



A Newsletter for the Members and Friends of
Kensington Congregational Church

WEBSITE: WWW.KENSINGTONCONG.ORG

E-MAIL: KCCOFFICE@KENSINGTONCONG.ORG

Gabriel's Trumpet

April 2024

A Note from Pastor Holly

"Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord!"

We heard these words from the lips of the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist, and now we embody these very same words, Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord! During Holy Week we traveled together on the road into Jerusalem with Jesus on a humble donkey. We joined Him at the table in commemoration of Maundy Thursday with food and fellowship. We quietly followed Him along the path to Golgotha where He is crucified. And finally, we ran to the tomb to find that He has Risen!

With springtime blooming and the weather warming, we see Christ's resurrection in all of creation. Flowers are breaking through the formerly frozen ground, creatures of all kinds are emerging and enjoying the sun, and we are being called to put into practice the amazing Grace that we experienced. Many of us have seen this first hand in our Lenten plants. The miracle of life is all around us, and knowing that our life does not end when our time on earth is over makes each of these moments even sweeter.

What Easter reveals is that because of Christ's death and resurrection there is nothing that separates us from God! Right here, right now, we are free to love God with all of our hearts, souls and minds, and we are able to do this without fear because we have been reunited with God through Christ for all eternity! God is in each and every moment of our lives, Jesus meets us right where we are, and the Holy

A Note from Pastor Holly (cont.)

Spirit burns within us as we reach toward our Creator.

Embrace this new life; a life lead in love and not in fear. See God in everyone that you meet, for God, indeed, dwells within all people. Rejoice in the freedom that you have, and share this message of hope through the living of your lives in relationship with God.

For He is Risen, and He lives within you and within me!

Blessings,

The Reverend Doctor Holly Norwick

Pastor Holly's Vacation

Pastor Holly will be on vacation from April 5th through April 14th. If you have an urgent pastoral need during this time frame, please contact one of our Diaconate Chairs, Beth Nyerick at 860-919-1678 or Ella Ellis at 860-801-1381. They will get in touch with a local minister who has agreed to be on call for any urgent pastoral needs of our church family while Pastor Holly is away on vacation. Thank you.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 6:30pm:
Meal in the Upper Room and Tenebrae

Easter Sunrise Service, March 31, 6:30am
@ The Hall's Farm, 282 Southington Road

Easter Service, March 31, 10:00am

Missions Updates

Covenant to Care

Our thanks go out to all of you who donated Easter baskets for the children in the DCF/Covenant to Care system. You really outdid yourselves in the creativity department this year! We could see outdoor toys, books, stuffed animals, arts and crafts supplies, candy, and so much more filling those baskets. The baskets made a beautiful display in the sanctuary on March 17th and will bring huge smiles to the faces of 25 children on Easter morning.

Family Promise of Central CT

We hope you enjoyed the informative presentation and took advantage of the opportunity to converse with Jessica and Cheryl from FPCCT when they came to KCC on March 10th. They certainly did a thorough job of explaining the current model of their organization and the widespread needs of the increasing numbers of families facing housing insecurity. When the program was the church rotation model, there was a lot of enthusiasm for supporting Family Promise, and it is our hope that this presentation helped to revive some of that enthusiasm. As the cost of living has continued to skyrocket, the needs and numbers of those facing housing insecurity have increased. The Missions Committee will continue to keep you informed as to how you can be involved in helping.

Parish Visitor

Happy Spring! I just want to remind you that I'm available to meet, in person or by phone, if you'd like to talk about whatever might be on your mind. As Parish Visitor, it's been lovely to get to know some of our members better over a cup of tea. You don't have to be experiencing a crisis in your life to give me a call, and I promise to keep our conversation confidential. Sometimes it's just good to have someone to talk with, and we might even have a laugh or two while we're at it! Call Chris or the church office if you'd like a visit.

Chris Gates-Wnuk

Missions Updates (cont.)

El Salvador/Pan de Vida

Finally, we were able to have a ZOOM meeting with Pastor Wuilver so that he and Pastor Holly could meet face to face. Julie Smith arranged for a colleague, Guillermo, to act as a translator and all went smoothly. Pastor Wuilver expressed his gratitude and the gratitude of his church members for all of our love and support. He discussed the current state of affairs in El Salvador which basically boils down to not as much overt violence, but the government does not allow any opposition of any kind (verbal or otherwise) and does retaliate against those who oppose them. Corruption continues to abound. Three young women from Pan de Vida are attending university, and we heard about their studies, their dreams, and their struggles. Pastor Wuilver asked about how things are going at KCC and about several individual members that he knew personally. Pastor Holly asked about how we can best support them. We ended the ZOOM by pledging to continue to have ZOOM calls several times a year.

