

The Kingston Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Kingston, RI 02881

Annual Report
July 2020 – June 2021



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

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)

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Pastor's Annual Report

I am happy to write this (partial year) annual report reviewing the first eight months (Nov. 1, 2020-July 1, 2021) that I have spent as your pastor. From first meeting your search committee, to being welcomed on my candidating Sunday with parking lot chalk drawings, the connection with KCC has felt warm, easy and good. Walking into the sanctuary last August to preach for you I felt a deep sense of familiarity and comfort, the sanctuary being so similar to the one I grew up in. You have opened your hearts and arms to me and my husband, Ron, and we are deeply grateful.

Of course, launching a new ministry together in the midst of a pandemic was “interesting,” to say the least. But, thanks to the Board of Membership for setting up a series of small group “meet and greet” Zoom meetings, I was able to engage with close to 75 or more people in close, casual conversation within the first couple of months. Jumping into (online) committee meetings, weekly Bible study and Monday night ACES (Adult Christian Education and Spirituality) meetings allowed me to begin to know and deepen friendship with dozens more. Though it was months before I met many of you “in the flesh,” I felt I knew and was coming to love you very quickly.

Thank you to staff and volunteers who made/still make our online connections possible and meaningful! Our seemingly tireless “Tech Team,” (David Bergeron, Frank Lenox, Michelle Girasole, Rem Remington) facilitated our communications and our worship broadcast to keep us connected to one another and to God. I contributed some experience and skills in blending other worship arts (media, graphics) with online worship that we have integrated into our services. Now that pandemic protocols have lifted significantly, and we are able to worship on site as well as online, we are striving to serve both sanctuary and remote worshippers with a “hybrid” (onsite and online) service. It is still a work in progress, and we are learning week by week how to improve and deepen the connections we forged by necessity in pandemic and now want to maintain as pandemic eases. Soon our live and recorded worship services will be accessible through a new and improved website. We’ve learned over the last year plus that our “digital front door” needed an upgrade to provide as full and gracious a welcome to our community as we want to offer. This improved resource will help us both communicate the big heart of KCC and open it even wider to people who are looking for us.

These last eight months have provided opportunities to explore some new directions in other areas as well. Before I even started in November, we were invited to participate in a pilot program through Luther Seminary’s Faith+Lead program called “Funding Forward,” exploring new avenues for funding congregational ministry. It is a yearlong program that brings clergy/laity teams from churches across the country together to learn, discuss and plan for a “funding forward experiment.” David Bergeron is my partner in this program, and Wayne Lee and Michelle Girasole are members of our small task force. We have been meeting monthly in the online

program and about monthly as a task force. We've been sharing our learnings with the church Council and in *The Spire*, and will be designing an "experiment" for the fall that combines fundraising and mission. We hope to use our kitchen to both feed ourselves and our community! Stay tuned!

Another opportunity still in development is a potential collaboration with The Witness Stones Project that combines learning and racial justice work in surfacing and celebrating the contributions of enslaved people who helped build our church and village. A task force, including members of the Board of Mission and Social Justice, is still working on this potential project and will bring what we learn back to the congregation.

Still yet another opportunity that we've been handed is to deepen and renew our covenant with our Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ (SNEUCC). The SNEUCC has a new and dynamic Executive Ministry, the Rev. Darrell Goodwin, who was our Emig preacher and lecturer in April. I am glad to say we have significantly increased our financial contribution in support of Conference ministries. Together we strive to "live the love and justice of Jesus," the SNEUCC mission. Our "brand" of progressive, Christ-centered faith is so deeply needed in this world today. Our Open and Affirming welcome is an important corrective to years of Christian history and practice that have not fully welcomed all God's children into community and covenant.

And no report or review would be complete without acknowledging our challenges, too. Like most communities of faith, we are facing a shifting cultural terrain. Religious life is not central to the lived life of most of the people around us. Our "tried and true" means of attracting new members and sustaining our ministry are not as effective now in an "unchurched" world. This reality brings two imperatives to light: we must pivot toward the community, reaching out, collaborating, partnering, serving the people and place in which we live more proactively; and, to do that well, we need to be clear about who we are (our core mission, purpose, our "why") and our priorities (what God has given us to do especially). I hope in the next year, beginning with a daylong retreat in October (Saturday, Oct. 23, 9-5 SAVE THE DATE!) to inaugurate congregational conversations that will help us discern and articulate our identity and mission for this present time. As I said above, I believe the world needs us. Jesus is reaching people through us. We have "good news" to share. I am deeply encouraged and confident that KCC has a bright and fruitful future. The Spirit is leading; let's follow!

