



A Newsletter for the Members and Friends of
Kensington Congregational Church

WEBSITE: WWW.KENSINGTONCONG.ORG

E-MAIL: KCCOFFICE@KENSINGTONCONG.ORG

Gabriel's Trumpet

March 2024

A Note from Pastor Holly

Greeting KCC Family,

We are well on our way down the path of Lent, approaching Holy Week at the end of this month. The Lenten journey has offered us many opportunities to engage in some of Jesus' infamous planting parables. We are reminded of the miracles that happen all around us and listen for the call to continue to tend the soil of our own lives so that the love-seed of God can grow abundantly.

I hope that you have all had a chance to plant your Lenten plants. Much to my surprise, my Lenten plant is eagerly sprouting! I find that fascinating for a plant trying to grow in a cold, East Coast February. I watch as the little shoots push their way confidently through the soil and stretch in the direction of the sun. Instinctively, they bend toward the sunlight – even when I turn them around in the other direction! The windowsill that they occupy is abuzz with new life, right before our very eyes!

And like our little Lenten plants, the Lenten journey itself allows us to grow toward the Son as well. As we locate ourselves in the parables that Jesus shared, we seek to gain a whole new perspective on how our faith grows. If we lean on God's everlasting arms and recognize that each and every one of us have been called to bloom, we will break through the barriers that try and stop us and we will flower. And the best news, is that we will all flower differently! I may flower early and have green buds. You may flower later and have yellow buds. Some of us bloom for a long time, some of us step into our

A Note from Pastor Holly (cont.)

glory for short bursts of time. Each of us will find the Son, and peak into all that we are called to be at a time that God needs us the most. And we will do so because if God's infinite creativity, for we are each fearfully and wonderfully made.

The great news about recognizing that we all bloom differently is understanding that we each have a part to play – that this life isn't a one person show. We all need to bloom and we all need to bloom differently so that God's love is evident at different times, by different people, when it is most needed. These blooms, mind you, are no accident, they are timed, they are watered and nourished, they are called forth by God to flower the earth with more love and open arms that we can ever imagine.

If we can see Lent as a time where we open ourselves to internal exploration and preparation for the new things God can do with our short lives, perhaps Lent can find a new and meaningful place in our faith life. It is a time to be willing to release the things that are holding us back and be open to the wonderful new ways God is calling us to sprout and bloom in this world. With a disposition of self-reflection and openness, the ways to love one another are endless!

Friends, our lives, our time here on earth, are like bulbs, loved and created and cared for by God. Easter is coming, it is time to bloom!

Blessings,

The Reverend Doctor Holly Norwick

Missions Updates

Easter Baskets



Rabbit with solid fill Hard to believe it is that time of year already! Our annual Easter Basket drive has begun. Our congregation always looks forward to filling baskets for the children in the Covenant to Care program and Family Promise.

This year, we have 25 children's names, and 20 of them were already chosen on this past Sunday, our first day of sign-ups. We can't wait to see the beautiful baskets filled with chocolate bunnies, fun toys and games, books, stuffed animals, or whatever little fun things you come up with. We can only imagine the joy those children will experience on Easter morning when they awaken to their special basket. **DUE BY MARCH 17TH!** Thank you.

El Salvador/Pan De Vida

Pastor Holly and several members of the Missions Committee have a ZOOM meeting date scheduled with Pastor Wuilver in early March, thanks to an interpreter friend of Julie Smith. We look forward to Pastor Holly and Pastor Wuilver meeting for the first time on ZOOM and to our discussion about our longtime partnership. Pastor Wuilver always emails their gratitude for our love and support, and he expresses his hopes that we can somehow meet in person someday. In our ZOOM meeting, we hope to learn more about the 3 young people from Pan de Vida who are attending university, about how the computer lab and bakery are doing, and of course about how they are all faring amidst the ongoing corruption and violence in El Salvador. We will report back to all of you following that meeting.

Family Promise

The Director of Family Promise of Central Connecticut was scheduled to come to KCC on Sunday, February 25, but due to illness, she had to reschedule to March 10th. She will come to speak to the congregation about the current model of FPCCT and will be available to answer questions as well. We look forward to her presentation.

Missions Updates (cont.)

One Great Hour of Sharing

Just a reminder that the annual collection for "One Great Hour of Sharing" is on **March 10th**. Monies collected support many needs, including disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. If you have pledge envelopes, you already have an envelope for this in that box. If not, there are envelopes in the narthex along with informational pamphlets. There is also an option to give online through our KCC e-giving page.

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 (March) we will be specifically collecting toiletries items. This can include, shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash, lotion, wash clothes and loofahs. Please leave items in the labeled container outside the narthex.



