

News from the Hill

The Congregational Church of Easton

December 2022



Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Church Council Chair

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Website

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Office Hours

Tuesdays, Thursday

9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Sundays

9:00 am to 3:00 pm





“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

Romans 12:12

Advent and Christmas is the time of the year where we are called to place our hearts, our lives, and our hopes in the Lord. Trusting that he would provide for our needs even in times of great need and distress. As many of you already know, at our special meeting on December 4th we heard a report and recommendation from the visioning committee. At this meeting, the visioning committee was given permission to move forward with plans and tasks associated with completion of ministry. Though for our congregation this is a sad event, it is also an opportunity. We are now being called as the people of Jesus' to look at our troubles and to still live the thankful life, to celebrate all the good that God has done and continues to do in the life of our church. And in honor of that, I call each of you to submit to the church office your cherished memories of this church and what it has meant to your lives and that lives of your family to be shared once a month in our newsletter.

Though, this decision and these actions have been taken, it is important that we continue to support the actions and the activities of our church community because the work we continue to do in Christ's name makes a difference in this world and in the lives of those who are in need. So please remember to send in your pledges for 2023 that will help us maintain our current ministries and the work of our committee so this year can be a year where we celebrate the wonderful ministry of our community. Please join us in our beautifully decorated church for our Joel Barlow sing-a-long and concert on December 10th at 6:30 PM. And continue to support our outreach to the children of covenant to care. We have received 24 names this and we are in need of gifts to help make Christmas a good day for these children in need. And join in celebrating the beauty and hope of the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve for our candle light service at 7:00 PM.

Please remember that this is the time to come before God in prayer, to seek his guidance, to seek his strength, and to seek the comfort that can only come from the embrace of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. If you are in need of someone to talk to please feel free to call or email. I am available for discussions.

Blessings,

Rev. Amand Ostrove



Visioning Committee

Our visioning committee has been meeting regularly with our next meeting happening in the Bishop Room on January 8th at 11:30 AM. We presented the current state of our church's finances and our recommendations for the future of the church on December 4th. At this meeting, we presented the option of completion of ministry seeking approval from the collective body of the congregation to begin moving forward with plans for celebrating our 260 years of ministry while winding down our ministry. We want to thank Leon March for taking the responsibility to present to the congregation and to answer questions as they arose.

We believe that it is crucially important as we move forward though to continue to show support for our congregation through our yearly pledges and want to remind everyone that you pledge will help support us as we go through this process and will help us make this a memorable year. So please remember you pledges for 2023.

Donation Opportunity

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 December 20th

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 November. 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 requested 9 baskets this year, and received 12 baskets. Thank you to everyone who made Thanksgiving a special day for many families.

Christmas Gifts: We have requested a list of children and/or families from our social worker, Francia. We hope to get the list soon. Christmas gifts should be at the church office before December 18th. A sign-up sheet will be available in the church hall once we have the information from Francia. Thank you!





Church Life--like all Life--embeds three moods: highs, lows, and same old same old. The latter dominates; the second is rare; and the first renders Church Life—like all Life—worth living.

What makes Church Life worth living for this writer, a Church Historian, has been portraying our role—now spanning 260 years—as the Origin of Easton. Founded in 1762 as a *distinct ecclesiastical district, we were more than ecclesiastical. We were, like all Congregational Churches back then, the Town Hall. We were the Municipality. Beyond Sundays, our building hosted meetings held now only a little further down Center Road. It was where town boundaries were set, taxes were levied, and an exemplary educational system was built.*

Portraying and documenting our role as the Origin of Easton has been a 33-year task. It began with transcribing old handwriting into typescript; it continued by rendering these documents digital and full-text searchable; it continues as, at our 260th Anniversary, we plan for the next 260 years dedicated to serving all the people of Easton.

It's a long story. Telling a long story works best by first telling short. Here's a link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZrkQRQsJUA>

There is more, much more. Sometime soon, we'll invite you to visit us—and see more.

Maybe, when you visit us, you may want to do some homework first: view these documents—electronic and full text searchable—on the Connecticut State Library Digital Archive site. Here's another link.

https://collections.ctdigitalarchive.org/islandora/object/30002:RG070_089_Easton



https://collections.ctdigitalarchive.org/islandora/object/30002:RG070_089_Easton

We'll invite you soon. Telling a long story takes time. We had better get started. After all, we must plan for the next 260 years serving all the people of Easton.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan C. Stock
Church Historian

Announcements and Moment of Appreciation

Harvest Dinner

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Harvest Dinner. Your participation helped to make this a memorable event!

Cookie Walk

Cookie Walk was held on December 3rd. Thank you to all the cookie bakers, and volunteers who filled boxes, and delivered them to the customers. Claudia Nielsen and Caren Laskay set up a table at the library's marketplace and tree lighting on December 4th. Nine boxes were sold there for a total of 63 boxes. We had 21 varieties of cookies. Thank you for making this event a successful one!

Joel Barlow Select Choir

The Joel Barlow Select Choir will be joining us on December 10th 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. We have 6 children already! If you would like to help or know children who would like to participate please contact the office via email at : cchurcheaston@gmail.com.

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.

WHAT'S IN A CANDY CANE?



Jeanne Daily ©

2023 Stewardship Campaign

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 18, 2022.

Many Blessings and Advanced Thanks,

Rev. Amanda G. Ostrove

Pastor

Connie Wing

Church Treasurer

Gifts for Children of Covenant to Care

We are in need of Gifts for the children of covenant to care. Please email the church office or speak to Rev. Amanda to sign up to get a child a gift. Gifts are due back to the church office no later than December 18th. Thanks!



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

January Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Jon Stock			
	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
January 1	P. Doremus, T. Linley	The Twomblys	TBD
January 8	The Marches	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	TBD
January 15	P. McCarty, B. Trup	The Twomblys	TBD
January 22	S. Lovejoy, N. Taranto	D. Colonnese/N. Taranto	TBD
January 29	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.

December 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3 9-12 Cookie Walk
4 Greening of the Church Special Meeting	5	6 6:30 PM AA	7	8	9	10 6:30PM Joel Barlow Sing-a-long and Concert
11 10 AM Worship with Communion Deacon's Meeting	12	13 6:30 PM AA	14	15	16	17
18 10 AM Christmas Pageant	19	20 Food Kitchen 6:30 PM AA	21	22	23	24 7 PM Christmas Eve Worship
25 No Worship	26	27 6:30 PM AA	28	29	30	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



NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .
THE CONGREGATIONAL
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