

A New Spirit



August 2011

North Kingstown United Methodist Church
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 Website: <http://nkumc.org>
 Rev. Lorene E. Eldredge, Pastor

Project Outreach Back to School Supplies

Please help in one of these three ways:

- 1) Fill a back pack with school supplies.
- 2) Purchase miscellaneous school sale items and we'll put them together.
- 3) Make a donation to help purchase needed school supplies.

Return them to the sanctuary for delivery to Project Outreach by August 14th.



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WANTED . . . SUMMER TALENT!
 SINGERS . . . MUSICIANS . . . DANCERS . . . ARTISTS
 SHARE YOUR TALENT WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY
 Now - September 4th
 Please sign-up in Narthex
 or speak with Paul Mancini, Minister of Music.



August Calendar

	1 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild	2 10 Staff meeting 7:00 AA	3 7:00 Trustees	4 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 6:00 NK Land Conservancy	5	6
7 8:00 & 10:00 Communion 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult SS 10:15 Summer Church School 1:00 Community Dinner	8 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study	9 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 AA	10	11 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 7:00 Finance	12	13 8:00 Men's Breakfast
14 8:00 Communion 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Worship 10:15 Summer Church School 1:00 Community Dinner	15 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild	16 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 AA	17 7:00 Admin Council	18 12:00 Ladies Fellowship	19 Newsletter Deadline- All events for for September	20 9:30 UMW
21 8:00 Communion 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Worship 10:15 Summer Church School 1:00 Community Dinner	22 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Study	23 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 AA	24	25 12:00 Ladies Fellowship	26	27 7:30 Angel Food Distribution
28 8:00 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Summer Church School 1:00 Community Dinner	29 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study	30 10 Staff Meeting 7:00 AA				

I want to share with you a few things happening within our denomination. I share these because they are important to where the UMC has been and where it is headed. Over the past several years our structure has changed to include a “connectional table.” These are direct quotes from our UMC website:

“The Connectional Table is where ministry and money are brought to the same table to coordinate the mission, ministries, and resources of The United Methodist Church. The Connectional Table has been collaboratively engaged in:

- Identifying four areas of focus for churchwide ministry;
- Sponsoring research on the state of the Church; and
- Laying the groundwork for equitable change as the Church grows worldwide.”

“The four focus areas for churchwide ministry are:

- Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.
- Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones.
- Engaging in ministry with the poor.
- Combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally.”

The connectional table, along with our Council of Bishops, commissioned a team to study the state of the church, to guide our denominational response to the mission of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and to lead our ministry efforts in the four focus areas. We know that as a mainline denomination our numbers have been decreasing. Rather than dwell on negatives, it is important to seize hold of constructive ways to move the church forward. The result of their study was the “A Call to Action” report. On September 25th our Bishop, Peter Weaver, will share this with the laity at our District gathering at the Open Table of Christ UMC in Providence from 3-5 PM.

In the meantime we are encouraged to read the report (google: umc.org A Call to Action) and, looking at the four focus areas, apply this to our local ministries. I believe we are already engaged in this work. As we work with our Church School and our Youth Group, we are training up principled Christian leaders. We are engaging in ministries with the poor, and we are working to improve health globally. We have repeatedly asked the question, “How do we welcome and assimilate the next 50 people that come into our church?” And our focus is always on renewal – renewing our worship, our spirits, our life together in Christ. The question remains as to whether we are willing to prioritize our time and resources into growing (and thereby renewing) our church, especially through reaching out to young families and singles.

These are exciting times in the UMC! It’s not a time to just be comfortable. We need to be actively involved changing the world – with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness!



Support the NK food Pantry’s efforts of provide nutrition information to their participants by ordering the cookbook, *Keep the Beat*, from the *WE CAN!* Website, <http://wecannn.nhlbi.nih.gov> This is a very interesting and informative website.

Summer months often bring an increased need as children are home from school. In addition to food items needed include extra, new or unopened (within expiration code) over the counter medications as well as personal care and household items. Soaps, shampoos, razors and/or razor cartridges, band aides, deodorants, feminine care products, baby wipes, diapers, incontinence products are all welcome donations.

