

The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

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Organist: Morgan Markel

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

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cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

America, America, God mend thine ev'ry flaw / Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law! These lines finish my favorite verse to "America, the Beautiful," the one that starts with pilgrim's feet. They remind us of the road ahead as a society.

Following this election, expressions of alienation and frustration within the culture may continue to act out. Some of these may act out violently, as the recent plot against Somalian immigrants by militia members—now arrested and in custody—attests.

In Kansas, it was in part aimed at causing social disruption the day after the election. In the name of change and renouncing the government, some expressions of this may continue to undermine needed change, particularly as it relates to environmental restrictions, corporate power, and militarism. As they have recently in Congress, their representatives will clench on to power using patriotic, Christian, and populist pretexts. Needed change will be frustrated.

In terms of power in the United States, males should "lose out" in gains made to women, and people of color (no longer a minority) should "win out" in relation to whites. Particularly as they see job and personnel replacement that no longer advantages them, this can be frustrating to white males especially. Yet however these elements act out in opposition—perhaps in ratcheting up violence or "security" responses to attacks, real or perceived—I believe our position is ever with non-authoritarian, open, and fair government of law.

In that way, we will see our flaws mended. Go America. Go God.

In faith and service,
Jon

Ministry Hours and Peaceful Thursdays

From Rev. Jon: Until the week of Thanksgiving, I will be in Cummington most Thursdays and am happy to schedule appointments as early as breakfast (though afternoon is preferable). Tuesday afternoon is also a time in addition to 1st & 3rd Sundays after lunch when I can often make in-person appointments. I am also glad to talk by phone. Please do call, 413-624-3025, and leave a message if there is an emergency or you seek 24-hour turn-around. I do not check email every day.

I will be calling only in emergencies the week of Thanksgiving, and there will be no meditation that week. Happy Thanksgiving to us all!

Thursdays at 4ish you can find me at our lovely church. This fall-winter, Darlene Graham and I again invite you to sow awareness and peace into your approach to the weekend with these body-mind exercises: Yoga—4:00–5:30 PM, Silent Meditation—5:45–6:15 PM

These are weekly events beginning Thursday, September 8: feel free to attend either program or both. Bell ringing—to remind us of mindfulness as a community—is at 6:30. If but hearing that, take a deep breath and go into your weekend right!

November At the Village Church

November 3, 10, 17—Yoga 4–5:30 PM and Meditation, 5:45–6:15 PM

November 6—Service 10 AM

IMPORTANT: There will be a church council meeting following the service. Everyone please come.

November 11—Friday Night Café, 7 PM

November 18—Friday Night Jam—7–10 PM

November 20—Service 10 AM

November 24—Happy Thanksgiving!

For personal, church needs or questions please contact one of the Deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041 or Josh Wachtel at 634-5005 or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 634-5084. The church charges a very nominal fee to cover upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

Visit VC Church website at cummingtonvillagechurch.org



Jigsaw Puzzles

If anyone has jigsaw puzzles they don't need anymore, the folks at Hillside Terrace could use some new (to them) puzzles to put together. Please—no missing pieces.

Puzzles can be dropped off at the community room.

Free Computer Clinic Coming

A FREE computer repair and upgrade clinic will be scheduled on Sat. November 12th. The time and location will be determined very soon. Please call Ken Graf at 634 6402. Leave your name and email address and the details will be emailed to you.

Clean Up Your Act

Are you feeling disheveled and disorganized? Find relief in a practice/practical workshop discussing and implementing Marie Kondo's principles from her book *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* on Friday, November 4, at 6:30 PM at the Village Church in Cummington. To register or obtain further information, email chestnutcabin@gmail.com

Advertise in the GWM

We want to make the Goodwill Messenger self-sustaining. To that end, we are establishing rates for advertising in the paper. These are similar to the Plainfield Post's rates. Public Service Announcements of community interest and news of free events will not be charged.

Business card size ad—\$2.00 • Quarter page ad—\$4.00

Half page ad—\$7.00 • Full page ad—\$13.00

Rates are per insertion. Call/write/mail/drop off as noted below.

Lunch Bunch

On November 9th we will be going to Brewmasters Restaurant in Williamsburg. We will leave from the church at noon. This will be our last outing until April. Come and join us and have some fun.

Beatnik Jazz

The "Beatnik Jazz Night" sponsored by the Bryant Free Library as a roaring success. A large crowd assembled to hear a stellar group of jazz performers from around the area. The crowd was very appreciative of the fine music, and some even dressed the part!

Playing were Dave Bartley, piano; Dave Christopolis, upright bass; Fran Curley, drums; Aaron Dean, saxophone; Richard Downs, trumpet; Charlie Tokarz, reeds and flute.



Beatniks?

Living Fully, Aging Gracefully Discussion Group

A community discussion group, sponsored by the Council on Aging focusing on Living Fully, Aging Gracefully, and Befriending Death, open to all residents of the Hilltowns.

The group—always open to new members—meets at the Cummington Community House library, Main Street, on the second Tuesday of each month from 1–3.