Grace & Peace, Rev. Jan

President's Annual Report

The challenges of this past year were met successfully by the hard work of our Boards, Committees, Staff, Interim Minister Rev. Bruce Greer, and Rev. Jan. Outgoing President, Jeff Richardson, left the church in a solid position to meet those challenges.

The installation of our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Jan Gregory-Charpentier was the high point of the year. Being able to meet in person for her installation was a wonderful new beginning.

The goal of having virtual worship services was realized thanks to the Deacons and Tech Team. Worshiping together was so important and reconnecting with members that had moved away was an added benefit. Our worship services will continue to be available virtually as we gather in person.

A \$5500 Potter Fund Grant was received by the Trustees and will help to offset the costs of the second year's painting contract.

We welcomed new members to our congregation during a virtual worship service. Personal videos of the new members were a wonderful addition to the service.

Each Sunday, following worship, we held the Coffee Hour via Zoom helping to keep many in touch and the Fellowship Board planned a successful, Zoom Pot-luck Supper.

The Finance Board and Investment Committee met frequently to keep our finances on track. Thanks to the congregation's response, the Stewardship Campaign was successful.

We were accepted into the Funding Forward Program. Rev. Jan and David Bergeron continue to meet at monthly workshops as our representatives.

The Pandemic did not slow down our Christian Education Program. Church School classes were held online with occasional, weather permitting, outdoor meetings.

Difficulties were met and problems solved by the work of many members of our congregation. Thanks to their efforts, the impact of Covid 19 was much less than it could have been. I am so grateful for their efforts.

Thank You,
Louise Pearson

Board of Deacons
Kingston Congregational Church
Annual Report
July 2020—June, 2021

Board Members: Susan Berman (Chair), Margaret Bradley (Recording Secretary), Dave Remington, Linda Mendillo, JoAnn Pillar, Carolyn Eldridge

This has been a year in which we have had to continue to re-imagine church as we kept our services going after we stopped being able to meet in person during the Covid-19 epidemic. It has been a year of two pastors. Rev. Bruce Greer served as interim from the end of July to the beginning of November. We voted to call the Rev. Dr. Jan Gregory-Charpentier as our settled pastor in November. She came in November and was formally installed by the Rhode Island Association Church and Ministry Committee of the Southern New England UCC Conference in a service on June 13, 2021.

On June 6, 2021, we held our first in-person service since March 15, 2020. In over a year of restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we never missed streaming a service. Now, going forward, we will have hybrid services making services available simultaneously to those in the sanctuary and those watching remotely, as well as archiving services for people to watch on their own time.

The Deacons' mission, as we re-open, is to offer a simultaneous worship experience for those gathered in the sanctuary and those joining remotely. We have realized, during the pandemic, that providing the service remotely makes it possible for many who would not be able to come physically to church to participate. It is our plan to continue this option going forward. This makes technology, along with worship and music, central to the Deacons' mission. This is a work in progress, and we are grateful for your patience as we find our way together.

The Deacons' Report is a thank you note. We are grateful to the Southern New England UCC Conference for seeing us through our interim ministry and to the amazing Rev. Bruce Greer, whose brief time with us was such a blessing.

We are grateful to Rev. Jan, who has seamlessly become our pastor during this time when we couldn't gather together at church. She makes us feel welcome in our sanctuary, as we participate in our worship services from home. She is with us in our times of loss and need. She is working with the Deacons to focus on the mission of our church. She is inviting us to abide in God's Love.

The Deacons are grateful to our steadfast Tech Team—Michelle Girasole, David Bergeron, Frank Lenox and Rem Remington. They livestreamed every single worship service in more than a year of quarantine, and now that we are coming back to church in person, they are making our hybrid service possible.

We are grateful to Dr. Enrico Garzilli and to our virtual choir. Their countless hours of work continued to make music integral to our worship services all through the time of quarantine.

We are grateful to JoAnn Pillar, Linda Mendillo and Rem Remington, who finished their terms in June, for their constant, faithful service on the Board of Deacons.

Finally, and most, we are grateful to every one of you—our beloved community.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Berman, Chair
Board of Deacons

Kingston Congregational Church Board of Music Annual Report July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

The Board of Music members are Susan Snow (voted Chair), Lori Ann Hiener, Catherine Lenox (voted Sect.), Matt Simeone, Bill Nelson, and Margaret Bradley.

