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# News from the Hill . . .

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Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Pastor

JULY / AUGUST 2021

E-Mail: CChurchEaston@gmail.com

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## Meditations from the Pastor

*“Life is a journey. When we stop, things don’t go right”.*

Pope Francis

So throughout this whole pandemic, it has been my habit of setting aside time every so often to reflect upon the struggles we have been through: emotionally, spiritually, and for many physically. The past nearly 2 years has put an enormous amount of pressure on individuals, economies, nations, and the world as a whole. Yet, as I look around I feel as if I am seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. Life is beginning to emerge. Some of our favorite activities and ministries are slowly coming back, though some may still be modified. And I think to myself, “wow, look what we have come through”. We should be proud that we have come through so much and have survived.

So many people reflect to me that they are struggling with fear as they begin to emerge from lock down and that is natural. It is not weakness but a sign of everything we have survived. This hasn’t been easy but there is much to hope for, much to look forward to. Chalk this experience up to just one more event in the life of this world that shows just how much we need to depend on God in our lives. This experience has not been all bad. Many of us have learned to reconnect with long lost hobbies, develop new hobbies, work on troubled relationships, and if you are like me learning to develop further those destressing techniques that so often go ignored or forgotten.

Life is about the journey: what we’ve learned and how we view our experiences and use them in our every day. So I urge each of you to take some time this summer to reflect: pray, journal, meditate. Allow for God to speak to you and reveal new depths in his work in this world through the lens of the pandemic. To help you with that take a look in our newsletter to see all the activities that might help you do that from outreach opportunities, to online book studies, to community building activities. Take little steps to work through your anxieties and fears and challenge yourself a little more each day to connect with those experiences you have been disconnected from through the pandemic.

## **Coffee Hour Resumes**

Sundays immediately following worship.  
Volunteers need.

## **Bridgeport Rescue Mission**

**Food Kitchen**  
Tuesday, July 20

## **Bridgeport Rescue Mission**

**Food Kitchen**  
Tuesday, August 17

## **Outdoor Worship**

Sunday, August 29

## **Church Family Picnic**

Saturday  
September 18, 2:00PM

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## **August Hymn Sing**

Many of us come from different traditions and have fond memories of certain hymns. For the month of August, we will be taking hymn suggestions in advance for Sunday services. So just email the titles or parts of the songs you remember and we will try to sing them; or speak directly to Rev. Amanda.

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

Sexton—Sara Scoran    Secretary—Erica Caldwell

Phone — 203-261-2527

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## Boards and Committee Reports

### Deacons

There continues to be revisions in the life of our church as our journey through COVID-19 still requires that we pay attention.

Rev. Amanda will be on vacation from July 26 through August 1st. The August 1st worship service will be prerecorded. It may be accessed via YouTube. August communion service will be August 8th.

Rev. Amanda will be off on September 5 therefore worship will be via YouTube and September communion service will be on September 12th.

With the joy and success of our June 20th outdoor worship in mind, weather permitting, we are planning another for August 29th.

Plans are underway to resurrect the coffee hour fellowship.

The deacons have returned to in-person meeting the first Sunday of most months.

However, the August meeting will be August 4th at 10 am; The September meeting date is TBA.

Board members are: Daisy Colonnese, Leon March, Jon Stock, Sara Trup, Nathalie Taranto, chair.

Confirming and Welcoming Deacon for July — Nathalie Taranto

Confirming and Welcoming Deacon for August — Leon March

### Facilities

A big thank you to Pat McCarty, Leon March, and Jim Bromer for helping to put in the air conditioners in the offices and the Bishop Room. In this unusually HOT weather it has been much appreciated. This preschool had their summer camp in June but will not be using the building for the rest of the summer. We would like to make sure to thank Richie McLaughlin for taking care of the hanging limb in the tree on the church property. His quick work kept it from becoming a much larger problem.

We are still looking into replacing the oil tank in the church and are still looking for extra donations towards that. We have also found a replacement freezer for \$299.99. We need donations to make this happen. Thanks.



#### Office Needs

The financial computer is on its last legs and though we think there is still some time left, we would like to put out a request for donations for a new financial computer. Right now it struggles to connect with any printers and the internet and is often overwhelmed by the financial programs we are running.

## Boards and Committee Reports

### Christian Education

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#### Children Church and Education

Children's Church will begin again on September 12th in person. Connie is a fearless leader in Christian Education. If you plan to have your children participate please contact the church office. Remember all children are welcome to join on any Sunday. Remember the first Sunday of the month in communion Sunday where the children are welcome to join us for worship and to participate in the activities of the worship service.

#### Coffee and Theology Book Study

This August we will be doing a book study at 10 AM on Tuesdays, every Tuesday in August. This just for the month of August. It will be a zoom class. Zoom information is provided below. All are welcome to join us for a study of Albert Camus' *The Plague*. Links below to buy a copy of the book or search for it at your library. This book was a book a head of its time as it looks at an epidemic and its effect upon society and life. Jonathan Stock will be leading us through the basics of the book and I will have look towards some of the theological implications and crisis that are brought up in the text. I must say that as I read through this now, I am floored by the parallels to life now.

- Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86929899126>  
Meeting ID: 869 2989 9126  
By Phone: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- When: August 3 — 31, 2021, Every Tuesday at 10 AM
- Link to purchase Book:  
[https://www.amazon.com/Plague-Albert-Camus/dp/0679720219/ref=asc\\_df\\_0679720219/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=312057607832&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=10310727431288353416&hvpo ne=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9003430&hvtargid=pla-359427606417&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/Plague-Albert-Camus/dp/0679720219/ref=asc_df_0679720219/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=312057607832&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=10310727431288353416&hvpo ne=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9003430&hvtargid=pla-359427606417&psc=1)

#### Fall Bible Study

Join us starting September 15, 2021 and every Wednesday at 3:30pm in the Bishop room for our fall bible study. We will be entering into the 2nd part of our study of the book of Genesis. There is no need to have come to the first session. All people are invited. For those of you who still prefer online or who are not local we will be offering Zoom simultaneously. We will be entering into a study of Abraham in this session picking up with chapter 12. September's newsletter will have all the zoom information for the study.

## Boards and Committee Reports

### TAC Turnaround Committee

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TAC has decided to postpone the Annual Trunk Tag Sale to May of 2022 when we will have more volunteers. We will be having our annual Church Family Picnic on September 18th starting at 2PM. We will need volunteers for set up, clean up, grilling, or of course to bring food. All people are welcome to come. We will begin with RSVPs and sign up this month so please let the office know how many plan to attend and what you can bring.

**Next TAC Meeting:** July 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 in person following coffee hour

**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.

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**Outdoor worship**—We will be holding outside worship again on August 29th, weather permitting. So remember it's BYOC, bring your lawn chairs or blankets, to set up for worship on the front lawn of the church. If you do not have a chair please contact the church office.

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### The Power of Listening

"The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen," says Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen, author and integrative medicine professor. "Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention."

Twice in Mark 4, while teaching, Jesus urges, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen" (verses 9 & 23, NRSV). One way we show what Jesus means to us is by truly listening to his word — not just hearing sounds but being attentive and intentional. Likewise, one way we love and serve others is by respectfully listening to them: not assuming we know what they feel or mean or will say; not planning what to say even as they're still speaking, but listening deeply to learn about them and their experience.

We often think living our faith calls for great accomplishments or worldwide reach. But Remen says, "A loving silence often has ... power to heal and to connect." Don't underestimate something as basic and doable as listening as a way to practice Christlike love.

## Boards and Committee Reports

### Board of Christian Outreach

#### The Food Kitchen for Bridgeport Rescue Mission— Menu for July 20<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>h</sup>

Chicken—any style—or your specialty. Pasta (July and August), Vegetables, Salad, Fruit, Desserts

Please see the sign up sheet at the church hall or call the church office or email 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. Please note that we will not be meeting at the church until 4 PM on Food Kitchen Tuesdays.

Food may be dropped off and put in the refrigerator ahead of time. Please mark that it is for **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 3PM. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 4 PM to help load cars. We will carpool to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission in Bridgeport, leaving Easton church hall at 4:00 PM.

In June we served between 70 and 90 meals. Thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers: Sara Scoran, Daisy Colonnese, Suzanne Lovejoy, Suzanne Herlihy, Jane Kondratovich, Connie Wing, Caren Laskay, Susan March, Cynthia Landry, Pat & Steve Glaser, Rev. Amanda, Claudia Nielsen.

Thanks to our preppers and transporters: Cynthia Landry, Connie Wing, Sara Scoran, and Rev. Amanda

#### Bridgeport Rescue Mission **Food Pantry**

Non-perishable food is collected on the First Sunday of the month, when we share Communion and remember those in need of experiencing God's abundance. They are delivered the day of the food kitchen and can be dropped off at the Old Academy building during the month.

#### **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

### Board of Christian Outreach

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### Backpacks and Supplies for Covenant to Care

Jorge Ball, our adopted Social Worker, has given us the names of children in need for backpacks and supplies for going back to school.

School begins the end of August, so please sign up soon! See the sign up sheet in the church hall, or you can call or email the office. Extra supplies are always appreciated.

**Back packs and supplies should be dropped off by Friday, August 20th**

### Serving Schedule

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If you would like to participate in worship by doing the offering, or hosting coffee hour, 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 church office.

#### *Altar Flower*

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).

### Stewardship

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# Church Family



Saturday, September 18  
2 PM

Let us know if you are coming  
The sign up sheets are in the church hall.

The church office will be in contact with you for  
what food items may be needed, or see the sign  
up sheet in the church hall.





# July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10:00AM Worship with Communion 	5 Office closed	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:00AM Worship  11:30AM Deacon's Meeting In person	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:00AM Worship  11:00AM Coffee Hour  11:30 TAC in person	19	20  Food Kitchen 4 PM	21	22  12 Noon Outreach Zoom	23	24
25 10:00AM Worship  11:00AM Coffee Hour  11:30AM Church Council meeting	26	27	28	29	30	31 
Amanda on Vacation						



# August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Worship on YouTube Rev. Amanda on vacation	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 AM Coffee and Theology Zoom	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM Deacon's Meeting Bishop Room	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10 AM Worship 11:00AM Coffee Hour	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM Coffee and Theology Zoom	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 
<b>15</b> 10 AM Worship 11:00AM Coffee Hour	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM Coffee and Theology Zoom Food Kitchen 4 PM	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 12 noon Outreach Zoom	<b>20</b> Backpacks Due	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10 AM Worship 11:00AM Coffee Hour	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 AM Coffee and Theology Zoom	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10 AM <u>Outdoor</u> Worship 11:00AM Coffee Hour	<b>30</b>					

Join us for our Annual Church Picnic



Saturday, September 18 at 2 PM



NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .  
THE CONGREGATIONAL  
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