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Worship 10:00 a.m.



Sunday, December 4, Second Sunday of Advent
Communion
Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 11, Third Sunday of Advent
Poinsettia Display
Psalm 126; Luke 1:39-55

Sunday, December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve, 7:00pm
Candlelight Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day
Psalm 98; Luke 2:1-7

The Advent Wreath

The ring of the Advent wreath of evergreens decorated with candles was a symbol in northern Europe long before the arrival of Christianity. The circle symbolized the eternal cycle of the seasons while the evergreens and lighted candles signified the persistence of life in the midst of winter.

The first purple candle is the **Prophet's candle**. It is the candle of **Hope** reminding us that the presence of Jesus is near.

The second purple candle to be lit is the **Bethlehem candle**, and it serves to remind us that **Peace** can be found in a noisy and chaotic world.

The third candle, which is pink, is a symbol of **Joy**. It is called the **Shepherds' Candle**. This candle also symbolizes our growing joy and excitement as the birth of Jesus draws near.

Finally, the last purple candle is called the **Angels' Candle** and this serves to remind us that the Angels were the heralds of the birth of Christ, the Emmanuel (God is with us). This is the candle of **Love** as shown by God in the giving of God's son to us.



When I looked out the window this morning all I saw was gray. A thick fog had come in during the night obviously due to the unseasonably warm weather on this last weekend in November. I couldn't see any of the church just across the parking lot.

By the time I went to church, the fog was a little less dense. I could see the light in the parking lot, but the church itself was still hidden in the fog. Since I have a very short and non-vehicle-needed commute to work, the fact that I couldn't see the church didn't slow me down much. I knew the way really well and had total faith that the church was indeed still there, even though I couldn't see it. The fog was a hindrance, but I knew that eventually it would lift and the church would again be brightly visible.

Advent and our preparations for Christmas are like being in a fog. We know what is at the end of the wait. We have faith that it will be wonderful. We even know the path on how to get there. But the fog around us trips us up and slows us down making it a challenge to move through all the commercialism and busyness to find the simple path to the manger.

Our society's emphasis on the frantic need to buy more each year is one of the sources of our fog. The pressure we put on ourselves to create the perfect holiday can leave us in a fog of despair. Rushing to accomplish all those things that we think we need to do just increases the blur around us. This time of year we are all really good at creating our own fog!

Here is the most important thing to remember – Christmas will happen whether we rush, spend or even accomplish a single thing.

If we just slow down, catch our breath and reconnect with those things we know to be really important, the fog will slowly lift and we will be much better able to appreciate the brilliance of the miracle of the birth of Jesus.

We have many things here at church this month to help clear our foggy outlooks and lead us closer to the true path to Christmas. Our First Wednesday Bible Study will be meeting on December 7. We will have an outdoor labyrinth walk on December 10 to help us all center ourselves in our beautiful memorial garden. Worship on December 11 will include the front of the sanctuary full of poinsettias. Our children will recreate the story of Christmas during worship on December 18 with their annual Christmas pageant; there will even be a preview of our newly developing Children's Choir. And of course, Christmas Eve will feature the scriptures, carols and candles that will allow us to truly experience the joy of Christmas. Our joy will be complete with a simple worship service at 10 a.m. Christmas morning.

As I write this on the early evening of this first Sunday in Advent, the fog has cleared completely and there is a spectacular yellow-red light from the setting sun low in the sky that is shining brilliantly on our church.

There is a brilliant light waiting to shine on all of our lives. Take some time this Advent to clear away the clutter that can fog up our vision of the true meaning of Christmas. Make sure you can find your way to church. Have faith that the brilliant light that came into our world two thousand years ago will show each of us a path to hope, joy, peace and love.

Advent and Christmas blessings to everyone,

Martha

December brings us mid way through the Sunday school year with the children concluding their lessons centered on the Faith Practice of “Giving and Receiving Hospitality”. Many of our members and community have been the recipients of the delicious pumpkin bread made by the children as they rounded up the final lesson of this series with a music workshop taught by Ann Pavlou with music performed by Marcella Stegman.

This month they are studying “Jesus’ Birth Through the Eyes of Joseph” through bible study, prayer, and art workshops. After completing this rotation, the children will be able to:

- Name the story in the New Testament
- Explain some of the ways that prophecy was fulfilled in this story.
- Discuss how God spoke to Joseph and how God speaks to us.
- Realize that Jesus is part of our families too.



