

News from the Hill

The Congregational Church of Easton

October 2022



Minister

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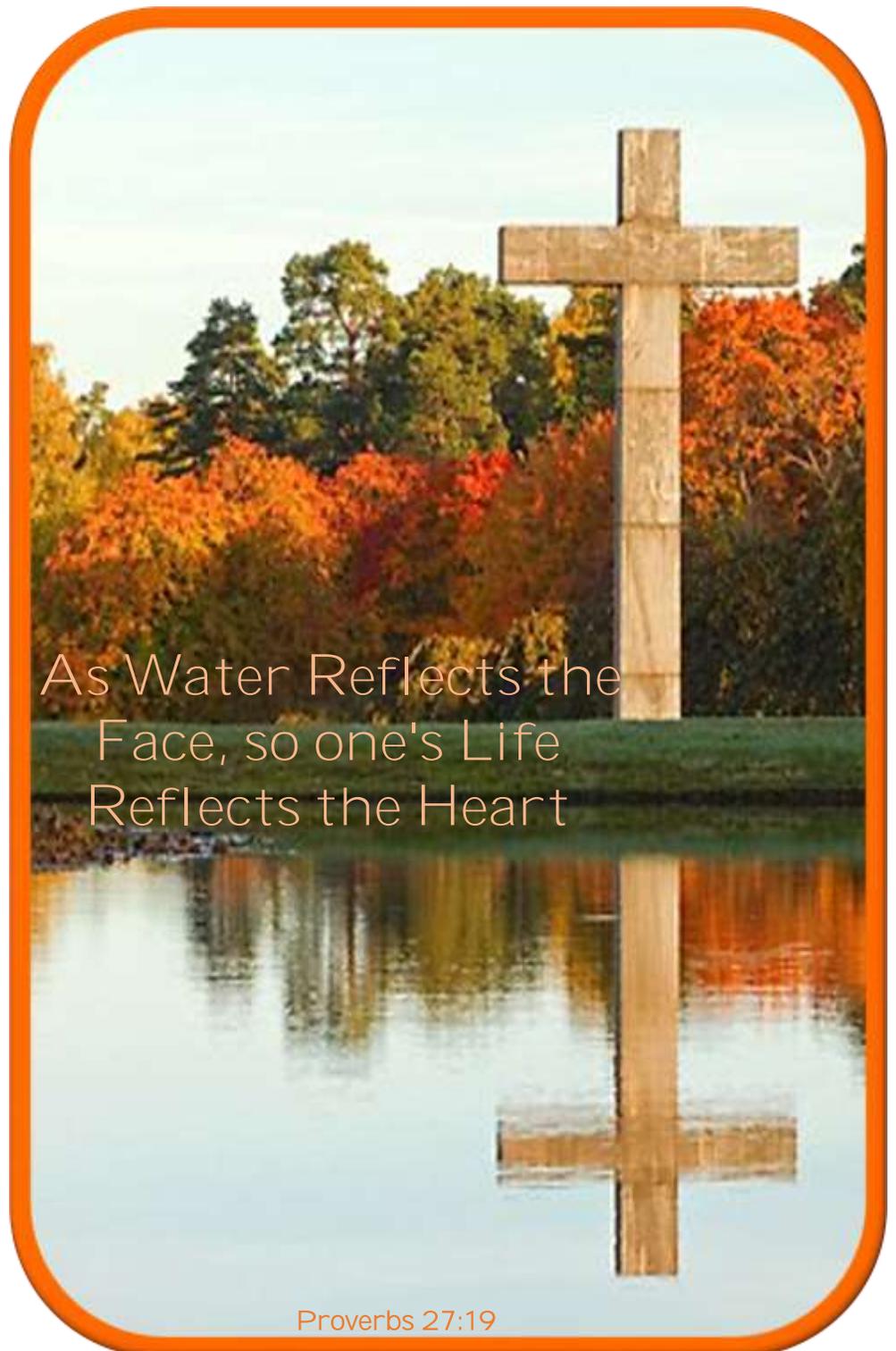
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Website

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Office Hours

Under Review



As Water Reflects the
Face, so one's Life
Reflects the Heart

Proverbs 27:19

“There is nothing impossible with God. All the impossibility is with us when we measure God by the limitations of our unbelief”.

