



# The Copper Hill Connection

November 2019

## Pastor's Postings Gifts That Won't Break

by Rev. Dr. Kelvin S. Jones

One of our fears about the gifts that we give at Christmas is that they will break. When I was a child, our sandbox toys were metal, but even with those, eventually a wheel came off here and there, and dents and dings began to make them look rather beat up. Nowadays, children's toys are plastic and often go with the current movie fad. So if they can just last until the next movie fad makes them obsolete, we're good. But sometimes they don't even last that long.



Presents we receive as adults may last a little longer, but they also have a way of wearing out, becoming outdated, or unneeded. I have a nice video camera that I treasured as a gift, but before I could hardly learn to use it, cell phones came out and made it obsolete. Very few of the gifts we give or receive have a permanence about them.

So this Christmas, I would like to celebrate the gifts that Jesus gave to us that don't break. Essential gifts like hope and love flow into our hearts through the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. Gifts like righteousness, forgiveness, and joy are more valuable than any of the trimmings and tangibles that we receive from one another. And best of all, gifts like peace, light, and comfort are transferable gifts that God helps us pass on to others. This year we will use the Advent candles to represent four of Jesus' gifts—hope, love, joy, and peace—and talk about one each Sunday.



With God's help, your Christmas will be enriched by Jesus' gifts as you worship with us at Copper Hill Church.



## A TIME TO GIVE THANKS Thanksgiving at Copper Hill

God has blessed our church and our families in so many ways. Each Sunday in November, we take time to praise God for how great He is and thank Him for His blessings and answers to prayer.

We plan to continue our yearly tradition of attending the 7 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service at the historic Washington Hill UM Church in North Canton.

## “COME THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS”

We'll begin the Advent season on Sunday, December 1 with something new -- a 3 PM **District Prayer Gathering** to welcome the Christ Child into our hearts at Christmas and beyond. (Please see page two.)

## “The Hanging of the Greens”

This long-time Christmas tradition returns on Sunday, **December 8 at 9:30 AM**. The children, leading the service, will take us on a journey through special Christmas traditions to the story of the first Christmas as told in Scripture. As we sing favorite carols, the children will carry beautiful ceramic figurines, bells, and greenery to decorate the altar. Join us for Coffee Hour afterwards.

## Christmas Sunday

On **December 22**, our choir will present an exciting version of the carol, “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.” To those searching for peace, the song assures us, “God is not dead, nor doth He sleep. The wrong shall fail, the right prevail” as bells ring out, “Peace on earth.”



## Christmas Eve Family Celebration

A highlight of the season will be our 5 PM Christmas Eve Family Service. We'll celebrate with music, including a flute/harp arrangement of “Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring” and a men's quartet. The service will conclude with the traditional “Silent Night” by candlelight.

## Ministries of Our Church

### Christmas Caroling

It's always a joy to sing Christmas carols with the residents of Meadowbrook in Granby. On **Saturday, December 7**, at 1:30 PM, we will gather in the lobby. From there we'll sing in several areas on both floors.

### Christmas Giving

Here's a great opportunity to share our blessings with those in need. We will again be collecting **gift cards** for needy families in each of three towns nearest us: East Granby, Granby, and Suffield. Cards may be in any amount, to be used for gifts (Walmart, etc.) or groceries (Stop & Shop, Big Y, Geissler's, etc.). Mary McCorison is collecting cards for Granby and Susan Madry is collecting those for East Granby and Suffield. Please designate to which town your cards should be given and turn in by **Sunday, December 8**. Your generous gift will be much appreciated!



### District Prayer Gathering: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"



Join us in welcoming the Christ Child into our Advent celebrations as we host a District Prayer Gathering on **Sunday, December 1 at 3 PM**. We're inviting neighboring and area churches to the festive singing of carols accompanied by brass instruments. As we offer heartfelt prayers for our churches and country, our theme throughout will be, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus."

### Food Banks Donations

Thanks to your donations, our church has given more than 1,000 pounds of non-perishables to the Food Banks in the three towns nearest us! This is well over previous years' totals. WELL DONE!

The need, however, doesn't go away. So please continue to give generously as you have in the past. Remember that many in our area are depending on your help, especially at Christmastime.



## "Goings On" at Our Church

### Holiday Bazaar

Looking for some gift ideas? Our annual **Holiday Bazaar** will be held on **Friday and Saturday, November 22 and 23**. On Friday, the sale runs from 1 to 4 PM. On Saturday, hours will be 10 AM - 3 PM, with 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



As we have in the past, we will again be decorating the church Sanctuary and holding a **Potluck Lunch** on **Sunday, December 1**, immediately following the morning service. With Thanksgiving being as late as possible, this event comes late this year. Please plan to join us for a time of fellowship as we beautify our worship space for the holidays.

*O Come, Let Us  
Adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*



### UMW Potluck Dinner

The **United Methodist Women (UMW)** extend an invitation to the men of the church to join us for a Potluck Dinner on **Tuesday, December 10**, at 6:30 PM at the church. Each one is encouraged to submit the name of their favorite charity along with a donation. The total sum will go to the organization drawn. A short business meeting will follow. Come join us for an evening of fellowship and fun!

## Helping Others

This fall Copper Hill Church has continued its mission to serve others by contributing to several critical needs:

### Hurricane Dorian Relief

In keeping with the tradition started last year by our generous response to hurricane relief for Puerto Rico, this October, we sent a total of \$1,475 to UMCOR for Hurricane Dorian relief. This total consisted of a special offering and a contribution from our quarterly missions giving. We believe it is critical to help those who are suffering in their time of need.

### World Hope Contribution

Late in the summer, the congregation surprised Pastor Kelvin and JoAnne by sending \$350 to their favorite charity, World Hope International, in honor of Pastor Kelvin and JoAnne's forty years of ministry. World Hope has been active in Hurricane Dorian relief, working with partners to supply drinking water in the most devastated areas of Abaco Island. World Hope has been a leader in anti-human trafficking efforts, especially in Cambodia.

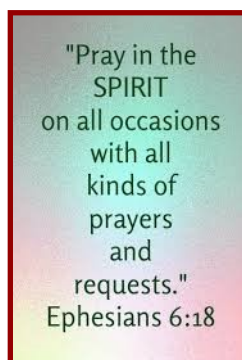
### Helping Local Food Pantries



We continue to help those in our local area who are food insecure. Contributions to the Local Food pantries continue in several ways. In addition to contributions through our church, we also give all proceeds from used clothing donations in the St. Pauly's shed to local food pantries. From week to week, our parishioners bring in non-perishable food and other items to be taken to the food pantry for distribution.

### Thanksgiving Baskets

One of our traditions and another way we help is to cooperate with other agencies in our area in providing baskets of food to those who could use a hand with Thanksgiving festivities. It is a true joy to know that we have given someone another reason to give thanks.



## Prayer Opportunities

By JoAnne D. Jones,  
Prayer Chair at Copper Hill UMC

In October I was excited to be able to attend the National Day Of Prayer Leadership Summit in Minneapolis. Speakers from around the nation encouraged us with news of a prayer awakening stirring our nation! Many of the prayer initiatives involve young people. **Claim Your Campus** aims to establish student-led prayer in every middle and high school campus in America aided by a prayer app: <https://claimyourcampus.com/the-app/>.

National Day of Prayer coordinator for **Children in Prayer for America**, Gina Gibson, asks children if they're feeling called to pray for America. "They need to be disciplined," she said. Can we do this? Yes, we can!

<https://www.facebook.com/ndpchildren/>

Some of the greatest revivals in history began on college campuses! Many Christian campus ministries are teaming to support **Every Campus** with the goal to prayer-walk every campus in America. Their website will help you adopt a college to prayer-walk. <https://everycampus.com/>

Other prayer ministries have organized regular on-site prayer times for State and Federal representatives of both parties, and prayer support for the body of believers being disciplined behind prison walls.

*"No great spiritual awakening has begun anywhere in the world apart from united prayer."* – J. Edwin Orr

### Confirmation Class Planned

Pastor Kelvin Jones is pleased to announce that Copper Hill Church will be holding a Confirmation class for sixth graders beginning in January 2020. The goal of the class is to help growing pre-teens explore the basic beliefs of Christian faith and then make the faith their own. Pastor says, "I try to keep the time interactive. Students write their own questions and I take time to cover many of them."

There are six sessions, usually scheduled in pairs after church, with a kid-friendly lunch served in between the two parts. Sherri Mandirola leads a coordinated craft time. Five students have already signed up, so it looks to be a lively class. Other sixth graders or middle school students who are interested can contact Pastor Kelvin.

### Parsonage Train Village Open House



Pastor Kelvin and JoAnne invite you to visit the ever-popular Train Village on display for two Sundays— **December 8 and 15**. 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

The newsletter for members and friends of  
Copper Hill United Methodist Church,  
27 Copper Hill Road, East Granby, CT

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### YOU'RE INVITED!

Nov. 23, 23—**Holiday Bazaar**: Fri. 1- 4 PM , Sat. 10 AM - 3 PM — (see pg. 2)

Dec. 8 & 15—**Open House** at the Parsonage: 2:00 - 5:30 PM

Dec. 8 —**Children's Program**, "Hanging of the Greens" —9:30 AM  
Coffee Hour

Dec. 22—**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](http://www.CopperHillChurch.us)

**Pastor's Blog**: at [www.learn tobewise.com](http://www.learn tobewise.com)

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