

"And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." -Revelation 21:5

The writer of Revelation had a vision of the end of days, the time the Lord would at last bring all things on earth to a close, but also, to a beginning. By the saving grace of God in Christ, sin will be forever wiped away as will the tears of suffering. It will be a new and glorious day, all things in creation as God intends for them to be.

So one might reasonably ask, "If this is what God intends, why doesn't The Almighty just make it so right now? Why doesn't God bring an immediate end to wars and hatred and disease, to all forms of suffering? Isn't this what a loving God would do?" It's this final question that reveals something of an answer, even as we ask it. Love, by God's design, requires freedom or it cannot exist. There must be the possibility that we can refuse to love or it can't be real. Anything other than this would be living like heartless and mindless puppets with no free will. But God didn't make things this way. Rather, the creation has within it the real possibility that people will choose to ignore and deny the very One who gives them life. We see this all the time. Love requires freedom.

It's like the time I was teaching our son how to ride a bike. So long as I held onto the handlebars and seat, he could peddle right long safely with no chance of injury or pain. And what parent wants either of these things to happen to their child? But a good parent also knows that's no way to ride a bicycle. It won't be fun for very long and won't allow any learning or confidence building for their child. For that, Dad has to let go of the bike. Which I did. Matthew went about 50 feet and crashed into a bush. Love is just like that.

So Covid is here to stay for a while yet, much to our frustration. This and all other forms of human suffering are part of the sometimes wonderful and sometimes awful freedom of life. There are always things to celebrate and enjoy and things to endure and grieve. But the unfailing Good News is that God loves us in all this and that when we return this love by loving one another, life is good.

Looking forward into the uncertain New Year, we imagine what good and bad things can be, but we don't have a clue what will actually come our way. As people of faith, however, we take with us the recent retelling of the Christmas story, the truth of God's literal intervention in human history, "Emmanuel, God With Us", for the purpose of letting us know we are not alone in this. And more than this, that we have a purpose in life to love God and one another, seeking to make a positive difference and be a blessing. This we do in the freedom love requires. This we do with love that encompasses joys and sorrows. This we do with love that is real.

It is here that we are made new, that we become a new creation.

And our kids learn to ride their bikes. How cool is that?

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Dave

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January





SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 A.M.

Let us worship together.

The Sanctuary is open. Masks and distancing are required. We will continue to worship via Facebook and Zoom

Watch from the church Facebook page. Visit www.facebook.com/watch and search Killingworth Congregational Church or join worship on Zoom.

Follow this link or go to Zoom.us and add the meeting ID and passcode found below.

ONLINE LINK:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85257775429? pwd=bml0Q1BPVTZ2dEtkeklUek5RQ042Zz09

BY PHONE: 929 205 6099

OR GO TO ZOOM DIRECTLY: Meeting ID: 852 5777 5429 Password: 068550



Bright Spot in the Week Bible Study

Wednesdays on Facebook // 7pm

Each Wednesday evening, Rev Dave hosts a live Bible study broadcast focused on the scriptures for the coming Sunday's worship service. You'll be able to ask questions, make comments, and share prayer requests.

Prefer to watch via Zoom? Let us know in advance and you will receive a Zoom link.



Happy New Year!

May this day and the days ahead hold many blessings for you and your family.

Book of Life

<u>Baptism</u> December 19, 2021 Walter Andrew Macklem Parents: David and Christine Macklem

Sunday School Corner



Hello Sunday School Students and Families!

Hope you all had a merry Christmas with your families! A big thank you to everyone who participated at the Christmas pageant. It all came together nicely and was really wonderful.

Haley Phelps sent us all a nice thank you note for the care package we sent her. She said it was exactly what she needed to help get her through finals and was nice to know that we were thinking of her. Thank you all for your contributions. Next we will be sending a care package to Chett Vogt who is a senior at Wheaton College in Massachusetts.

Finally happy New Year!! We will plan to start Sunday school classes again on January 9th.

