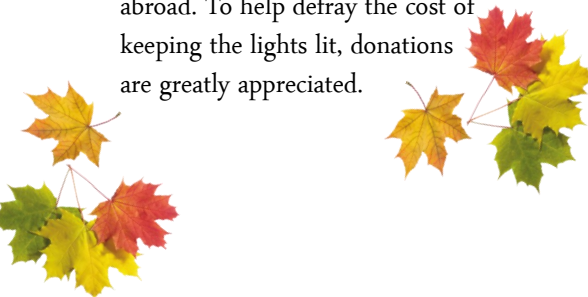




The lit candles in the Church Sanctuary and Steeple will shine perpetually as a beacon of God's strength. These lights reflect our prayers for peace, here and abroad. To help defray the cost of keeping the lights lit, donations are greatly appreciated.



**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..oldstonechurchuceasthaven.org

# The Herald

November 2023

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

Thanksgiving Greetings!

God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good!

While a statement like that may sound a bit “cliche,” we must realize it's true! Much of the world considers Thanksgiving as just another excuse to throw a party or watch football all day; we, as believers, know it goes far deeper than that.

In addition, we know that Thanksgiving is not just a “day,” but it's a mindset! The Bible shares many scriptures on the importance of being thankful, giving thanks, and even entering into times of worship WITH thanksgiving!

Psalm 100:4 (NKJV) “ *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name.* ”

The Psalmist was clear that one of the best ways to enter God's presence is with a thankful heart. When we are grateful, we are also mindful that the blessings we experience in life are not a result of our works and giftings alone. We depend on a mighty God who provides and guides!

One of the very first lessons we, as parents and grandparents, teach our young ones is the importance of being thankful. I have no doubt God, our Heavenly Father, takes great joy in hearing words of thanks from the grateful hearts of His children.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV) “ *in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* ”

The Apostle Paul told the early church that it was essential to give thanks “in everything” we may go through. Although, there are many things we may find challenging to be thankful “for,” such as the death of a loved one, we CAN be thankful “in” those circumstances knowing that God will help us go through that journey.

These past few years have been a challenge for all of us, but I would encourage you to ask the Lord to help you be thankful. Begin to think of specific things or people you are grateful for, and express your thanks to the Lord!

There's a beautiful old hymn that speaks of this called “Count Your Blessings.”

The chorus lyrics are as follows:

Count your blessings; name them one by one.  
Count your blessings, see what God has done.  
Count your blessings; name them one by one.  
Count your many blessings, see what God has done!

Blessings in Christ,  
**Pastor Mark Pilletere**

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**

**Veterans Memorial Service**

Nov. 8, 2023 7pm  
Christ & the Epiphany Church

**81st Annual Christmas Fair**  
Friday, Nov. 17, 2023 5-8pm  
Saturday, Nov. 18, 9-2pm

**Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service**

Nov. 21, 2023 7pm  
Christ & the Epiphany Church

Don't forget to pick up your latest copy of “The Upper Room”



# NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Eddie Bast Celebration 11am - Reception (FH) 12pm	4 John Young Funeral 10am - Reception (P) 12pm Thrift Shop Open 10am
5 Reserved Party (FH) 2pm	6	7	8 Veterans Memorial Service 7pm Christ & the Epiphany Church	9	10 Reserved Party (P) 5pm	11 Reserved Party (FH) 12pm Thrift Shop Open 10am
12 Veteran's Remembrance Service 10am Reserved Party (FH) 2pm	13	14	15	16 ELC Closed	17 81st Annual OSC Christmas Fair 5-8pm	18 81st Annual OSC Christmas Fair 9-2pm Thrift Shop Open 9am
19 Reserved Party (FH) 2pm	20	21 Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service 7pm Christ & the Epiphany Church	22 ELC Sing-a-long (FH)	23 Happy Thanksgiving 	24 Church Closed	25 Thrift Shop Open 10am
26	27 Advent Bible Study (P) 1pm	28	29 ELC picture day (P)	30 OSCV picture day (P) 		