August Lectionary

August 7

Texts: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105: 1-6, 16- 22, 45b; Romans 10: 5-15; Matthew 14: 22-33

Sermon: Finding Our Voice

August 14

Texts: Genesis 45: 1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28

Sermon: Lay Speaker, Richard Dunne

August 21

Texts: Exodus 1: 8- 2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12: 1-8; Matthew 16: 13-20

Sermon: Pharaoh's Daughter

August 28

Exodus 3: 1-15; Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12: 9-12; Matthew 16: 21-28

Sermon: Rejoice in Hope

Are You a Caregiver?

Caregivers often find themselves burned out, needing relief from the daily stresses and responsibilities of caregiving. They don't always know where to turn for help.

Do you remember the story of Miriam? She led the Hebrew people, with Moses and Aaron, and danced, playing her tambourine through the Red Sea. She then succumbed to leprosy. The Hebrew people refused to move on without her and remained with her, ministering to her, until she could go with them.

The church has a role to assist caregivers. Some churches establish day care centers, others may establish special Bible studies, luncheons, or hospitality groups to give caregivers a needed break. Some churches develop specialized ministries.

Caregivers may need more than a break. They may need help with their own life! Caregivers need to manage their own affairs: financial, medical, social, and health. It's something to think about!



INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP to LIVERMORE FALLS, MAINE July 10th -17th

Serving on this year's team were: Eric, Christine, Emily, and Zach Boettger; Warren, Wendy, Fiona, and Hunter Halstead; Paula and Sami Martasian; Ashley Reese; and Pastor Lori. The team returned from Maine after a successful mission trip. They were able to work seven sites and spent part of Saturday with Pastor Beverly who sends her greetings. The team will report on their trip in a worship service to be determined. They thank everyone for their support and look forward to returning to Livermore Falls in 2012.



MISSION PROJECT

♪ Some NOTES from the Bench ♪

Over the past eleven or twelve months, a number of contemporary praise and worship songs have been introduced to our congregation. It has been very encouraging to me and Pastor Lori to know that, for the most part, they have been easily learned and well received. Many church members and visitors have been kind enough to let us know which songs have been popular. Here are a few of those which have expanded NKUMC worship and praise repertoire this past year:

People Need the Lord	Don't Give Up	Lamb of God
Shout to the North and the South	Every Day, Lord	Shine, Jesus, Shine
Jesus, Lover of My Soul	Holiness	He Knows My Name
How Great Is Our God	Shout to the Lord	The Lord is Present Here
You Are My All in All	There Is None Like You	

Some of these are in the "Faith We Sing" collection, and, of course, our regular hymnal has been an unending source of "oldies" for our singers, who have many of them committed to memory. The United Methodist Publishing House, The General Board of Discipleship, and Abingdon Press have published a new collection of songs for worship. The new "WORSHIP AND SONG" edition has many of the contemporary worship selections, which have been introduced to our congregation: "Amazing Grace-My Chains Are Gone," "Shout to the North and the South," and "How Great Is Our God" to mention only three.

What this means to me as a United Methodist Music Minister is that we, as a singing congregation, are on track with keeping traditional music and the contemporary Christian repertoire balanced. Last year we started singing two selections each month prior to our official "words of welcome" and "opening prayers". These songs have now become our words of welcome and, as such, are important in that they prepare us for our worship experience.

As I mentioned before, it is gratifying to hear the congregation singing. Worship, including singing, was always meant to be a pro-active venue – a participatory experience. The NKUMC choir now has copies of the new songbook. "Faith We Sing" is the UMC and Abingdon Press 2000 series. "Worship and Song" is the 3000 series. You will see more of the new numbers this year.

Side note: (no pun intended) – If there is a song that you would like to hear, traditional or contemporary, please leave a written request in my mailbox in the office with the song title and the composer or performer. More than just the title, please, as there are often two or more duplicate publications. (EX: "Holy, Holy, Holy" has 14 different arrangements.) Also, *mentioning* something on Sunday morning may not be remembered. Most of my focus is on worship that day. A brief note will help me to better help you, and your "hard copy" requests become hard copy reminders.

Again, thank you for your support, input and encouragement.

Musically in Jesus and in Worship:

PMM

New in Our Library...

The Story of the Bible

The Story of the Bible, by Larry Stone, is a compilation of documents with reproductions of pages from the originals on vellum. Did you ever wonder how the Bible came to be? Have you ever asked, "Why are there so many translations?" As the scriptures were written in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic and came to us originally in Hebrew and Latin, translation into the English was necessary for the commoner to be able to read and study the scriptures. In 1611 we received the King James Version. However, few of us speak the King's English today! There are a plethora of translations since the 1952 Revised Standard Version, with at least one or two in every generation since. Pick up The Story of the Bible and learn more about this beautiful library of wisdom and truth!

