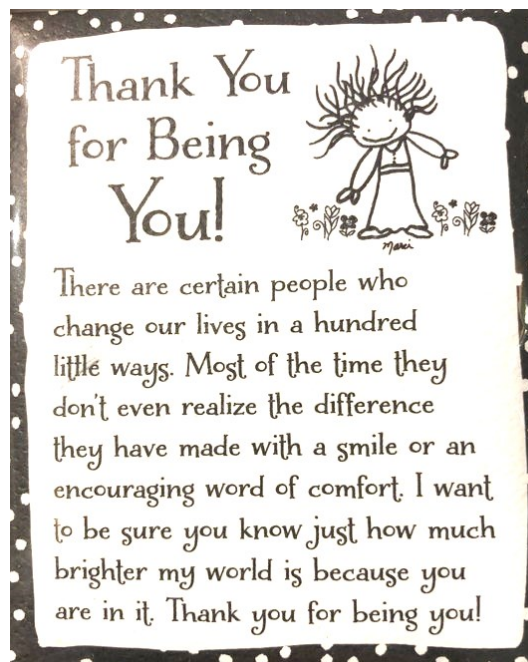




The lit candles in the Church Sanctuary and Steeple will shine perpetually as a beacon of God's strength. These lights reflect our prayers for peace, here and abroad. To help defray the cost of keeping the lights lit, donations are greatly appreciated.



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 Calonico, Director / Kim Oca, Assistant Director

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

Old Stone Village 203-390-5977

Nicole Ferrigno, Director / Kristen Sartor, Assistant Director

OSCV Hours: 6:30am—6:30 pm

Thrift Shop 203-467-2907 Ext 107

Saturdays from 10 am—3 pm

E-mail: oldstonechurch97@gmail.com

Website: www..oldstonechurchucc.org

The Herald

May 2024

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

Dear Friends,

May is a very busy month for some. Colleges and universities begin graduating events. Families start making summer plans and right in the middle of it all is Mother's Day. On this special occasion of Mother's Day, we take a moment to pay tribute to the most important woman in our lives – our mothers and those who have stepped up to the role of Mother. A mother's love knows no bounds, and her impact on our lives is immeasurable.

Mothers are the first to comfort us when we are hurt, the first to encourage us when we feel discouraged, and the first to celebrate our successes with us. They are our teachers, our role models, and our confidantes. Their selflessness and sacrifice know no limits.

These past few years have been a challenge for so many people, yet it seems Mothers have risen to the occasion!

The Bible says, "Honor your father and mother." This commandment reminds us of the importance of showing gratitude and appreciation to our mothers for all they have done and continue to do for us.

Mothers, we thank you for your unconditional love, your guidance, and your unwavering support. We honor you for your strength, your patience, and your devotion to your families. You are the backbone of our homes, the glue that holds us together, and the embodiment of God's love on earth.

Today, we acknowledge the sacrifices you have made for us, the sleepless nights you have endured, the tears you have shed, and the prayers you have offered on our behalf. We thank you for the countless meals you have cooked, the endless laundry you have done, and the many hours you have spent tending to our needs.

We pray that God will bless you with health, strength, and long life. May you continue to be a shining example of love, compassion, and grace to all those around you.

To all the mothers in our congregation and beyond, we say thank you. Thank you for being the embodiment of God's love and for being the heart of our homes. Happy Mother's Day!

Blessings

Pr. Mark

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

Sunday School Plant Sale
May 5, 2024

Mother's Day Breakfast
May 12, 2024 8:30am

Bible Study
"The Book of Jonah"
Monday afternoons thru 6/10 in the Parlor at 12:15pm