Food Pantry Needs

Happy Spring! For the months of March and April, the Berlin Food Pantry is in need of the following items: pasta mixes, rice mixes, canned fruit, canned pastas such as Chef-Boy-R-Dee or Spaghetti-os, Mac and cheese, diced canned tomatoes, canned plum or regular tomatoes and tomato paste. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Our neighbors in need, really appreciate your donations.

Prudence Crandall

The Prudence Crandall Center and all of the families supported by them are always appreciative of Kensington Congregational Church's generous donations. While there are many needs, this month (April) we will be specifically collecting cleaning items. This can include, cleaning solutions, dish soap, sponges, cleaning wipes, brooms, mops and any other cleaning supplies. Please leave items in the labeled container outside the narthex.

WSL Upcoming Programs

March 28th, 6:30pm: Maundy Thursday Service/ Meal in Upper Room- A WSL led service begins in the sanctuary with music, a reflection, and introduction of the meal. From the sanctuary we depart to the Parish Hall to partake in a silent meal (of roast lamb, rice and accompaniments) followed by a service of Tenebrae led by the Diaconate.

May 10-11th: WSL Annual Retreat

Our retreat returns to Mercy Center in Madison, CT and begins on Friday with an overnight stay in Seascape (departing KCC at 3:00 pm). A day option for Saturday only attendance is available too. Led by retreat facilitator Rev. Susan Foster, we will focus on the biblical story of Esther and how she discovered her voice. We hope you'll join us for a wonderful seaside respite. Carpooling will be arranged. Sign-ups begin in March with limited availability. The cost (subsidized by WSL) is \$85 for overnight participants and \$25 for Saturday only participants. Join us!!!

May 19th, Noon: Book Discussion

Our next selection, *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge, tells the great adventure story of 17-year old Woodrow Wilson Nickel, who drives two giraffes cross-country in 1938 America, finding himself along the way through the joys and conflicts of the voyage. We'll meet after coffee hour so feel free to bring a bag lunch; a zoom option will also be available.

Church Bulletin Board

BIRTHDAY:

KATHRYN WALL: APRIL 3



**THE MAY TRUMPET DEADLINE IS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024**

Annual Spring Cleanup

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE
FOR OUR ANNUAL SPRING
CLEANUP!**



Please save the date and time for this year's annual **Spring Cleanup Day – Saturday, April 20, 2024, 9:00 am – 12:00 Noon.**

We will need folks inside and out. This year we are reaching out for a team of **at least 8 to focus on inside cleaning of both the Sanctuary, which turns 250 this year**, and the Parish Hall. They both need a good deep clean. Please bring with you any favorite cleaning items – plastic scouring pads, sponges, rags, towels, buckets, brooms, dustpans, etc. Hand-held vacuums will also be useful; bring an extension cord if yours is not battery-powered. Please also bring your favorite cleaning products, preferably those that come in spray bottles.

Confirmants will be working with Lindsey Wright on the unity gardens. And we will need a team raking weeding and spreading mulch. So please save the date and plan to come together to spruce up for spring.

If you have any activity you would like to be involved with, please let Dane Baclaski or Scott Newbury know.

SIGN-UP USING THE LINK BELOW:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48ABAE2AA1FBC07-48520757-spring - /](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48ABAE2AA1FBC07-48520757-spring-/)

Dane Baclaski dbaclaski@mac.com or Scott Newbury - Scottn15@comcast.net

Vernah Munson Scholarship

The Vernah Munson Scholarship forms are available for pick-up during church hours or on Sunday. **Printed copies are available in the Narthex & Parish Hall.** You must be a member of the church to apply. **THE DEADLINE IS MAY 1, 2024 AT NOON.**

Annual Church Meeting

May 5, 2024

Join us on **Sunday, May 5th** immediately following our worship service. Over the course of about an hour, we'll review the year gone from April 2023 – March 2024, elect officers and committees to lead us in the year ahead, and take any other actions proper to come before the Annual Meeting (as defined in our constitution and by-laws). Please plan on attending this important meeting!

Consider a Committee!!

