



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.

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



Old Stone Church

Church Office 203-467-2907 (fax ext. 111)

Office Hours: M-Th 9 am—3 pm

Pastor

Rev. Mark Pilletere, M. Div. Ext 102

Office Manager

Heidi Manley Ext 101

Minister of Music

Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D.

Early Learning Center 203-467-0661

Jennifer Calónico, Director / Kim Oca, Assistant Director

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

Old Stone Village 203-390-5977

OSCV Hours: 6:30am—6:30 pm

Nicole Ferrigno, Director / Kristen Sartor, Assistant Director

Thrift Shop 203-467-2907 Ext 107

Saturdays from 10 am—3 pm

E-mail: oldstonechurch97@gmail.com

Website: www..oldstonechurchucc.org

The Herald

April 2024

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

Join us for Fellowship after service in the hall. All are welcome

Upcoming Events

Pastor Mark on vacation 4/3-4/17

WISP Cabaret 4/06/2024

Early Learning Center Spring Break 4/08—4/12/2024

Bible Study “The Book of Jonah” 04/29/2024



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

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

Warm Greetings in Christ!

God is good ALL the time!

As we continue to maneuver through challenging times in our nation and the world, I thought it would be of value to send a note to encourage you.

With each passing day, we are confronted with higher prices on every hand. Gas and fuel prices have impacted every one of us in ways we could not have predicted unless we experienced it first-hand. The cost of basic necessities has increased to a point where more people are food challenged, the lines at food pantries, soup kitchens and affordable housing are longer more now than they ever have been. We seem to be “turning the corner” as far as the pandemic is concerned but hospital visits are still on the rise.

First of all, I still believe the statement I started this letter with, and that is that God is good ALL the time! The Prophet Isaiah shared some thoughts on a testing time they were going through in Isaiah 54:10 (NIV) 10 Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

I want to encourage you to stay “laser-focused” on the Lord as the one who meets and supplies our needs. But, I also believe that we must keep Him first in our giving, serving, and loving! If there's ever a time the enemy would love to divide the church, it's now, but we don't have to succumb to his schemes.

Jesus never promised that we wouldn't have any hard times or difficult situations to go through, but He DID promise that He would walk with us! John 16:33 (NIV) “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”


Another scripture that helps me stay focused during these times is Matthew 6:33 (NIV) “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Remember that during the darkest and challenging times this world may see is precisely the time the light of the Gospel is the brightest! It might seem like a “little light,” but what a difference YOU and JESUS make!

Blessings in Christ,
Pr. Mark

April 2024


Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Village Closed Valley Restoration on site	2 Pastor Mark out of office thru April 17	3 ELC (P) 9-11am	4 Mah-Jong (P) 12 Choir (S) 7pm Scouts Blue and Gold Dinner (FH) 4pm	5 WISP Cabaret set-up (FH)	6 Thrift Shop Open 10-3 WISP Cabaret 7pm
7 Worship 10am "Marks of Faith" John 20:19-31 Rev. Dr. Lisanne Winslow	8 ELC Spring Break thru April 12	9	10	11 Mah-Jong (P) 12 Choir (S) 7pm Cub/Boy Scouts (BSR) 6pm	12	13 Thrift Shop Open 10-3
14 Worship 10am "Christ Among Us" Luke 24:36b-48 Rev. Dr. Lisanne Winslow	15	16	17 Pastor Mark back in the office tomorrow	18 Reserved Party (FH) 9-3pm Mah-Jong (P) 12 Choir (S) 7pm Cub/Boy Scouts (BSR) 6pm	19 Removal of Asbestos in Furnace Room	20 Thrift Shop Open 10-3 NO RENTALS FOR AIR CLEANING
21 Worship 10am "Enfolded by Love" John 10:11-18 NO RENTALS FOR AIR CLEANING	22	23 Passover Begins	24	25 Mah-Jong (P) 12 Choir (S) 7pm Cub/Boy Scouts (BSR) 6pm	26	27 Thrift Shop Open 10-3 Reserved Party (FH) 4pm
28 Worship 10am "Abiding in Love" John 15:1-8	29	30 Passover Ends	<p>Month of April Deacons in Charge: Tom and Linda Collopy Prayer requests can be sent or called in to the church office at any time. Please send to the church's confidential email: oldstone-church97@gmail.com or direct to Pastor Mark at: oldstonepastor@yahoo.com. Pastor Mark will read them aloud on Sunday during service.</p> <p>Should you need a call, please note that in the message.</p> 			