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

May 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

 <p>Happy Mother's Day!</p>			<p>1 ELC May Pole 11:15am</p>	<p>2 Mah-Jong (P) 12 Choir (S) 7pm Cub/Boy Scouts (BSR) 6pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Thrift Shop Open 10—3pm Reserved Party (FH) 4pm</p>
<p>5 Worship 10am "Friends Together" John 15:9-17 SS Plant Sale</p>	<p>6 Bible Study (P) 12:15pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Mah-Jong (P) 12 Choir (S) 7pm Cub/Boy Scouts (BSR) 6pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Thrift Shop Open 10—3pm Reserved Party (FH) 4pm</p>
<p>12 Worship 10am "Guided in Prayer" John 17:6-19 Mother's Day Buffet (FH) 8:30am</p>	<p>13 Bible Study (P) 12:15pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Mah-Jong (P) 12 Choir (S) 7pm Cub/Boy Scouts (BSR) 6pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Thrift Shop Open 10—3pm Reserved Party (FH) 4pm</p>
<p>19 Worship 10am "Spirit for All" Acts 2:1-21</p>	<p>20 Bible Study (P) 12:15pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Mah-Jong (P) 12 Choir (S) 7pm Cub/Boy Scouts (BSR) 6pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Thrift Shop Open 10—3pm</p>
<p>26 Worship 10am "Mysterious Encounter" John 3:1-17</p>	 <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Mah-Jong (P) 12 Choir (S) 7pm Cub/Boy Scouts (BSR) 6pm</p>	<p>31</p>	

In The Spotlight

Meet Mrs. Jennifer Calonico



Mrs. Calonico, is well known as the director of The Early Learning Center but her connection with this building started when she was just a child herself. In 1976, Jenn moved to East Haven with her family as her mother sought out a church to raise her daughters. Her mother found Old Stone and the rest is history. Jenn grew up in the church and officially became as member through her baptism as a teenager and continued with the sacrament of marriage in 1982.

Jenn grew up and began a career in banking for almost twenty years as an operation manager, but her duties as a new mom encouraged her to open her own home daycare so she could raise her own boys in the comfort of her home. Although Jenn wasn't employed with the church at this time, she remained an active member throughout her adulthood as both her sons graduated from The Early Learning Center. She would also occasionally fill in as a Sunday School teacher after service due to her love of children and early education.

As a church member, Jenn discovered a position was opening in the Early Learning Center known as that time at Playschool and she applied. Jenn began her tenure as a teacher in 1998. Over the past 25 years Jenn took on many roles within the Early Learning Center including a teacher, assistant director, and currently sits as the director. Through Connecticut's Charters Course program, Jenn achieved her CDA Child Development Associate and Head teacher certificate while working here.

Aside from her duties as a church employee, Jenn also volunteers her time to sit on several committees within the church. This currently includes the open and affirming committee and church choir. In the past she has also served on Global Outreach, Deacon, and Pastoral Search Committee. One of her favorite church events is "Maundy Thursday" when a representation of the last supper is depicted on the altar.

When asked what the biggest change has been over the past five years, Jenn immediately acknowledged the hiring of Pastor Mark Pilletere. Since his hiring, Jenn has seen the benefits from his leadership. Jenn again brought up how special this congregation is. As a non "church member" I find it extremely heartwarming to hear each interviewee comment on the church family. Each person who has been interviewed described the members as a second family who are always willing to lend a hand whenever needed.

Jenn has several interests outside of the building. She enjoys traveling, crafts, and spending time on the beach. However, one of her greatest passions is investigating the Paranormal and giving back to this community. She has volunteered for several years at East Haven's Haunted Isle raising funds for the community. In addition, recently both Jenn and her son Leo started Slaughter on Stoddard, a Halloween attraction, which is free to the community with a donation of food items to the East Haven Food Pantry.

Jenn's mother may have introduced her into this community, but it may be the history and "spirit" of Old Stone Church that is keeping her within our realm.

Nicole Ferrigno, OSCV Director

People in our prayers...

- *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
- *Rhyse Telkas *Dennis Hoyt *Bob Stevens *Rick Manley



Month of May Deacons in Charge:

Lance Kilburn and Sue Carrozza
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 at: oldstonepastor@yahoo.com. Pastor Mark will read them aloud on Sunday during service.

Should you need a call, please note that in the message.