Our special events this holiday season kicked off on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27th with CE hosting “Hospitality Hour” in the parish hall following the service. Hopefully all were able to come and enjoy the blueberry muffins and pumpkin bread made by the Sunday School children. Next, there will be the much anticipated Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 18th during church service. All of the children will participate by doing readings, playing their instruments, singing or reenacting the story of Jesus’ birth. We are blessed again this year to have the pageant directed by Elizabeth Bowman. The children will have one rehearsal on Saturday, December 17th.

There will be no Sunday School classes on December 25th. however, the entire Christian Education Committee would like to wish everyone a blessed and joyful Christmas!

Christmas Pageant December 18 during Worship

Rehearsal Saturday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Our congregation will be holding this year’s Christmas pageant during the worship service on Sunday, December 18. We would love to include all the children, from toddlers to teens, to enact the roles of the various manger figures as well as to serve as readers and ushers. It is a simple service with no lines to learn or other responsibilities during this busy season. **The rehearsal will last only an hour on Saturday, December 17th beginning at 10:30 a.m.** Costumes will be provided. After worship on Sunday we will celebrate with a birthday cake for Jesus. For more information, please contact Liz Bowman at 860-663-1668 or bowman99@rsd17.org



The Infant and Toddler Room will be staffed and available to parents during worship. The speaker in the room can be turned on to fill the room with beautiful music and God’s message. If you would like more information, please contact a member of the Christian Education Committee.



The Christmas Fair—December 3

The Christmas Fair will be held on December 3rd from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Reminder to all: Baked goods can be dropped off at the church on Friday, Dec. 2nd until 7:00 P.M or Saturday morning Dec. 3th before 9:00 A.M. We can also use your help setting up and your help on the day of the Fair.

EVERYONE will be needed the days of the fair to come buy, eat, and get in the spirit of Christmas. There are many Christmas Fairs this time of year, but ours is the best! Invite your neighbors and friends. See you there.

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:

Randy Puska, Dee Esposito and Paulie Lally. Thank you.

The UCC Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross)



On Sunday, December 25 we will receive the offering that is collected each year for those across our country who have retired from church jobs without adequate pensions. The mission of the UCC Christmas Fund is to provide financial assistance in situations of critical need, while preserving the dignity of those who receive the aid. In 2010 the UCC Christmas Fund raised \$1,504,420 providing assistance to nearly 1,600 retired pastors, church secretaries, custodians and Christian educators. For over 109 years, this offering has met a critical need of those who served our churches so well.

First Wednesday Bible Study

December 7 at 7 p.m.

Join us for this Bible Study based on the scripture readings scheduled for the month. This is a great way to get a sneak preview of what to expect in church. We will have some thoughtful discussion on what these passages say to each of us, and there will be good fellowship and refreshments. Even if you haven't come before, join us this month!



Outdoor Labyrinth Walk

Saturday, December 10 at 10 a.m.

Dress warmly for this quiet time of renewal during this rushed and chaotic holiday season. Whether you are an experienced labyrinth walker or have never set foot on a labyrinth, come to feel the peace and comfort of this form of walking prayer out in our beautiful memorial garden. This is the time of year when we all need to take a moment to simply be in God's presence. The entire community is invited, so bring family and friends. Coffee and donuts will be available in the Parish Hall after our walk.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Rediscover the awe of Christmas through the reading of scripture, the voices of our wonderful choir and the congregation singing the traditional carols. We will end the service with the lighting of candles as we sing *Silent Night*. **This year's Christmas Eve Service will begin at 7 p.m. (slightly earlier than usual) so that families can get home before bedtime and grownups can eat leisurely dinners after the service.** Come, all ye faithful!



Christmas Morning Worship

December 25 at 10 a.m.

We will gather for a simple Christmas service that will include plenty of Christmas Carols followed by coffee hour with some Christmas treats.

New Year's Day Brunch at 11 a.m.

Fundraiser for our Youth Group Mission Trip

Chef Bruce and a youthful crew will be offering a wonderful brunch after church on January 1. This will be a perfect last meal before everyone's January diet! The brunch is a benefit to raise money for our youth group mission trip to NYC on January 6-7 to work in food pantries and homeless centers. The mission trip is through YSOP (Youth Service Opportunities Project) and we will be joining with First Congregational Church of Haddam for the trip. Our youth are each paying half the cost and we need to raise the other half through this brunch. **Invite family and friends (folks from other churches may join us after their church!) and be as generous as you are able when the basket is passed.** Donated goodies are welcome. Your pastor has even declared that folks are welcome to come to the brunch even if they didn't quite get up in time for worship - no questions asked!