April Birthdays

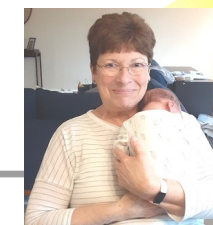
- 4/01 Pat Garguilo
- 4/04 Loren Everts
- 4/06 Cameron Moon
- 4/07 Peter Gercz
- 4/10 Mattie Gercz
- 4/10 Jordan Howard
- 4/13 Jake Calonico
- 4/14 Jake DelGuidice
- 4/15 Pr. Mark Pilletere
- 4/16 John Zyrilis Jr.
- 4/19 Dawn Coon
- 4/20 Brody Gercz
- 4/20 Petra McLay
- 4/20 Alec Taylor
- 4/21 John Steeves
- 4/22 Kathy Mallory
- 4/28 Chloe Ozoria
- 4/30 Dianne Shute

People in our prayers...

-  *Frank Chasney
1270 N. High Street
East Haven, CT 06512
- *Audrey Pochodowicz
533 Thompson Street
East Haven, CT 06513
- *Marion Burkard
20 Riverside Drive
Branford, CT 06405
- *Ned and Bonnie Taylor
352 Townsend Avenue
New Haven, CT 06512
- *Wendy Salmoiraghi
8 Indian Point Road
Branford, CT 06405
- *John the photographer
- *Tracy Boyle *Susan Hyssong
- *First Responders
- *Military personnel at home and away
- *Howard Eldridge, Jr.
- *Jerry Swisher *Mr. Wagner
- *Rhyse Telkas *The Tucker family and the birth of their child

Happy Anniversary

- April 7, 1979 Robert & Kathy Mallory
- April 18, 1970 John & Elaine Carr
- April 28, 1979 Bruce & Jayne Scobie



In The Spotlight

Meet Louise Ward. Louise is a former Maternal Labor and Delivery Nurse serving Yale for over 45 years. Graduating from Russel Sage College with a Master's degree in Parent and Child Nursing Education, she brings a plethora of knowledge to the community of Old Stone Church. When Louise wasn't in the hospital delivering babies, she was in this building providing education to upcoming parents throughout the Shoreline. Louise started Childbirth and Parenting of Greater New Haven in the early 2000's which provided courses in childbirth, breastfeeding, infant safety and parenting for over twenty years. These courses were held within the Parlor and became a right of passage for all first-time moms in New Haven County through word of mouth. Throughout her time as an instructor, she brought in several thousands of new parents into this community. As her business grew, she saw an overarching need for expanding the childcare within these walls. To her, it was a natural blending of providing childbirth education with infancy care. This is truly where the idea of the Village Childcare Center began. Louise's focus for the income she obtained from birthing classes was to use it to provide for the needs within this church community which continuously supported her through her husband being disabled during Desert Storm in 1991 shortly after she became a member.

Prior to the establishment of Old Stone Village, she selected individuals in need at The Early Learning Center to aid in their tuition funding. Yet, the majority of the funds she received went into the complete construction, renovation and licensing of Old Stone Village in 2019.

Louise's background, as both a nurse and educator, make her a valuable resource to have within these walls. Throughout her time as an avid member, she often provided birthing education to the woman within the church, held blood pressure clinics after service, frequently inspects all First Aid and AED equipment and is one of the "go to" nurses for all members of the congregation. Her teaching skills and love of all children make her the perfect candidate to run both the Sunday School as well as to mentor confirmands. Two of her favorite church services include Christmas and Easter, where Louise has run the Children's Christmas pageant for countless years. In addition to facilitating the Sunday School, Louise also serves on many boards within the church. She currently sits on the Board of Faith Formation, Search Committee, and is a Deacon. In the past, she has served on the Global Outreach Committee, Stewardship and Board of Trustees. Louise also Co-Chairs the Christmas fair, which she has named, as one of her favorite events with our current church secretary Heidi and runs the Country Kitchen and Bakery with her daughter Adrienne. Together, Heidi and Louise also run the summer Flea market.