Each Spring, the Nominating Committee reaches out to all members to consider joining the many committees that are active within the church. This invitation is open to ALL. If you have ever considered joining any of the various committees, please let your thoughts be known to any current committee member or any member of the Nominating Committee. It's an exciting time in the life of this church and your involvement of time and talents is greatly appreciated to assist the missions and life of this congregation. If you are curious about the work of any committee, that information can also be provided to aid in your decision making. Just reach out! You will see us in the months of March / April soliciting your help in filling open positions prior to the May Annual Meeting.

THANKS,

Brian Humes, Nominating

Annual Reports due April 3rd

The church office needs your committee report by **Wednesday, April 3** for the Annual Meeting on May 5th.

Please e-mail Cassandra in the church office your report at KCCOffice@kensingtoncong.org or hand it in before April 3rd. Thanks!

Come Join Our Diaconate Team!

Looking for an easy, rewarding way to get more involved at KCC and give back to our loving church?

The Diaconate Committee has openings for deacons to work together, with Pastor Holly, focusing on the spiritual interests of our church family including worship and support of all church members. A new term starts July 1st! Since we generally have 12-14 deacons serving for staggered 3-year terms, many hands make light work! Regular deacon duties are: being the Lay Reader and serving communion once a month. We support the congregation by reaching out to members with our Caring Hearts program, cards, phone calls and prayers. Since there are many deacons, frequency of duties is spread out over many months and there's always another deacon that can pitch in if needed.

Come join our faithful team!

☺ ***We would love to have you!*** ☺

If you would like more information, have questions or would like to join our team, please feel free to contact me!

Beth Nyerick, Diaconate Co-Chair
860-919-1678

bethnyerick@gmail.com

An Update from the New Organ Team

We have great news on the status of the new Organ for our 250 year old Sanctuary. The New Organ team has been working tirelessly to determine the needs and design of a New organ. They have landed on a New Allen organ setup similar to what we presently have. The cost will be approximately \$145,000 which will be covered by our insurance policy. The final order was placed the week of Feb 19th. The goal is to try to have it installed late May early June.

***Again thank you to the team,
of Cori Terlecky, Rich Gagliardi, Andy Chapo, Todd Helming and Joy Kumme!!***

Mortgage Update

The balance on our \$150,000 mortgage that completed the Parish Hall construction is now down to \$85,611, at the end of March. The giving efforts of individuals and groups in our Church has been amazing. Check out our “thermostat board” in the Parish Hall for all the details. Our currently low interest rate of 2.87% will adjust in April 2025 and may triple due to higher interest rates. So, the push will continue until we have slayed the mortgage! Many thanks to all who have stepped up!

Budget Update

February income for offerings:
\$24,753.68

February spending on budgeted expenses:
\$32,951.69

6th Annual KCC Golf Fundraiser

The Golf Committee is pleased to announce that our 6th KCC Golf Fundraiser will take place at Timberlin Golf Course on **Saturday August 17th beginning at 12 noon!** Our event has been a tremendous success in support of our church, and those we minister to!

During this benchmark year, KCC is celebrating the 250th birthday of our meeting house. We will be working hard to re-engage the players and businesses who have blessed us with their generosity in past years. We are prayerful for your support in helping us to achieve our 2024 goal for the church by approaching new business sponsors, players, and or dinner-only guests you may know to sign up for our event.

Stay tuned for further updates!

Duane Blanchette
KCC Golf Committee Chairman

Greeter Sign-Up

Make Someone's Day A Little Brighter!



- ⇒ See Beth or Steve Nyerick at church or call/text them at 860-919-1678
- ⇒ Sign-up on Sign-Up Genius:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4AAFAC29A0FE3-44906324-2024#/>
- ⇒ Call the church office at 860-828-4511

Care Team Update

We are excited to share that the Care Team will be having their first gathering this month. That means that you will be hearing from your care team member very soon who will be reaching out to begin a relationship with you. One of the most important aspects of church is the community that we foster. With such a wide community here at KCC, the care team will work together to make sure that you feel connected in a personal way. You will receive a card in the mail from your care team member introducing themselves and inviting you to participate in a new church relationship with them. When you receive these cards, please consider responding and entering into a new relationship here at KCC. In order for us to be a stronger church, we must work to strengthen our relationships and deepen trust with one another. KCC is committed to living the love of Christ and we are starting right here, right now, in our very own church!