Smith Wigglesworth

As our new visioning committee continues to meet, right now every two weeks or so, a lot of work is being done to work on our budget and changes are being made. But this is not the only function of this committee. This committee is also addressing the difficult task of discerning the future of our community of faith. The tasks that this group of people face are daunting and challenging emotionally and spiritually. For many looking on and for those of us who are doing the bulk of this work, everything might seem impossible. It might seem impossible to continue with the work of God. But with God nothing is impossible. As Wigglesworth points out, “All impossibility is with us”.

Now this does not mean that there will be no changes to us as a community of faith. This does not mean that there will be no drastic decisions that need to be made. Because drastic changes do need to be made and at the end we will be in territory that we have never been in before. But perhaps this is the will of God right now. Perhaps God is working to take us from our comfort zones so he can do something completely new. What seems like a disaster and destruction just might be a opportunity that God is affording us to explore what he is doing here and to explore our connection with God and his covenant with our community. God is calling us to do something new and experience faith in a different way.

So I urge all of you to volunteer and to support the work of our visioning committee. I urge you to join us in this visioning process by coming to bible study and by sharing ideas with the visioning committee. I urge you to read our minutes and to bring your questions. If you have concerns schedule a meeting with me and we can discuss and search for God’s comfort. Perhaps turn to your Bibles and read the passage from Lamentations 1:1-6 and see how others in the history of faith have expressed their concerns and grief over the changes in covenant and community and know that God has remained faithful through all the changes of time and know that God remains faithful to us in this time of change as well.

Please note, that as we go through these changes there are changes to the staffing hours in the church office. Michelle Szabo our church secretary only works 10 hours and is only in the church office on Saturdays and Sundays. So please call or email if there is anything that you need from the church secretary. Starting on October 17th I will be only here 15 hours a week split up between Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Please call before coming in to make an appointment to speak with me. If there is an emergency please call my cell phone directly at 860-449-4439. Otherwise please feel free to leave a voicemail or email and it will be answered as soon as possible.

Blessings,

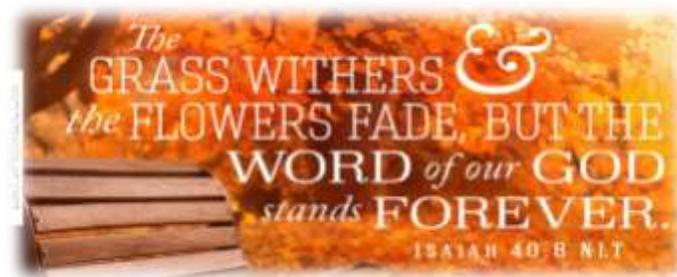
Rev. Amand Ostrove

Boards and Committee Reports

Visioning Committee

Our Visioning Committee has met twice in the month of September. At these meetings much is discussed not only about our financial viability but about our energy as a community and what our options might be. Right now we are exploring the possibilities of sharing our buildings, selling our buildings and then renting space back, and what we might need to do and look into if dissolution is to happen. These are very uncomfortable conversations but we are trying to approach these discussions prayerfully and thoughtfully. We are also working to maintain our current and well-loved activities and we ask that you support our work by participating in all our activities of outreach and fellowship. We ask that you come to worship with us and pray with us for the support, comfort, and direction of God.

There is a letter to all our church members about what we need as a committee and what we have done and are doing moving forward. We ask that you keep an eye out for this letter. We also ask that you completely read this letter and commit yourself to supporting our church and the missions that we still serve. Some of you have already been coming to us with ideas, thoughts, and concerns and we appreciate and value all that support as we move forward.



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 October 18th

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 September: Connie Wing, Daisy Colonesse, Barbara Trup, Rev. Amanda Ostrove, Suzanne Lovejoy, Suzanne Herlihy, Sarah Nascimento, Caren Laskay, Susan March, Nathalie Taranto

Thanks to our preppers, and transporter: Jim Bromer and Rev. Amanda

We are in need of boxes to transport the food to Operation Hope.

