

# News from the Hill

The Congregational Church of Easton

November 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**

Tuesdays, Thursday

9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Sundays

9:00 am to 3:00 pm



Enter his gates  
with thanksgiving  
and his courts with  
praise.

Psalm 100:4

***“I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds”.***

*Psalm 9:1*

This time of year is a wonderful time to be reminded to give thanks to God. Even in the midst of this challenging time in the life of our church, it is still crucial for us to give thanks to God for the many blessings brought into our lives and into our community. It is important to recognize all of the work that our community has done over the past 260 years of ministry. We have touched countless lives by living into the call of Christ and we still can.

We do this by remembering that where ever two or three of us are gathered there is God to guide, to lead, to inspire, to heal, to comfort. So let us continue to seek the guidance of the Lord in all that we do. Let us continue to touch the lives of those who are in need. Let us continue to support one another in Christian community. Let us continue to be active in our current ministries through outreach, worship and fellowshiping. Let this be our song of thanksgiving to God for the many ways he continues to bless us as individuals and as a community.

I urge each of you to reach out to our visioning committee to show your concern for the life of our church. Ask how you can help. Take an interest in this crucial work that they do. Offer a listening supportive ear and a sign of appreciation for the responsibility that have taken on. Your love and support matter. Please read on to find out about our many upcoming activities. We hope to see each of you there.

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. I am only in the office Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Sundays. 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 Ostrave*

# Boards and Committee Reports

## Visioning Committee

Our visioning committee has met once in October. At this meeting, we discussed on going decisions and potential opportunities for the future of our church. It was decided that we will not be participating in the UCC program ADAPT which guides struggling churches because the programs just won't be up and running in enough time. The visioning committee is looking for ways to help the office staff since we are on reduced hours by having volunteers take on more duties. If you can help or volunteer please email the church office. We also wrote and approved a letter which was sent to the congregation in October about the state of our church community. We hope to hear feedback and to answer any questions that may arise out of that letter. For those who might be interested in the contents of that letter please see the letter below for more information. In November, we made the decision to call a special meeting to discuss the recommendations of the visioning committee and to address any questions or concerns of the congregation.



## **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 cloth-

## Fundraising



ing and shoes to those who are in need. This is a wonderful way to help support our neighbors in 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 November 15th

Chicken — any style — or your specialty, mac and cheese or pasta, vegetables, salad, fruits, and desserts. Any main dish or food that you would like to make/provide will be greatly appreciated. For questions or to make monetary donations towards miscellaneous items, please contact the office. More volunteers are always needed to transport. Please note that we will meet at the church hall at 4:00 pm on Food Kitchen Tuesday to load, and transport the food. Food may be dropped off, and put in the freezer or refrigerator ahead of time. Please mark that it is for the Food Kitchen. Paper/pens/tape are next to the refrigerator. On the day of the food kitchen, food should be fully defrosted and delivered to the church hall by 3:00 pm. Thanks to our cooks, bakers, and shoppers for October. Thanks to our preppers, and transporters. We are in need of boxes to transport the food to Operation Hope. The food we supply for Operation Hope goes to their facility on Nichols Street, next to the Fairfield Police Department. This is a different location than their building on the Post Road in Fairfield.

Merton House: We continue to collect sample or travel sized toiletries for Merton House. Please drop them off any time, and place in the basket at the entrance to the church hall. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you to Cheryl Norton for delivering these much-needed items to Merton House.

Thanksgiving Baskets: We are working with a new social worker (Francine) who provided 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 items. Extras are always welcome! Baskets are due in the church hall by Sunday, November 13th. We requested 9 baskets this year, and have 12 baskets coming due to extras provided by church members. Thank you.

Christmas Baskets/gifts: Francine will be contacted to request names of children and/or families that are in need of gifts for Christmas. Christmas gifts should be at the church office before December 18th. We are requesting 27 gifts and family games or items so that a family can spend time together. A sign-up sheet will be available in the church hall once we have the information from Francine. Thank you!

Clothing bin: The clothing bin is in the Old Academy parking lot. Be sure to place your donated clothes and/or shoes inside the bin. Please do not leave items outside the bin.