For further information please contact Wynne or Lucy, 634-5576, wynlucy@verizon.net, or Annie_annieb@crocker.com

Art Show

In the gallery of the Community House, Kathryn Jensen will present a series of paintings of the Langtang valley in Nepal's high Himalaya. The art has a story. Kathryn started painting from photographs of her 2004 trek with her son as an art exercise. A month into the project, she happened to watch a television show about the 2014 earthquake in Nepal. Though media coverage had focused on the tragic leveling of holy sites in Kathmandu, she learned that Langtang was the place of the greatest destruction in that devastated country. A mountain had pulverized and blanketed the valley, wiping out all life. Some of the very places she'd been painting no longer existed.

Langtang valley was a choice destination for trekkers and rock climbers, as well as for people on pilgrimage to its monastery. These images show a bit of how people live among the world's highest peaks: their animals on the first floor, terraced fields, threshing floors of compacted earth as well as the glorious mountains.

The artist opening is Saturday, November 5, 2016, 6–8 PM. The art will be on display throughout November.

Writer Wanted

If anyone is interested in doing a kind of "about town" column for the Messenger—with local news of new grandchildren, people sympathy or get well cards, etc.—please let John Maruskin know. 634-5320 or mrblooz@verizon.net



The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the December issue is November 25, 2016. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at mrblooz@verizon.net or Pat at patakeith@gmail.com, mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entry-way of the Village Church.

Seed Exchange

The Hilltown Seed Saving Network is pleased to announce its fifth annual Seed Exchange, on Saturday, November 19th from 1:00 to 4:30 PM at the Community House in Cummington. Learn to save your own garden seed, get answers to your questions and exchange seed that you've saved with friends and neighbors!

Please note that you don't have to bring seed to come to this event. We welcome people at all levels of experience, including those who have never saved seed before.

The event will begin at 1PM, with demonstrations and activities facilitated by experienced seed savers. This part of the day is especially for beginning seed savers, but there should be something of interest for everyone.

At 2 PM, Tevis Robertson-Goldberg of Crabapple Farm will speak on not just saving seed, but saving the best seed from a variety of popular garden crops; there will be plenty of time for questions from the audience. Tevis has been generous enough to share his knowledge with our group from its beginnings.

The seed exchange itself will begin at 3:15, and there will be plenty of time to browse and help yourself to the dozens of home grown varieties of tomatoes, beans, kale, wildflowers, and many other crops. This year, you can come to the Community House as early as 11:45 AM to drop off seed.

Also, we encourage everyone who is bringing seed to the event to list it online using our Virtual Seed Bank at <http://seednetwork.herokuapp.com>. Once you have registered (a quick and easy process), you will be able to browse varieties that other people in the Hilltowns are saving, and bringing to the Seed Exchange.

The suggested donation for this event is a sliding scale of \$5 —\$10. For more information, visit hilltownseeds.wordpress.com; or contact Sadie at 413-475-2692, or Michael at 413-358-6919 or alterman@speakeasy.net.



Some Streeter History

Bill and Elaine visited the Kingman Tavern August 20th and presented the Historical Commission with the book *Streeter, the descendants of Stephen and Ursula*. The book is a concise genealogy of the Streeter Family. Stephen (b. 1594) left England and first appears in the records of Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1638 in Gloucester and Charlestown. Pictured seated above is Bill (11th generation) and Hannah Streeter (13th generation). They are seated under the images of Henry Augustine Steeter (1830-1890) and Jane Tirrell Streeter (1834-1911) husband and wife representing the 8th generation. These illustrations and two others were donated by Bill and Elaine Streeter and are on display at the Kingman Tavern Historical Museum

Mark DeMaranville recorded a session with Bill in which he provided clarification on some previously covered topics and raised some questions for further investigation. Hannah then sat with Bill and asked him a series of questions about his life and the things that have influenced and inspired him. Look for a showing of this sometime in the future. Thanks to Bill, Elaine, Hannah and Mark for preserving a slice of Cummington history



Fuller's Follies

Once again, Fuller's Follies were a big success, with approximately eighty people attending and over \$1000 raised for the Hilltown Food Pantry. Thanks to everyone who came and contributed, to the performers, those who brought food and set up the reception, and to Hattie Fuller, who started this wonderful yearly program.

And thanks also to the sponsors: Cummington Supply, George Propane, Goshen Stone Company, Hilltown Hybrids and the Old Creamery Co-operative. It's so great that so many came together to support an institution which helps so many in the hilltowns. Here are photos of the performers—and you can hear “You never called me by my name” sung by an ad hoc country music trio here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0BQRdOtMM>



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Schedule of Ongoing Events – all at the Community House unless specified

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Finance Office (Tax Collector, Treas., Acct.) open 6–7 PM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Transfer Station open 7–11 AM
Veterans Agent 9–11 AM	Board of Health 1 st & 3 rd Tues. 7 PM (2nd floor)	Council on Aging Office Hours 9–noon (C.H. Annex)	Town Clerk 6–7:30 PM (2nd floor)	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Bryant Library open 8:30 AM–12:30 PM
Assessor Office Hours 9:30–11:30 AM (upstairs in C.H.)		Bryant Library open 6–9 PM	Selectboard meets 7 PM		
Bryant Library open 6–9 PM		Transfer Station open 5:30–7:30 PM	Building Inspector 7–9 PM (upstairs in C. H.)		
		Planning Board 2nd, 4th weeks 7 PM	Board of Assessors meets 2 nd , 4 th Thursdays 6–8 PM		

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Free computer services offered by Ken Graf to Cummington senior citizens

634-8860

<http://kensstuff.blogspot.com>

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