This year, the Music Board held their meetings via Zoom because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dates of meetings were February 16, 2021, at 7:00pm; May 4, 2021, at 7:00pm; June 15, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Zoom seemed to work very well for us and we are considering the use of Zoom for future meetings.

This was a difficult year for music at KCC. Because of the pandemic, there were no choirs of any kind. There was in-sanctuary hymn-singing leadership for all of July and most of August, sung to Enrico's pre-recorded organ music. Margaret Bradley was the vocalist for most of that time, and Karen Johnson participated on the last Sunday of August. Then the UCC guidance recommended no more in-person singing. Dr. Enrico Garzilli, our Music Director, recorded all the music at his home and used the recordings for the streamed church services. Also, during this time, Enrico and Frank Lenox encouraged Senior Choir members to record anthems from home. If the choir member could not record, Frank showed up at their home and helped them. The choir members that recorded EVERY week for months on end were Margaret Bradley, Sharon Davis, Susan Hammen-Winn and Frank Lenox, with some others occasionally participating. These people generously gave their time and talents, and we owe them a huge thank you for all their efforts. Thank you so much!

On June 6, 2021, KCC opened the doors, and anyone could now attend the church service in person. There was in-sanctuary organ music and choir members singing hymns in the loft. Only four members were allowed in the loft at a time, and all had to be masked. The same choir members mentioned above have been singing the hymns in person, with their masks, providing us with beautiful music. How blessed we are, as a congregation, to have such faithful servants in our midst. On June 13th, we celebrated the Installation of Rev. Dr. Jan Gregory-Charpentier as our Senior Minister at KCC. Her installation service was inspiring and was full of great music, including trumpet soloist, Jennifer Collins and vocalist, Bryan Kuchar. What marvelous sounds filled the sanctuary that day, just like a dream come true. We were filled with hope, joy, love AND song. At last!

Through all of this, the Music Board did not forget its responsibilities and made sure all the instruments, including pianos and organ, were taken care of. Margaret Bradley faithfully made sure the piano was “watered” as needed. The choir robes were cleaned and are all ready to go when the full Senior Choir will be back this fall. We pray that this will indeed happen, and we will sing a loud, joyful Halleluiah with many voices.

I am, as always, grateful for Dr. Garzilli’s professionalism, his guidance, his beautiful music, his innovation and his patience. It has not been an easy year! Thank you, Enrico!! A special thank you goes out to Sexton Andy Cournoyer and Richard Armstrong for their help. I also want to recognize David Bergeron, David Remington, and Michelle Girasole, along with Frank Lenox, who have spent hours perfecting the recording process and the streaming of our services. You helped hold us together.

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board of Music and I thank all who have made this a good year for us, despite huge difficulties. You all have been flexible, upbeat, and wonderful.

Susan B. Snow

Music Director Annual Report June 2021

This annual report is quite different because the music for 2020-21 worship services was done virtually. Though the music itself was in our traditional mode, the manner of it coming to fruition was quite different. What would happen is that I would record the hymns on the organ patch of my keyboard and send it to choir members. They would receive them as an mp3 file and record their voices as they listen to the organ accompaniment. After recording their voices they would send me what they did. I would listen to their voices and put them together to form a choir. The mp3 file possesses them in sound waves. Not only do I listen to their voices, I view the sound waves to match them so they are all in sync. When the work was finished, I sent the final mp3s to Pastor Jan and the excellent broadcast team to send it out on Facebook. Needless to say I am truly grateful to our choir members: Sharon Davis, Margaret Bradley, Susan Hammen Winn and Frank Lenox. They were truly generous with their talents week after week.

We began in church services on June 6 which marked the return to our traditional manner of musical worship. One of our highlights to this date was the beautiful installation service for Pastor Jan on June 13. Tenor, Bryan Kuchar, joined us, singing a piece I wrote, entitled, *Quest*. Jenny Collins played trumpet for the hymns and joined me in playing the Postlude, Handel’s beautiful *Thanks be to Thee*.

In addition, I would like to thank Susan Snow and the Music Board for their invaluable assistance. The cleaning of the choir robes was particularly important. They also helped in moving the hymnals and choir music to the choir loft.

Finally, I would like to thank Pastor Jan and the entire congregation for their constant inspiration and kindness. I would also like to express my great joy at continuing as organist/pianist and choir director for Kingston Congregational Church.