- ### November Birthdays
- 11/01 Branden LaPia
  - 11/02 Kim Shute
  - 11/04 Patrick Manley
  - 11/06 Michael Buccieri
  - 11/06 Blake Pierson
  - 11/06 Cooper Jones
  - 11/07 Kevin Ward
  - 11/08 Shari Moon
  - 11/10 Jean Pilletere
  - 11/13 Hope Ryan
  - 11/20 Carole Landers
  - 11/24 Bob Luther
  - 11/25 Deborah Cosgrove
  - 11/24 McKinzley Cesario
  - 11/30 Willow Gersz



### Happy Anniversary

Antoinette & Alec Taylor Nov. 02, 2003  
Helen & David Wendt Nov. 05, 1966

### Looking for ...

Are you someone that likes to work with your hands?  
Do you like to work outdoors in the sunshine?  
Do you like to play games?  
Do you love to sing?

Today is your lucky day!  
There are so many opportunities at the church for you to do something. Yardwork, Gardening, Sunday School, Choir, Deacons, BFG, Global Outreach, Flower Committee. Please see anyone of our committee members, or you can inquire at the office. Let's get busy!!!

### THAT'S NOT MY JOB!

This is a story about four people named: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

### SAVE THE DATE

81st Annual OSC Christmas Fair Nov. 17 (5-8) and 18 (9-2), 2023

Veteran's Remembrance Service Nov. 12, 2023 during morning worship

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service Nov. 21, 2023 at Christ & the Epiphany Church 7pm

Advent Bible Study Nov. 27th—Dec. 18th, 2023 at 1pm in Parlor

Advent Workshop Dec. 03, 2023 11am in Fellowship Hall

New Years Eve "Eve" Party in Fellowship Hall

Wisp and Old Stone Church get together for an evening of dinner, dancing and a show. Saturday December 30, 2023 6 pm



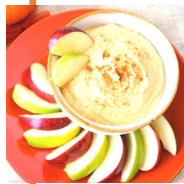
### Pastoral Visits in Hospital

Pastoral Visits in the hospital are gradually becoming more possible, 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.





**What's Cookin'?**



**Autumn Cheese Dip** *submitted by Kathy Mallory for publication in the OSC Cookbook*

- 2 c. Confectioners Sugar
- 1 tsp. Ginger
- 2 tsp. Cinnamon
- 15 oz. can Pumpkin
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. Cream Cheese, soft
- 1 tsp. Pumpkin Pie Spice

Combine sugar and cream cheese, beating until well blended, Beat in remaining ingredients. Store in airtight container in the refrigerator. Serve in small carved out pumpkins with gingersnap or apples for dipping.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Beef Stew** *submitted by Grandmother Coleman for publication in the OSC Cookbook*

- 1 to 1 1/2 lb. Stew Beef
- 1 stalk Celery, sliced
- 1 cab Stewed Tomatoes
- sliced Potatoes
- Small Onion, sliced
- Salt and pepper to taste
- sliced Carrots



May add vegetable of liking (green beans, etc.) May also use a bag of stew vegetables. Sear stew beef in a small amount of water with onion included. In separate pot, cook carrots and potatoes (other vegetables). Once meat is tenderized, add vegetables in their own juice. Add can of tomatoes, celery and pinch of salt and pepper. Simmer entire mixture approximately 2 hours. Serve with green salad and biscuits. Enjoy.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dot Rohr's Baked Beans** *submitted by Dot Rohr for publication in the OSC Cookbook*

- 8 lbs. Navy Pea Beans
- 1 large Molasses
- 1 lb. Brown Sugar
- 2 Tbsp. Dry Mustard
- 5 Onions, scored
- 2 lb. Salt Pork, scored
- 3 Tbsp. Salt
- 1 small Ketchup
- 10 qt. Water



Pick over and wash beans. Cover with water; soak overnight. Cook in same water until skin can be pierced easily at 300 degrees. Add ingredients and cook all day at 250 degrees. Make sure the water doesn't boil away.