Christmas Gifts to Our Church

Is your gift list complete? Is there room for one more? Have you remembered all of your loved ones? We have been blessed all year in this church with outpourings of love both within our congregation and spreading out to our community. **In spite of our very careful planning, our church is struggling to end the year without a large deficit due to some unexpected weather-related challenges.** If you are able, please consider one additional gift this year - a gift that is guaranteed to give back to you even more in joy, satisfaction and love. Envelopes labeled, "My Christmas Gift" will be in the pews for the entire month of December. Thank you for your continued generosity to our church.



Give the Gift of Life! Donate life-saving blood, Wednesday, Dec.28 here at our church! 1:30pm till 6:00pm

This is the season when we receive God's gift to us – the birth of our Messiah. Jesus taught us to love one another and help one another. We can do that by taking time to donate blood.

Please consider taking an hour to donate on Dec. 28 – the life you save is worth it!

Call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment or log onto redcrossblood.org



December Midnight Run

Items are needed for the Midnight Run to New Haven. Blankets, Good Used Clothing (Mainly men but will accept women & children's clothes), Toiletries: Small travel sizes only such as soap, toothbrush, tooth paste, shampoo, wash cloth, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, lip balm, feminine hygiene products. No candy please. Items can be deposited in the collection box in the fellowship hall.

Eddy House Dinner: December 27

We will again be bringing and serving a hot meal to the Eddy House Homeless Shelter in Middletown. Come to our kitchen at 2 p.m. to join in the cooking fun, or meet at church at 5 p.m. to go up to Eddy House to enjoy the sharing of hospitality as we eat with the guests there. This mission opportunity is open to everyone. If you have questions, please contact Paulie Lally.



Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Drew Sodergren

Saturday, December 10 at 1 p.m.

Everyone is invited to our sanctuary for this very special event sponsored by Boy Scouts of America, Troop 18. We are blessed to have the beautiful new benches in our outdoor memorial garden that were Drew's Eagle Scout Project and we are blessed to share in this outstanding accomplishment of Drew's many years of participation and hard work in scouting. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.



The Green Ministry—Christians Caring for Creation

By Marilyn C. Campbell

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” -Mahatma Gandhi

Did you know that in the U. S., annually.....

Over 90 billion plastic bags are used. * 12 million barrels of oil are used to produce the plastic bags the U.S. uses. * Less than 1 % of plastic bags are recycled. * An estimated 100 million plastic bags are let loose in the environment.

Additional Facts:

- It is estimated that it takes up to 1,000 years for a plastic bag to decompose.
- Plastic bags don't biodegrade; they photodegrade, breaking down into toxic bits that contaminate soil and waterways, eventually entering the food chain.
- Many of the plastic bags that are loose in the environment clog sewers, gutters, and waterways, entangle birds, and are swallowed by thousands of whales, turtles, and other marine life.

Green Solutions:

1. Reusable shopping bags are available (Many stores offer credit for using one's own bags.)
2. 100% biodegradable and compostable Biobags are now on the market.
(They resemble plastic but decompose in about a month.)
3. Reuse and recycle your plastic bags.

Sources: Delicious Living Magazine

True Green Kim McKay and Jenny Bonnin

“Count yourself blessed”

We are off to a fairly good start of our Stewardship Campaign for 2012. As per November 27, we have received 66 pledges to a total value of \$80,350. Of these, 59 are returning pledges and seven are new. The average weekly pledge for the coming year is at this stage \$23.41 which is 7% higher than for 2011.

On the behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I would like to extend my thanks to all of you below, who have already pledged. It's a great help for us in our planning for the coming year and your support is certainly an important base for us to build on:

