

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

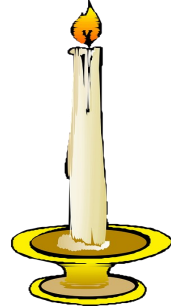
Old Stone Village 203-467-0661 ext 2

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



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.

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..oldstonechurchuceasthaven.org

The Herald

May 2022

Upcoming Dates

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

Mother's Day Breakfast
5/8/2022 (FH) 8:30am

Memorial Day 5/30/2022

From the desk of Rev. Mark Pilletere...

Warm May Greetings!

A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a written test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I pick up things. What am I?" When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word Mother.

While many of us may get a chuckle out of this little story, we must also agree that there is a powerful truth being shared here as well. There is something "magnetic" about a Mother, especially when that Mother is one who seems to put her family before so much of what she does in daily living. Of course, the same can be said about Fathers who are also sacrificial for their family in so many ways. What a tremendous blessing it is to have 2 people who are both in love with God, and are also deeply in love with each other, and in turn, sharing that love with their family and people around them.

We are going to take some time on Mother's Day just to honor the ladies in attendance who are Mothers as well as appreciate our own Mothers who have impacted our lives in so many ways. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6:2; "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— and where is that promise found? We read it in Deuteronomy 5:16; "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you."

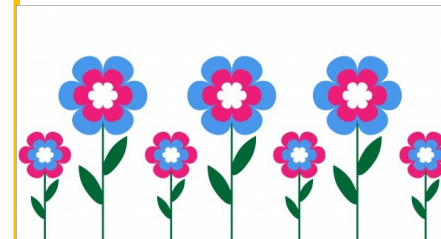
I love the following little story that shows the simple love and appreciation a child can have for Mom:

A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday school presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world." The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world." Of course, we know the Light of the World is Jesus, but He wants His light to shine in, and through each one of us to a world darkened by sin and despair. The love of a Godly Mother can serve as a tremendous example of the kind of love we all should be sharing and living on a daily basis.

Moms, we appreciate you and would love to have you join us on Mother's Day!

In Christ,

Pr. Mark



God Bless Our Native Land

by Frances E.W. Harper

God bless our native land,
land of the newly free, oh may she
ever stand for truth and liberty.

God bless our native land,
where sleep our kindred dead,
let peace at thy command above
their graves be shed.

God help our native land, bring
surcease to her strife, and
shower from thy hand a more
abundant life.

God bless our native land, her
homes and children bless, oh
may she ever stand for truth and
righteous-



MAY 2022

The Gifts of Gratitude

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion to clarity...Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow. – Melody Beattie—Attitudes of Gratitude

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|-----|--|
| 1 <i>Reserved Party (P) 12pm</i> <i>Confirmation Class (PS) 11:15</i> | 2 <i>FBG Meeting ZOOM 7pm</i> <i>Troop 401 Leader meeting 7-8 FH</i> | 3 <i>Council Meeting ZOOM 7pm</i> | 4 | 5 <i>Childbirth (P) 6</i> <i>Mahjongg (P) 12</i> <i>Troop 401 (BSR) 7</i> <i>Choir (S) 7</i> | 6 | 7 <i>Reserved Party (FH) 12pm</i> <i>Thrift Shop Open 9-3</i> |
| 8 <i>Mother's Day Breakfast 8:30 a</i>  | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 <i>Childbirth (P) 6</i> <i>Mahjongg (P) 12</i> <i>Troop 401 (BSR) 7</i> <i>Choir (S) 7</i> | 13 | 14 <i>Reserved Party (FH) 12pm</i> <i>Thrift Shop Open 9-3</i> |
| 15 <i>Confirmation Class (PS) 11:15</i> | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 <i>Mahjongg (P) 12</i> <i>Troop 401 (BSR) 7</i> <i>Choir (S) 7</i> | 20 | 21 <i>Reserved Party (FH) 5pm</i> <i>Thrift Shop Open 9-3</i> <i>Pancakes with Pr. Mark 9am</i> |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 <i>Reserved Party (FH) 6pm-9pm</i> | 26 <i>Childbirth (P) 6</i> <i>Mahjongg (P) 12</i> <i>Troop 401 (BSR) 7</i> <i>Choir (S) 7</i> | 27 | 28 <i>WISP Cabaret (FH) 6pm</i> <i>Thrift Shop Open 9-3</i> |
| 29 <i>Confirmation Class (PS) 11:15</i> | 30 <i>Memorial Day</i> | 31 |  <p>Memorial Day— A day on which those who died in active military service are remembered.</p> | | | |