We can never make enough of these for the church fair or flea market.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Date Nut Bread** *submitted by Mildred Eldridge for publication in the OSC Cookbook*

- 1 c. Dates, cut up
- 2 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1 1/2 c. Sugar
- 1 c. Chopped Nuts
- 2 3/4 c. Flour
- 2 Tbsp. Butter
- 2 tsp. Vanilla
- 1 1/2 c. Boiling Water
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 1 Egg

Pour the boiling water over the dates. Let stand. Mix the remaining ingredients. Add water and dates; mix and pour into 2 bread pans, greased and floured. Bake 1 hour at 325 degrees.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Chocolate Mousse** *submitted by Audrey Pochodowicz for publication in the OSC Cookbook*

- 1 (12oz.) pkg. Chocolate Chips
- 1 pt. Heavy or Whipping Cream
- 4 Tbsp. Water
- 6 Eggs
- 1 tsp. Vanilla
- 4 Tbsp. Sugar
- 2 pkg. Ladyfingers



Place ladyfingers in spring-form pan and refrigerate. Whip the cream with 1 tsp. vanilla. Refrigerate. Melt chips, then mix water and sugar into chips. Separate 3 eggs at a time. Put egg whites in a large mixing bowl (total 6 eggs). Mix 3 egg yolks at a time in melted chip mixture. Whip egg whites until stiff in a large bowl. Mix chocolate into egg white bowl and whipped cream. Put all together and pour in pan with ladyfingers. Refrigerate 24 hours.

**SENIOR CHOIR**

Join us as we praise God in a most musical way.

Rehearsals have begun again on Thursday evenings in the Sanctuary at 7pm and Sunday mornings at 9:30am



Choir robes are available in all sizes.

Contact Dr. Budd or any of the choir members for more information.

**THRIFT SHOP NEWS**

We are looking forward to the Christmas Fair, as we usually do very well at that event. Many fall decorations are out and ready to be sold. Christmas items will be out for the Fair. Stop by and see new items every week!

Do you have 3 hours once a month on a Saturday that you can share??

***Come volunteer at the Thrift Shop.***

So many things to see and do.

**The shop is open 10 am—3 pm every Saturday.**

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 Christian Ed**

We continue to move through the Old Testament heros in Sunday School as we study Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Moses will be our hero the next 2 weeks, then Jonah.

Sunday school will be singing in church on Oct 29th, Heritage Sunday. We've been practicing every week with Dr. Budd. This is always a special time.

Our car wash was canceled due to inclement weather but our bake sale was a great success and saw a profit of \$224.00. Thanks to everyone who baked and bought.

The Advent workshop is on Dec 3rd after church. Lots of crafts and Christmas activities will be available after church. Advent Bible Study will start Monday, December 4th in the parlor at noon.

Our Christmas pageant will be in 2 parts this year. On Dec 10th we'll be on the road to Bethlehem followed by Wassail and cookies during coffee hour. On Dec 24th, Mary and Joseph will arrive in Bethlehem for a special event.

Don't forget our FAMILY movie and pizza night on December 9th in the parlor.

See you all in church, Many blessings to all,

***Louise Ward***

**GLOBAL OUTREACH**

The Community Dining Room (CDR) which is based on Branford, is extending their services in to East Haven.

In addition to addressing food insecurity, the CDR offers other services. They are available to connect individuals and families to other services such as; rent rebates and securing needed appointments in the evenings so that it is not necessary to take time off from work. They will teach you to cook and to buy sufficient groceries on a budget. There are no income guidelines or questions asked.

Meetings will begin on October 18th at Bradford Manor Fire House at 85 George Street, East Haven.

Future meetings will be on Wednesdays alternating between the firehouse and Hays School at 1 Maple Street, East Haven.

