

The
CONGREGATIONAL



CHURCH of EASTON

The church on the hill

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Frank Basler

November 19, 2023

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Lift up your eyes, seeking to know your God.
Attune your spirit to the One in whom we dwell.

**All: God's love surrounds us here today.
God calls us to be children of light.**

One: Faithfulness gives us a sense of greater abundance.
Doing justice adds to our sense of worth and dignity.

**All: We are here to build up one another.
May our worship encourage each of us today.**

****UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Fill us, gracious God, with a sense of your abiding presence. Awaken our spirit to realities unseen. Turn us from the dullness of our fear-filled grasping for security and help us to live with trust in you. Expand among us such mutual regard and encouragement as will build up community and lead all of us to live in the light. May faith and love dominate all our relationships as we enter into the joy of serving. In Jesus' name, Amen.

****HYMN #421 NCH "We Gather Together" ...all 3 verses**

**** Those who are able may stand.**

PH-Red Pilgrim Hymnal NCH-Black New Century Hymnal BH-Little Blue Hymnal

****UNISON CALL TO CONFESSION**

We are reluctant to face your judgment, all-knowing God. We know we have not fully invested the talents you entrusted to us. We hide them and hoard them, retreating into a false sense of security. We live in the nighttime of self-protection rather than in the light of full participation in loving, faithful service. Have mercy on us, O God. We want to be children of the day – your day. Help us! Amen. *Please, be seated. In silence, let us consider ways in which we have missed the mark .*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

****Response of Praise #513 PH *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.***

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

PRAYERS

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (debts)

Choral Response: #769 NCH *Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God. Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace. Amen.*

HYMN #419 NCH *"Now Thank We All Our God"* ...all 3 verses

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 8:7-20

Matthew 25:14-29

MEDITATION "Give Thanks for Life"

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

God asks us for an accounting of what we have done with the wealth entrusted to us. All that we have and all that we are belongs to God. May we give with thankfulness.

Gathering of the gifts with Offertory

Presentation of the gifts with praise

****Doxology: #515 PH *Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

****UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Holy One, we thank you for the ways in which you have enfolded us in your love and called us by name to follow your son, Jesus. May these gifts and our lives be used to enfold others in your love. Amen.

****HYMN #10 BH** *“Great is Thy Faithfulness”* all 3 verses

****BENEDICTION**

****PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Please join us for Coffee Hour this morning across the street.

Confirming Deacon for November - Nathalie Taranto
Offering - Leon March and Jim Bromer
Coffee Hour - Debbie Olson, Barbara Trup, Claudia Nielsen

Katie will be in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday this week.
Bible Study meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, from
10:30 to 11:45 am.

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 1:7, NIV) Welcome to the Lord’s house for worship! If you are visiting, we invite you to sign our guest book, and we hope all will join us across the street for fellowship after worship.

Prayer List Please keep our members and friends in your prayers. Please pray for all who mourn or need special prayers of intention, for our congregation, and for friends of our community. You may fill out a Prayer Request Card, or call or email the church office to add or remove a name from the list. Thank you for your prayers.

Next Food Kitchen is this Tuesday, November 21! Food may be dropped off this Sunday morning, or Monday morning, between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., or no later than Tuesday, November 21, at 9:30 a.m. Please indicate that it is for the Food Kitchen. Food should *not* be warm or hot. Containers *cannot* be returned. The Sign Up Sheet is located in the Church Hall. Thank you to all the cooks, bakers, and shoppers, and thank you to our delivery team! For more information, contact Caren Laskay.

Cookie Sale The Cookie Sale Pick-Up will be on Saturday, December 2. Bakers should drop off their ten dozen cookies no later than Friday, December 1, at 9:00 a.m. Order Forms are available in the narthex of the Church, on the Church website, eastonchurch.org, and in the Church Hall. Please place your order by November 27th. Thank you to all the bakers and volunteers! For more information, contact Caren Laskay.

Merton House Food Pantry provisions and sample size toiletry items are collected year round in the basket in the entranceway of the Church Hall. They are very appreciative of all the items we provide to them. Thank you to everyone who contributed to Merton House's Thanksgiving Food Drive!! **The Christmas Food Drive** requested items include canned vegetables, cornbread mix, stuffing, gravy, boxed mashed potatoes, pasta, pasta sauce, any non-perishable items. The items may be left in the Church Hall or in the plastic container outside the Church Hall by December 10.

Planning Ahead

December 3 - First Sunday in Advent, 10:00 AM Worship with Hanging of the Greens, and more.

December 9 - Joel Barlow High School Select Choir Sing-along, 6:30 PM.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5:30 PM: A beautiful evening of worship and readings with Rev. Basler and assigned Church members, caroling, and ending with a circle of candlelight. Note: There will be no morning worship on Sunday, December 24.

CALENDAR for THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of EASTON

Sunday, November 19, 2023 25th Sunday after Pentecost

10 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

9:30 a.m. Food Kitchen Drop Off Deadline
6:30 p.m. AA

Thursday, November 23, 2023 Thanksgiving Day

Bible Study will be postponed to Thursday, November 30.

Sunday, November 26, 2023 26th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

6:30 p.m. AA

Thursday, November 30, 2023

10:30-11:45 a.m. Bible Study
12:30-4:30 p.m. The "New Merton House" Open House, 1406 State Street, Bridgeport

Saturday, December 2, 2023

9:00 a.m.- Noon Cookie Sale Pick-Up

Sunday, December 3, 2023 First Sunday in Advent

10:00 a.m. Worship with Hanging of the Greens, First Advent Candle lighting, and scripture readings by assigned members
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

The Reverend Frank Basler, Pastor
Organist - Suzanne Lovejoy
Council Chair, Phillip Doremus Deacon Chair, Nathalie Taranto
Sara Scoran, Sexton Church Secretary, Katie Croarkin
Church Office 261-2527 Website eastonchurch.org Email: cchurcheaston@gmail.com
For pastoral emergencies, please call Frank at 203-345-5682.