Dr. Enrico Garzilli, BA, MA, STB, STL, PhD

Trustees' Annual Report 2020-2021

Projects Completed:

Fall Clean-up of leaves and branches with Boy Scouts

Complete flushing and draining of all gutters and outside drains by Roto Rooter

Gutters cleaned and debris taken away

Library windows painted and new furniture installed

Sanctuary circuit breakers and switches replaced

Parking lot seal- coated to maintain weeds and appearance

Rubber mats put in kitchen and church entrances to prevent accidents

Outside stairway water pump repaired to prevent flooding

Trees pruned and dead trees cut down

Applied for and received \$5,500 in grant money from RI Foundation (Potter Fund)

Researched and purchased three air purifiers to maintain excellent air quality

Annual food license applied for and received

Happy Tree Painting Company will arrive in July

New winter sexton found and will be trained by Andy

Sincerely,

Tracy Heffron, Chair

Annual Treasurer's Report 2020-2021

Having completed my third year as Treasurer of Kingston Congregational Church, I would like to thank everyone for working together with me to ensure that KCC continued to remain financially strong during this pandemic.

Per the Treasurer's Report, KCC ended the year with a surplus of \$6,474.32. Actual pledges were greater than budgeted, and actual expenses were less than budgeted. We successfully applied for and received forgiveness for the \$19,822 Paycheck Protection Program loan. The most challenging task that I had this year was to revise the budget for the new pastor. Pastor Jan Gregory-Charpentier has been a blessing to us all and I join everyone in welcoming her to our church.

I will not be serving a second three-year term as Treasurer. However, I welcome my friend and new member Judith Korgen as the new Treasurer. Judy has financial budgeting experience and has been volunteering as an Assistant Treasurer for a few months. I am sure that she will be great in this new position in the church and I wish her well.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis

Investment Committee Annual Report 7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021

For the fiscal year 7/1/20 through 6/30/21 the committee consisted of one person, Richard Geisler. Since I was the only member, no formal meetings were held but that does not mean there was no activity. For 2021/22 the committee consists of three members: Steve Davis, Jim Elliott and myself.

We started the year with an account value of \$1,289,104 and ended the year with \$1,634,084. On 9/10/2020 and 3/19/2021 withdrawals were made for a total of \$66,785 and distributed for support of the Church, there were no additions to the fund. At the beginning of the year the asset mix was 76% stocks and 24% bonds and short term reserves and ended the year with an 80%/20% mix. Both the amount of withdrawals and the asset mix are in compliance with the KCC Investment Policy Statement dated April 7, 2019.

When adjusted for the withdrawals the endowment had a 32.8% return which compares quite favorably to the all-stock S&P 500 index of about 40%.

Respectfully,
Richard Geisler

Stewardship Board

Pledging for the fiscal ending 2020-2021 was from 101 families and giving to the budget was set at \$212,999.

Pledging for the new fiscal year starting July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 was from 91 families. The giving to the budget for the current year is \$223,951. Stewardship had a slightly different approach with an effort to being more open and transparent. The process was well received as evidenced by just over a 5% increase in giving. The most difficult part of stewardship is maintaining the accuracy of the membership's contact information. As unofficial chair my plans are to attempt to improve the contact list. Yes, I meant plural; over the years multiple lists have been created in different formats.

We encourage the use of your member number to insure the record keeping of your giving. If you do not use an envelope with your member number, please include it on the memo line of your check or with a note attached to cash. If you do not know your member number, please contact the church office.

Finance Board

The Finance Board made it through the year without a chair. We are grateful to Sharon Davis for picking up the slack. Sharon did the budget for the current fiscal year 21-22 with review and approval by the Finance Board members. For 2021/22 we have a full board and a chair for both the Finance Board and Investment Committee. Please look at the roster and give them your support.

KCC has a new treasurer, Judy Korgen. She comes with broad experience handling budgets and monies.

For the Stewardship and Finance Boards,

Doug Kraus

The Finance and Stewardship Boards along with the Investment Committee constitute the financial life blood of the church. Church members are encouraged to get involved.

Scrip Program Annual Report 2020-2021

The SCRIP Program is a fund-raising program run by church members which has been ongoing since 2010. Church members and friends may purchase participating Retailer's Gift Cards for groceries and many other products in specific denominations and the church receives a rebate from the retailers. Most retailers offer a rebate around 4% to 5% but some are as low as 2.5% (Wal-Mart) and some as high as 16% (LL Bean).

When the Pandemic started and we were no longer meeting in church, I began selling the Scrip Gift Cards out of my home. This was definitely not as successful as when we sold the cards in Fellowship Hall before and after church almost every Sunday, but it was the only way to keep the program running. Now that we are back to having church services in person, we are once again selling the gift cards during coffee hour.

