

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 ext 2

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

March 2022

Upcoming Dates



OUR Sanctuary is open for In-Person Worship service or can be viewed on Facebook Live 10 am Sundays

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

St. Patrick's Day Take-out Dinner
March 12, 2022 5-6 pm



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

To sponsor a Herald mailing, please call the office.

From the desk of Rev. Mark Pilletere...

Dear friends,

Grace and peace to you as we embark on a journey of reflection, meditation, worship, and service over the course of the next several weeks. The Lenten season differs in many ways from the Advent season: we don't have a hanging of the greens, we don't sing carols, and instead of anticipating the birth of the Christ child, we prepare ourselves for His death and resurrection. Now, I admit that putting it that way, this all sounds rather gloomy in contrast— but we can rejoice because we know He has **risen**, He has **risen** indeed!

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."—Romans 12:1-2

Paul writes to the Romans that we believers are called to study, worship, and renew our minds and in so doing, we may know the perfect will of God. Just as we marvel over the circumstances of Christ's entrance into our world during Advent, we can also find ourselves amazed at the ability, creativity, and love of God. During Lent, we ponder how Jesus left this world only to rise from the grave to sit at God's holy, heavenly hand.

After spending forty days being tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Jesus stayed busy. During His last week on earth: he cleared the temple, cursed the fig tree, teaches the Sermon on the Mount—and that's just the first two days. In fact, the majority of the Gospels focus on this latter part of Christ's life. This Lenten season, won't you join me in learning more about our Savior— His last earthly days and the glory of the days to come?

This year Ash Wednesday is on March 2 and marks the beginning of Lent. There will be a time of prayer from 4pm – 4:25pm in the sanctuary where ashes will be imposed before offering them in the parking lot. Please join us.

Blessings in Christ,

Pr. Mark



MARCH 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ongoing Worship 10 am		Ongoing Girl Scouts 7pm		Ongoing Mahjong (P) 12:30 Choir (S) 7pm Childbirth Class (P) 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm		Ongoing Thrift Shop 10-3pm Childbirth Class (P) 9am
		1 Council Meeting ZOOM 7pm	2 ASH WEDNESDAY Parking Lot Ash Distribution 4-6pm	3 ESDHD & Griffin Health (FH) 4-7pm	4	5 Reserved Party (FH) 2-8pm
6 (LENT 1) Reserved Party (FH) 2-8pm Confirmation Class 11:15 (PS)	7 FBG Meeting ZOOM 7pm	8 St. Patrick's Take-out Dinner orders due	9	10 ESDHD & Griffin Health (FH) 4-7pm	11	12 Reserved (FH) Corned Beef Take-out Dinner Delivery 5-6pm
13 (LENT 2) Bible Study DAYLITE SAVINGS TIME	14	15	16	17 ESDHD & Griffin Health (FH) 4-7pm Pr. Mark out of office	18	19 Johns Memorial 11am Reserved Party (FH) 12-3pm
20 (LENT 3) Confirmation Class 11:15 (PS)	21	22	23	24 ESDHD & Griffin Health (FH) 4-7pm	25	26
27 (LENT 4) Annual Meeting 11:15 Bible Study	28	29	30	31 ESDHD & Griffin Health (FH) 4-7pm		

March Birthdays

03/01 Linda Whitaker
 03/02 Ethan Gelo
 03/03 Eric Badiali
 03/03 Jetta Powers
 03/05 Edna Baransky
 03/08 Helen Wendt
 03/10 Kerry Landers
 03/14 Charlene Longley
 03/15 Rupert Chinatamani
 03/15 Chad Feola
 03/17 Kara DelGuidice
 03/17 Luke Delguidice
 03/17 Shelby Zoccano
 03/18 Kelly Butler Brothers
 03/20 Luci McLay
 03/26 Judy Cooper
 03/26 Julia DelGuidice
 03/30 Leo Colanico, Jr.
 03/30 Estelle Fanucci
 03/30 Linda Reilly



Happy Anniversary

3/14/1981 Richard and Roberta Bruno
 3/07/1964 Henry and Judy Butler
 3/24/1990 Betty and Skip Ferry

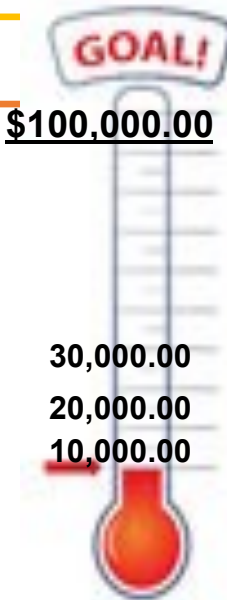


Congratulations !

Congratulations to Kristen Vineyard, who has accepted an appointment to the board at Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center.

Thank you to all that have donated to the Steeple Fund and Sanctuary Video and Sound Equipment. This is just the beginning, so keep those donations coming in. We have come a long way and are sure to reach our goal for these projects as well as many other restoration projects.

Our goal is to keep this Old Stone Church standing for generations to come.



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.

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.

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 March: Sue Clark

What's Cookin'



Antipasto Quiche Submitted by Linda Hargraves for publication in the OSC Cookbook

- 1/4 lb. each: Boiled Ham, Genoa Salami, Swiss Cheese, Provolone Cheese
 1 Large jar Roasted Red Peppers 4 Eggs
 2 large pkg. Crescent Rolls 1 tsp. Parmigiana Cheese

Roll out on package of rolls onto bottom of 9" x 13" pan. Layer meats and cheese and repeat 2 layers. Cover with roasted peppers which have been drained and cut up. Beat eggs and cheese together. Pour over peppers, reserving a little. Roll out the second pkg of rolls to form a top crust, brush with leftover egg mixture. Bake @ 350 degrees for 50 minutes until golden brown. Let cool & cut into squares.

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 of Unsalted Butter, melted

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



Chicken with Mushrooms Submitted by Clytie Zyrilis for publication in the OSC Cookbook

- 1 whole Chicken Breast 1 cup sliced Mushrooms
 1 or 2 Eggs, beaten 1/2 cup Chicken Bouillon
 Seasoned Bread Crumbs Muenster Cheese
 Butter for browning

Cut chicken into bite size pieces. Soak in egg for 20 minutes. Dip into bread crumbs and brown in butter. Remove to shallow casserole. Sauté' mushrooms in butter, place on top of chicken. Pour bouillon over all. Bake until cheese melts, about 5 minutes.

Honey Cookies Submitted by Ginny McLay for publication in the OSC Cookbook

- 2/3 cup Shortening, soft 1 tsp. Lemon Extract
 2/3 cup Sugar 5 1/2 cup Flour
 2 Eggs 2 tsp. Baking Soda
 1 cup Honey 1 tsp. Salt



Cream shortening and sugar, beat in eggs, honey, lemon extract. Stir in flour, baking soda and salt. Shape into ball...and chill for 2 hours. Roll and cut. Place on un-greased cookie sheet. Bake 375 degrees for about 10 minutes. FROSTING: Confectionary sugar and water.



Faith Check

When someone irritates us, we should take a cue from the oyster and cover that person with prayers. We should coat the rough, unlovable one with our forgiveness and the love of God. And in time, with enough love and patience, the one who irritated us may become a blessing and a comfort to us instead. A precious pearl, a thing of great beauty. *Sweet Tea for the Soul*

Childcare 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.



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 volunteers to sign up, or leave your name with the office..

Donations welcome on Saturdays 10-3 pm

Board of Deacons

OSC Sunday Morning Virtual and In-Person Worship Service

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY

The OSC Deacons have decided to open all Sunday morning worship services to in-person attendance in the sanctuary. Everyone attending Sunday morning service in the sanctuary MUST wear a mask. Hand sanitizing stations will be at all main entrances. We will continue to do live broadcasts of Sunday services on Facebook. Should you feel that you are at risk by coming in to church, we encourage you to stay home and follow the live broadcast at 10am.

Tom Collopy, Chairman



Have you been wanting to become more involved at OSC? **Do you** want to learn about the inner workings of OSC? **Are you** creative and want to give back to OSC?

We are looking for motivated, inspiring and creative people to join OSC boards and committees. Contact Stephanie Kilburn for more info.

Board of Christian Education

It is wonderful to see Sunday School children again after our month of virtual services. We are learning about the Sermon on the Mount and the many lessons included in Jesus's words. We are also looking at the Beatitudes and some Parables. All these lessons are preparing us for Lent. The children have Lenten calendars, like Advent calendars, to help them trace to path of Jesus's journey. Students are also making up their own prayers and learning about the power of prayer.

Thank you to the parents who took on the duty of Sunday School teacher during this time of Covid precautions.

Silver Lake Conference Center is accepting registrations. There are already OSC students signed up for this great experience. Go to www.silverlakeect.org to sign up. Old Stone Church does provide funds for each student to defray the cost of tuition. Please contact Linda Hargraves or Louise Ward for more information.

Lenten Bible Study will start up again on Sunday February 27 in person after church and via Zoom on Sunday evenings. We will use Max Lucado's "**He Chose the Nails**": **What God did to win your love.** Please contact Pastor Mark if you need a book.

Many Blessings

Louise Ward



IRISH BLESSING

May there always s be work for your hand to do,—May your purse always hold a coin or two—May the sun always shine on your window pain—May a rainbow of certain to follow each rain—May the hand of a friend always be near you—May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

Doris C Henry



OSC of East Haven Corned Beef Dinner –3/12/2022

Old Stone Church is once again preparing it's infamous Corned Beef dinner with all the fixin's
All dinners come with the following: Corned Beef, Cabbage, Red Bliss Potatoes, Carrots,
Irish Soda and Rye Bread and Dessert. \$ 17.00 each

Please visit our website at www.oldstonechurchuceasthaven.org

to place your order. All orders must be submitted by Tuesday March. 8, 2022

Pick-up is Saturday March. 12, 2022 in the Old Stone Church's

rear parking lot from 5 to 6 pm. Drive Thru service

Mask and receipt required





Together with One World Roaster in East Haven, Old Stone Church will be selling their custom made blend of coffee. This wonderfully roasted blend, called "Old Stone Coffee Blend" is available in 12 oz, bags for \$14.00 each. 30% of the profits will go directly in to the Steeple Fund. This special community blend is available beginning January 10, 2022 through March 2022. To purchase your coffee, please visit One World Roasters at their store—967 North High Street East Haven, CT 06512

Annual Report Time

Are you the head of a board or committee here at Old Stone Church?
Your year end 2021 reports are due. Please submit to the office ASAP
for compilation and sorting so this document can be distributed to the
congregation for review. Your assistance is always appreciated.



The Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 27th, 2022. Are you ready?

BOARD OF GLOBAL OUTREACH

Old Stone Church has received thank you letters from the Community Soup Kitchen, and Silver Lake for contributions in 2021 from the Benevolence budget.

The East Haven Food Pantry has also sent a thank you letter for the food assistance provided by Old Stone Church every week and the grocery gift cards provided in 2021.

Excerpts from the letter from the Food Pantry Treasurer: "We are averaging over 50 families each day during our normal hours, in a drive through service. Everyone who comes to the pantry gets pre-made bags of groceries, breads and dessert, and fresh produce. There has been an increase of almost 96% in the number of families who are in need of our help during these trying times. We had 930 registered families, and gave out 150,012 meals."

Thank you to Paulette McLay for delivering Old Stone Church donations every week. The suggested food items she was given by the volunteers that are needed at this time are hot and cold cereal, soup and ramen noodles to make a meal, instant potatoes, flavored rice, jam and jelly, peanut butter, canned vegetables, sauce and pasta.

Hours for the Food Pantry continue for pickup only are: Tuesday. 9:00-11:00am, and Saturday, 10:00am to noon.

The United Church of Christ Wider Mission special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing will be received on Sunday, March 27 during the Lenten season. This offering carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. Your support provides resources to people in need around the world and in our communities. OGHs creates opportunities for families to not only thrive and restore structures after disasters, but to have hope for the future. "Loves Remains."

- Berlin Congregational Church
- Center Congregational Church of Meriden
- Church of Christ, Congregational - Goshen, CT
- Congregational Church of East Hampton
- Congregational Church of Green's Farms
- Congregational Church of New Fairfield, Inc.
- Congregational Church of Salisbury UCC
- Congregational Church of Windsor Locks
- East Granby Congregational Church
- Ellington Congregational Church
- First Church of Bethlehem, UCC
- First Church of Winsted
- First Congregational Church - Danbury, CT
- First Congregational Church Inc. - New Milford, CT
- First Congregational Church of Coventry
- First Congregational Church of East Hartford
- First Congregational Church of East Haven, Inc.
- First Congregational Church of Haddam
- First Congregational Church of Litchfield
- First Congregational Church of Portland
- First Congregational Church of Southington
- First Congregational Church of Washington
- First Congregational Church of West Haven
- First Church of Christ, Congregational - Suffield, CT
- First Church of Christ, Congregational UCC - New Britain, CT
- First Church of Christ Congregational, Glastonbury
- First Church of Christ Congregational in West Hartford

- Middlebury Congregational Church UCC
- Newtown Congregational Church, Inc.
- North Congregational Church
- Rocky Hill Congregational Church
- Roxbury Congregational Church
- Somers Congregational Church
- South Congregational/First Baptist Church - New Britain, CT
- South Congregational Church - East Hartford, CT
- South Congregational Church of Granby
- Storrs Congregational Church UCC
- The First Church in Swampscott, Congregational
- The Flagg Road United Church of Christ
- UCC Congregational Church of Norwell
- United Church of Christ, Southbury
- United Church of Rowayton
- United Church on the Green
- United Congregational Church of Norwalk
- Women's Fellowship of Huntington Congregational Church

SNEUCC Churches that financially supported Silver Lake in 2021:

Berlin Congregational Church, Center Congregational Church of Meriden, Church of Christ, Congregational - Goshen, CT, Congregational Church of East Hampton, Congregational Church of Green's Farms, Congregational Church of New Fairfield, Inc., Congregational Church of Salisbury UCC, Congregational Church of Windsor Locks, East Granby Congregational Church, Ellington Congregational Church, First Church of Bethlehem, UCC, First Church of Winsted, First Congregational Church - Danbury, CT, First Congregational Church Inc. - New Milford, CT, First Congregational Church of Coventry, First Congregational Church of East Hartford, First Congregational Church of East Haven, Inc., First Congregational Church of Haddam, First Congregational Church of Litchfield, First Congregational Church of Portland, First Congregational Church of Southington, First Congregational Church of Washington, First Congregational Church of West Haven, First Church of Christ, Congregational - Suffield, CT, First Church of Christ, Congregational UCC - New Britain, CT, First Church of Christ Congregational, Glastonbury, First Church of Christ Congregational in West Hartford, Middlebury Congregational Church UCC, Newtown Congregational Church, Inc., North Congregational Church, Rocky Hill Congregational Church, Roxbury Congregational Church, Somers Congregational Church, South Congregational/First Baptist Church - New Britain, CT, South Congregational Church - East Hartford, CT, South Congregational Church of Granby, Storrs Congregational Church UCC, The First Church in Swampscott, MA, The Flagg Road United Church of Christ, UCC Congregational Church of Norwell, United Church of Christ, Southbury, United Church of Rowayton, United Church on the Green, United Congregational Church of Norwalk, Women's Fellowship of Huntington Congregational Church

IN LOCAL NEWS...