Lenten Potluck Series

**BRING AN ENTRÉE OR SALAD. PIZZA IS OK.
THE COMMITTEES WILL BRING THE DESSERTS.**

Tuesday, February 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by Women's Service League

Tuesday, March 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by Christian Faith Formation

Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by Music & Trustees Committees

**THE MARCH TRUMPET DEADLINE IS
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024**

WSL Upcoming Programs

March 10th, Noon: Book Discussion-*Couldn't Keep It to Myself* by Wally Lamb and the Women of York Correctional Institution

Described as a stunning work of insight and hope, this work reveals humanity in the lost and lonely and celebrates the transforming power of the written word. We'll meet after coffee hour so feel free to bring a bag lunch; a zoom option will also be available.

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 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!!!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:00am:
Sunday morning worship with palms

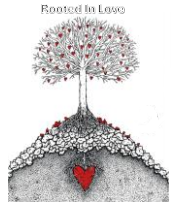
Maundy Thursday, March 28, 6:30pm:
Meal in the Upper Room and Tenebrae

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

Easter Service, March 31, 10:00am

"Rooted In Love"

This year's Lenten Journey theme is "**Rooted in Love,**" and we are celebrating Lent in an exciting new way, a way that EVERYONE can participate, whether you are near or far, no matter what the age. This year, we are taking a look at what God is doing in our lives and embarking on weekly mini challenges to embody more of the characteristics of Jesus.



Here's how it works

Each week we will usher a Lenten challenge. You are invited to complete the challenge in any way you see fit. Then, we ask that you consider sharing the way you've completed the challenge. You can do this in a couple of ways...

1. **Fellowship:** consider sharing the way you completed your challenge at a fellowship time, whether at coffee hour after worship, at any of the upcoming Lenten suppers, or even just among your friends and family.
2. **Virtually:** we will be creating a post on our church Facebook Page at the beginning of each challenge. Consider making a comment to the post with a story, or a picture, or a comment about what you did or how you felt.

We hope to be able to gather as many stories and pictures and thoughts as possible about each week's challenge to build excitement for the upcoming week's challenge.

Lenten Weekly Mini-Challenges

Week #3, 2/25 – 3/2: **Help a "neighbor"**
Week #4, 3/3 – 3/9: **Discover inspiration**
Week #5, 3/10 – 3/16: **Care for the earth**
Week #6, 3/17 – 3/23: **Take Sabbath, self-care**
Week #7, 3/24 – 3/31: **Walk with God**

If you would like help with being able to participate in a virtual way, but do not have a Facebook account, consider sending your comment, story or picture to Pastor Holly (808)-371-4701 or hollynorwick@gmail.com and she will share it for you.

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!

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. A Signup Genius will be in place shortly.

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

Church Bulletin Board

Birthday:

DYLA PALCZER: March 14

Death:

ELEANOR NELSON: January 30, 2024



Baked Potato Brunch



Youth participating in this summer's Workcamp trip will host a "Baked Potato Brunch" on **March 17** following worship. Church members and friends are invited to come to this special brunch which will replace Coffee Hour. You will top your own potato the way you like it! Toppings include: butter, sour cream, cheddar cheese, bacon, and chives. Baked potatoes will be sold for \$5.00 and all funds raised will benefit the Workcamp group.

Building Committee

The Building Committee is excited to announce that the **\$500.00 Challenge towards paying off the Parish Hall mortgage has been matched** and the Challenger has honored their promise to donate an additional \$ 500.00 if the challenge was matched. If any one or group would like make a challenge of any amount, please contact Allan Hall @ 860-798-5378 or the church office. Look for an updated progress in early March.

Building Committee: Norm Margnelli, Jen Calcagni, Wendy Kingsbury, Allyson Schulz, Bob Baumann, and Allan Hall

Budget Update

January income from offerings:

\$29,950.79

January spending on budgeted expenses:

\$65,110.14

(includes a \$30,000 final payment for interior painting)

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.**

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.

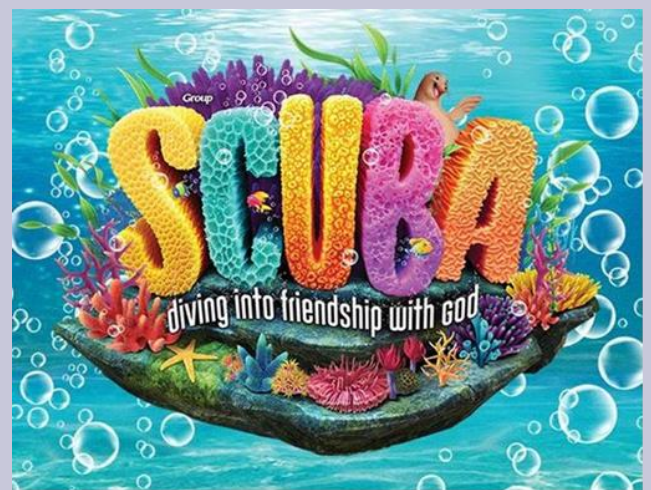
Stay tuned for further updates!

