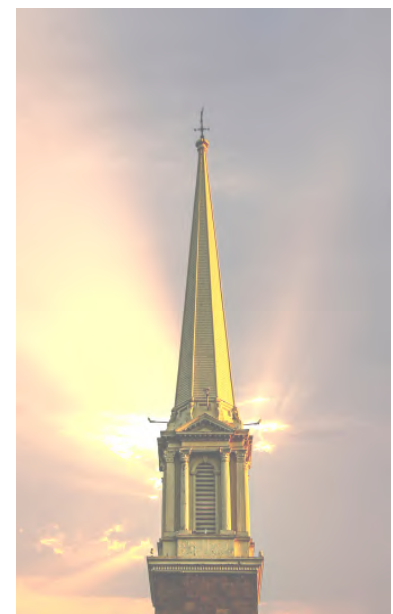


The lit candles in the Church Sanctuary and Steeple will shine perpetually as a beacon of God's strength. These lights reflect our prayers for peace, here and abroad. To help defray the cost of

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



**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 203-390-5977**

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

E-mail: [oldstonechurch97@gmail.com](mailto:oldstonechurch97@gmail.com)

Website: [www..oldstonechurchucc.org](http://www..oldstonechurchucc.org)

# ♥ The Herald ♥

February 2024

Join us in our historic Sanctuary for In-Person Worship service or view us on Facebook Live and YouTube at 10 am Sundays

Join us for Fellowship after service in the hall

**Upcoming Events**

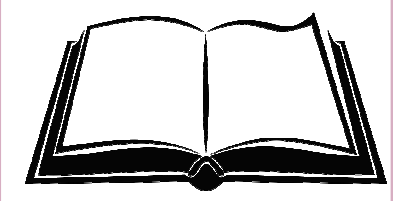
**February 10, 2024 9-3pm**  
Craft and Art Sale (FH)

**February 12 / 19 / 26 ,**  
Community Bible Study  
12:15 (see schedule)

**February 14, 2024 4-6pm**  
Drive-up Ashes

**February 25, 2024 Annual Meeting (S) 11am**

Don't forget to pick up your latest copy of "The Up-



*From the desk of...Rev. Mark D. Pilletere, M. Div.*

Dear Friends,

Valentine's Greetings!

This is the month so many people do their best to share their love with one another in so many ways as we celebrate Valentine's Day. This year we begin our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday also falling on Valentines Day. So, here we have two days filled with love for all of us. Yet, let me just take a moment to remind you of the amazing love of our Lord Jesus Christ whose example of perfect love should be held up for all to see.

John 15:12-13 *'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

Jesus was clearly saying here that our love towards one another as the family of God should not be dictated by "feelings" because you cannot give a commandment to feel a certain way. Yet, this love He wants us to have is a choice that we make in our hearts to love one another even as He loved us!

I want to encourage you during this time of year and special celebration of love, to take a little extra time to appreciate and love the family of God. We live in a world in which actions are only determined by the feelings of the moment. If a person "feels" in love, they do all they can to bless that person who loves them. Yet, so often when the emotions are not what they once were, their level of commitment to that person takes a direct hit. We cannot go through this life without being offended, and often our offense arises out of unmet expectations, yet these are the times our love is tested! I encourage you today to pass the test and love one another not only in the times of harmony and agreement, but also in those challenging moments when it is difficult to do so!