### **Harvest Dinner**

Join us on November 19<sup>th</sup> for our annual harvest dinner. Social Hour is at 4:30 and dinner is at 5:30. Please note that RSVP is required for this event so we know how much food to make. RSVP to the church office either by leaving a phone message or emailing. We will let you know what we still need volunteers to make and do.

### **Cookie Walk**

Cookie Walk is once again a preorder event. This year the day of the cookie walk is December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9-12. Please see the order form below to order your cookies. We could still use volunteers to help make assorted boxes on the day of the event. Please email the church office if you will be able to help with that.

### **Greening of the Church**

Please mark your calendars now. Our annual Greening of the Church service will be on December 4<sup>th</sup> this year. We need readers for this service. So if you are interested please contact Rev. Amanda or speak with her following worship.

### **Joel Barlow Select Choir**

The Joel Barlow Select Choir will be joining us on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm to lead us in celebrating the holiday season by sharing their musical talent with us. We urge everyone to mark their calendars and to plan to attend. They are amazingly talented students. It is a wonderful way to mark the Christmas season. There will be cookies and hot chocolate in the fellowship hall after.

### **Pageant**

The annual Christmas Pageant will be on December 18th. Please email Rev. Amanda if your children would like to participate.

### **Christmas Eve**

Christmas Eve worship will be at 7:00PM this year. I hope to see everyone there! Please note that there will not be a Christmas Day worship service.

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON**  
**WARNING**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**December 4, 2022**

The Governing Body (Membership) of the Congregational Church of Easton is hereby warned to meet on December 4, 2022 after 11:00 a.m. for the following purposes:

To hear a detailed report updating the current financial position of this Church.

To hear and possibly act upon the recommendation of the Visioning Committee regarding our Church's future.

To act on any other business proper to come before this meeting.

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Phillip A. Doremus  
Chair, Church Council

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Jonathan C. Stock  
Clerk of the Church

Stewardship Letter

November 6, 2022

Dear Members of the Congregational Church of Easton and Friends of the Community,

Long before the publication of the Declaration of Independence, our beautiful Church on the Hill has enabled generations of believers to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, our love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Through wars, prosperity and recession, our church community has been here to provide spiritual guidance and social services. For generations, people have been able to find respite from the divisions of our world. Generations of children attended our Sunday school and many Easton children and children throughout Fairfield county have received their pre-school education at the Old Academy School and continue to receive their education at the New Academy Preschool though it's no longer run by our church. We have a long and valued history of the work of Christ in our community of believers and we call upon each of you to help us honor those years of history.

As many of you already know, we have had to make drastic cuts and revisions to our budget to lengthen the time we have to find a direction for the church. The Visioning Committee has spent many hours preparing for this. But they still need your help and support as we move forward. We need your commitment as we prepare for 2023 by way of pledge. Though we have made several cuts and reduced our budget, there are several items that are going up in price like fuel for heating, electricity, phones, internet, insurance, etc. In these inflationary times, we cannot predict any other increases that are likely to come in the coming year. Because of this, council has set the pledge goal at \$60,000.

This will help us to maintain our current activities as a community of faith and to pay our bills. This is one of many ways that you can support our congregation through this trying time. We would also urge each of you to consider your talents and skills and ways you might further support the work of this community as we honor 260 years of service in Christ's name.

Please remember to include our church, its budget, and its future in your prayers. With faith and dedication, we will be able to determine together God's intention for our community of faith. We ask that all pledge intents be back to the church office by December 4, 2022.

Many Blessings and Advanced Thanks,

Rev. Amanda Ostrove  
Minister

Connie Wing  
Church Treasurer



# Serving Schedule

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

<b>December Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Leon March</b>			
	<b>Offering</b>	<b>Collectors/Counters</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
<b>December 4</b>	P. Doremus, T. Linley	The Twomblys	TBD
<b>December 11</b>	N. Taranto, S. Lovejoy	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	TBD
<b>December 18</b>	P. McCarty, B. Trup	The Twomblys	TBD
<b>December 25</b>	No Church	No Church	No Church

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.



# November 2022

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

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