If you have any questions, or if you want to be a part of the care team, please reach out to Pastor Holly or Christ Gates-Wnuk!

Sunday Morning Flowers



There are many dates available for the upcoming months. Sign-up to celebrate someone special, a birthday, an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. If you would like to sign up for flowers on the altar, the book is located in the Narthex. If you would like the committee to order them, they are \$30.

I'm so Grateful

A poem by Tricia Foster

*I was raised in a Catholic family, I went to catholic school K through 8
And then we found KCC, it was certainly worth the wait*

*Familiar with the KCC family, as the kids attended the nursery school
So we came to a few services, and thought "this is very cool"*

*Gwen and Cori and Lisa Degroff, knew our children from the start
I can't think of three better teachers, so kind, generous and smart*

*I'm so grateful for the support we were given when my husband Rich fell ill
Grateful for the healing prayers, gratitude I hold still*

*Grateful in this harsh life, I could always count on you all
Grateful for the Sunday scriptures, raising my spirits, so I don't fall*

*I'm grateful for Wendy and Judy, and everything Berlin Fair
They manage the whole lot of us and they do it with flare*

*Our church family always reaching out, like the branches of a tree
And our pastor, meeting anyone for a coffee or a tea*

*I am so grateful we are progressive and accepting of all
This is a big thing, an important thing, for those that feel small*

*Grateful for the Festival on the Hill, Gwen puts it together like a quilt
Grateful for Brian and Allen and the Parrish Hall that they built*

*I'm grateful for the love you sent, when there were hearts in front of our home
Life is hard and full of challenges, we're not meant to face alone.*

*The connections happen, there are two that are so special to me
My confirmands, Josh and Bailey, forever in their life I will be*

Think of all the good we do and the fun we share together:

The Bells

I'm so Grateful (Cont.)

*Bible Study
Book club
Care Packages for college students
Church picnics
Communion
Confirmation
El Salvador
Family Promise
Food pantry collection
The Golf Tournament
Meal in the upper room
Night in Bethlehem
Woman's service league
Parish visitor
Pledge thank you lunches
Reaching out with cards flowers and food for shut-ins
Retreats
Scholarships
Salvation Army support
School backpacks
Sunrise service
The Choir
Work Camp
Women's shelter support
And everyone's favorite – coffee hour*

*I am so impressed with the intellect, the dedication and the drive
It's these qualities, that keeps KCC alive*

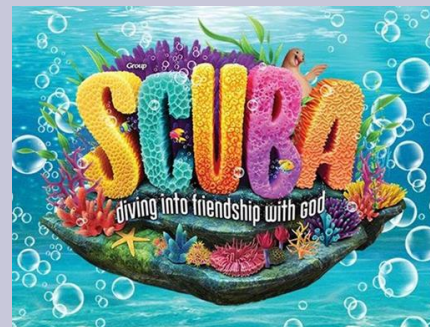
*But the good we do for others, it does come at a cost
I'm so thankful for the pledges, if not for them we would be lost*

*I hope you feel what I feel and find a way to pitch in
We're all in it together, you can definitely....count me in!*

Vacation Bible School

June 24 – June 27, 2024

9:00AM-12noon



Sign-up information will be on the church website beginning in mid-April.

Friday Night Lights



A fun-filled evening for kids featuring:

**Kick-off Sing & Play Celebration, Pizza Dinner,
Imagination Station, Awesome Bible Adventure,
Games, and Friyay Finale with Sweet treat**

for children age 3 through 11

Middle school and high school volunteers are welcome and must register on-line

Friday, April 5

5:30pm-8:00pm

Kensington Congregational Church, Parish Hall

Register online

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4CAAAB2AA4FC1-48580145-friday>

Registration fee: \$5.00

Payable the evening of the event

Bring a water bottle



DATED MATERIAL

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you or someone else in our church family goes to the hospital, please contact us, or have a nurse contact us, as soon as possible so we can pray for and minister to you and your family. You can phone the church office 24/7 and leave a message on the answering machine. Due to the new privacy laws, the hospitals will **not** notify us, and their patient rosters are no longer available to us, so we must rely on **your** help.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

KENNINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06037
KENNINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 312 PERCIVAL AVENUE (ROUTE 71)
 KENNINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06037-2098
OFFICE/FAX: (860) 828-4511
E-MAIL: KCoffice@kenningtoncong.org
WEBSITE: www.kenningtoncong.org



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