Louise has been a member of this church since 1987. At this time, Louise and her husband Kevin were new to the area from the military and in search of a church that would suit their family needs. Pat Korngiebel, the former church secretary, happened to be in the building that day and immediately welcomed Louise into the church. Later, Louise's husband Kevin and Daughters Adrienne and Virginia also joined this faithful community. Both of her daughters attended The Early learning Center formerly known as The Playschool and went through Sunday School as well. Taking after their mother, they both were Sunday School teachers within the church. When asked what the biggest changes throughout her years as a member have been, Louise noted the physical changes and modern updates to this historical building. However, one thing that has been constant since she joined has been the family-based community that professes and love the word of Jesus.

Although Louise has retired from nursing and no longer runs the Childbirth and Parenting of Greater New Haven, she is no stranger to infants as she will volunteer her time in the village and is now enjoying all the baby cuddles as a first-time grandmother. She is truly our modern day Mary Poppins.

Until next month, *Nicole Ferrigno*

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

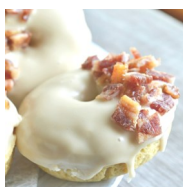
Double Chocolate Buttermilk Muffins *Author: Melissa Sperka*

2 cups all purpose flour	2/3 cup cocoa powder	1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup light brown sugar	1 tsp baking powder	1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp instant espresso powder	1/2 tsp salt	1 cup buttermilk Not fat free
1/3 cup vegetable oil	2 large eggs	1 tsp pure vanilla extract
1/4 tsp pure almond extract	1 1/2 cups chocolate chips divided	



Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line a 12-cup muffin tin with liners. (See Cook's note) In a medium-size mixing bowl use a whisk to sift together the flour, cocoa, granulated and brown sugars, baking powder, baking soda, espresso and salt until evenly combined. In a separate bowl whisk together the buttermilk, oil, eggs, vanilla and almond extracts. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and add the wet. Use large non stick spatula or spoon to combine. Mix in 1 cup chocolate chips until evenly distributed. Fill each cavity 2/3 full using an ice cream scoop. (Have another pan nearby to make more muffins, if needed) Sprinkle with the remaining 1/2 cup chocolate chips. Bake for 22-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes back clean. Cool in the pan for 10 minutes then carefully move to a cooling rack to cool completely. (Don't turn the pan upside down to remove muffins it will smash the soft chocolate chips on top) Store in an airtight container chilled or at room temperature for up to 3 days.

Notes: Yield may be greater than 12 muffins depending on how the batter is divided. Have additional liners and a muffin pan nearby in the event you make more.



Maple Bacon Donuts *WonkyWonderful.com*

Donuts: 1 Cup All Purpose Flour	1 teaspoon Baking Powder	1/4 teaspoon Salt
1/4 Cup Brown Sugar, packed	2 Tablespoons Soft Unsalted Butter	1 Large Egg
1/4 Cup Sour Cream	1 teaspoon Pure Vanilla Extract	2 Tablespoons Whole Milk

Glaze: 1 Cup Powdered Sugar 3-4 Tablespoons Maple Syrup 3 Strips Brown Sugar Maple Bacon - chopped

Donuts— Preheat oven to 325°F Mix flour, baking powder and salt. Set aside. Mix butter and sugar until creamy. Add egg, sour cream, vanilla and milk. Mix until combined. Add in dry ingredients and mix until just combined. Divide batter between 6 donut molds that have been sprayed with nonstick. Bake for 12-14 minutes. Transfer to cooling rack and allow to cool completely before glazing.

Glaze—Mix powdered sugar and maple syrup until smooth. Dip each donut into glaze then return to rack. Top donuts with chopped bacon. Serve immediately. Store uneaten donuts in refrigerator.

Cinnamon Sugar Swirl Muffins *Author: Kate @ I Heart Eating*

6 tablespoons butter melted	3/4 cup granulated sugar	2 large eggs	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup buttermilk	2 cups all-purpose flour	1 teaspoon baking soda	1/2 teaspoon salt
1/3 cup granulated sugar	1 tablespoon ground cinnamon		



Preheat oven to 400 F. Grease a 12-cup muffin tin. Be sure to grease the entire muffin tin as tops will rise out of the cup. Set aside. In a large bowl, whisk butter and 3/4 cup sugar until well-combined. Mix in eggs and vanilla until combined. Add milk, and mix until incorporated. Stir in flour, baking soda, and salt. In a small bowl, stir remaining 1/3 cup sugar and ground cinnamon together. Add to dough, and fold in 2-3 times. You don't want it to be combined. Check out the picture above the recipe. Divide batter among prepared muffin cups. Bake 15-25 minutes, or until muffins are golden brown. Let cool in pan for 5-10 minutes before removing.



