



The Good News!

Keeping you informed about the mission and ministry of
Easthampton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
112 Main Street, Easthampton, MA 01027 413-527-4790

Growing Spiritually One Day at a Time

2017

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Letter from our Pastor

Greetings friends!!

We had such an incredible Easter Sunday! The Sunrise service at the Molitoris Orchards was just beautiful! We were joined by our friends from the Florence Congregational Church and had a large gathering. For those who were able to come, it was definitely an amazing morning. Our Easter Celebration in our church was joyous! The Choir really lifted us up with their Easter Anthem and Special Music. I enjoyed preaching to our congregation and our many guests that morning. Debbi made it special for the children with many hand out craft items to keep their little hands busy during the service.

But... Easter is not over! Our Easter season, where we continue to think about what the power of the resurrection means to us continues through the Seven Sundays of Easter, lasting until Pentecost Sunday on **June 4th**. (Let me also add a personal note that my grandson, Blaise, will be Baptized that Sunday. Hope you can come!)

The power of the resurrection tells us that Jesus is alive- in our world and in our lives! Friends, does our faith embrace the hope and love that he offers to us? Sometimes we forget just how powerful our prayers, and a life of faith, are in this world of ours. Thank God for God's wonder working power in our lives!

As we live out our faith, there are many events coming up on our calendar where we can join together in fellowship and service.

May 7th we Blanket the World with Love, as the Board of Missions collects for Blanket Sunday. A donation of any amount can help to send blankets across our country and the world in

times of crisis. What a great, tangible way to give a helping hand to people we have never even met. Donating a blanket in someone's honor is a wonderful way to celebrate Mother's Day.

The Monster Tag Sale, **May 13th**, is a huge fundraiser, and can I also say "fun" raiser? (sorry, that was a bad pun!) If you can bring in your clean, nice items that you no longer use for the Tag Sale that would be great. Can you spare one evening to help tag and arrange the sale items on the week of **May 8th**? Also, be sure to sign up to help out for the Tag Sale days, if you possibly can, for an hour or for a full shift- whatever your schedule allows!

Don't forget Children's Sunday on **May 21st**, as we support and take pride in the accomplishments of our Sunday School teachers, staff, volunteers, and of course our children. This is always a Sunday that makes us proud and hopeful of our ECC future.

Just one quick note about June- we are having a Movie night on **June 10th**, free and open to the public. This will be a great way to share our Fellowship Hall with the community of Easthampton. Mark your calendars. Details to follow soon.

So, you can see that, as always, a lot is going on here at ECC. I hope to see you in worship, in fellowship, in service, as together we live out our life of faith.

In Christ's love,
Sherry



IN THE CLASSROOM

Easter was late this year, but it still seemed to pop out of nowhere. We have been busy learning about Jesus' miracles and his journey to the cross. The children made Easter Wreaths which began with Jesus entering Jerusalem on his donkey. As you go around the wreath (clockwise) it shows the Last Supper, Jesus praying in Gethsemane, Jesus is Crucified, Resurrection of Jesus, the Ascension of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit comes down. As the children colored the pictures they went around the table and read the Bible verse that went with the picture. After Easter, we will continue learning about the Resurrection and how 40 days after Easter we celebrate Jesus' Ascension. This is more important than people realize. If you think about it; in his human body, Jesus could only be at one place at one time. When Jesus was risen, he can be spiritually present everywhere.

Palm Sunday, was a busy day. We started with our Palm Parade with Jesus leading the way with our donkey. (So adorable!) All of the Sunday School children and the Youth Group followed, waving their palms. Afterwards, we went downstairs to begin our fun with our special guest.



Our special guest was, Brian Lapis, the Meteorologist from 22News, he came to talk and play games with the children about Silver Lake Camp. All of the children played camp games and they had so much fun. These are a few of the



games that they play at camp. We started with a game almost like tag. Each child started with a bandana tucked into their pockets. They ran around trying to take each other's bandana, if it's taken you must stop. The best part of the game was, as Christians, (we talked about how Christians treat each other) if you had an extra bandana you would give it to someone who had none, so they could join back in. Another fun game we played was when we had two children in rain ponchos, sitting in chairs, with a cup over their heads. At the other end of the yard, we had two teams. The first child was blindfolded with a soaking wet sponge, and the next person in line would give directions to get them to the other end. It was hilarious because no one seemed to know their right or left. I kept hearing my left or my right. Once they got to the end they would try to squeeze their sponge over the person's head who was wearing the poncho. It was amazing how much water didn't end up in the cup. They continued doing this until everyone was able to do both parts. When it was over the children in the ponchos dumped the water over their heads. (Finally we had a hot day) It was great seeing the youth group and the Sunday school children playing these games together. Afterwards, the parents joined in as we watched a video about Silver Lake Camp. Looks like a blast! Thanks Brian and friends.

