



# the Copper Hill Connection

March 2023

## Pastor's Postings

### Vibrant Faith!

by Rev. Dr. Kelvin S. Jones

Many people today are dissatisfied with shallow religious practices. Church pews are empty as people seek fulfillment elsewhere. But Jesus desires much more for us. His goal for us is that we have "life to the full" (John 10:10).

"To truly know God, we must seek Him until we pass through the outer, informational realm about God and actually find for ourselves the living presence of the Most High" (Francis Frangipane, "I Will Be Found By You").

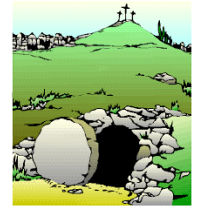
To help us on this journey, this Easter season I will begin a series of messages on how we can have a "Vibrant Faith." We will explore the meaning of the death and Resurrection of Jesus. I will begin on March 26 with a message that explains how God's forgiveness lifts our burdens and gives us joy. On Palm Sunday my message, "The Power of the Cross," will help us understand the strength that becomes available to us through Jesus. On Good Friday the message, "The Way of the Cross," will encourage us to be unselfish as Jesus was.

On Easter morning the message will be about "Life Everlasting." Jesus came to free us from our fear of death. When we believe in His resurrection and His promises, He gives us the gift of life! The week after Easter the message will affirm our faith by exploring the record of the appearances of Jesus.

"Vibrant Faith," the title message of the series, will be presented on April 23. The series will conclude April 30 as we talk about fulfilling the mission that Jesus gave to His followers.

We invite you to journey with us as we discover how to have a vibrant, living faith.

Jesus said, "*I am the way and the truth and the life.*"  
John 14:6



*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 2—9:30 AM

Commemorating Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem with palm branches.

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

### EASTER SUNDAY, April 9—9:30 AM

Join us as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, which brought us eternal life! The Easter Choir will sing of restoration and new creation.

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

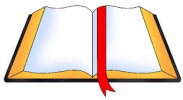
### Easter Egg Hunt!

Sunday—April 9

Following the 9:30 Easter Service

Children & Youth welcome!





# Ministries of Our Church

## St. Pauly and Food Pantry Support

“Your word is a **lamp** for my feet,  
a **light** on my path” (Psalm 119:105).

### Youth Corner

We are blessed to have Youth in our church who are a regular part of our **worship service**. They lend their computer abilities in the projection of the program slides each week and in designing slides when needed. They also serve as readers for the morning’s Scripture lesson.

Our youth planned and produced a **Christmas video** which featured interviews of members of various ages who shared what Christmas meant to them. Production included youth involved in shooting and editing video with added music and narration.

We now have a special connection group for youth after morning service—**Youth Time**. It’s an opportunity for them to react to the pastor’s message, learn Scripture verses, and pray together.

We are grateful for all those in our community who have dropped off items for our St. Pauly Textiles shed. During the last calendar year, a total of 16,042 pounds of clothing were donated to our shed! This was enough to clothe an estimated 2,955 people around the world.

The money received from St. Pauly was then sent to the area food pantries that we support in East Granby, Granby, and Suffield.

We also continue to collect and deliver donated non-perishable food and household items to the three food banks. **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.

We will be planning more of these times, though none are currently scheduled. You do not have to be a member of the UMW or church to participate.

## “Goings On” at Our Church



### Spring Tag & Bake Sale



Tons of treasures and a variety of baked goods await you at our annual Tag and Bake Sale on Saturday, April 29, from 9 AM to 3 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. Pauly’s shed in the parking lot.)

A “Drop-Off Day” for the sale will be Saturday, April 15, 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 April 29, before 9 AM. Thank you for all your donations and support of this fundraiser. All proceeds of the sale will go to support Ukraine.

### Corned Beef Supper

One of our most popular meals is our Corned Beef Dinner, coming up on Saturday, March 11. The menu will include corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish bread and roll, and a choice of cake for dessert. You can reserve a meal (take-out only) with Susan at (860) 668-1031. Pick-up is set for 2 - 4 PM. The cost of the meal is \$12 each.

