

# News from the Hill

The Congregational Church of Easton

August 2022



**Minister**

**Rev. Amanda Ostrove**

**Church Council Chair**

**Phillip A. Doremus**

**Board of Deacons Chair**

**Nathalie Taranto**

**Church Secretary**

**Michelle Szabo**

**Sexton**

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





*“Faith is taking the first step  
even when you don’t see the whole staircase”.*

Martin Luther King Jr.

At the end of June we held a congregational meeting, that was a very critical and important moment in the life of our church. There we discussed the challenges facing our congregation. This meeting ended with a charge to the church council to create a group of individuals to research and come up with recommendations in conjunction with the Center for Transformation through the UCC for our faith community. This group was formed in our July meeting of Council. This is an important and crucial step in discerning our future work in Christ’s name.

For many this is a frustrating and difficult turn of events. However, this does not mean that everything is ending. It just means that God is doing something new here and we have yet to discover what his call for our community is at this phase in the life of our church. This is an opportunity for us to learn from God, to build up our trust in his care, and to rely on our faith and prayer to guide our decisions, our hearts, and our conversations. This is what the face of discernment looks like. This is an opportunity for spiritual growth for all of us, myself included, and spiritual growth is often times painful and uncomfortable as God pushes us from our comfort zones so that we can truly see where we are being led next.

I think Martin Luther King Jr had it right when he said, “Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase”. Our circumstances are forcing us to walk forward in faith trusting that God guides us, that God comforts us, that God brings us peace, and through this experience faith will expand and grow and that we will discover what is being spoken to us in the here and now.

Meetings are continuing to happen throughout the month. There may be many changes to come to our schedules. Please bear with us and your support and volunteering are crucially needed as we move forward.

Blessings,

Rev. Amanda Ostrove



### Visioning Committee

Out of the Special Meeting, Church Council has met and created the core visioning committee that will help guide our congregation through this time of discernment and help us present options for our congregation. This committee consists of:

Leon March, Chair of the Visioning Committee

Phil Doremus

Caren Laskay

Jon Stock

Pat McCarty

Connie Wing

Nathalie Taranto

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Please note, that though this is the core group of the visioning committee. We strong urge everyone in the congregation to participate and we will be calling on everyone's talents and skills to help us research and discern. This is no one person's responsibility or even one committee's responsibility. This is the responsibility of everyone in our congregation. We will provide each person with guidance as to what we need. And remember, if you need help as we go through this process to please reach out to Rev. Amanda Ostrove for guidance, prayer, and spiritual support.

Our first meeting with the Center of Transformation will be on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am following coffee hour. In the meantime, let us all enter into this prayerfully.

### Fundraising



#### **Clothing Donation Bin**

After many conversations and much research, we have established a relationship with a clothing bin donation bin. This has been in conversation since 2018. Located in the parking lot of the Old Academy building off of Center Road, it provides easy access to those who are looking to donate clothing and shoes to those who are in need. This is a wonderful way to help support our neighbors in need, reuse those items that we no longer want or fit into, and clean out some space in our overcrowded closets.

***Please Consider Stopping by with your Donations!***



## Next Food Kitchen at Operation Hope is August 16th

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 June: Daisy Colonnese, Barbara Trup, Connie Wing, Suzanne Herlihy, Caren Laskay, Claudia Nielsen, Cynthia Landry, Nathalie Taranto, Susan March, Jane Kondratovich, and Rev. Amanda

Thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers: 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.*

## Book Bag Supplies Suggestions



3 ring binder  
Graph paper  
Pocket folders for binder  
Index cards  
Glue Sticks  
Loose leaf paper  
Spiral bound notebooks (large & small)  
"Sticky notes"  
Pens and pencils  
Pocket calendar/planner

Hand sanitizer  
Packets of tissues/hand wipes  
Highlighters  
Erasers  
Calculator  
Paper clips/binder clips  
Ruler  
Zip drive



*A Special Thank you to all those who  
Donated to the office for our New Printer!*

**Claudia  
Nielsen**

**Pat McCarty**

**Barbara Trup**

**Phil Doremus**

**Chris Kvaka**

**Caren Laskay**

Thank  
you



- 1) What does a scalloped sea shell represent in the Bible?
- 2) Why was Daniel thrown into the lion's den?
- 3) What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
- 4) Who was the only female judge of Israel from the book of judges?
- 5) Where did Jesus turn water into wine?

5) Cana

4) Deborah

3) Jesus wept John 11:35

2) He was praying when it was not allowed.

1) Baptism

## Serving Schedule

### August Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Jim Bromer

	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
<b>August 7</b>	P. Doremus, T. Linley	The Twomblys	TBD
<b>August 14</b>	The Marches	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	TBD
<b>August 21</b>	P. McCarty, B. Trup	The Twomblys	TBD
<b>August 28</b>	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	TBD

### September Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Daisy Colonnese

	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
<b>September 4th</b>	P. Doremus, T. Linley	The Twomblys	TBD
<b>September 11th</b>	The Marches	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	TBD
<b>September 18th</b>	P. McCarty, B. Trup	The Twomblys	TBD
<b>September 25th</b>	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	TBD

If you would like to participate in worship by doing the offering, or being a collector, 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.

# August 2022

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

	1	2	3 10:00 am Deacon's Meeting	4	5	6
7 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Visioning Committee Meeting	8	9	10	11 11:00 am Deacon's Meeting	12	13
14 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour Backpacks Due	15	16 4:00 pm Food Kitchen	17	18	19	20
21 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour	29	30	31			

# September 2022

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

				1	2	3
4 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour	26	27	28	29	30	





These things have I spoken unto you, that my Joy might remain in you, and that your Joy might be full! John 15:11

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NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .  
THE CONGREGATIONAL  
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