



The Copper Hill Connection

November 2018

Pastor's Postings

Transcendent Gifts

by Rev. Dr. Kelvin S. Jones

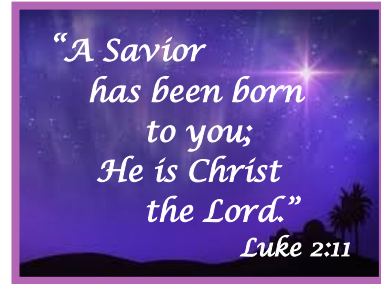
There are always some Christmas gifts that stand out among the others. Some break quickly and are tossed away. Many lose their appeal, their luster, or their usefulness and are forgotten. But a few will stand out and may even be remembered forever.

I was sick one Christmas when I was about twelve and spent some of Christmas Day on the couch recovering while my younger brothers and sister played. But it was that year when I received one of those gifts—the kind you always remember. Our family was deeply Christian, attending church more than once a week and frequently having prayers at home. I had already become a deliberate follower of Jesus for myself too. That Christmas my parents bought me my first Study Bible, a Thompson Chain Reference Bible. I began to learn to use the topical referencing system, and I still credit it as one reason for my familiarity with Scripture. My parents gave me many gifts over the years, but that one stands out above the rest. It molded my life in many ways.



God gives us many gifts every day. The Bible reminds us that “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17 NIV). But even among God’s gifts to us, some stand out above the others. They are “Transcendent Gifts” from God. Some of these will be the topic of my 2018 Advent/Christmas series.

These are the gifts from God which transform us and mold us into the image of Christ. Our key verse will be, “We have all received from His fullness one gracious gift after another” (John 1:16 NET—New English Translation). I invite you to worship with us as we learn to unwrap God’s gifts to us.



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVENTS

What Can I Give Jesus?

At the top of our Christmas list is the One who is central to Christmas—Jesus! During our weekly Children’s Moment at Copper Hill Church, we will be talking about what we can give Jesus for His birthday. Each child will receive a Christmas calendar with “Random Acts of Kindness” ideas for ways to show Christ’s love at Christmas.

“The Hanging of the Greens”

On Sunday, **December 16 at 9:30 AM**, the children will again present their special program, “The Hanging of the Greens.” It tells the Christmas story with Scripture, carols, and traditional symbols. Each child will participate as they bring beautiful ceramic figurines, bells, and greenery to decorate the altar. It reminds us that the Christ Child is a gift for all ages. The children’s choir will sing, “The Friendly Beasts,” telling the story of stable animals giving Baby Jesus whatever they had.

Join us for Coffee Hour afterwards.



Christmas Sunday

During December we light special candles in the Advent wreath and celebrate with the singing of favorite carols. On December 23, at 9:30 AM our Christmas Choir will present, “Hope is Born Again,” a song telling us that the hope of the first Christmas comes again to fill our hearts with joy.

Christmas Eve Family Celebration

Join us for our 5 PM Christmas Eve Family Service as we celebrate with music: a flute/harp arrangement of “Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella” and the lively men’s quartet number, “Rejoice With Exceeding Great Joy.” The service will conclude with the traditional “Silent Night” by candlelight.

Ministries of Our Church

Christmas Giving

At Christmastime we especially think of sharing our blessings with those in need. We will again be collecting gift cards for needy families in the three towns nearest us: East Granby, Granby, and Suffield. The cards may be in any amount, to be used for gifts (Walmart, etc.) or groceries (Stop & Shop, Big Y, Geissler's, Walmart, etc.). Mary McCorison is collecting cards for Granby and Susan Madry is collecting those for East Granby and Suffield. Please turn in your donated cards by Sunday, December 9 and designate to which town yours should be given. Thank you for your generous gift. It will be much appreciated!



UMW Potluck Dinner

United Methodist Women (UMW) invite the men of the church to join us for a Potluck Dinner on **Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30 PM** at the church. In keeping with the spirit of giving, we will again have our \$5 charity drawing, with all donations going to the charity drawn. A short business meeting will follow. Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun!

Food Banks Donations

Thanks to your donations, our church has given a total of 650 pounds of non-perishables to the three food banks in our area this year to date.

As you shop for groceries, consider those in our community who struggle to feed their families. Each year since 2015 we have exceeded the previous year's total. However, this year, we are well below the "to-date" totals of the past two years. Remember that many in our area are depending on your help.

We will have a special collection of food and non-perishables on **Sunday, November 18**. So let's "pick up the pace" and again beat last year's total! Thank you for your support.

The Importance of Bible Study

Bible study is so important in helping us grow in our faith and knowledge of God's Word. In addition, Bible study groups are great hubs for friendship. Pastor Kelvin continues to lead small-group Bible studies sponsored by Copper Hill Church.

