

A New Spirit



November 2011

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

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

November 23rd 7PM

Remembering all the blessings of God,
together let us

Give Thanks!



Church Visioning

Saturday, November 5th, 10:30am in the Back Room

Be a part of our visioning as we plan for leading the church in the future. Join with our church leadership on Saturdays (alternating with some Fridays) in a discussion to align our various activities and missions with our church vision. Attendance at all sessions is not required.

Pete Pellegrino will lead the discussion.

Annual Charge Conference

Sunday, November 13th, 4:00pm in Fellowship Hall

District Superintendent, Rev. Seok Hwan Hong, will meet with members of our SPRC at 3:00pm in the Library. Our all church meeting will be from 4:00 – 6:00pm. This is your opportunity to meet our DS and become informed of and vote on the business of the church. A pot-luck will follow for those who wish to join in fellowship.

Scout Food Drive

Saturday, November 5th

Support the NK Food Pantry by contributing non-perishable food items, many of which will help fill Thanksgiving baskets for those in need in our area.

Grace Notes

Pastor Lori

In everything give thanks!

1 Thess. 5:18

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving we also prepare to celebrate Christ the King and give thanks for Jesus, God's greatest gift. Christ the King Sunday is the last Sunday of the liturgical year and often falls the same day as the Sunday before Thanksgiving. As we celebrate Christ the King Sunday we remember and give thanks for everything Jesus has done for us.

Before Jesus was born, Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied about a "mighty savior" that God would raise up from the house of David:

"By the tender mercy of God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
yo give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace." [Luke 1:78-79]

John would later beckon to the people to prepare a highway for the Lord, and when Jesus came to him to be baptized, John witnessed God's proclamation, "This is my beloved Son." Jesus not only instructed people along with his disciples on the hillsides, but also reached out to children, to those who were sick in body and mind, to the poor, the grieving, to the tax collectors. He forgave sinners. His forgiveness extended to the thief on the cross and to those who would eventually crucify him. Jesus pointed people to God!

Paul wrote to the Colossians "that all things hold together" and that "in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell" [Col. 1: 17,19]. Through Jesus God has saved us from the powers of sin and darkness and made it possible for us to be citizens of heaven, heirs with his beloved Son in whom we have been redeemed.

May we give thanks always to God for the bounty of the land, for the abundance of blessings we enjoy with friends and family, for God's written Word, and for Jesus, the Word made flesh, who came to live among us and to reveal God's forgiving and redeeming grace.

May God bless you this Thanksgiving,
Pastor Lori

Give Thanks

We give you thanks dear Lord above,
for all your living, giving love,
for life itself, that gift most dear,
for wondrous scents and things to hear,
for things to taste and feel and see,
for things to love and do and be,
for mountains, towering high to climb,
for valleys cool and hill sublime,
for oceans, rivers, lakes, and streams,
for sun's bright rays ,
and soft moonbeams,
for all the gifts that we enjoy
our thanks we raise and praise employ!

We give you thanks, for Jesus, true,
for all the things you came to do,
for taking on our human frame
when to our world, a babe, you came,
for living, teaching, helping caring,
healing, preaching, loving , sharing,
for suffering our fate, and then
for rising back to life again,
ascending high to cloudy skies,
preparing homes in paradise,
for all the gifts brought by your living
we offer now our high thanksgiving.

We thank you, Spirit, breath and fire,
for all the gifts that you inspire,
for faith that makes our futures bright,
and fills our lives with hope and light,
when shared with family or a friend,
for joy that lifts our happy hearts
with music, hobbies, sports, and arts,
for fellowship at feast and meal
for laughs and smiles and
hugs that heal,
for all the gifts inspired and true
we offer now our thanks to you.

Dear God, Creator, Spirit, Son
we join our thanks and praise as one.
Now, may our words of thankful giving
break forth in lives of thankful living.

- Anon

November Lectionary

November 6 All Saints' Sunday - Stewardship Sunday - Daylight savings time ends

Texts: Matthew 25: 1-13; Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78: 1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Sermon: Living into God's Reign

November 13

Texts: Matthew 25: 14-30; Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Sermon: Investing in God's Possibilities

November 20 Christ the King Sunday - Thanksgiving Sunday

Texts: Matthew 25: 31-46; Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1: 15-23

Sermon: Christ is King

November 23, 2011 Thanksgiving Eve

Texts: Deuteronomy 8: 7-18; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15; Luke 17: 11-19

November 27 First Sunday of Advent

Texts: Isaiah 64: 1-9; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19; Mark 13: 24-37; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Sermon: Keep Alert!

