

The lighted candle in the Church Steeple will shine perpetually as a beacon of God's strength. This light reflects our prayers for peace, here and abroad. To help defray the cost of keeping the lights lit, donations are greatly appreciated.



Old Stone Church
Church Office 203-467-2907 (fax ext. 111)
Office Hours: M-Th 9 am—3 pm

Pastor

Rev. Mark Pilletere, M. Div. Ext 102

Office Manager

Heidi Manley Ext 101

Minister of Music

Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D.

Early Learning Center 203-467-0661

Jennifer Calonico, Director / Kim Oca, Assistant Director

ELC Hours: M-F 7:30 am—5:15 pm Office hours 8:30 am—1:30 pm

Old Stone Village 203-467-0661

OSCV Hours: 6:30am—6:30 pm

Nicole Ferrigno, Director / Kristen Sartor, Assistant Director

Thrift Shop 203-467-2907 Ext 107

Saturdays from 10 am—3 pm

First Congregational Church of East Haven
United Church of Christ
Old Stone Church
251 Main Street
East Haven, Ct 06512



E-mail: oldstonechurch97@gmail.com
Website: www..oldstonechurchucceasthaven.org



The Herald

December 2021

Upcoming Dates



After Fair and Advent Workshop: **Dec. 5, 2021**

WISP Cabaret: **Dec. 10, 2021**

Fundraiser Dinner: **Dec. 11, 2021**

Christmas Pageant and Wassail: **Dec. 19, 2021**

Lessons and Carols by Candlelight: **Dec. 24, 2021**

OUR Sanctuary is open for Worship experiences and can be viewed on Facebook

Previous Sunday services can be seen on local cable station 18 "ETV"



Do you have an idea to share with others? How about a simple tip for everyday life? Perhaps a word of inspiration?

Should you want to see something in the next Herald, or have an idea or comment, please call the office, Mon—Thurs. 9am—3pm at 203-467-2907 or email to: oldstonechurch97@gmail.com

From the desk of Rev. Mark Pilletere...

Christmas Greetings!

As the Christmas Season is upon us once again, I've been thinking about the incredible opportunity we have as Christians.

The Bible tells us the story of John the Baptist, whose primary purpose of ministry was to be the one who would prepare the way for the Messiah. This was so the Messiah would have an entry point into the lives of the people. Yet, before He could come into the hearts of the people, an important thing needed to take place in their hearts, and it's called "repentance."

Mark 1:1-8 (NKJV) 1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." 3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'" 4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

We live in a day and age in which such a word may not necessarily be fashionable, yet it's as needed now as it was in John's day.

While the people anticipated the presence of the Messiah, John prepared their hearts for His presence with a powerful message. This message was that before His presence, there must be repentance.

Even today, we celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior to earth as a baby. Yet, as He lived and died for our sins, He wants us to come to Him with humble and repentant hearts.

We too are called to "prepare the way" for Christ to enter the hearts of people around us. Our friends and families are looking for the reality of changed lives. Not perfect lives, but changed lives!

Part of "preparing the way" is removing the obstacles that would keep people from getting to Jesus. These obstacles could be anything that would cause their focus to shift away from Christ.

I would ask that you pray during this time that God will help you to be one who "prepares the way" for the Messiah to impact lives around you. Pray that God will use you to bring honor and glory to not just the babe in the manger, but our soon, coming King!

Let's prepare the way!

