

# News from the Hill

Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Pastor

NOVEMBER 2021

E-Mail: [CChurchEaston@gmail.com](mailto:CChurchEaston@gmail.com)

## Meditations from the Pastor

*"Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach."*

Clarissa Pinkola Estes, 20th century

Thanksgiving is the time of year where we often think about other people. We think about charity and caring for humanity. But, so often, when we go to volunteer at the holidays, we realize that the soup kitchens are overflowing with volunteers and will even at times ask you to come back on another day. In reality, when it is not a holiday like Thanksgiving or Christmas the flow of volunteers to help feed the poor and homeless, to help clothe those without, and to reach out to those in need in general seems to dry up and is tough to find.

I would ask you to consider volunteering on a regular basis as a way to live into the life of service that we as Christians are called to and not just at the holidays when we are feeling particularly generous. Consider volunteering at our monthly food kitchen, donate to our food pantry collection once a month, drop off travel sized toiletries for the Merton House, suggest new volunteer opportunities, volunteering in our local church to help with the planning of suggested outreach opportunities. Share of yourself. We make the greatest difference in our world one life at a time, one day at a time, when we do as Clarissa Pinkola Estes suggests and work to mend the part of the world that is within our reach.

So volunteer all year and remember to support the activities of our church, our community, and to bring your thoughts and suggestions to **leadership's attention. The hours that you volunteer whether here with committees, through pledges, or with our many hands on opportunities throughout the year is our way to make a difference in our little corner of the world and in so doing working to bring the love of Christ alive in the lives of those who need it the most.**

*Please read further for more details on our upcoming volunteer opportunities, giving opportunities, and news on the facilities and upcoming holiday activities.*



**Bridgeport Rescue  
Mission  
Food Kitchen**  
Tuesday, November  
16th

**Children's Worship**  
Sundays, 10:15 AM

**Fall Bible Study**  
Wednesdays, 3:30 PM  
through November  
10th

Council Chair: Phillip A. Doremus    Deacon Chair: Nathalie Taranto  
Sexton: Sara Scoran    Secretary: Michelle Szabo  
**Phone** 203-261-2527    **Website** [www.eastonchurch.org](http://www.eastonchurch.org)    **Email** [CChurchEaston@gmail.com](mailto:CChurchEaston@gmail.com)

## Board and Committee Reports

### BOARD OF DEACONS

First a heads-up: this year daylight saving time ends November 7th when we set our clocks back an hour. Good luck.

Rev. Ostrove has expressed a wish to become a member of our church. We welcome her with open arms. She has selected Sunday November 14 for her membership celebration. The Deacons urge all members to join that worship service in support of her.

Further, we look forward to her Installation as our Pastor on Sunday January 25th. Specific details will be coordinated with the denomination with more information to follow. Save the date to celebrate with her and our church family.

Our agreement to covenant with her indicates that we are pledging our prayers and support in the stewardship of time, talent and monetary contributions. Support and input from each of us is vital and valuable to our church family and to her.

Our traditional Greening of the Church service will be on November 28, the start of the Advent Season.

The next Deacon's meeting will be December 5th at 11:30 AM.

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

Rev. Ostrove noted that our traditional Greening of the Church ceremony, always conducted at Advent, happens November 28 this year. Reminder that clocks go back an hour on November 7.

### FACILITES

**Thank you Pat!!** For removing the air conditioning units from the office windows.

Many of you may have noticed that it has been a bit chilly in the church lately. Our beloved 45 year old furnace in the church has passed on to the next life. We have acquired 3 bids for the replacement of the furnace in our historic building. This will be a pricey and big job. Our estimates are between \$30,000 and \$35,000. We are looking for any and all donations to help make this possible.

*For personal reasons, I have resigned from my position as Secretary. I want to thank you all for the opportunity I have had to work with you and your welcoming of me as part of the Congregational Church of Easton community. I have enjoyed our many conversations. It has been a pleasure.*

*Warm personal regards,  
Erica Caldwell*



## Board and Committee Reports

### TAC Turnaround Committee

#### Events

TAC members and Rev. Amanda have been involved with the planning of several upcoming events with a possibility of additional events during the winter months.

**The Cookie Walk** takes place at the church hall on Saturday, December 4 from 9 a.m. – noon. Boxes of three dozen are \$20 each, cash or check. Forms are available in the church hall and the deadline for advance orders is December 1. Advance orders are required if you wish to order specific types of cookies and can be picked up at the church hall on December 4. You can purchase boxes with assorted cookies without an advance order on December 4.

**All are invited** to attend the outdoor carol sing with the Joel Barlow Select Choir on Saturday, December 11 in front of church. Snow date is December 18. Time to be determined. If approved by the fire marshal, we will have a small bonfire.

