
News from the Hill . . .

Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Pastor

JUNE 2021

E-Mail: CChurchEaston@gmail.com

Meditations from the Pastor

"Seeing that a pilot steers the ship in which we sail, who will never allow us to perish even in the midst of shipwrecks, there is no reason why our minds should be overwhelmed with fear and overcome with weariness. "

John Calvin, 16th Century

The last few weeks of May were beautiful and unseasonably warm. I am hoping that these are signs of a beautiful summer to come. This weather has gotten me thinking about summer, fall, and upcoming activities as we begin to emerge from this pandemic as a community of faith. I know for many people, the idea of going back to life in public brings up some very conflicted emotions. We are excited and expectant but also nervous and perhaps a bit reluctant and fearful.

I would like to remind you that I am here to help you through this process, even if it is just to talk. Please ask questions about where we are in our process of reopening things. We would also like to encourage people to continue wearing your masks for as long as you need as you work to become more comfortable. Remember worship and church fellowship is a great and necessary support in our lives both spiritually and emotionally. We are here to work together to help support one another through this challenging time. Come and just sit in worship and feel God's presence, volunteer for an outreach activity and start getting involved again slowly, join us for a virtual book study or bible study.

If there are any ways that we can help make this transition easier and more bearable please speak with Rev. Amanda. In the meantime, please continue reading our newsletter because there is a lot that is happening. Remember that when we trust in the love of God, in the presence of God, then we can trust God enough to give over our fear to him allowing ourselves to walk out into life with him as our guide. So I truly hope to see everyone very soon! And in the meantime, please remember that there is still zoom worship being offered for those who either can't be in person for one reason or another, or for those who still have not worked up the courage to enter into public spaces like a church yet.

**Father's Day/Staff
Appreciation**
Sunday, June 20
Outside Worship

**Medicare Fraud
Presentation**
Tuesday June 29th at
Noon
Via Zoom and in the hall

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

Sexton—Sara Scoran Secretary—Erica Caldwell

Phone — 203-261-2527

Website — www.eastonchurch.org

Email: CChurchEaston@gmail.com

Boards and Committee Reports

Board of Deacons

With COVID-19 vaccinations well underway; with fewer people becoming infected; with state and CDC restrictions being altered, our worship services and rituals will begin to return to pre-pandemic status. Remote access will continue as well. More detailed directives are spelled out elsewhere in this publication.

Our June 20th worship will include a time for recognition of those of our church family who have faithfully worked to keep necessary operations and activities on track during the last many months. There is hope that this service, weather permitting, may be held outside. We are requesting that you- “BYOC”-bring your own lawn chair for your comfort. The 20th is Father’s Day as well.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on June 26th for longtime church friend Ann Galloway.

Mark your calendar for June 29th at 12:00 noon for a remote Medicare Fraud information presentation by Lisa Alhabal, Senior Medicare Patrol Coordinator for the South West Connecticut Agency on Aging. She offers many good insights. Participation may be via Zoom or on-screen in-person in our fellowship hall. The church office (203-261-2527 or cchurcheaston@gmail.com) will take reservations. A link will be emailed to Zoom participants.

Looking ahead, to enjoying good fellowship and outstanding food, we will be holding the Church Family Picnic in September – the date to be announced soon. Also, Pastor Amanda will be on vacation from July 24th through August 1st.

The Deacons encourage each of you to call or email a church family member/friend as a means of continuing our close family fellowship and to add a bright spot to your day.

The Deacons will continue to meet remotely at approximately 11:45 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 officer for your perusal. However, our next meeting does have a caveat. The 1st Sunday in July is July 4th so we have opted to meet on July 11th.

Confirming and Welcoming Deacon for June — Sara Trup

Confirming and Welcoming Deacon for July — Nathalie Taranto

Boards and Committee Reports

Christian Education

Updates

This year, we will not be doing a vacation bible school due to the increased concerns around safety during the enduring pandemic. We hope and pray to be able to meet again next summer. We want to remember to thank Connie Wing for all her hard work on putting together engaging Sunday School lessons throughout the pandemic. We will be back to in person Sunday School in the Fall.

Bible Study

Our study of Genesis 1-11 continues until June 9th at 3:30PM on zoom. Please feel free to attend at any point. The link is located below. We will be taking a break from the study of Genesis for the summer and will resume with Genesis 12 in the fall. The dates are still to be determined. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this study it has made for very interesting conversation. I hope to see everyone in the fall session.

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

Summer Book Study — Coffee and Theology

Coming in August on Wednesdays at 10AM bring your coffee to Zoom book study. We will be looking at how religion, theology, and philosophy influence popular literature. This August we will be reading *The Plague* by Albert Camus and Translated by Stuart Gilbert. I hope you will join me as we read this book find the way theology influences the author and discover the author's commentary on how global pandemics affect society. The zoom link will come in our July newsletter. If you have any questions, please email or call Rev. Amanda.

Facilities

It is good to be back in the Church!!

Deep Freeze Freezer - The deep freeze freezer in the kitchen is no longer working. We are looking for a donation of either a deep freezer or donations to purchase a new one.

Thank you! Thank you to Pat McCarty for installing the air conditioners in the office. It is greatly appreciated.



Boards and Committee Reports

Worship Information

What's New in Your Worship Experience

The Deacons met on June 6th to discuss the new mandates coming from the CDC, the CT health Department, and the UCC and have made some important decisions about worship in our church sanctuary.

Starting on June 13th this is what you can expect in worship:

- You may sit where you like in worship — there are no longer pews being roped off
- If you are vaccinated we are no longer requiring masks for in-person worship

(However, if as is recommended by the CDC, we are still asking people who are unvaccinated to wear their masks or anyone who may be uncomfortable going without one. We will not be policing anyone we will hold people to their word.)