Children are invited to attend as well and activities will be provided for them while parents get the information they need.

For more information, visit:  
[www.communitydiningroom.org](http://www.communitydiningroom.org)

**REVERSE  
ADVENT CALENDAR**

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM



*Christmas at  
Old Stone Church*

*Friday, Nov. 17, 2023 5-8 pm and  
Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023 9am to 2pm*

251 Main St., East Haven CT  
Phone: 203-467-2907

*Dinner served on Friday evening—dine in or take out  
Handcrafted Gifts for Christmas, Novelties, Seasonal  
Items, Baked Goods, Country Kitchen, Salads,  
Candies, Jewelry, White Elephant, Thrift Shop  
Specials, Gift Basket Raffle, Christmas Décor,  
Vendors with Unique Wares, Children's Area  
with Santa and a Toy Store. Snack Bar And More!  
Admission Free!*



**Flower Committee**

Plants are offered at \$11.00 each

To reserve your plant(s), please complete the form below and return it with your payment to the church office or place it in the collection plate by **Dec. 10, 2023** You may make checks payable to OLD STONE CHURCH. The poinsettias will be dedicated on Sunday, December 17th.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

*Helen Wendt, Chair, Flower Committee*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

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

In Memory or in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Finance, Building and Grounds**

The PCs in the office have been installed and are operational. Thanks goes to Stephanie Kilburn for making that happen. The equipment to finish the renovations to the Bell have arrived and as soon as the Electrician takes care of the necessary electrical set up, then the finishing touches to the bell can be done. We are in the process of getting the gutters repaired near and around the office entrance, and Comcast is slowly making progress to getting us installed with a new internet system. New rugs have been placed in the fellowship Hall, by the office entrance, and by the glass doors in the school wing as we continue to update, repair, and maintain our Church building.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Myles Standish*, Chairman

**Board of Deacons**

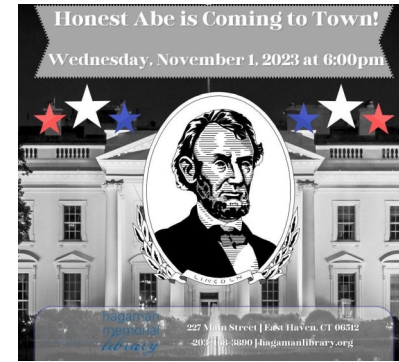
We just closed out October with a celebration of Heritage Sunday when we honored those who have been members of the Old Stone Church family for 50 years or more. And we concluded Stewardship month with our annual Soup Sunday. Fellowship Hall was packed with those who enjoyed at least a dozen choices of favorite soups provided by members.

We are so thankful that we are seeing more people joining us in worship Sunday mornings. November will continue to be a busy month. On Sunday November 12 we will recognize our Veteran members during Sunday worship. Our Holiday Fair on Nov 17 and 18 will be another special event in the life of our church family so we encourage you all to help where you can. On November 21 at 7:00pm there will be a Thanksgiving Ecumenical service at Christ & the Epiphany church on the green. Pastor Mark will be participating so we encourage you all to attend.

The Deacons have recently received five applications for membership to Old Stone Church so we will be welcoming these new members during a Sunday service to be scheduled in December.

If you would like to become more involved in our worship services, the Deacons are always looking for more people to be ushers, greeters, or lay readers. The Deacons in Charge for November are Lance Kilburn and Shelby Zoccano.