Harvest Craft Fair - October 1st

The Harvest Fair is coming up fast!

Urgent: Crafters to exhibit are needed

Please help us to reach crafters who might like to exhibit this year. If you visit any local craft fairs, please pick up some crafters' business cards and send their contact info to Vivian Flade ASAP so she can follow up. Interested in a table for yourself or a friend? Contact Vivian at: vaflade@cox.net or 884-2391.

Church Craft and Regift table, Silent Auction

Hopefully all of our creative church members have found some summer time to work on crafts for the church table. If you're not crafty, maybe you have some great Re-gifts just waiting for a new owner? Charlene Price is coordinating our church donated crafts, Re-gift items, and the silent auction. Please talk with Charlene if you have an idea for the silent auction, including antiques, gift certificates, donations of services, and gift baskets.

Volunteers

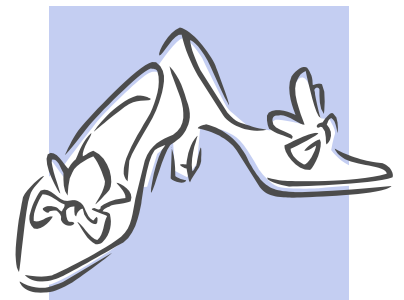
We hope many of you can help on the day of the fair, first by shopping at the craft tables, and bringing some friends, too. We'll also need volunteers for setup, cleanup, to cook and serve lunch, and help staff the church tables.

Thank you to Carolyn McGregor who will run the church bake table, and Mimi Young who will coordinate the children's activities.

If you have other ideas for the Harvest Fair or can volunteer to help, please talk with any member of the committee: Christine Stevens cstevens92@cox.net (Chairperson), Vivian Flade (Crafters), Warren Halstead (Lunch), or Charlene Price (Church Craft & Regift tables, & Silent Auction). With everyone's help, this year's Harvest Fair will be another successful day of food, fun, and fellowship.

"Walk A Mile in My Shoes" **Sponsored by the United Methodist Women**

Project Outreach is in need of shoes . . . big shoes, little shoes, dress shoes, fun shoes! If you have gently used shoes that no longer fit, please bring them to the church between now and the end of August. We especially need children's shoes. If you are unable to give shoes, we would encourage monetary gifts to buy shoes for those sizes unavailable. We'll get the shoes and sneakers to Project Outreach in time for the beginning of school.



“INCH BY INCH, ROW BY ROW...

GONNA MAKE THIS GARDEN GROW!”*



Many hands will keep the garden growing and help us have a healthy harvest to share with our neighbors in need. We need help with watering and harvesting. All are invited to help, individuals and families; this is a great learning experience. Please contact either Dave Beutel (884-7854), Paula Martasian (885-3773), or Marilyn Moffett (294-2188).

**The Garden Song, by John Denver*

Build Peace on Desktops: A Monday Night Road Trip by Pastor Lori

On Monday July 25th, a small group from NKUMC traveled to Cape Cod Community College to hear Archbishop Elias Chacour of Galilee: an Israeli citizen, a Palestinian, and a Christian. He said, “If you look at the whole picture in the Holy Land you can feel hopeless, but Hope is in the details. You can see life eased, hope alive – ”

Chacour was born a Palestinian in Kafr Biram, the youngest of four brothers. In 1946 they were forcibly evacuated; men and boys were run-off, women and girls resettled. Many died. It was an ethnic cleansing. Palestinians became a dispersed nation, another diaspora. Chacour remained in Israel and became a citizen when the country was created. For the 750,000 Palestinian refugees that remained in their homeland there was always of question of how to turn hatred into peace. Today there are 1,300,000 Palestinian Christians in Israel. “Christians are welcome in the Middle East,” he said. “They are a voice of moderation.”

Chacour, as a young priest was assigned to Ibilim, and promptly ‘forgotten’ by his bishop. Left to his own ingenuity he looked around and saw teens loitering in the streets without anything meaningful to do. There were no opportunities for education beyond 8th grade. He started a school. When he applied for a building permit he was denied. He started building the school anyway. When police came to the school to stop construction, he was told he needed a permit. His response was he didn’t need a permit, he needed cement, tools, brick, and stone. For 30 years he applied for permits and for 30 years he was denied. All the time he kept building and teaching – Moslems, Christians and beginning in 2001, Jews. In that time he also built relationships with various people of influence. One day a letter went from our Secretary of State, Baker and his wife, to Prime Minister Sharon. A short time later he was granted the permit. Today there is an elementary school and a high school. Students learn about nonviolence and respecting all of God’s children equally, seeing beyond differences of religion, gender, or ethnicity.

