

The Kingston Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
April 23, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter ~ Earth Day Weekend

We are so glad you are here!

Masks are optional and available at the doors.

There are LARGE PRINT bulletins and listening aides available; please see the ushers.

To not interfere with the wireless livestream of our service, **please power off your phones.**

The green cards in the pews are for sharing prayer requests; place in offering plates and they will be read as part of the “Prayers of the People.”

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Amy Monahan

INTROIT

Christ Arose, Hallelujah

- Natalie Sleeth

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

God, we are so glad to be HERE...

HERE together,

HERE in this place of worship,

HERE on Earth,

HERE where You are,

HERE today to celebrate the joy, beauty and stewardship of your Creation!

* OPENING HYMN #238

Now the Green Blade Riseth

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

- Pastor

Holy God of all and everything, we confess we have not lived into your promise of new life; we confess risking permanent damage to your handiwork; we confess impoverishing Creation’s ability to bring you praise. We confess that we often are unaware of how deeply we have hurt your good earth and its marvelous gifts. We confess that we often are unaware of how our abuse of Creation has also been an abuse of ourselves. For our wrongs, O God, we ask forgiveness. In sorrow for what we have done we offer our repentance.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

* Indicates you are invited to stand; **Bold** type indicates all speak/sing together.

ACCLAMATION OF RENEWED COMMITMENT:

- Carolyn Eastberg

We promise to reverence your Creation as a gracious gift entrusted to us by you, our God. We promise anew to be stewards and not pillagers of what you have entrusted to us. Creator God, you have given us every reason to learn and promote the wisdom of lives lived in harmony with Creation. May we, your servants, increasingly serve. May we, your servants, increasingly come to love your Creation as we increasingly come to love you, through Christ Jesus, our Lord.

* GREENING OF THE CROSS

All who are able are invited to come forward and add a piece of greenery to the standing cross in the front of the sanctuary, signifying our commitment to live our faith in action, while we sing: “Send Forth Your Spirit” (Marty Haugen)

Send forth your Spirit, O God.

Send forth your Spirit, O God.

And renew the earth, renew the earth,

Send forth your Spirit, O God.

WORD FOR ALL AGES

- Ms. Cindy

[Children are welcome to join Ms. Cindy and helpers downstairs for Church School]

DISMISSAL HYMN #28

For the Beauty of the Earth

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 41:14-36

- Carolyn Eastberg

Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was hurriedly brought out of the dungeon. When he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.’ Joseph answered Pharaoh, ‘It is not I; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.’ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘In my dream I was standing on the banks of the Nile; and seven cows, fat and sleek, came up out of the Nile and fed in the reed grass. Then seven other cows came up after them, poor, very ugly, and thin. Never had I seen such ugly ones in all the land of Egypt. The thin and ugly cows ate up the first seven fat cows, but when they had eaten them no one would have known that they had done so, for they were still as ugly as before. Then I awoke. I fell asleep a second time and I saw in my dream seven ears of grain, full and good, growing on one stalk, and seven ears, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprouting after them; and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. But when I told it to the magicians, there was no one who could explain it to me.’

Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, ‘Pharaoh’s dreams are one and the same; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, as are the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind. They are

seven years of famine. It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt. After them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the land. The plenty will no longer be known in the land because of the famine that will follow, for it will be very grievous. And the doubling of Pharaoh’s dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about. Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man who is discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land, and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plenteous years. Let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and lay up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to befall the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.’

SERMON Faith and Action for the Earth - Rev. Dr. Jan Gregory-Charpentier

OFFERING OUR GIFTS:

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Litany for Easter* - Gordon Young

* SUNG DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One.*

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father (Mother) who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and glory, forever. Amen.**

* CLOSING HYMN #558 *O How Glorious, Full of Wonder*

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



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The flowers today are given by Eric and Cindy Ladd Anderson in loving memory of her parents, Anne and John Ladd and her sister, Cheryl Ladd.

Emig Lecture 4/30/23: Systemic Racism in America

The Board of Missions invites you to our annual Emig Lecture in memory of Rev. Don Emig, a past member of KCC, who worked tirelessly for social justice.

Using the scripture from the Gospel of John (John 10:1-18) as a frame, Rev. Marilyn Baugh Kendrix will deliver the sermon addressing systemic racism in America, providing both a definition and a few examples to help congregants who are not targets of this racism better understand what it is and how it impacts people of color, especially Black Americans.

