian Education



*Spring Bible Study*

#### Children's Worship and 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.

#### Spring Bible Study

I have been planning and working on our next Bible Study. We will be beginning our study into the book of Genesis. This will be a fun way of looking at the relationship between humanity and God and how it has evolved throughout the generations.

When: Wednesdays from April 14<sup>th</sup> to June 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom

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](http://www.eastonchurch.org) under the Christian Education page.**



April 1<sup>st</sup> – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service in the hall - 7:30 p.m. RSVPs required and it will be on zoom as well

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88440646436?pwd=REEzdGVlVWhFNTFwMkZSMHlpU29LZz09>

April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Good Friday Prayer Watch - Sign-ups needed, each person will have 1 hour in the church sanctuary for prayer, meditation, and contemplative time.

April 4<sup>th</sup> - Easter Morning Worship will be on Zoom at 10 a.m. The link will be emailed out to everyone and made available on our website. Please remember, to share the link with family and friends.

Easter Worship YouTube Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JVB\\_0jAevY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JVB_0jAevY)

## Boards and Committee Reports

### Board of Christian Outreach

#### WHAT'S NEW

#### 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:

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](mailto: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.

#### Ideas Needed for Another Outreach Sunday

As we begin to meet in person again, we might want to think about ideas for another outreach Sunday. These have always been great ways to bring together people throughout our community as we work to help those who are in need. In the past we have done, Project Sunshine packets for children going through medical procedures in the hospital, we have made care packages for soldiers and veterans, and we have done plantings. If you have any ideas, we would love to hear them.

## Stewardship Campaign



We thank everyone for their very generous pledges for 2021. Because of your generosity we met and surpassed our pledge goal for this. This, however, does not mean that we are meeting our financial needs for 2021. We are still working at a deficit. So any additional donations would be greatly appreciated.

## What Does In Person Worship Look Like?

Worship in the era of Covid-19 will look very different. These are the recommendations made by the CDC, the State of CT, and the United Church of Christ.

- Unison and Responsive readings and prayers would be done by the pastor with the congregation encouraged to read along silently
- Hymns will be sung by a soloist (likely Rev. Amanda) from the pulpit
- Offering will not be taken in the traditional way but offering plates will be located at the doors for people to drop their donations on the way in or out
- Bulletins will be located in the pews or on the chairs in the fellowship hall
- Communion will be observed but individually wrapped communion will be picked up on the way out to be taken in each person's car
- Everyone will be required to wear masks at all times
- Prayer requests must be sent into the church office in advance of worship. There will be no sharing from the floor.
- Announcements must be made by email to the church in advance of worship. There will be no sharing from the floor.

The CDC believes that in person worship will be risky because of the prolonged period of time so many people are in one room together and the size of the room and distancing doesn't make a huge difference. If you have compromised health please stay home and join us online.





## What Do I Need to Do to Join In Person Worship

- Come wearing a mask
- Hand sanitizer will be offered at the door for use upon entering and leaving
- Let us know in advance if you plan to join us and with how many people

## Phases of Reopening

<b>Phase 1</b>	<b>Phase 2</b>	<b>Phase 3</b>	<b>Phase 4</b>
<b>Zoom Worship in Church Hall</b>	<b>Zoom Worship in the Hall People Present</b>	<b>Worship in Sanctuary with Zoom Option</b>	<b>Return to Normal Worship</b>
Carole and Amanda Present	Carole and Amanda Present	Carole and Amanda Present	Return to Normal functioning of church
No Parishioners yet	Open to those who want to join 18 or fewer	Roped off pews	
No Coffee Hour	RSVP before hand	RSVP before hand	
Send out survey	No hymn singing/just soloist	Music will be sung by soloist – All music including hymns	
Figure out what we need for next phase	No collectors/ushers	No in person singing	
Office reopens with Appointments	Chairs will be disinfected by Sara Scoran	Chairs will be disinfected by Sara Scoran	
	All people need to wear masks	Offering masks at the door/all people wearing masks	
	Prepackaged communion	Communion—individually wrapped to be taken in cars	
	No Coffee Hour	No Coffee Hour	
	No passing of the peace/ hugs/hand shaking	No passing of the peace/ hugs/hand shaking	
	Office Open- Call first, masks, appointments	Office Open- Call first, masks, appointments	

# April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Tenebrae 	<b>2</b> 9:30—2:30 Prayer Watch in Sanctuary	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10:00 AM Worship Only YouTube  Easter with Com- munion  	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 10:00 AM Worship In person and Zoom  11:30 Zoom Deacons meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 3:30 PM Zoom Bible Study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:00 AM Worship In person and Zoom  11:30 Zoom TAC Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 3:30 PM Zoom Bible Study	<b>22</b> Earth Day  	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10:00 AM Worship In person and Zoom	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 3:30 PM Zoom Bible Study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	



# May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2</b> 10:00AM Worship w/communion In person and Zoom  11:30 AM Zoom Deacons Meeting	3	4	<b>5</b>  3:30 PM Zoom Bible Study	6	7	8
<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Worship In person and Zoom  	10	11	<b>12</b>  3:30 PM Zoom Bible Study	13	14	15
<b>16</b> 10:00 AM Worship In person and Zoom  11:30 Zoom TAC Meeting	17	18	<b>19</b>  3:30 PM Zoom Bible Study	20	21	22
<b>23</b> 10:00 AM Worship In person and Zoom  <b>30</b> 10:00 AM Worship In person and Zoom	<b>24</b>  <b>31</b> 	25	<b>26</b>  3:30 PM Zoom Bible Study	27	28	29



NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .  
THE CONGREGATIONAL  
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