

News from the Hill

The Congregational Church of Easton

January/February 2022



Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Church Council Chair

Phillip A. Doremus

Board of Deacons Chair

Nathalie Taranto

Church Secretary

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
9:30 am to 1:30 pm





***“In going from one era into the next,
God always uses the backdrop of darkness before a great light appears”.***

James Goll, Director of Prayer Storm, Coordinator of Encounters,
and Christian Author 21st Century

In the winter time in New England, our days are shorter, colder, and we are reminded of darkness. But with each day there is *more and more light*. **This year let's use this time of darkness and increased time inside our homes as a time to notice the quiet and to reflect upon our lives, our world, and our experiences. I am not speaking about New Year's resolutions** because I am a firm believer that those are very rarely kept and designed to be broken. *But rather to use this opportunity to center our lives upon the light of Christ, upon the work of God.* This is a perfect opportunity to recommit to caring for ourselves and our world, to recommit ourselves to allowing the light of Christ to shine through us to dispel the darkness of this world.

The past two years have been quite a struggle for many of us for one reason or another. For some of us those struggles perhaps predate the coming of the pandemic which only further complicated our lives. So where do we turn for our hope in God? Where do we turn when we need to refocus our lives and our hearts? I would urge that we turn to *God, the Bible, and our church community*. Throughout our Bibles, throughout the long history of this world, there have been periods of great struggle, great darkness, but each time when the people have recommitted themselves to God His light began shine so brightly that it burned off the clouds of darkness.

To that end, we urge you to continue joining us for worship whether in person or by zoom. For *together* we give each other strength for a new day, *together* we encourage each other find God amidst the struggles of life, and *together we discover new ways to live into Christ's mission in this world.* Join us for our many outreach opportunities: consider donating a new unused blanket for those who are in need, donate food to our collection of the Bridgeport Rescue Mission food pantry, cook for our month food kitchen, join us for our Spring Bible Study and Guided Meditation, commit yourselves to attending our annual meeting coming in February, and join us for our many Lenten and Easter opportunities to come in March and April. Your participation helps to bring light into our darkness; your participation helps to shine God's light into a world that struggles with so many dark realities.

So please thoroughly read the rest of our newsletter to know how you can volunteer and engage with your faith community.

Blessings,

Rev. Amanda Ostrove



Deacons

Owing to the rapid spread of this Omicron phase of the COVID epidemic, Rev. Amanda's Installation as our Pastor has been *canceled* from the January calendar. Specific details will be coordinated with the denomination; more information to follow when it is deemed safe to set the celebration date. Our agreement to covenant with her indicates that we are pledging our prayers and support in the stewardship of time, talent and monetary contributions.

Rev. Ostrove indicated that our Church piano was serviced in January. Organists/pianists have noted sticking keys. The difficulty arises from a dysfunctional metal carriage housing. The part is under warranty so replacement costs are covered.

The Stewardship Campaign moves forward well. Firm figures will be provided at the upcoming annual meeting. This Newsletter is for January/February combined.

Given the rapid spread of Omicron, mask *must* be worn during in-person worship; and coffee hour must be suspended. Both decisions/restrictions will be revisited next month, or before, as new infection figures emerge.

We also want to thank our organ repair man who got our very aged organ up and working again. We certainly enjoy the addition of organ music in our worship services. His talents have allowed us to continue using our beloved organ instead of needing to replace it.

Looking way ahead, Lent begins on March 2.

The Deacon's wish all a Safe and Healthy New year

The next Deacon's meeting will be February 6th, at 11:30 AM.

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



TAC

We met on Sunday, January 16th where we discussed plans for our upcoming *Trunk Tag Sale* which is to be scheduled for *Saturday May 21st*.

We also discussed a fun online fellowshiping opportunity called Interesting Facts.

We ask that you email Leon March, leonmarch@sbcglobal.net, with an interesting fact about yourself. Then on the last Sunday in February following worship we will try to guess which fact belongs with which parishioner.

Ways to Support our Turnaround Process

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

Facilities

Heating System Project Update

The permits needed for the underground propane tank have just been approved!

We are still waiting for news on when the work will commence at the church.

We again want to thank our benefactress for making the new heating system possible.



Next Bridgeport Rescue Mission Food Kitchen Menu for February 15th

Chicken—any style—or your specialty, Mac and Cheese, Vegetables, Salad, Fruits, and Desserts.

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 be meeting at the church until 4:00 pm on Food Kitchen Tuesdays.

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 3:00 pm. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 4 pm to help load cars.

Thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers for January: Barbara Trup, Connie Wing, Daisy Colonese, Susan March, Sue Farmer, Nathalie Taranto, Suzanne Herlihy, Suzanne Lovejoy, Caren Laskay, and Rev. Amanda

Thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers: Sue Farmer, Jim Bromer, Sara Scoran, Rev. Amanda Ostrove

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.