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. This year we focused on Moses. We started our journey with Moses as a little baby sailing down the Nile River in a basket. So many different possibilities could have happened to him. Moses grew up, and he didn't like how the Pharaoh treated people. One day he even saw an Egyptian savagely beating up an Israelite and he became so upset. Moses was so angry he killed the Egyptian. After, he ran away to a place called Midian. He protected some women from some shepherds who pushed women out of the way. He ended up marrying Zipporah, and became a shepherd. As a shepherd he saw a burning bush, which talked to him. God wanted Moses to free

the Israelites from the Pharaoh. Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to the Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt." Ex 3:11. This brought us to the 10 Plagues of Egypt. The children can't understand why the Pharaoh continues to change his mind after he says he will. Would you want ponds or rivers, changing to blood, or frogs, flies, gnats everywhere? We don't.

A MESSAGE FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

If your child is graduating from high school or college this year please let me know. I would like acknowledge it in next month's newsletter.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

On **Sunday, May 21st**, we will be celebrating all of the children's hard work this past year. The children will be helping with all aspects of the worship. They will be ushers, readers, acolytes, and will be perform the song, Pharaoh, Pharaoh. This will be our last Sunday School class for this school year. It has been a great year which has gone by way too quickly.

LEADER/TEACHER APPRECIATION

On **May 21st**, we will also be celebrating our Leaders/Teachers Appreciation. This is the day we honor and thank all of those who have taken part in the Community Learning Center. Working with the children can be challenging but so rewarding. We are so blessed to have so many loving and generous volunteers at our church. I hope all the teachers will be in church so the children and I can thank you.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our last Children's Bible Study will be Monday, **May 1st**, from 6:00 to 7:30pm. We are going to have our last meeting at Nonotuck Park. We are going to have a picnic and play a bunch of games. We will be having hamburgers and hot dogs, macaroni salad, coleslaw, and much more.

We had an "Egg-citing" Bible Study. We began the evening with an Easter egg hunt. The children searched for eggs in the Meeting Room, they were hiding everywhere. They were each able to find the same amount of eggs, to make it fair. Once, all the eggs were found they picked a number out of my basket to find out which team they would be on. After, they cracked open their eggs to find out that there were Bible verses inside. I gave the children a little time to look up these verses. Finally, the game began. "This is Jeopardy" I said. It started with team one picking the subject and the amount of their choice. If they knew the answer they could shout it out, or ask their team for help. If they answered it correctly they received tickets, if not, the other team could answer it. If no one knew the answer they all got a chance to look up the verses in their Bibles. They did a great job. We will definitely play this game again. We finished the evening with dessert and of course we had to keep with the egg theme. We had egg shaped rice crispy treats, brownies, and jelly beans.

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group has been working on the Callie Rose Kits. They spread out all the goodies everyone donated and appreciated how much was donated. Thank you. It's incredible how much we have received. They made a list of everything we need to buy. We are planning on making 20 bags or hopefully more. We will give all the extra items we collect to the Durant family to help them make more Callie Rose Kits in the future.

Last week we helped at the Parson's Closet. It's amazing all the brand name clothes that come in. The girls loved the adorable little baby clothes. I reminded them that they will be cuter in 20 plus years. They almost finished going through the winter clothes for the children. They had an excellent time, listening to music, catching up with each other (it was vacation week), and working together. They are looking forward to going back.

UPCOMING MAY ACTIVITIES

7th - 11:00 am - help bring up all the tag sale items from down stairs, afterwards we are going to put together the Callie Rose Kits.

8th - 12th - 6-8pm - please pick one day to come and help with marking tag sale items.

14th - Mother's Day

21st - 9:00 am - Children's Sunday - please come at 9:00am we need readers, ushers, and help with the Sunday School Children for Children's Sunday.

A Message from the Collector

For many years, Easthampton Congregational Church was able to pay each member's dues for UCC Conference and Association Membership. However, over the past few years, the church has asked each member to assist in paying his/her \$20.00 per member fee.

If you are able, please send your dues, along with the form printed below, to the church office. Your assistance in this matter helps to lessen the financial burden on the church. Thank you to the many members who have already paid their 2017 membership dues.