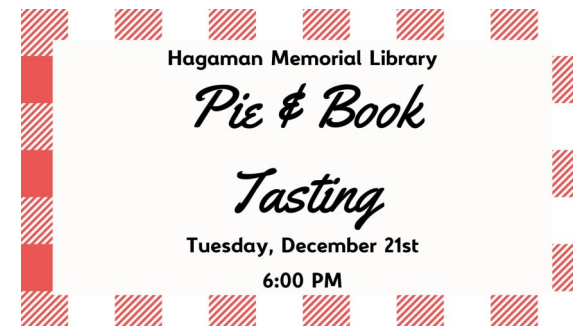
*Tom Collopy*, Chairperson



Wed, Nov 1, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Hagaman Memorial Library, 227 Main St, East Haven, CT, 06512

Join actor Lou Del Bianco for an interactive, dramatic portrayal of the life of Abraham Lincoln as both Civil War President & frontiersman. Endorsed by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. To sign up, call the library (203) 468-3890 or email: cheming-way@hagamanlibrary.org



Tue, Nov 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Hagaman Memorial Library, 227 Main St, East Haven, CT, 06512

Sample a variety of pie flavors and get a taste of what our YA collection has to offer!

Open to teens ages 12 to 18. To sign-up, call the library (203) 468-3890 or email the teen librarian at ekalotai@hagamanlibrary.org.



Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Stony Creek Congregational Church, 192 Thimble Island Rd, Branford, CT, 06405

The Stony Creek Singers will present Music for A Sunday Afternoon J.S. Bach's Sheep May Safely Graze, ballads Scarborough Fair and When Johnny Comes Marching Home, Sleighing Song and All This It Knows by Frank Vasi and Mas que nada by Sergio Mendes The concert is free. www.stonycreeksingers.org



**Pork Roast Dinner**

**Tabor Lutheran Church**

45 Tabor Drive, Branford 203-488-2541

QR code | Saturday, November 4th | QR code

**Take-Out 4:30-6:00 pm**  
\$20 Regular Size/\$15 Small Size

**Dine-In 4:30-5:30**  
\$20 Adults/\$10 Kids under 10

Place Orders at <https://forms.gle/SLi4DTYHSgTaaMz1A>

You may call the church office or visit [www.taborchurch.net](http://www.taborchurch.net) to place your order. Payment is accepted at pickup or you can pay via Paypal [taborlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:taborlutheranchurch@gmail.com) or Venmo @TaborChurchandPreschool

**Menu**  
Pork Roast with Onions, Mashed Potatoes  
Red Cabbage, Green Beans,  
Applesauce, Bread, and Dessert



Kick off the holiday season when New Haven Ballet performs a free Holiday Dance Concert at the Guilford Community Center. The concert will be presented **Saturday, November 25, at 3:00 p.m.**

New Haven Ballet will perform excerpts from Artistic Director Lisa Kim Sanborn's The Nutcracker, which premiered at the Shubert Theatre New Haven in 2013. Guest Artist Michael Requena will join students from New Haven Ballet to perform as the Coffee Prince and Trepak Principal Dancer. Also presented will be excerpts from the ballets Cavaliere Allegro and Vivaldi Concerto.

Located at 32 Church Street in downtown Guilford, the performance will feature beautiful costumes, professional sound and lighting, and fantastic music by Tchaikovsky, Haydn, and Vivaldi. The Community Center is near the Town Green's shopping and dining district. Limited parking is available. Admission is free. Audience members are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy a holiday afternoon of ballet.

This performance is made possible through the partnership between New Haven Ballet and the Guilford Department of Parks and Recreation.

If you would like more information about this event or New Haven Ballet, please call Ruth Barker at tel. 203-782-9038 or email: [administrator@newhavenballet.org](mailto:administrator@newhavenballet.org).



### “Lighting the Way”

In appreciation for God’s love and in thanksgiving for all the gifts He has given, **I/We** pledge the following in support of the ministries of Old Stone Church for 2024:

**I/We** will make the following pledge (most effective for church budget purposes)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  Per week  Per month  Per year

8% will automatically be directed to the missions of the church.

Would you like offering envelopes?  Yes  No Would you like a quarterly statement?  Yes  No

Cannot commit to a specific amount but will contribute as money becomes available.

