

- community -

Wings of song performs ‘Night, Moon, Stars’ Dec. 13-14

STURBRIDGE – The community chorus Wings of Song offers a program of songs for Christmas and the Winter Solstice in two upcoming concerts.

The first, Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m., will be presented at St. Joachim Chapel, part of St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St., Fiskdale. The second is Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m., at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St., Southbridge.

Both concerts are free, with a freewill offering collected at intermission. The venues are fully handicap-accessible. As always, free refreshments will be served after each concert.

Folks are encouraged to arrive early to be sure of a seat.

Over his two decades as Wings of Song Music Director, Nym Cooke has introduced the chorus and its audiences to a wide variety of music. This program is

no exception.

Pieces come from places as far apart as Denmark and South Africa. Musical styles range from French Baroque opera to white gospel. Featured instruments include handbells, djembe, and upright bass.

Compositional dates stretch from the early 1500s (composer: King Henry VIII of England) to 2025 (composer: Wings of Song tenor Gianni Davilli).

Moods vary, from deeply peaceful to ferocious. Familiarity ranges from widespread (classic Christmas songs such as “O Little Town of Bethlehem”) to nonexistent (two world premieres).

Pieces last less than a minute to over five minutes. Vocal range spans almost four octaves. Musical textures

range from highly contrapuntal (rounds such as “This Longest Night” and “Full Moonlight Dance”) to grandly homophonic (the ever-popular “O Holy Night,” in John Rutter’s magnificent arrangement).

The interlocking themes of night, moon, and stars proved to be enormously rich: many wonderful texts and pieces of music have been written to celebrate the mystery of darkness, or to bring spiritual light and uplift at the darkest time of the year. People are strongly encouraged to bring stars or moons to these concerts, to be held or hoisted aloft at key points in the proceedings. (More than one moon is fine, in the spirit of celebration.)

Cooke waxes enthusiastic about the chorus: “One

of the many good things about this group is that we are becoming more and more a collaborative enterprise. Rather than me saying, ‘This is how this piece should go’ and that’s it, I start things off and then chorus members come up with all sorts of great contributions—an idea for dynamics here, a pertinent question about breathing there, an instrumental suggestion from someone else. There are so many deeply musical people in this group! And equally important are the devoted folks who just love to sing, and who help make our sound as big and thrilling as it is!”

People attending these concerts are in for a treat – a deep dive into some of the enduring mysteries of this charged time, mysteries stemming both from the natural world and from Christian tradition. Miracles will abound. Come and hear!



Local author to hold book signing event on Dec. 13

WEST BROOKFIELD – Former West Brookfield resident Jonathan Cook has released a novel about New England’s criminal underbelly, “The Vampires of York, Maine: A Modern Crime Story” and will host meet the author book signing events across Worcester County.

A meet the author book signing will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 at Moon Magick Café by Chey in Southbridge

from 2-5 p.m.

“The Vampires of York, Maine: A Modern Crime Story” follows the misadventures of Jerry O’Shaughnessy, journalist turned bar owner, as he gets involved in a missing girl case. In the process, he uncovers human trafficking, a neo-Nazi gang and supernatural elements in coastal Maine.

The novel is currently available online and at Tidepool Bookshop on Chandler Street in Worcester.

Senior Center lists activities

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center, located at 29 Forest St., will offer the following events and activities during the month of December.

Activities include:

music bingo on Monday, Dec. 15 at 10 a.m.; and drawing class – Portfolio Work on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 11 a.m.

A blood pressure/glucose clinic will be held on Monday, Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m.

NATIVITIES FROM PAGE 1

the World” is unique, but that they all capture the same event – the birth of Jesus Christ.

Joyce said she tends to like simply nativity scenes the most, and she pointed out several special ones in their collection. One featured the holy family being covered by an angel in robes, and another is made out of paper.

The Alts also have nativities made by well-known artists, including Thomas Kinkade and Jim Shore. The nativity made by Shore is also a music box.

Glen and Joyce said they were able to purchase the music box nativity at a yard sale for only \$2, after another person looking at it before them had accidentally broken it.

Glen said many people came through “Nativities From Around the World” this year, especially on Friday night to hear the music of the Weir River Concert Band and Spirit and Grace.



This nativity scene featured the holy family inside the word “peace.”

People have also been very generous in dropping off nonperishable food items to support the local food pantries.

Joyce recalled one woman who attended the event crying tears of joy, because she saw a nativity just like one she had as a child.

The other rooms at the church contained the extensive collections of event founders Karen Dusty and Gail Ann Anderson, as well as nativities belonging to their family members, other church members and community members.

About the church

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in North Brookfield got its start meeting in the room of a member’s home in Spencer. As its membership grew, the church moved into another home, and then a storefront next to the town hall.

The church building was constructed over 20 years ago and draws members from North Brookfield, Spencer, Barre, Warren, Hardwick and many other towns.

For more information,



Mary and Joseph are shown proudly looking at baby Jesus.

visit www.churchofjesus-christ.org, click on “Find a Church” and search for the closest location. You can also follow the church on Facebook as “North Brookfield The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.”



These hand-painted figures of Joseph and Mary embraced baby Jesus.



Snowbabies recreated the manger scene and shared a message of peace and joy.



The Little Drummer Boy announced the arrival of Jesus Christ in this nativity scene.

- public notices -

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing to consider a petition to locate poles, wires, cables, and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys, and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures, brought before it by Massachusetts Electric Company

d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 6:15 PM at the North Brookfield Police Department, 55 School Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

The pole location that will be considered is as follows:

Madbrook Rd- National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Madbrook Rd beginning at a point approximately 915 feet south of the centerline of the intersection of

Oakham Rd. Install a new Pole 25-25 to power new residential home.

Said hearing will begin at 6:15 PM and continue until completion, and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 166.

Jason M Petraitis, Chairman
Jamie Gilman
Ralph Kay

12/05, 12/12/2025

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **CHRISTMAS** for Dec. 22-26 newspapers there will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE!**

Place your advertisement no later than

Thurs., Dec. 17 at 3 p.m.

A TURLEY PUBLICATION

24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 • 413-283-8393 • www.turley.com

Town of Warren
Town Accountant

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Full-Time – Town Benefited Position
32 hours per week, Monday to Thursday

The Town of Warren is actively seeking a qualified professional to fill the position of Town Accountant. The Town is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Accountant to join our team. Strong organizational skills, excellent customer service skills, municipal finance and Vadar experience preferred. A complete job description can be found on the Town’s website www.warren-ma.gov.

Please email or mail your resume and cover letter to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov or by mail to 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083.

Salary range is negotiable from \$60,000 to \$64,500 and is based on relevant work experience, certifications, and educational background. Position open until filled, with a first look at resumes starting on December 22, 2025.

Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer