



# The Copper Hill Connection

November 2022

## Pastor's Postings God's Help on Our Journey

by Rev. Dr. Kelvin S. Jones

Years ago, when it was time for me to leave for seminary, JoAnne was about seven months along expecting our daughter. I had rented a U-Haul truck and was planning to tow our car behind it from Western New York to Kentucky. But when my Mom learned of the plan, she quickly drafted my youngest brother Phil to drive the truck so that I could escort the expectant mom-to-be in the relative comfort of the car. It was an overnight trip, but it was one we were anticipating and had chosen. We arrived safely, and our daughter was born two months later.



Mary and Joseph's Christmas-time journey was also undertaken when the mom-to-be was near delivery. But it was not a journey they had chosen, nor was it a trip they even wanted to take. Yet there was no arguing with Roman decrees, even though Mary's expected delivery was much closer than my wife's had been. Mary and Joseph's journey was probably ten days on foot or by donkey, and way more arduous and hazardous for a pregnant Mom than our trip. Tradition tells us the baby was born soon after they arrived in Bethlehem.

Perhaps this Christmas, as we study Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, we can relate the truths we discover to the journeys of our own lives. Some of our life "journeys" we did not choose either. They also were forced on us by circumstances beyond our control just as the travel of Mary and Joseph was. Yet, just as God walked with them through their difficulties, so we will discover the faithfulness of the God who is always with us, especially on the difficult paths! As the Bible promises, "God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" (Hebrews 13:5). Let the discoveries begin anew!

### **Give thanks**

*to the Lord, for  
He is good; His love  
endures forever.*

*Psalm 107:1*

### **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 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service at the historic Washington Hill UM Church in North Canton.

### **"The Hanging of the Greens"**

This long-time Christmas tradition returns on Sunday, **Dec. 18 at 9:30 AM**. Our Youth, leading the service, will take us on a journey through 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** and Junior Coffee Hour afterwards.



### **Christmas Eve Family Celebration**

A highlight of the season will be our 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service. We'll celebrate with music, including a **Flute/Harp** duet. **Christmas Choir** will be singing a new arrangement of Christmas carols, "Glory to God in the Highest," which features part of Vivaldi's "Gloria." The service will conclude with the traditional "Silent Night" by candlelight.



### **Christmas Sunday**

**December 25**— What better way to celebrate the birth of Christ than with our church family! Our morning service will start a bit later—10:30 AM—to give you some family time, with plenty of time afterwards for your Christmas dinner and other favorite traditions. Jesus was the first Christmas Gift. Let's give back by planning to be in God's House for worship on this special day!

**Special Christmas Season Bible Study**—see page 3

## Ministries of Our Church



### Food Bank Donations

Thank you for your food gifts for those in need in the three towns nearest us! The food boxes at church are overflowing and will be delivered to the Food Banks this week. If you have items for Thanksgiving, you can drop them off directly at your nearest food drop-off center. In lieu of assembling Thanksgiving baskets, our UMW has already given generous monetary donations to the Food Banks of Granby, East Granby, and Suffield.

We will continue to collect non-perishable foods, household supplies, and hygiene items throughout the holidays. The need is ongoing, 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.

### 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. You can designate your gift for East Granby, Granby, or Suffield. Cards may be in any amount, to be used for gifts (Walmart, Amazon, etc.) or groceries (Stop & Shop, Big Y, Geissler's, etc.). Please give your donations to Susan Madry by **Sunday, Dec. 11**. Your generous gift will be much appreciated!



### Missions—Here and Abroad

Copper Hill Church continues to be a strong supporter of missions—local, national, and global. During the past year, our church and United Methodist Women raised money for Ukraine and hurricane victims along with regular quarterly giving to other charities.



## “Goings On” at Our Church

### Holiday Bazaar

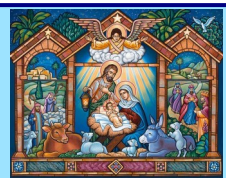
You'll find some great gift ideas at our annual **Holiday Bazaar** which will be held on **Nov. 18 and 19**. On Friday, the sale runs from 1 to 4 PM. On Saturday, hours will be 9 AM to 3 PM, with a soup luncheon (homemade soups and apple crisp or chocolate sundaes) served from 11 AM - 2 PM. There will be lots of hand-crafted items from which to choose: afghans, quilts, decorations, and kitchen towels, as well as a bountiful supply of delicious baked goods: cakes, cookies, pies, breads.



### Decorating for Christmas

We will again be decorating the church Sanctuary and holding a **Potluck Lunch** on **Sunday, Nov. 27** immediately following the morning service. Please plan to join us for a time of fellowship as we beautify our worship space for the holidays. We will set up a **“Mitten Tree”** to collect gifts to be given out through East Granby Social Services.

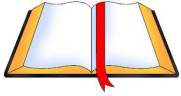
*O Come, Let Us  
Adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*



### 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 **Monday, December 12**, at 6:00 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. Come join us for an evening of fellowship and fun!

## Spiritual Transformation



We never grow too old to learn more about how to be Christ followers. As we draw closer to God, He begins to transform and renew our minds, with the help of the Holy Spirit in us, to be more like Jesus Christ.

Since the majority of our younger members are now in sixth grade and higher, the Christian Education Committee began to look at how we could encourage this age group. We came up with some new ideas:

**Junior Coffee Hour:** During our monthly coffee hour following the morning service, the congregation always enjoys gathering in the Fellowship Hall for a variety of delicious homemade treats. We have now set aside a special table for our younger members. Here we can talk about a Bible verse or points of interest from Pastor's sermon.

**Youth Time:** After the morning service, the youth have the opportunity to meet in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy cookies, a short Bible lesson, and prayer time. We have also been using this time to talk about our current video project (see below). This meetup is currently being led by JoAnne Jones.

**Sunday School for "the Littles":** We now have in place the materials and a teacher for preschoolers to enjoy their special class during the sermon section of the morning service.

**Pastor's Coffee Chat:** While "Youth Time" is meeting, adults can gather in the kitchen for Keurig beverages and cookies to discuss questions from the morning's sermon or whatever is on their mind and pray for various requests.



## Christmas Video Project

If you enjoyed the special Easter video produced by our church youth, you'll want to see their new Christmas video. It will reflect on why Christmas is important to us and feature some of our own Copper Hill youth and older folks too! Stay tuned for the pre-Christmas release date!

## Building Updates

By Pastor Kelvin Jones

Our trustees at Copper Hill Church have completed several exciting maintenance updates. They hired E & F Painting Services to swap out the many deteriorating clap boards and then repaint the church exterior. It looks great! They also painted all the white woodwork in the sanctuary.

Outside, the trustees also arranged to have a new set of stairs with new railings built for the kitchen entrance. In addition, the trustees tackled an ongoing problem with falling decorative stones on the lower outside walls of the sanctuary. Under the leadership of Jim Luchina, and with the help of his equipment, they removed all of the old stone, dug footers, and then recemented the stones. The result looks great and will be much more durable as well.



## Christmas Holy Land Video Series

Our much anticipated Christmas video Bible study for this year is called "**The Journey.**" Rev. Adam Hamilton, pastor of one of the largest churches in Methodism, produced it while in the Holy Land. The subtitle is, "Walking the Road to Bethlehem." Rev Hamilton says that the aim of the study is to help us to: (1) "better understand the events that led up to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem; (2) to see more clearly the theological significance of the Nativity; and (3) to reflect on the meaning of these events" for our lives.



Pastor Kelvin will be preaching corresponding messages during Advent beginning Nov. 27 (9:30 AM) and continuing through Christmas Eve (5:00 PM) and on Christmas Day (10:30 AM). The video studies will be shared at church (and Zoom) on Tuesdays (6:30 PM), at Higley Village clubhouse on Thursday in-person (1 PM), and on Saturday Zoom only (7:00 PM) all during December.



## Train Village Open House

Pastor Kelvin and JoAnne invite you to visit once again the ever-popular Train Village on display on Sunday, **Dec. 11**. Stop by between 2—5:30 PM and enjoy some holiday goodies. Children are especially welcome to come and play with the trains!

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



## Copper Hill Congregation

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

### YOU'RE INVITED!

Nov. 18,19—**Holiday Bazaar**: Fri.1- 4 PM , Sat. 9 AM - 3 PM — (see pg. 2)

Dec. 11—**Open House** at the Parsonage: 2:00 - 5:30 PM

Dec. 18 —**Children's Program**, "Hanging of the Greens" —9:30 AM  
And Coffee Hour

Dec. 24—**Christmas Eve** Family Service, 5:00 PM  
Flute & Harp, Choir, Candle Lighting

Dec. 25—**Christmas Sunday** 10:30 AM

Join us Sunday mornings for our **Family Worship Service**: 9:30 AM



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

