



FROM THE PASTOR

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for good and not for evil,
to give you a future and a hope."* - Jeremiah 29:11

Sometimes, the best thing about New Years is that we can leave old years behind. Nostalgia is one thing, but clinging to the past is never healthy. In fact, it's impossible. You know, the past is, well, *past*.

Back in 1985, the Bellamy Brothers produced a humorous country song, "Old Hippie":

"He's an old hippie and he don't know what to do. Should he hang on to the old or grab onto the new?"

I know the feeling. Maybe you do, too.

Recently, I've been using some of the Ai (Artificial Intelligence) programming tools available online with an illustration project I'm working on. Ai is far from perfect, but it can be pretty helpful. It's the fastest growing industry in the world today and it promises unparalleled advancements in technology, much of which can be beneficial. But there is a dark side, too, a genuine fear that such rapid change may get out of hand, that we'll one day regret letting this genie out of the bottle. The jury is still out on this one, but there are efforts underway to design effective safety controls. We hope it works out for the best, that we learn how to apply new technologies in beneficial ways, that we don't just, "grab onto the new" without knowing what we're getting into.

Life moves on. We can't live in the past. We can't repeat it, but we can learn from it. We can consider where we've been, be glad for the good experiences and be forgiving of ourselves and others for the experiences that weren't so good. We can choose to make improvements, to make wise and faithful choices going forward. It doesn't have to all be about greed and power and profit and getting ahead of everybody else. It can be about doing the right thing, being a blessing, caring for the earth and life upon it.

What will the future make of us and what will we make of it? Who do we believe we can be? Who does God believe we can be?

The Christmas season we've just experienced is so much more than a sweet and sentimental winter holiday. It is the retelling of an ancient story of hope, of new life, of the birth of the Messiah and the enduring promise that God is with us, Emmanuel ... with us in the past, the present and the future. *Always*. God's saving love in Jesus Christ is the one sure thing in life, the unchanging and sustaining truth that is the constant in all of life's ups and downs, all of life's changes.

There's no such thing as a crystal ball that can reveal the future. We don't need one. We already know how this works out – God's love is here for us today and tomorrow and trusting this, we need not be afraid. Trusting this, we live into the future God intends for us. Trusting this, the way forward will be good. By God's plan, there is a future and a hope, for good and not for evil for after all, God is good all the time.

Peace and blessings for the New Year,
-Rev Dave



The Congregational Church in Killingworth
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**New
Year
Blessings**

*Go to Facebook.com and search for: Killingworth Congregational Church
OR *Go to Zoom.us and add the meeting ID and passcode found below.

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<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84538336049?pwd=Z0NRZC9rN0FCOWhPMTNZMk9EMHgZz09>

Dial: 929 205 6099 **Meeting ID:** 845 3833 6049 **Password:** 500345



Bright Spot in the Week **Bible Study**

Wednesdays @ 7pm
Parish Hall or Join Remote

BIBLE STUDY

Each Wednesday, Rev. Dave hosts a live Bible study broadcast from church focused on the scriptures for the coming Sunday's worship service.

You can ask questions, make comments, and share prayer requests.

Each study will be followed by prayer.

Join in-person or watch through Facebook or Zoom.

Zoom Link to join the meeting: You can sign in 10 minutes early.

Online Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81262507891?pwd=aIN4dTNITG1Yby9DUFVSV2RUMGN5UT09>

Phone: 929-205-6099 **Meeting ID:** 885 6894 8592 **Passcode:** 476067



Use the QR Code to connect quickly and safely to our *Giving* link.

Thank you for your continued generosity!



Sunday School Corner

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Romans 8:14

Happy New Year Sunday School Students and Families!

- ♦ There is no Sunday School on January 4th. Sunday School classes will resume on January 11th.
 - ♦ The January 11th lesson will be fun! Epiphany and the Maji!!
- Hope to see you then!

Many Blessings,
Christine Link
Christinelax@hotmail.com
203-623-1663



2025 Christmas Pageant

¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSIONS

In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'

Luke 3:11



Eddy House Dinners

**Tuesdays,
January 13 & 27**

The Eddy House is a 30+ bed emergency homeless shelter for men and women of Middlesex County.

Each second and fourth Tuesday, contributions to the monthly meals such as desserts, breads, and sides (salad, soup, veggies, casseroles) are always gratefully accepted.

Always needed and appreciated: Warm clothes, jackets, socks, twin sheets, comforters, bottled water and "grab and go" foods like protein bars, granola bars, fruit, nuts, cheese sticks. Contact Joann Zamparo to offer donations or to help deliver the meal.



