



A New Spirit

North Kingstown United Methodist Church
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Rev. Lorene E. Eldredge, Pastor

Grace Notes

Pastor Lori

I love to watch my family members open their gifts on Christmas morning. There is a great deal of excitement and joy, love and laughter. Seeing their joy brings joy to me.

I know that same joy is cherished by families throughout our community and world but is often replaced by sadness because of an inability to meet their daily needs. How can we help families celebrate the joy of the Christmas Season given through the grace of God in Jesus Christ? How can we share some of our blessings with others and give God the glory? Weekly we receive letters from some wonderful organizations asking for our help as they seek to reach out to people around the globe.

Note worthy is **Heifer International**. Give the gift of a flock of ducks, a goose, chickens, or a lamb! Maybe you'd prefer to give the gift of a goat, or a water buffalo. All these bring joy to a family in need and help to raise the economic levels of communities over time. These are gifts that keep on giving!

You may want to make a donation to UMCOR or choose to "adopt" a child through **World Vision** or **Partners in Development**. By sponsoring a child you help that child receive an education and a hot meal every day.

During this Advent Season as we join the world in waiting for Christ to return, I invite you to find a way to bring the joy of our celebration of Christ's birth into the life of another child or family. Make one of your gifts to an organization mentioned above or to another of your choice. As you give, remember and be thankful for all we have received through the grace of God and his Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

May you experience God's blessing this Advent and Christmas Season.

Pastor Lori

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

If worship or church activities are cancelled or postponed due to hazardous weather conditions, we will make every effort to notify you by through the Rhode Island Broadcasters channels, email, facebook, and a few by telephone. In all cases we expect everyone to use their common sense regarding travel conditions.

Please, be safe!

CONFIRMATION 2012

In January Pastor Lori will begin the 2012 Confirmation class. This class has been separated from the Sunday School Curriculum. If you have a child interested in being confirmed who is in grade 7 or older, please speak with Pastor Lori so that we may set a mutually workable schedule. Along with classes exploring our faith and the workings of the United Methodist Church there will be a weekend retreat at Camp Aldersgate (TBD) with youth from other churches and an all day Saturday session at the church. Confirmation will be held on May 27th, Pentecost Sunday.

December Calendar

				1 12 Ladies Fellowship 6:00 NK Land Conservancy 6:30 Scouts	2 6:00 Visioning 7:00 Scouts	3 8:00 Lay Speakers 9:00 Holiday Bazaar
4 8:00 & 10 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 10:15 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group	5 6:45 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Advent Study	6 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	7 9:45 Advent Study 4:45 Scouts 4:00 PEO 7:00 Trustees	8 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 6:30 Scouts 7:00 Finance	9	10 8:00 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Lay Speakers
11 8:00 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School Poinsettia Orders Due	12 6:30 Scouts 6:45 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Advent Study	13 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Scouts	14 9:45 Advent Study 6:30 Scouts 7:00 SPRC	15 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 6:30 Scouts	16 Newsletter Deadline- All events for January	17 9:30 UMW 8:30 Lay Speakers
18 8:00 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group	19 6:45 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Advent Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild	20 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	21 9:45 Advent Study 5:00 Scouts 7:00 AdMin	22 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 7:00 Blue Christmas Service	23	24 4:30 & 11:00 Christmas Eve Services
25 9:30 Worship Merry Christmas!	26 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Advent Study	27 10 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	28 9:45 Advent Study 6:30 Scouts	29 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 3:00 Blood Drive	30	31

ADVENT is a time of waiting for Christ to return. We remember Jesus birth, and we wait in hope! The colors of Advent are purple or blue. Purple reminds us of royalty as well as penitence. Blue is also for royalty and for the true joy found in Jesus!

We invite you to join in our Advent Study, "The Journey" by Adam Hamilton at either 9:45 on Wednesday morning or on Monday evening at 7PM. Books are available in the office for \$13.