Joyce B Adams	Donald and Irene Kaiser
Tony and Diane Aeschliman	Catherine Kovi
Richard Albrecht	Carole Koziy
Carolyn Anderson	Geraldine and Walter Kukta
Martha Bays	Pauline Lally
Jo Ann Bennett	Chuck Langevin
Bruce and Elizabeth Bowman	Thomas and Judith Lentz
Robert and Florence Broach	Neal and Joan Lewis
Bruce and Marilyn Campbell	Matt and Christine Link
Alan and Virginia Chapman	Charles and Deborah Lynskey
Robert and Elizabeth Civitello	Patti McClay
Nanci Coleman	David and Alice Montgomery
Geoff and Annette Cook	Richard Nelson
Elaine L Coomes	Don and Andrea O'Boyle
Christa Des Jardins	Ed Phelan
Louis and Irene Des Jardins	Dennis and Cynthia Rich
Robert Drew	Rob and Joann Rimmer / Zamparo
Louise S Ferguson	Eleanor Sanderson
Jennifer Figurelli	William and Marion Sanso
Ron and Cheryl Fine	Robert and Enid Sherman
Kristin Foley	Charles and Sandra Smith
Debra Fredricksen	Alyson Somerville
Evelyn Gill	Janice Stoner
Diane and Gary Gladstone	Clas and Angela Thelin
Ingrid and Ed Glynn	Dawn and Walt Tischbein
Paul and Debbie Griswold	Gordon and Marlene Turnbull
Raymond and Lilian Griswold	Dolores M Tyner
Ernest Groth	Bill and Gayle Van Huysen
Richard and Grace Gruber	Rosemary Vidoli
Brian Hansen	Dan and Cindy Vogt
Bernard Harrison	David Walton
Janet Jette	Robert Y Wassel
Glen and Janet Johnson	Opal Wilkinson

Thank You

Clas Thelin for the Stewardship Committee

Happy Birthday

- Dec. 1 Christine Link
- Dec. 2 Opal Wilkinson
Lisa Uihlein
Laura Paolella
- Dec. 4 Jack Sizer
- Dec. 5 Richard Albrecht
- Dec. 8 William Burley
- Dec. 12 Debra Tyler
- Dec. 13 Cynthia Vogt
- Dec. 17 Anne Nord
Cynthia Nelson
- Dec. 19 Ashley Griswold
- Dec. 20 Kenneth Rivenburgh
- Dec. 23 Mary Garrelts
- Dec. 27 Rebekka Blaha

- Dec. 1 Kameron Abbasi
- Dec. 6 Leo Wolf
- Dec. 10 Emma Forster
- Dec. 17 Christopher Garrelts
- Dec. 18 Marin Stancuna
- Dec. 22 Nicholas Stegman
- Dec. 31 Lena Rimmer



Mrs. Claus in Menopause

A "HOT" HOLIDAY MUSICAL

Book by Kathleen Dahill & Pat Souney Music & Lyrics by Kathleen Dahill
 Director: PAT SOUNEY Musical Director: JIM TETI
 Stage Manager: Stephanie LeMay

Only 3 Performances !!

***DEC. 2 FRI. at 7 pm & DEC. 3 SAT. at 3 pm**

Blackstone Memorial Library in Branford

*** DEC. 17 SAT. at 3 pm**

Old Town Hall 273 Route 81, Killingworth
(next to the Congregational Church)

Profits will benefit The Blackstone Library and
Killingworth's Old Town Hall

All Tickets: \$15.00 and may be purchased
at the Church Office (860-663-1789)

Visit www.mrsclausct.com or call 203-430-1625



Killingworth Nursery School – Registration and Open House



The Killingworth Nursery School will hold their annual Open House and 2012 Fall Registration. Registration for KNS alumni families will be January 19th and 20th from 9:00am to 10:30am at the school. Registration is open to the public beginning January 21st. No phone registrations will be accepted.

Come meet our teachers and see our school! For more information about registration, please call 860-663-2950 or e-mail killingworthnurseryschool@yahoo.com.



Quilt Update

If anyone is interested in fellowship and quilting, please join on Wednesdays, either 9:00AM-10:30AM or 7:00PM - 9:00PM weekly beginning January 4th. Even if you have never quilted before and would like to try it, please come in the morning where someone will be there to guide you. Lets make our quilt a combined effort of everyone here and have some fun while doing it!



Advent & Christmas, 2011

The Congregational Church in Killingworth, UCC

273 Route 81

860-663-1789

www.killingworthchurch.org

Sunday, Nov. 27: Worship at 10 a.m.
C.E. Hospitality Hour after church
Join us for the lighting of the first Advent candle as we prepare for the season. Stay to enjoy the good food our children baked during their hospitality workshops.

Eddy House Dinner
Tuesdays, Nov. 29 & Dec. 27
Come to church at 3 p.m. to help prepare, or 5 p.m. to help serve, a meal to the Eddy House Homeless shelter in Middletown.

Christmas Fair
Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 4 after church
Gifts, bake sale, wreaths, silent auction, food - something for everyone! Come support our church missions.

Sunday, Dec. 4:
Worship at 10 a.m.
Feel the true holiday spirit as we light the second advent candle.

First Wednesday Bible Study
Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.
Come look at the month's scripture readings and enjoy good discussion, fellowship and refreshments.

