

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*)

We bring our prayers to you, gracious God, sensing that there is more to life than the ways we have known. We are drawn to the Messiah, yet we shrink from following where faith leads. We are often afraid of what we might lose if we are guided by the Spirit, rather than being excited about all that we have to gain. Thoughts of sacrifice and servanthood are not appealing to us. We are reluctant to enter into a close relationship with You. Forgive us our arrogance; heal our fears; let us draw near to You; help us see the Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rejoice O People of God! Rejoice in God! Exalt God's name. You will be clothed with garments of salvation! They will fit you better than anything you have known. The robes of righteousness are not heavy burdens, but offer a freedom you have not felt before! You will become a crown of beauty, a new creation, in the Hands of a Loving God. Praise Be to the Living God....for Christ has made All Things New! Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Debt*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

***ACT OF PRAISE #155** *Angels We Have Heard On High*

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Children are invited to stay for the entire worship. There is a room downstairs available for parents to bring and stay with their children if needed.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Isaiah 60: 1-2, 61: 1-4, 10-11 (*pew Bible page 602*)
Matthew 6: 9-13 (*pew Bible page 787*)
Luke 2: 22-38 (*pew Bible page 833*)

ANTHEM

COMMUNION MEDITATION

“Hands of Time”

Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

HYMN # 124

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

SERVICE OF RESPONSE

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation: *What seeds are we sowing for the sake of a more righteous and just world? Who will witness to God's intention that we live together as heirs to a rich, full life? It is our duty and our privilege to offer our best that Christ may be revealed to all.*

Offertory

We Give Thee but Thine Own

Mason/Webb

*DOXOLOGY (*Unison*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low; Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune whom we adore.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

With joyous praise, we return to you a portion of all You have given to us. May our giving exceed the demands of the law. You have invited us to sacrifices befitting our blessings. You have asked us to care for those in need. What we offer in these moments is a beginning. We will ponder again Your amazing grace in granting us life, in offering us the child Jesus to bring us back to You and in giving us the "Christian." Praise be to You, O God. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Note: The crackers in the round container on each communion plate are gluten-free for those who cannot eat bread that contains gluten.)

COMMUNION BY INTINCTION (Gather around Communion Table)

By Intinction: You are invited to please come forward to Receive Holy Communion.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

INVOCATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

***(there will be Deacons in the Congregation who can bring the Healing Water and Communion to you. Please just raise your hand if you would like them to come to you while in the pew.)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (In the Round)

Pedro Silva

*HYMN SING:

Gather 'Round the Piano

***BENEDICTION**

One: Go in peace, carrying God's Word to the world. Praise God and tell the Good News of a Savior.

All: Our eyes have seen an amazing Gift. Our lives will witness to our salvation.

One: Let praise fill all your waking hours. Let your dreams reflect God's consolation.

All: We are not slaves to the excesses of our day. We are free to live by eternal values.

One: God sends the Spirit to be our companion. Welcome the Spirits' leading and guidance.

TOGETHER: We are heirs of Amazing Blessings and Grace. We are gifted to become a blessing to others. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

Praise to the Lord, Almighty

arr. by David Cherwien

Mary Ann Brayer serves as liturgist.

The Communion Servers are **Bev Hall, Doug Hall** and **Melanie Borglund.**

Carolyn Bent and **Linda Birch** are Deacons of the week.

Brett Borglund is Trustee liaison.

Rev. Dirkje Legerstee is away spending time with her family.

Join us for refreshments and fellowship downstairs following worship

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS JANUARY 1, 2012

Bereavement: The family of Patricia Goodall (friend and co-worker of Myra Appleby).

New Prayers: Jeremiah & Jayson Goodall (Wendy Robert's nephews); Bill Goodall (Wendy Robert's brother); Parker Uhlman (Nancy Uhlman's husband, Doug Uhlman's Dad); The family of Bruce Blackmer (friends of Justine Lovely).

Continued Prayers: Michael Newton (deployed to Afghanistan); Sheila Currie (dear friend of Mary McLeod); Renee Jansen (sister of Deb Boucher's sister-in-law); Michael Black (good friend of Steve & Diana Swets); Dirkje's mother-in-law (recovering from hip surgery); Kathleen (Susan & David Cochrane's sister-in-law); Beverly Campbell (friend of Nancy Walker); Fran Kelly (Megan Huber's mom); James Hight; Dave Russo; Ruth Burke and her children (friends of Kathy and Gabe Leblanc); Kyle Motta (age 1); Jose and Zoila Del Cid (friends of Carolyn Bent); Jamie (Judy Ellis' son); Adam Bent and wife Amanda (Carolyn Bent's nephew); Amy (friend of Gen Benton); Jean Newton; Thalia Genes and Susan Tobias (friends of Phyllis Newton); Joanne & Jim Gingras; Joan Jacobs.

Hospitalized: Audrey Birch (Dick and Linda Birch's sister-in-law); Marge Lightbody; Louise Tyler.

Visitation Request: If you have a prayer or visit request, please note it on the "*A Note to the Pastors*" card in the pews and put it in the offering plate or hand it to a Deacon. You can place prayer concerns on the church's email distribution list at epayers@uccwestboro.org. If you would like a prayer request included in today's service, please let a Deacon know prior to the start of worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINANCIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

Kindly have your reports into the church office ON OR BEFORE **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4**. Reports are needed from:

Church Clerk

Board of Trustees

Church Treasurer

Stewardship Committee

Missions Committee

Capital Campaign Committee

Auditor

Reports will be available Sunday, January 15. The Annual Fiscal Meeting is Sunday, January 22. (*Committee reports are due in early April*).