WHAT'S COOKIN'? What's for dinner? Beef, Chicken or Shrimp? Whatever you decide, I hope you enjoy. Here are some fun recipes from Melissa's Southern Kitchen

Pasta Bolognese

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 lb box dry rigatoni pasta | 1 1/2 lb lean ground beef | 8 oz ground pork or Italian sausage |
| 2 Tbsp olive oil | 1 medium onion diced | 1 medium carrot peeled and diced |
| 1 rib celery diced | 1 large bay leaf | 1 1/2 tsp salt divided use |
| 1 tsp black pepper divided | 4 garlic cloves minced | 1 28 oz can crushed tomatoes |
| 1 15 oz can tomato sauce | 1/2 cup beef stock or red wine | 2 Tbsp dry Italian seasoning |
| 1 tsp granulated garlic | 1 tsp onion powder | 1/2-1 tsp crushed red pepper flakes |
| 1/2 cup heavy cream | 2 1/2 cups mozzarella cheese | 2-3 Tbsp shredded Parmesan cheese |



Cook the rigatoni in salted water per the package directions until al dente. Drain well then set aside.

In a large Dutch oven drizzled with olive oil cook the onion, carrot, celery and bay leaf over medium high heat for 3-5 minutes just until beginning to soften. Season with 1/2 teaspoon each salt and black pepper. Add the garlic to the pan, cooking for 1 minute longer. To the pot add the ground beef and Italian sausage or ground pork. Continue to cook over medium high heat until no pink remains. Drain excess fat from the pot. Add the crushed tomatoes, tomato sauce, beef stock, Italian seasoning, granulated garlic, onion powder and crushed red pepper flakes. Mix well. Bring to a simmer then lower the heat and gently bubble uncovered for 20 minutes. After 20 minutes, mix in the heavy cream. Remove from the heat. Reserve about 1 1/2 cups of sauce and remove the bay leaf from the pot. Add the cooked rigatoni to the Dutch oven, mix until fully coated. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Spray a 13x9 inch baking dish with cooking spray. Pour half of the rigatoni into the prepared dish. Sprinkle with 1 1/2 cup of shredded mozzarella cheese. Pour the remaining rigatoni into the dish. Spoon the reserved sauce on top. Sprinkle with 1 cup cheese and Parmesan cheese. Place into the oven and bake for 35-40 minutes. Garnish with fresh parsley and serve. *Notes: You can use bacon drippings in place of olive oil to cook the vegetables.*

Mushroom Chicken Recipe

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 1/2 lbs boneless skinless chicken breasts or thighs 1/4 inch slices | 2 Tbsp soy sauce or teriyaki sauce |
| 1/2 tsp granulated garlic | 1/2 tsp onion powder |
| 2 Tbsp soy sauce or teriyaki sauce | 2 Tbsp cornstarch |
- Sauce: 1/2 cup low sodium chicken stock 1/4 cup packed light brown sugar 1/4 cup soy sauce or teriyaki sauce
 1 1/2 Tbsp oyster sauce 1 Tbsp rice wine vinegar 1 Tbsp cornstarch



- Additions: 3 Tbsp vegetable oil 8 ounces button mushrooms thinly sliced 2 cups thinly sliced fresh zucchini
 1 Tbsp grated fresh ginger 3 medium cloves garlic minced cooked rice, sesame seeds and green onion

Place sliced chicken in a medium-sized bowl. Add the soy sauce, garlic powder, and onion powder, and toss to combine. Add the cornstarch and stir to combine, so the chicken is coated. Set aside. In a small bowl, stir together the chicken stock, brown sugar, soy sauce, oyster sauce, rice wine vinegar, and cornstarch, and set aside. In a wok or large skillet over medium-high heat, add 1 tablespoon of the oil. Once hot, add the chicken to the pan in a single layer. Let chicken sit for 30 seconds to a minute to get a sear on the bottom. Start tossing the chicken around and letting it sear until it is cooked through, 5-6 minutes. Remove to a platter. To the wok or skillet, add another tablespoon of oil. Add mushrooms and sear while stirring until they begin to soften, about 2 minutes. Place them onto the plate with the chicken. Add the remaining oil and cook the zucchini, constantly stirring, until tender-crisp, about 2-3 minutes. Place the zucchini on the plate with the chicken and mushrooms. Add ginger and garlic to the skillet. Cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add the sauce and stir. As soon as it starts to bubble, add all of the ingredients back to the pan and coat in the sauce. (Chicken, Mushrooms and Zucchini.) Let it simmer together in the sauce for 1-2 minutes until warmed through, and the sauce has thickened. Serve immediately over fried rice white rice or brown rice garnished with sesame seeds and green onions. *Notes: You can use lower sodium soy or teriyaki for this recipe.*