If you have any questions please contact Janet Zmaczynski, Collector at 413-535-6393.

ECC MEMBERSHIP DUES – 2017

Name of **Each** ECC Member:

Address _____

Total Number of Members _____ x \$20.00 =

Please return this form with your check made payable to ECC to the church office or put in the Sunday collection.

Thank you!

From the Board of Worship

Are You Looking for a Way to Get Involved?

We need ushers and liturgists to serve in the months ahead. Greeting and ushering are a great way for new members (and old!) to get to know people! Ushers greet members and visitors and escort them to the pews in order to extend our hospitality and set the tone of their church experience. Liturgists read scripture and lead prayer. These positions are an important part of the church service. No experience necessary! Talk to Rev. Sherry or a member of the Board of Worship, or call the church office.

From the Board of Mission and Outreach

Shop with Scrip Cash Card Fundraiser Continues!

Mother's Day is **May 14th**! Consider giving your mom – or anyone else who is a mom – a gift card! Our Scrip cash card program turns everyday shopping into fundraising for the mission of the church. It's easy to use – just order gift cards at their face value from ECC, and the church receives a rebate. The Scrips table will be open on most Sundays during coffee hour. **For more information, contact Shirley Fairman at nfair219@gmail.com or 413-527-7632.**

Food Cupboard News

The Postal Food Drive is on **May 13th**. We need volunteers to assist with the postal food drive. Shifts are 12-3 pm and 3-6 pm. Sign-up sheets are outside the office door.



**POSTAL FOOD
DRIVE**

Community Meals Schedule

June 16 – Summer Salads

**July 21 - Hamburger & Hot Dog
Cookout**

September 15 – Spaghetti Dinner

December 15 – Turkey Dinner

January 19 – Ham Dinner

Blanket the World with Love



The Board of Mission & Outreach invites you to participate in the Blanket Program with Church World Service. Blanket Sunday is **May 14th**. Every \$25 donation provides 5 warm blankets for a family left homeless by a disaster. You can make your gift in memory or in honor of a loved one. Donations of any size are welcome. Order forms will be provided in April; due by **May 7th**. Donated blankets are for the CWS Blanket Drive, and to those whom we honor and memorialize. A list of all names will be in May's bulletin.

Volunteer at the Parson's Closet!

The store is open Wednesday 12-6 pm, Thursday & Friday 10 am-7 pm, and Saturday 10 am-2 pm. Volunteers are always welcome and **needed** Fridays 4-7! One shift a month will help tremendously! Call Wendy at home or at the closet (527-8473). It's a fun and light-hearted opportunity to further our church's mission to the community. We hope to see you at the Closet!

From the Board of Deacons

With Heartfelt
Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Robert Messier who recently passed away. Robert was the father of Sandy Prost.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Kroll Family for the recent loss of Renee's father.



Please notify the church office or a Deacon if you know a church member or friend who is in the hospital, in a nursing home, or needs our thoughts and prayers, or if a death occurs, so that the Deacons and Minister are aware.



Over 80 Spring Luncheon

The Board of Deacons will be hosting a Spring Over-80 Luncheon on Saturday, **June 10th** at Noon. We will be serving a delicious light lunch to our members and friends who are 80+ years young. Invitations will be sent out in May. Transportation will be provided to those needing assistance. Please keep this date open for fun, fellowship, and good food. We look forward to seeing you at the luncheon!

Dumpster Days

Spring cleaning? Need a place to dispose of your trash? Our annual Dumpster Days fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, **May 30th** through Friday, **June 2nd** from 6pm-8pm and Saturday, **June 3rd** from 9am-Noon. No TVs, computers, electronics, mattresses, large appliances and furniture, tires or hazardous waste accepted. Prices: \$25.00 for cars and \$40.00 for SUVs, vans, trucks, large vehicles. Contact Janet at 527-7602 for more information.

Clinton H. Burt Academic Scholarship

The Scholarship Application is due on **May 1st**. Scholarship awards will be made on Children's Sunday, **May 21st**.

Clinton H. Burt was a 6th generation dairy farmer and a member of the Easthampton Congregational Church. He believed in the power of education to transform people, families, and communities. He lived the belief of "Pay it Forward."

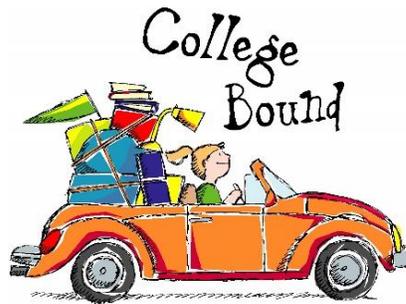
Thank You!

