

A New Spirit



November 2010

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

Grace Notes by Rev. Lori Eldredge



**“Whatever you
do in word or
deed, do
everything in
the name of
the Lord
Jesus, giving
thanks to God
through him.”
Colossians 3: 17**

God’s blessings are renewed each day, given to us because God first loved us. We are so blessed to live in a nation that constitutionally grants its’ citizens the right to worship according to the religion of their choice, to vote, and to pursue our many diverse interests. These do come with a price. Not so with God’s unfailing love.

When we sit down to our Thanksgiving dinner we will take a moment to thank God for our blessings. I have so much to be thankful for this year! After grace we will pass the dishes prepared by various members of the family and meant to be shared. It is a reminder to me of how Jesus broke bread and shared the cup with his disciples, his beloved family. He instructed all those who listened in to remember him each time they ate of the bread and drank of the wine. The banquet spread before us is reminder, a glimpse, of the banquet God has stored up for us for eternity!

What blessings can we share with others? What blessings can we share that are eternal? As we share our blessings with our families, may we also share with all those God calls us to welcome - the stranger, the poor, the lonely, and the least among us. Opportunities abound in this season: praying for one another, food drives, purchasing gift cards for the Domestic Violence Center, serving at our community dinners, assisting with the Bread Distribution, working to alleviate homelessness in our community and state, mentoring a youth, adopting a “grandparent”, driving for FISH, plus many others.

May our hearts always be filled with gratitude, remembering that which is eternal, and may God’s love fill all of our words and deeds that Christ may be known at our table and in our community.

Blessings of peace and grace this Thanksgiving Season.
Pastor Lori

**Join us for our Thanksgiving Service
Wednesday, November 24th at 7PM**

November Calendar

	1 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild	2 3:30 UMW 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Choir	3 9:45 Bible Study 4:45 Scouts 5:00 Scouts 7:00 Trustees	4 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 6:00 NK Land Conservancy 6:00 Scouts	5 7:00 AA 7:00 Scouts	6
7 Daylight Savings Time 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 9:15 Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Celebration of Lee Cone's life Youth Group	8 9:30 Moms 6:45 Shepherding 6:45 Scouts 7:00 Bible Study	9 3:30 UMW 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Choir	10 9:45 Bible Study 7:00 SPRC	11 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 7:00 Finance & Stewardship	12 7:00 AA	13 8:00 Men's Breakfast
14 Consecration Sunday 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Sunday School	15 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Book Study 7:00 NK Photo Guild	16 3:30 UMW 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Choir	17 9:45 Bible Study 4:45 Scouts 5:00 Scouts 7:00 AdMin	18 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 6:00 Scouts	19 7:00 AA	20 7:30 Angel Food Pick-Up 9:30 UMW
21 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Sunday School 1:00 Community Dinner 4:30 Youth Group	22 Food Pantry Collection 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study	23 Food Pantry Distribution 3:30 UMW 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	24 9:45 Bible Study 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service	25	26 7:00 AA	27 3:00 PM Decorate Church for Advent followed by potluck dinner
28 8 & 10 Worship 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Sunday School 1:00 Community Dinner	29 6:30 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study	30 3:30 UMW 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Choir 7:00 Scout Leaders				

November Lectionary

November 7 – Communion

Text: Haggai 1: 5b-2:9; Psalm 14: 1-5, 17-21; 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5; 13-17; Luke 6: 20-31

Sermon: “Blessed Are You”

November 14

Text: Isaiah 65: 17-25; Isaiah 12; 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13; Luke 21: 5-19

Sermon: “Living a Full Life”

November 21 – Christ the King Sunday/Thanksgiving

Text: Jeremiah 23: 1-6; Luke 1: 68-79; Colossians 1: 11-20; Luke 23: 33-43

Sermon: “A Future of Hope”

November 24th – Thanksgiving Eve

Text: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11; Psalm 100; Philippians 4: 4-9; John 6: 25-35

November 28 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Text: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 36-44

Sermon: “Get Ready!”

Special Events

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LEE CONE - All members and friends of Lee Cone are invited to a celebration of his life on Sunday, November 7, 2010 immediately following the 10 am service. Anyone interested in sharing items for a vegetable platter, fruit platter, cheese and cracker platter, or finger-styled desserts, please contact Charlene Price **prior** to bringing the item to church. Her contact information is 401-885-7139 or charlenejprice@verizon.net

SUNDAY SCHOOL – On November 21st the children will celebrate with their annual Thanksgiving Feast. Each child is invited to bring his/her favorite food. In **WORSHIP**, we invite everyone to bring an item to be shared for the Thanksgiving food baskets.

COMMUNITY DINNERS – NKUMC will host and serve the first two Community Dinners on November 21 and November 28th at 1:00PM. A Sign-Up sheet is in the Narthex.

