



THE SPIRE

Wakefield Baptist Church

November

20 25



When Thanksgiving Feels So, So Far Away

In such a world as this, being thankful may feel selfish. “Counting our blessings” can evoke sensations of guilt when we are aware of so much human suffering in so many lives. Perhaps, in such a world, we prepare for Thanksgiving by being honest about the pain we feel and the inadequacy of our small faith. Then, we honor God with our gratitude for his mercy, given in ways that are impossible for us to comprehend, yet so essential for healing to occur and thankfulness to re-emerge.

O Lord,

Where two or three hearts are gathered there is the occasion for rapturous joy, especially when one of those hearts is yours. Just as easily, it can become a moment of intense distress, when one of those hearts is my own.

It could be a moment of new courage as your strength is offered, and your presence is keenly felt. Or a moment of dread when I am conscious only of my own fear and haven't felt you near.

It could be a moment of insight and wisdom, but only if I can humble myself to receive it, and listen, and trust your eternal truth to be better than my own small opinions.

It could be a moment of wondrous communion if I were to look around and rejoice in the faith of this fellowship. Or one of loneliness and despondency if I refuse their companionship in prayer.

But you, O Lord, can overcome that. You can treat my wounded spirit, restore my shattered faith, and beckon me to emerge from these darkened places of my soul, so I may honor you with my thank-filled heart.

You can unite me with those around me. You can teach my heart to appreciate them, coach my soul to rejoice in their love, and impart your strength through their expressions of support.

Then, when I look out upon this frightening world, I need not face it in the smallness of my own faith, but in the greatness of your grace, the constancy of your love, and the companionship of those walking with you.

Embrace us, Lord, in a union beyond Word or words. Enfold us close to your heart. Revive our depleted minds and world-swept souls. Transform our weariness back into gratitude, our sorrow into thanksgiving, our worry into praise so that we may worship you, thank you, and adore you with full and grateful hearts.

Yours, forever yours, in Christ we pray. Amen.

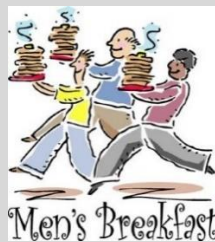
A blessed Thanksgiving to you all! Yours in Christ – Clay



Celebrating All Saints: November 2

November 1 is officially All Saints' Day, though we will celebrate the feast with communion on Sunday, November 2 during our morning worship service. Our worship will remind us of the communion we still keep with those now at rest in the Lord's presence, gathered in peace enjoying eternal communion with him. We will specifically remember those from our congregation who passed into glory over the past year.

We invite you to bring photographs of those in your life who have died in the Lord and now live in his presence. These don't just have to be pictures of immediate family. They could include those who led you to the Lord, mentored or impacted your faith, or represented the Lord to you through their life-lesson and example. We will display these pictures at the front of our sanctuary to remind us that "we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). And at the Table, we'll celebrate that mysterious reality that we continue to keep communion with them in the Lord.



Saturday, November 1st at 8:00 a.m.

In Fellowship Hall

**We would love to have you join us
For delicious food and fellowship**



Associate Pastor Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has been meeting regularly. We are hopeful that all our "ducks will be in a row" so that we may open advertising for potential candidates in early November. We have our materials ready: Church Profile, Community Profile, Ministry Description and Responsibilities; and Compensation Package for the position.

We will make contact with necessary denominational personnel as soon as possible. When that is done, we will disseminate our information via several channels to engage candidates.

After applications are received, we will carefully read all of them and determine which we will follow up. We will contact references and conduct phone interviews before we interview anyone in person. This is NOT a short process. We do not want to rush just to get someone in place; we want to present the best candidate, the candidate we pray God leads us to.

Please pray for our wise discernment as we move ahead. The committee will create a list of prayer requests so all can be in prayer for this significant action. We will also have a gathering for prayer at a future date. Thank you for your patience as we look forward with hopeful anticipation to what we can do as a church to deepen our faith and to more fully offer our community the love of Jesus Christ.



Fall Bible Studies

Twelve Ordinary Men

Andrew, Peter, James, John and Philip, along with some significant "basics" about the disciples in general have been the topics for our first six weeks of study using the book **Twelve Ordinary Men** by John MacArthur. The studies enable us to look at these first Christians as "real people" which lets us see ourselves in them. Therefore, we are learning some things we as today's Christians need to watch out for, and other things to try to practice regularly.

We ask lots of questions, work together to find answers, and have some good laughs and some serious concerns as we move through the study. We are not scholars, just folks trying to grow in our faith. We will continue the study at a later time, probably after the first of the year.



INTRODUCING... JESUS

Reflections on the Gospel of John

Thursday afternoons at 2:30 pm

Who is Jesus, and why does he matter? Come and see!