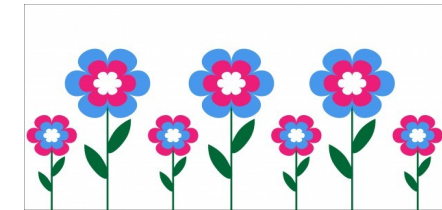
May Birthdays

05/01 Madelyn Cesario
 05/02 Nancy Wobensmith
 05/06 Abigail Shute
 05/09 Zachary Vineyard
 05/11 Kim Korwek
 05/11 Don "Skip" Thomas III
 05/12 Debora Greatsinger
 05/13 Judy Butler
 05/15 Susan Alberino
 05/17 Carol Apuzzo
 05/18 Alberta Vitale
 05/19 Shannon Kilburn Celata
 05/19 Dorothy Maturo
 05/24 Robert Zoccano
 05/24 Sean Manley, Sr.
 05/25 Ed Bast
 05/26 Annie Cole
 05/27 Matthew Gelo
 05/27 Kara Ludington
 05/28 Sean Barry
 05/28 Todd Barry



Happy Anniversary

May 5, 1979 Butch and Marianne Johnson
 May 13, 2000 Mark and Tracy Candelli
 May 18, 1985 Alan and Pauline Sutor
 May 27, 1978 Art and Charlene Longley



COMMUNICATION:

Do you have a new address, e-mail or phone number? Have you gotten married, had a baby or need support?

Please let us know so we can reach out and update our data. Let a Deacon, the Pastor or the office know of any changes.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

The Old Stone Church's 49th Annual Flea Market is scheduled for June 11, 2022 on the church grounds. Come, participate, shop and have fun. (Heidi-Dogs will be available for purchase.) Help is needed for Set-up and Break-down crew. Perhaps you are able to help at one of the church sponsored tables. Be a blessing and sign up with Louise or Heidi and receive a coupon for lunch the day of the Flea Market.



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.

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.

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 May: Tom and Linda Collopy

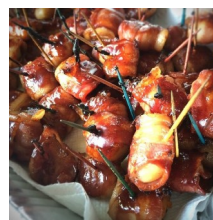
What's Cookin'?

Bacon and Water Chestnuts *submitted for publishing in the OSC Cookbook by Audrey Pochodowicz*

1 1/2 lb Bacon 2 small cans Whole Water Chestnuts Tooth Picks

SAUCE: 1 cup Sugar 1 cup Ketchup

Pre-cook bacon until soft. Roll one half of a bacon strip around one water chestnut. Fasten with a toothpick. Continue with the rest of the water chestnuts and bacon. Mix sugar and ketchup together. Place bacon wraps in glass dish. Pour sugar and ketchup mixture over them. Bake at 350 degrees uncovered for 30 minutes





Zucchini Casserole *submitted for publishing in the OSC Cookbook by Carole Landers*

2 small Zucchini (sliced) 1 stick Butter (melted)
1 - 16oz. Can Stewed Tomatoes 1/2 cup Onions (diced)
3/4 cup Breadcrumbs Shredded Parmesan and Cheddar Cheese

Put sliced zucchini in casserole dish, add onions and stewed tomatoes. Cook at 350 degrees for 20 minutes until soft. Take out of oven. Combine breadcrumbs and melted butter. Put on top of zucchini. Add Parmesan cheese to cover and then Cheddar cheese. Cook 10 more minutes to melt cheeses.

