



# The Copper Hill Connection

December 2017

## Pastor's Postings

by Rev. Dr. Kelvin S. Jones

### Christmas Discoveries

When it comes to Christmas, all of us love to discover packages with our name on them under the tree. Whether it's a new article of clothing we've been waiting for, a new toy (yes, adults like toys too!), or a gift card for our favorite store, we enjoy the surprises.

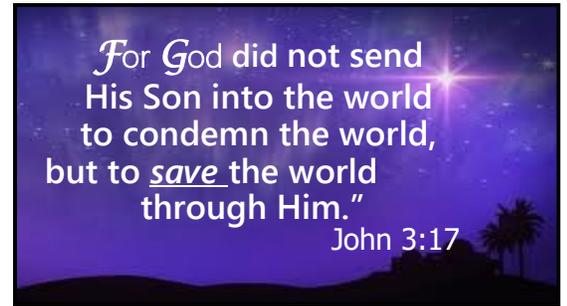


Frankly, we just enjoy receiving gifts.

Actually it would be a shame if all we discover during Christmas are material things. After all, it is the celebration of the birthday of Jesus, who came to reveal His heavenly Father to us. Sometimes Jesus is called "the Word" because, as He said, "Everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15 NIV). I think one good thing about Christmas coming every year is that God gets a chance to reveal a little more about Himself each time. The Nativity narratives are packed with insights for us. So a great goal for us all this Christmas would be to spend some time in the age-old Scriptures again in order to reach some present-day discoveries that impact our own spiritual lives.

This year our Christmas message series is designed to help us to do just that: to focus on discoveries. The first two chapters of Luke's Gospel are filled with surprising findings key characters made during the days surrounding Jesus' birth. These are relayed to us in Mary's Song (The Magnificat), Zechariah's prophecy, the angels' revelations to shepherds, and in the account of Simeon and the Christ Child.

So in each Christmas message here at Copper Hill Church, we will learn about the discovery that the main character made. Then we will apply its truth to ourselves. The goal is to put new meaning in our worship of the newborn King as we sing familiar refrains like, "O come let us adore Him." I hope that you can worship with us and make some spiritual discoveries of your own.



## **CHRIST**mas Celebrations

### "The Hanging of the Greens"

On **Dec. 17** at **9:30 AM**, the children will present the story of Christmas in "The Hanging of The Greens." Scripture readings are interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols. Meanwhile, each child helps carry beautiful ceramic figurines and bells to the Nativity display, and greenery to decorate the altar.

The children will also sing a longtime favorite, "The Little Drummer Boy," which tells how a poor boy gave what he could to Baby Jesus.

Then join us for Coffee Hour after the service.

### "Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus"

Each Sunday in Advent, during the Children's Moment, we have been talking about making room in our heart for Jesus by showing our love to Him in acts of kindness to others.

### Christmas Eve

Music is such a joyous part of Christmas! In our **9:30 AM** service, the adult choir will share Christmas joy with the upbeat "Mary's Little Boy Child." Words of hope comfort us in the Amy Grant classic, "God is With Us." We'll also have some fun with a Scripture-based version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Our **5 PM Christmas Eve Service** will include Celtic harp music by JoAnne Jones, and a special multi-media presentation of "O Holy Night" sung by Jonathan Griffin. We'll end with a traditional favorite—singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.

Please come and celebrate Christ's birth with us in these special moments!



# Ministries of Our Church

## UMW Potluck Dinner

The United Methodist Women (**UMW**) invite the men and women of the church to join us for a Potluck Dinner on Tuesday, **December 12** at 6:30 PM in the church fellowship hall. We will again have our \$5 charity drawing, with all donations going to the charity drawn. A short business meeting will follow the meal. Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun.

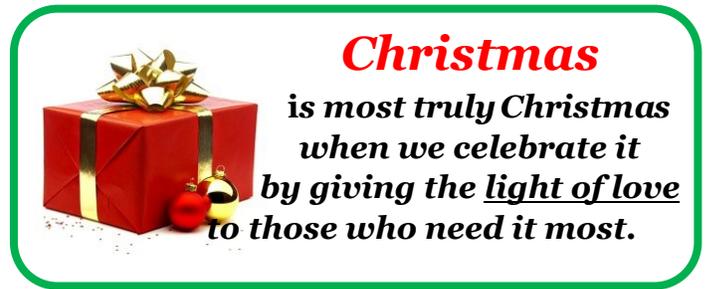
## Food Banks

We continue to collect non-perishables for the **Food Banks** we support Granby, East Granby, and Suffield. This year to date, we have given a total of 906 pounds of groceries. Each year since 2015, we have exceeded the previous year's total. By year's end we should be able to exceed last year's total of 927 pounds! Come help us meet that goal!



## St. Pauly's Clothing Drop-Off Shed

We're grateful to the community for all the used clothing dropped off at our St. Pauly' shed. So far this year we've received 11,420 POUNDS of clothing! Money forwarded to us goes to area food banks. The company also accepts shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals.



