

News from the Hill

The Congregational Church of Easton

March 2022



Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Church Council Chair

Phillip A. Doremus

Board of Deacons Chair

Nathalie Taranto

Church Secretary

Michelle Szabo

Sexton

Sara Scoran

Phone

203-261-2527

E-mail

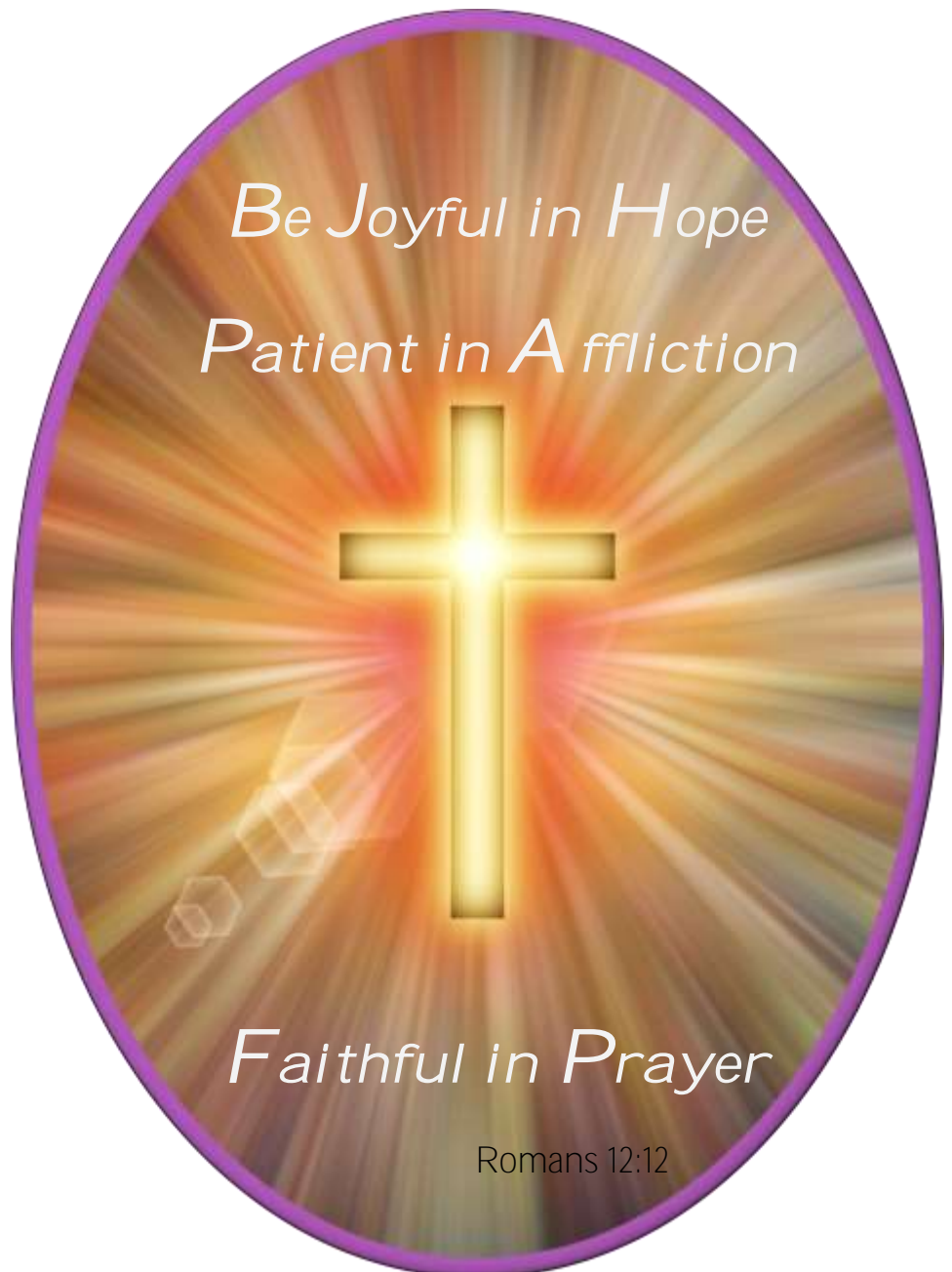
cchurch@gmail.com

Website

www.eastonchurch.org

Office Hours

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



Romans 12:12



“O Lord, make this Lenten season different from other ones.

