



the Copper Hill Connection

April 2019

Pastor's Postings

Catch the Easter Excitement!

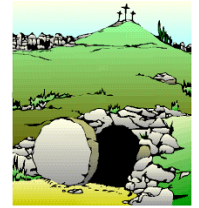
by Rev. Dr. Kelvin S. Jones

We all know people who constantly expect the worst. Life is very stressful for them because they are always worrying. When this kind of person is also a Christian, there is a contradiction. Billy Graham was once asked if he was an optimist or a pessimist. He replied, "I don't have a choice, I'm a Christian." The Apostle Paul wrote, "No matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ" (2 Corinthians 1:20 NIV). A Christian should be characterized by an upbeat expectation of what God is going to do.

Easter is the perfect time for Christians to enlarge their faith outlook. During Jesus' ministry, his disciples had concrete positive expectations about Him. They anticipated that He would soon be crowned king and they would get important positions in the new government. But when Jesus died, those expectations were destroyed. In the midst of their sorrow, Jesus rose from the dead and began to appear to them and point them toward a new and exciting ministry. Their spiritual anticipation began to bloom again. Later, Pentecost again exploded their small expectations. As God did miracles through them, they began to understand more of what Jesus meant when He said, "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

God is always at work on a Christian's behalf. As God said through His prophet, "I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" (Jeremiah 29:11). Jesus taught, "My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I, too, am working" (John 5:17). So we have every reason to look forward to what God is going to do in our lives. Norman Vincent Peale called it "positive thinking." The writer of Hebrews 11 simply calls it faith!

This Easter season our theme is "Catch the Easter Excitement." At Easter, God blew away the old limits and introduced exciting new possibilities. One of our goals will be to increase our faith in what God can and will do in our lives as we trust Him. God "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us!" (Ephesians 3:20-21). Now that's exciting!



Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life... Whoever lives and believes in Me will never die" (John 11:25).

EASTER EVENTS



Palm Sunday, April 14—9:30 AM

As we commemorate Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, our Children's Choir will offer praise singing, "I Will Call Upon the Lord."

Good Friday Service, April 19—7 PM: a night to remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross to pave the way to heaven for us.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 21—9:30 AM

Join us as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, which brought us eternal life! "Jesus Came Out Alive!"—our Men's Quartet presentation—expresses that joy. In the song, "Resurrection," the Easter Choir will sing of restoration and new creation.

Following the service, all the children are invited to join in an EASTER EGG HUNT on the church lawns, while the adults enjoy our COFFEE HOUR.

Easter Egg Hunt!

Sunday—April 21



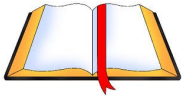
Following the 9:30 Easter Service



All Children ages 12 and under are welcome!

Ministries of Our Church

"For the word of God is living and active...it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).



Bible Reading Contest!

For the past two months, our church families have been busy reading God's Word. Children and adults have worked together on two teams to see who could read the most chapters each week. Some couples read more than 200 chapters per week.

Although all points are not yet in, we are happy to announce that our church together read more than 7,000 chapters! This is amazing for a small church!

Reading God's Word not only gives us insight and encouragement, but it also has the power to change our lives for the good. Inspired and infused with God's Holy Spirit, it becomes part of who we are in Christ.

We will continue to encourage one another to make Bible reading a daily habit as we seek to know God better and follow Him faithfully.

United Methodist Women

The UMW welcomes Sherry Danalis to their May 14 meeting to share about the programs at Nehemiah's House. This is a home located right in Granby which helps young women in dealing with "crisis" pregnancies and getting a start with a new baby. All are welcome to attend.

Food Pantry Support

During the 2018 year, our church gave **more than 950 pounds** of goods to the food pantries we support in East Granby, Granby, and Suffield. This year, with what was delivered on April 2, we have given more than 498 pounds so far. **Well done, and thank you to all who donated!**

Craft Days

Several of the women of the church have been meeting for "Craft Days" to work on projects together. It has been a good chance for fellowship and for making items for the Holiday Bazaar in November. It seems early to be doing this, but spring and summer are the seasons when we *have* time. When fall comes, everyone is too busy.

"Goings On" at Our Church



Spring Tag & Bake Sale

Don't miss a chance to find some special treasures and bargains!

