

# News from the Hill

The Congregational Church of Easton

September 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**

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**Website**

**www.eastonchurch.org**

**Office Hours**

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



Galatians 6:9

*“God promises to make something out of the storms  
that bring devastation to your life”*

Romans 8:28

As the fall sets in and the summer begins to fade, I am reminded once more that this is a time of change. With the change comes the promise of beautiful colors, cooler weather, and the reminder that change can be beautiful and wonderful. So, too, our church is going through a time of change. We have established a visioning committee that has been working diligently under the leadership of Leon March to determine the future and legacy of our community of faith while honoring the 260 years of dedicated service to the mission and work of God in this world. This month, I urge each of you to share your memories of the wonderful work our community has done in your personal lives and in the community, the way the message of Christ has touched you and others.

Our bible says this about the challenges of life in this world, “God promises to make something out of the storms that bring devastation to your life” (Romans 8:28). We never know what beautiful and wonderful work is being done in those times of challenge and tribulation. It is often in those times that God is doing something quite wonderful and life altering. Look for his presence in those moments reassuring you that he knows what he is doing. With this in mind, there will be some changes in our office and staffing. Our church secretary, Michelle Szabo, will be reducing her hours from 20 hours a week to 10 hours a week which will be split up between working from home in the evenings and working in the office on the weekends. Fridays the church office will be closed. I will still be available Sunday through Thursday to offer counseling and to answer questions. I no longer will be doing open office hours but rather I request that any visits to the office for counseling be by appointment. So please call the office and I will let you know what times I have available.

Starting on October 17<sup>th</sup>, I will be reducing my hours to 15 hours a week. So it will be important that volunteers step up to help with the functions of the church. With that in mind, I have a few areas that would be helpful: making phone calls and sending notes to our shut-ins, participating in town events and committees, being a contact person for facility emergencies, general care of the facilities, leading fellowshiping events, and making regular deposits to the bank. This will help alleviate some of the office responsibilities. If you can do some of these responsibilities please contact me and I will keep a list and speak with you about the details of these responsibilities. Remember these changes may seem hard in the beginning but this is an opportunity for our members to take on more of an active role in the life of our church and to connect more closely with one another.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these coming changes, please call the office or schedule some time to sit and chat with me. I would be happy to help anyone process these changes.

Blessings,

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

## Boards and Committee Reports

The Deacon's, along with Amanda, continue our focus on meaningful worship and spiritual activities.

At our June 26th congregational meeting regarding the imperative financial status of our church, the Church Council was given authority to form a special group authorized to explore, in concert with the UCC, best options for our next steps. The "Visioning Committee" with Leon March at the helm has been formed and is working on identifying cost saving practices; creating strategy for re-visioning and re-missioning the congregation; (among many, many other necessary steps) some of which follow:

Dropping the internet connection to the sanctuary (expensive and poorly used). The Sunday worship service will be posted on YouTube and recorded which may be sent to those who do not use the internet.

Organist alternatives (organist are scarce and costly). Our member, Suzanne Lovejoy, has volunteered to act as organist when she is available. Grateful to you, Suzanne! On the occasions she cannot be with us, we will use alternative styles of worship, such as the well received contemplative service we had on August 21st last.

Office hours of church secretary are decreased to 10 per week. Michelle will be in the office 6 hours on Sundays. Her remaining 4 hours per week will be flexible and guided as fits Pastor Amanda's needs. Some of her in-office hours may be evenings and/or Saturdays. She is able to effect a good deal of her obligations remotely from her home.

Pastor Amanda has offered to cut her time to 15 hours per week. Amanda will be in the office 6 hours on Sunday; 4.5 hours each on Tuesday and Thursday. The office will be closed on Mondays and Fridays. She, too, can attend to some of her tasks remotely and she has agreed to some flexibility as fits the need of the business of the congregation and its people. She can easily be reached by phone or internet. Needless to say, Some of her tasks must be shifted to we members of the church. She will be requesting volunteers as needed. The Deacons are working on the necessary updating/changes to Pastor Amanda's contract.

It is noted that even with the cost cutting savings, such steps will not be adequate to continue our mission as it is.

The next Deacons meeting will be August 7, 2022 at 11:30 AM.

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

## Boards and Committee Reports

### Visioning Committee

The Visioning Committee continues to meet regularly to discuss the future of our congregation. We are currently researching different options including applying to the UCC guidance program for churches that are at a turning point called ADAPT. This is a pilot program and only four congregations will be chosen. We hope to be among them. We are also studying our finances and budget to find economies that will afford us more time to make the appropriate decisions and recommendations for the congregation. Some economies have already been implemented and others will come. Please see Rev. Amanda Ostrove's article to read about staffing changes. The church internet connection has also been cancelled and zoom worship will be replaced by recording the service and uploading to YouTube at a later point. The task assigned to this group of individuals is a daunting one and we will be calling on the talents and skills of all of you to help guide us through this process. So please keep your eyes open for emails or phone calls about requests for help. In the meantime, if you have any concerns and ideas or you want to know what you can do please contact Leon March the chair of the Visioning Committee.

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**Unfortunately, this year's church family picnic that was scheduled for **Saturday September 24th** is not going to be happening due to some unforeseen circumstances. However, we would like all of you to mark your calendars for our ***Harvest Dinner*** scheduled for **November 19th**. There will be advanced volunteer sheets and RSVPs to come this month. We hope that you all will come and enjoy some fellowship time together at this event. Let's make this year's Harvest Dinner a memorable one.**



### 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 September 20 th

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 July and August: 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

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Thank you very much to everyone who supplied backpacks for school children. It is greatly appreciated!




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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 Congregation would  
like to Express our  
Gratitude to Suzanne  
Lovejoy for Donating her  
Time and Talents as  
Organist for the remainder  
of the Year!

*Thank you!*



- 1) Who went to Heaven in a chariot of fire?
- 2) Who helped Jesus carry the cross?
- 3) Which book of the Bible does not mention God?
- 4) What is the last word in the Bible?
- 5) Who was the first person to come upon the injured man in the parable of the Good Samaritan?

5) Priest

4) Amen

3) The Book of Esther or Song of Solomon

2) Simon of Cyrene

1) Elijah

## Serving Schedule

### September Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Daisy Colonnese

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

### October Welcoming and Confirming Deacon —

	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
<b>October 2</b>	P. Doremus, T. Linley	The Twomblys	TBD
<b>October 9</b>	The Marches	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	TBD
<b>October 16</b>	P. McCarty, B. Trup	The Twomblys	TBD
<b>October 23</b>	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	TBD
<b>October 30</b>	P. Doremus, T. Linley	The Twomblys	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.

# September 2022

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 10:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	<b>5</b> Church Offices Closed for Labor Day	<b>6</b> NAPS First Day	<b>7</b> 11:00 a.m. Dea- con's Meeting	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 4:00 p.m. Vision- ing Committee Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 4:00 p.m. Food Kitchen	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	





**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

						1
2 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bible Study	3	4	5 11:00 a.m. Dea- con's Meeting	6	7	8
9 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bible Study	10 Church Offices Closed for Indigenous People's Day	11	12	13	14	15
16 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bible Study	17	18 4:00 p.m. Food Kitchen	19	20	21	22
23 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	31					



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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Westport Road at Center Road  
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