**I/We** will volunteer time and talents and/or pray for the Old Stone Church.

*“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion,*

*for God loves a cheerful giver.” -- 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NRSV)*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_



### Early Learning Center News



Our “Back to School Night for Parents” was quite successful. Parents visited the classrooms and were delighted to see the many projects the teachers and students had on display. Each classroom did a special project with the parents that is on display in the hallway. Parents learned about our school’s curriculum and the teacher’s goals for the school year. The teachers made a wish list with items for the classroom (tissues, disinfectant wipes, masking tape, etc.). Our parents have been very generous and every classroom has received many of the items they wished for.

The East Haven Fire Department will visit the early learning center on November 8th. They will emphasize fire safety and let the children sit behind the wheel of a firetruck. They will show them the equipment they use and their turn-out gear and if we are lucky we will meet the newest member of the fire department, Riggs the station support dog!

Fall provided a multitude of projects and activities for the students; leaf banners, Life Cycle of a Pumpkin, Election Day will include voting for their favorite snack, students will learn about Veteran’s Day and watch the Veteran’s march down Main St. as they wave their class flag, and just fun Thanksgiving projects.

The Thanksgiving holiday will be the focus of many lessons and projects with an emphasis on family, friends, cooperation and good will. But the most exciting activity of the month is our traditional dinner....chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, corn bread, corn, and stuffing! Our annual Thanksgiving sing-a-long will be in fellowship hall on November 22. The children have been practicing their Thanksgiving songs and poems to sing for their families and friends.

Class and individual portraits will be taken at the end of November for parents to purchase. Smiles all around!!

The traditional “Halloween Parade” was again a success with our Main Street merchants generously supporting our parade. Between the early learning center and the village 70 children participated in our Halloween parade! Children and parents enjoyed the walk and especially all the “goodies”. Upon returning to school each class enjoyed a Halloween party!

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

### Upcoming Dates

November 7-Election Day school opened

November 10- Veteran’s Day school opened

November 16 & 17 school closed for pre-fair days

November 23 & 24 school closed for Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving from, **Jennifer Calonico**, Director and the Early Learning Center Staff

Till Next month!



### STEWARDSHIP SOUP SUNDAY

The Annual “Soup Sunday” was held on October 29th, 2023, in conjunction with Heritage Sunday. We all were able to join together in Fellowship Hall. for a FREE cup of soup as we handed in your pledge cards. We had several home-made soups with bread and refreshments.

Forgot your pledge card at home?, there are extra pledge cards to fill out on any Sunday.

My job, as Financial Secretary, is to keep track of your confidential, individual, pledges and provide you with a quarterly statement. Please complete it with your pledge and a YES or NO for a box of weekly envelopes.

Together, we are all... “**Lighting the Way**”

Thank you for sharing your Blessings, *Helen Wendt*, OSC Financial Secretary

### Scouting in the Community

Boy Scout Troop and Cub Pack 401 sponsored by Old Stone Church will be participating in the annual “Scouting for Food”. Neighbors in central East Haven will receive a plastic bag on Saturday, November 4. If you are able to donate, please add non-perishable food items to the bag for pick up by a scout on Saturday, November 11.

The food will be delivered to the East Haven Food Pantry for families in our community.



**The Other Serenity Prayer** by Eleanor Brown and published in Guideposts, September 2018

God, grant me the serenity to stop beating myself up for not doing things perfectly, the courage to forgive myself because I’m working on doing better, and the wisdom to know that you already love me just the way I am.

Submitted by Barbara Cole







## November Herald



“Autumn leaves shower like gold, like rainbows as the winds of change begin to blow.”-Dan Millman

October is a month where we not only witnessed the change happening outside our village with the season, but within our own doors. During this month we placed an emphasis on our villagers' social and emotional development. It is during this time that we saw our new villagers who began at the beginning of September now fully acclimated to our village environment. This is the month when our learning truly began.