In Christ,
Pr. Mark





December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Ongoing Programs</u> Worship (S) 10am				<u>Ongoing Programs</u> Boy Scouts (BSR) 7 Mahjong (P) 12-30 Choir (S) 7pm		<u>Ongoing Programs</u> Thrift Shop 10-3pm
			1 ESDHD Vaccination Clinic(FH) 10- 2 –tentative-	2 Childbirth Class (P) 6:30 pm	3	4 Safety Program (P) 9am
5 Advent Craft and After Fair Sale (FH) 11:15am Bible Study (P) 11:30 ZOOM 7pm	6	7 Mom's Group (P) 10am	8 Parenting (ZOOM) 6:30 pm	9 Childbirth Class (P) 6:30 pm	10 WISP Christmas Cabaret (FH) 7	11 Parenting (P) 9:30 OSC Christmas Cabaret with WISP (FH) 7
12 Reserved Party (FH) 1-7 Bible Study (P) 11:30 ZOOM 7pm	13	14 Mom's Group (P) 10am Spinning Babies (P) 6:30pm	15	16 Childbirth Class (P) 6:30 pm	17	18 Childbirth Class (P) 9am Reserved Party (FH) 12-6
19 Christmas Pageant and Wassail (S & FH)10am Bible Study (P) 11:30 ZOOM 7pm	20	21 Mom's Group (P) 10am	22	23 OSC Employee Drop-in Christmas Luncheon (FH)	24 Lessons and Carols by Candlelight (S) 7pm	25 
26 Bible Study (P) 11:30 ZOOM 7pm	27	28 Mom's Group (P) 10am	29	30 Coping Strategies (P) 6:30 pm	31 Church office closed Reserved Party (FH) 7-1	Happy New Year 2022

December Birthdays

- 12/4 Laura Silva
- 12/7 Lauren Bilello
- 12/7 Lauren Warner
- 12/13 Amy Trufan
- 12/15 Anthony Trufan
- 12/18 Kirsten Moreira
- 12/18 David Thomas
- 12/19 James Battista, Jr.
- 12/21 Joan West
- 12/23 Virginia McLay
- 12/24 Paul Pochodowicz
- 12/27 John Cacace, IV
- 12/28 Shirley Simm
- 12/30 Pauline Suitor



December Anniversaries



- 12/02/1995 Kara and Gino DelGuidice
- 12/04/1993 Kristen and Kevin Vineyard
- 12/28/2007 Leslie and Richard Tropiano

Congratulations !

Derek and Jamie Torello Jones on the birth of their son Cooper Jeffree Jones, born 11/6/2021

Madelyn Elizabeth Cesario, baptized Nov. 21, 2021

Old Stone Church Family!

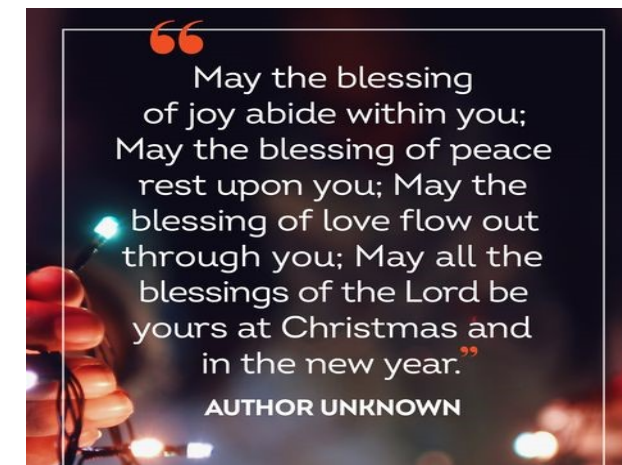
The 79th annual Christmas Fair was a huge success. Thank you all!



Pastoral Visits in Hospital Pastoral Visits in the hospital are becoming possible slowly and gradually, with particular guidelines that are changing to reflect the particular hospital's guidelines. If an in-person visit is not possible, telephone visits for prayer and comfort are an alternative, although certainly less than ideal Please contact Heidi or Pr. Mark, in the office at 203-467-2907, if you anticipate a trip to the hospital or unexpectedly find yourself hospitalized, so Pr. Mark can respond.



From all of the employees at the Old Stone Church, we wish you many blessings this holiday season and all through the year.



“ May the blessing of joy abide within you; May the blessing of peace rest upon you; May the blessing of love flow out through you; May all the blessings of the Lord be yours at Christmas and in the new year.”
AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Is there a special event that has or is happening in your life? Send a note or call the church office to share it with your church family. Prayer requests can be submitted on-line or in person. Email to oldstonechurch97@gmail.com or send to Old Stone Church 251 Main Street East Haven, CT 06512
Deacons in charge for the month of December: Adrienne Ward and Louise Ward

What's Cookin' ?