East Haven Energy Assistance Applications

The Town of East Haven Department of Senior and Social Services is now accepting applications for the State of CT's Energy Assistance Program. This program helps income-eligible households pay for primary heating bills. For more information or to schedule an appointment, East Haven residents whose primary heating source is oil, propane, wood or wood pellets can call 203-468-3277.

Local Coffee Shop Helps Historic Building

Together with Old Stone Church in East Haven, One World Roasters will be selling their custom made blend of coffee. This wonderfully roasted blend, called "Old Stone Coffee Blend" is available in 12 oz. bags for \$14.00 each. 30% of the profits will go directly in to the Steeple Fund. This special community blend is available beginning January 10, 2022 through March 2022. Please visit One World Roaster at their shop on North High Street, East Haven



2022 Trolley Operator and Tour Guide Classes Starting Soon!

As they prepare for the 2022 season, The Shore Line Trolley Museum is offering a class for new Operators. Want to operate trolleys? Give tours? Join the volunteer operating staff! Training begins March 5, 2022 and runs Saturdays through April 2. Must be 18+. See the website for more details and to register. Fee includes custom hat badge and nametag, all training material, and membership for the year.

Registration is required and space is limited.

Writing With a Piece of History

Our very own Pastor Mark of Old Stone Church, has created a work of art using wood from the Steeple. To purchase pens, please see Pastor Mark or call the office at 203-467-2907. This unique pen sells for \$25.00 each



EAST HAVEN, CT—East Haven officials plan to use the town's American Rescue Plan Act funding to build a new gazebo on the town green—a project that qualifies for ARPA funding because it facilitates outdoor activity and post-COVID growth, the New Haven Register reported.

Updating the gazebo would be the last phase of the "Walk East Haven" Town Green Beautification project, and Economic Development Director Ray Baldwin told the Register that the new gazebo would be more centrally located, more compliant and more accessible.

Officials haven't provided details on the project's expected cost, though their goal is to have it completed by next summer. (courtesy of patch.com)



OSC March 12, 2022 HELP NEEDED

We need your help making Irish Soda Bread and Lemon Poke Cake for our Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner.



For recipe please call the church office Monday through Thursday at: 203-467-2907 or visit your Old Stone Church e-mail.

Help is needed to bake, pack and hand out the take out dinners.

March News from your Early Learning Center!

We are currently registering children ages 3-5 for our Fall program. Registration will be opened to the public starting March 1. Our current students and students from the Village have filled up two of our three classes! Registration forms for our June and July summer programs will also be available soon.



The teachers are planning their March Lion art project, and the celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday March 2nd, with Green Eggs and Ham. Our St. Patrick's celebrations will include class parties, and the children will be potting shamrock plants to bring home.



The teachers and children will be taking nature walks in hopes of seeing the first Robin in celebration of the first day of spring.

As you can see the teachers have another full month of exciting creative learning experiences for the children to learn from our Early Learning Center curriculum. When we see happy smiles from children and their parents, then we know that our determination to provide a quality pre-school early childhood education experience has paid off.

The teachers have just completed the parent teacher conferences. We use the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CT ELDS).

We welcomed a new part-time teacher Bernadette Libero last month. We are happy to have her join our staff.



***Till Next Month Happy St. Patrick's Day on March 17th,
Happy First Day of Spring on March 20th***

Jennifer Calonico, Director & Kim Oca Asst. Director



OSC Village Daycare

February came and went so fast, but it wasn't short on fun and learning! We kicked off the month with exploring Hibernation and Migration where we learned all about different animals and how they handle the change in weather from warm to cold. The children loved moving animals from the snow to the sand and back again. We crawled through tunnels and snuggled up in caves like sleepy bears and squirrels. We helped various migrating animals relocate from Northern cold habitat South to warmer places where they would spend their winter days. We explored Groundhogs for Groundhog Day and learned all about how Groundhogs live underground, burrow through tunnels and don't come back up until they feel the warmer weather. We took a poll to see which of our friends predicted the Groundhog would see his shadow and who thought he wouldn't. We then showed the children the video of Chuckles, Connecticut's state groundhog, and saw that he did in fact see his shadow which meant 6 more weeks of winter for us!