1 John 3:16 *We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. (NRSV)*

In Christ's Love,

# February 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



Chuck & Shari Moon Feb. 14, 1986

Loren & Rosemary Evarts Feb. 15, 1986

|  |   |    |   |   |                               |   |
|--|---|----|---|---|-------------------------------|---|
|  |   |    |   | 1<br>Mah-Jong (P) 12<br>Choir (S) 7pm<br>Cub/Boy Scouts (BSR) 6pm                           | 2                             | 3<br>Reserved Party (P) 1pm<br>Thrift Shop Open 10-3                                |
| 4<br>Worship 10am "Source of Strength"<br>Confirmation Class 11:15am<br>Deacon's Meeting | 5   | 6  | 7   | 8<br>Mah-Jong (P) 12<br>Choir (S) 7pm<br>Cub/Boy Scouts (BSR) 6pm<br>Tentative Bell Install | 9                             | 10<br>OSC Craft Fair (FH) 9-3pm<br>Thrift Shop Open 10-3<br>Reserved Party (FH) 4pm |
| 11<br>Worship 10am "Transfiguration"<br>   | 12<br>Lenten Bible Study (P) 12pm<br>Old Stone Church             | 13 | 14<br>Ash Wednesday<br>Drive up Ashes (FPL) 4-6pm<br>Valentines Day | 15<br>Mah-Jong (P) 12<br>Choir (S) 7pm<br>Cub/Boy Spmts (BSR) 6:30                          | 16<br>Reserved Party (FH) 5pm | 17<br>Thrift Shop Open 10-3   |
| 18<br>Worship 10am "God's Loving Paths"  | 19<br>Lenten Bible Study (P) 12pm<br>St. Vincent DePaul Church    | 20 | 21  | 22<br>Mah-Jong (P) 12<br>Choir (S) 7pm<br>Cub/Boy Scouts (BSR) 6pm                          | 23                            | 24<br>Reserved Party (FH) 5pm<br>Thrift Shop Open 10-3                              |
| 25<br>Worship 10am "Always Close"<br>ANNUAL MEETING                                      | 26<br>Lenten Bible Study (P) 12pm<br>Christ & the Epiphany Church | 27 | 28  | 29<br>Mah-Jong (P) 12<br>Choir (S) 7pm<br>Cub/Boy Scouts (BSR) 6pm                          |                               |   |

- 02/02 Joseph Taylor
- 02/03 Ned Taylor
- 02/04 Scott Thomas
- 02/05 Cassidy Warner
- 02/06 Benjamin Gelo
- 02/07 Dale Izzo
- 02/09 River Gersz
- 02/11 Tom Coon
- 02/14 George Pertesis
- 02/18 Jayne Scobie
- 02/21 Alan Suitor, Sr.
- 02/21 Peggy Thomas

### In the Spotlight

*"Women wear many hats, but it is impossible and unnecessary to wear them all at once. The Spirit helps us determine which work to focus on today." -Joy D Jones*



Heidi may be one of the most spiritual people I know, but when it comes to wearing many different hats and focusing solely on one thing, this quote couldn't be further from Heidi's mantra. It is evident that Heidi wears many different hats throughout her day including overseeing our buildings operations. However, this job title consists of a plethora of daily duties and responsibilities which extend from operations to custodial needs. No matter what the day brings her way, she selflessly performs these duties with grace, knowledge, and always a smile.

### People in our prayers...

- \*Dave Thomas \*Myles Standish
- \*Susan Hyssong \*Bob Slubowski
- \*Frank Chasney \*Bonnie Taylor
- \*First Responders \*Tracey Boyle
- \*Military personnel at home and away
- \*Carole Landers \*Wendy Salmoiraghi



**Month of February Deacon in Charge:** Claudia Crawford

**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](mailto:oldstonechurch97@gmail.com) or direct to Pastor Mark at: [oldstonepastor@yahoo.com](mailto:oldstonepastor@yahoo.com). Pastor Mark will read them aloud on Sunday during service. Should you need a call, please

I'd like to introduce each of you to Heidi Manley. This jane of all trades is our current office manager at Old Stone Church and has been for the past three years. However, to myself and many others who have the privilege of collaborating with her daily, she is known for her ability to make all sorts of magic happen within this building at the drop of a dime. Whether she is securing scheduling, reaching out to contractors, unclogging toilets, dealing with medical emergencies, or even hemming a last-minute dress for a staff member there's no limits to what Ms. Heidi can do. She ensures this church, two schools, and numerous extracurricular activities are maintained and running smoothly.

In addition to her employment here, she also serves on several committees including Global Outreach and filling the Purple Pantry, our Flower committee, and is heavily involved in the church's Choir program. In addition, she also has chaired many fund raising events for this church including the Christmas Fair, and Summer Flea Market. Her artistic ability is also notable as she assures our building entrance is always looking top notch with her creative bulletin boards, and I know many stop and stare as they drive by some of her religious signs welcoming people to this church. One of her longtime friends and church member Louise Ward stated, "she makes my visions come to life."