“Coffee” Cake *submitted for publishing in the OSC Cookbook by Andrea Kosowsky*

2 cups Light Brown Sugar 1 tsp. Baking Soda
1 cup Oil 1/2 tsp. Salt
2 Eggs 1 cup warm Coffee
3 cups Flour 1 tsp. Vanilla



Combine ingredients. Put in a 9” x 13” pan. Sprinkle 1/2 cup nuts and 8 oz pkg of butterscotch bits on top. Bake at 375 degrees for 40 minutes. Cut into squares after the cake has cooled.



Shrimp Scampi *submitted for publishing in the OSC Cookbook by Anne Hines*

14-16 Jumbo Shrimp 1 stick Margarine or Butter
1/3 cup Cooking Sherry 1/2—2/3 cup Half & Half
1 tsp. Minced Garlic Italian Bread Crumbs

Melt butter, add garlic and sherry. Simmer for a few seconds. Add shrimp and cook a few minutes until done. Shut off heat. Add cream and bread crumbs. Stir & mix.

Hamburger Soup *submitted for publishing in the OSC Cookbook by Marion Burkard*

1 lb Hamburg or Ground Turkey 1/4 cup Barley
1 small Onion (chopped) 1/2 cup Orzo Pasta
1 large can Chicken Broth 1/2 cup frozen Peas
1—16 oz. can Diced Tomatoes 1/2 cup frozen Corn
2 Carrots (chopped) 1 bunch Parsley (chopped)
2 stalks Celery (chopped) Salt & Pepper
1/2 cup Turnip (diced)



Brown chopped meat, add onions and celery, cook ‘til soft. Add tomatoes, chicken broth, carrots, turnip, barley and orzo. Let simmer ‘til tender. Add frozen vegetables. (Cook for approx. 15 minutes and serve hot)

A Special Invitation

I wanted to take a moment to send a letter of invitation to attend a special service in honor of Mothers here at the Old Stone Church Mother's Day, May 8th which will begin at 10:00 AM.

We believe it is of great value to take time out of our busy lives and schedules to recognize those who have given so much in sacrifice and love.

I like the following statement seen in cartoon form in the Saturday Evening Post of a young boy about five or six years old talking on the telephone saying, “Mom is in the hospital, the twins and Roxie and Billie and Sally and the dog and me and Dad are all home alone.”

During the service, we will take time to honor ALL Mothers in attendance with a special gift, and our message will also reflect the value of Motherhood.

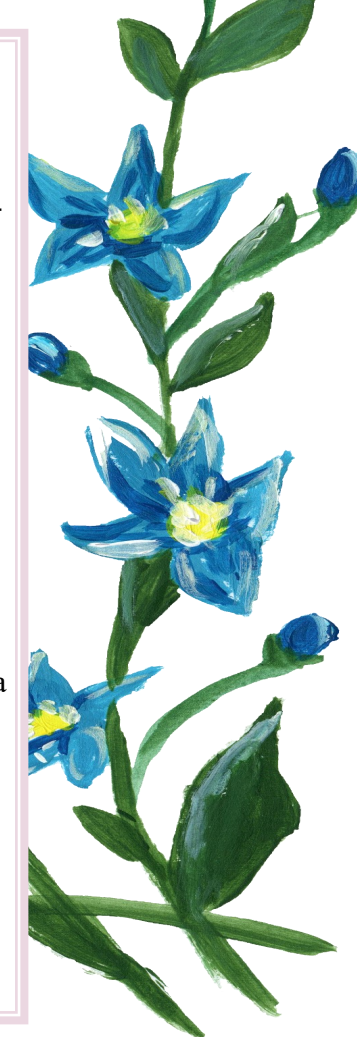
We see the love of Jesus' Mother, Mary in John 19:25 as she gathered around the cross with a few of her friends and relatives to watch her Son while most in the world looked on and mocked and reviled Him. Isn't this typical of a Mother who loves her children? Willing to stand in the face of storms and difficulties if by doing so, will bring just a moment of comfort and strength to her family.