Epiphany. the season after Christmas, celebrates the manifestation or appearance of Jesus Christ to the world. The season prompts Christians to see and share God's radiance through compassion and service, making God's joy present on Earth.

What Can We Do During Epiphany?

- **Radiate God's Light:** Pray for the gifts that help reflect God's light into dark places, drawing people toward justice and joy. Remember that Christ's light is for everyone.
- **Support and Serve:** Help the poor and build community as ways to reflect God's presence. Share your blessings to meet needs and praise God, demonstrating faith and love.
- **Experience and Share Love:** Recognize how others reflect God's love, and extend that same unconditional love to those around you.
- **Return to the Source:** Go back to the Light of Christ to be re-energized and empowered to shine for others.

Prayer:

Radiant God, fill us with Your light so that we may illuminate dark places with hope and justice. Help us to see Your image in others and share Your love freely. Empower us to share grace and joy in every corner of our lives. Amen.



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 Rob Rimmer. Thank you.



To all Committee Chairpersons

Annual Reports are due on Feb. 1st.

Please email your report to
kwcongchurch@yahoo.com.

Please call the church office if you have any questions. Thank you!

Flowers for the Altar

Each week, families and/or individuals will have an opportunity to provide flowers for the altar. They may be given in honor of or in memory of someone you love. The name of the person who is being honored or memorialized will appear in the weekly announcements. It is a lovely way to bring that special someone to our church family's attention.



Please contact the church office with the date you will provide flowers. Thank you.



Happy Birthday!

Jan. 2 Louise Hayash
Jan. 2 Suzanne Anziano
Jan. 4 Debbie Fredericksen
Jan. 4 Kathleen Mones
Jan. 6 Wendy Welter
Jan. 8 Jonathan Rich
Jan. 17 Janet Johnson
Jan. 22 Katherine Rich
Jan. 26 Barbara Benjamin
Jan. 28 Kristen Forster



Killingworth Café A Senior Community Luncheon

Come to the church hall each Wednesday at 12pm for a hot, nutritious lunch.

Call in your lunch reservations to 860-388-1611, x216, **before 11:00 A.M.** the day prior to when you wish to have lunch. Suggested donation is \$3 per meal.

Hosted by The Estuary Center of Old Saybrook

2026 CHURCH DIRECTORY (MEMBERS & FRIENDS)
AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We would like **everyone** to fill out this update form and return it to the church office
NO LATER THAN FEB 8. Please include all information requested.

Add additional notes if needed.

If the "Include in Directory?" line is **NOT** marked, the info **will not be included.**

The information provided is for church use only.

Name(s) (all family members attending)

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Include in Directory? Y or N

Cell Phone _____

Belongs to _____ Include in Directory? Y or N

Cell Phone _____

Belongs to _____ Include in Directory? Y or N

E-mail Address(es) _____

_____ Include in Directory? Y or N

Birthdays _____

This form is also available online at www.killingworthchurch.org

New Year Prayer

May your year be filled with peace,
prosperity and love. May God's
blessings shower upon you and
bestow upon each of you a bright,
healthy and peaceful new year.

- Rev. Marcy Sheremetta

**Are you celebrating a special date
or event in your life?**

Please share it with us so we may give
thanks to God
and celebrate with you.

Email your notice to
office@killingworthchurch.org by the 15th of
each month.

January 2026

The Congregational Church in Killingworth, UCC

Jan 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				New Year's Day 7pm - AA		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship		Epiphany 7pm - Boy Scouts	12pm - Cafe 6pm - Lions Club 7pm - Bible Study 7:30pm - AA	7pm - AA 7pm - Council		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship Sunday School Resumes		3pm - Eddy House 7pm - Boy Scouts	12pm - Cafe 7pm - Bible Study 7:30pm - AA	6:30pm - Trustees 7pm - AA		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship		7pm - Boy Scouts	12pm - Cafe 7pm - Bible Study 7:30pm - AA	7pm - AA		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship		3pm - Eddy House 7pm - Boy Scouts	8:30am - Mens 12pm - Cafe 7pm - Bible Study 7:30pm - AA	7pm - AA		

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



*** STAFF ***

Minister

Rev. Dave Hammett

Volunteer Musician

Joann Zamparo

Volunteer Director of Christian Ed

Christine Link

Office Manager

Maureen Alfiero

Sexton

Matt Link

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday 8am—12pm

Extended hours by appointment

860/663-1789



Website: www.killingworthchurch.org

Email address: office@killingworthchurch.org

Rev Dave email: RevDaveCCK@gmail.com



KERYGMA ESTABLISHED 1966

Deadline for the next issue is no later than

January 15, 2026

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

KERYGMA

10 a.m. Worship

January 2026



The Congregational Church in Killingworth
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