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

The Missions Committee wishes to thank everyone who bought gifts for the Westborough Giving Tree as well as gifts for children through the Framingham Department of Children & Families this holiday season. Our Church members bought over 120 gifts for 60 children this year. A special thanks to Marilyn & Jerry Lyle, Charlotte Bramley and Kathy LeBlanc for delivering the gifts that went to Framingham. Helping a child's wishes come true is yet another way the Congregational Church of Westborough can consider itself blessed!

A SUCCESSFUL COOKIE WALK!

The Music Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your financial support of this year's *Cookie Walk*! With your generous participation, we were able to raise \$600.42, which will benefit our Music Ministry during the coming year. Our sincere thanks to the Festival Ringers, the Chancel Choir (including past members and friends), and the kids and moms involved with the youth music programs for the wonderful array of sweets donated to this effort! To everyone, we extend our sincere thanks and deep gratitude for your enthusiastic support of our annual holiday event! The Music Committee

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEEDS YOUR VOTE!

The Senior High Youth Group has entered a local contest called "Winter Wish List". We need everyone's help to vote for us. The grand prize is \$5,000 which would be a significant contribution to our fund-raising efforts towards our July 2012 work camp in Clendenin WV. My request is for everyone to go on-line and vote for our group – Senior High Youth Group – Congregational Church of Westborough MA. Please have your family members vote for us, and consider putting the word out to your address book and any social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Linked-In, etc.) We need this to go viral; worldwide. We will need about 10,000 votes to win. Here's the link: <http://www.thedailygrifton.com/promotion/wwl/centralmass>. Page down until you see our name and our picture (green T-shirts) from in front of the church from last year's work camp trip (Keansburg NJ).

GROCERY CARD SALES

Goal for 2011 Budget: \$12,000

Year to Date Sales: \$11,081.25

Thank you, thank you, thank you! With a second Sunday of record sales, we topped the \$11,000 mark and surpassed last year's total sales. We have much to be thankful for at this time of year which includes everyone's dedication to making the grocery card program a success. **Nancy will be selling cards today after worship.** As always, see us at Church, stop by Kirkside, or contact us for delivery. Thanks! Sue Menzel 366-1268 Sally Petersen 366-5169 or sbpetersen4@gmail.com, Nancy Quimby 898-3463 or nquimby11@charter.net

THE EVANGEL – Deadline JANUARY 18, published JANUARY 25.

BULLETIN – deadline WEDNESDAY

HOSTING COFFEE HOUR – call **Linda Borglund** 870-5784.

BAPTISM – Call the church office 366-2000 or speak to a Deacon.

SUNDAY GREETERS – Contact **Linda Birch** 870-9911.

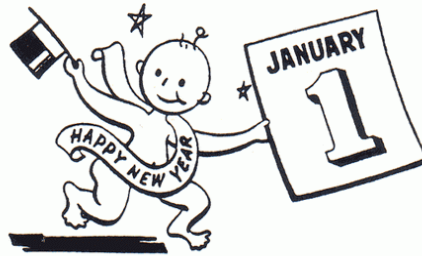
LITURGIST – Contact **Lynne Caldwell** 366-7635.

CHANCEL FLOWERS – Sign chart in the Vestry or call **Chris Mosher** 366-2250 or **Nancy Gage** 366-9266.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE – For a member or friend who needs meals, call **Betty Gray** 366-1039.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Call **Rich Lord** 366-3835 to serve on church boards or committees.





Jan 1	Communion Sunday/Happy New Year!
10:00 AM	Worship Service (no church school)
Jan 2	Monday
4:00 PM	BSA/Vestry
6:30 PM	Search Committee/Board Room
7:30 PM	AA/3 rd Floor Kirkside
Jan 3	Tuesday
9:00 AM	Called To Care/Board Room
10:30 AM	Westboro Health Care Service
7:00 PM	BSA/Vestry
7:00 PM	Missions/Board Room
Jan 4	Wednesday
ANNUAL FISCAL REPORTS DUE	
4:00 PM	GSA/Vestry
4:00 PM	“Journey Home”/Choir Room
4:00 PM	Worship Planning/Board Room
6:00 PM	Confirmation Class/3 rd Floor
7:00 PM	Trustees & Cabinet/Vestry
7:30 PM	BSA/Kerygma Room
Jan 5	Thursday
	No Children’s Choir rehearsals
2:30 PM	GSA/Kerygma Room
6:30 PM	BSA/Board Room, Historical Room
6:30 PM	Teacher Training/Kerygma Room
7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Jan 6	Friday (no events scheduled)
Jan 7	Saturday
9AM – 4PM	Deacons Retreat/Framingham Conference Center
Jan 8	Sunday
10:00 AM	Youth led Worship Service (grades 4-8 remain for worship) (Church School for K-3 only)
11:15 AM	Music Committee/Thou Art
11:30 AM	Deacons/Kerygma Room
4:00-8:00 PM	GSA/Vestry
5:00 PM	BSA Leadership/Board Room

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

West Main & Church Streets, Westborough, Massachusetts



WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!

Our mission is to create a safe place to worship God, and to honor and explore God's promises, fulfilled in Jesus Christ; where Christ calls us to transforming relationships; and where we embrace gifts of the Spirit and build them into a ministry of love, care, acceptance, diversity, grace and hope within our church, our community and beyond.