There will be many in the service whose Mother has passed away, and for them it will be a time simply to thank God for the time they had with them while they were alive. Others have felt pain over the years of knowing that their Mother perhaps did not fulfill all the things a Godly Mother should have, yet we ALL can be grateful that we were allowed the wonderful gift of birth!

We are blessed in so many ways, and I encourage you to come and take part in this very special day here at the Old Stone Church as we “give honor where honor is due”.

Blessings in Christ,

Pr. Mark



Board of Deacons

We were so pleased with the wonderful attendance at our Holy Week services. We hope that you will continue to join us for worship each Sunday morning in the Sanctuary followed by a time of Fellowship in Fellowship Hall. When the weather turns warmer this summer, we will move the worship service into the air conditioned comfort of Fellowship Hall. If you wish to become more involved in the service by being a lay reader, usher, or greeter, please speak to anyone of the deacons. The Deacons in Charge for each Sunday are always listed in the Sunday bulletin.

Tom Collopy, Chairman

F.Y.I. Corner

For those of you that have a Retirement Account, it would be a tax advantage to pay your pledge from this account. QCD's (qualified charitable donations) yield a 20% tax break.

Your financial advisor can provide more information.

Do you have a tip to share? To contribute to future “FYI Corner” articles, please drop a note to the office or email to: oldstonechurch97@gmail.com



Sunday Morning Fellowship has returned to

Old Stone Church

Please join us after Sunday morning services for a time of fellowship in Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested in hosting a Sunday morning fellowship, please sign up at church or contact the office via email at oldstonechurch97@gmail.com or call 203-467-2907



Fellowship Hall

Do you have a Birthday, Anniversary, Wedding, Shower, Meeting, Reunion or Special event happening?

Our Fellowship Hall or Parlor Room are the perfect venue.

Both rooms have ample space and a kitchen for your use at a reasonable and affordable price.

Large parties will enjoy the spacious accommodations of Fellowship Hall. This room can hold parties up to 150 seated with room to dance. Having a meeting or show? The 85" television is available for all of your power point presentations. The stage allows you to be in full line of site in all directions. Seating can be arranged for up to 200

Smaller parties will enjoy the quaint surroundings of the Parlor. This room offers a more intimate setting for parties up to 75.

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.



Prayer Garden Gets New Flowers



The garden just outside of the glass door education wing entry, has new life thanks to those who have donated Easter flowers. A big thank you to the crew that planted these beauties for all to enjoy. After a delightful pancake breakfast, prepared by Pastor Mark, on April 23rd, Louise and Kevin Ward, Linda Hargraves, Helen Wendt and Heidi and Rick Manley did some clean up and planting on our church grounds. All are welcome to join in the fun and continue to help keep our grounds beautiful.

Steeple and Bell Fundraisers Continue

Old Stone Church is a local, state and nationally recognized treasure and is in need of our community support. We are currently working to raise funding to repair and paint the steeple and the decaying mortar between the brown stone. As well as repair the bell. Please consider donating. (all donations are tax deductible)

OLD STONE COFFEE BLEND is available in the church office. \$14.00 per bag, (pre-ground.) Enjoy a cup of this deliciously blended coffee from One World Roasters.