Shrimp Toast

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 16 inch French baguette sliced into 16 | 1 lb medium shrimp peeled, deveined, roughly chopped |
| 1/3 cup diced red bell pepper | 6 green onions thinly sliced |
| 1 tsp granulated garlic | 1 tsp Old Bay |
| 4 oz chive and onion cream cheese softened | 1/2 tsp salt |
| 1/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese | 1/2 tsp lemon pepper |
| | few dashes hot sauce |
| | 1 1/2 cup shredded Colby jack |
| | smoked paprika for dusting the tops |



Preheat oven to broil setting. Brush a large sheet pan with oil or spray with cooking spray. Brush both sides of bread with olive oil. Arrange baguette slices on pan. Broil for 2-3 minutes per side or just until toasted. Meanwhile, In a skillet heat a drizzle of olive oil. Add red bell pepper and green onion. Cook over medium-high heat for 2 minutes or just until beginning to soften. (Reserve some green onion for garnishing.) To the skillet add the shrimp. Cook for 2 minutes until shrimp is fully cooked then add seafood seasoning, granulated garlic, salt and lemon pepper. Mix thoroughly, then add cream cheese, 1/2 cup Colby jack cheese, Parmesan cheese and a few dashes of hot sauce. Turn the heat off and mix until fully combined. Remove from heat. Divide shrimp mixture evenly between baguette slices and top with reserved shredded Colby jack cheese. Dust tops with paprika. Lower oven to 400°F. Bake for 8-10 minutes or just until tops are golden and cheese has melted. Broil at the end to brown further, if desired. Garnish with green onions and serve immediately.

Happy Anniversary!

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

May Birthdays

- 5/01 Madelyn Cesario
- 5/02 Nancy Wobensmith
- 5/04 Gino DelGuidice
- 5/06 Abigail Shute
- 5/09 Zachary Vineyard
- 5/11 Kim Korwek
- 5/11 Skip Thomas
- 5/12 Deborah Greatsinger
- 5/13 Judy Butler
- 5/13 Brenda MacDonald
- 5/15 Susan Alberino
- 5/16 Wendy Salmoiraghi
- 5/17 Carol Apuzzo
- 5/17 Tristan Evarts
- 5/18 Alberta Vitale
- 5/19 Shannon Celata
- 5/19 Dorothy Maturo
- 5/24 Robert Zoccano
- 5/24 Sean Manley, Sr.
- 5/26 Annie Cole
- 5/26 Larissa Manley
- 5/27 Matthew Gelo
- 5/27 Kara Ludington
- 5/28 Sean Barry
- 5/28 Todd Barry



THRIFT SHOP

We are transitioning into spring and summer apparel. We are looking forward to the Flea Market as we always do well on that day. Thanks to Heidi and Sean for fixing the door in the hall so we have more room to put the many donations we get every Saturday. We have a few more volunteers and are thankful to them!
Carole Landers

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.



FAITH FORMATION

The Sunday school has enjoyed having full classes. We continued learning about Easter and sang in church on Easter Sunday. We had fun in the kitchen making "Hamantashen" cookies while we learned about ESTHER. 'Maybe we were born for a time such as this.'



Our basil plants, that we sowed last month when learning about parables, are ready to be planted.

We will be studying the early Christian church in May along with the FRUITS of the SPIRIT. Our MOTHER'S DAY plant sale is on May 5th. We are learning a new song for Children's Sunday on June 9th.

Thank you for supporting our Sunday school activities.

BIBLE STUDY will look at the story of JONAH starting April 29th at 12:15 in the parlor.

Blessings, *Louise Ward*



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.

BOTTLE DRIVE TO BENEFIT THE OSC SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School student will be collecting cans and bottles for recycling. Just count them as follows by size into separate clear bags.

12-24 oz. water:	100 per bag
12-24 oz soda:	100 per bag
1 liter:	50 per bag
2 liter:	35 per bag
cans:	200 per bag

All glass bottles must be brought back in "beer boxes" 12, 18 or 24 each. No other boxes or boxing increments will be accepted.



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 or call the office at 203-467-2907

BOARD OF DEACONS

As we continue our spiritual life with the church in May, we are thankful to have Pastor Mark back from a well deserved vacation, and also very grateful that Rev. Dr. Lianne Winslow led us in worship during Pastor Mark's absence.