Prior to her employment here, Heidi had already built a strong foundation within the Old Stone Church walls. She was baptized and raised in the church since birth and officially became a church member at fourteen years old. Although she has many favorite memories within this building, her wedding day is the top of her list. It is evident that is building has become her second home and we are extremely fortunate to have her as the thread holding us all together.



## WHAT'S COOKIN'?

February is also known as the month of love. So, with Valentine's Day looming around the corner, here are a few recipes that might give you a little inspiration to cook at home. (All recipes are taken from CarriesExperimentalKitchen.com)



### Sausage Stuffed Mushrooms

|  |                                       |                                     |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 16 extra large white mushrooms                 | 5 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  | 2 ½ tablespoons marsala wine        |
| 3 links sweet Italian sausage, casings removed | 3 scallions, minced                   | 1 clove garlic, minced              |
| ⅔ cup Italian seasoned breadcrumbs             | 4 ounces cream cheese                 | ⅓ cup grated Pecorino Romano cheese |
| ⅓ cup shredded Asiago cheese                   | 2 ½ tablespoons chopped fresh parsley | ½ teaspoon Kosher salt              |
| ⅛ teaspoon black pepper                        | cooking spray                         |                                     |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Remove the stems from the mushrooms, finely chop, and add to a bowl. Toss the chopped mushrooms stems with 3 tablespoons of oil and the Marsala wine. Set aside. Heat remaining oil in small pan over med-high heat, and add the sausage. Crumble sausage as it cooks into small pieces until it is cooked through and no longer pink, approximately 7-10 minutes. Next, add the mushroom stems to the sausage and stir in the scallions and garlic. Add breadcrumbs and swirl in the cream cheese until mixture is creamy. Remove from heat. Stir in the Pecorino Romano and Asiago cheeses, parsley, salt, and pepper, fill each mushroom cap, and place on a baking sheet. Spray the pan with cooking spray and bake for approximately 20-25 minutes until lightly browned.



### Caprese Stuffed Pork Loin

|   |                                 |                           |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 lb. Center Cut Boneless Pork Loin       | 2 Cloves Garlic, minced         | ½ c . Chopped Tomatoes    |
| ¼ c . Chopped Fresh Basil                 | 2 oz . Chopped Fresh Mozzarella | Salt and Pepper, to taste |
| 1 c . Liquid (water, broth or white wine) | Kitchen Twine                   |                           |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Roll cut the pork loin until it's flat by using a sharp knife. Take about 1" or so and make a horizontal cut along the top, but do not cut all the way through the loin. As you're carving, roll out the pork loin leaving a 1-inch border along the side and bottom. Flatten out the piece of meat. Next, top the pork with garlic, tomatoes, basil and the fresh mozzarella cheese. Carefully roll up the pork loin and secure it tightly with kitchen twine. Place in a roasting pan with some liquid on the bottom -- either water, chicken or vegetable broth, or white wine. Place the roasting pan in the oven for about 1 ½ hours or until the internal temperature reaches a minimum of 145 degrees F (I like mine more on the well done side at 160 degrees F)



### Au Gratin Potatoes

|                                  |                                     |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3 medium russet potatoes, peeled | 3 tablespoons butter, divided       | 2 cloves garlic, minced             |
| 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour   | 1 ½ cups heavy cream                | ½ cup shredded white cheddar cheese |
| ½ cup shredded Jarlsburg cheese  | ½ cup grated Pecorino Romano cheese | 2 cups crushed potato chips         |
| 1 cup French fried onions        |                                     |                                     |

EQUIP-  
MENT NEEDED: 4- (8-ounce) Ramekins Mandoline or Sharp Knife Baking Pan Small Saucepan  
Food Processor

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Using a mandoline or a sharp knife, thinly slice potatoes and place into your ramekins. (You may have to cut the potatoes in order to fit them if the potato is too large). Place the ramekins on a baking sheet. In a small saucepan, melt 1 tbsp. of butter over low heat; then add the garlic. Saute garlic for 1 minute; then whisk in flour to form a roux. Stir in the heavy cream and mix until the roux has dissolved; then add your cheeses. Simmer the sauce for 5-8 minutes until all of the cheese has melted; then pour the mixture over the potatoes in each ramekin. (Fill as much as you can to the top leaving space to add your topping). While the sauce is cooking, add the potato chips and fried onions to your food processor and pulse until the mixture is crumbly. Melt the remaining 2 tbsp. of butter and add to the topping. Mix well then sprinkle the topping over each ramekin. Place the entire pan into the oven and bake 30-40 minutes until the topping is golden brown and the potatoes are tender.



