



# the Copper Hill Connection

March 2015



## Pastor's Postings A Word of Encouragement

by Rev. Dr. Kelvin S. Jones

The prospect of spring is a pleasant thought after a long winter. Pleasant words are also an encouragement. The wise king of Israel once wrote, "Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones" (Prov. 16:24). Encouraging words are a gift we can give to each other. The most powerful encouraging words are from the Bible itself. In fact, the Bible is full of promises to lift our spirits and strengthen us in all situations. Here are a few such Bible gems:

**Strength** when burdens weigh us down—"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). "Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31).

**Rest:** when our spirits need quiet time—"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

**Perspective** when someone has wronged us: In God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?" (Psalm 56:4).

**Healing:** reciting God's promises keeps us positive—"My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice...I sought the LORD, and He answered me; he delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:2,4).

**Forgiveness** when we feel guilty and repentant—"The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love...He does not treat us as our sins deserve" (Psalm 103:8,10); "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

**Getting Older:** "Even to your old age and gray hairs... I am He, who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you" (Isaiah 46:4).

I pray that you will discover as I have that over and over again we find in Scripture just the encouraging word that we need. When you have found such a word, be sure to share it with a friend who could use a lift too.



Of all the worlds' religions,  
Christianity is set apart because of Easter.  
Buddha, Mohammed, and the rest are still dead  
but Jesus is alive!

## EASTER EVENTS

Join us for special holiday observances beginning on **March 29—Palm Sunday**. On this day when we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, we will receive new members. Our choir will present, "What Kind of Love Is This?"—a song describing Jesus' amazing love for us.

Easter Week continues with the special **Holy Thursday Communion** service, 7 PM on April 2.

**Easter Sunday—April 5, 9:30 AM**—will be a joyful day when we celebrate the victory of Christ our Savior over death. The choir's special medley includes the traditional hymn, "Welcome Happy Morning," followed by the exciting "Easter Song." The children will join in with musical instruments to help us celebrate. JoAnne Jones will play "Rejoice, the Lord is King" on her Celtic harp. Pastor Kelvin will conclude his Lenten series on the names of Jesus with "Jesus is Lord!"

Join us for an **Easter brunch** after the Easter Service, while the children search for eggs.

## Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday—April 5

Following the 9:30 Easter Service

Children of all ages welcome!





# Ministries of Our Church

## The Power of Prayer

What would happen if we stepped up our prayer for God's will for our church and community? We can't begin to imagine what God's power could do through the prayers of His people!

On Wednesday mornings, some of the ladies of our church are doing a Bible study on "The Power of Prayer." We meet at Higley Village Clubhouse in East Granby to make it convenient for others in the community.

The study, led by JoAnne Jones, our pastor's wife, combines Scripture with prayer strategies from various authors such as E.M. Bounds, Charles Stanley, and others. We are seeing God's answers to our prayers!

Our **Ladies' Bible Study** will meet through the end of March. New friends are welcome.

## Firemen's Dinner

Our church held our annual dinner for the East Granby Fire Company in January. Several from our church served a home-cooked meal. We are appreciative of their faithful service to the community.

## United Methodist Women

In order to make it more convenient for our younger woman, the UMW met at a special time on Sunday, January 18. While we planned our new 2015 calendar of events, the men were busy preparing a delicious pancake brunch for everyone. What a treat! Thank you, Men!

## "Goings On" at Our Church

### Church Council Meetings - - New Day & Time: Sun. 4 PM- - Mar. 22 & April 19



To enable more people to attend our Church Council meetings, we are going to a more convenient time: Sunday afternoons, at 4 PM, on March 22 and April 19. These meetings are open to all. The council is the place where we discuss the business of the church. Join us to understand the "why" behind our decisions, and to share your ideas!

### 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Preparations - - Sun. March 15, *Memory Moment #1* - - 1:30 PM

All who have memories of our church's past are invited to come and share these with everyone. The 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our church (1816) may seem like a long way off, but it will be here before we know it! Come and share your memories.

## Corned Beef Dinner

You won't want to miss our annual Corned Beef Dinner on **Saturday, March 21 at 5 PM**. JoAnne Jones will play a prelude of Irish music on her Celtic harp. The traditional menu of delicious home-cooked food will include corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots, along with rolls and Irish bread. Top off your meal with a choice of home-made cakes for dessert.



The cost will be \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12, and preschoolers eat free. For reservations, call Susan at (860) 668-1031.

## Spring Tag & Bake Sale

Unbeatable bargains and yummy home-made treats await you at our annual Spring Tag & Bake Sale, **Saturday, April 18**, from 9 AM until 2 PM. Please bring food items, *wrapped and priced*, before 9 AM. You may drop off your other donations on Saturday, **April 11** between 9 AM and 2 PM. If you need items picked up, you may call Susan at (860) 668-1031.

