

The Spire

From Your Pastor

Summer 2023

This is “the Summer Spire,” the final newsletter of the “program year” (the busy months between September and June) and is meant to carry us through till we start up again come Labor Day, which will be here before we know it. My guess is that most of us remember what summer felt like in our childhood: it was another world! It was vast and long. It was a complete break from our routine, sometimes literally carrying us away to different places—camps, cabins, tents and beach houses—and setting us down among different people. Summer held mystery and a tinge of adventure: whom would we meet, what would we do, how would we change? And in those years, three months and all they held, really could change us. We’d come back to school a different person, so much older, or at least it felt that way.

These days summer still holds the joy of anticipation, if not as much mystery. For those of us who are retired, summer doesn’t necessarily signal a change of routine or venue. Many of our “snow birds” do their traveling in the winter and look forward to summer at home.

I confess I still relish this yearly transition to the summer season. Some colleagues and parishioners complain about how few people attend worship in the summer (“As if God takes a vacation from us!”). But I find the summer slow-down is a welcome change of pace. I surely miss a fuller sanctuary, the choir helping us through the hymns, and some of the weekly hustle and bustle. But I know it will be back before I know it. And I appreciate a little less busyness, fewer deadlines, and one or two less meetings.

So, I wish for you and myself over this summer season, times of rest and refreshment, recreation and renewal. And I hope there’s a little mystery and adventure, too! I remember reading an article on why time seems to pass much more quickly for adults than for children. It has to do with novelty. When our brains encounter new information and new experiences they have to work harder and our perception is enlarged, elongating our sense of time as well. (Which is why a week of travel or vacation can feel so much longer than a week at work). So, this summer, do something new! Don’t let it flash by in an instant! Break out of the routine and experience something novel.

Along with mystery and adventure, may this summer bless you with many sabbath moments when you can simply “be” and not just “do,” and find rest and renewal for your soul.

Grace&Peace, Rev. Jan

Sunday Worship in June

The liturgical “Season after Pentecost” is also called “Ordinary Time,” and it’s the long stretch between that fiery, windy birthday of the Church and the new Christian year that starts again the first Sunday Advent. In these weeks and months of “ordinary time” we often hear the stories of Jesus’ life, his teachings, the words of the early church through the letters they wrote. Like our lives, faith grows and deepens in the long stretches of ordinary time, through faithful living and daily grace.

Sunday, June 4: First Sunday after Pentecost. 1 Peter 2:1-10. *Living Stones*. Today we bear witness to the lives of Sylvie and Cuffe Torrey, enslaved then free residents of South Kingstown, and we seek to “rid ourselves of malice and all guile” and tell a truer version of our church’s story. Special storytelling and musical guests join us for this important Sunday. Our Witness Stones Project Learning Community helps lead worship. Communion Sunday.

Sunday, June 11: Second Sunday after Pentecost. Genesis 12:1-9; Romans 4:13-21. *Sharing the Faith of Abraham*. Today we celebrate the KCC “program year” that was (Sept-June) and launch into summer mode. We’ll thank our choir, recognize our students, celebrate our graduates, bless our UCC Synod delegates and baptize a baby! We’ll “go” into the new summer season like Abraham and Sarah did, stepping out on faith that God goes ahead of us. Annual church cookout following worship.

Sunday, June 18: Third Sunday after Pentecost. Matthew 10:1-14. *Travel Tips*. Jesus sends out the 12 disciples with some “simple” instructions: cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. What made him think they/we could do such things? Oh, right! His first instruction: “Proclaim the good news, ‘The Kingdom of God has come near.’” There is healing and hope everywhere we go! Father’s Day.

Sunday, June 25: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. Rev. Jan is away on vacation for this and the following Sunday, July 2. Guest worship leaders presiding.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

June’s Deacon of the Month is Frank Lenox. (fmlenox@gmail.com)

July’s Deacon of the Month is Lori Ann Hiener. (lhiener@cox.net)

The congregation expresses deepest sympathy to the Hauser family on the death of Ann Hauser, who died on May 15th. Service arrangements will be private.

KCC "Circles" - A Ministry of Belonging

Would you like to feel deeply embedded in the KCC community? Are you looking to be known by and know other KCC congregants better? Would you like to grow your faith while you strengthen your friendships?