On Saturday, May 4, we will hold our Spring Sale, from 9 AM to 2 PM. We welcome all types of donations for the tag sale: dishes and other household goods, furniture, tools, etc. (Clothing can be dropped off in bags at our St. Paulys shed in the parking lot.)



We will hold a "Drop-Off Day" on Saturday, April 27, from 9 AM to 1 PM. For anyone who needs more info or items picked up, please call Susan Madry at 860-668-1031. We ask that donations for the Bake Sale be wrapped and priced and brought to the church on the morning of May 4, before 9 AM.

Thank you for all your donations and support of this fundraiser.

Activities You May Have Missed

"Everything was delicious!" "Yours is the best corned beef dinner around!"

Those were some of the comments we heard from guests at our annual **Corned Beef Dinner**. With many requests for take-out meals, it was a daunting task for the kitchen to handle! We were pleased to raise \$895 for the church's general fund, thanks to all who attended, served, and donated food.

Family Fun Night Variety Hour

Everyone enjoyed lots of laughs and a variety of entertainment at our February 23 Family Night! Some demonstrated their skills in gymnastics and music, while others shared hobbies such as quilting, scrapbooking, flowers, rocks, antique bottles, and woodcuts illustrating women's history.

National Day of Prayer—May 2

With so much going on in our country these days, sometimes we feel at a loss to know what we can do to help. What we can do, however, is PRAY! The Bible tells us that “the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (James 5:16). It also says us that God “is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20). If we spend more time praying instead of just talking, amazing things can happen!



As Christians, we understand that the struggles we face are not just against other people, but against “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). For this spiritual battle, God has given us spiritual weapons. Prayer is one of those weapons, as is the “sword of the Spirit, the word of God” (Ephesians 6:16,18).

On Thursday, May 2, we will use these weapons of prayer and God’s Word as we intercede for our government leaders, our churches and pastors, and those in need. Join us at Copper Hill as together we seek God’s guidance, forgiveness, and strength.

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land: (1 Chronicles 7:14).

Pilgrim’s Progress — April 18 & 20

We highly recommend this new CGI animated film of John Bunyan’s classic masterpiece! Second only to the Bible as one of the most popular books of all time, it is the story of Christian’s challenging journey to the Celestial City. He learns the importance of God’s Word and trusting in Christ as he deals with doubts and distractions.



As an allegory, the story will appeal to children on a surface level, with lessons on faith for those who look deeper, thus inspiring adults as well.

Bunyan wrote the book while imprisoned for his faith. Executive Producer Steve Cleary reports that The Pilgrim’s Progress has inspired persecuted Christians in many countries. Part of the film’s profits will help support international missions.

The movie is showing in theaters in Enfield, West Springfield, and Buckland Hills on Thursday, April 18 at 7 PM and Saturday, April 20 at 12:55 PM.

Special Church Aid

The Connecticut District has put out a call for aid for the Winsted United Methodist Church. This is a beautiful stone building dating to the early 1900s, with gorgeous stained glass windows (designed by a student of Tiffany).



On their own, the Winsted church raised funds which allowed them to replace the roof, reinforce the steeple, repaint the exterior, and begin painting the sanctuary. Unfortunately, their funds have run dry, and they have discovered serious issues with water leaking in the Narthex. It is a large building for a small congregation (similar in size to Copper Hill), and it is difficult to maintain.



In the past, Copper Hill has received assistance from area churches when we have had construction projects. So it only seems right to aid fellow churches in a time of need.

At the March meeting, our Church Council voted to donate \$5,000 to help the Winsted church. It is likely that the UMW will also make a donation for this cause, though we will have to wait for the April meeting to make this decision. We are opening up the opportunity to individuals as well. If you would like to help, send your donation to Winsted United Methodist Church, 630 Main Street, Winsted, CT 06098, with a notation that it is for the Narthex. Thanks for your help!



“We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus.”

2 Corinthians 4:14 NIV

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Copper Hill Connexion

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

Come Celebrate with Us!

April 14—9:30 AM: Palm Sunday Service
Children's Choir

April 19—7 PM: Good Friday Service

April 21—9:30 AM: Easter Sunday Service
Choir and Men's Quartet



COFFEE HOUR—following the service
& **EASTER EGG HUNT**—for children ages 12 and under



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

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