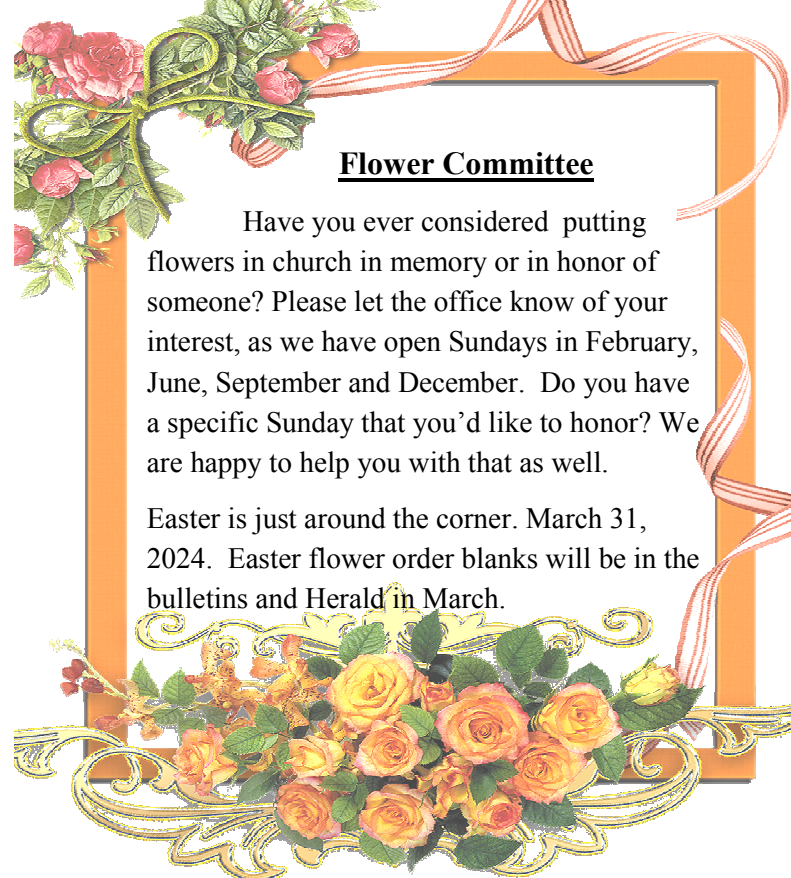
### Rosemary Roasted Carrots

|   |                                 |                                |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 bunches Carrots, (approx. 4 cups cut) | 1 tbsp. Fresh Rosemary, chopped | 1 tbsp. Extra Virgin Olive Oil |
| 1 tsp. Sea Salt                         | Preheat oven to 425° F.         |                                |

Peel the carrots with a vegetable peeler; then cut them into ½-inch to ¾-inch along with the oil, rosemary and salt. Toss to coat, put the carrots 20 minutes until they're a light golden brown and have a semi soft



inch circles. Add the carrots to a bowl on a baking sheet; then place for 15-center.



## Flower Committee

Have you ever considered putting flowers in church in memory or in honor of someone? Please let the office know of your interest, as we have open Sundays in February, June, September and December. Do you have a specific Sunday that you'd like to honor? We are happy to help you with that as well.

Easter is just around the corner. March 31, 2024. Easter flower order blanks will be in the bulletins and Herald in March.

## Board of Deacons

As we began 2024, the weather caused some interruptions to our regular service schedule. We are thankful to Pastor Mark that he delivered the message on Facebook on January 7 from home when we were forced to close the church because of snow. On January 14, we were forced to move the service into the parlor and unfortunately were unable to broadcast or record the service. But the following week we were able to return to our regular schedule.