SALVATION ARMY’S CHRISTMAS KETTLE PROGRAM – A note from Ron and Brenda Grundy

Dear United Methodist Parishioners,

The air turns crisp, as the warm breezes of Summer make way for the cool winds of Autumn, to announce the approaching holiday season and, with it, much celebration, but, for many it will not be festive as they face life's emergencies. The North Kingstown Salvation Army Service Unit addresses these emergencies and our Kettle Collection is an important source of the funds that are needed to do our work.

We thank you for your past participation in the Christmas Kettle Collection for the Service Unit and would like to invite you to participate again. Thanks to the efforts of your volunteers last year, we collected over \$7500.00 for North Kingstown people in need. Our efforts this year have a special importance, as we anticipate an increase in the number of people who will need help this winter.

**Sign-Up for this year’s collection on Saturday, December 4th from 9:00 – 4:00
at Stop & Shop on Frenchtown Road!**

New Mission Opportunity



Cereal Night – There is a dream of a new mission opportunity to develop Cereal Night into a national drive for food pantries. Two of many possibilities for getting involved include working on a website and networking. Bill Gannon hopes to set up a time for brainstorming. Please speak with Bill or call the office to learn more.

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Herbert & Chris Stevens
- 13 Joseph & Susan DiPalma
- 17 Warren & Wendy Halstead
- 28 Jay & Joan Hickey
- 29 Alan & Dorothy Crouch
- 29 Douglas & Barbara Piehler



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Carol Dearlove
- Charley Marshall
- 3 Brett Stevens
- 4 Alexander Davis
- Zachary Lynch
- 6 Michael Halloran
- 10 Brianna Young
- 11 Nancy Cruickshank
- Melina DeMarco
- 12 Ryan Harwood
- 14 Melissa Morrison
- 17 Bryson Lovell
- 18 Christopher Choinski
- 19 Dorothy Crouch
- 22 Stacey Pointe
- 23 Sarah Pierce
- 24 Diana Warburton
- 25 Jan Brown
- 26 Robert Hewitt
- 30 Michelle Cihat

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRY

The November menu is now available
online at angelfood.net
Copies are in the Narthex.

The deadline for ordering by cash,
check, EBT or online is
November 11th.

Pick-up is scheduled for November
20th from 7:30 – 9:00 AM

Lay Speaking Class Opportunity – *Opening Ourselves to Grace* explores the basic practices of Christian faith and life from a Wesleyan perspective. What is grace? How does John Wesley's understanding of grace affect our faith journey? This course offers a way to understand the basic concept of grace exploring the theological expression of God's love for humanity and for each individual. The workshop is divided into four segments that define grace in light of works of piety and works of mercy and applies to our individual and corporate discipleship journey: 1. Grace: Maintaining Holy Tempers; 2. Finding the Means; 3. Practice Makes Perfect; 4. Living with Grace. Registration materials are available in the Narthex.

Location: First UMC, 23 Willow Street, Mystic, CT 060355

Dates: Saturdays, December 4 and 11

Time: 10:00AM – 4:00PM

Registration Deadline: November 13th

Save the Date – Ocean State Children's Choir, under the direction of Paul Mancini, will sing on December 4th at 4:30PM at Asbury United Methodist Church, 143 Ann Mary Drive, Warwick.



ATTENTION WOMEN OF THE NKUMC

Can you give 2 hours of your time to save the life of a newborn?



**We need your hands to Ensure a Safe Birth in Sierra Leone
One Birthing Kit at a time**

Birthing kits are essential in rural communities. They provide the basic, sanitary items to aid in safe and healthy deliveries, reducing the risk of Tetanus infections.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**ANSWER: Come join your Sisters in Christ
Saturday, November 20th
9:30-11:30 at the NKUMC**

EACH BIRTHING KIT CONTAINS:

One-quart size zip-lock bag (to hold supplies) - A Box of Zip –lock quart size bags

One square piece of plastic 48" X 48" (to be placed under mother during birth)

1 pair disposable gloves - A Box of latex free disposable plastic gloves

2 Purell hand sanitizer wipes - A Box of hand sanitizer wipes individually wrapped

1 single edge razor blade (wrapped in cardboard) to cut the umbilical cord

10"-12" piece of cord to tie off the baby's cord

Picture direction sheet

One piece of Flannel cloth 24" X 22" - 3 yds Flannel – preferably plain color / washed to wrap the new child

If you come, please bring one of the items listed above in RED.

Coffee and snacks will be provided.



