

News from the Hill

The Congregational Church of Easton

August 2024

Our small, but active country parish with a long and rich history that intersects with the present and considers the future, continues to focus on meaningful worship and spiritual activities, on creating strategy for healing and renewal of the mission(s) of our congregation. We have much for which to be thankful and much for which to look forward:

- Present lay-lead worship services will wind down as we near the end of the summer.
- Temporary Ministerial Coverage Pastors are in place for several weeks ahead as we study the feasibility to hiring an interim minister:
September 8th, Reverend Janet Ellingwood from Bethel,
September 15th, Reverend Martha Bays of Norwalk,
September 22nd, Reverend Janet Moran of Newtown,
September 28th, Reverend Carolyn Young of Hamden.

Please see page 3 for more information on the Guest Ministers. Thank you, Elizabeth Boyce, for arranging the coverage for our services!

- Member Suzanne Lovejoy continues to volunteer as organist. We are so grateful to you, Suzanne!
- Negotiation with Easton Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is going forward for their rental (with some upgrades at their expense) of the lower level of the Old Academy building during the construction time of their new headquarters.
- Another possible use of our Old Academy building is an interest in establishing a special school for children with learning disabilities upstairs, or in the lower level following the EMS rental.

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- The Stewardship Campaign moves forward as we focus on the redeeming good our little Congregation has brought about over many, many years. This is a strategic opportunity to add your most welcome contribution for ongoing ministry while our financial status continues to be an imperative.
- Outreach ministries continue: Back-to-school supplies, Thanksgiving and Christmas giving, Merton Center monthly food kitchen and pantry.
- Early December fundraising Cookie Walk will soon be in the reminder stage!
- Joel Barlow Chamber Singers will be leading our Christmas caroling sing-along again in early December.

Should your life need re-purposing (and even if it doesn't), be encouraged to call or email a church family member/friend as a means of continuing close church family fellowship and to add a bright spot to your day or to the day of someone else. Through outreach within our church and the greater community, we create a sense of belonging.

Blessings,

Nathalie Taranto, on behalf of the Church Family

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September Sunday Service Schedule

For September 8th, we are fortunate to have Reverend Janet Ellingwood from Bethel, Connecticut. Janet holds a Doctorate in theology with a special interest in eco-theology, a field that explores the care of all of God's creation and creatures. She has served as an interim minister at First Congregational Church in Ridgefield and Waterbury.

For September 15th, Reverend Martha Bays will join us from Norwalk. A graduate of Smith College with Masters Degrees in education and divinity, she served as a minister at the Congregational Church in Killingworth before retiring in 2018. In addition to her work as a temporary minister, she is also an active volunteer at her local food pantry.

For September 22nd, Reverend Janet Moran will visit with us. A resident of Newtown, CT, she served as a chaplain in the Army Reserve and as the interim minister at the First Church of Christ, Congregational in Redding.

For September 28th, Reverend Carolyn Young is scheduled to join us from Hamden. A retired clergywoman, the Reverend Young was pastor of the Whitneyville UCC. Along with her more than 20 years of ministry, she has degrees in psychology and social work and is a board member of Interfaith Volunteers Care and Give.