Chacour from the beginning of his ministry has invested all the resources at his disposal to education. 78% of the Palestinians are under 28 years of age; 50% of these are under 14. He said that Israel and Palestine needs to find a solution for they will either live together, or die together. While people visit Israel to see the Holy Sepulchur and the many shrines, our real task should be visiting and getting to know the Living Stones – the people of Israel – Jews and Palestinians. He said we need to recall what the angels said at the tomb, “He is not here.” After a laugh, he reminded us that the angels then told the disciples to go to Galilee and invited us to come and to see their situation for ourselves. Chacour said, “ We are all created babies in the image of God.” We have to learn hate, and hate is the worst corruption. He did not ask for money. He asked for us to stand in solidarity, friendship. Whether Christian, Jew, Muslem, or Palestinian we should speak the language of God – the language not of war, of fear, or of revenge, but of humanity, and become new human beings guided by the love and message of God given in Jesus Christ. To be the friend of Palestine, one does not have to hate the Jew; in fact, Chacour said “We do not need friends like this. We need common friends.” Chacour has authored two books: We Belong to the Land and Blood Brothers.

The Second Annual All Women's Retreat

SPONSORED BY
THE NORTH KINGSTOWN UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
is presently in the planning phase.

The Topic this year:

Making Peace with Mother Earth



Location: CAMP ALDERSGATE IN SCITUATE, RI

This is a weekend retreat
Friday evening, October 21 – 2:00PM Sunday, October 23
Participants: Women only 18 years and older

Cost per participant: \$150.00 for the weekend

The cost is based on 20 participants. The price could change depending on the number of participants. This includes program and materials, room and board, snacks, and an endless pot of coffee...

Information you should know:

- Bring sleeping bag or sheets, blanket, pillow, personal items
- Showers are available (bring your own towel, facecloth, etc.)
- Dining hall is a walk on a dirt road by the lake, but if needed a car can be used to transport you.
- You might have a room mate
- Indoor, community bathrooms are quite comfortable and private
- More information will be passed on as we get closer to the date
- Consider early registration – the location has a capacity of 55 people
- A deposit of \$75.00 by August 20 will hold your spot
- Call Nina Dunne 789-3228 or Diana Warburton 294-9060 with questions or concerns

Thank you from UMCOR:

“Dear Friends in Mission:

Thank you for your generous gift to the United Methodist Committee on Relief. **100 percent** of your contribution will go to Disaster Response, International, Advance #982450 through The Advance, the designated giving channel of the United Methodist Church.

Your gift received on 6/20/11 for \$820.00 is quick response to meet emergency needs around the world.”

To learn more about UMCOR's work, visit their website at <http://www.umcor.org> The complete letter is posted on the narthex bulletin board.

THE ECONOMY OF HOLINESS

In her book, **“The Monastery of the Heart,”** Joan Chittester, a Benedictine Sister of Erie, PA, writes: “Benedictine spirituality calls us to the tasks of living and refuses to allow anything we do to be lost to the economy of holiness: not kitchen tasks, not reading, not personal relationships, not work, not even our small service to strangers. It confronts us with a moral determination to care for the poorest of the poor, to respect the whole of society, to open our arms to the entire gamut of life and see it as our obligation to participate in the co-creation of the world.”

“The economy of holiness:” It is a phrase that we are not accustomed to hearing. If anything, having watched the financial shenanigans that very nearly destroyed the world economy, and with it the jobs and lives of so many people, it seems that there is little holiness associated with it all. When we hear the word ‘economy’ we think of money, finances and wealth. A definition of the word ‘economy’ focuses on “...the management of the resources of a community, country, etc., especially with a view to its productivity.” In fact the origin of the word has to do with “the management of household affairs.” Ironically, dictionaries now call this definition ‘obsolete.’ Therein, I think, lies our problem, and why we need to pay attention to Joan Chittister’s important insight.

