
News from the Hill . . .

Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Pastor

MAY 2021

E-Mail: CChurchEaston@gmail.com

Meditations from the Pastor

“O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.”

Psalm 98: 1-2

This month marks the beginning of using our church sanctuary for worship again! For me it has been nearly 2 years since I last stepped foot in the sanctuary due to maternity leave. As I stepped into the pulpit on May 2nd, I was nearly overcome with emotion as I reflected upon how I had almost forgotten how to organize myself for worship in the sanctuary. Once worship was over, I was exhausted from the sheer emotion of the day. I have missed our church and the way that it just beckons us to come through the doors and worship and seek God. Though there are still restrictions to in person worship, it is still nice to see people sitting in the pews on Sunday morning and it feels as if God is reminding us that struggles and turmoil do not last forever. That slowly, life will return and God's goodness will be experienced in community again.

That being said, this is a perfect opportunity to reengage with the church and church community. So plan to come to in person worship on Sundays. An RSVP is preferred but not required. Masks are still a requirement as well as socially distancing in the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing everyone as we celebrate God in our community again. Many of our programs are/have restarted just modified a bit and I urge you to keep reading to see what is up and coming in the life of our church community from outreach opportunities to Sundays dedicated to honoring our staff and volunteers to outside worship and fellowshiping fun.

If you know someone who is on the fence about coming back to in person worship, extend an invitation to them! We really miss seeing everyone.

Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesdays
3:30—4:30 PM



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

Sexton—Sara Scoran Administrative Assistant—Erica Caldwell

Phone — 203-261-2527

Website — www.eastonchurch.org

Email: CChurchEaston@gmail.com

Boards and Committee Reports

Board of Deacons

BOARD of DEACONS

To the joy of Amanda and the church family, our return to “in-person worship in the church sanctuary” began on Sunday May 2, within the limitations as advised by the state, the Conference and current CDC guidelines. Remote access will continue for those who have need of it

Now that our church fellowship/activities begin to pick-up, there is much to keep in mind, all of which is well documented in other parts of this publication.

Since we now may meet in the sanctuary, there are 2 memorial services scheduled for former members, Ann Galloway and John Hus

The Deacons urge each of you to call or email a church family member as a means of continuing our close fellowship and to give yourself a lift.

The Deacons will continue to meet remotely at approximately 11:30 AM. the first Sunday of the month. 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 office for your perusal.

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

Confirming and Welcoming Deacon for May — Daisy Colonnese

Confirming and Welcoming Deacon for June — Sara Trup

Worship information

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.

Pentecost Readers Needed

We need volunteers to read for Pentecost, either online or in person. Please speak with Rev. Amanda if you are interested.

Outside Worship June 20th

We will be holding our Father’s Day Worship outside, weather permitting, on June 20th at this time we will also be honoring our staff and volunteers. This is a BYOC service, Bring Your Own Chair, if you don’t have a chair then you may borrow one from the church hall. You can set yourself up at a safe distance in the church lawn or lay out a blanket and enjoy the worship service. All people are urged to attend and enjoy the beauty of a Spring morning with us.

Boards and Committee Reports

Turn Around Church Committee

Spring Summer Cookbook—We are accepting fun spring and summer recipes for our cook book, please email them to Suzanne Lovejoy at SuzanneEL612@gmail.com .

Fellowshipping Event May 16: We are also hosting a fellowshipping event on May 16th following worship on Zoom where we will be guessing who belongs to which baby pictures. If you would like to send in your baby pictures May 9th is the cut off date. We hope you will join us in this opportunity to fellowship and have fun!

Annual Truck Tag Sale: 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.

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 or in person to Rev. Amanda or any member of TAC.

Facilities

As we meet again back in the Church Sanctuary, just a reminder, not all people gathering for worship have been vaccinated. Please honor our in person worship guideline and remember to leave a note for Rev. Amanda for additions to the prayer list, socialize in the nice weather outside, and please remember to wear your masks.