A special thanks to everyone who helped make the Pasta -4-Pups Fund Raiser on January 26 a success.

Pastor Mark will be distributing ashes in the front parking lot on Ash Wednesday, February 14 between 4:00 and 6:00pm. All are welcome. Come join us for all our Lenten Sunday services either in person in the Sanctuary or online on either Facebook or YouTube.

Check the article from "Christian Education" for the plans for the Lenten Bible Study.

**Tom Collopy**, Chairperson

## Pastoral Visits in Hospital

Pastoral Visits in the hospital are more possible, with particular guidelines that have changed 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

## Building, Finance and Grounds

January brought an immediate repair to a steam pipe, in the closet downstairs, which lead into the Sanctuary. Anthony's Abatement removed the asbestos prior to repair done by CT Boiler Repair. Thank you to both companies for their immediate response. The boiler will receive much needed updates in early spring when the need for heat is much less.

Valley Restoration will be finishing the outside paint and pointing work as soon as the weather is warmer. (above 40 degrees)

Verdin Bell Co. will be installing the bell back into the steeple this month. We look forward to hearing that old familiar sound.

A new security company has been acquired. Now Security, which we use for the school security cameras and door locks, installed new fire security equipment Jan. 23, 2024 and will be monitoring all systems.

We have received the insurance information and police report regarding the iron fence that was damaged in December. We have reached out to the iron fabricator and installer for estimates. We look forward to it being whole

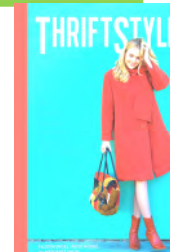
## THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop has been having a buy one, get one free sale, as a winter clear out of overstock. We have been doing very well with the sale, thanks to our loyal volunteers. We can always use more help on Saturdays.

Stop in to see all the fabulous deals in the store, and to volunteer.

Thank you,

**Carole Landers, Roberta Bruno, Patty Andrews, Audrey Pochodowicz, Sharron Shepard, Pam Standish and**



let all that  
you do be  
done in love  
♡♡♡

## KILLIAMS POINT

Camp dates for the summer of 2024  
July 8th -July 12  
July 15-July 19  
No camp July 22-26 (Camp Totoket week)  
July 29 -August 2  
August 5-August 9

Stay tuned for registration information and more



### Summer 2024 Dates

Week 1: June 30-July 6  
Week 2: July 7-13  
Week 3: July 14-20  
Week 4: July 21-27

Regional Youth Event (ages 13-18): July 28-31

We run 1-week sessions (Sunday-Saturday) for campers entering grades 4-12. Plus, half-week family camp programs for all ages.

Standard Program\* Tiered Pricing: \$745 / \$670 / \$595

\*Some programs may have slightly different pricing, or an additional program fee.



## TO DO LIST

1. Spend time with Jesus  
Psalm 27:8.
2. Let Him prioritize my day  
Matthew 6:33.
3. Pray instead of worrying  
Philippians 4:6.
4. Be honest about my sins-  
James 4:10.
5. Think of others  
Philippians 2:3-4.
6. Wait patiently for God to act  
Psalm 27:14.
7. Be willing to do hard stuff  
Matthew 16:24.
8. Read God's Word  
Psalm 119:9-16.
9. Do what it says  
James 1:22
10. Let Christ lead me  
Matthew 11:29.

## Christian Ed

Thank you to all the Sunday school students, parents and church family that helped to make our two part Christmas pageant such a gift to all.

Let us keep that enthusiasm as we move along in the coming months learning of God's many gifts and the love of Jesus Christ. This next month we will be learning about Jesus's Baptism, His struggle with temptation in the desert and calling His disciples.

Our Sunday school has grown and so has our teaching team. Nicole Gelo and Lianne Winslow will be bringing their gifts to the classroom soon. Any students 7 years or older that has not yet had their first Communion, please contact me for more information.

The Lenten Bible study starts Feb 12. This will be a time of Lenten preparation we can share with all churches in East Haven. See poster for weekly readings and host churches.