WINTER BLANKET COLLECTION FOR BRIDGEPORT RESCUE MISSION

We are continuing our collection of new twin sized blankets for those who are suffering in the cold this winter. They will be collected in the church office and donated as need to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission shelter. Please consider giving to this donation drive and help bring warmth into the life of someone in need.



Stewardship Campaign

Typically, this is the time of year where we ask people to consider their donation for the next fiscal year. Donations are essential to the life of our church and your donations have allowed for us to continue on our work in Christ extending our ministry from only about 4 years left 5 years ago to maintaining that 3-4 year goal each and every year. Our goal is to keep extending those years from year to year, so we can continue to make a difference in the lives of our parishioners, local community, and community at large.

We are very grateful and appreciative to each and every one of you for your continued generosity to our church community. We would not be where we are today without the various ways that you support the work that we do. To that end, the council, who are diligently working and planning for 2022. So please remember to send in your pledges to the church office as soon as is possible.

Many Blessings and Thanks,

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Pastor



336 Westport
Road

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Keep For Your Records

Name _____

Pledge Year _____

Address _____

I plan to give \$ _____ ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly

Amount _____

for an annual total of \$ _____

I understand this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the church office.

Frequency _____

☐ I would like Offering Envelopes.

☐ I would like to talk with someone about including the church in my will.

Signature _____ Date _____



BIBLE STUDY

Our Spring Bible study will begin on **Wednesday April 20th 3:30PM** as a hybrid model so please mark your calendars. We will be continuing our study of the book of Genesis with the story of Jacob. We will cover chapters 29:19—36:43 over the course of 8 weeks. This class is open to all people no matter their faith traditions or biblical knowledge. Come for one session or for all sessions. You are always welcome. Keep an eye on your emails and the newsletters for zoom information and any additional information you might need.

I look forward to see you there!



As of right now, we will be moving forward with our plans for a vacation bible school this summer for the week of

August 8th to 12th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

If you are interested in volunteering for this activity please contact Rev. Amanda. In the coming months, we will have a registration form available. We will also have requests for supplies for our many fun crafts and activities.

GUIDED MEDITATION

Weekly guided meditation will resume with a Lenten focus on Wednesdays at 7PM on March 9, March 23rd, and April 6th. These will be zoom sessions only so please mark your calendars.

Zoom information will come in following newsletters.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON WARNING

256th ANNUAL MEETING

February 27, 2022

The Governing Body (Membership) of the Congregational Church of Easton is hereby warned to meet in their Church Sanctuary on Sunday February 27, 2022 after 11:00 a.m. for the following purposes:

- To hear and act on reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees for the year 2021.
- To hear a report of the Stewardship Campaign.
- To consider and act on the Church Budget for 2022.
- To Hear a Report from the Turnaround Committee.
- To act on any other business proper to come before this meeting.





Serving Schedule not right

January Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Jon Stock			
	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour Temporarily Suspended
January 2	Leon March	N. Taranto /Daisy Colonnese	
January 9	P. McCarty / N. Taranto	The Twomblys	
January 16	D. Colonnese / T. Linley	N. Taranto /Daisy Colonnese	
January 23	S. Lovejoy / N. Taranto	The Twomblys	
January 30	P. McCarty / T. Linley	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	

February Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Sara Trup			
	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour Temporarily Suspended
February 6	S. Lovejoy	D. Colonnese,	
February 13	The Marches	The Twomblys	
February 20	P. McCarty, B. Trup	D. Colonnese	
February 27	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	The Twomblys	

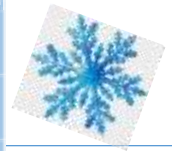
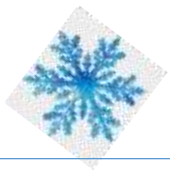
If you would like to participate in worship by doing the offering, or hosting coffee hour, please call a member of the Board of Deacons or call or email the church office. If you are unable to serve as assigned, please contact the church office.

Altar Flower and Coffee Hour Hosting for 2022

Please see our **Flower Calendar** for 2022 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 (\$35.00).

Hosting a Coffee Hour is a wonderful way also to celebrate a special occasion.

- Why: Celebrating a special day with your church family, to welcome people to a moment of fellowship.
- How: Call the church office or send an email if you would like to be on our rotation to host Coffee Hour or would like to just do a special date.





JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 AM Worship w/ Communion 11:30 Deacon's Meeting	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10 AM Worship	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM TAC	17 MKLJr. Day Office closed	18 Food Kitchen 4:00	19	20	21	22
23 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Council Meeting	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10 AM Worship	31					

February 2022



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
6 10 AM Worship w/ Communion 11:30 Deacon's Meeting	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 10 AM Worship	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15 4:00 Food Kitchen	16	17 12:30PM Out- reach meeting	18	19
20 10 AM Worship 11:30 TAC Meeting	21 President's Day Office Closed	22	23	24	25	26
27 10 AM Worship 11 AM Annual Meet- ing	28					



NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .
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