



A Newsletter for the Members and Friends of
Kensington Congregational Church

WEBSITE: WWW.KENSINGTONCONG.ORG

E-MAIL: KCCOFFICE@KENSINGTONCONG.ORG

Gabriel's Trumpet

May 2024

A Note from Pastor Holly

Greetings KCC Family,

Excitement is in this beautiful warm air and the call of the outdoors is beckoning! In the life of the church, we are leaning into the coming summer with so many exciting Sundays to come. In this a time of church life transition, we begin to see that we resemble the same transition that the disciples faced after the resurrection of Jesus; the transition from the Easter season, celebrating our Risen Savior, to understanding our own commissioning in the world empowered by the Holy Spirit. At His ascension, Christ ended His time on earth with His disciples. He blessed them and sent them forth to continue to bring the message of God's unconditional love to all people by instilling within them the Spirit. We have received this same commissioning and same Spirit, and we carry within us the power of God to share God's love and affirmation with everyone.

Then, on what we now know as the Day of Pentecost, the church was born in every language in every beautiful iteration of praise, for everyone whom God made! It was the birthday of the church! I don't mean just Kensington Congregational Church, I mean the celebration of this commissioning, this creation of the Church within all people! In the book of Acts, we read the story of Pentecost as the Holy Spirit came down in tongues of fire, allowing people from all over to speak the good news of God, filling them with life and love. From that time, they gathered and spread the good news, thus the church was born on earth. In the spirit of Pentecost, take a moment to reflect with me on our birthday and celebration as a church family.

I believe the reason that the Holy Spirit has been able to lead this church through history rests in our

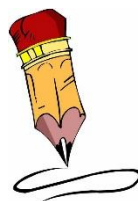
A Note from Pastor Holly (cont.)

statement of inclusion. This was powerful when it was adopted, but make no mistake, these words are straight from the heart of the Holy Spirit, working to unify God's people. We find ourselves at a precipice; one that echoes the same moment of Christ's ascension – now what? Where do we go from here? What do we look like now? How do we even start – or – restart?

Well, maybe we start in the same way that the disciples did. Maybe we start by focusing more on what it means to be followers of Christ; to be disciples, and a little less about mechanics of church. Maybe, instead of being the recipients of this church's mission we become the ones responsible for the God's mission! As a body of disciples our energy, our time, our talents are commissioned to look outward into the world and serve as Christ served. This comes with great discernment for each of us and all of us, but with bold choices in faith, trust in God's leading, and an unflinching love for all whom God has created, we have everything we need for this new journey. Let us live the words of our statement of inclusion, one of love and acceptance, of unification and communion, of restoration and affirmation, and let us celebrate our birthday as a church praising God! Be together; not the same.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

- John 13: 34



**Blessings,
The Reverend Doctor Holly
Norwick**

Missions Updates

Mother's Day Collection

You still have the opportunity to honor a special woman in your life by donating to our Mother's Day collection. Donations will be gratefully accepted through May 5th for the victims of domestic violence under the Prudence Crandall House. Collected monies will go to purchase pajamas.

(SEE FORM TO THE RIGHT)

Father's Day Collection

The Missions Committee has chosen Tunnels to Towers as our Father's Day Collection recipient this year. This is a non-profit organization born out of the tragedy of 9/11, providing mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children and building specially-adapted smart homes for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. Unlike many other non-profits, approximately 95% of the donated monies go directly to benefit those in need, as opposed to administrative costs. You can find out more about Tunnels to Towers on t2t.org.

Family Promise of Central CT

Join in for an afternoon of fun at the 5 Churches Brewery on Arch Street in New Britain on Sunday, May 19th to help support FPCCT. Tickets are \$20 pp and can be purchased online or at the door. Monies raised from that event will go directly to support local families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.

Food Pantry Needs



Spring has sprung! 🌱🌱🌱 Spring needs for the Berlin Food Pantry are **peanut butter, mayonnaise, jelly, cans or packages of pasta mixes, and canned fruit.** As always, our donations from KCC are much appreciated.

HONORING SPECIAL WOMEN IN YOUR LIFE MOTHER'S DAY 2024

Donations for the purchasing of pajamas for the women and children of Prudence Crandall may be made in any amount.

DUE AT KCC BY May 5th!!!

*Donations will be listed in weekly bulletin on May 12^h. We will try our best but any donations received **after May 5th** may not be listed in the weekly bulletin on May 12th.*

YOUR NAME(s):

AMOUNT DONATED: _____

Circle one CHECK or CASH

IN MEMORY OF:

(List names below.)