May 19 is Pentecost Sunday, all are encouraged to wear the color red. During the service, we will also be celebrating two Baptisms.

We have recently received a few applications for membership to Old Stone Church, and there are others who have expressed interest in becoming members. It is the deacons responsibility to meet with the applicants and to approve their application. We are planning a "Meet and Greet" with the applicants following the service on May 19th. It will give the deacons an opportunity to get to know the applicants better and for the prospective members to ask any questions they may have. We will meet in the parlor and a light lunch will be provided.

For those people that are interested in becoming members who have not yet submitted an application, we would encourage you to do so quickly so we can include you in the May 19th meeting. If you have any questions, please speak to either Pastor Mark or any of the deacons.

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. If you are new to our services, please join us for a time of fellowship in Fellowship Hall after our Sunday worship service, so 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 May are Sue Carrozza and Lance Kilburn.

Tom Collopy, Chairperson

Old Stone Church
Mother's Day Breakfast
Sunday, May 12, 2024



Breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 8:30 a.m.

Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

Continental Breakfast Buffet

Mother's Day Plant Sale

Plants are offered at \$5.00 each 6 pack

All proceeds will benefit the Sunday School Program and Activities

To reserve your plant(s), please complete the form below and return it with your payment to the Faith Formation Table or place it in the collection plate by **May 5, 2024**. You may make checks payable to OLD STONE CHURCH. The plants will be available for pick-up on Sunday, May 12th.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Marigold _____ qty. x \$ 5.00 / 6 pk. = \$ _____

Petunia _____ qty x \$5.00 / 6 pk. = \$ _____

Impatiens _____ qty x \$ 5.00 / 6 pk. = \$ _____

of plants desired _____ Amt. Enclosed \$ _____

KEEP THIS AS A RECORD OF YOUR ORDER QTY.

Marigold _____ Petunia _____ Impatiens _____



New York Transportation Day - May 4, 2024

**The Shore Line Trolley Museum,
17 River St, East Haven, CT, 06512**

Join us for a journey through time as we celebrate the rich history of New York's transportation at the New York Transportation Day on May 4, 2024! Immerse yourself in the nostalgia of a bygone era with a spectacular display of trolley and rapid transit vehicles that once traversed the bustling streets of this iconic city.

*Step Back in Time with Iconic Rides

*Vehicles Galore - On Display and In Operation

*Live Broadcast with "Car Bob" on WPKN

*Explore New York Culture

*Bring Your Family for a Memorable Day

Don't miss this unique opportunity to relive the past and celebrate the iconic vehicles that shaped the Big Apple's dynamic landscape. New York Transportation Day - where history comes alive! Grounds open at 10am and close at 3pm

**Musical Art Society Presents:
Woodwind Orchestra Concert**

Saturday, May 4at 2pm in the Auditorium



Flute Loops is an adult flute choir directed by Erin Vivero. The ensemble includes a variety of flutes such as the concert flute, alto flute, bass flute, and sometimes even the piccolo. The repertoire is specifically arranged or composed for multiple flutes. This can include classical pieces, contemporary compositions, arrangements of popular music and original works written specifically for the flute choir. The Flute Loops ensemble plays throughout Connecticut and combines music with theatrics.

Registration is required to attend this in person event. Sat. May 4, 2024 at 2:00pm . J. Blackstone Memorial Library 758 Maib Street Branford, CT 203-488-1441

In local news

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ, 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture, and loss of blood.



feeding the hungry, and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father's Kingdom and performing

Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham was a member of the house of David. He was the Son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, and Mary, his devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by his mother Mary, his faithful Apostles, numerous disciples, and many other followers.

miracles, such as feeding over 5000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before His death, He held a Last Supper, celebrating the Passover Feast, at which He foretold His death.

The body was quickly buried in a stone grave, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the Tomb. Roman Soldiers were put on guard.

Jesus was self educated and spent most of his adult life working as a Teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a Medical Doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Up until the time of his death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the good news, healing the sick, touching the lonely,

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did and believe in Him. Donations may be sent to anyone in need.