Blessings ,



## CRAFT SUPPLIES and ART TAG SALE

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Old Stone Church

250 Main Street, East Haven, CT

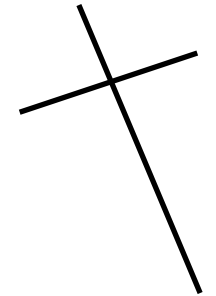
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Do you have unwanted craft supplies looking for a new home? Perhaps an art project or another craft project you would like to offer for sale? Then this is the event for you.

\$25.00 for a six-foot table, all proceeds benefit Old Stone Church.

Contact the Church Office: (203) 467-2907 (ext. 101) or Pam Standish (203) 804-7904 by February 6<sup>th</sup> to reserve your table.

## The Cross and Valentine's Day



The Greatest Love Story

**Parking Lot Drive-up Ashes offered at Old Stone Church Wednesday Feb. 14,**

## ANNUAL MEETING AND ANNUAL REPORTS

The Annual Meeting of the congregation is on the horizon. The following committee reports are due immediately .

|                               |                           |                 |           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Annual Meeting Minutes        | Thrift Shop               | Deacons         | Treasurer |
| Finance, Building and Grounds | Clerk                     | Faith Formation |           |
| Flower Committee              | Global Outreach           | Pastor          |           |
| Stewardship                   | 2024 Call to Meeting      | Boy Scouts      |           |
| Financial Secretary           | Minister of Music         | Auditor         |           |
| Nominating                    | Proposed Budget 2024      | OSC Village     |           |
| Moderator                     | OSC Early Learning Center | Attendance      |           |

Mark your calendar for Sunday Feb. 25, 2024 following worship for this informative meeting. Remember, the church is only as strong as its members.

## Join the "Old Stone Travelers"

on their next bus adventure to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA

August 21-23, 2024

\$484.00 per person based on double occupancy.

Bus driver gratuities included.

See Pastor Mark or Heidi for more information and registration forms.



## St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner at Old Stone Church



**Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**



Entertainment by the Mulkerin School of Irish Dancing

Old Stone Church, 251 Main St., East Haven

Adults \$25.00  
Kids \$9.00 (10 and under)  
Chicken Tender Meal

Cognitoforms.com/oldstonechurch1/  
OLDSTONECHURCHcornedbeefdinnerMarch162024

## IN LOCAL NEWS

### Happenings on the Trolley Feb 6, 2024



Step into a world where history meets harmony at the Jam at the Museum 2024! Dive deep into the heart of American bluegrass music, as the Shore Line Trolley Museum transforms into a vibrant stage for an evening of musical enchantment.

Every first Tuesday of the month in 2024, as the clock strikes 6:00pm, witness a musical rendezvous that celebrates the soulful rhythms and spirited tunes of bluegrass. Whether you're a seasoned musician or someone who simply loves the melodies, there's a spot for you in this musical extravaganza. Come with friends, family, or venture solo – all are welcome!

While the event itself is a gift to music lovers, we kindly suggest a donation of any amount to support the Shore Line Trolley Museum's continued dedication to preserving history and promoting the arts.

Mark your calendars, spread the word, and let's make history together at Jam at the Museum 2024. A night of melodies, memories, and magic awaits!



### Get Married at the Trolley Museum on Valentines Day

Step into a world where history meets romance this Valentine's Day at the Trolley Museum. Embrace the charm of yesteryears and tie the knot.

**Unique Venue:** Exchange vows inside a beautifully restored antique trolley car, adding a touch of nostalgia to your wedding.

**Ceremonies:** Select from five distinctive wedding ceremonies, each tailored to resonate with your love story. All ceremonies will be officiated by our esteemed CT licensed Officiant Trolley Motormen.

**Guests:** Celebrate your union surrounded by your loved ones. Each couple can invite up to five guests to share in their joyous occasion.

**Vow Renewals:** For couples cherishing their journey together, we offer vow renewals as a heartfelt way to reaffirm your love and commitment.

**No Reservations Needed:** Embrace spontaneity! Ceremonies

will be conducted on a first come, first served basis.