Banana Bread Muffins *Author: Melissa Sperka*

2 cups all purpose flour	1 cup granulated sugar	1 tsp baking powder	1 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt	1/4 tsp ground cinnamon	2 medium ripe bananas mashed to equal 1 cup	
2 large eggs beaten	1/2 cup butter melted (1 stick)	1 tsp pure vanilla extract	

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Liberally spray a 12-cup muffin tin with baking spray or use cupcake liners. Set aside. In a medium-size mixing bowl use a whisk to sift together the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. Make a well in the center of the bowl and add the bananas, eggs, butter and vanilla. Use a large non stick spatula to mix until fully combined. Divide the batter evenly between the wells in the muffin tin. (Tip: An ice cream scoop works best) Bake for 20-22 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes back clean. Cool for 15 minutes in the muffin tin then remove to a rack to cool completely. Store chilled or at room temperature in an airtight container.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation had an evening of Passover on March 21st in the parlor. The traditional foods and reading of the Haggadah was presented by Eden Stein. It was a uniting and inspirational event.



The Sunday school children have been learning about Holy Week through Bible stories, crafts and art. They sang for Easter Sunday which brought their joyful energy to all.

We will be baking cookies to accompany the story of Esther. There are parables and Paul's travels to act out before we break for summer.

We will sponsor a Mother's day plant sale with orders being taken after church on May 5th.

Please continue to bring in your bottles and cans for our recycling project. Last month we saw a profit big enough to pay for our movie night food. We had a fun family movie night watching Shrek. We had 16 in attendance with green food and swamp grog to drink

Monday Bible study completed the Lenten series on March 25th. It was so enjoyable to share this time with all the East Haven churches. In May we will start a prayer challenge (explanation to follow). Our next Monday Bible study will look at the book of Jonah. We will begin Monday April 29th, 2024 at 12:15 in the Parlor, for a 6 week study. All are welcome to attend.

Many Blessings,

Louise Ward, Chairperson



Board of Deacons

Although the Lenten season has come to an end, we hope that each of you will continue to join us for worship each Sunday. We are very excited that a number of people have expressed an interest in becoming members of the church and we look forward to welcoming them in the near future.

Pastor Mark will be taking a well earned vacation during April, and we are fortunate that Rev Dr Lisanne Winslow has agreed to lead us in worship in his absence on April 7 and 14. Please join me in welcoming Lisanne to our pulpit.

Should you would wish to become more involved in our worship services, the deacons are always looking for more people to be ushers, greeters, or lay readers. If you are new to our services, please join us for a time of fellowship in Fellowship Hall after our Sunday worship service, so that we can get to know each other. If you are unable to attend in person, we encourage you to join us online with live broadcasts on Facebook or YouTube.

Deacons in Charge for April are Linda and Tom Collopy.

Tom Collopy, Chairperson

Finance Building and Grounds

As we move into spring, several projects are lined up around the church.

*The rest of Stonework and painting of the outside doors are due to begin the first week in April.

*Later in the month we will begin the first phase to get the Boiler ready to be upgraded, with the rest to follow as soon as the heating season is over for this year.

*In addition, we are in the process of getting quotes so we can get the fence repaired, as well as the landing by the Kitchen door.

Respectfully submitted,

Myles Standish, Chairperson



Global Outreach / Missions

The generosity of the members of Old Stone Church never ceases to amaze me. My original hope, was that we could donate 10—\$20 Stop & Shop cards to the EH Food Pantry. After my plea for donations on Sunday, you came through like gang-busters. As a church family, we were able to donate 25—\$20 Stop and Shop cards to the EH Food Pantry, far exceeding my expectations. This donation will put a lot of food on the tables of our neighbors this Easter Sunday. Thank you.

Linda Hargraves, Chairperson

Flower Committee

Thank you to all that were able to purchase flowers for Easter Sunday. What a beautiful display of the bounty that God has given us, to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

Have you ever considered putting flowers in church in memory or in honor of someone?