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



(100% of the profits from the sale of these pens go to the Steeple Fund)

In Local News

THE BOUNTY OF FARMERS MARKETS

Exerpt from article published in Natural Awakenings 2022 Natural Living Directory by Sandra Yayati

Throughout the nation, an estimated 8,000 farmers markets offer some of the freshest food available anywhere. Often open on weekend mornings or select weeknights, these nutritional meccas allow local farmers to sell their fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat and dairy directly to consumers, thereby providing an attractive business channel for them. "If you buy direct from a farmer, 97 cents of every dollar goes home with the farmer, whereas if you buy from a traditional grocery store, only 17 cents makes its way back to the farmer," says Janie Maxwell, executive director of the Illinois Farmers Market Association. Dollars spent at farmers markets boost local economies. "When farmers make money, they buy seeds at their local co-op or purchase tools from a nearby hardware store, which infuses economic capita; into rural communities." says Katie Myhre, technology research manager at the Farmers Market Coalition. "If we can focus on growing the capacity of our farms within our region and building consumer habits around what we can grow locally, that's going to help our region become more resilient."

This type of localized commerce offers environmental benefits too. Produce from a local source carries a much smaller carbon footprint than one that travelled halfway across the country. "Farmers markets are uniquely positioned to encourage environmentally responsible farming by providing a solid economic platform to climate-positive farmers that are taking care of land and water quality," Myhre asserts.

"The wonderful thing about farmers market is that it leads with joy." Myhre says. "It's fun. You don't invite friends to the grocery store, but you might meet your friends for coffee at the farmers market"

Old Stone Church

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



Theater at Old Stone Church

"Mister and Miscast" a Gender Bent Cabaret where traditional songs take a quirky turn as males sing female songs and vice versa. A fantastically fun evening full of twists. Cabaret style seating BYOB, Charcuterie trays, desserts, popcorn and soft drinks available for purchase. Fun for all ages, handicap accessible. May 28, 2022 Tickets \$15. To purchase tickets visit buy.tututix.com/wisp or call 203-494-1633. General seating. For show info. visit the website at www.wisperformances.org



Music and Memories

ZZ Boogie and George John live on stage

Saturday June 4, 2022—
7pm in Fellowship Hall
251 Main Street East
Haven, CT 06512

General Admission
\$ 15.00 pp

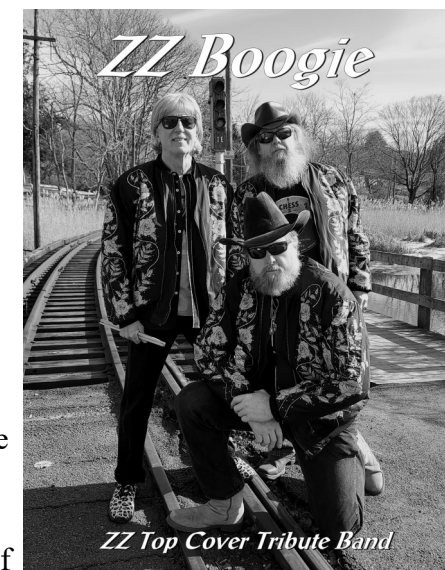
Proceeds go to Old Stone
Church Steeple Fund

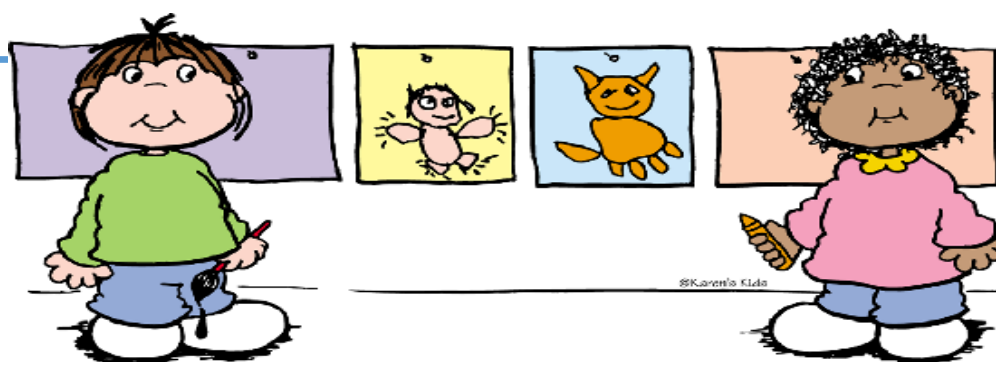
ZZ Boogie is Connecticut's ZZ Top cover/tribute band, performing all your favorite ZZ Top songs with the look and sound of the iconic band.