Wendell Berry has written in his book, **What Matters: Economics for a Renewed Commonwealth:** “Over a long time, and by means of a set of handy prevarications, our economy has become an anti-economy, a financial system without a sound economic basis and without economic virtues.” He goes on: “Finance, as opposed to economy, is always ready and eager to confuse wants with needs.” It really should not surprise us that the world’s financial systems unraveled, under siege from greed, short-sighted policies and decisions, unregulated and unwatched financial institutions, and people who imagine that they can borrow their way into prosperity, all for the purpose of accumulating piles upon piles of cash and possessions. We are learning that economics is too important to be defined solely in financial terms, and left to the ‘financial types.’ As Henry Ward Beecher wryly put it: “Wealth is like manure, if you heap it up all in one place, you can hardly stand it; but if you spread it out evenly over the earth, it may do some good.”

That’s where the economy of holiness comes in. It does not confuse wants for needs, asks us to live with “a moral determination to care for the poorest of the poor, to respect the whole of society, to open our arms to the entire gamut of life and see it as our obligation to participate in the co-creation of the world.”

John Wesley understood this and used the terms ‘personal holiness’ and ‘social holiness’ to describe our inward growth in the love of God and neighbor, which, in turn, leads to outward works of love. He understood that all of humanity is one family and that we live in one household. For him faithfulness moved from personal holiness to social holiness: “The feeding the hungry, the clothing the naked, the entertaining or assisting the stranger, the visiting those that are sick or in prison, the comforting the afflicted, the instructing the ignorant, the reproving the wicked, the exhorting and encouraging the well-doer.”

When economies forget what Chittister calls “the moral determination to care for the poorest of the poor, to respect the whole of society, to open our arms to the entire gamut of life and see it as our obligation to participate in the co-creation of the world,” they become tyrannies that end up destroying the household of humankind. We are called to give witness that there is an economy of holiness that calls all people to account. When we are seduced by the siren song of wealth, we will run aground on the hard rock of reality that wrecks the illusion that money and possession alone will be the measure of our worth.

Chittister writes that nothing is to be regarded as ‘secular’ or unimportant, and that nothing is left out of the equation of sanctity. That is a conversion of the heart that gives witness that there is a larger economy of holiness that builds up the whole human community, that has, indeed chosen to “do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.”

August Anniversaries

- 1 John and Carol Dearlove
- 9 Richard and Nina Dunne
- 11 David Beutel and Robin Marek
Jeff and Lisa Dallas
- 14 Joe and Lori Nold
- 19 Loren and Lisa Bowe
- 20 Daniel and Joni Lynch
- 24 Ed and Christa Renehan
Gary and Cibby Gardiner

August Birthdays

- 1 Sandra Brown
Anthea Weixel
- 2 Debbie Snow
Jacob Evans
- 3 Cora Thomas
- 4 Brittany Kenyon
- 7 Ed Renehan
Christine Stevens
Andrew Marshall
Elise Bowe
- 10 Stephanie Plotkin
Charlene Price
- 12 Mark Snow
- 14 Alex Powers
- 16 Dan Dwane
- 18 Elizabeth Plotkin
- 19 Seth Moyer
Nathan Evans
- 20 Safiatu Bah Dallas
- 22 Andrew Mello
Bethany Koziol
- 24 Brandon Brunelle
- 25 Kelly Stevens
- 27 Zoe Brooks
- 30 Larry Price
- 31 Helen Murphy
Diana Dwane

August Angel Food Ministry

On-site orders are due by 2:00PM on 8/19.
Online orders are due by 11:59PM on 8/21.
Distribution will be 7:30AM – 9:00AM on 8/27.



- September 11 UMW Bake-sale to benefit Project Outreach
Ministry Fair & Sign-up for Sunday School
- September 17, 5:00 – 9:00 Game Night for Adults
- September 18 Christian Ed Sunday – Bible Presentations to 4th graders
Sunday School begins
- October 1 Harvest Fair
- October 21-23 Women’s 2nd Annual Retreat at Camp Aldersgate

International Day of Peace September 21st. Google www.internationaldayofpeace.org and learn more about the 11 days of global unity beginning on September 11.

**North Kingstown United Methodist Church
450 Boston Neck Road
North Kingstown, Rhode Island 02852**

Return Service Requested

Join us for Summer Church School and Worship!

August is here, and we may have many things that keep us from our regular schedule of church attendance. The bills the church receives are regular. If you are going away, please do your part to send in your pledge to the church so we can pay our commitments timely. Thanks! Finance Committee