

News from the Hill

The Congregational Church of Easton

February 2023



Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

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Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday
9:30 am to 1:30 pm

We *love*

because

he first

loved us.

1 John 4:19



“My wish for you is that you continue. Continue to be who you are, to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness”.

Maya Angelou, 21st century Poet

This Lenten Season is going to be so very different for me. For the past 13 years, I have observed this important season together with you. Throughout the years, we have studied the scriptures with Lenten Suppers on Wednesday nights and observed Maundy Thursday and Easter morning together. What you don't know is that with as much knowledge and prayer as I have imparted to each of you, I have also learned and gain from the questions, and experiences you have each shared with me. I have learned from the depth of love and care that I have received as a member of this church community.

From these experiences, I have really explored how God called me to care for others by allowing myself to be cared for by this community of people. Lent is the season where we contemplate the gravity of endings and partings though they may be exceptionally painful. But as we begin to contemplate how God works in the Easter story we must admit that when all seems lost there is hope of renewal, new life in the endings that happen in this life. My ministry here has run its course. God has used me to work in the lives of the members of this church and the members of this church have been used to work in my life and the life of my family. For this I will forever be grateful.

Though as of February 26th, I will no longer be a pastor here in Easton. I hope each of you know that my love for you has not waned. I still consider each person to be a dear friend. I know that you will continue on touching the lives of people through your unique God given talents. God is still very much alive in this community of faith. Allow for him to work in his mystery through your hands, your kindness, your compassion, and your love. Allow for yourselves to be open to where he will lead you next and what God has in store for your lives. The person who comes to guide you through the next stage of the life of this church will have different skills than I, yes. But his or her skills will lead you even deeper into your faith formation. Embrace him/her as you did me in kindness and open your hearts to where he/she will take you in next in your faith exploration. They here to do God's work for you and with you.

Blessings,

Rev. Amanda Ostrove



Please join us for a "send-off"
gathering as Pastor Amanda steps
into the next era of her life's journey.

When: February 26, 2023

Where: Congregational Church of Easton Fellowship
Hall

(Staples Building)

336 Westport Road, Easton

Time: 11:00 AM following the
10:00 AM sanctuary worship service

Please R.S.V.P.: nstaranto@att.net,
with the number attending, by February 19, 2023



Visioning Committee

The Visioning Committee Meeting continues to meet every month in the Bishop Room. They are working to begin the process of completion of ministry. This is not an easy process. Any and all support and skills that you could volunteer to help with this process would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact any of the members of the committee to share your ideas.

Committee Members: Leon March, Chair, Phil Doremus, Jon Stock, Connie Wing, Caren Laskay,
Pat McCarty

Thanks to those who helped remove the couch from the Old Academy parking lot



Next Food Kitchen February 23rd at Merton House

Chicken, any style; or any main dish of your choosing; mac and cheese or pasta; vegetables; salad; fruit; and dessert. Food may be dropped off no later than February 20th, and put in the freezer or refrigerator ahead of time. Please mark that it is for the Food Kitchen and do not put any food in the freezer. Thanks to our cooks, bakers, shoppers, and Cheryl Norton for delivering food in January. We are in need of boxes to transport the food.

Operation Hope is open after being closed for emergency repairs. Since a commitment has been made to Merton House, we will continue to deliver the food there. In addition, any food pantry and toiletry items will be delivered there. Merton House is very appreciative of all the items we supply to them. The Operations Manager at Merton House asked if any church members would be interested in helping their chef with prep and/or serving. They serve lunch about 11:00 a.m.

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.

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!



Stewardship Campaign

If you have not sent in your pledge card for 2023, it is crucially important that you consider doing so. Your pledge is very important to the life of our church. It gives us the ability to plan for the coming year's ministries and the expenses associated with the completion of ministry. Our goal for stewardship is **\$60,000**. Thank you to everyone who has helped towards that goal thus far. Let's make an extra push and commitment this February and fulfill our pledge goals.



ANNUAL MEETING INFO

A date for the annual meeting has not been set by council. Please keep an eye on the email for any additional information. There will be an option to join via Zoom when the time comes for those who are still practicing social distancing during this time of COVID.



February Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Daisy Colonnese			
	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
February 5	Phil Doremus/T. Linley	N. Taranto / D.Colonnese	
February 12	The Marches	The Twomblys	
February 19	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	N. Taranto / D.Colonnese	
February 26	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	The Twomblys	Phil Doremus

March Welcoming and Confirming Deacon — Daisy Colonnese			
	Offering	Collectors/Counters	Coffee Hour
March 5	Phil Doremus/T. Linley	N. Taranto / D.Colonnese	
March 12	The Marches	The Twomblys	
March 19	P. McCarty, N. Taranto	N. Taranto / D.Colonnese	
March 26	D. Colonnese, T. Linley	The Twomblys	Phil Doremus

If you would like to participate in worship by doing the offering, or hosting coffee hour, 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 2023

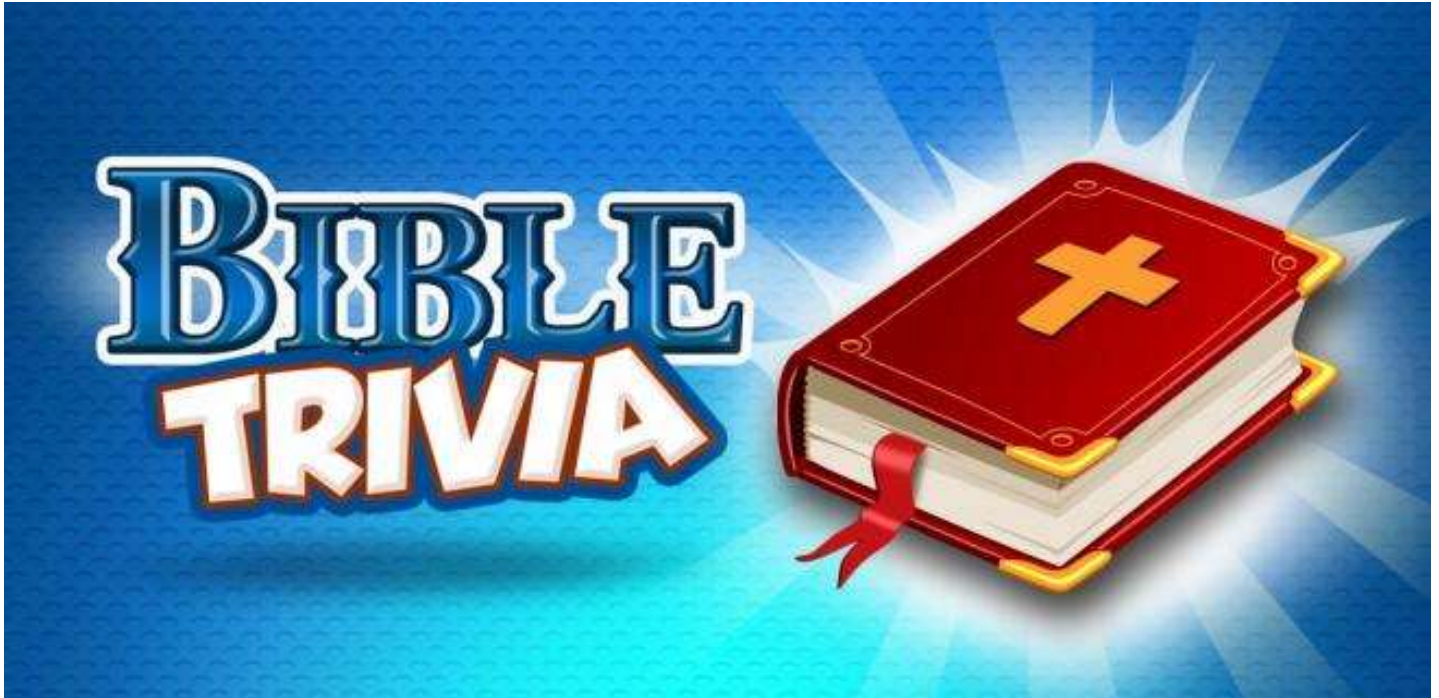
Please see our **Flower Calendar** for 2022 If you would like to celebrate a special date of a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion. You may order or provide the flowers yourself or have the office order them (\$35.00).

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.



1. What was the golden calf?
2. What does the word Israel mean?
3. Who were the first two apostles to follow Jesus?
4. Name the shortest verse in the Bible?
5. How old was Jesus when he started his ministry?



1. The idol the Israelites worshipped while Moses was away.
2. Prevails with God
3. Peter and Andrew
4. Gospels of John 11:35, "Jesus Wept"
5. 30



February 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
5 10am morning worship w/ communion 11am coffee hour 11:30 Visioning	6 10 Am MGC	7 6:30-8:30 AA	8 10 AM Dea- con's Meeting	9	10	11
12 10am morning worship 11am coffee hour	13	14 6:30-8:30 AA	15	16	17	18
19 10am morning worship 11am coffee hour	20	21 11am food kitchen 6:30-8:30 AA	22	23	24	25
26 10am morning worship 11am coffee hour Rev.Amanda's last day	27	28 6:30-8:30 AA				



NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .
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