Please let the office know of your interest, as we have open Sundays in June, September and December. Do you have a specific Sunday that you'd like to honor? We are happy to help you with that as well.

Please see any one of the Flower Committee folks, or leave a note in the office with interest. Your Flower Committee folks are... **Helen Wendt**

Marion Burkard
Hope Ryan
Susan Anderson
Kathy LaPia
Andrea Kosowsky
Heidi Manley



Fellowship / Coffee Hour

Sign up to host a coffee hour after church service. There are plenty of Sundays available in the new year. You can ask any of the hosts or Deacons for details.

Sign up at the coffee table.



Join the "Old Stone Travelers"

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

August 21-23, 2024

\$484.00 per person based on double occupancy.

Bus driver gratuities included.



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

June 8, 2024

9 am—2 pm

For information on renting a space or helping with church sponsored tables, call church office at 203-467-2907 or speak with Louise Ward or Heidi Manley.



Simple Words of Kindness

"This is my simple religion.

There is no need for temples;
 no need for complicated philosophy.

Our own brain, our own heart is our temple;
 the philosophy is kindness."

-His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

Gardeners Corner

Now that Spring has sprung, our minds go to planting and one may pose the question..."When is the best time to plant?" or "What will grow best?" or "Where is the best place in the yard?"

After some research and a lot of You tube videos, I have put together some information for you about When, What and Where to plant.

What to plant? Whether you grow flowers, greens, herbs or vegetables, here on some of my favorite picks for my garden.

Cauliflower and Cabbage and Broccoli and Kale and Brussel Sprouts are all know as "Brassicas" All of these are excellent to start in your gardens now for full effect and for dinner this summer. Brussel Sprouts appear to not produce anything, but this is not the fact. Keep watering and paying close attention to them. You will see the fruit of your labor in late September early October and even into November.

Lettuce looks beautiful, easy to grow and quick germinator. Fill a tray with soil and surface sow the lettuce seeds of choice.. Water the seeds in lightly. Lettuce needs light to germinate. In about 7-14 days later you will see some green. You can transplant into your garden area or grow in a tray. When harvesting lettuce, plant another head in its place so you will be able to enjoy throughout the growing season.

Marigolds come in an array of colors and are a great companion plant for your crops. They emit an odor not only up from the flower, but into the soil as well, making them the best insect and rodent repellent.

Chamomile is a great flower and relatively easy to grow plant. This plant makes a delicious tea and can be used in other applications, such as soap. The seeds need light to germinate, so surface planting is best in 60—70 degrees for soil temp. to germinate.

Plant your Basil now. A companion to tomatoes, basil is also an insect repellent for those tomato plants as well as an enhancer for a flavorful tomato crop.

Start your Spinach directly into your soil. Soak the seeds for 24 hours prior to sewing and watch them grow. Prune and enjoy all summer long, as this herb will continue to grow.

Where to plant? Are you a raised bed gardener? Make sure that the container you grow in safety label #2, #4 and #5 are safe to grow in if going with plastic totes. Give yourself some drainage in the bottom of the tote, fill it up with soil, either home compost or store bought.. Use an all purpose fertilizer and mix well. Plant out your vegetable or flowers with enough room so they don't crowd. Watch your labels and markers for how tall the plants will grow so that you will have the most room and visual beauty. Perhaps you have made part of your yard a planting area. Follow the same tips above to get the maximum visual beauty from this years crop. Pay close attention to the suggested guides of sun and shade exposure, as well as watering schedules on the plant tags or seed packets.

When to plant??? The first thing that needs to be done, is to find the planting zone for your garden. Your geographic location and climate will affect how successful your flowers or plants will grow in your gardening areas. If you select plants that are only somewhat cold hardy for your particular zone, a harsh winter with well below average temperatures could lead to the demise of the plants. As per Kellogg Gardens, the New Haven county and the CT shoreline is in **zone 7**.

The Kellogg Garden Zone Planting Charts will guide you in when to sow, plant, and harvest individual vegetables by hardiness zone. Along with your planting chart, they have included resource links to help you grow bountiful gardens. Visit them on the web at www.kelloggarden.com



THRIFT SHOP

The Old Stone Thrift Shop is open every Saturday from 10—3. The entrance is located in the back parking lot of the church. We sell so many different items as well as gently used clothing. Our loyal volunteers sort, tag and put out for sale, newly donated items every week. All proceeds go directly to the church for their best use.