November Anniversaries

- 5 Herbert and Christine Stevens
- 13 Joseph and Susan DiPalma
- 17 Warren and Wendy Halstead
- 18 Steve and Elizabeth Grady
- 28 Jay and Rae Hickey
- 29 Alan and Dorothy Crouch
Douglas and Barbara Piehler



November Birthdays

- 2 Carol Dearlove
- 3 Brett Stevens
- 4 Alexander Davis
Zachary Lynch
- 6 Michael Halloran
- 9 Patrick Gannon
- 10 Dorothy Crouch
Brianna Young
- 11 Nancy Cruickshank
Melina DeMarco
- 14 Melissa Morrison
- 18 Christopher Choinski
- 23 Ken Davis
- 24 Diana Warburton
- 25 Jan Brown
- 29 Elena Harris
- 30 Michelle Cihat
Matt Kruger


To all my Brothers and Sisters at NKUMC,

I'm sure by now you all know that I have moved to Ohio to re-connect with Zoe after a two year separation. I am glad that I did have the opportunity to see many of you on my last Sunday there. I (we) have been members of the NKUMC congregation for fourteen years. I do hope that during that time, I was able to contribute, at least in some small way, to the church and to you. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with you all. You are truly a blessing to all those that you touch. I cannot thank you enough for all the kindness and kind thoughts, especially during the last two years. It was difficult to be apart from Zoe, but knowing you were there, made the separation so much easier. You truly represent everything when people speak of a "body of Christ"! I do hope that our paths will cross again someday. When I was fortunate, and blessed, to speak the word of God from the pulpit, I always used the same benediction, and I leave it with you now...

May the Grace of God attend you,
May the Love of the Lord surround you,
And may the Holy Spirit be with you, now and forever.

In God's Love,
Steve Brooks sbrooks1101@roadrunner.com

November Calendar

		<p>1 10:00 Staff Meeting 6 Bells 7 Choir 7 AA</p>	<p>2 4:45 Scouts 5:00 Scouts 7 Trustees</p>	<p>3 9:00 Senior Center 12 Ladies Fellowship 6:00 NK Land Conservancy 6:30 Scouts</p>	<p>4 9:00 Senior Center 7:00 Scouts</p>	<p>5 10:30 Church Visioning Scouting for Food for NK Food Pantry</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> Turn your clocks back!</p>
<p>6 All Saints Day 8:00 & 10 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 10:15 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group</p>	<p>7 6:45 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild</p>	<p>8 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA</p>	<p>9 9:00 Senior Center 6:30 Scouts 7:00 SPRC</p>	<p>10 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 7:00 Finance</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 8:00 Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>13 8:00 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 3:00 SPRC 4:00 Charge Conference</p>	<p>14 6:30 Scouts 6:45 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Study</p>	<p>15 10:00 Staff Meeting 3-5 TFW Coalition-L 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA</p>	<p>16 6:30 Scouts 5:00 Scouts 7:00 AdMin</p>	<p>17 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 6:30 Scouts</p>	<p>18 Newsletter Deadline- All events for December</p>	<p>19 9:30 UMW 1-4 Recording In sanctuary</p>
<p>20 8:00 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group</p>	<p>21 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild</p>	<p>22 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>23 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service</p>	<p>24 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>25 Office Closed</p>	<p>26 2:30 Decorate the church for Advent 5:00 Potluck</p>
<p>27 1st Sunday in Advent 8:00 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School</p>	<p>28 9:30 TFW –L 6:30 Scouts 6:45 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study</p>	<p>29 10 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Scout Leaders</p>	<p>30</p>			

Lay Ministries

Lay Ministries go far beyond Lay Speakers. Lay ministers may preach; they may also teach, visit, serve at community functions, assist with transportation, encourage youth in appropriate activities, engage in hospitality, help design and facilitate worship, and do much more. All lay persons are called to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Lay people witness to Jesus Christ through their Christ-like examples in everyday life and their sharing of their own faith with others. Others will come to know Christ through their contact and interaction with the laity.

Here are some links of interest for laity:

Devotional Life

- The Upper Room <http://www.upperroom.org>
- DevoZine, devotional for youth & youth workers www.devoted2youth.org
- Devotions from New Hampshire UMC newhampshirecommunitychurch.org/grow/devotions/
- MethodX, young adult spirituality from UMC www.upperroom.org/MethodX
- Links to assorted devotional sites www.crosswalk.com/devotionals

General Interest:

- Christian Classics <http://www.ccel.org/>
- World Religions <http://www.religionfacts.com/>

Spiritual Formation Links:

- Sacred Space <http://sacredspace.ie/>
- Methodist Spiritual Directors <http://www.fumsdrl.org/>
- Spiritual Directors International <http://www.sdiworld.org/>

Spiritual Gifts Discernment Tool:

- Discover Your Spiritual Gifts
http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.1355371/k.9501/Spiritual_Gifts.htm

Online Courses and Training:

