A Note from Pastor Laura

One of the blessings of the past year is way that KCC folks have adapted to the many changes we’ve faced and the uncertainty of what the future will hold. Your adaptability and resiliency has ensured the health of our beloved congregation!

During their retreat on October 16, the deacons discussed how they can support you in this. The goal that emerged from their discussion is “To increase participation in the work of KCC through personal connection to our ministries and missions.” The deacons believe that participation in the full range of KCC activities is a better indicator of congregational health than simply looking at worship attendance numbers. They also believe that at the heart of spiritual growth is a personal connection to and investment in Christian community.

In order to achieve this goal, the deacons will be:

- Continuing to identify and support opportunities for small group activities (bowling, attending games in which our youth are participating as a cheering section, crafts, etc). If you’d like to help organize a group, let one of the deacons know!
- Increasing publicity on social media and encouraging members to share news about events with their neighbors and friends. Personal invitations are always best.
- Periodic outreach to KCC folks just to say hello and share news.
- Investigating software to better capture information on who worships with us online.

A Note from Pastor Laura (Cont.)

- Ensuring that there are multiple entry points to participation: worship, small groups, concerts and events, etc.

Your input is welcome, so if you have any idea for how to help folks connect with this wonderful congregation please share it! Together the people of KCC are connecting faith and life in ways that reflect the goodness of God.

Shalom,
Pastor Laura

Pastor Laura’s Office Hours

Pastor Laura’s office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9-3. On Monday she works remotely, Tuesday through Thursday she is in Kensington. You can reach her at 203-805-8893 or by email at kccpastor@kensingtoncong.org

Caring for Aging Loved Ones

November 16 at 7pm, Parlor and Zoom

The initial response to the Caring for Aging Loved Ones group has been strong. We have had ten different people participate in the two gatherings held thus far. The time together is spent sharing information on resources, ideas based on personal experience, and support for challenges faced by participants. Our next session will focus on the emotional and interpersonal challenges of caring for an aging loved one. Members of the community are welcome so invite someone who might benefit to come with you!
THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Just a reminder that we are collecting JARS OF PEANUT BUTTER and BOXES OF STUFFING for our Berlin families in need. Our last day for collection is November 7. Please put food items in the designated boxes outside of Parish Hall. Please send or drop off grocery gift cards to the church office. Our many thanks, your Missions committee.

Holiday Food Drive

The Missions Committee will be collecting CANS OF TUNA/CHICKEN and BOXES OF PASTA for our friends in need for the Christmas season. We are hoping to collect 50 of each item for the Berlin Food pantry. Similar to our Thanksgiving collection, we are asking that you place your donation in the bins outside the Parish Hall. In addition, grocery gift cards are always appreciated. We ask that you mail or drop the gift cards off at the church office. Our last day for food donations will be December 1. Many thanks!

El Salvador/Pan de Vida

Our Annual Education Drive continues to be well supported by our congregation. We are less than $200 away from our goal of supporting 60 students for this school year. Thanks for those of you who have already donated money to sponsor the children of Pan de Vida. There is still time left to donate and help us reach our goal of $2400.

A Message of Thanks from the family of Sarah Byrnes

The Byrnes’ family would like to thank everyone for the incredible comfort and support through this tough time.

Family Promise

The Annual Family Promise Walk-a-Thon to help prevent homelessness raised a total of $20,000! This event was well attended, and our very own RingTones provided a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. KCC sponsored walkers raised $685. Again, thank you to all of you who generously pledged to help this wonderful organization. On another exciting note, KCC received a memorial donation that was designated to support Family Promise of Central Connecticut. It goes without saying that they are thrilled to accept this generosity. Thanks also to those of you who donated household items, gift cards, and cash to our sponsored family in New Britain. They are most grateful for our continued support.

White Gifts

The Missions Committee will be meeting this coming Sunday to make a decision about who this year’s recipients will be. We will again do this in conjunction with whatever event Gwen plans for December 12th. Look for additional information in the upcoming Sunday bulletins.