**On December 28**, we are co-sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive together with the Easton Public Library at the library's community room. Blood drive hours are TBD. Keep an eye open to further emails regarding this.

**The Annual Tag sale** is back, set for Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Call or email the church office to reserve your space. The tag sale will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

#### **New Resident Mailing**

We are planning another new resident mailing.

We are looking into new opportunities to get our name out in the community and to live into our Christian mission.

#### Ways to Support our Turnaround Process

- Regular church attendance and giving
- Inviting friends, family, and neighbors to join us on Sunday mornings
- Support our many outreach projects
- Sharing ideas for church growth, fellowship, education, and finance
- Volunteering to sit on committees

**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.

Next Meeting Date: November 21st at 11:30 in the Bishop Room or by Zoom Link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85470790594?pwd=ZmhvRzMxQUVtelhKbWpXM3JYSHFVdz09>

Meeting ID: 854 7079 0594

Passcode: 932688

One tap mobile: 1-929-205-6099

## Board and Committee Reports

### Children's Worship and Education

Children's worship and education started on September 12th. Children attend worship with their families in the church until after the children's talk and then go over for children's worship in the fellowship hall.

Any child is welcome to join us for Children's Worship on a Sunday morning.

This Year's Sunday School Teacher: Connie Wing with Sara Scoran serving as a substitute.



### Fall Bible Study



We finish our study of the family of Abraham from the book of Genesis on November 10th. I thank everyone who joined us and made this Bible Study one of great discussion and learning. I hope you will consider joining us as we continue on in Genesis in the Spring.

All you need is a Bible, notebook, and pencil. If you need help with any of these supplies, please speak to Rev. Amanda. This year will be a hybrid of online via zoom and in person. The link and information is located below. All sessions will be in person and online.

Bible Study Link:

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

Meeting ID: 869 2989 9126

By phone: 1-929-205-6099

### Guided Meditation

Join us on Thursday Evenings through

Thursday, November 11, at 7:00 PM Via Zoom for our final guided meditation until the Spring. This is a great way to de-stress and connect with God. We hope to see you there.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89414286446>

Meeting ID: 894 1428 6446

By Phone: 1-929-205-6099



## Boards and Committee Reports

### Board of Christian Outreach



The Food Kitchen for Bridgeport Rescue Mission— Menu for November 16 & December 21  
Chicken—any style—or your specialty. Mac and Cheese, 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 meet 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 Food Kitchen. Paper/pens/tape are next to the refrigerator.

On the day of the food 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.

Thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers: Sara Scoran, Daisy Colonnese, Suzanne Lovejoy, Connie Wing, Caren Laskay, Cynthia Landry, Rev. Amanda, Claudia Nielsen, Barbara Trup, Nathalie Taranto, Pat McCarty.

Thanks to our preppers and transporters: Jim Bromer, Cynthia Landry, 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.

### Thanksgiving Baskets for Covenant to Care

Jorge Ball, our adopted social worker, has provided us with names of families who are in need of help to provide a dinner for Thanksgiving. We provide "baskets" of non-perishables and a gift card for perishable needs. Thank you to everyone who has signed up, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Baskets are due in the church hall by Sunday, November 21th.



### Upcoming Projects

We will need volunteers for our Christmas Gifts for Covenant to Care. Names will be available soon

#### Merton House

We continue to collect sample or travel sized toiletries for Merton House. Please drop them off anytime and place them in the basket at the entrance to the church hall.

## What's New or Happening this Month

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 7 at 2:00 AM

Don't forget to turn your clocks back Saturday night!



### New Administrative Assistant

Don't forget to take the time to reach out to our new administrative assistant, Michelle Szabo, to say hello and to give her a warm welcome. She starts with us on November 8th. Office hours will be shifting to 9:30 to 1:30. She will be happy to help you with any questions or needs as they come up.

5th Annual Cookie Bake Sale! Preorder Now!

Saturday, December 4th

9:00 am—12:00 pm



**Cookie Walk**

Thank you to everyone who has signed up! We are asking each baker to provide 10 dozen cookies. Please remember that we are encouraging pre-ordering for our curbside sale.

Sign up sheets are in the church hall for volunteers to work the Friday before or the day of the event.

Please see the order form included in the newsletter to pick your cookies and order! Or if you're reading online visit our website for the order form at [www.eastonchurch.org](http://www.eastonchurch.org).



**News from the Community**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Rev. Amanda Joins Church	November 14th in worship
Thanksgiving Baskets	Due in church hall by Sunday, November 21st
5th Annual Cookie Walk	Saturday, December 4th, 9 am – 12 pm
Hanging of the Greens	Sunday, November 28th in worship
Joel Barlow Concert	Saturday, December 11th Time to be announced (snow date December 18th)
Christmas Pageant	Sunday, December 19th
Christmas Eve Service	Tuesday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> , 5:30 pm

Keep an eye out for details about these events in the coming week's bulletins and next month's Newsletter.