Duane Blanchette
KCC Golf Committee Chairman

Vacation Bible School

June 24 – June 27, 2024

9:00AM-12noon



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

KCC Care to Share

This program seeks to match donated items with parishioners who need them. If you have any furniture, indoor or outdoor equipment, electronics, etc., and would like to donate those items, we will list them in the Trumpet for a maximum of 3 months.

If you would like to donate an item, please email the following information to **Judy Hall** at judyhall1@comcast.net and it will be listed in the Trumpet:

Description of item to be donated

Your name

Phone or email

Interested parties can contact the person donating the items via email or phone and arrange for pick-up.

Additionally, if you need a certain item for a specific task we will publish a list of those items as well. As an example, you might need to borrow a tile cutter to complete that bathroom you've been thinking about.

All items are donated outright or borrowed for a period of time. No money is to change hands. **Please contact Judy Hall with any questions – text/call 860-707-6372.**

The church office hours are

Monday through Thursday from 9am- 3pm.

Pastor Holly office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9am - 3pm. If there is an **emergency** or you wish to speak to Pastor Holly outside the office hours, **please call 808-371-4701 at any time.**

Choir Reminder

CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT FROM 6:00-7:00 IN THE CHURCH PARLOR.

All are welcome!

The Arts are Alive at KCC!

Here at KCC we have several talented artists, skilled in all sorts of mediums from photography, to painting, to decoupage. This month our very own Kristen Zarabozo, one of our local artists here at KCC, has a solo art show at Sadie's Sunrise Café on the Berlin Turnpike!



A little bit about Kristen...

Kristen was raised in central Connecticut and has acquired her BS in Theatre Design and Technology from Towson University (2012) and then her MFA in Theatre Arts with a focus in Scenic Design from the University of Connecticut (2020). She has worked professionally in theatre both as a Scenic Artist and a Scenic Designer. She has also taught as an instructor at Syracuse University and as an adjunct at Central Connecticut State University. Her personal work incorporates a variety of dry and wet media into a single piece that is usually figurative as well as highly detailed. She also works with more fluid media such as alcohol ink to create more abstract pieces. She currently resides in Berlin, Connecticut with her family. She spends most of her time chasing after her very active toddler, teaching art classes out of her home studio, and generally making creative mayhem.

Please feel free and encouraged to follow her artist account on **Instagram @kpezdesigns** and also check out her work at Sadie's Sunrise Cafe.

How Does Someone Become a Deacon at KCC?

Did you ever wonder how someone “turns into a deacon”? Well, it’s not magic, that’s for sure! 😊 Anyone can volunteer to be a deacon! We have 14 slots for deacons on the Diaconate Committee. It’s a three-year commitment and terms are staggered, so there’s always room for more deacons!

Presently, our Diaconate Committee has 12 wonderful deacons, all contributing their unique strengths, talents and faith to support our church family and Pastor Holly. We also consider our Parish Visitor, Chris Gates-Wnuk, and our card-writer, Patti Byrnes, as part of our team.

Deacons work closely with our pastor to focus on the spiritual interests of our church including worship, the sacraments and membership. We support our church family through our caring ministries of visiting those in need and sending encouraging cards to our church family.

Deacons ensure our church services have greeters, lay readers and they also assist with communion, baptisms, funerals and other special services. The Diaconate Committee supports our Confirmation Classes, too. We are also the planters of the KCC Caring Hearts which is a wonderful caring ministry which involves “planting” our red wooden KCC hearts on the lawns of those struggling with a challenge or celebrating something special. It’s a unique way to support our church family!

Since there are 12 to 14 deacons on our Diaconate Committee, an individual deacon’s responsibilities are not overwhelming, numerous or time consuming, however, the satisfaction and love we receive in return from serving is priceless!

If you are trying to figure out how you can give back to KCC, please consider joining the Diaconate Committee. We would surely welcome you on our team! 😊 It’s a great way to get to know KCC members more, understand more about how the church operates and it a wonderful opportunity to give back to our church and to God.

The Diaconate Committee will host Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 3rd, so be sure to stop by the coffee counter to see our poster showing pictures of our current deacons. We would love to talk more about the great initiatives we are involved in and answer your questions.