## *Christmas*

*is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.*

## Gift Cards

Here's a great opportunity to help your community! Again this year, we are collecting **gift cards** for needy families in our area. Donations go through three agencies we support: Emergency Aid in Suffield, and Social Services in East Granby and Granby. Cards may be in any denomination, to be used for gifts (Walmart, Target, etc.) or groceries (Stop & Shop, Big Y, Geissler's, Walmart, etc.). Mary McCorison is collecting gifts for Granby and Susan Madry is collecting for East Granby and Suffield. Please designate to which town yours should be given. *All cards must be in by **Sunday, December 10.***

## Returnable Bottle Collection

For those of you who do not want to bother with returning your deposit bottles, please bring them to church and place them in the barrel marked "Returnables" in the kitchen. Money collected from these is added to the church's General Fund. Thanks for your help!

## Activities You May Have Missed

We've had a busy fall! Thanks to all who helped with these events!

Our annual **Fall Tag & Bake Sale** held in September was a success. Again, we had lots of "treasures" as well as baked goods from which people could choose.

The **Harvest Party** held at the end of October was enjoyed by all who attended, even though the rain cancelled the hayride. Each of the children received a prize for their costume and participated in a Bible story, games, and crafts. Then everyone enjoyed good food as well as a take-home treat bag.

We had a "full house" for both the **Roast Pork Dinner** in October and the **Turkey Dinner** in November, and customers went away well satisfied. We even received a "Thank You" note from one of our "regulars"!



We filled three **Thanksgiving Baskets** for families in need supporting community agencies in each of our three area towns (East Granby, Granby, and Suffield).

Our annual **Holiday Bazaar** in November was a great success. We sold lots of craft items and every one of the baked goods.

## Vision 2020 Surges Forward!

For several years now, our congregation has been guided by an organizational plan that we unanimously put in place in October 2015. The Vision 2020 plan was the product of nearly two years of discussion and planning. Since its adoption, it has provided a great blueprint for moving forward one step at a time.

The plan aimed to address issues that we discovered were holding our church back. Vision 2020 is divided into three phases. The first phase, “**Enhance**,” aims to renew existing ministries and facilities. The second phase, “**Develop**,” seeks to build additional strength upon the foundations laid in Phase One. Phase three, “**Transform**,” is the longrange part of the plan.

For each phase, small incremental goals were identified. We have been working on those goals, particularly from Phases One and Two. The big news is that during this past year, eighteen of our incremental goals have been completed! That is awesome for one year!

Five of these were from Phase One, twelve from Phase Two and even one from Phase Three. Most noticeable among them from a facilities standpoint was the installation of the new carpet in the sanctuary. Most successful of our ministries goals was our “Place to Belong” Sunday in September, which helped to raise our fall attendance.

Of the 46 incremental goals listed for Phase One, only two remain incomplete. Of the 48 incremental goals listed for Phase Two, nineteen have been completed and eight more are in progress. Currently we are planning to expand the parking lot, a major goal of Phase Two. We are giving thanks to God for enabling us to make so much progress in this past year!



### Parsonage Open House—Dec. 10, 17

Pastor’s popular Train Village will once again be on display on two Sundays: Dec. 10 & 17, at the parsonage. Pastor Kelvin and JoAnne invite you to stop by anytime between the hours of 2—5 PM either afternoon to enjoy some holiday goodies and to play with the trains. Children especially are welcome. Bring your friends!

## Helping Hurricane Victims: Update

Copper Hill Church has joined the efforts of our denomination in helping the many hurricane victims in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and Puerto Rico. UMCOR (our **U**nited **M**ethodist **C**ommittee **O**n **R**elief) has been providing support, starting even before the first hurricane made landfall. Thus far, more than \$4,100 has been given from our UMW, our quarterly missions contribution, and individuals’ donations.

Since 100% of our donations through UMCOR go directly to the victims, these donations will make a difference!



## Popular DVD Bible Study Resumes in January

This fall Pastor Kelvin started a new DVD-based Bible study series delving into the Gospel of John. Using the video setting for the Bible passage each week gives the participants a very realistic view of the Biblical accounts. The movie painstakingly recreates the era in which Jesus lived. The text for the movie is taken word for word from the Good News Bible, an excellent translation from the American Bible Society.

Pastor Kelvin tentatively plans to resume the studies in late January. We will pick up with two accounts of amazing healings that Jesus performed which are recorded in John 4:43-5:14. The Tuesday afternoon study will meet at 1 PM at Higley village beginning Jan. 24. Thanks to Bob Stewart, we have been enjoying projected video at our Higley village study. The Monday evening study (7PM) at Copper Hill Church will resume on Jan. 31. Each study concludes with a prayer time so we can pray together for the needs represented.

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the Newsletter for Members and Friends of  
**Copper Hill United Methodist Church**  
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Editor: Judy Holcomb Assistant Editor: JoAnne D. Jones

You're Invited!

- Dec. 10**—2 - 5 PM **Open House** at the Parsonage
- Dec. 17**—9:30 AM **Children's Program** - "Hanging of the Greens"  
Coffee Hour  
2 - 5 PM **Open House** at the Parsonage
- Dec. 24**—9:30 AM **Christmas Choir**  
5 PM **Family Christmas Eve** Service  
Celtic harp & Vocal solo: "O Holy Night"  
Traditional Candle Lighting



Join us every Sunday morning for our Family Worship Service—9:30 AM

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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