The gift cards the Scrip Team have on hand and ready for sale during coffee hour are: Belmont Market, Stop & Shop, Shaw's, Dave's Market, CVS, Amazon, Walmart, Staples, Panera Bread, Marshall's, Camden's Restaurant, Walgreens, Starbuck's, and Dunkin Donuts. Many other retailers have cards available which we can order and will arrive in about a week.

Now, "Shop with Scrip" offers re-loadable gift cards and e-gift cards that you can directly obtain by yourself, online. Michelle Girasole has provided a video as a tutorial on how to reload your gift cards in her weekly newsletter.

The annual profits from the KCC Scrip Program are distributed to KCC in the following manner: the Operating Budget (50%), the Board of Missions (25%) and Board of Trustees (25%). Please see the following spreadsheet for more detail. The Scrip Program is currently the only scheduled fund-raising event for KCC.

Our Scrip Team volunteers include Dottie Leduc, Dick Shaw, Wayne Lee, Nancy Corvese and Andrea Richardson as Coordinator.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Richardson, Scrip Coordinator

Scrip Orders and Sales January through June 2021

Date	Gross Sales	Orders	
1/1/21-1/16/21	\$2,300.00		
01/18/2021		\$1,800.00	Belmont
01/06/2021		\$4,835.14	
1/19-2/9	\$2,865.00		
2/9-2/28	\$6,245.00	\$4,381.00	
3/9-3/28	\$3,125.00		
04/18/2021		\$1,980.00	Belmont
04/25/2021	\$3,695.00		
05/18/2021		\$5,132.75	
06/06/2021	\$2,755.00		
06/13/2021	\$1,800.00	\$2,694.25	
06/20/2021	\$2,150.00		
06/27/2021	\$2,200.00	\$3,261.21	

**KCC Board of Membership Report
Annual Report for 2020-21
Submitted July 2021**

Members of the Board of Membership: For the 2020-21 church year, the following persons served on the Board of Membership: Fran Bergeron, chair; Loretta Shaw, Joyce Stevos, Connie Fitzelle, Jan Kraus, Lori Ann Hiener, Alyssa Hiener, Gideon Lyngdoh, Janice Trottier, and Jee Lee. All members of the Board will continue serving on the Board for the 2021-22 church year.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person worship, meetings, and activities were cancelled for most of the 2020-21 church year. On December 15, several members of the Board of Membership met informally via Zoom with our new settled pastor, Rev. Jan Gregory Charpentier. The Board shared information via email and worked with Rev. Jan to receive new and renewing members. On Saturday, February 6th Rev. Jan and two members of the Board of Membership participated in a Zoom meeting for prospective members. This meeting provided an opportunity for those interested in becoming members of KCC to learn more about our congregation, each other and our shared journey of faith.

A pre-recorded induction (reception) ceremony for the new and renewing members was played during the worship service on Sunday, February 28. Five new members joined the church (Ron Charpentier, Rev. Jan Gregory Charpentier, JudyKorgen, Neil Ross, and Christina Ross); and two inactive members who recently moved back to Rhode Island renewed their membership (Brook Ross and Heather Ross).

Shepherding and Visitations Committees: Loretta Shaw continued to chair the Shepherding and Visitation Committees. Information on the Committees' contacts with shut-ins was shared with the interim pastors, Rev. Jan, and the Deacons. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Visiting Committee has been keeping in touch with our shut-ins by sending cards and making phone calls.

Membership: Four members were changed from inactive to active status; and eight members died in the last 12 months. The current number of active members is 268.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Bergeron, Chair, Board of Membership

KCC Membership Report
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Members as of July 1, 2020 **267**

Additions:

Confirmands	0
New Members	5
Members Reactivated	4

Total Additions: **9**

Losses:

Death	8
Transfer	0
Inactive by Request	0

Total Losses: **8**

Members as of June 30, 2021 **268**

Baptisms	0
Marriages	0

Date

New Members

Ron Charpentier	February 28, 2021
Jan Gregory-Charpentier	February 28, 2021
Judy Korgen	February 28, 2021
Brook Ross (reactivated)	February 28, 2021
Christina Ross	February 28, 2021
Heather Ross (reactivated)	February 28, 2021
Neil Ross	February 28, 2021

Deaths

James B. Ross	July 18, 2020
Patricia A. Cox	September 2, 2020
Doris W. Findlay	December 16, 2020
Prentice W. Stout	January 11, 2021
Paulette A. Osterman	March 11, 2021
Camilla M. Wiener	June 2, 2021
Janet M. Blackwell	June 5, 2021
Donna G. Sciola	June 18, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta H. Shaw
Registrar

Kingston Congregational Church Board of Missions and Social Justice Annual Report 2020-21

Members: Karen Johnson, Chair; Lisa Bowe, financial reports; Ron Stevens, Susan Davis, Judi Parman, Cindy Buxton, Jim Findlay, Angela Haggerty, and Reverend Jan Gregory-Charpentier.