IN CELEBRATION OF:

(List names below.)

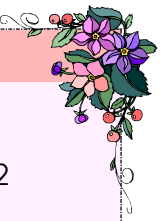
***CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO KCC WITH
MOTHER'S DAY WRITTEN ON THE MEMO LINE.**

Church Bulletin Board

BIRTHDAY:

SHIRLEY MARGNELLI: MAY 5 – AGE: 92

GRACE FULLER: MAY 16 – AGE: 92



Festival on the Hill

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, June 8!** KCC will once again host Festival on the Hill (FOTH), a community summer kick-off event, featuring our famous Lobster Rolls & homemade Strawberry Shortcake and, great music. Festival on the Hill hours are **11:00AM – 3:00PM**, rain or shine.

It will take many volunteers on the days leading up to the event and on June 8th to make the festival run smoothly. Sign-ups will begin at Coffee Hour on May 5th and will also be available on Signup Genius. Help us continue the good works of KCC and extend an extravagant welcome to the greater Berlin community!

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP BELOW:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20FOA4CAAAB2AA4FC1-49297910-festival>



Festival on the Hill Music (cont.)

Michele Urban

Michele Urban is a singer, songwriter and kindie-rock (family) performer, who entertains, educates, and celebrates kids, one song at a time! Michele's



music explores themes of kindness, friendship, inclusion and acceptance. Michele's improvisational music style creates fun, inspiring moments where kids discover just how special they are! She engages her audience in singing along, dancing, playing rhythm instruments and community bonding. Parents, teachers and children immediately respond to her whimsical lyrics and creative original tunes. Her unique style of children's music inspires delightful participation and movement from both adults and children, with high-energy tunes spanning genres from traditional folk, rock 'n roll, to jazz.

Chris Wnuk, Steve Wnuk & Mark Giorgetti

Steve Wnuk, *Violin and Bass*

Steve has been playing violin for over 50 years and has appeared at venues from the local Beer Hall to Carnegie Hall. He plays a variety of music including Polka, Bluegrass, and Latin.

Chris Gates-Wnuk, *Guitar and Vocals*

Chris has been playing folk music since the late 1960's. She has been a member of many different folk groups and has sung with the Middletown Choral and the KCC Jubilation choir for over 20 years. She enjoyed sharing her music with her students as an elementary school teacher until her retirement in 2018.

Mark Giorgetti, *Guitar and Vocals*

Mark has been playing the guitar since the age of 13. He holds a BS in music education (voice major) from WCSU, and participated in chorus, concert choir and the madrigal group. He has performed professionally in a number of groups, playing rock, folk and bluegrass music, but for the last long while has been playing in his living room only.



The Sweetest Key will perform from 11:15-noon.

Born in November 2007, The Sweetest Key is a non-profit, all-female a cappella group in the Greater Hartford area, performing all over the state of CT for everything from weddings & black tie galas to walks & back yard BBQs. We arrange our own work and sing music spanning all genres and styles.

The Ringtones

KCC's very own men's singing group. From doo-wop to jazz, from pop to old summertime classics, the Ringtones enjoy singing them all!

WSL Upcoming Programs

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.

June 10th, 6:00pm: Salad Supper

Join us for one of our most anticipated and delicious gatherings of the year. Bring your favorite salad (i.e., pasta salad, potato salad, tossed salad, spinach salad, chicken salad) for an all-salad potluck supper. Dessert is provided by the hospitality committee. We will install officers for the coming year and talk about future program ideas. Our secret pals will also be revealed so bring your final gift that evening. It promises to be a fun time for all!

Early Summer Book Discussion

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store

by James McBride

We will determine if this will be an in-person or hybrid/zoom program at our May book discussion meeting. Our target date will be for the later part of June or first part of July.

All are welcome.

WSL Annual Reports Due

It's time for WSL annual reports. Please have committee reports into the church office by Thursday, **May 30, 2024**. It would be nice to have a report from each committee even if it's brief, but, if you are not submitting a report, please just email or tell Cassandra "no report". Please email Cassandra at KCCOffice@kensingtoncong.org. Many thanks in advance!

**THE SUMMER TRUMPET DEADLINE IS
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024**

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

Care Team News

The Care Team is excited to announce that we have completed our first gathering, and each of us have our care team lists. That means that you will be receiving a post card in the mail over the next couple of weeks from your care team member. We are so excited to begin this new adventure with you! Care Team members will be reaching out to you with check-ins at church, sending cards, and/or phone calls. Our goal is to connect deeper as a congregation and widen our circle of friendship one a personal level.