A big thank you to the Easthampton Helping Hand Society for its generous donation to the Food Cupboard/Community Dinner programs and to Duseau Trucking for once again generously donating the dumpster for our Dumpster Days fundraiser.

Kienle-Burgess Student Loans

Each June, the Kienle-Burgess Loan Fund Committee awards scholastic loans to applicants who will be furthering their education in the coming year. The Committee is composed of the Pastor and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Deacons.

The loan monies for scholastic needs were established to be...*a permanent revolving student loan fund to assist young people [in] defraying the costs of their education (and the committee shall) determine...the amounts of said loans and the terms on which said loans shall be made and to whom said loans shall be granted, said loans being intended primarily but not exclusively for members of the Easthampton Congregational Church...to be repayable, but without interest...*



If you would like to apply, please complete the Kienle-Burgess Student Loan application form, which is available

outside the door of the Church office. The complete application must be submitted to the Church Office by Sunday, **June 18th**. Recipients promise to repay the full amount of the loan within ten years of completion or termination of their studies, repaying 10% of the amount each year. The Church does this as part of its Christian responsibility to assist others in need. It is in turn the responsibility of the recipient to repay the loans in a timely fashion to enable others to benefit from this loan fund.

The recipients of the 2017 Kienle-Burgess Student Loan Fund will be recognized and awarded their loan during a worship service in August.

Church Secretary Needed!

Church Office Administrator/Secretary position needed. This person provides office administration services for the church and minister; manages the church office. Hours are Tuesday - Friday, 9 am - 2 pm. Excellent computer skills, good interpersonal skills and the ability to multitask in an often busy office are required. Please send resume, including 3 references, to etoncong@gmail.com.

Monster Tag Sale

ECC will again hold its annual **Monster Tag Sale Fundraiser**. This year we will have the **Tag Sale on Saturday, May 13th from 9 am to 2 pm and Sunday, May 14th from 11 am to 2 pm. This is the church's second largest fundraiser!**

In order for this project to continue its success, we need our friends and members to bring items to be sold at the tag sale. Anyone may donate items, so please get the word out to relatives, friends and neighbors. Be aware that we do not take large furniture, TVs, tires, paint, computers, or lawn mowers. Also, take time to make sure the items are clean.

In addition to items for sale, we need volunteers to sort and tag items. We are currently sorting and tagging on Tuesday evenings 6-8 pm, Friday mornings 9-11 am, and Saturday mornings from 10-11:30 am.

*****Cut Here*****

In the week leading up to the sale, tagging will be done from 6-8 pm May 8th through May 12th. If you are able to help us on even just one evening, it would be greatly appreciated.

Other assistance will be needed to set up tables and many items in the morning on May 13th from 6-8 am. We also need people to work the tag sale, food table, and clean-up. Aside from sale item donations, it would be greatly appreciated if people could donate food items that we sell at the Monster Tag Sale Food Tent.

A list of items as well as a sign-up sheet is available below.

If you have any questions, please contact Janet or Mike Z. (527-7602), Judy C. (527-5432) or the church office. Thank you!

*****Cut Here*****



The Monster Tag Sale

Saturday, May 13th 9 am – 2 pm
and
Sunday, May 14th 11 am – 2 pm

Please check off what you are willing to do, fill in your name and phone number, and return this form to the Church Office, Judy C. or Mike Z.

Assist with Collection and Pricing of Donations:

_____ **Monday-Friday, May 8th – May 12th 6-8 pm**

Assist with Table and Item Set-Up:

_____ **Saturday, May 13th 6-9 am**

Work the Tag Sale:

_____ **Saturday, May 13th 8 am-2 pm**

_____ **Sunday, May 14th 11-2 pm**

Any offer of time would be welcome!

Knock Down and Clean-Up:

_____ **Saturday, May 13th 2 pm**

_____ **Sunday, May 14th 2 pm**



We Need Your Help!

Donations for the Food Table

_____ **Soda** (Cans of Coke/Pepsi; Diet Coke/Pepsi, 7Up/Sprite)

_____ **Hot Dog Rolls** _____ **Hamburg Rolls**

_____ **Baked Goods** _____ **Bottled Water**

_____ **Monetary Donations** for purchase of meats

Name _____

Phone Number _____

We need the help of the entire church to make this a successful fundraiser. Please contact the Church Office, Mike Z. (527-7602) or Judy C. (527-5432) with any questions.