December Readings

December 4 Second Sunday of Advent

Text: Isaiah 40: 1-11; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8

Message: "Longing for Peace"

December 11 Third Sunday of Advent

Text: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Message: "Song in a Minor Key"

December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Text: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Luke 1: 46b-55; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38

Message: "Good News"

December 22 Blue Christmas 7PM

Text: Text: Isaiah 9: 2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-20

Message: "Our God Reigns"

December 24

Family Christmas Eve Service 4:30PM "One Small Child"

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols 11PM

Text: Isaiah 9: 2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-20

Message: "A Night of Promise"

December 25 Christmas Day 9:30AM

Text: Isaiah 52: 7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1: 1-4, 5-12; John 1: 1-14

Message: "A Day of Rejoicing"

January 1, 2012 New Year's Day 9:30 AM

Text: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Matthew 2:1-12; Ephesians 3:1-12

Message: "The Light Has Come"



Order forms for Christmas Poinsettias are now available! From Burt and Pegs we can order 6.5" plants in red, pink and white for \$12.50. From Schartner Farms we can order 10" Triples (3 plants) in red, white, pink and marbled for \$27.95. All orders are due no later than Sunday, December 11th.

Our Giving Tree

On November 26th the Giving Tree was set up in the sanctuary with almost 200 tags. Most are for Project Outreach; several are for our community and church family. This year our church has been asked to be responsible for toys for Project Outreach. **Please bring only toys that do not require batteries or electricity.** Tags are divided by age group: preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school. In addition to toys consider books, puzzles, art supplies, jewelry kits, etc. Please return them unwrapped, with their tag, by December 11th so we can make delivery on the 12th.

Parents will select gifts for their children on the 16th.

You will also find stars for the Domestic Violence Center. We encourage gift cards as these are the most versatile for the DVC clients. We need to deliver these by the December 12th for distribution.

Thank you for your spirit of generosity in Christmas giving.

Seasons of the Heart – Gift Cards for Gift Giving

Gift cards help with Christmas giving. You can purchase gifts cards through our Shopping Card Program by seeing Paula Wilberger on Sunday morning or by leaving an order in the office during the week. WalMart, Rite Aid, Daves, Stop & Shop, Old Navy, Shell cards are always welcome. A notebook on the narthex table contains the full listing of cards available.

NKUMW Bake Sale to Support Community Dinners

On December 18 immediately following the 10 AM worship service, the NKUMW will have a Christmas Cookie Sale to support the Ecumenical Community Dinners. At our regular monthly meeting on December 17 at 9:30, we will meet to package the homemade cookies to be sold. 100% of the proceeds will go directly to support Community Dinners.

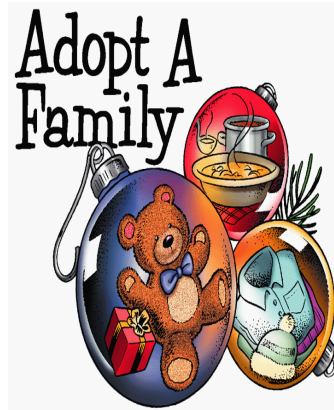
If you would like to bake and cannot attend the meeting, please contact Diana Warburton at 714-5612. We ask that you bake 2-3 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies and bring them to the church on December 17th between 9:30 and 11. Thank you in advance for your help in this mission.

Christmas Holiday Giving

Coordinated by the NK Dept. of Senior and Human Services, this program's primary focus is on providing gifts for children. Anyone wishing to participate must call 268-1579 weekdays between 9:00am – 3:00pm to request information about eligibility or to make an appointment. Applications are due December 2nd. Applications can also be filled out at the DSHS or go online at <http://www.egovlink.com/northkingstown/> and scroll down to Holiday Giving. Applicants will be contacted to make arrangements for picking up gifts.

There is a great need for individuals and families to “adopt” families. To adopt, call 268-1579 weekdays from 9:00am – 4:00pm. Donors will receive only age and gender appropriate “wish lists.” Gifts must be delivered, unwrapped, to Dept. of Senior and Human Services, 44 Beach Street, or mailed to Holiday Giving Program, c/o NK Senior and Human Services, PO Box 313, NK by December 16th. Gift certificates for food and/or gifts are greatly appreciated. These can be delivered or mailed.

If you know of any senior citizens in need or alone for the holidays, please call 268-1591.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION FAMILY EVENTS in 2012

Beginning in January we hope to schedule several Spiritual Formation Events. Our first includes an opportunity to learn new songs of the faith, some included in the old hymnal!