We began the month of October by learning about our community workers who keep us healthy and/or safe. We had special visits from Officer Ryan from the EHPD and Melanie Ponte, our nurse consultant. Throughout the week we took on the roles and responsibilities of dentists, vets, nurses, police officers and teachers. We painted with toothbrushes, flossed cavities, created houses for our pets, took care of our pets and babies with doctor tools, applied bandages, stamped our fingerprints, rode in our new police ride on, and created special teacher frames with pictures of our teachers and us. One of the highlights of this week was adopting a stuffed puppy for our villagers to take home and love.

During the second week of October, we focused on Fire Prevention and Safety. We introduced this week with one of our favorite pups, Marshall the Fire Pup from Paw Patrol. Marshall shared his different rescue vehicles with our villagers as we took to the sky and sea. This week was highlighted by a visit from our own EH Fire Department along with their rescue pup, Riggs. Our EH Fire Department brought several fire rescue vehicles for our villagers to explore. We were able to listen to the loud sirens, see the lights, and discover the different equipment fire-trucks have. Our villagers had the opportunity to take on the role of firefighters during our dramatic play block as they used extinguishers and rode on fire trucks to help extinguish fires.

The third week of October was one of our favorites as we welcomed our villagers to our very own Pumpkin Patch! Each child selected their perfect pumpkin from our patch and spent the week completing various activities with their prized pumpkin. These activities included washing, comparing size, weight, color and texture with other pumpkins. At the end of the week, we incorporated our math standard of identifying shapes, as we turned our pumpkins into Jack-O-Lanterns.

The last full week of October truly prepares our villagers for all things spooky before Halloween. During this time, our villagers investigated several Halloween symbols. These symbols included spooky things that walk, crawl or fly. We worked with skeletons and bones and determined how skeletons move. We learned about spiders, black cats, and their habitats, and were introduced to not so spooky things that fly. These creatures consisted of bats, ghosts, and witches. We finished this week of spooky symbols by learning about some not so spooky monsters, and haunted houses. On Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> we held our second annual Trunk or Treat, we had an extremely successful event raising over \$1,400 for our curriculum fund. We also ended this week with our annual Butter Braids fundraiser which also raised \$1,870 surpassing our fundraising from last year by almost \$500! We are looking forward to



utilizing some of this money to enhance our outdoor playground this Spring.

Halloween in our village is never complete without our annual Halloween parade. On Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> our villagers along with children from The Early Learning Center marched in their full costume attire down and around Main Street collecting treats on the way. We finished this month off with a Halloween themed pajama day where we held classroom parties decorating cookies and building edible Haunted Houses.

Throughout this month we focus on the theme of being thankful, taking ample time to reflect on how blessed we are every day. The first week of November we will begin our thankful unit by focusing on ourselves and being thankful for our unique traits and qualities. Our villagers will begin to identify traits they have that make them special through self-observations and spending time looking at our reflections in the mirror. We will explore facial features, our bodies, names, birthdays, and end this week with our very own Olympics where we show all that we can do. Students will create portraits of themselves using different mediums including Play-Doh, markers, yarn, and stickers.

We will continue this theme of thankfulness by celebrating our families and touching upon veterans. We will discuss how every family is different and special EXACTLY how they are and give thanks for the family we are surrounded by. Throughout this week we will utilize family pictures to name, identify, and create different individuals who make up our family. We will build upon our immediate families by learning about our homes, pets, and veterans who make up our family.

We will spend the third week of November focusing on being thankful for our friendships that have been formed in the walls of Old Stone Village. Throughout this week we will use early literacy to teach key friendship components including taking turns, sharing and working together. Our villagers will spend ample time this week working together to complete various tasks and projects.

November will end with a focus on key Thanksgiving symbols and our annual Thanksgiving feast from Boston Market. On this day we invite family members in to enjoy a meal and special themed Thanksgiving activities with their child and child's class.

As we begin our month of thankfulness, we reflect on the growth we've made since our opening in 2019. We are beyond thankful for the village that has been created and shaped into the family it is today. We are thankful to be a part of the First Congregational Church community and for your continued support as we carry out our mission of becoming part of every family who enrolls their child's village. We wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving season.

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