THIS JUST IN>> The Lord Jesus Christ, arose from the dead. He is alive. He is the Mighty Conqueror! He defeated death, hell and the grave. He arose victorious and is alive for evermore. The Lord Jesus Christ is alive! He is not dead. There is an empty tomb in Jerusalem. The Lord Jesus Christ has risen! The Good News is the Lord Jesus Christ arose from the dead and is alive for evermore!

-Errol Anthony Smythe



Silver Lake Open House Sunday, May 19

1-5 p.m.

This free event is open to all ages. Registration requested by May 16.



Sign up online www.SilverLakeCT.org



SILVER LAKE Camp & Retreat Center

Take a walking tour, see the cabins and other buildings, find out where the Freds (bathrooms) are, and check out the ropes courses and the waterfront.

Feel free to arrive and leave anytime between 1 and 5 p.m. Walking tours of camp will occur periodically throughout the afternoon, with the last tour starting at 4 p.m.



JUNE 8, 2024

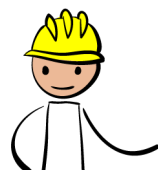
9 am—2 pm

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

FINANCE, BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Spring is well under way and several projects are lined up around the church. The rest of Stonework repointing and painting of the outside doors has begun, the first phase to get the Boiler ready to be upgraded is complete, quotes are coming in so we can get the fence repaired, as well as the landing by the Kitchen door replaced. Lawncare and garden beatification has begun and will continue until the leaves fall. Thank you to all our hard working volunteers! Should you want to volunteer, please contact the church office or let's sit and chat on a Sunday morning. No job is too small.

Respectfully submitted,
Myles Standish, Chairperson



DID YOU KNOW???

One of the many things we will be doing to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of Old Stone Meetinghouse, is some fun with the actual history of our church. Since there is so much of it, the history sub-committee will be writing questions for all of you to answer. In addition, we will drop tidbits of past history about the church, the town and the building. We hope you will enjoy having fun with us.

DID YOU KNOW...

Church services in East Haven were first held in 1679 in both the old school house and private homes. On October 8, 1711 the East Haven Church, Congregational, was founded. Its name was the First Ecclesiastical Society of East Haven. It wasn't until 1774, Old Stone Meetinghouse was built. Before then, two wooden buildings were built and both became too small for the congregation. Old Stone Church was built entirely by members with the help of Quinnipiac Indians. Each stone was personally placed by the architect. We will describe what the interior of the church looked like in the next article.

The Chapel was built exactly 100 years after our church by the grandson of the architect who built the church. The women of the congregation dedicated it to the hardy individuals who worked so hard to build the church, and they raised all the money to pay for it. The Chapel's front doors are on Main Street and are no longer used. They are affectionately known as the doors to nowhere. All school graduations were held in the Chapel for many years.

It is interesting to note that in those years past, being a resident of a town, was a tantamount to being a member of a local church. It wasn't 100 percent, but it was a very large majority.

For the first 213 years, East Haven and surrounding towns knew us as the First Ecclesiastical Society of East Haven. On April 30, 1924 (one hundred years ago) legal papers were signed and recorded changing the name to The First Congregational Church of East Haven. All buildings, personal property and finances were legally transferred at that time.

The Early Learning Center

May Themes

The month of May offers a time where preschoolers can continue to get outside and explore while learning at the same time with fun and exciting themes. This month's themes are flowers, bugs/insects, Memorial Day, Mother's Day, and life in the pond. These themes will provide opportunities for the children to learn about the world around them and to engage in meaningful activities that promote creativity, empathy, and critical thinking.

Our Activities and Projects

This month's themes will be explored through various activities, such as science experiments, art projects, sensory play, music and movement, and literacy and math activities.

Our annual celebration of May Day this year is Wednesday, May 1st. We are hoping for good weather for the children and their parents to march around the May Pole. The children made beautiful May baskets, which will be a gift for their parents.



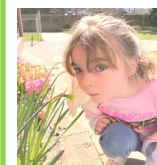
In, May when nature is in full bloom, the children will spot all kinds of bugs/insects so, what better way to incorporate them into our learning by creating unique butterfly wing patterns and learning shapes at the same time. Other insects included in our bug/insect theme are ladybugs, bees, and grasshoppers. The children will learn fun facts about each bug/insect. This is a popular preschool theme because children are fascinated with and love to explore and observe bugs.