**Requirements:** Couples are required to present a valid marriage certificate issued by the town of East Haven, CT.

**Additional Information:**

The ceremonies will be available between 10 am and 6 pm, ensuring ample opportunities for couples to make their vows.

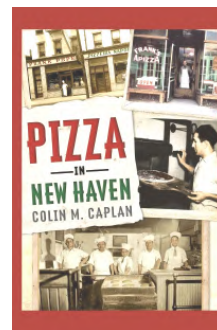
Our heated trolley car promises a cozy setting, regardless of the weather. However, in case of unfavorable conditions, ceremonies will seamlessly transition to our Visitors Center.

**Hagaman Memorial Library**  
**Mardi Gras-Themed Game Night!**  
**Tuesday, February 13th at 6:30pm**

Enjoy music, refreshments, a raffle, and learn to play the classic game of Hearts!

To RSVP and join in the festivities, please either stop in, call Main Circulation at 203-468-3890, or email Chris directly at chemingway@hagamanlibrary.org

hagaman memorial library  
227 Main Street  
East Haven, CT 06512  
203-468-3890  
hagamanlibrary.org



Please note that to accommodate as many couples as possible, trolley rides won't be operational on this special day.

Join us at the Trolley Museum and craft a Valentine's Day filled with love, memories, and timeless romance.

Sun, Feb 11, 2024 at 2:00 PM

**James Blackstone Memorial Library** 758 Main St, Branford, CT, 06405

Join author, historian, producer & pizza guru Colin M. Caplan on a journey into Branford and New Haven pizza history! This hour-long presentation features how, when, who

## Old Stone Church Early Learning Center



We cannot believe how fast this school year is just flying right past us! We've been having so much fun with all kinds of activities that the months have passed in the blink of an eye.

For the month of February, we will be celebrating Valentine's Day with lessons on love, caring and friendship. The children will make their own Valentine's Day bag for all the cards they will receive from their friends and teachers. Each class will have a Valentine's Day pizza party on Wednesday, February 14th.

February will take on many various themes, the following are just a few:

**Groundhog's Day-** The children will learn about this legend. On February 2nd, if a groundhog can see its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If it cannot see its shadow, spring is on the way. This is a great time to teach children about shadows, weather and the groundhog himself.

**President's Day-** Is a good day to teach children about who the president is, as well as talk about the two most popular presidents-George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

**February is Dental Health Month.** Preschoolers are just beginning to form healthy habits. Exploring teeth, dentists, and related topics, helps them begin to understand the importance of caring for themselves. We hope to have a visit from a dentist or dental hygienist to teach the children about eating healthy food, brushing their teeth, and visiting the dentist for regular check-ups.

**Arctic Animals-**Most preschoolers know the polar bear lives in the Arctic, but do they know about walrus, whales, snowy owls, seals, and so many more animals live there too? The children will learn about the many special adaptations that enable these animals to survive in their icy environment, how they move, what features they have, and what they eat. The children will be surprised when they come to school and find life size paintings of some of these arctic animals!

Remember to keep an eye on the hallway to see what the children have been learning.

Registration for the 2024-25 school year will open to our currently enrolled students the second week of February. The end of February it will open to the Village. It will open to the public if there are any spots left in March.

Currently we have a waiting list for School will be closed February 19th &



for 20th



the 2024-2025 school year. for President's Day and winter vacation.



## NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE



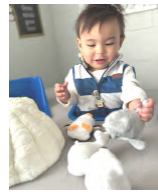
Old Stone Village kicked off “2024” with a bang as we began our Arctic weather and Animals unit. Our Villagers look forward to this unit every year because they truly love all the hands on sensory play they get to indulge in. We may not always get snow outside in January, but there’s always plenty of snow inside OSV. We kicked off the first week of the month exploring various winter weather and the attire that goes along with it. Our snow machine got a lot of work this week as every day we had a sensory bin full of snow ready to dive into. We explored snowballs, ice, snowflakes, snowmen, and other winter weather in these sensory bins. Our Villagers got to feel the difference of the cold weather with their winter gear versus without it. We definitely love the feel of the cold snow on our hands but it is much more enjoyable to play in for a longer period of time when we have our warm winter gloves on!