### Summer Ham Supper

Mark your calendar for June 19 when we’ll have another delicious take-out meal planned for you to enjoy. More info will be available at a later date.

## National Day of Prayer—May 4



In a time when our country surely needs our prayers, we are experiencing an unprecedented move of God. These are exciting times as we see sparks from the Asbury Revival ignite outpourings across our country and around the world! We can hardly imagine all that God wants to do in the coming weeks leading up to May 4.

Revivals like these happen after years of prayer, where people meet, not only with those from their own church, but also with Christ followers from their area. Revivals can be marked by a special time when God's Spirit is felt in a tangible way—a sense of Christ's love, a pull toward repentance, worship, and unity with the greater Body of Christ.

While Spirit-led revivals have no specific time setting, the National Day of Prayer is an annual call for everyone to pray on the first Thursday of May. Plans are made to involve the surrounding community in corporate prayer by inviting guests from local government, schools, and organizations to take part in a special service. It can be in a church or in the town square where a visible presence reminds passersby that this is a day for everyone to pray. It's also a day to encourage all of us to make a habit of daily prayer as we each seek to draw closer to God.

In Connecticut there have been NDP events in all 169 towns for thirteen consecutive years! At Copper Hill Church, we invite you to join us once again at 7 PM for our community service on May 4. Come and see how God is calling us all to pray!

JoAnne D. Jones  
Assistant Coordinator  
Hartford County NDP

### Lenten Series



During this season of Lent, Pastor Kelvin continues to share thoughtful messages from his sermon series, "Steppingstones to Spiritual Health." On March 12, we will tackle the interrelationship between "Body Discipline" and spiritual life. Then on March 19 he will guide our thinking about the spiritual benefits of "stillness," something that our culture needs to learn. We welcome you to join us for this series.

## Growing Together Connection Groups

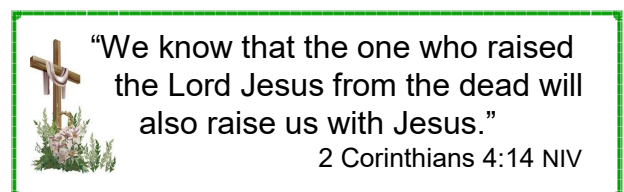
This year at Copper Hill, we are emphasizing how much Christians need to be connected to one another. When we try to operate as "lone wolf" Christians, we end up weak. We also forfeit many helpful resources we could have received from others. Many of us became more disconnected during COVID and acutely feel the need for greater interrelatedness.



The Body of Christ is built on many different kinds of links. Spiritual and social connections can be established in various types of groupings of people with similar interests. We encourage people to launch new connections, which include three essential elements: 1. fellowship, 2. God's Word, and 3. praying for each other. Some groups might look quite different from a Bible study. For example, a connection group might be a prayer cell, either by phone or in person. Or it might be a hobby group that includes a short devotional time. Through such connections we receive encouragement from others. Often connection members become closer friends and show caring for each other. The group may also accomplish projects together, adding even more to the sense of camaraderie and purpose. Couples and families can connect with regular times of sharing Scriptures and praying for each other.

Another way to connect is through Bible Study groups, and those continue to meet. Our current study groups are enjoying exploring Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Options are Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM at church, Thursday afternoon at 1 PM at Higley Village Clubhouse, and Saturday evening at 7PM on Zoom.

We would like to encourage each of you to choose a way to connect with other Christ followers. Your life will be enriched because of it!



Copper Hill United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 422  
East Granby, CT 06026



## 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 2—9:30 AM:** Palm Sunday Service

**April 7—7 PM:** Good Friday Service

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

Choir Special

Coffee Hour—following the service

& EASTER EGG HUNT—for youth and children



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)

**Phone:** Pastor Kelvin S. Jones: 860-653-2891