That's it! A clean, safe delivery, a new baby and hope for the future.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S NEWS

Our women's group has been active over the past two years. We have some exciting opportunities coming up and would like you to participate, even if you have not been a regular at the Saturday morning meetings. The next United Methodist Women's monthly meeting is Saturday, November 20th from 9:30 – 11:00. We meet at 9:30 for breakfast and reflection. Our business meeting usually begins at about 10:30. We would love to see more women participate and share their talents, ideas and friendship. Even if you have never come before, please make an effort to attend. We are looking forward to seeing you! If you have any questions, please call Diana Warburton at 714-5612 (dew397@cox.net) or Nina Dunne at 789-3228.

FROM WHERE I SIT by Rev. F. Richard Garland

AN ANSWER TO ANXIETY

In his article, "Commitment: Pursuing God's Reign First," [Weavings, Volume XXV, Number 4] David Rensberger looks back on the 60's and 70's counter-culture as a hotbed of spiritual searching and creativity. He writes: "There was a real sense that we were trying to live out what we'd heard in our parent's churches yet seldom actually seen done." Now there's a novel idea - trying to live the gospel we preach!

What prompted Rensberger's comment was reflection on the passage in the Sermon on the Mount: "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" "Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day." [Matthew 6:25,34, RSV] Mercy! Is that really possible? Especially when, as Rensberger wryly observes, some of us have anxieties about our anxieties.

Sadly, we live in a paralyzing environment of manipulative fear-mongering. It goes something like this: point out someone or some way of thinking that is different from one's own. Then plant a seed of worry that these differences are a threat to our security. Say it long enough and loud enough that the worry turns into fear. In time the fear isolates us and makes us angry, then prey to manipulative persons and/or causes whose view of life is less reflective of reality than it is of their own fear and paranoia. At its worst it is disabling, and often prevents us from dealing responsibly, and faithfully, with real danger and risk. In such an environment the command that we not be anxious is a daunting expectation.

It is, that is, if we start there. Rensberger thinks that we have been reading the passage from Sermon on the Mount from the wrong end. He says that we should begin reading with the closing words: "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well." The point is that: "Jesus says that when we focus on God [first], then we can and will quit worrying. Jesus says that life's needs come to those who have made a commitment to God, who have decided to give the highest priority in their lives to God and to the justice, the righteousness that God offers and desires. Living without anxiety about life and its needs is not the starting point but a result - a result of commitment to the cause of God."

This, as they say, puts a different light on things. One more quote from Rensberger. Speaking of Jesus' viewpoint, he writes: "A ceaseless commitment to God is not a perpetual drain on what we have, it is the source of what we have and of what we will need. Make that commitment, Jesus says, and you will find that God is also committed to you and will not let you lack what you require to carry out your commitment."

The implication of this insight is huge. It challenges us to put God first, and then believe that God is capable of seeing us through and meeting our needs, although not necessarily giving the outcome we expected or providing what we think we need. The problem is that many anxieties and fears are vague and ill defined, and few of us have learned the art of living with uncertainty. Even though we know it is an illusion, we like to think that we are in control. For people of faith this borders on idolatry. God is in charge, and we ignore that truth at our peril. But, if we seek first God's kingdom and God's righteousness, we put ourselves in God's hand and are led, as the Psalmist puts it, "in paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

We have an answer to anxiety, to the fears planted by those who would manipulate us, as well as to authentic dangers: It begins with putting God first and not allowing the standards of the world to define who we are and what we do. We have an answer to anxiety: it involves being content with having enough to meet our own basic needs, and working to be sure that all people have enough to meet their own basic needs. We have an

answer to anxiety: it means living in concert with a purpose that is larger than ourselves, in the knowledge that, “with God all things are possible.” If we would but take the risk of committing ourselves to God, we would discover that God is committed to us, and we will find out that all those things which make us anxious will lose their power over us. That is very good news, indeed!



THANK YOU!

October 2nd was a blazingly bright, sunny fall day, perfect for our Harvest Fair. Thank you to everyone who attended the fair, whether you bought some of the beautiful and useful items sold by our vendors, browsed the church re-gift table, picked up a snack from the bake table, or enjoyed some lunch courtesy of the kitchen and outdoor grill crews. This combination of several fundraising opportunities allowed us to raise over \$2,000 for the church.

The Harvest Fair would not have been successful without the efforts of our key volunteers, especially Vivian Flade, who managed the craft vendors; Warren Halstead, who orchestrated the luncheon and kitchen crews; Sarah Oliver, who organized the pie baking; Mimi Pierce, who handled publicity, devoted many hours on Friday to making sure everything was set up beautifully, and ran the children’s area on Saturday; and Charlene Price, who had so many roles it’s impossible to overstate everything she did to make the Harvest Fair go off without a hitch. Without these key volunteers, the Harvest Fair would not have been possible.