This fall Pastor Kelvin has been teaching a weekly study on Tuesday afternoons at 1 PM at Higley Village Club House in East Granby on the book of Psalms.

At the end of January, he plans to resume the popular DVD study of the book of John with small groups both at Higley Village and at Copper Hill Church.

"Goings On" at Our Church

Holiday Bazaar

You'll find great gift ideas and holiday decorations at our annual **Holiday Bazaar—Friday & Saturday, November 16 & 17**. On Friday, the sale runs from 1-4 PM. On Saturday, hours will be 10 AM - 3 PM, with a luncheon (homemade soups and apple crisp) served from 11 AM - 2 PM. There will be lots of hand-crafted items from which to choose: afghans, quilts, decorations, and kitchen towels, as well as a bountiful supply of baked goods (cakes, cookies, pies, breads, etc.). On Saturday, there will also be soups and casseroles added to the baked goods table.



Decorating for Christmas



With Thanksgiving being early this year, we will actually have a chance to prepare the sanctuary of the church before the beginning of Advent. On Sunday, November 25, we will decorate the sanctuary, as we have in the past, immediately following the morning service. Please join us as we beautify our worship space for the holidays, and then enjoy a **Potluck Lunch** together.

Christmas Caroling

It's a special treat for the residents of Meadow Brook of Granby when our church comes to sing Christmas carols and spread greetings of joy for our Savior's birth.

On **Saturday, December 8 at 1:30 PM**, you can meet us in the main lobby of the home. We will sing there and then proceed to the various nurses stations. It is a rewarding celebration of the true Spirit of Christmas as we witness the happy faces of residents singing the story of Christ's birth.

Compassion Sunday



The news of the terrible fires in California as well as the previous hurricane disasters in the Carolinas and Florida brings a swell of compassion in us that

compels us to action. Our church has been moved to respond again by helping others. On November 18 we will observe "Compassion Sunday." Our goal is to highlight and enhance three ministries of our church that show compassion to those in want in our needy world. This emphasis dovetails well with Thanksgiving, since a thankful heart is also a generous heart. Because God is always so generous with us, it is our desire to be generous with others.

On Compassion Sunday:

* We will continue our giving to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief). We will designate our gifts for disaster assistance to help people who have lost so much in natural disasters in places like California, Florida, the Carolinas, and Puerto Rico.

* We are planning to bring in non-perishable food and paper products for the local food pantries, offering a tangible helping hand for local ministry partners. At Thanksgiving time we want to remember to help those locally who are food-insecure. These gifts will add to the ways we already help support the three area food pantries.

* Our Missions Committee chair Susan Madry will report on the young lady from Zambia supported by our women's group. This will remind us that our responsibility to our neighbor does not end with our national shores. Jesus instructed to be His witnesses and to show His love around the world.



Happy Thanksgiving!

New Space Needed at Copper Hill Church

We have become very aware that the education space of our church facility needs additional rooms to help our church fulfill its mission well. Our Vision 2020 plan identified two critical needs. We have no nursery and no small multipurpose room easily heated for small groups or pastoral use.

Now that we have nearly completed all the planned improvements to the current facility, our church council has appointed a subcommittee to begin thinking about how to add educational space to our church facility. The committee is formally called the Expansion Options Exploration Committee (EOEC). It will function much like the previous long-range planning committee for Vision 2020. The committee's work will begin slowly in January with prayer and time to think about the church's needs. It has no authority to act on its own, but will report its findings back to the church council. The council will discuss the findings and recommend action to a church/charge conference.

New Roof

During the first week in November, workers installed a new roof on our fellowship hall. The reimbursement from our insurance company for damage during the hailstorm completely covered the cost. It looks sharp too!



Parsonage Train Village Open House

Pastor Kelvin and JoAnne invite you to stop by and see the ever-popular Train Village on display for two Sundays— **December 9 & 16**. Stop by on either day between 2—5:30 PM and enjoy some holiday goodies. Children are especially welcome to come and play with the trains!

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Copper Hill Connection

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YOU'RE INVITED!

Nov. 16, 17—**Holiday Bazaar**: 1- 4 PM Fri., 10 AM - 3 PM Sat.— (see pg. 2)

Nov. 18—**Compassion Sunday**, 9:30 AM

Dec. 9, 16—**Open House** at the Parsonage: 2:00- 5:30 PM

Dec. 16 —**Children's Program**, "Hanging of the Greens" —9:30 AM
Coffee Hour

Dec. 23—**Christmas Sunday** with Christmas Choir: 9:30 AM

Dec. 24—**Christmas Eve** Family Service, 5:00 PM
Flute, Harp, Men's Quartet, Candle Lighting



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

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