In addition, please feel free to give me a call if you want to learn more about becoming a deacon or if you’re ready to offer your support to our team. Believe me, you’ll receive a special feeling in your heart for lending a faithful hand! It’s in the giving we receive God’s blessings...sometimes in unexpected, magical ways! 😊

Beth Nyerick, Diaconate Committee Co-Chairperson
860-919-1678
bethnyerick@gmail.com

February is Black History Month: The 29th Connecticut

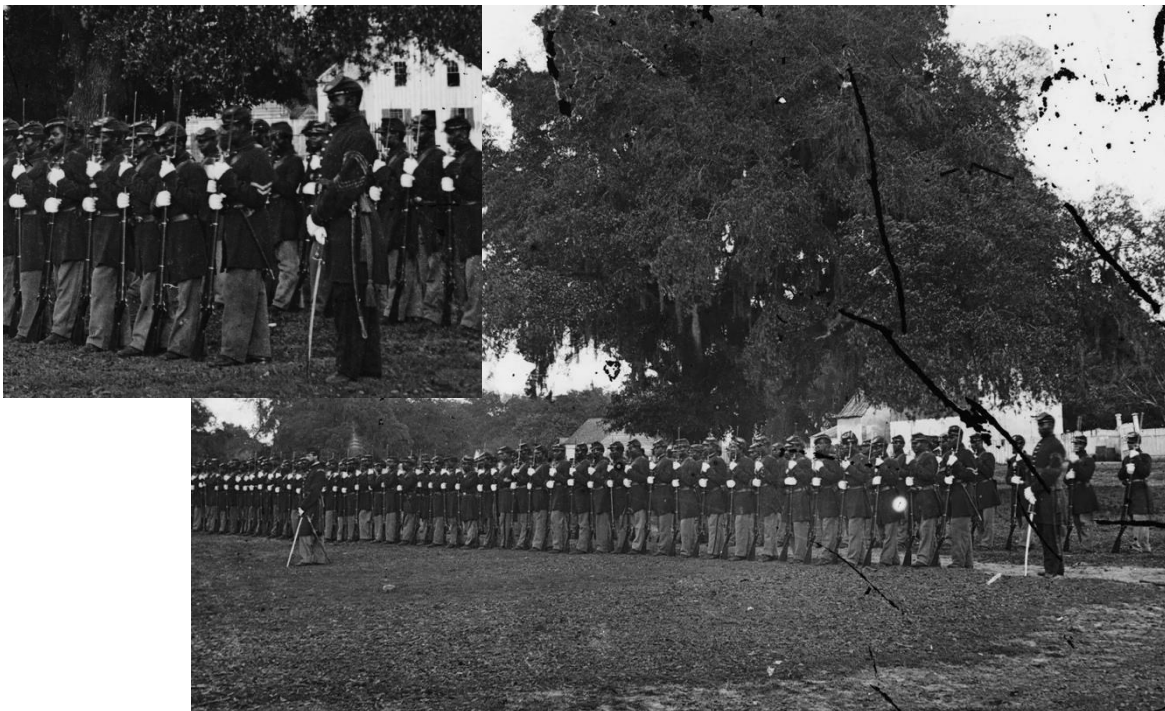
Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. This year, we were thrilled to have had 3 cofounders of the Berlin B.E.A.T. come to our first Lenten Potluck on Tuesday, February 20th and present the award-winning documentary, *The 29th Connecticut Regiment and the Fight for Freedom*.

The 29th Connecticut is a short documentary film about the eleven African American soldiers who enlisted from Berlin, Connecticut, during the American Civil War. The 29th Regiment of United States Colored Troops, formed just after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, fought in critical battles near the end of the war and helped to secure freedom from enslavement for all United States citizens.

As a result of the fruitful conversation following the viewing of the film, we learned that there are several names of African American soldiers of the civil war, specifically from the 29th Connecticut regiment, that are *not* included on The Kensington Soldiers' Monument, the historic war memorial erected in 1863 that is located on the church property at the corner of Percival and Sheldon. The Kensington Soldiers' Monument is one of the oldest memorials to the American Civil War in the United States, and the first to be erected in Connecticut.

KCC will be working alongside B.E.A.T. and the Berlin Historical Society to confirm their names and add them to the monument. We are hopeful to celebrate the addition of these names to the monument on either Memorial Day or on Juneteenth of this year. We pray that by doing so, monuments around the country will seek to discover and include any names of African American soldiers that were not recognized.

If you missed the viewing of this amazing film at our Lenten Supper, don't worry, you can watch it anytime at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ch0nWg3kwI>. *The 29th Connecticut* was produced by the Wide Awake Film Company and the BEAT Berlin Civil War Heroes Project. This film won Best Connecticut Film at the Mystic Film Festival in 2023!



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DATED MATERIAL

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.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

KENSINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06037
KENSINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 312 PERCIVAL AVENUE (ROUTE 71)
 KENSINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06037-2098
OFFICE/FAX: (860) 828-4511
E-MAIL: KCoffice@KENSINGTONCONG.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.KENSINGTONCONG.ORG



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