“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces,” Martin Luther reportedly said, “I would still plant my apple tree.” Instead of constantly despairing about this broken-down world, we can remain determined to serve God and our neighbors, planting seeds of life and hope in the process.



**Notes and Reminders**

Poinsettias are among the most beautiful decorations in our sanctuary at Christmas time. This year, as is our custom, we will have “virtual Poinsettias” as well as real plants. Your gift of a “virtual” Poinsettia will be used for Outreach. You may purchase either in honor or memory of a loved one. The list of donor and dedications will be included in the Order of Worship. The Poinsettia plants will decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. You are invited to take them home with you after the Christmas Eve Service, or if you wish they will be brought to a homebound member.

Poinsettia Pre Order

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to Pre-Order Poinsettia Plants/Virtual for Christmas Eve as follows:

Poinsettia Plant order

\_\_\_\_\_ Red or \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Total # Plants \_\_\_\_\_

“Virtual” Poinsettia order

\_\_\_\_\_ @ Virtual Total \_\_\_\_\_

Please call/email me when the price is established \_\_\_\_\_

(Your phone or email address)



**Daylight Saving Time ends** Sunday, November 7th at 2:00 am. Set your clocks back on Saturday night!

## Stewardship Campaign 2021

### Stewardship Campaign

November 1, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of the Congregational Church of Easton,

As last year, Covid-19 is still a very real and concerning presence in our world. Despite the changes and challenges of the past nearly 2 years, we have been able to resume our spiritual practices together as one community. We have instituted a hybrid format of worship where we meet together to worship in person with a Zoom component. We are still offering educational opportunities and we are still thinking about maintaining the church. With this in mind, **November 21st** will be an important day in the life of our church. This will be the Sunday where we will express our intended investment in the church for the coming year. Although we may not always think of financial giving as an opportunity to tangibly express our love, devotion and thankfulness to God, it is nothing less than that.

As the day approaches, I would ask that each of us make our offerings to the church a matter of prayerful and deliberate consideration. That way, whatever commitment we decide to make on the 21st will be a faith venture between us and God.

In uncertain financial times, many of us hesitate to increase our commitment. Yet, I believe that God gives us that strength to do what God leads us to do. For our pledges help maintain the beauty of our historic buildings, continue our Children's Church programs, to continue our Adult education opportunities, and to continue in our outreach to families in need in Easton and in the Bridgeport area. And this year, these offerings will help us as we bring our church into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with internet in the sanctuary allowing for worship to be streamed live.

May God's blessings be with each of you and may your offerings: financially and of your talents and skills, reflect your love, gratitude, and joy in the presence and work of the Lord. Remember that every pledge matters and counts in helping us narrow our deficit. This year we are aiming to bring in \$66,000 in pledges as we honor our 260<sup>th</sup> year of ministry!

Stewardship Goal 2021: \$66,000 for our 260<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**Stewardship Pledge date: November 21, 2021**

Blessings,

Phillip A. Doremus  
Chair of Church Council

Pastor

Rev. Amanda Ostrove



## Serving Schedule

**November Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Nathalie Taranto**

**December Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Leon March**

If you would like to participate in worship by doing the offering, 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.

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### *Altar Flower for 2021 and 2022*

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).



# November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 3:30 Bible Study	4 7 PM Guided Meditation	5	6 
7 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion Deacon's meeting	8	9	10 3:30 Bible Study	11 7 PM Guided Meditation 	12	13
14 10:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Children Worship Rev. Amanda to join church	15	16 Food Kitchen 4:00 p.m.	17	18	19	20
21 Pledges Due 10:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Children Worship	22	23	24	25 Office Closed  Thanksgiving	26 Office Closed	27
28 Advent Begins 10:00 a.m. Greening of the Church	29	30	31			

# December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Cookie Sale 9-12
<b>5 Advent</b> 10:00AM Worship with Communion 11:30 AM Deacons	6	7	8	9	10	11 Breakfast with Santa Joel Barlow Sing-a-long
<b>12 Advent</b> 10:00 AM Worship Children's Church	13	14	15	16	17	18 <b>Joel Barlow Sing-a-long back up date</b>
<b>19 Advent</b> 10:00 AM Pageant	20	21 3:30 Food Kitchen 	22	23	24 5:30 Christ- mas Service 	25
26 10:00 AM YouTube Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

A decorative horizontal arrangement of autumn-themed floral and leaf motifs in shades of orange, red, yellow, and green, positioned above the word "November".

# November



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