All meetings were held by Zoom, virtually, due to the coronavirus Sars-CoV-2 pandemic. Work continued despite only virtual meetings. Sue Davis helped arrange the Zoom meetings. Judi continued to collect the mail although masked. Lisa Bowe continued to update the congregation via the bulletin and the Spire, as well as keep the finances. We expressed sympathy and support to Jim Findlay who suddenly lost his dear wife Doris, and then moved to assisted living. We also expressed support to Ron Stevens who was undergoing medical care and treatment during the Fall months.

When we reconvened in September 2020, the major focus was on how we could help people during the coronavirus pandemic. There was still no vaccine and infections had eased due to it being Summer with more people outdoors. After research, we decided to support the RI Foundation with a \$2000 donation to their coronavirus relief fund, which would provide broad support to people suffering during the pandemic.

In October, we began preparing for Fall giving opportunities, as well as for Christmas. We had successfully displayed our banner supporting the ideals of Martin Luther King in response to a Summer of unrest due to racial tensions. Going forward, we will keep racial justice in our hearts and minds as a priority.

In November, \$250 in gift cards was donated to the Jonnycake Center and the Domestic Violence Resource Center of SC. Sue reported that the Habitat for Humanity on line auction went very well and they met their goal. We continued to discuss the beneficiaries of our annual Christmas Collection, and agreed on support for the Jonnycake Center as usual. We will contribute \$1,000 to their capital campaign in support of their move to a new building and larger facility.

During December, we supported both the Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County with gift cards through Scrip (supported by Andrea Richardson), and also to the Jonnycake Center of South County. We sent another \$2,000 to the RI Foundation for Covid 19 relief for RI residents and families. For the Christmas Collection we supported McCauley House, Catholic Charities, and the UCC Medical Debt program. From our budget we allocated \$2000 for the RI Community Food Bank, and \$250 to Hope's Harvest.

The Fall Blanket Sunday campaign netted \$754. We began our discussion regarding the Emig Lecture, planned for Spring, with Darrell Goodwin in a new position for the local UCC to speak on diversity and inclusion. We really like our MLK Banner and displayed it in January and February to celebrate his work and the lives and struggles of people of color.

The Emig Lecture was scheduled for April 18. Rev. Jan brought up the Witness Stones Project and we have decided to investigate further. She also facilitated our support for the SNEUCC Conference as we asked for a line item in the KCC budget for \$500 as annual support to the UCC.

Don Hermes from Peace Dale Congregational Church was our guest to discuss their Green committee, an offshoot of their board of social justice, and their endeavors. We may be able to participate in some of the offerings. The Witness Stones Project will move forward with a new group of supporters.

In May/June we donated \$500 to Kind and \$1,000 to Habitat for Humanity for their Faith Build in Westerly, RI. We also plan to help with either work or logistics for this project. We gave to Del McCormick at the Sisters of Notre Dame for work on the southern border with immigrants there. We discussed donations from our budget. We have already donated \$2000 to the RI Community Food Bank.

In July 2021, Lisa Bowe took over as Chair of the Board of Missions and Social Justice.

Karen thanks everyone in the group for their generosity and support for our work.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Johnson Chair 2020-21

Church School Annual Report 2021

If ever there was a year we needed faith, it was this one. The pandemic we thought would last a few weeks or a couple of months stretched on for over a year. Our church school parents were consulted and asked us not to create more screen time for a weekly online church school program, as we had for worship, because the kids needed the weekends off after being on the screens all week for academics.

We responded by creating a rhythm with the weekly "Word for All Ages" segment of the worship and a rotation of monthly activities: an in-person event, an online experience and a faith-at-home kit. We sent activity kits home and gathered online for yoga and videos, including our favorite Christmas tradition of watching "The Star" on the Sunday after Christmas and a Mardi Gras celebration Tuesday before Lent. We walked the labyrinth on a hot day last summer. Our kids got to meet Rev. Jan at Potter Wood in the fall, with a nature hike. They helped with the CWS backpacks and the luminary event. We went to the sledding hill and the firepit at the Christmas tree farm for cider donuts and warm cider on a cold day! We hosted a Racial Justice Rally in front of the church, standing up for justice as neighbors drove past and cheered the kids on.