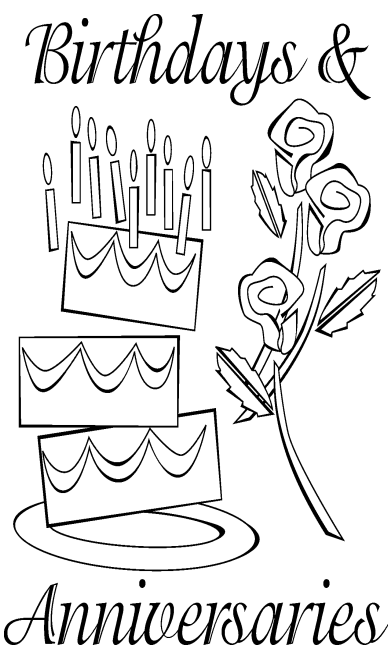
Paul Mancini will be here to lead us in singing on Friday, January 13th.

On March 4th at 4PM we will host a concert by pianist Jim Hendricks. Based in Chicago, Jim is known as a Christian artist in the mid-west. He comes to us on recommendation of the United Methodist churches in the Ohio West and Ohio East conferences. He will be with us in worship at 10AM and then in concert in the afternoon. The concert will be open to our community and our district.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

December Anniversaries

14 Mark and Tricia Halloran
23 David and Elizabeth Bailey



December Birthdays

- 1 Mason Marek Beutel
- 5 Troy Dunning
- 8 Devon DiPalma
- 9 Ellie Brooks
Christa Renehan
- 12 Ashley Reese
- 13 Isabel Hayes
- 15 Jessalyn Monahan
- 16 April Zaccaria
Pastor Lori
- 18 Casey Dwane
Jayne LaForge
- 20 Susan DiPalma
- 21 Adam Zaccaria
- 23 Sarah Pierce
- 24 Lauren Lindberg
- 26 Ryan Cogswell
- 28 Rachel Moyer
- 29 Jesse Fischer

FROM WHERE I SITby Rev. F. Richard Garland

IN THE SHADOW OF GOD'S WINGS

One of the risks of knowing the nativity stories so well is that sometimes we read quickly over important insights, forgetting that there is a prologue to the birth of Jesus that, if we would but pay attention to it, would help us to understand at a deeper level what God is doing.

In the Winter 2011-12 issue of Weavings there is an article by Gayle Boss entitled, "Overshadowed." It is a word we don't encounter often, but it comes right out of the heart of the nativity stories. Gabriel says to Mary: "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." [KJV]

In her article she observes that overshadowing is seldom seen as a positive thing. Think here of the eerie quality of the moon being eclipsed by the earth, or the sun being eclipsed by the moon. Ancient peoples were afraid when it happened. We know now that everything is still there, but the familiar has been overshadowed. Boss writes: "Overshadowed, you are, at best, rendered invisible. At worst, you're the mouse under the wings of a hawk." She observes that, "... when Gabriel says to Mary, 'The Lord is with you,' it is a loaded greeting." We must remember that the God who visited Mary is not a tame God!

Think of it: this overshadowing would mean that Mary would become a pregnant, unmarried teenager, a daunting prospect to say the least. Rightly, she was troubled until she came to understand that, by the favor of God, she would conceive and bear a son who would be called, "Holy, the Son of God." Faithful to the vision, she submitted: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." In this overshadowing Mary would become the bearer of redemption.

What we often forget about Christmas is that it involves a radical disruption of our lives. It is an overshadowing of routine by, new possibilities, new opportunities, new life, provided we are willing to set aside our fears and concerns, and say, "Lord; let it be to me according to your word." The implications of this for our life of faith are immense. Gayle Boss unpacks that nicely: "The works, projects, words I birth into the world will only be holy - of any real help in healing creation - if I am able, willing to be overshadowed by the highest."

The contemporary Christmas scene is, for many people, a time of high stress lived out at a frenetic pace. If we would like to bring a little Biblical sanity into the season, we might start by remembering that Christmas is not our birthday. Christmas is about Immanuel overshadowing all our works, projects, words. It's about something larger than ourselves. It's about trusting God enough to live in the shadow of God's wings, knowing that God can make us new in Christ.

Boss observes that "... in God's shadow can be found beauty and freedom and rest." It is a truth rooted in the words of the Psalmist: "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings." [Ps 36:7] When the shadow of the Spirit falls over us, it pulls us away from the familiar and demands attention to what God is about to do. It bids us look beyond our own circumstances to the new world God is about to create, a world full of grace and truth in the person of Jesus. It invites us to become partners in birthing the holy into the world - birthing God's love into a weary world. This overshadowing is a prelude to new vision and new life, for in the shadow of God's wings there is hope, love, joy and peace!

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Return Service Requested