Many blessings, Christine Link and the CE committee

Christmas Pageant 2021











Christmas Fair





Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has begun the process of preparing a slate of nominees for our church leadership to be voted on at the February annual meeting. If you would like to suggest a name (maybe even your own) for any of the church leadership positions, please just leave a note in the Nominating Committee mail box in the Parish Hall. You do NOT need to contact your suggestion – the Nominating Committee at this point just wants ideas and they will approach folks to determine their availability or interest. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee:

Cindy Vogt, Cheryl Fine, and Paulie Lally. Thank you.

Preservation 2020 Matching Donation Update

Although Preservation 2020 fundraising events were halted in March 2020 due to Covid, the church is still receiving donations from past and present members around the country.

MaryAnn Griswold, whose late husband Sherman grew up in Killingworth, has made a second generous donation to benefit Preservation 2020. Once again, she is challenging others to contribute to

match her gift. Double the Match envelopes will available in the Sunday bulletins beginning in January or can be submitted to the church office.

MaryAnn's donation is in memory of her mother- and father-in-law, Caroline Holt Griswold and John Sherman Griswold, who were active members of the church for many years.

MaryAnn's request is that this donation be matched for improvements to the church's exterior, specifically Phase 2 which includes scraping, painting, and carpentry repair.

Phase 2 will begin this Spring after approval by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO).

"I requested that the donation and the matched funds be used for structural repairs that can actually be seen," she explained. "It's visual evidence of the historical and religious importance of this church's preservation and that of other churches and other towns in New England."

MaryAnn, who has homes in both Killingworth and Florida, hopes others share her love of history and community.

"This donation is in loving memory of my in-laws and my late husband, who called Killingworth home for many years," she said. "I anticipate that other families in our community and beyond will recognize the importance of this church in our town's history and will want to make a donation large or small."

For additional information on Preservation 2020 donations, please contact Charlie Smith (860-663-1583)



MISSIONS: THE EDDY SHELTER

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:16

Eddy Shelter Dinners Tuesday, January 11th & 25th

The Missions Committee delivers a meal to the Eddy Shelter, a 30+ bed emergency homeless shelter for men and women located in Middletown, each 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month.

Contributions such as desserts, breads, and sides (salad, soup, veggies, casseroles) are always gratefully accepted to accompany these meals. Bottled water and "grab and go" foods (Protein/Granola Bars, Fruit, Packaged Nuts, Cheese Sticks, etc.) will joyfully be accepted. Contact Paulie Lally at 860-663-2315 to offer donations or to help deliver the meal.

> Clothing is NO LONGER being accepted at this time, however, towels, bedding, and toiletries (full size) are always needed. New socks are always needed.



To all Committee Chairpersons

Annual Reports are due on February 1st. Please email your report to kwcongchurch@yahoo.com. Please call the church office if you have any questions. Thank you!



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SOUTH POLE STATIO

Holy Joe's Café—Coffee for the Troops

Holy Joe's Café is a global ecumenical ministry that originated at the First Congregational Church in Wallingford in 2006. Their mission is to provide coffee to Military Chaplains that serve in deployed locations around the world as well as in the United States. Our United Church of Christ - UCC Chaplains serve everywhere the military is located. In 2017, Holy Joe's Café became a stand-alone 501c3 nonprofit. This year they celebrated a 15th anniversary. You may read an article from New Holy Joe's England UCC Conference: Holy Joe's Café: 15 Years and Growing Thank You!

> Chaplain Wismar (Connecticut National Guard) said: "Everybody appreciates being able to stop and have a talk together over a cup of coffee. Holy Joe's Café enables us to do just that. We have absolute confidentiality, so you know what happens in the Chaplain's office stays in the Chaplain's office. People can come to us and share anything. Our mission is to facilitate the First Amendment right to freedom of reli-