This month is also a great time to learn about flowers. Preschoolers love to pick flowers! Who can resist? They're so pretty and colorful. A flower theme engages so many senses but also offers hands on exploration when the flowers are at our fingertips. The children will use flowers to paint, this is a fun and unique process art experience for preschoolers.

As Memorial Day falls on the last Monday of May, it's another popular theme for preschoolers to learn about. This will include discussing the meaning of the holiday, learning about the American flag, and creating patriotic crafts.

The children are now busy making gifts and cards for Mother's Day. Mrs. Dougherty and Mrs. Parlato's Pre-K class is busy making a very special bonnet for their moms to wear for their Mother's Day tea party. The younger classes are working on a surprise gift for their moms.



- Room one is doing a unit on flowers. They will paint flowers, learn the parts of a flowers, and a color changing experiment with flowers. Preschoolers love participating in science experiments. They not only experience what feels like magic to them but they are also making predictions and observations while having conversations with their teachers and peers about what's happening.

- Room two- The children will do a unit on butterflies. They will learn about the life cycle of a butterfly and go on a butterfly hunt. They will learn big words: metamorphosis and symmetry.
- Room three- The children will learn all about bees. They are one of the hardest workers on the planet who helps take care of some of our most important plants and flowers. They will learn what bees eat, and how they make their hives.

NOTES

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6th-10th. I would like to recognize all of the Early Learning Center teachers who are dedicated, creative, and caring people! Kim Oca, Kara Ludington, Judy Butler, Joan Dougherty, Samantha Parlato, Danielle Stevens, Dawn Licata, Allison Griffin, Bernadette Libero, Noreen Piscitelli, and Laura Curcurello. Thank you for all you do!



The Early Learning Center (continued)

Thank you to all of our friends and families who voted to nominate the Early Learning Center into the top five in Best on The Shoreline 2024. We will continue to need your support when voting opens for the top three in May. The voting phase of the contest is May 20-June 9, 2024. You can vote for us every day in four categories: private school, preschool, summer camp, and tutor.

School will be closed May 27th for Memorial Day.

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page to see all the great things that are happening at the Early Learning Center.

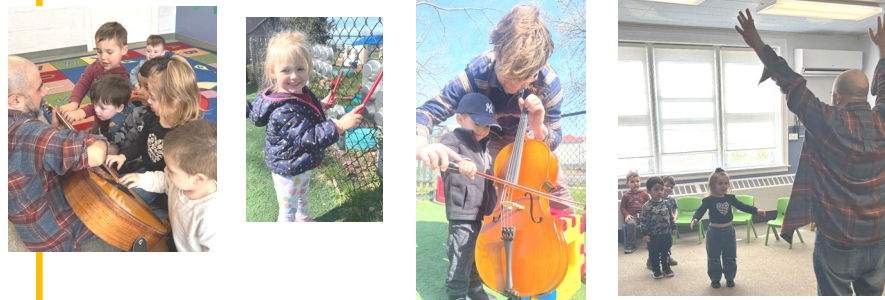
Happy Mother's Day!

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

Old Stone Village News

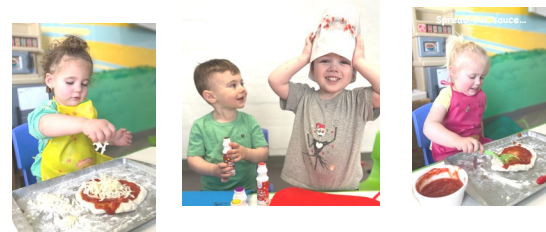
April was a month full of sensory learning as our villagers used their five senses to explore our outdoor environment and garden. The beginning of Spring is always a great opportunity to explore the concept of change and growth.

Our villagers began this sensory learning experience by celebrating the National Association for the Education of Young Children's Week of the Young Child. This was "a fun-filled week celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities." (NAEYC) Throughout this week our villagers were able to utilize their senses as they listened to rhythms of music, smelled and tasted their own personal pizzas, and felt the different textures of art mediums. The themes for this week included Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday.



On **Music Monday**, Mr. Robert Messoro came to entertain our villagers with his musical expertise. He is often found playing at the Hagan Memorial Library for younger toddlers.