Christian Education

Spring Bible Study

Please join us on Wednesdays at 3:30 pm via Zoom for the study of the book of Genesis. Spring Bible Study began Wednesday, April 14, and will last for nine weeks. We will be exploring the history, mystery, and questions of Genesis and it will provide opportunities to learn a little of the history, to meditate upon the meaning, and to discuss the message to the modern day person.

When: Wednesdays from April 14th to June 9th 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 under the Christian Education page.

Boards and Committee Reports

Christian Education

Children's Church and Education

Online activities for Children's Church will be taking a break after May 26th, as is our custom. This allows our Sunday School director, Connie Wing, some much needed rest. That being said, we would like to show our appreciate to her and our other staff who have dedicated numerous hours to our church and the function of our services on June 20th at 10 AM this will be an outdoor service so please plan to come, bring your kids, a chair or blanket and enjoy the day! We hope to see you there. Children's Church and Education begins again in the Fall, date to be determined.



Boards and Committee Reports

Board of Christian Outreach

WHAT'S NEW

The board of Christian outreach has been working to find new ways to touch the world and to make a difference. We are working towards providing bagged lunches for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission in place of our Food Kitchen in June. We are working out the details right now. We are also planning some targeted Outreach Sundays through the year where we will be providing personal care items to those who are in need. And as normal we continue to work with Jorge Ball to provide for our families in need in Bridgeport. We are expecting a backpack list very soon. We thank everyone for all their help and support of our continued Outreach Programs.

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

Ideas Needed for Another Outreach Sunday

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.

Stewardship



Stewardship Campaign

We thank everyone for their very generous pledges for 2021. Because of your generosity we did meet our modest 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.

Altar Flower for 2021

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).

Bible Trivia

1. What do we celebrate on Pentecost?
 - A. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Christ
 - B. The Resurrection of Christ
 - C. The Work of Paul
2. How long after Easter is Pentecost?
 - A. 60 days
 - B. 50 days
 - C. 7 days
3. In what book of the Bible do we hear the account of Pentecost?
 - A. Luke
 - B. Daniel
 - C. Acts

Coffee and the church

An 8-year-old girl who lived two doors away from a retired pastor asked him, "Why do you drink coffee?" The surprised pastor answered with a smile, "Because I like the taste of it and it gets me going in the morning."

That pastor might have been interested in this bit of trivia: In 1592, Pope Clement VIII declared coffee to be a legitimate drink for Christians. Before that edict, it had been labeled "the wine of infidels" because of its popularity among non-Christians.

Answer Key
1. A
2. B
3. C

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

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Zoom Worship in Church Hall	Zoom Worship in the Hall People Present	Worship in Sanctuary with Zoom Option	Return to Normal Worship
Organist and Amanda Present	Organist and Amanda Present	Organist 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	Offering masks at the door/all people wearing masks	
	All people need to wear masks	Communion—individually wrapped to be taken in cars	
	Prepackaged communion	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		

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00AM Worship with Communion 11:30 AM Deacons	3	4	5 3:30 PM Zoom Bible Study	6	7	8
9 Mother's Day 10:00 AM Worship In person and Zoom 	10	11	12 3:30 PM Zoom Bible Study	13 12:15 pm Outreach zoom meeting	14	15
16 10:00 AM Worship In person and Zoom 11:45 AM Fellowshiping event via zoom	17	18	19 3:30 PM Zoom Bible Study	20	21	22
23 Pentecost 10:00am Worship 11:30 Zoom TAC Meeting 30	24 31 Office Closed 	25	26 3:30 PM Zoom Bible Study	27	28	29

June 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 3:30 pm Bible Study	3	4	5
6 10am Worship w/ Communion 11:30am Deacons meeting	7	8	9 3:30 pm Bible Study	10	11	12
13 10 am Worship	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Father's Day 10 am Outside Worship Staff Appreciation TAC Meeting 	21 First day of summer	22	23	24	25	26 Galloway Memorial Service
27 10 am Worship	28	29	30			



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



May