Another in-person gathering was a Bible gifting, outdoors at my home in June. Our 3rd graders and older children who had never been given a Bible by KCC gathered for a lesson on the Bible and recorded a video presentation, which we shared with the congregation on Pentecost Sunday. We certainly look forward to next spring, when we can be back in the sanctuary for this cherished tradition. Even during the shutdown, we started a new summer tradition - our 3 Sisters Garden in the courtyard - showing how God's love grows.

This coming September, we will ramp up again with "Rally Day", welcoming families back with an ice cream social. We will use a new "Follow Me" curriculum, return to our age-specific classrooms and begin planning for our all-ages retreat in October. We are also hoping to see the return of our kids' plays! We know Jesus will be with us, through Bible stories and lots of love shared in our gathering circles, getting to know our new friends and reuniting with old ones, who were so missed for so many months.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Girasole
Director of Church School and Communication

Report on Adult Christian Education 2021

It has been a challenging year, but we still managed to do okay. ACES (Adult Christian Education Series) met on Zoom exclusively for the whole year most Monday nights. In the summer we looked at white fragility by reading and discussing the book “White Fragility” by Robin DeAngelo. In September and October the book "I'm tired of apologizing for a church I don't belong to" by Lillian Daniel was read and discussed.

Those Who Dream daily devotional was the Advent and Christmastide offering.

During Lent we switched from the written word to the NOOMA video series by Rob Bell.

And a deeper dive into Faith with:

Leading from Within: Contemplative Tools for a More Centered Life, Saturday mornings during Lent.

After Lent into July we continued with the NOOMA videos.

During this year the Thursday morning Bible study group didn't miss a beat meeting continually every Thursday.

Many thanks to the members of the C.E. Board and all the Folks that make this happen.

Gratefully submitted

Chair of Christian Education

Rem Remington

Board of Fellowship Annual Report 2020-2021

The Fellowship Board this past year was unable to have any social events due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

We did however have a virtual Progressive Dinner through an internet social meeting platform known as Zoom on March 20, 2021. It was well attended with approximately 18 family units participating. The Board thanks Frank Lenox who assisted us by setting up “break out” rooms to enable us to have small group chat rooms in order to converse while we all ate our appetizers, main courses and desserts.

The Fellowship Board for 2020-2021 had the following members: Ann Lenox, Lora Hahn Schubert, Lori Ann Heiner and Andrea Richardson.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Richardson, Board of Fellowship Chair

Women's Fellowship Annual Report July 2020-July 2021

Church services and all activities closed after March 8th and services were remote. Our March speaker with Edesia was cancelled, and there was no Kingston Fair or Ice Cream Social. All the items for Church World Service were purchased and paid for but not into kits and boxes since there was no truck coming to pick up. However, we did hold a vote via email in June 2020 and did distribute checks to our charities for \$2100.

In the fall of 2020, there was no new booklet and no annual appeal letter. Also no pot luck, no Gingerbread or Christmas Cookies and Gifts Sale. We did our best to stay in touch with each other with a zoom meeting in October and November with Michelle's tech help and 6-10 women attending. Since we were unable to sell cookies we decided to give some away as Christmas Cheer. We asked healthy women to bake and we had an outstanding fabulous selection of cookies—more than ever! 4-5 of us with masks and gloves then arranged them into boxes. These were then delivered by Michelle to our local charity staff/offices with a note thanking them for their work—Welcome House, Jonnycake, Domestic Violence Center, Habitat for Humanity. And a bag of boxes were delivered to South County Hospital. A few boxes were delivered by Helen to the staff of Brookdale and Brightview and several large platters went to the SK Police department and to the West Kingston Fire House. Everyone was very appreciative.

In addition, three different women: Karen Tucker, Pam Lyons and Cindy Buxton sewed masks (Snowflake material) and these were given or mailed in Christmas cards to the 5 church staff and to 21 others who were in care facilities or isolated at home.

January to May 2021 we were still having services remotely and unable to meet. A small group with teens met in April to assemble the CWS kits which Helen then delivered to Newman's Church for pick up and we paid the \$400 of shipping. Women's Fellowship donated \$50 for flowers on Memorial Day. The May 2021 Spire included our appeal letter and a return envelope and we had an exceptional return with 35 women participating! We were able to meet in person on Sunday June 27th and 14 women came for our ice cream social and to vote about our donations. \$2,700 was given away to: Adoption RI, Domestic Violence Center, So County Habitat, Southern RI Volunteers, Welcome House, RI Food Bank, Camp Ruggles, Cane Child Development, Jonnycake Center for Hope and this year we added Edesia.