In addition, Rev. Kendrix will spend some time unpacking the controversy over critical race theory and how erasing African Americans from the history of our nation negatively impacts us all.

Rev. Kendrix will also be available in the Fireplace Room after coffee hour for Q&A.

Called to Care Ministry



For about one year, KCC has had a Called to Care (C2C) ministry to assist the pastor in maintaining caring and meaningful connections between the church and older and homebound parishioners through visits, calls and cards. The program is being renewed and expanded and will now be overseen by Rev. Cheryl von Ehrenkrook, in conjunction with Rev. Jan.

Current as well as new C2C volunteers are invited to attend a training meeting on Saturday, April 29, 10 am - 2 pm, including a light lunch. This will also be a time for current volunteers to check-in and discuss the visits they have already done. We welcome new volunteers who should also attend the training session on April 29, 2023. Rev. Cheryl is starting a C2C program at East Greenwich United Methodist Church, and their new volunteers will join in the April 29th training session. There will be a time for each group to meet separately. If you are interested in more information about serving as a C2C volunteer, or wish to sign up, please contact Cheryl von Ehrenkrook at revcherylvene@gmail or 401-500-1176.

Women's Fellowship News

Kingston Fair is Saturday, May 13 and we will have a **bake sale!!** Please contact Michelle or Helen if you can help be a cashier and sell that day. Cakes and pies sell the best! – also, some muffins, cookies, etc. Let Michelle or Helen know what you are making and plan to bring it over that morning. Fellowship will be serving chowder and we can provide dessert or goodies to take home for Mother's Day on Sunday.



Today 23rd from 4-6pm

We will be celebrating Earth Day by discovering what God has created for us. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Ms. Cindy for more information dirce@kingcongchurch.org. All you need is a warm friendly welcoming smile as the rest is all prepared for us.

-CALENDAR-

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

9:30 am Service of Worship
4:00 – 6:00 pm Messy Church (Hall)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

7:00 pm BS Troops 1 & 2 (Hall)
7:00 pm Council Meeting (Zoom)

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

12:00 pm Bible Study (Zoom)
7:00 pm Choir

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

10:00a–2:00 pm C2C Volunteer Training
5:00 pm Progressive Dinner (Hall)

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

9:30 am Service of Worship
10:45 am Emig Lecture (FPR)
4:00 pm Community Dinner Prep. (Kitchen)
6:00 pm Community Dinner (Hall)

Mission Statement of the Kingston Congregational Church:

*We are a Christian Church that supports each person's spiritual journey
through the communal pursuit of worship, learning, and service.*

(Voted on and approved by the Congregation on April 27, 2008)

*We welcome into our community persons of every gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and
expression, mental and physical ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith
background, marital standing and family structure; and we invite all to share in the life,
leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our
congregation.* (Voted on and approved by the Congregation on May 17, 2015)

Greeters: Shelley & Kassidy Monahan; Ushers: Frank & Anne Lenox; Lay Reader: Carolyn Eastberg

Deacon of the Month – Amy Monahan (amypmonahan287@yahoo.com)

Coffee Hour – Louise Pearson and Helen Rowe-Drake

Church Council:

President – Sharon Davis

Moderator – Joyce Stevos

Chair of the Board of Deacons – Frank Lenox

Chair of the Board of Trustees – K. Wayne Lee

Chair of the Board of Missions – Lisa Bowe

Co-Chairs of the Board of Music – Margaret Bradley and Matt Simeone

Chair of the Board of Christian Education – Dave Remington

Chair of the Board of Stewardship – Open

Chair of the Board of Finance – David Coleman

Chair of the Board of Membership – Lori Ann Hiener

Co-Chairs of the Board of Fellowship – Maria Burdett and Ann Lenox

President Women's Fellowship – Michelle Girasole

Treasurer – Doug Kraus

Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. Jan Gregory-Charpentier

Pastoral Intern – Katie Howe

Ministers – All Members

Interim Director of Music – Eden Casteel

Director of Christian Education – Cindy Dowgiallo

Communications Director – Tony Jones

Office Administrator – Shirley M. Schock

Sexton – Andy Cournoyer

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