The second week of the month welcomed one of our Favorite holidays here at Old Stone Village, Valentine's Day by highlighting the community helpers who are extra special during this time of year! We had a day of Baking, where we decorated cookies, pretended to bake them in our oven, and taste tested different kinds of cookies to determine our favorites. We explored dentists for a day to ensure after all our treats we cleaned our teeth well! We "flossed" giant teeth to remove our playdoh plague, explored pretend dentist tools to see how we should be cleaning, and even played a fun game matching our friends to our smiles. We explored Doctors and nurses for a day of Heart Healthy activities then spent another day delivering mail to those special people who we love. Our Friends all brought in various surprises to share with their friends in honor of the holiday and we did our weeklong exchange to ensure every friend, no matter when they attend, received Valentines treats from all of their classmates!

We ended the week with a super special Super Bowl Day where we practiced throwing a football through the goal posts, decorating Foam Fingers, and then make predictions to who would win the big game.

Fun fact, our Villagers predicted the LA Rams would win, and they did!



The third week of February brought us back in time to the prehistoric era where we explored Dinosaurs of all different kinds. We spent time wading in the water with the Mosasaurus, Plesiosaurus, and Megalodon through sensory play. Trudged through the depths of the forests with the Herbivores such as the Stegosaurus, Brachiosaurus, Ankylosaurus, and Diplodocus with outdoor plant discovery and outdoor exploration. We then walked cautiously through the lands of the carnivorous dinosaurs such as the Spinosaurus, Tyrannosaurus Rex, and Giganotosaurus as we measured their height and length with magnetic blocks and tended to their battle wounds with our doctors' kits.

The fourth and final full week of February we loaded aboard our space shuttle and took off for outer space. Our Villagers enjoyed days full of pretend play as Astronauts, digging through space sand looking for buried moon rocks, and creating countless crafts to add to our Space Travel logs. Each individual Villager received their very own NASA space vest and certified moon travel helmet to ensure their safety during our travels. We explored all the different planets in our Solar system by comparing them by size and color difference. We ended our space week with a day of stars, moon, and constellations. Our villagers loved making their own constellations of stars and throwing "moon rocks" to create craters of various sizes and depths.



March will begin our Literacy Month where we will explore different Children's book authors and aspects that they focus on individually. We will begin the month by exploring Dr. Seuss through opposites found in our favorite books. "Horton Hears a Who!", "Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?", "The Cat in the Hat", and so many more books will be read throughout our center while we use these works of art to explore in sensory play, hone in on our fine motor skills, enjoy the outdoors through gross motor activities and create our own artistic masterpieces. We will explore Sandra Boynton and her Phonological ways of story telling through her books such as "Moo, Baa, La La La!", "Are You a Cow?", "Barnyard Dance!" and "The Going to Bed Book". One week in March will be fully dedicated to Nursery Rhymes and the different levels of interest and engagement this brings to our center. We will construct our display for these various stories in the hallway right near our library where we can sit and enjoy these stories together. We plan to conclude the month of March with another great favorite of our, Eric Carle, as we begin to "Welcome Spring" here at OSV. We will enjoy works such as "The Very Busy Spider", "The Grouchy Ladybug", "The Very Hungry Caterpillar", and many many more. Our Villagers are at the perfect age where their oral language skills are really beginning to blossom and the ability to recognize and manipulate the spoken parts of various sentences and words is a skill they will take with them throughout the rest of their lives.

We had a fantastic month this February and cannot wait to see the magic of another season change with Spring quickly approaching here. We will be refreshing our garden as we clean up the leaves and leftover plants from last season and begin to plant new seedlings. We will also be adding a Free Community Library to our garden area this month in honor of our beloved staff member, Marissa Harris, who passed away this past summer who had a deep passion for books and early childhood education. We will be announcing the dedication when it gets closer.

Until next time,

Nicole Ferrigno, Director and Kristen Sartor, Assistant Director