The Giving Tree

Keep your eyes open for information concerning our annual Giving Tree program. We should be getting the names of children from our DCF/CTC social worker, Aleks, in the near future. There will be an on-line Sign up Genius listing names, ages, genders, and gift wishes. We will also be able to accommodate people who want to do their sign up at church, beginning in November. You will be notified as soon as these are available.

THE DECEMBER TRUMPET DEADLINE IS Wednesday, November 17, 2021
WSL Events

**November 7, 6:30pm: Virtual Book Discussion**
Our next WSL Book discussion is planned for Sunday, November 7th at 6:30pm via Zoom. We will be discussing the book *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams.

WSL Book Discussion Zoom Meeting Details:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86525139817?pwd=YXJ0SU1FV21xM2p0eFoza0lxboN6dz09
Meeting ID: 865 2513 9817
Passcode: 540874
OR Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 865 2513 9817
Passcode: 540874

**November 27th-December 4th: Virtual Silent Auction-Handmade with Love.** For a second year, we will be seeking donations of handmade items (i.e., jewelry, knitted/crocheted/quilted items, artwork, pottery) for a virtual silent auction which the congregation will have the chance to bid on. In addition, the WSL would welcome donations of gift cards to local small businesses for auction.

The dates for the silent auction are November 27th - December 4th. Therefore, we would like to have all donated items for the event by November 17th. Please email Pam Baclaski (pam.baclaski@gmail.com), Cori Humes (bchumes@comcast.net) or Carol Welz (CWELZ@comcast.net) if you or your family member would like to donate an item or call Cassandra in the church office. We would love to have at least 20 different items.

We anticipate great Christmas gift items! Proceeds benefit WSL programs and projects.

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**Church Bulletin Board**

**BIRTHDAYS:**
**DR. DANIEL TAYLOR:** NOVEMBER 7 – AGE: 98
**NORMA CRANDALL:** NOVEMBER 25 – AGE: 95

**DEATHS:**
**SARAH MARGARET BYRNEs:** OCTOBER 13, 2021

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**Thanks to all who contributed to the CHURCH WORLD SERVICES CLEAN UP BUCKETS ON**

September 26, 2021
We raised $265.30!
Thanks for your support!

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**Quart-Sized Canning Jars Wanted**
The Junior PF (for youth in middle school) is collecting clean, empty quart-sized canning jars for their upcoming cookie mix fundraiser. A carton is stationed in the Narthex for drop off. Thank you in advance for your support of this annual and much-anticipated Junior PF project!

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**Building Committee**

Exciting news! Due to the continued support of our church family the remaining mortgage balance on our beautiful new Parish Hall is now less than $130,000.00. We are grateful to all who have made this possible.

THANK YOU ALL.
Bob, Allyson, Wendy, Jen, Norm, Allan Hall

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**Budget Update**

**SEPTEMBER INCOME FROM OFFERINGS:**
$21,002.80

**SEPTEMBER SPENDING ON BUDGETED EXPENSES:**
$29,612.61
Connecting Faith and Life

2022 Stewardship Campaign

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

October 11th – November 14th 2021

As we launch our 2022 stewardship campaign, we are focusing on how the KCC family helps Connect Faith and Life in our community and in the world. Because of the continuous support you have helped maintain and expand many outreach programs and faith generating missions that have touched many lives. To view the letters that are part of this year’s Stewardship campaign, please visit our Giving page on the KCC Website. We are asking everyone to celebrate the new leadership of Pastor Laura and support the church as we expand our outreach to our community. As we all prayerfully consider our Pledge for the coming year, take some time to contemplate all that we have done together and more that we can do as a church family. This month brings our opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to each other and to God as we contemplate our annual pledge. Again, there is a little sweetness that goes with it, our second Drive through Pledge for Pie event!! Save the date of November 13th from 9AM -12 PM to drive in and pick up a Rogers Orchard Apple pie!! Our outreach angels will be calling local KCC households to see who will be joining us and they will reserve a pie for you. You can also drop us an email or call the office to reserve your pie. If you are local and cannot make the event, be sure to let us know and we will bring the pie to you and pick up your pledge card Saturday. Out of towners can send in your pledge either by email Christ-comm@Kensingtoncong.org or snail mail to the church office. Also save the date for November 14th for Covenant Sunday where we will bless all of our pledges received.