Looking toward a Fall launch, Rev. Jan is hoping to gauge possible participation in the new small group format known as "Circles." Circles meet monthly for fellowship and a faith focus (decided upon by the group). (See May 2023 Spire for full description). Including 10-12 adults meeting in a member's home, Circles are self-directed and guided by a Circles template. Circles provide a way to build deeper relationships with a few others within the broader network of the congregation. Initially, Circle groups/members are asked to commit to six monthly meetings. Circle group membership will be determined by day/time availability. Further information and registration form will be sent out later in the summer.

Cox Courtyard Garden Improvements Dedication

Following worship on June 4th, a brief dedication ceremony will be held in the KCC courtyard (weather permitting) to acknowledge and honor the garden improvements made in honor of the life and contributions of Dave and Pat Cox. Join Cox family members as we place a commemorative plaque in their name.

End of Church School Cook-out

The Fellowship Board will hold an end of church school cookout for Sunday, June 11th after worship. Please join us for burgers, salad, and fellowship time.

Summer Meals for Kids

The Board of Missions would like to invite the congregation to once again fill the pew. We will be collecting items for the Jonnycake Center for Hope in Peace Dale for their summer meal program for kids. When school gets out, there are no more school meals for kids in need. The Jonnycake Center offers families breakfast and lunch items to help feed kids through the summer.

They are in need of the following items:

- Whole grain crackers
- Whole grain/low-sugar granola bars
- Whole grain/low-sugar cereals
- Low-sodium soups
- 100% fruit juice
- Fruit cups in 100% fruit juice

The Board of Missions will be collecting these items during the month of June. Let's try to fill the pew!

Summer Music in the Choir Loft

We're planning special music in the choir loft all summer long, and you're invited to be part of it. Join us for a single Sunday (or more) this summer! Vocalists of all styles (pop, choral, classical, etc.) and instrumentalists of all types are welcome (including drums, reeds, and guitars!). Signups happening now! Talk to Interim Director of Music Eden Casteel after the service or contact her at 401-932-5589 or eecasteel@me.com.

Flower Committee

The Flower Committee wishes to thank everyone who donated flowers for the altar all year, and thanks to those who ordered Christmas and Easter flowers as well. Remember we do not have flowers from Kenyon's in July and August. Anyone who wishes to buy flowers or bring in from your yard is free to do so during these two months but you need to arrange them and take them with you after the service. If you wish to provide flowers, sign up on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Stewardship

Thank you to everyone who has pledged for the upcoming fiscal year which will begin July 1. So far, we have received 74 out of 87 pledges for a total of over \$206,000 for the new fiscal year. Pledge income for the current fiscal year is \$215,000.

If you have not yet pledged, you may do so on the church website www.kingconchurch.org. Click "donate" and then "pledge here".

Please contact the church office if you would like to order offering envelopes for the upcoming fiscal year. In lieu of using envelopes, please write your giving number on your check. If you are unsure of your giving number, contact the church office.

***Spire* Schedule and Mailing**

Please note that publishing of the *Spire* will be suspended for July and August. The *Spire* will

resume publishing for the September issue. The deadline for September *Spire* articles is August 15th.

Beginning with the September issue, the print version of the *Spire* will be mailed only to those who request it. Please contact the church office (401-783-5330 or office@kingconchurch.org) if you would like to continue receiving the print version of the *Spire*.

The *Spire* will be emailed to all who are on the church email list, as it is now. Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to the email list. The *Spire* is also posted on the church's website: www.kingconchurch.org.

Summer Office Hours

The church office will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm from June 19th through Labor Day, September 4th. Regular office hours of Monday through Thursday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, will resume the day after Labor Day on September 5th.

Director of Communications – Job Opening

Tony Jones, our Director of Communications for the past nine months, is moving on to other opportunities. We wish him well! Meanwhile, we are again looking to fill this flexible, 10 hour/week position. On site on Sundays, but able to work from home more or less the rest of the week, it's a great position for a student, a working parent, or someone looking for a part-time second job. See linked job description: [here](#). Please forward this posting to anyone you think might be interested. Inquiries can be made to office@kingconchurch.org.