In addition, many other volunteers helped the day of the event. Thank you to Ida Green, Carolyn McGregor, Pat Minacipilli, the Halstead boys, Jennifer Young, Madison and Caitlyn, Mimi Young and Brianna, some of our youth members who alternated between bouncing and supervising the bouncers, and especially Jon Eaton and Cathy Morrison for manning the outdoor grill. I hope I haven’t neglected anyone!

Our silent auction benefited from lovely donations from some of our vendors, as well as church members Ellen Jacke, Mimi and “Captain” Pierce, and many others.

And a special thank you to Dave Kenyon, whose Taylor Rental donated the “bouncy” castle for the day. The children (and youth) had a wonderful time, and the sight of the huge castle (transported by Jon Eaton) surely helped draw in more visitors driving past the church that day.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success for our church.

Sincerely,

Christine Stevens

2010 Harvest Fair Chairperson

THANK YOU from Dorcas Kamanda, President, SEED

We have run out of ways to say “thank you.” We are so grateful to you and others for your generous gifts. Your recent donation of \$935 will be used to help pay for our programs at NarSarah Clinic and the CITA Community Development projects.

We are also pleased to tell you that the new Clinic building is now in use and our staff has increased to fourteen. We continue to serve the community’s health needs and are working to stabilize and sustain our community development projects. These projects include Women Against Poverty, the Adult Literacy program, Scholarships of Hope, Micro Loans, the Agricultural and Animal Husbandry projects, and working with the Kabala Blind School and the Amputee/War Wounded camp. All of the development programs are designed to provide jobs and income for the villages and groups with some of the profits going to support the ongoing needs of the Clinic.

We want you to know that we see the Spirit of God at work in Kabala, the Koinadugu District of Sierra Leone, and with the donors that support the program. Because of you and others, many people are beginning to see hope for the future

THANK YOU from the Rev. John L. McCullough, Executive Director and CEO, Church World Service
I want to thank you for your generous contribution (\$144.00) especially appreciated in this challenging economy. Thanks to caring donors like you, Church World Service can provide food, water, and other necessities to families displaced by natural disasters, as we are doing in Pakistan now. And with your help, we can also assist impoverished communities as they work to improve their farming techniques, develop reliable water sources, and build a more sustainable future. In a world wounded in so many ways, I remain hopeful because of the creative, resilient women, men, and children we assist around the world, and because of caring people like you, who empower us to act on your behalf. May God bless you for your compassionate support.

THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS



As we approach the holiday season and you consider gift giving, are there people on your List who would appreciate being honored by a donation to one of the missions we support? Consider a gift through . . .

- Heifer International to help people become self-sufficient
- Church World Service or UMCOR to help people recover from disaster
- One of our United Methodist Advance Specials, a complete listing of which is in the church office.
- Preacher's Aid Society
- Home and Hospice Care of RI
- South County Habitat for Humanity

Information about all of the above is in the church office. Other possibilities include a gift to our church library or helping to sponsor one of our Community Dinners to feed the homeless and lonely in North Kingstown. Consider purchasing gift cards through our shopping card program for the Domestic Violence Resource Center, Project Outreach, or Crossroads (Women and Children in Transition).

St. Andrews Society provides alternative ways to celebrate Christmas. The following email explains: "The Christmas season is fast approaching and soon the stores will be filled with so much holiday cheer. It's easy to let the hustle of this busy time be a distraction from the true reason for celebration. The Society of St. Andrew (Advance #801600), a national hunger-relief ministry, offers a way to celebrate the true meaning of this holy holiday through a unique Alternative Christmas Card program that helps feed Americans who are in need while honoring special friends and family.

For a minimum donation of \$12 in honor of someone special, you can provide about 600 servings of fresh food to those in need. Your gift donation will be announced with the Society of St. Andrew's (SoSA) exclusive Alternative Christmas Card, and you will also receive this beautiful card as a thank you and confirmation of how many gifts you make.

Individuals can order SoSA's Alternative Christmas Cards by mail, phone: 800-333-4597; fax at 434-299-5949; email to card@endhunger.org; or online at www.endhunger.org/card. SoSA will send the cards and envelopes to the donor to personalize and mail, or they will send them on the donor's behalf to the recipient in time for Christmas. The minimum gift donation for each card is \$12. All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law."

Our Community ~ Our Commitment

North Kingstown Food Pantry, 450 Boston Neck Road, NK 401-294-7608

Domestic Violence Resource Center 61 Main Street, Wakefield 401-782-3995 24 Hour Help Line 782-3990

RI Student Assistance Services 300 Centerville Road Warwick 401-732-8680 www.risas.org

North Kingstown Party Tip Line 294-3316 x8411 tips@northkingstown.org Report underage drinking.

Habitat for Humanity Restore, 1555 Shannock Road, Charlestown, RI 401-213-6716

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Return Service Requested