Opening soloist, George John, will be performing a mixture of acoustic pop and rock classics.

For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/zzboogie

Tickets available in church office if paying by cash or check.





Old Stone Church Early Learning Center May News 2022

On Friday, April 29th, the Early Learning Center will hold their traditional May Pole Day after two years! We are hoping for good weather for the children and their parents to march around the colorful May Pole. The children made beautiful May Baskets, which will be a gift to their parents at the end of the class.

The children are now busy making special gifts and cards for Mother's Day. The 3-year-old classes are making a special gift using their hand prints and the 4-year-old class is busy making a special picture for their mothers.

This month the children will learn how caterpillars turn into butterflies, how bees help pollinate the flowers, creepy crawly bugs, and birds. This month's nursery rhyme is "Hey, Diddle, Diddle," by Mother Goose. Our end of the year programs are scheduled for June 15th. Classes will be practicing their songs, poems, and dances to show family members and friends.

Teacher Appreciation Week is celebrated during the first full week of May each year. This year it's May 2-6. I would like to recognize all of the Early Learning Center Teachers who are dedicated, creative, and caring people! Kim Oca, Joan Dougherty, Samantha Parlato, Kara Ludington, Judy Butler, Danielle Stevens, Dawn Licata, Allison Griffin, Ashley Stevens, Noreen Piscitelli, and Bernadette Libero. Thanks for all you do!

The cabinet doors in room two are getting a much-needed face lift. They will be sanded, stained, and all the handles and hinges will be replaced. We also got a new doorbell for the glass doors and two new wall monitors for rooms 1 & 2.

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page to see all the wonderful things happening at The Early Learning Center!

Till Next Month
Jennifer Calonico, Director & Kim Oca, Asst. Director

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.



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.



Flower Committee News

CT Hospice sent us a lovely thank you note for delivering flowers to them from Mary Johns' memorial service.



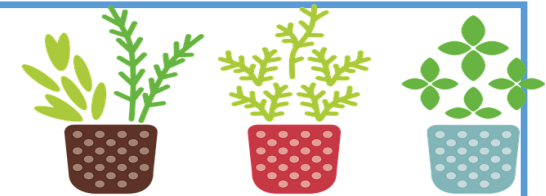
Dear Friends at the Old Stone Church,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement for our patients, families and staff to enjoy. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Again, our thanks to you for your thoughtfulness.

Warmest regards, Linda J. Laucella, Development, The Connecticut Hospice.

For The Garden of Your Daily Living



Plant Three Rows of Peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce love each other

No Garden is Without Turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

To Conclude our Garden, We Must Have Thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water Freely With Patience and Cultivate with Love.

Herald Article Board of Christian Education

Sunday school students provided a joyful addition to the Easter service by singing **All Things Bright and Beautiful** accompanied by Dr. Budd. The tambourines added a real flare. We will be practicing more songs for Pentecost and Children's Sunday. In the coming weeks, we will be focused on families. It is not only a time to make gifts for Mother's and Father's Day but a time to reflect on the families we belong to, our family at home, at school and of course God's family. We will examine the Lord's prayer and make up our own message to God. Pentecost will be a day to celebrate and have some fun. Plans are underway for Children's Sunday on June 12th. Our children showed their competitive side when we had a rollicking game of Bible Bingo. That will be a favorite on summer Sundays when we are a little more laid back.