From the Christian Education Director



A special thanks for All of those who have volunteered to help lend a hand with Messy Church. Your support has meant a great deal to me and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. MESSY CHURCH WILL BE OFF FOR JUNE AND JULY BUT WILL RETURN IN AUGUST. THE TENTATIVE DATE IS AUGUST 20TH SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!



Your help is NEEDED during the SUMMER to help with an activity time for the children of our church. A sign-up sheet for the months of June, July and August is in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays or reach out to me. (dirce@kingconchurch.org) All you need is a love for kids as a Bible story and craft will be provided.



BIBLE PRESENTATION

If your child(ren) are in the fourth grade or older and haven't received a Bible, please contact me (dirce@kingconchurch.org) so that we can rectify this situation.

END OF CHURCH SCHOOL CELEBRATION



will be held on Sunday, June 11th. We are inviting all children to participate during the worship service by greeting, ushering and/or reading. Contact Ms. Cindy to participate. At this service we will be honoring our high school seniors as well as presenting Bibles.

WE HOPE YOU CAN ALL JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF OUR CHURCH.

Women's Fellowship May 2023 Annual Fundraiser Appeal

Dear KCC Women and Friends,

How quickly a year passes! This year at KCC has been filled with activities, and it has been wonderful to gather again in person for potluck meetings, Village Fair bake sales and coming again on June 19th - our annual ice cream social!

In addition to the bake sale, and donations at meetings, we raise funds through this annual appeal. All our funds support various local charities, and the need for our help continues around the community.

Our previous gifts have been to: Southern RI Volunteers, Edesia, Habitat for Humanity, RI Food Bank, Jonnycake Center, Domestic Violence Resource Center, Camp Ruggles, Welcome House, Adoption RI, Cane Child Development Center, and Church World Service. We also have funded occasional special projects, and the total donations have varied from \$1800-\$2700. We will discuss and vote on our charitable donations at our Annual Meeting on Monday June 19th, at 6:30pm.

Please understand that whatever you can give to Women's Fellowship will be appreciated and we will vote to divide it up and give it away! Please make checks payable to: KCC Women's Fellowship and use the enclosed envelope to put it in the collection plate or in the mail.

Hope to see you at the annual meeting if you are able. We will also discuss plans for the fall and next year.

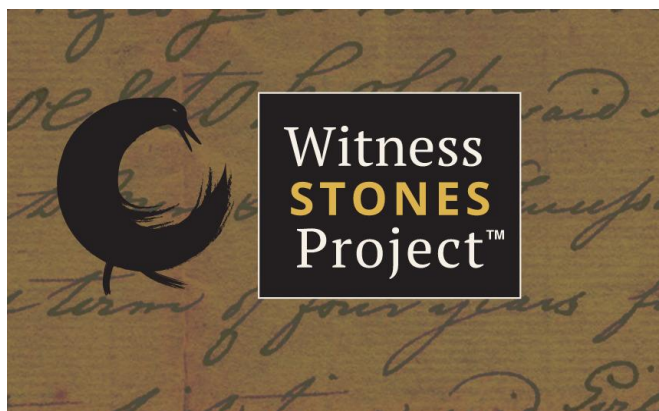
Thank you for your support,

Michelle Girasole, President
Helen Rowe-Drake, Vice President
Cindy Buxton, Secretary
Karen Tucker, Treasurer

Celebrate Rhode Island's First

Witness Stones Project

"To restore the history and honor
the humanity of the enslaved
individuals who helped build our
communities."



Please join us for:

Public Installation Ceremony

Monday, June 5th, 1:30 PM

Kingston Congregational Church

2610 Kingstown Road, Kingston, Rhode Island

www.kingcongregationalchurch.org/witness-stones-project



Join Kingston Congregational Church,
the Compass School in Kingston, and
community members in honoring and
memorializing the lives of two historic,
formerly enslaved individuals from our
local community through the
installation of Witness Stones in their
honor.

Witness Stones Project: Kingston, RI is made possible in part through funding support from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, an independent state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council seeds, supports, and strengthens public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement by and for all Rhode Islanders.



RHODE ISLAND
COUNCIL *for* the HUMANITIES