- Be a Disciple <http://www.beadisciple.com/index.html> (Also lists training opportunities)
- Wesley Ministry Network <http://www.wesleyministrynetwork.com>

United Methodist Information:

- Official Website of the UMC <http://www.umc.org>
- Ministry of the Laity <http://www.gbod.org/laity>

**All God's People in
All Places,
And in
All Times,
Are Called to Love
And to Serve.**



Ministry of the Laity

Seasons of the Heart – Gift Cards for Gift Giving

Neighbors in our greater Rhode Island community will find it difficult to celebrate the holidays without your help. The Domestic Violence Resource Center and Project Outreach need your help. 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, RiteAid, Daves, Stop & Shop, Old Navy, Shell cards are always welcome. A notebook on the narthex table contains the full listing of cards available.

THE COURAGE TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART

In 2005 Steve Jobs, cofounder of Apple Computer, was invited to deliver the Commencement Address at Stanford University. A college dropout, he joked that this was the closest he ever got to a college graduation. It was a disarmingly simple address from an icon of innovation. He just told three very personal stories: stories about connecting the dots, love and loss, and death. There was the story of how he was able to make the connections between all the life events that had shaped him. There was the story about how he responded to the loss of things he loved to do. There was the story of facing his own mortality when he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

When Steve Jobs died in October, many have reread his words and rediscovered his remarkable insights. For me there is one paragraph that stands out and resonates deeply.

“Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And, most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.”

Oh, how I wish that I had heard this wisdom when I graduated from college! The counsel is timeless, and I can see significant insight for our life of faith and how we “do church.” We are people of a story, an ever flowing stream of life and love, of loss and death, and more. Born in the image of God, destined to glory, gifted and flawed, shepherded in Love, tempted by darkness, we are invited into faithfulness and eternal life. And yet, so frequently, it seems to go wrong, over and over again.

I wonder. How often do we waste our gifts by subsisting on the expectations of others because we don't want to disappoint family or friends or society? How often are we ensnared in dogmas and cling to the traditions of the past because they are ‘comfortable’ and because discerning a new way is hard work? How often have we acquiesced to the opinions of others simply because they were expressed loudly and repetitively? I wish I could say that I never did that, but I can't.

The message of Jesus was threatening to those who heard him. It still is, if we hear him! He understood the tension between his Gospel and the faith people had inherited. He said: “And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new wine, but says, ‘The old is good.’” [Lk 5:37-39] New wine requires new ways of keeping. Vintage wine is good, and it is savored, but it runs out. Jesus is always calling us to newness.

So, if we are to be his disciples, we can't live someone else's life, we can't be trapped by dogma, we can't let the noise of others' opinions drown out our own inner voice. We must have the courage to follow our hearts. Paul understood this when he wrote: “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” [2 Cor 5:17] But isn't it ironic that it took a computer genius, outside the church [whatever that means] to remind me.

I believe that the Gospel of Christ calls us to be the very best [insert your name here] that we can be. I believe that the Gospel of Christ calls us to examine with discernment every dogma and tradition lest we be become trapped in the past. I believe that the Gospel of Christ calls us to find our own voice of faith and life of discipleship. It's all about new life in Christ, and our time is limited. If we want to get beyond the ‘secondary things,’ let us have the courage to follow our hearts. It will make all the difference for our life of faith and how we “do church.”



As in years past, community members will be joining Food Pantry volunteers to collect, sort and distribute Thanksgiving baskets. Those wishing a basket need to come to the church office to fill out a request form no later than November 17th. Certificates and/or checks for the Food Pantry can be mailed directly or dropped off at the office. In addition to NKUMC, non-perishable donations can be dropped off at NK Chamber of Commerce, Standard Times, NK Town Hall, NK Town Hall Annex, NK Police Department, Wal-Mart, Dave's on Tower Hill and Gate Roads, St. Paul's Episcopal, Wickford Baptist, and St. Bernard's. Baskets will be set up and distributed Monday, November 21st from 6:00 – 8:00pm and Tuesday, November 22nd, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

**BUY NOTHING DAY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH**

If you have a coat to give, please drop it off
If you need a coat, please pick one up.

10:00am – 2:00pm: State House Lawn across from the Providence Place Mall
(Rain Location – St. John's Cathedral, 271 North Main Street, Providence)
10:00am – 2:00pm: St. Francis Church, 114 High Street, Wakefield (Tom Abbott, 364-0778)
Additional locations in Newport and Barrington.

Begun in Vancouver, British Columbia, 15 years ago, this event has spread to 65 countries. Sponsoring partnerships include community organizations, places of worship, civic and environmental groups. Please check your closet and donate what you can.
Email Greg Gerritt gerritt@mindspring.com for additional information.

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.



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Return Service Requested