Let me find you again. Amen.”

Henri Nouwen

Every year when Lent hits the first thing that comes to mind is not scripture, or the image of Christ's suffering, or in fact Easter. It is the portion of the Passover Seder where the youngest child asks “What makes this night different than all the rest?” This year, this question seems louder than ever, for me, making me consider what makes this Lenten season different than all the rest. Very often, we have our customary habits of Lent as we work our way to Easter morning. But have you considered if those habits are doing what they are intended to do which is to help you find God again? Do they connect you to God and your spirituality?

This year we are working towards our **260th anniversary** as a church and a theme that I see in our church history that seems to carry through to today is that our church is intended to be a safe place where together we can search for God in our individual lives as well as in our collective life. It is a place safe from judgment, free from all those things that divide us in society. It is a place where the only important thing is the search for God. This is the same purpose as Lent. It is a time to stop the fast pace of life, step away from the political fighting, the violence of the world, and to just listen for God seeking to be built up in faith.

This year I have been experimenting with different ways to do that. I have begun offering guided meditation that will begin on **March 9th** and run every other **Wednesday at 7PM** via Zoom. This is a great way to find peace, healing, and connection with Jesus and God in ways that the world often distracts us from. I would urge all of you to give it a try. Let's use Lent as a way to engage in some spiritual practices that will build our souls up in a world that has brought spiritual crisis to the brink for many. Starting on **March 2nd** and running every other Wednesday at 7PM will be a zoom Lenten study focused on the last days and hours of Christ as represented to us in *Luke 22-23*. Come and bring your thoughts, your questions, your desire to connect with the story that has for many become so familiar that we no longer think about it. Then make some time on **Friday April 15th** to join us for a prayer watch where you get the opportunity for some alone time in our sanctuary for a half hour (or hour if you need more time) to connect with God in the beauty of our historic and beautiful worship space.

We are called to make this Lenten season be one that helps us and brings us to the resurrection of the Easter morning. Our Lenten practices should be that which brings life back to our weather worn souls. Read on to find out more details.



Ukraine Relief



Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. Uniting in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with the people of Ukraine and all who are affected, and with our global partners who are welcoming those driven from their homes. All donations will be deposited into the International Disasters fund designated for “Ukraine Relief.” One can either use the link below or mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note “Ukraine Relief Fund” on your check in the memo section.

<https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/>



Deacons

At our 255th Annual Meeting on February 27th, James Bromer was nominated and elected to the Board of Deacons. Welcome and Congratulations!, Jim.

Next, the Deacons send hearty get well wishes to Phil Doremus as he recovers from knee surgery.

We are at the Lenten Season, wherein the Deacons and Amanda offer the following schedule for personal preparation:

3/2/2022 - Lent begins with Ash Wednesday
Deacon Lenten program/activity (7:00 PM)

Remote

3/2, 3/16 & 3/30 – Bible based study & meditation lead by Amanda

3/9, 3/23, 4/6 – Guided Meditation with Amanda as facilitator

4/10/2022 - Palm Sunday Worship with distribution of palms

4/14/2022 - Maundy Thursday worship at 7:30 PM, in person

4/15/2022 - Good Friday meditation in sanctuary – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Call (203-261-2527) to schedule a one half hour session for
yourself

4/17/2022 - **Easter Sunday Worship**

In the meantime, what happens at “**Interesting Facts Fellowship?**” Join worship service and post-worship on March 13th for the fun as we find out!