We are very excited to announce that **Vacation Bible School**, VBS, will be held in August. It will be a one-week Bible based program with lessons, crafts, games and music. Details to be announced soon. Silver Lake Conference Center is accepting registrations. 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 conclude on April 24th. It was a meaningful time to explore Jesus's journey to the cross. In June, we will be offering a discussion of **The Women the Bible Speak** by Shannon Bream. Please contact Louise Ward if you are interested in this delightful read. Hoping to combine it with a brown bag lunch.

Confirmation students continue their studies will be visiting a synagogue in June.
Louise Ward



April Recap

May Herald

April was an exciting time in our village as we began to return slowly to our original ways reflecting our mission statement of educating the whole child through community involvement. The Week of The Young Child was a perfect time to initiate some new guidelines as we welcomed several family and community members in to partake in our festivities. We began with Music Monday where Mr. Philip Boulanger (father of one of our toddlers) shared his musical talents with us with a cello performance for each class and allowing our friends a chance to play as well. Tasty Tuesday featured a delicious treat thanks to Rocco's off Wooster (uncle of one of our toddlers) who donated individual pizza kits to each our villagers so we were able to prep, cook and enjoy our pizzas. Work Together Wednesday was definitely a favorite day as we partnered with The Early Learning Center to work together on a special planting project, some themed play and an art project that will soon be on display outside our building. Our villagers are still talking about how much fun they had during this experience! Our very own Ms. Emma lead our villagers in dance classes and we got to show off our mini Broadway stars with some dramatic play throughout the day on Artsy Thursday. We ended the week with Family Friday where we welcomed in three families. Mrs. Galbicsek (mother of one of our infants) came in to read a new story to our infant classroom. The Liberios (parents to one of our toddlers) spoke with our toddler classes about gemology and brought in a gem digging activity to do with them. Ms. Zarnetske (mother of one of our toddlers) and Just Tumble (a tumbling studio out of Shelton) came to show our toddlers some fun tricks and give them all some tumble time on the mats! It was such a pleasure to see our Villagers excitement as we welcomed these new faces into our classrooms for the day.



During the third week of April, we honored Earth Day by focusing on our Earth and how we can keep it clean. A major highlight of this week was receiving our caterpillars which we will watch as they change into butterflies that we will release in our garden.



May is a time for recognition and honor in our village. We begin the month with our Teacher Appreciation Week. Our theme for this year is "You're the Best Under the Big Top". Throughout this week our staff will be celebrated for their daily hard work and dedication to our program. The remainder of the month of May we will begin our unit on The Zoo and all it entails. Spring is a perfect time to visit the zoo as it allows for so many different activities to take place outdoors! The next three weeks in May we will be focusing on a various animals from different continents. We will "visit" these animals around the world including World of Reptiles, African Savannah, Congo Gorilla Forest, and Jungle Exploration. Our villagers truly love learning about all animals, and it is always a pleasure to watch them light up as we encounter new species.

May will end with our Memorial Day celebration as we celebrate all those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for us. We will focus on patriotic songs and activities with a red, white and blue theme. No Memorial Day celebration is complete without music. Throughout this week we will incorporate some fan favorites and new musical instruments into our days. We have had such an incredible couple weeks with our Villagers and are so excited to get to spend more time outdoors exploring new topics with them as the weather continues to improve!

We continued to welcome new families (and animals!) during the second week of April as we studied key Easter symbols, including eggs, chicks, and bunnies. The highlight of this week included sharing our playground with five baby chicks where our villagers were able to observe and play with these chicks during the entire duration of their scheduled outside time. We also had a real live bunny come spend some time on the playground during this week and our villagers got to feed our furry friend carrots and offer soft touches. We ended this week with a visit from Doodles, our Easter Bunny, and our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year we had three different hunts. Each hunt was more exciting than the one before. This event is by far one of the most fun activities we do with our Villagers each year and it continues to get more magical with every year that passes!

Until next month,
Nicole Ferrigno, Director
Kristen Sartor, Assistant Director