We look forward to a more "normal" year ahead though we do not have a full board, we will continue on supporting one another and holding meetings as we are able. Connie Fizzle and Cindy Buxton agreed to brainstorm about programs/speakers for us and we hope to do Gingerbread again if possible.

Respectfully submitted by Helen Rowe-Drake

Flower Committee/Deacons Annual Report July 2020-July 2021

Due to Covid 19 there were no official flower arrangements from Kenyon Ave Floral after March 8th, 2020. However as we were online, flowers were on the altar during the spring and summer provided by Alinda Nelson, Michelle Girasole, and others. Elizabeth McNab provided spring bulb plants for Easter. During September and October Helen Rowe-Drake provided arrangements of dahlias from their farm.

November 1st we resumed flowers from Kenyon's to celebrate the arrival of our new minister Rev. Jan. Helen arranged with the usual donors and she came up to church after service and then delivered two bouquets.

The first Sunday of Advent was Nov. 29 and Rev. Jan requested a blue table covering (Helen purchased and sewed) and Kenyon's supplied the advent wreath. The crèche was up with just the animals. We had donors for Dec. 6 and Dec. 13 and Sue Snow did her own arrangement for Dec. 20. Dec. 24, 27 and Jan. 3 we switched to a red table covering for Christmas (Helen purchased and sewed) and we had the crèche and four poinsettias (2 white & 2 mixed-white with red speckles Helen purchased from Pezza's) Services were all remote.

The rest of January, February, March, April, and May were altar flowers from Kenyon's with the regular donors and Helen came to church after services and delivered two bouquets. Easter was April 4th and we had two lily plants from Kenyon's as well as some spring bulb plants from the Metz family before they went to the children. Table covering was purple for Easter but otherwise white.

Sunday, June 6 we reopened in person and flowers were provided by Kenyon's with the usual donors thru July 4th. As we now had flowers at the front door again, three bouquets were given or delivered.

There will be no flowers from Kenyon's after July 4th and until Sept 5th and Helen gets a break. During this time, anyone is welcome to bring flowers from their gardens or to purchase flowers. If they want it acknowledged in the bulletin, they need to submit it to Shirley by Wednesday.

Respectfully submitted by Helen Rowe-Drake

Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase
Report of the Cemeteries Committee
May 18, 2021

Background - The Cemeteries Committee supervises three cemeteries: Old Fernwood and Tower Hill belong to the Society, and the Peckham Family Cemetery belonging to that family. The Tower Hill Cemetery, on the site of the first church building in the history of the Kingston Congregational Church, had its first burial in 1719 and its last one, Bernon E. Helme, in 1944. Although inactive since then, it is still open for burials. The Peckham Family Cemetery is restricted to use by members of that family, but is cared for by our committee in accordance with an agreement made with the late Dorothy Peckham who contributed \$5,000 to our endowment for that purpose. Old Fernwood is divided into two parts: the original section was given by Elisha Reynolds Potter in 1826 for use by members of this Society and of the church, and by people living within one mile of the church or of the cemetery. The extension of Old Fernwood, landscaped in the 1960's and put into use in the 1990's, was given by Herbert J. Wells in 1927 for use by members of this Society and of the church and their families.

2020 - 2021 Report - Chris Faella, caretaker for New Fernwood Cemetery, covers the routine maintenance at Old Fernwood and the Peckham Cemeteries. Scott Wallace continues to provide maintenance at the Tower Hill Cemetery.

During the past year (May 2020-April 2021) the following death/interments took place: old section OF (death dates) – James Barrett Ross, Jr. 7/18/20 #49, Doris Wylder Findlay 12/16/20 #348B ---- New section of OF (death dates) Paulette Osterman 3-11-21 #122

We will have other burials from the Covid period at a later date.

Our desire continues to have the cemeteries in every respect places of honor to the dead and of comfort to their relatives and friends. Lots remain available in both cemeteries with contributions to the endowment fund. Rates were raised on September 1, 2007 to \$600 for non-members and \$450 for members. The Committee will be reviewing rates this year. Reservations may be made for future use, and a number of families have elected to have monuments placed on their lots even many years in advance of actual use, thus easing the burden on the family at a time of great sorrow. All reserved lots continue to be held in ownership by the CSPP.

Respectfully submitted: Cemetery Committee - Elizabeth McNab, Richard Shaw, Tracy Heffron, Jane Skogley, Judy Potter, and Clare Sweeney