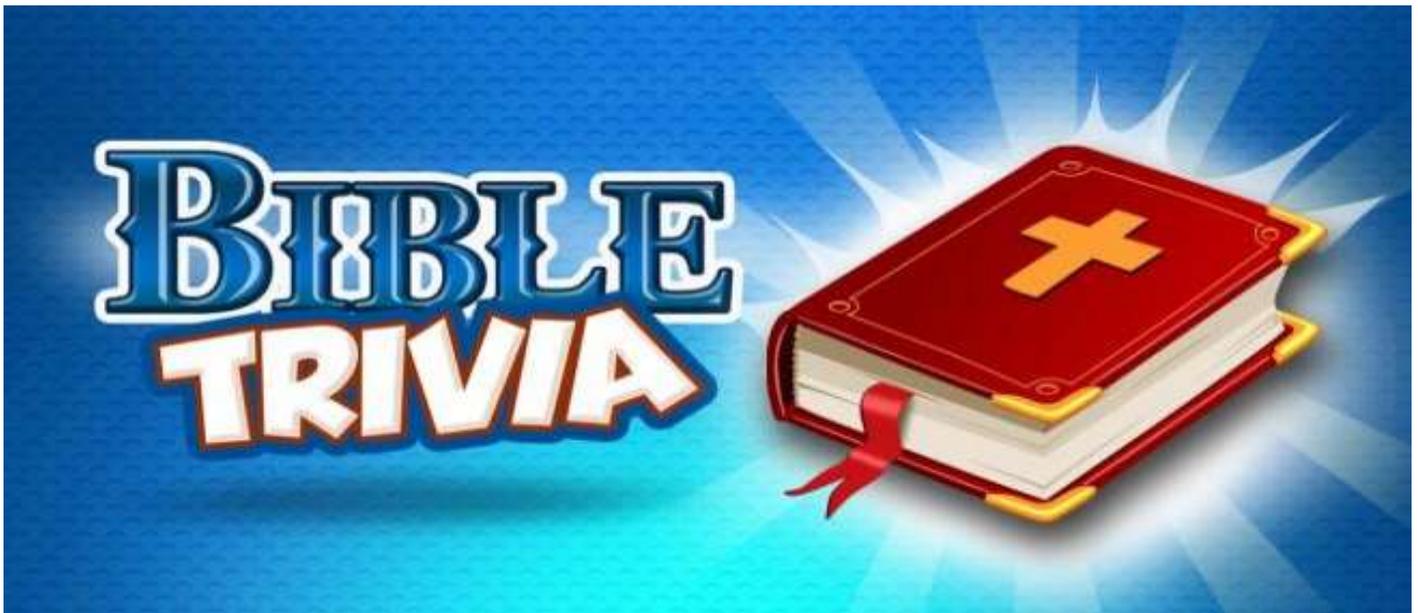
Backpacks: Thank you very much to everyone who supplied backpacks for the school children. It is greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, since our social worker had retired this summer, we were unsure where the backpacks would go. Alison Witherbee from the Senior Center stepped up to the plate, and the backpacks went to Joel Barlow High School students that were in need. We received a nice thank you note.

Thanksgiving Baskets: We are working with a new social worker who will be providing us the names of families who are in need of help with a Thanksgiving dinner. We provide “baskets” of non-perishables, and a gift card for perishable needs. A sign-up sheet is available for providing food and/or gift cards. Extras are always welcome! The sign-up sheet can be found in the church hall.



Baskets are due in the church hall by Sunday, November 13th. Thank you.

- 1) At the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem, what day of the week did Jesus heal the lame man?
- 2) What did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman for?
- 3) **Where was Jesus' first miracle performed?**
- 4) Who came to visit Mary to tell her that she had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus?
- 5) **Which apostle was the "group treasurer?"**



- 1) The Sabbath
- 2) A drink
- 3) Cana
- 4) Gabriel
- 5) Judas

Serving Schedule

October Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Jonathan Stock			
	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
October 2	P. Doremus, T. Linley	The Twomblys	Connie Wing
October 9	The Marches	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	TBD
October 16	P. McCarty, B. Trup	The Twomblys	TBD
October 23	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	TBD
October 30	P. McCarty, B. Trup	The Twombly's	

November Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Sara Trup			
	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
November 6	P. Doremus, T. Linley	The Twomblys	Connie Wing
November 13	The Marches	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	TBD
November 20	P. McCarty, B. Trup	The Twomblys	TBD
November 27	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.

October 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 10:00 Worship with Communion 11:00 Coffee Hour	3	4 6:30—8:30 AA	5 11:00 Deacon's Meeting	6	7	8
9 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	10	11 6:30—8:30 AA	12	13	14	15
16 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Visioning Meeting 1:00 Interfaith Worship Christ's Church	17	18 6:30—8:30 AA	19	20	21	22
23 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	24	25 6:30—8:30 AA	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	31 Happy Halloween!					