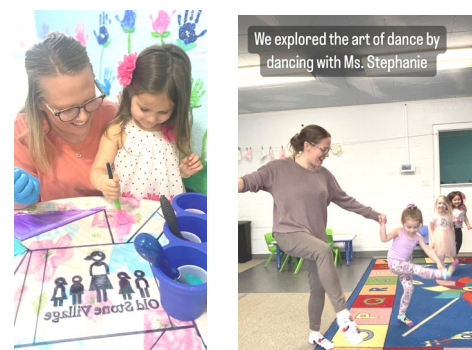
Tasty Tuesday was sure a treat as Mike and Ashley Abate, from Rocco's Off Wooster, provided personal pizzas for our children to make and enjoy.



Our villagers **worked together on Wednesday** to beautify our garden through planting and painting.



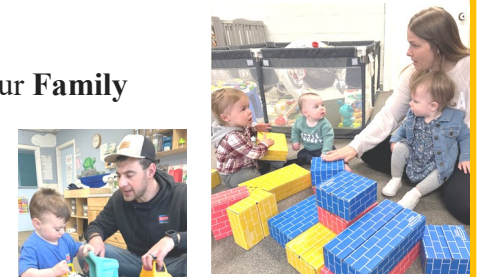
Our villagers continued working together using their artistic skills on **Artsy Thursday**, as they created an OSV 'stained glass' window under the guidance of our assistant director Kristen Sartor. The students also engaged in the art of different genres of dance with one of our teachers, Ms. Stephanie. Ms. Stephanie, was an avid dancer her entire life as well as high school cheerleading coach for the past several years.



Old Stone Village News (continued)



We ended our Week of the Young Child with our **Family Friday**. On this day several family members from all three classrooms came in to share a talent, book, or activity with our villagers.



The following two weeks of April also highlighted this sensory learning as our villagers investigated our garden through their five senses. They began by feeling the different textures that are found in our garden environment including soil, rocks, grass, water, and sand. They smelled different herbs and flowers, and tasted the different fruits and vegetables grown in our garden.



Our villagers continued their sensory exploration the following two weeks of April as we celebrated Earth Day. These weeks offered many opportunities for our villagers to have a meaningful sensory experience as they "got down and dirty" and planted in our garden, discovered the power of Solar Energy, and the importance of recycling. We are so thankful to have two garden enthusiasts on staff who aided with the beautification and reinvention of our little garden. We are positive we will have a bountiful harvest this summer thanks to Ms. Louise and Ms. Allison.



The month of April concluded with one of our favorite units of the year, a caterpillar's metamorphosis. During the last week of April, we received our caterpillars. Our villagers will watch our caterpillars grow throughout early May until they eventually begin their metamorphosis into butterflies. Once we've had ample time to study our butterflies our villagers will release them into our garden with hopes that they will stick around during the summer months.

May is one of our favorite months as we begin the month by recognizing our staff for Teacher Appreciation Week. At Old Stone Village, we love a good theme and this year we have selected an underwater theme because our center and staff are O'Fishally the best! We will spend the first week of May celebrating our staff with various tokens of affection with this under the sea theme. Our daily themes include...

Monday-Let's SHELL-ebate YOU! Tuesday- Thanks for Being So JAW-Some!
Wednesday-We WHALE-y Appreciate All You Do! Thursday-You Make us Happy as a CLAM!
Friday- You Make OSV OCEANS of Fun!

During this week we will celebrate our staff, but our children will also be learning about sea creatures with a daily trip to the "aquarium." Throughout this week, our villagers will also be busy creating their Mother's Day projects.

This year we will be hosting our first, "Muffin's with Mom." where we will present our village moms with their special hand painted gifts. We love inviting and sharing our learning with our families and these special holidays are the perfect time to build these bonds with our families.

We'll continue the month of May on a journey through the "zoo." Our villagers will discover many animals from different continents. We will be learning about some main animals from North America, Asia, Australia, Africa, and South America. Each day our villagers will investigate these animals in terms of their natural habitats, individual characteristics, and how zookeepers take care of each of these animals while at the zoo. We'll finish off May with a week on picnics, just in time for Memorial Day.

Our villagers will continue learning through their senses, as they build their schema about the world around them.

We are so thankful we have the opportunity to plant these early learning seeds and foster the growth of our early learners during their foundational years.

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