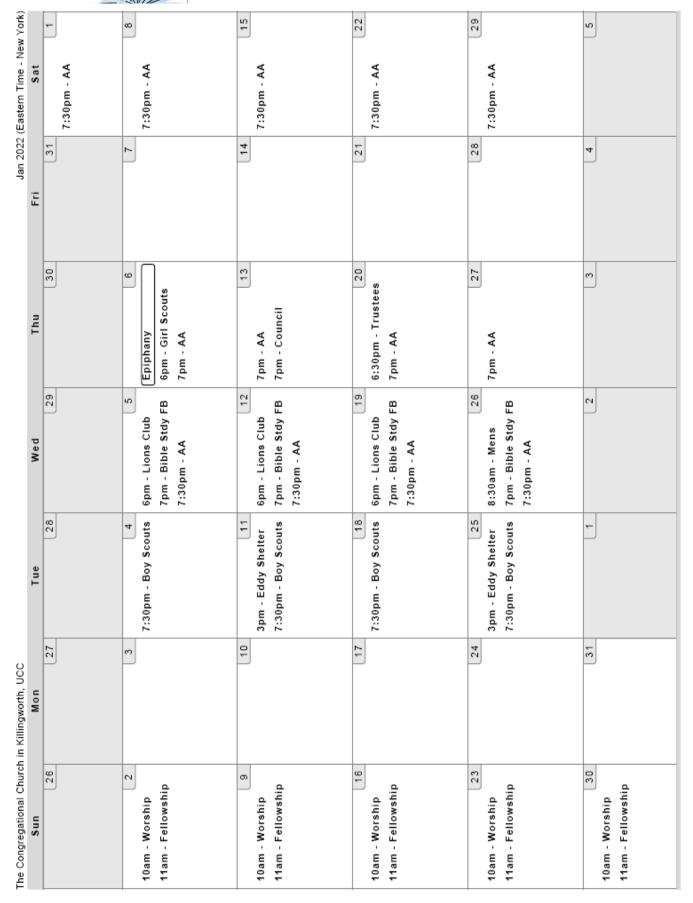
gion, but even more fundamental to our mission is taking care of each of our Guard members."

The spiritual renewal, the morale booster, the relationships, even the simple moment of enjoying a cup of coffee during a long shift are possible through the donations of coffee from Holy Joe's Café. Please consider making a donation ONLINE via Holy Joe's Cafe website @ https://www.holyjoes.org/donate. Visit their website at www.holyjoes.org for more information.

2022 CHURCH DIRECTORY (MEMBERS & FRIENDS) AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATE	
We would like <i>everyone</i> to fill out this update form and return it to the church office <u>NO LATER THAN FEB 13</u> . Please include all information requested. Add additional notes if needed. If the "Include in Directory?" line is <u>NOT</u> marked, the info <u>will not be included</u> . The information provided is for church use only.	
Name(s) (<u>all family members attending)</u>	
Address	
Home Phone	Include in Directory? <u>Y or N</u>
Cell Phone Belongs to	Include in Directory? Y or N
Cell Phone Belongs to	Include in Directory? V or N
Work Phone (Will not be included in directory)	
E-mail Address(es)	
	Include in Directory? <u>Y or N</u>
Pirthdovo	
Birthdays	
This form is also available online at www.killingworthchurch.org	
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Birthday Blessings	
Jan. 2Louise HayashJan. 11Susan NashJan. 2Suzanne AnzianoJan. 17Janet JohnsonJan. 4Debbie FredericksenJan. 21Delores TynerJan. 4Kathleen MonesJan. 22Katherine RichJan. 6Wendy WelterJan. 25Marion SansoJan. 8Jonathan RichGrace Quilliam	Jan. 26 Barbara Benjamin Jan. 27 Liam Jordan Jan. 28 Kristen Forster Jan. 30 Joe Van Huysen Jan. 31 David Lahey

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 2022



The Congregational Church in Killingworth, UCC 273 Route 81 Killingworth, CT 06419

* * * STAFF * * *

Minister Musician Office Manager Rev. Dave Hammett Joann Zamparo Maureen Alfiero

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, 8am—3pm Thursday 8am –2pm 860/663-1789



Website: www.killingworthchurch.org Email address: office@killingworthchurch.org Rev Dave email: Pastor.cck@gmail.com

> KERYGMA ESTABLISHED 1966 Deadline for the next issue is no later than

> > January 15, 2022

If you do not wish to continue receiving the Kerygma, please email or call the office. Thank you.

KERYGMA

10 a.m. Worship

January 2022









Congregational Church in Killingworth