Oysters Rockefeller submitted by Virginia Liebler for publication in the OSC Cookbook

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 24 Oysters | 1 Tbsp Chopped Onion |
| 2 Tbsp Chopped Parsley | 1 Tbsp Melted Butter |
| 1/4 Cup Drained Cooked Spinach | 1/2 Cup Bread Crumbs |
| Dash of Salt, Pepper and Paprika | |

Open Oyster shells, remove oysters and dry them on a paper towel. Wash shells. Place one oyster in 1/2 shell. Mix chopped onion, chopped parsley and melted butter. Spread over oysters. Season with salt, pepper and paprika. Mix together spinach and bread crumbs. Spoon onto Oysters. Dot with butter. Brown in very hot oven. 450 degrees for 10 minutes. *****

Popovers submitted by Liz Luther for publication in the OSC Cookbook

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Cup Flour | 2 Tbsp. Oil |
| 1 Cup Milk | 2 Eggs |

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Mix all ingredients until wet, don't over mix. Liberally grease 24 muffin cups. Fill cups half full with batter. Bake 15 minutes. Lower temp to 350 and bake an additional 20 minutes. Avoid opening the door. *****



Broccoli Casserole submitted by Helen Wendt for publication in the OSC cookbook

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 Heads of Broccoli, cut up and blanched | 8 oz. Velveeta Cheese, cubed |
| 1 Sleeve Ritz crackers, crumbled | 1 stick unsalted Butter, melted |

Toss blanched broccoli, cheese cubes and crumbled crackers together in a large mixing bowl. Put into a casserole dish. Pour melted butter over top. Bake at 350 degrees until cheese is melted through. *****



Pork Chops with Apples and Onions submitted by Hope Ryan for publication in the OSC Cookbook

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2 tsp. Corn Starch | 1 Granny Smith Apple, peeled and sliced |
| 1/4 cup Apple Cider or juice | 1 small Onion, sliced |
| 3/4 cup Chicken Broth | 4 thin Pork Chops |
| 1/4 tsp. Thyme | 2 tsp. Dijon Mustard |

Brown chops 1 1/2 minutes per side in olive oil. Remove and reduce heat to medium high. Add onion and stir to brown. Add apple and other ingredients and cook for 3-5 minutes. Add pork Chops, cover and heat through. *****



Oreo Surprise Cookies submitted by Tamara Dumas for publication in the OSC Cookbook

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 pkg. Oreo Cookies | 1—16oz pkg. Semi Sweet or White Chocolate Morsels |
| 1 - 8oz. Pkg. Cream Cheese, room temp. | |

Crush Oreo cookies very fine, then blend with softened cream cheese. Form into balls. Melt chocolate bits. Dip balls into chocolate until well coated. Put in refrigerator to cool and store. *****

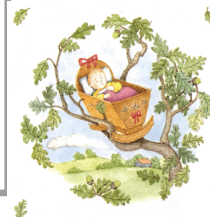


Coffee Hour

With life slowly getting back to normal, we would like to bring back Coffee Hour. As we have done in the past, we will begin handing out individually packaged snacks after Sunday service. Please let the Deacons know or sign up for a week to donate a special snack..

We will start fellowship after Sunday service in January.

Childcare and Sunday School for our youth during worship is available with volunteers. To sign up for this awesome position, please see Louise Ward or let the Deacon of the month know that you are interested.



Did you know??

Fellowship will resume on Sunday mornings after worship with Coffee, Tea, Juice and snacks. This is an ongoing welcome that we look forward to sharing again.



Thrift Shop

Do you have 3 hours once a month on a Saturday that you can share?? Come volunteer at the Thrift Shop.