November 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

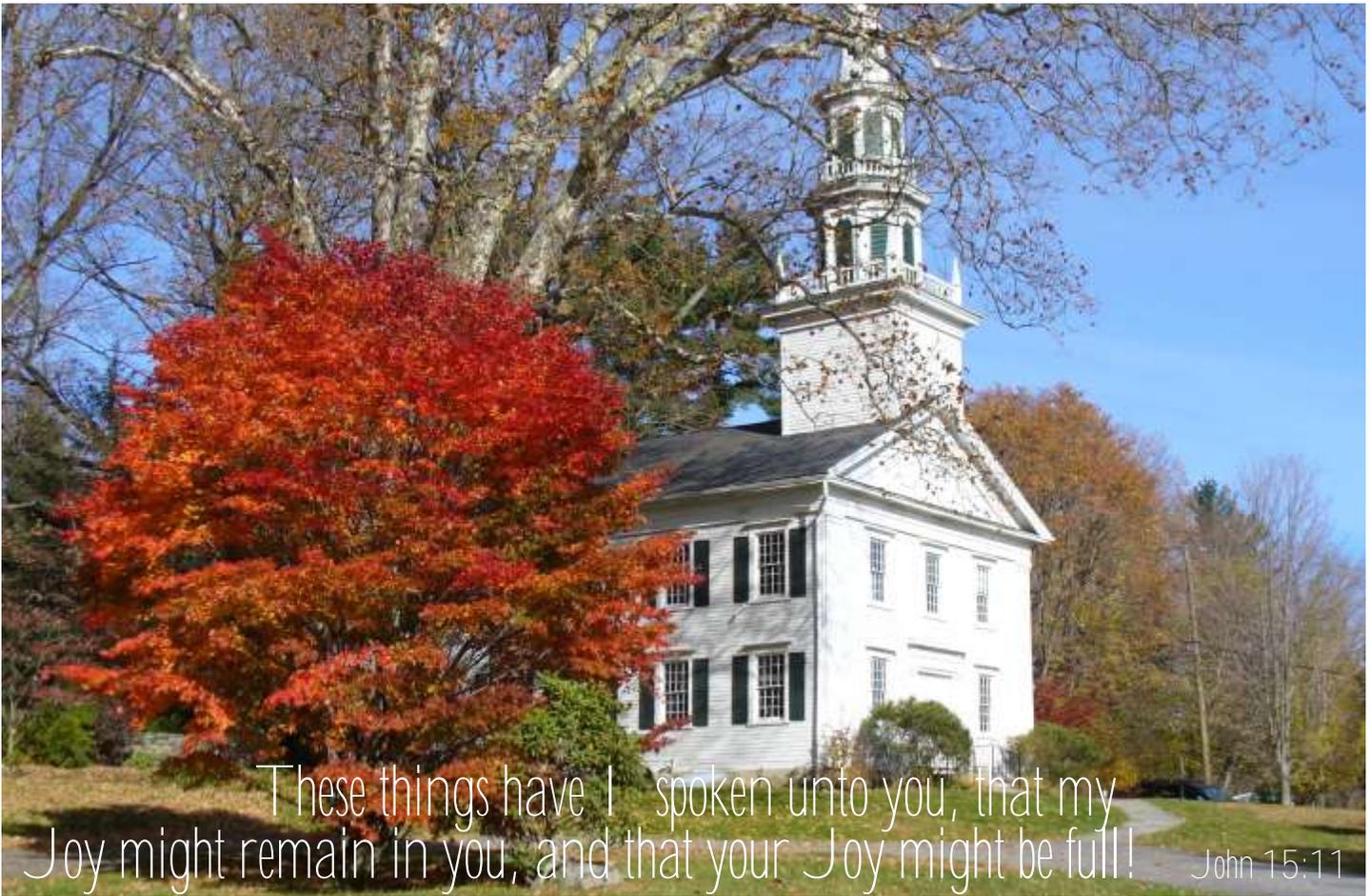
Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<p>1</p> <p>All Saint's Day!</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>10:00 Worship with Communion</p> <p>11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30—8:30 AA</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Veteran's Day</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>11:00 Coffee Hour</p> <p>Thanksgiving Baskets Due</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30—8:30 AA</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>4:30 Harvest Dinner</p>
<p>20</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30—8:30 AA</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Happy Thanksgiving</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30—8:30 AA</p>	<p>30</p>			



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



NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .
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