We are very proud of our service to the community and beyond. We can always use more help on Saturdays.

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

Thank you,

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

SENIOR CHOIR

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

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings in the Sanctuary at 7pm and Sunday mornings at 9:30am in the Parlor

Choir robes are available in all sizes.

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

Start Seeds Indoors			Plant Seed/Transplant							Harvest	
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
					Beans						
			Beets			Beets					
		Broccoli				Broccoli					
						Brussel Sprouts					
						Cabbage					
			Carrots			Carrots					
						Cauliflower					
						Corn					
						Cucumber					
			Kale			Kale					
			Lettuce			Lettuce					
						Onions					
			Peas			Peas					
						Peppers					
			Spinach			Spinach					
						Squash					
						Tomato					

wisp
Cabaret
 Saturday, April 6th 7:00pm

Tickets \$20 in Advance
 \$25 at the Door

BYOB
 Dinner/Wine
 Cabaret Style Seating

“Your favorite Showtunes, Pop, Oldies and Soooo Much More Performed by a Brilliant Cast of All Ages”

To Purchase Tickets
buy.tututix.com/wisp or call 203-494-1633

The Old Stone Church
 251 Main Street, East Haven, CT

2024 Spring Weekend at Silver Lake

May 3-5

www.SilverLakeCT.org

Women's Yoga Weekend
 Women 18+

Spring Camp Weekend
 Grades 3-7

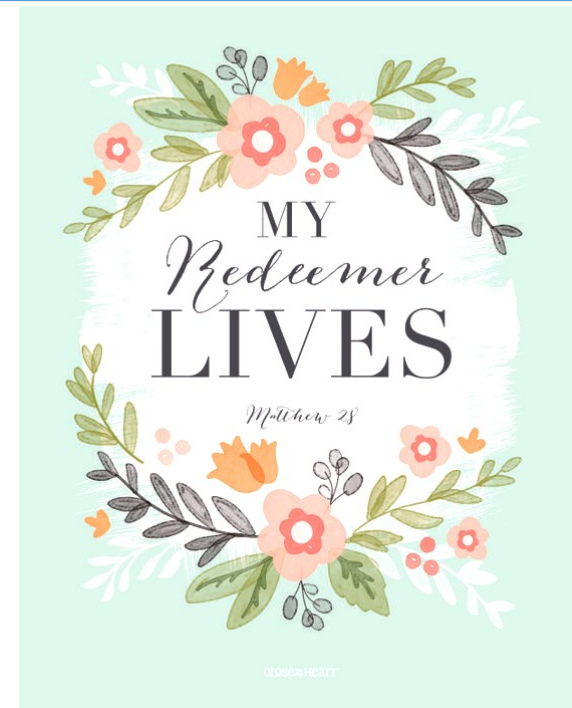
Southern New England Conference
 United Church of Christ
 Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

ACCREDITED

SILVER LAKE
 Camp & Retreat Center

Women's Yoga and Music Spirit Retreat
 Women 18+; \$235
 Women will come for a weekend of yoga, exploration, and restoration. Focusing on using our bodies and voices as meditation in order to arrive at deeper peace and understanding.

Spring Camp Weekend
 Grades 3-7; \$175
 Youth currently in grades 3-7, will come for a weekend of getting to know God, new friends, ourselves, and the natural world through sampling all Silver Lake has to offer! This program is designed for first-time campers, but is open to all interested in spending a weekend at camp.



thank you! Thank you to Pastor Mark from the Ward and Wright families for providing a dedication of their newborn; Asher William Wright.

Asher was born Feb. 16, 2024 to happy mom and dad; Adrienne Ward and Justin Wright.

He weighed in at 8lb,5oz. and 22 in. long.

Blessed grandparents are Kevin & Louise Ward and Yolanda & Teddy Wright.



Thank you Thank you to my church family for all the get well wishes and cards. Feeling very blessed.
 Audrey Pochodowicz

The Early Learning Center

April showers bring May flower! Shoots are beginning to appear through soil. Flowers are beginning to bloom and attract insects and butterflies and migratory birds are beginning to arrive. This month we'll be exploring all things spring.