The shop is open 10 am—3 pm every Saturday. So many things to see and do. See anyone of the Thrift Shop ladies to sign up, or leave your name with the office.

Donations welcome on Saturdays 10-3 pm

Steeple Fund

Repairing and painting the steeple comes at a cost.

Please help us offset the cost of repair with your generous donations. It is donations such as yours, that help keep our Old Stone Church alive and thriving. Thank—you!!

Stewardship Committee

To The Members and Friends of Old Stone Church,

Thank you for the pledge you have made to support the life and ministry of Old Stone Church in 2022. If you have not yet sent in or brought in your pledge promise, there is always time to do that. We all know how busy we can get and often forget about the things that need our attention. Here is your gentle reminder, that you are a blessing to the church, and we recognize you.

We are extremely grateful for you and will accept any pledge you are able to make, or if you prefer, you may make a one time monthly or annual gift.

Please remember, offering envelopes are available upon request.

Thank you for being our "Blessing".

May God continue to bless your acts of loving service,

The Old Stone Church Stewardship Committee

Tom and Linda Collopy, Adrienne Ward and Nancy Wobensmith

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NRSV)

Global Outreach

Giving Tree

This year, we will have 4 families and 8 individuals for the giving tree. Please help us to help others enjoy the most wonderful time of the year. It's as easy as, take a tag from the tree and return it and the gift by Dec. 12, 2021.

Thank you for all the food donations to the **East Haven Food Pantry** in October and early November to help fill the Thanksgiving bags, and to help stock the shelves for the winter months. Suggested food items for this time of year are: Soup, Pasta, Tomato Sauce, Tuna, Oatmeal packets, Flavored Rice and Canned Vegetables. The Food Pantry always appreciates any non-perishable food items, monetary donations or grocery gift cards. Your contributions of food are a blessing to our neighbors. Thank-you!

2000 Can Challenge at JMMS

For the fifth year running, local attorney State Representative, Joe Zullo, extended what has now become an annual challenge to Joseph Melillo Middle School students with a five year milestone twist. ...If the JMMS students collect 2,000 canned goods by Thursday, December 23, the day students and staff break for the holidays, Rep. Zullo will donate \$2,000 to the school's Parent-Teacher Committee (PTC)

In each of the initiative's first four years, students were challenged to collect 1,000 canned goods to benefit the East Haven Food Pantry. However, with the challenge reaching its milestone fifth year, Rep. Zullo says it was the right year to expand the challenge.

For the complete story, please see the Nov. 11, 2021 edition of the East Haven Courier, or visit the pantry Facebook page at : facebook.com/easthavenfoodpantry



In Local News



A Hundred Wreaths

The members of the East Haven Fire Department Volunteer Company 1, are sponsoring more than 100 wreaths for the Lions Club "Wreaths Across America" event in memory of all deceased members of Company 1 since its inception on Jan. 2, 1900. The wreaths will be placed on graves at East Lawn and Green Lawn Cemeteries on Saturday, Dec 18. For more information on the "Wreaths Across America" program, visit wreathscrossamerica.org. For more information on the EHFD Volunteer Company 1, located at 200 Main Street, email ehfdvolco1@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/ehfdvolco1

Never Stop Praying!



DEAR GOD,
I humbly come before you today in appreciation for all that you have done for me. Thank you Jesus for your sacrifice so that I may be reconciled to God and set free from the bondage of sin. Thank you for enduring so much suffering on my behalf. I pray that I will have the same kind of strength to endure life for your sake, in your name I pray **AMEN!**

**RENTAL SPACE

Looking for storage space for household items. Do you have room in a garage or basement where we could store some things for a reasonable fee? Please contact Nancy Worms at 203-907-8380.

Prayer requests can be sent or called in to the church office at any time. Please send to the church's confidential email: oldstonechurch97@gmail.com or direct to Pastor Mark's confidential email: oldstonepastor@yahoo.com. Pastor Mark will read them aloud on Sunday during service. Should you need a call, please note that in the message.