Winter Labyrinth Walk
Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.
Dress warmly to walk our outdoor labyrinth in the woods. Experienced folks or beginners will find this quiet walk with God a great prelude to Christmas. Coffee and donuts will follow in the warm Parish Hall.

Sunday, Dec. 11:
Worship at 10 a.m.
Experience our poinsettia-decorated sanctuary as we light the third advent candle.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Saturday, Dec. 17
from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
All children are invited to participate.

Sunday, Dec. 18:
Worship at 10 a.m.
Christmas Pageant
During worship, the children will recreate the traditional Christmas story, followed by birthday cake for Jesus at coffee hour. Invite your friends, neighbors and family.

Christmas Eve Worship:
Service of Lessons and Carols
Dec. 24 at 7:00 p.m.
Discover the awe of Christmas through scripture and song, ending with the traditional lighting of candles as we sing *Silent Night*.

Sunday, Dec. 25: Worship at 10 a.m.
A Simple Christmas Service
There will be plenty of carol singing as we celebrate Christmas morning. Coffee and Christmas goodies will follow.

Sunday, Jan. 1: Worship at 10 a.m.
Youth Group Brunch at 11 a.m.
Join us for worship followed by another of our fabulous brunch experiences to raise money for the Youth mission trip to NYC.

All are welcome at all
of our events!
Join us to discover the hope
and joy of Christmas.





DECEMBER 2011

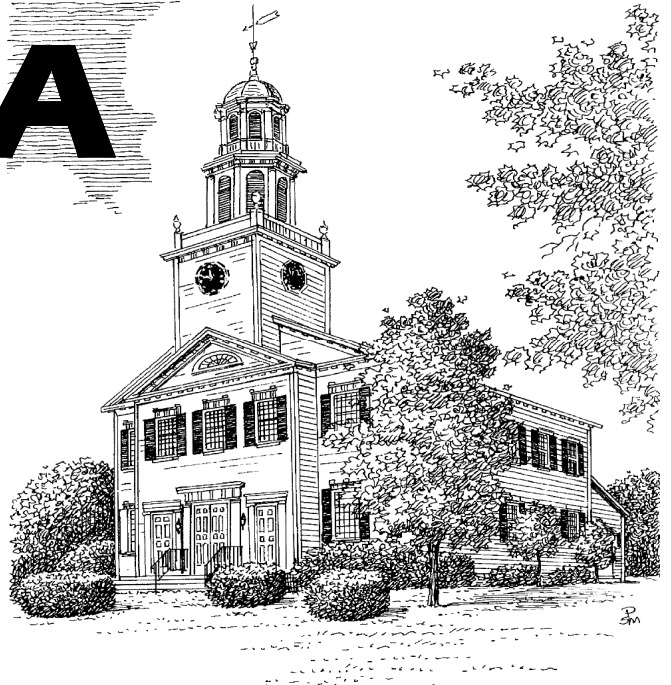
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN KILLINGWORTH, UCC

SUNDAY							MONDAY							TUESDAY							WEDNESDAY							THURSDAY							FRIDAY							SATURDAY																																		
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4 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship							5 1:00 PM Killingworth Seniors 7:00 PM Christian Education Meeting							6 9:30 AM Play Group 10:00 AM Yoga* 7:00 PM BS* 7:30 PM WF							7 12:00 PM Caregivers Support 5:45 PM Yoga* 6:30 PM Tai Chi 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM AA*							8 10:00 AM Yoga* 3:30 PM United Girls Choir 7:15 PM Choir 7:30 PM AA*							9 4:00 PM Boys & Girls Club in Hartford 7:00 PM NA*							10 10:00 AM Winter Labyrinth 1:00 PM Eagle Scout Court of Honor 7:30 PM AA*																																		
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KERYGMA

December 2011

Sunday Worship 10:00 am



**Christmas
Fair
Dec. 3rd
9-3pm**

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

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Permit No. 42
Deep River, CT
06417

*** STAFF ***

Minister
In-Care
Organist/Choir Director
Church Secretary
Sexton

The Rev. Martha Bays
Allyson Glass
Maryann McCary
Maureen Alfiero
Alyson Somerville

Church Office Hours:
Tues, & Wed, 9-3
Thurs 9-1, Fri. 9-12
860/663-1789 860/663-2942
Website: www.killingworthchurch.org

E-mail addresses:
kwconchurch@yahoo.com



KERYGMA ESTABLISHED 1966

Deadline for the next issue is no later than **Dec. 15, 2011**.

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