The second week of the year we found ourselves exploring our animal friends who call the arctic land their home. We flew like snowy owls, explored their delicate feathers, and counted their babies in their nests. Our villagers galloped like caribou and reindeer after exploring their soft fur and playing in their forest sensory bin. We then marched around the room like strong polar bears, wrapped ourselves in thick white fur to see how they stay warm, and fed fish to their hungry cubs. Next came our Arctic Hare Day as we made our own furry ears and pretended to hop through the snowy fields while counting our hops. We ended the week with wolves and foxes as we counted their many cubs and sorted them by species, freed them from the frozen ice and pretended to be foxes as we curled up in our tent “dens” to stay warm as a family.



The next week we dove off the ice and into the arctic waters to explore our animal friends that call these chilly waters their homes. We explored penguins and how they soar through the water to catch fish for their families, and of course we waddled around our classrooms to see how penguins march without slipping on the ice. We got to compare the differences between walruses and seals, the kids really enjoyed laughing at the silly tusks of the walruses. We spent a whole day comparing different whales the call the



arctic waters their home. Belugas, orcas, humpbacks, and Narwhals are amazing creatures and we always love comparing them. Through this exploration, we discovered different features of each of these animals and certain adaptations they have which enable them to stay warm. Throughout this week we continued to work with our math progression of sorting and classifying by comparing both land and sea Arctic animals we already encountered.

We closed out our Arctic winter unit with a week exploring winter sports and activities. Our Villagers explored figure skating, ice hockey, sledding, skiing and snowboarding through science and sensory bins. We continued to work on sorting and classifying by identifying the items needed to perform these sports and what conditions are best for each. They raced skiers and snowboarders down icy mountains in our sensory bins which is always a fan favorite. We helped our Little People friends ice skate around baking pans with magnets in our science explorations and we even got to paint with ice skating friends. We also enjoyed an in-house ice fishing competition with our magnetic fishing games in a miniature frozen lake which brought lots of giggles and smiles to all of our Villagers!



The last week of the month we spent exploring migration and hibernation and the animals that use these processes to protect themselves from the changing weather through the use of opposites. We helped various birds move across maps traveling closer south to the warm weather and away from the snowy winters up north. We helped bears and their cubs move in and out of their dens as they go into hibernation to protect themselves from the winter elements. We set up a forest for our stuffed animals and helped them cozy up with some warm blankets in various nooks, then of course we had to see if we could get warm and cozy for winter ourselves!



February will kick off with a week on Community Helpers with a Valentines Day spin. We will meet Dentists, Bakers, Florists, Doctors, and Postal Workers. These people help keep our hearts healthy, our teeth clean after the candy binges, give us beautiful flowers and tasty treats then deliver them all to our loved ones. We will end the week with a special day celebrating Chinese New Year and the year of the Dragon! The second week of the month we will explore all of the signs and symbols of the Valentines Day Holiday through scientific explorations and sensory



play. Our Villagers will also spend this week exchanging Valentines to make sure that every Villager, no matter what days they attend, they will get to hand out Valentines to everyone and receive from everyone. Our Villagers love playing Postman and delivering Valentines to all of their friends mailboxes in the spirit of Valentines Day. The month will wrap up with 2 full weeks of Dinosaurs, one week exploring our prehistoric land friends and the second week exploring the creatures who called the air and sea their homes. Our Villagers all love Dinosaurs and we all love watching their faces light up as we incorporate them into our daily activities. March will begin Read across America month with Dr Suess’ birthday kicking off the month.

We have enjoyed the winter explorations that our Arctic Animals, Sports and Winter attire has brought to our Villagers. Their favorite part of this past month has most definitely been the daily snow explorations in our sensory bins. What child doesn’t love watching fresh snow fall, waiting to play in the snow. Here at Old Stone Village our children have gotten to play in the snow and explore it every day in the warmth of our own classrooms. We have had a fantastic first couple weeks of 2024 and we cannot wait to continue to build our skills within the walls of Old Stone Village.

We are wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Until next month,

*Nicole Ferrigno*, Director and *Kristen Sartor*, Assistant Director