What is spring?

How do plants and flowers grow?

How do bees make honey?



There's lots to look out for in spring, that's why it's a great time to explore seasonal changes and the weather with young learners. We'll talk about different weather such as rain, thunder, lightning, and rainbows. We'll discuss which animals are returning from the cold winter and animals making preparations to welcome their young. Earth Day is April 22nd! We'll learn about our planet earth and fun ways to keep it healthy.

Fun Fact

Earth Day is April 22nd. Did you know that Earth Day started in 1970? This environmental movement began when Gaylord Nelson (then U.S. senator from Wisconsin) saw a massive oil spill. He wanted to bring light to the issue of environmental responsibility and transforming the public's attitude. Gaylord organized a "teach-in" on college campuses along with congressman Pete McCloskey and activist Denis Hayes. The group chose April 22, a weekday falling between spring break and final exams, to maximize the greatest student participation.

Our Activities and Projects

There will be plenty of weather, and animal projects. We'll talk about how rain helps turn our neighborhoods back to green...and which animals are returning from the long cold winter to make their homes here. We'll even plant a few seeds and make observations along the way. The children will learn the parts of a plant with a label the plant science worksheet. We'll observe Earth Day by taking the children on a nature walk, making projects out of recycled material, and talking about the importance of recycling and reusing. They will play a fishing game where they clean trash out of a polluted lake with some very unhappy fish. Mrs. Goodale will visit us for Teddy Bear Day and give the children a few lessons, which she does so extremely well, using Teddy Bears!

Room One will do units on dinosaurs and planting.

Room Two the children will be learning the letters M, G, U, and B.

Room Three will continue to learn nurse rhymes. This month's nurse rhyme is "Hey Diddle, Diddle," by Mother Goose.



Important Dates

April 8th -12th-school closed for Spring Recess

Notes



I want to give a shout out to our room 1 teachers; Mrs. Dougherty and Mrs. Parlato, who teach our 5 yr. old children. Their class has been counting the bells that ring out in the church steeple. The children are counting the bells helping them to learn to tell time. You can see the video they made on our Facebook page.

We would like to thank Mrs. Goodale for visiting the Early Learning Center the first week of April. She gave the children some wonderful lessons on graphing, voting, and counting.

A BIG THANK YOU to Nicole Ferrigno for playing the Easter Bunny for the Early Learning Center.

Till Next Month,

Jennifer Calonico, Director and **Kim Oca** Asst. Director



Old Stone Village Childcare

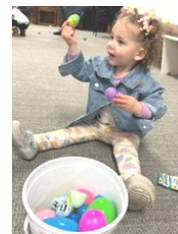
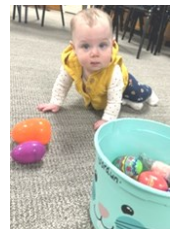
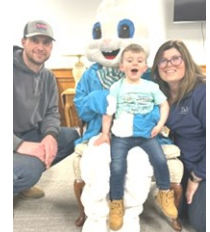
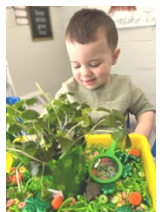
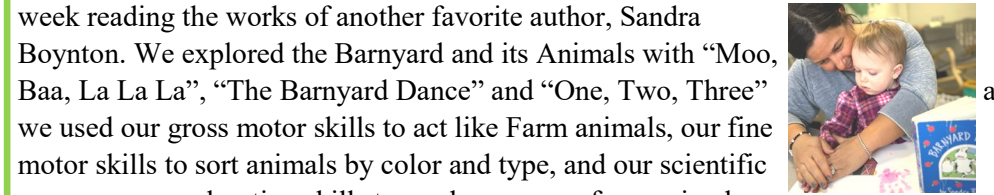
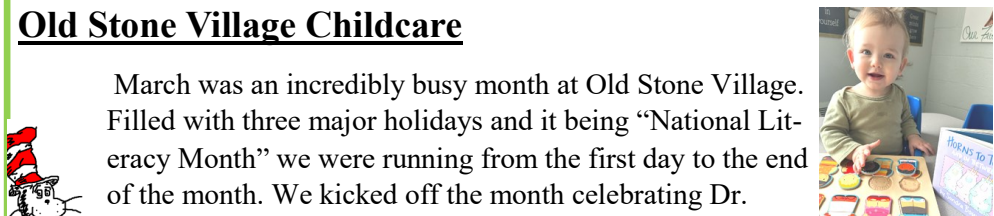
March was an incredibly busy month at Old Stone Village. Filled with three major holidays and it being “National Literacy Month” we were running from the first day to the end of the month. We kicked off the month celebrating Dr. Seuss’ birthday with our two favorite Dr. Seuss classics “The Cat in the Hat” and “One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish”. We even had a special visit from that special Cat himself who came in to read with our Villagers and of course share lots of hugs! The following week we spent a week reading the works of another favorite author, Sandra Boynton. We explored the Barnyard and its Animals with “Moo, Baa, La La La”, “The Barnyard Dance” and “One, Two, Three” as we used our gross motor skills to act like Farm animals, our fine motor skills to sort animals by color and type, and our scientific exploration skills to wash our many farm animals alone with our “Barnyard Bath” book. We ended the week with more of our favorite Sandra Boynton books that paired with a pajama day. We snuggled up our doll friends (and ourselves) as we read “The Going to Bed Book”, “Dino-Snores” and “Silly Lullaby”. We especially love this week as we focused on our phonological awareness which is the first step children must master in their early literacy skills.