Fellowship Hall Committee

We have been able to design a new agreement and contract that is more user friendly as well as protecting the church.

Should you have an interest in renting the hall or the parlor for a future event, please contact the church office at 203-467-2907 or you can email us at oldstonechurch97@gmail.com, or oscfellowshiphall@gmail.com.



EHPD and EHFD Ready to Help Those in Need This Holiday Season

The EHPD has raised more than \$1200 as part of NoShaveCT.

The East Haven Police Union is planning a "Stuff-a-cruiser" event to benefit the East Haven Food Pantry. The date will be announced soon.

The EHFD is hosting its annual East Haven Firefighters Local 1205 Toy Drive through Monday Dec. 20. Firefighters Gordon Stewart and Mike Volpe have taken over the drive this year. "Like everyone at the fire department, we love to give back to the community" said FF Stewart. Toys can be dropped off to any of the firehouses in East Haven at any time and all donated toys, go to East Haven families. Toys for all ages are requested and all toys should be unwrapped. Gift cards and cash donations are also accepted. Anyone in need can reach out to any of the firehouses before Dec 20.



SHOP with SCRIP is back.

Do your Christmas gift card shopping with the Old Stone Church. Individual orders may be submitted through the website. Go to www.shopwithscrip.com to select. Enrollment code is: BD8941LE232LL. A percentage of each card sold comes back to the church. 2 ways to pay are by Credit Card online or you can give your payment to Linda Hargraves for a larger percentage of sales. Please call Linda Hargraves at 203-710-8306 with any questions.

***Should anyone like updates to the Old Stone Church Website, please email Stephanie Kilburn stephani.kilburn@yahoo.com**

WISP

Old Stone Church
ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE CHURCH STEEPLE FUND

Dinner Cabaret Fundraiser

Cozy up this holiday season by joining WISP Performing Arts Initiative and The Old Stone Church for a very special evening of dinner and song. Featuring a delicious meal followed by your favorite Christmas Holiday Classics from Jazz to Broadway and more.

Saturday, December 11th
Doors Open 5:30PM

Purchase Tickets \$35
www.buy.tututix.com/wisp
Further Info: 203-494-1633 BYOB

Flower Committee

The Flower Committee is looking for volunteers to help in the responsibility for reminding others about providing flowers at all church services. This fun and rewarding committee's goal, is to bring a smile to the faces and hearts of many. Please see chair-woman ; Helen Wendt to sign up.

Plants are offered at \$10.00 each

To reserve your Christmas poinsettia (s), please complete the form below and return it with your payment to the church office, to any member of the Flower Committee or turn it in with your weekly offering during worship by **December 12, 2021**. You may make checks payable to OLD STONE CHURCH. (Please note that, for bookkeeping purposes, any checks remitted for payment will not be processed until after the new year.) The poinsettias will be dedicated on Sunday, **December 19th.**

