

Dear Church Family, for the week of **November 4th**
Communion Sunday

Pastoral Concerns: Pastor Jeff Long-Middleton 978-273-6399 pastorjeffuccbradford@gmail.com
Emergency Assistance: Care Coordinator Carole Taylor 802-222-4590

Sunday morning worship is at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Jeff tells us that this Sunday's Scripture focuses on: What is the difference between social service agencies and the church? If we are honest, social service agencies often do a better, more comprehensive job of providing for those who have been marginalized by society. So read Mark 12:28-34:

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³²Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; ³³and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Jesus gives us two commandments. The second, Jesus tells us, is like the first. So, those who work to advance human dignity, who show their love of neighbor by improving the lot of the poor, are involved in the work Jesus puts before us. So what's the difference between those who do good and the church? That's the question we will be looking at on Sunday and as part of our exploration, we will also read Ruth 1:1-18,

¹In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me." ⁹The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?" ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" ¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Lectionary readings for this coming week:

Ruth 1:1-18 (Ruth pledges

Hebrews 9: 11-14 (Christ attains eternal redemption for us)

Mark 12: 28-34 (Jesus gives us the greatest commandment)

Psalm 146

theme hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

If you would like to place a **SERRV** order from their catalog, speak to anyone from the Missions/Social action board ... anytime... our church has a discount you can apply for savings!

Volunteers to host the Coffee Hour following the worship service are needed. Please contact Charlotte Welch if you can help with this important fellowship mission.

PLEASE NOTE: the next Community Supper will be **Nov. 29**

The calendar in the downstairs hall ... please do not write on it until you have contacted Building Use trustee Janice Larabee. Thank you!

Volunteers Needed: Game Supper is on Saturday, Nov. 17th Help is needed that day as well as the days before it. Please contact **Dan or Tracy Smith!**

TONIGHT (Friday) is Midnight Madness in greater downtown Bradford. Come celebrate our local merchants. Lots of special prices and prizes, folks!

At our high school **this weekend**: a musical that is hilarious! Oxbow Love was written and composed by Oxbow as a “family friendly” musical presentation to delight all ages. Performances are \$5 for adults, free for students. Saturday at 7pm and Sunday at 4pm. Please go!

In our vestry **this Saturday, Nov. 3** is the annual Chinese Auction fundraiser for the Connecticut Valley Fair. After Church Council we all took a look at just soome of the hundreds of gift items which have been donated by individuals and businesses. See you there!

Pastor Jeff's office hours

Sunday afternoons

all day Mondays

978-273-6399 is his recommended number to use at any time
calls to 802-222-4610 will be answered only when he is in the parsonage

- Click on **EPISTLE** to get this month's Lectionary readings.
- Past Sermons can be accessed at [News & Sermons](#) .
- The latest “back story” can be accessed at [“Upcoming Worship”](#) or at [Church News](#)
- Our congregation's activities are listed on our [online calendar](#)
- Our Facebook page link is [Bradford Congregational Church](#)