We hope you will be a part of the ongoing joy and support for KCC.

Scott Newbury, Pam Baclaski, Duane Blanchette, Dan Corsetti, Terry Perrelli
Christian Commitment Committee

Diaconate Reflection

Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. ~Proverbs 8:10-11 NIV

Imagine a treasure chest full of sparkling red rubies, radiant gold coins, and gleaming silver candlesticks. Could anything be more spectacular?

Well, yes. Far more spectacular are these:
- Instruction – learning;
- Knowledge – understanding what you have learned;
- And wisdom – practicing that understanding in your life.

Wisdom will add a special radiance and beauty to all the daily dilemmas it touches. So sprinkle God’s wisdom into each aspect of your life and watch for blooms to appear where once there was barrenness. For wisdom directs you to make the best financial choices, strengthens your relationships, and helps you find balance and peace in a fast-paced life.

Wisdom is the real jewel of life, and God is the abundant supplier. Yet how do you gain wisdom? You can download it into your brain via wise counsel, Christian messages, and spiritual songs. But the best method is to consume God’s Word like a slice of pie, taking small bites and slowly savoring and swallowing. Then pondering how those small pieces of truth might be applied to your personal circumstances. Choose instruction, knowledge, and wisdom – and you will have all the treasure you can imagine.

2022 Budget Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting immediately following the Church service on Sunday, December 5, 2021 to approve the 2022 Church Budget. The Budget will be presented by Scott Newbury, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Please plan to attend this important meeting.
A Message from the Covid Committee

Why do we still require masks in KCC Buildings? The quick answer is “Because we Care.” As you look around the congregation, notice how many children are coming to church. These little ones are not yet authorized to be vaccinated. See our older friends? Even with vaccines, they are more vulnerable to serious consequences if they catch Covid. What about the person sitting next to you? They may be immune-compromised, and you don’t know it. Asymptomatic people can spread the virus, so even when we feel OK, we run the risk of spreading Covid.

The Covid Team monitors the State of Connecticut Covid Tracking Data. The state uses a 4-color system to rank each town’s average daily rate of Covid. Red is high, orange is medium, yellow is low, and grey is very low. Berlin is currently considered orange. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we will lift the mask requirement at KCC once Berlin reaches the yellow stage. We are optimistic that this will be more likely once children ages 5-11 are able to be vaccinated.

The Bible tells us to Love our Neighbor. Wearing a mask is an easy way to help keep them safe. As we say in our unofficial KCC Motto, “We’ve Got This!”

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Savings time ENDS on Sunday November 7. Don’t forget to turn your clocks back an hour before you go to bed on Saturday November 6.

Calling All 4th & 5th Graders

The 4th & 5th graders will be receiving their Bibles on Sunday, November 14th. A Family Bible Orientation class will be held before church at 8:30 a.m. Come and learn to use your Bible and enjoy a continental breakfast provided by the CFF committee. Please, RSVP to Gwen McCann, by email at: KCCEducation@kensingtoncong.org or by phone at (860) 707-0070.

Reeves Center Piano

The upright piano in the Reeves center is looking for a new home. Please contact the church office if you are interested or if you know someone who is looking for a used piano.

From the Music Committee

A heartfelt thank you to the Dyson family for donating their beautiful piano to the church parlor in memory of Joyce and Henry. We promise to take care of it and fill the room with joyful songs in their honor.

(Map available on page 5 of linked report below, report is updated each Thursday: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/CTDPHCOVID19summary10142021.pdf)
Save the Date For
Night In Bethlehem
&
Christmas Pageant
December 12, 2021
Watch for details