If you would like to help the Care Team in their efforts, we would welcome any card donation or postage donations. If so, you can drop them/send them to the church office.

Be on the lookout for your postcard, your Care Team member is excited to get to know 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!

Church School Sunday

Pentecost, May 19, 2024



Please join our church family to celebrate Pentecost on May 19th with a special worship service lead by KCC youth.

Wear something red to this worship service and be sure to stay for our Pentecost Pancake Brunch at Coffee Hour.

Brunch will include: Pancakes, turkey sausage, fresh fruit, and hot & cold beverages.

A free-will offering will be collected for our youth Workcamp group traveling to Erie, PA this summer.

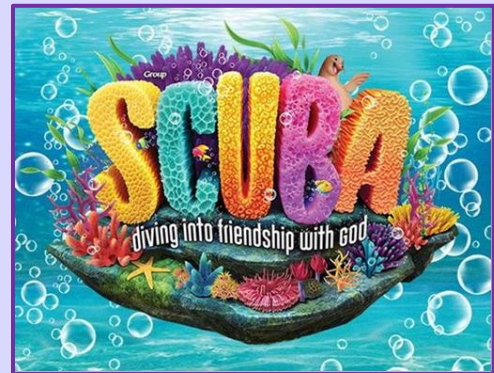
Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School will kick off on May 26 and continue with “**One Room Classroom**” lessons for school age children in preschool through 5th grade. Middle school youth are welcome to come to Sunday School or remain in worship with their families.

Vacation Bible School

June 24 – June 27, 2024

9:00AM-12noon



https://vbspro.events/p_early/kccscuba24

Registration fee: \$50.00 per child
Make checks payable to KCC & write VBS in memo line

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

An Update from the New Organ Team

Contractors have been working on wiring for the replacement of our organ. We expect the old organ will be disconnected on May 20th and the new Organ installed and playing on June 18th. During that time there will be a period where we will have scaffolding set up to finish wiring and replace the speakers. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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

KCC Golf Committee Update

After 5 very successful years of bringing Golf to KCC, the team has chosen not to put forth a tournament this year. If a new group would like to pursue this for future years please reach out to either Duane, Scott, Michael or Dan. Over the past 5 years, the team was able to raise over 67,000 towards many special mission projects and filled holes in the budget.



Thank you to everyone who has helped make these events possible.

Annual Spring Cleanup Thank You!



The trustees would like to **THANK ALL** who participated in the spring clean-up on the 20th

Berlin Fair: 2024

September 12 – 15, 2024



Yes, the fair is fast approaching, and planning has already begun.

Please reserve some time to work a shift (or 2...)

More details to come!



With many hands a lot our church property looks much better both inside and out. Again thank you to all who make KCC such a beautiful place.

**Blessings
The Trustees**

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.

Budget Update

March income from offerings:
\$22,670.43

March spending on budgeted expenses:
\$37,867.45

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

KCC Walking Group

Looking for a low-intensity, fun way to get outdoors and move?! You don't have to walk alone!! ***Each Tuesday and Thursday morning***, some of us gather in the parking lot of ***Timberlin Golf Course (330 Southington Rd in Berlin)*** for a 30-45 minute walk, weather permitting. Walkers of all ages and abilities are welcome (strollers too). Walkers can choose between a flat route and a route with a hill. To be added to the group text, text Donna Filipek at 860.205.7578 with your name. Generally one of us pings the group each Tu/Th morning to see who's attending. Occasionally we cancel due to weather or busy schedules. Come join us – once a month or twice a week – whatever works!

Summer Trumpet Deadline

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

The Summer Trumpet Deadline is **TUESDAY, MAY 21**. The summer trumpet will cover the months of **JUNE, JULY & AUGUST**. The next Trumpet issue (*September*) will not be sent out until early September.

National Day of Prayer



The Berlin Congregational Church has agreed to host the 2024 National Day of Prayer Gathering in Berlin. The 2024 National Day of Prayer is May 2, 2024.

The National Day of Prayer Gathering in Berlin will be held on **Thursday, May 2, 2024 | 6:00 pm to 7:00pm** at the Veterans Memorial Park Gazebo, across from Stop & Shop.

Church Office Hours

The church office hours are

Monday - Thursday from 9am- 3pm.

Pastor Holly Norwick's office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9am - 3pm. She will be working remotely on Mondays and in the office Tuesday - Thursday. 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*.

Coffee Hour Host Sign-Up

*We need coffee hour host volunteers!
Please use the link to sign-up for a Sunday!*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20FOA4CA-AAB2AA4FC1-kcccffee3#/>



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
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