



the Copper Hill Connection

March 2018



Pastor's Postings

The Scope of Jesus' Victory

by Rev. Dr. Kelvin S. Jones

One benefit of focusing on the cross of Jesus during Lent is the heightening of our appreciation for Jesus' astounding victory on Easter. If we only studied the cross, with its implied judgment upon our sinfulness, injustice, and unwillingness to listen, we might be left feeling hopeless. But thanks be to God, the death of Jesus is not the last word! Jesus' Easter victory speaks trumpet-like, cascading with joy, awakening our hope, and thrilling us with Good News. It affirms God's new opportunity for forgiveness and soul cleansing through Jesus.

Life: Easter's Good News has wide implications. Most startling is the fact that Jesus conquered death. He who was dead is alive again with a new kind of life. He is different from a ghost, as He pointed out. He is not like those whom He miraculously brought back from the dead (Lazarus). His was a new kind of indestructible life fit for heaven. For us, Jesus' resurrection gives new force and impact to Jesus' words, "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19 NIV).

Victory: The Good News of Easter also tells us that we have victory over the "law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2). We no longer need to feel that we can't help but do the wrong thing. We can, by God's grace, break the chains of destructive habits. By the power of the resurrection, God helps us to "will and to do" (Phil. 2:13 KJV) the right and wholesome thing. Neither are we at the mercy of ill temper. We can be transformed by the Holy Spirit and exude the "fruits of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22 NIV) instead.

Hope: The Good News of Easter introduces hope in situations that seem impossible. If God can raise Jesus from the dead, He can do the impossible in circumstances that perplex us, challenge us, and are the subject of our prayers. Easter is the ultimate testimony that God is powerfully active in this world now. Jesus told us, "My Father is always at His work" (John 5:17). After Easter, our understanding of this divine activity explodes with a new sense of joyous expectation. No wonder Easter is a big Celebration! Easter changes everything!



"Because I live, you also will live."

John 14:19

EASTER EVENTS

Join us for these special holiday observances:

March 25—9:30 AM



Palm Sunday — Confirmation Sunday Reception for New Members afterwards Special Music—"Above All"

March 29—7 PM

Holy Thursday Communion Service

April 1—9:30 AM

EASTER CELEBRATION!

We welcome you to our festive celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, our Savior and King!

Our Men's Quartet will present, "Come and See," an upbeat song proclaiming that "We've been set free!" Continuing with musical praise, the choir will offer the worshipful tribute, "Worthy is the Lamb."

After the service, we invite all the children to join in the Easter Egg Hunt. Adults can enjoy homemade treats during Coffee Hour.

The Easter Egg is a symbol of new life. A chick cracks an egg and bursts out into a new life. Jesus, in rising from the grave, "destroyed death and brought life" (2 Timothy 1:10).



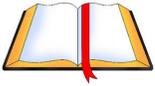
Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday—April 1

Following the 9:30 Easter Service
All Children welcome!

Ministries of Our Church

DVD Bible Study Series Continues



Our popular DVD Bible study series from the Gospel of John continues. 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 American Bible Society translation.

At this writing, we have progressed to John 9. Pastor Kelvin writes a set of discussion questions for each week's study.

Two studies are meeting—one on Monday evenings at 7 PM in the church fellowship hall and one on Tuesday afternoons meeting at 1 PM at Higley Village Clubhouse. Dottie Plunseke is coordinating for the Higley Village study.

United Methodist Women

The women at Copper Hill Church are active, as always, in the work of the church. They help select a variety of ministries to which they contribute. They will be busy with the tag sale in April, and a baby shower in May.

On June 12, UMW invites all women of the church to dinner out together in place of the regular meeting. The group will not meet again until fall.

"Goings On" at Our Church



Spring Flower Arranging Class — Sat. May 5, 2—3:30 PM

You can learn how to create your own flower arrangements and take home a beautiful bouquet for Mother's Day at our flower arranging class. Instructors are Sheri Mandirola and Sarah Oliver from Flowers @ Oxen Hill Farm. Sheri and Sarah own and operate a farm flower share and floral design business in Suffield, and have taught floral design classes. Last year's class was a big hit!