The second full week of March was very colorful as our Villagers spent the whole week celebrating St. Patrick’s Day with color coded Rainbow days. We all enjoyed dressing ourselves (and our activities) in the color of the day from Red Monday through Blue Friday. We continued to focus on Early literacy through various St Patrick’s Day works including Pete the Cat, The Pout Pout Fish, Peppa Pig, following their journeys in discovering the different aspects of the holiday. Our Villagers created Leprechaun traps, filled pots of Gold, explored rainbow rice sensory bins and ended the week with a special healthy rainbow treat of fresh fruit salad. Our friends love exploring holidays but its extra special when we pair these fun times with our favorite books.

The third week of the month we spent with another favorite author of ours, Eric Carle. Eric Carle has written so many of our favorite books including “10 Little Ducks”, “The Tiny Seed”, “The Grouchy Ladybug” and our all time favorite “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” and his many variations of this book. We welcomed spring with The Hungry Caterpillar exploring his favorite foods and then meeting his bug friends within the garden. Our Infant room created a jar full of fingerprint “fireflies” after reading “The Very Lonely Firefly” with our friends, we made sure to put him in a jar full of his friends, so he never gets lonely again.

We finished the month with a week full of Easter fun, exploring all the signs of the holiday once again paired with some awesome books. We can easily say Easter week is one of our favorite weeks of the year as we are always packed with so much fun. We enjoyed our annual visit with baby chicks as our friend Mr. Tom a bushel full of 3 day old sweet baby chicks to wander and let our Villagers play with and love on them.

We finished the week with our Annual Easter Egg Hunts in the Parlor surrounded by our friends and family. Doodles the Easter Bunny came to see our friends and assisted with all 3 Easter Egg Hunts as our Villagers ran around the room and filled their baskets with lots of filled eggs, treats and small toys. We love watching the children interact with Doodles and have truly enjoyed continuing this tradition annually since he first debuted during Covid for our “Bunny Runs” when we drove around to our Villagers houses.



The month of April will start with a week of exploring Nursery Rhymes such as “Hickory Dickory Dock”, “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”, “Humpty Dumpty”, “Hey Diddle Diddle” and “Five Little Monkeys”. We will implement these stories into our sensory bins, artwork, science and math throughout the week. The second week of the month we will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child with Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday and Family Friday. This is a very special week at OSV every year as we get to invite people from the community in to participate in the daily activities. The third week of the month we will embrace the warm weather and explore our garden through our 5 senses as we plant new vegetables, herbs and flowers. The fourth week we will Celebrate Earth Day as we explore our earth, learn all about recycling on the land and in the waters, and choose a plant or tree for each of our classes to plant in our Garden this upcoming season. We will continue in our garden for the final week of the month as we discuss lifestyles in our Garden as we watch our caterpillar turn into butterflies and our seeds turn into plants.

We truly hope everyone in the entire church community had a very special Easter and know how truly blessed we are to be such an incredible part of our church community.

Until next month,

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