Helen Wendt, Chair, Flower Committee

NOTE: This year, the Deacons will not be delivering plants to our homebound members and friends. We want to stay conscious of everyone's health and wellbeing. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

~~~~~  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants desired \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

*Please remember to take your plant (s) home after worship.*

✂ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**KEEP THIS AS A RECORD OF YOUR ORDER**

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of poinsettia (s) ordered to take home after worship



December Herald

The Thanksgiving holiday was the focus of many lessons and projects last month. With an emphasis on family, friends, cooperation and good will, the faculty incorporated this everyday message throughout their curriculum. The most exciting activity of the month was our traditional dinner...turkey (chicken nuggets) corn, cranberry, potatoes and all the fixings. Parents joined us after the feast to listen and watch their children recite poems, sing songs and act out holiday verse.

From now until Christmas, we will be very busy at the Early Learning Center, with many holiday projects and events that all of our wonderful teachers have planned for all the children. With the help of their teachers, the children will be making special Christmas gift for their parents. They will also be making the wrapping paper and card that go along with the gift. In anticipation of Christmas, the teachers will make a very creative advent calendar with the children that they can do at home with their family. Each class will have a Christmas party with some special treats provided by parents and teachers!

Our Sing-a-long is scheduled for Wednesday, December 22th. The children have been memorizing poems and songs to delight the audience.

All the activities that we have been doing with the children since September have been done through play. "Play is Children's work". When a child figures out how many shovels filled with sand, it takes to fill a bucket, that is Math. When they discover that leaves turn color and fall from the trees in Autumn, that is Science. When they look on the globe in their classroom to find where their friend or teacher has gone on vacation, that is Geography, and when they discover that the words they speak can be made into print, that is Literacy. The Early Learning and Development Standards are built into each aspect of the curriculum. We encourage the children to engage in the activities, show pride in their accomplishments and share their experiences with others.

We thank the parents and congregation for their donations of tissues, disinfectant wipes, and various other supplies that help us on an everyday basis, Thank you for your support!

As always, we ask that you spread the word about our wonderful program.

From all of us at **The Early Learning Center**, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Mrs. Calonico, Director and Mrs. Oca, Assistant Director



## December Herald Old Stone Village

**Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from the store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!**  
~ The Grinch, by Dr Seuss



November was a month of thankfulness as we explored different things our villagers are thankful for beginning with ourselves, our families, and ending with our friends. Each villager participated in various activities highlighting each theme depicted above. Our villagers got the opportunity to explore themselves and their special characteristics pictured below, create special birthday books, create a center wide village family and extended family quilt, and work together with their friends to complete various tasks during friendship week. We ended Thanksgiving with our annual Thanksgiving feast where we sat together as a village and enjoyed a bountiful feast.



December is a busy month at our village as our villagers use their five senses to explore the smells, sounds, tastes, and textures of the holiday season as we expand upon the theme of thankfulness, diversity, and community. We begin the month by focusing on the smells and textures of the holiday season by focusing on the fragrant evergreen tree, and Christmas cookies. On Monday, November 29th we will put up our own village Christmas tree. Each week our villagers will trim the tree with special handcrafted ornaments they created. Our villagers will be able to feel the prickly pine needles and taste and smell various Christmas cookies such as gingerbread and sugar. We circle back to our November theme of thankfulness as we discuss the importance of trees and other plants as our villagers create a Christmas tree bird feeder to hang in our village garden. We will also revisit shapes this month as the holiday season allows for so many opportunities to discuss them within our curriculum.

We will then jump into the sights and sounds of Christmas by observing lights, and Christmas classics such as Frosty, Rudolph, and Santa Claus. We will even have the jolly man himself make an appearance later in the month for a Christmas sing along with our villagers. During this week, our villagers will utilize their sense of hearing to listen to the various Christmas songs and the different renditions of each.



The third week of December is a time to touch upon other holidays celebrated during this time such as Hanukkah, Three Kings Day, and Kwanza. During this week, our villagers will use their senses to explore other cultures through their music, crafts, and traditions. We will also have some of our own OSV families come in to share some of their own cultural traditions.



We will spend the fourth week of December by taking a magical journey on the Polar Express. Where our villagers will become conductors and engineers driving and building train tracks leading to the North Pole. We will listen to the sounds of trains, feel the cold snow at The North Pole, and enjoy the taste of hot cocoa while we are warm in our holiday jammies.



After Christmas, we will begin our unit on winter by starting with the signs and symbols of winter including snow and warm clothes. We will place an emphasis on getting dressed ourselves. We will end this week and month with our annual New Year's Eve Party complete with our confetti count down. As the Grinch said, "Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store." Through this month we hope our villagers will also see all the components of Christmas outside of the material components.

From all of us at **The Old Stone Village**, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Nicole Ferigno, OSV Director  
Kristen Sartor, OSV Assistant Director



## The Down and Dirty (Clean) at OSC

There are so many things that need to be done throughout the week and on Sunday mornings. We caught a few of our members and friends in the act. There is no job too big or too small. Thank you all for your time and dedication. Here are some photos from the Early Learning Center and the Village Daycare teachers in action.