All are invited to join us for prayer, reflection, and conversation as we listen to the Apostle John introduce Jesus to all who open his Gospel and read it in faith. This study will run up until Thanksgiving. At that point we'll take a break for the holidays, then resume early in the new year. For information, speak with Clay.



RED WAGON

**Fill the wagon with everyday food needs.
Donations will go towards filling the shelves at
JOHNNY CAKE FOOD PANTRY
and
URI OUT POST
ALL kinds of foods are needed and welcomed.**



From Missions and Discipleship

On November 2nd following worship, join us during Fellowship Hour. Barbara Sweeney will be with us to share what the URI Out Post is and what their needs are. They are servicing many international students. Come and find out how we may be able to help this mission in our own back yard!

**Thank you for your support in
all Mission Projects!**



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 16

Following Worship

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a hot or cold drink and snack.

Find out what's going on in and around our church.

Here what's being planned.



Set your clocks back an hour before bedtime on Saturday, November 1st



Saturday, December 6

10:30 am – 2:00 pm

Come when you can; stay as long as you want.

Preparing for Christmas

For children ages 4 – 10

Must be accompanied by an adult.

Nativity Dress-up & Photos ~ Christmas Crafts

Greens Arrangement in a Christmas Mug

FREE Hot Dog or Grilled Cheese Sandwich

Children can select gifts from

Santa's Workshop for family members.

Everything is FREE!

Sponsored by **Wakefield Baptist Church**

236 Main Street, Wakefield

Sunday

Mondays	6:00 p.m. Men's 12 Step 7:30 p.m. AlAnon
Tuesdays	10:00 a.m. AA Book Discussion
Thursdays	3:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. VASA (<i>2nd Thursday</i>)
Sundays	6:00 p.m. Women's Step Study

Tuesday, Nov. 11 4:30 pm Trustees

Saturday Nov. 1 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast
Thursdays at 2:30pm Introducing Jesus Study
Sunday Nov. 16 Congregational Mtg. after
Worship

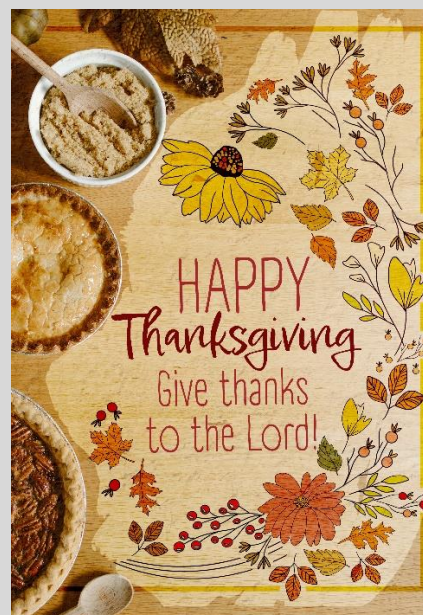


29 Elaine Christianson
30 Janice Dinonsie

We would love to list your birthday! If we don't have it, please call or email the office.

Rev. Dr. Clay Berry, Pastor
Dian Arnold, Church Admin. Assistant
Catherine Holloway, Minister of Music, Choir
Jim Paulhus, Sexton
Julie Wardwell, Minister of Music, Organ & Piano

Church office open Tuesday-Friday 9-noon





Scholarships Available

Thanks to the generous support of members and friends, Wakefield Baptist Church has a dedicated scholarship account. Scholarships are available to members and regular attendees as well as to children and grandchildren of members and attendees who are pursuing post-secondary education.

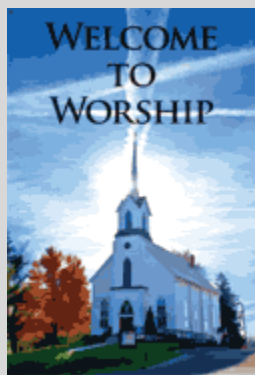
Please let Nancy Bancroft or the church office know the name of your nominee, the school attending, and a brief explanation of the program of study, as it is known. Please submit by November 30.



We are looking for people to help with our Hospitality Ministry. If you would like to provide some goodies for Fellowship Hour after worship, please sign up on the bulletin board. Please see Julie, Dian or Sue if you have any questions.

Thank you for your help and your generosity!

Wakefield Baptist Church
236 Main Street
Wakefield, RI 02879



NOVEMBER EVENTS

Bible Study on the Book of John
All Saints Day
Men's Breakfast
Congregational Meeting
Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.
Online and In-Person

*This church lives to introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know and love him
to deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know and love him,
to demonstrate Christ's way of love in service to the world.*