The cost of \$25 includes all the flowers and materials needed, plus cookies and beverage. You can also bring your own scissors and a donation of non-perishable food or groceries for the local food banks. Openings for last year's class went very quickly, so be sure to register by April 26. You can RSVP to Susan Madry at 860-668-1031.

Spring Tag and Bake Sale

It's time to start that "spring cleaning!" The UMW is holding a **Tag & Bake Sale** on Saturday, **April 21**, from **9 AM to 2 PM**. So look through those things you've been hanging on to but not using, and bring them in (after Easter).



The *drop-off day* is Saturday, **April 14**. Call Susan at (860) 668-1031 for more information or if you need items picked up. We will be doing the final setup on Monday, **April 16** at 1 PM.

Baked goods should be brought the morning of the sale, wrapped and priced.

Thanks in advance for all your donations!



"Only God Himself full appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children."

—Billy Graham



National Day of Prayer Observance - May 3

The one thing our country needs most is prayer! On **Thursday May 3**, at 7 PM, we will join thousands of Christians in praising God and lifting up the needs of our land. In 1 Chronicles 7:14, God promises to hear, forgive, and heal our land if we humbly seek Him.



The National Day of Prayer Task force directs the Judeo-Christian branch of this prayer effort and recognizes Copper Hill Church as the designated location for the town of East Granby. Churches in surrounding towns will also hold services at various times and locations.

Please join us as we sing praises to God and seek His direction and help for our community, state, and national leaders. We will also be praying for compassion, peace, and unity among God's people.

Confirmation and New Members on Palm Sunday

This winter, in between the snow flakes, two important membership classes have been preparing the way for a very special moment at Copper Hill Church. Shannon Collins, Griffin Mandirola, and Kylie Smith all completed Confirmation Class and will be confirmed in the 9:30 AM service on Palm Sunday. They will display their cross craft and lead the congregation in a liturgy about the cross of Jesus. Both their craft and the liturgy are especially appropriate to our Lenten message series, "Come to the Cross." Confirmands will each receive a Bible as a gift.

Pastor Kelvin also led a membership preparation class in Basic Beliefs which featured DVD segments from Rev. Adam Hamilton on the Apostle's Creed. The class is highly recommended but not required for new members, including those transferring. We are looking forward to four to six new members joining by confession of faith plus six members transferring in (numbers are still being confirmed at this writing). The reception of the new members will be the highlight of our Palm Sunday Service. All will be welcomed at a reception following the service.



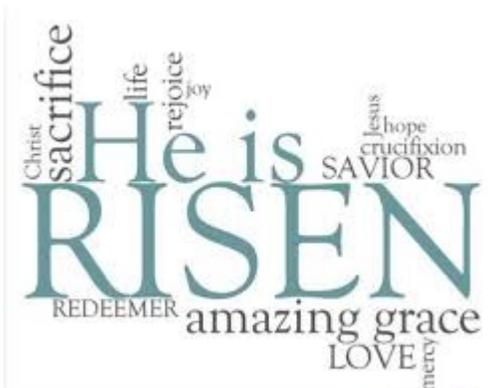
Supporting the Children's Home

One of the ministries of the United Methodist Church to which Copper Hill Church contributes is a special home for children. The Children's Home Of Wyoming Conference operates a residential child care facility in Binghamton, New York. It also provides private schooling for 90 students grades K-12 with a student-teacher ratio of five to one. Other services include after-school and recreational activities, a mental health treatment program specializing in working with emotionally disturbed children, and a family support program.

Founded in 1912, the Home's goal is to keep children in their own homes by providing help to families, or, if necessary, to provide an alternate family-like atmosphere.

The staff hold to this goal: "Every child deserves a safe place where they are loved unconditionally and where they grow with the hope of a bright future."

Copper Hill is happy to be a part of this much-needed ministry to children.



Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."
John 11:25 

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Copper Hill Connection

The newsletter for members and friends of
Copper Hill United Methodist Church

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Editor: Judy Holcomb Assistant Editor: JoAnne D. Jones

Celebrate with Us!

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March 29—7 PM: Holy Thursday Communion Service

April 1—9:30 AM: Easter CELEBRATION

Choir and Men's Quartet

Coffee Hour—following the service

& EASTER EGG HUNT—for all children

May 5—2 PM: Flower Arranging Class



Find us on the **web:** www.CopperHillChurch.us

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