- We will resume singing hymns together and participating in unison and responsive readings
- Offering will be taken in church as it was pre-pandemic
- Communion will be passed but we will be continuing to use the prepackaged communion cups
- We will be using pew bibles and hymnals again

Please note that if you have any concerns or questions to please contact Rev. Amanda

June Confirming and Welcoming Deacon — Sara Trup	
	Offering
June 13	The McCartys
June 20	T.Linley/P.Doremus
June 27	L. March / TBD

July Confirming and Welcoming Deacon —	
	Offering
July 4	The McCartys
July 11	T.Linley/P.Doremus
July 18	TBD
July 25	L March / TBD

TAC Turnaround Committee

The turnaround committee met on Sunday, May 23rd following worship. We discussed plans for our upcoming medicare fraud program and ways to make it more accessible to those without access to computers. We discussed the possibility of running our Annual Trunk Tag Sale in the fall and combining our Annual Church Family Picnic with kick off Sunday in September. But to make any decisions on both these events it is important that we get some feedback and commitment from our congregation. So please fill out the survey sent out to you via survey monkey and if you do not have a computer you may use the survey in this newsletter and mail it into the church office.

Idea Sharing: Please share your thoughts and ideas for new projects and ways to improve our turnaround process. And consider joining us for a meeting.

Boards and Committee Reports

Board of Christian Outreach

Upcoming Outreach Opportunities

Food Kitchen for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission

The Board of Christian Outreach has been researching and working on an alternative to our monthly food kitchen and we have found it! We will be making meals for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission the third Tuesday of the month starting in June. Our day to provide food is June 15. We hope you will volunteer to help those who are in need.

See the list below and email the church office if you want to volunteer and what you can volunteer for.

- Chicken—any style—or your specialty
- Starches—Potatoes / pasta / rice
- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Salad

For questions or to make monetary donations towards miscellaneous items, please contact the office.

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.

Backpacks for Covenant to Care

We continue to support the children of covenant to care. So we are looking for volunteers to sign up for our traditional backpacks for back to school. If you would like to volunteer to provide a backpack and supplies or just a back or just supplies please email the church office or call. The list of names is already available in the church office.

Food Collection

We are continuing to collect food products for Alison Witherbee at our senior center for those in need in Easton and for Jorge Ball for families in crisis. I urge all of you to remember that the first Sunday of the month we collect these items in church. The baskets are located in the narthex and of course all donations are welcome throughout the month in the church office or in the bin just outside the church office.

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.



Board and Committee Reports

Stewardship



UCC and CT UCC

For more information on CT UCC activities and the Connecticut Conference Special meeting, check the website at: <https://www.ctucc.org/>



Here are our upcoming events.

Sunday, June 20 - Father's day/Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Day and outside worship

Tuesday, June 29 at Noon - Medicare Fraud presentation via Zoom
In person optional in the church hall

Tuesday, August 3 — Saturday August 7 - Easton Fireman's Carnival

Medicare Fraud Presentation

What You Need to Know About The Newest COVID-19 Scams & How to Detect, Report Protect Yourself from other Medicare Scams Tuesday June 29th 12 noon Zoom Meeting ID: 864 9231 154

Tuesday June 29th 12 noon

Zoom Meeting ID: 864 9231 154

Or by phone: 1-646-558-8656 And enter meeting ID to listen to presentation

We are hosting a viewing of the event at the church hall please contact the church office to RSVP.

Flyer on next page



Volunteers Needed

We have lifted most of the restrictions for in person worship, and we now need volunteers to pass the offering plate and for collection. Please call or email the office, or sign up after worship service.

Thank you!



News from the community

Sundays on the Hill Concert Series at Christ Church Easton

Beginning on June 20th through August 8th

Christ Church will be hosting their first of the summer concert series from 6-8 pm. There will be Food Trucks, or you can bring your picnic! What a nice way to start your summer and be outdoors!

Adults \$7 Seniors \$5 Kids are Free



Please remember to fill out your survey regarding our Annual Community Trunk Tag Sale and to have it back in the church office before the last Sunday of June. For those of you who would like to fill out a paper one it is below. If you already did the virtual one please do not send in another one.

Upcoming events survey

1. Annual Trunk Tag Sale - Would you be more comfortable doing our annual trunk tag sale in the Fall or in the Spring?

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. Would you be willing to volunteer for the annual trunk tag sale?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Maybe

If you answered maybe, please explain

3. Church Family Picnic - Would you be interested in participating in our annual church family picnic in September?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Maybe

If you answered maybe, please explain



Co-Sponsored by:
Congregational Church of
Easton
Easton Public Library

What you Need to Know About the New- est COVID-19 Scams & How to Detect, Report, and Protect yourself from other Medicare Scams



Presenter—
Lisa Alhabal, SMP
Coordinator and
CHOICES Counselor
from the Southwestern
CT Agency on Aging

When—Tuesday, June 29th at 12 noon

Register at <https://www.eastonlibrary.org/calendar-list>

Zoom Meeting ID: 864 9231 154

Or by phone: 1-646-558-8656

For questions, please contact:

Congregational Church of Easton
Rev. Amanda Ostrove 203-261-2527 cchurcheaston@gmail.com

Easton Public Library
Lynn Zaffino 203-261-0134 lzaffino@eastonlibrary.org

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 Deacon's 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 	21 First day of summer	22	23	24	25	26 11 am Gallo- way Memorial Service
27 10 am Worship TAC Meeting	28	29	30			

July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10:00 AM Worship with Communion 	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 Deacon's Meeting	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:00 AM Worship	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:00 AM Worship TAC	26	27	28	29	30	31



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