Looking ahead, **June 11th** has been tentatively set for **Amanda’s Instillation Service**. A pastor installation service is an important event for both the pastor and his or her congregation. It is meant to be a richly festive, welcoming ceremony to **recognize the calling of the pastor**; to acknowledge his or her responsibilities and duties, and to celebrate the end of a period and a new chapter in a congregations life. Mark you calendar to join the celebration.

The next Deacon’s meeting will be March 6th, at 11:30 AM. All meeting minutes are available at the office.

Board members are: Daisy Colonnese, Jon Stock, Leon March, Sara Trup, Jim Bromer & Nathalie Tarranto, Chair, (203-268-7441).



TAC

We met on Sunday, 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

New furnace working well!

Permanent, underground tank being installed March 10th!





Next Food Kitchen at Operation Hope Menu for March 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 February: Barbara Trup, Connie Wing, Daisy Colonnese, Susan March, Nathalie Taranto, Suzanne Herlihy, Sara Trup, Cynthia Landry, Caren Laskay, and Rev. Amanda

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

The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness, where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him.

- Mark 1:12-13 NLT -



heartlight.org



Stewardship Campaign

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.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89414286446> Meeting ID: 894 1428 6446

By Phone: 1-929-205-6099

Lenten Bible Study



Join us for our Lenten Bible Study on Wednesday nights at 7PM via Zoom on March 2, 16, and April 2 as we journey through the last days and hours of Jesus Christ and find new depth and meaning for our lives and for our souls. The Zoom information is below.

Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 869 2989 9126

By Phone

1-929-205-6099

Bible Trivia

- 1) Where do we get the word Lent?
- 2) What are we celebrating on Palm Sunday?
- 3) What is the white cloth called that is often draped on the cross on Easter Sunday?
- 4) What did Jesus say to the thief on the cross next to him?

- 1) The 40-day period is called Lent after an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. This is because of the time of year when it happens, as this is when the days start to get longer, as we approach Summer.
- 2) Palm Sunday recalls an event in the book of John 12:13 where Jesus is riding a donkey into Jerusalem as a king and being greeted by the people who are waving palm branches.
- 3) Jesus' burial shroud which represents his Resurrection.
- 4) "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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

	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
March 6	Kailey and Leah Baczewski	N. Taranto /Daisy Colonnese	
March 13	P. McCarty / N. Taranto	The Twomblys	Leon March
March 20	D. Colonnese / T. Linley	N. Taranto /Daisy Colonnese	Jonathan Stock
March 27	S. Lovejoy / N. Taranto	The Twomblys	TBD

April Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Leon March

	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
April 3	S. Lovejoy	D. Colonnese,/N. Taranto	TBD
April 10	The Marches	The Twomblys	TBD
April 17	P. McCarty, B. Trup	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	No Coffee Hour
April 24	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	The Twomblys	TBD

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.

March 2022

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2 7:00 Bible Study Zoom	3	4	5
6 10:00 Worship w/ Communion 11:00 Coffee hour 11:30 Deacon's Meeting	7	8	9 7:00 Guided Meditation Zoom	10	11	12
13 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Fellowship Event	14	15 4:00 Food Kitchen	16 7:00 Bible Study Zoom	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19
20 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee hour 11:30 TAC Meeting	21	22	23 7:00 Guided Meditation Zoom	24	25	26
27 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee hour	28	29	30 7:00 Bible Study Zoom	31 		

April 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 10:00 Worship w/ Communion 11:00 Coffee hour 11:30 Deacon's Meeting	4	5	6 7:00 Guided Meditation Zoom	7	8	9
10 10:00 Palm Sunday Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	11	12	13	14 7:30 Maundy Thursday Service	15 9:00-2:00 Good Friday Prayer	16
17 10:00 Easter Worship 11:00 Coffee hour	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee hour	25	26	27	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