## SAVE the DATE: New Events!

Sat. May 2: **Ladies' Tea**: a great idea for Moms and daughters

Sat. May 30: **Chicken Barbecue** with Children's activities

For more details, check Facebook, our website, or the church bulletin, or call the parsonage at 860-653-2891.



## Activities

### You May Have Missed

On February 7, we held our second *Winter Picnic*. We "cranked up the heat" for about 30 participants who came in summer attire. A multi-generational event, there were activities for all, followed by a "picnic" of hamburgers and hot dogs, salads and desserts.

On the evening of February 18, we held a special *Ash Wednesday Prayer Service*. In addition to receiving ashes, the entire group prayed for our church, our country, and our world.



## **New Morning Service Time! - - 9:30 AM - - Beginning Sun. March 8**

With a unanimous council vote and congregational support, we have decided to change our Sunday morning worship service time from 9 AM to 9:30 AM. Most agreed that the change would make attendance easier for parents and children, elder seniors, and visitors. The new time starts on March 8, which is the beginning of *Daylight Savings time*. So you'll only lose a half hour instead of a whole hour!

## **Copper Hill Responds to the Ebola Crisis**

One of the great needs in our world over the past several months has been the need for resources to combat the worst Ebola virus outbreak in history in West Africa. Our church believes that God calls all Christians to be responsive to such needs, not only in our own areas, but also in other areas of the world. Today more than ever, all peoples of the world are, in some sense, our neighbors (see Luke 10:25-37).

Our church has responded with a total of \$1240 toward this need channeled in various ways. We contributed \$450 to the UM fund designated to help with the Ebola Health Crisis.

Stopping Ebola requires a multi-faceted effort. For example, established cultural practices in the area, such as washing of the dead, had to be stopped. Fear of survivors gripped everyone. Our church also contributed \$500 to the **UM fund for African Regional Health** in Liberia and Sierra Leone, which helps with community education about the disease.

The Ebola outbreak revealed that the health care system was not equipped to deal with the disease. Health care workers were dying for lack of proper protection. Inadequate isolation at facilities was contributing to the spread of the disease. Our UMW contributed \$90 to **World Hope International**, an excellent charity which has been very active in strengthening healthcare infrastructure to deal with the disease. They have constructed and are managing 15 new community care centers in Sierra Leone, the hardest hit country. They have provided new ambulances to be used only for Ebola patients.

Another problem was that hospital facilities and communities did not have adequate water supplies to deal with the cleaning needed to prevent the spread of this disease. Copper Hill Church also contributed \$200 to the UM fund called **Liberia Water for Life** which helps meet this need.

## **Celebrating Continuing Sanctuary Renovations**

Our old green sanctuary **front doors** had deteriorated just enough that they no longer closed properly or opened easily. Now, just in time to help keep us warm through this severe winter, our new fiberglass doors have been installed. For now, the doors are white, but they will need additional coats of paint. The contractor replaced the old framing to be sure the new doors would hang properly and securely. After the weather breaks a little, Pastor Kelvin Jones will lead a dedication liturgy for them.

As you know, the severe winter cold has been too much for our **current heating situation** in the sanctuary. So we retreated temporarily to the fellowship hall once again for worship. However, Trustee Ron Prevost is heading up the effort to make our sanctuary warmer. Another layer of storm windows has now been ordered. There is already a storm window on the outside, so this nearly invisible new layer will go on the inside. It can be removed in the summer to open windows if desired. The new storms should be going up soon. In addition, as a part of in our continued work to enhance our electric heat, Ron is also working with an electrical contractor to check out the cycling unit.

On February 22, we discovered that our water had frozen at church and a pipe had burst in the basement. The leak has now been repaired and the pipe has been insulated.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live."  
John 11:25 NRSV



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## Copper Hill Connection

The newsletter for members and friends of  
Copper Hill United Methodist Church, 27 Copper Hill Road, East Granby, CT 06026  
Editor: Judy Holcomb      Assistant Editor: JoAnne D. Jones  
If you would prefer to receive your copy by email, please let us know.

### Celebrate with Us!

**March 8—9:30 AM: New Morning Service Time begins!**

**March 29—9:30 AM: Palm Sunday Service, Choir Special**

**April 2—7 PM: Holy Thursday Communion Service**

**April 5—9:30 AM: Easter Sunday Service**

Choir and Children, Celtic Harp

Free Easter Brunch—following the service

& EASTER EGG HUNT—for children of all ages



Find us on the **web**: [www.CopperHillChurch.us](http://www.CopperHillChurch.us)

**Pastor's Blog**: at [www.learntobewise.com](http://www.learntobewise.com)

**Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/copperhillchurch](http://www.facebook.com/copperhillchurch)

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