

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTBOROUGH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 29 2012

10:00 AM

*The 4th Sunday after Epiphany*

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

*The Board of Deacons has asked that you please do not bring beverages, other than water, into the sanctuary. Thank you.*

*\*The Congregation is invited to stand.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS      *Our Living Church*

INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP    *From Psalm 111*

Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

One: Praise the Holy One!

**All: We give thanks to God with all our heart.**

One: God's works are full of honor and majesty and marvelous in our eyes.

**All: We delight in divine creativity and sing praises to God's holy name.**

One: Our Sustainer feeds the faithful, and nurtures those who observe the commandments.

**All: God's covenant with us blesses us, for God's precepts are righteous and just.**

One: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, wonder, and an open mind.

**All: Holy and awesome is our God! Let us worship the One whom we adore and be counted among the wise.**

HYMN # 464

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

\*UNISON PRAYER

**Holy God, in the midst of the incessant messages that clang for our attention, help us to listen for your Word. For you are Living, and Still-Speaking God bringing your whole and healing realm among and within us right here and right now. Grant us your wisdom and speak through us with actions from the heart. For you are the ruler of righteousness and the source of wisdom revealed through your prophets and your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Let us acknowledge our need to recognize and open to God's Presence with us, and confess our inclination to turn away from Holy Wisdom thinking we know best.*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gentle, Loving God, we confess our need for you, and we turn to you with hopeful hearts. Holy Comforter, come as the breath of renewal and still our stressed out spirits with your peace. Forgiving God, come place your mercy in our souls and free us for the fullness of abundant life. Holy Christ, Bringer of Justice, redirect our willfulness with openness, strengthen our weaknesses with faith in you, and heal us gently in your goodness May the glory of your sovereignty shine in each of our lives and through our love together as your church. Amen.**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Debts*)

**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, forever. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*In the midst of distress and disconnection, re-member that you are made in God's glorious image and God sees you as whole and good. The old is gone, the new is come. In Christ you are a shining new creation.*

**\*ACT OF PRAISE** (Tune #611) *Arise, Your Light Is Come*

***Arise your light is come! The Spirit's call obey  
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!  
Arise your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make you strong.***

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**CHILDREN'S WORD**

*(As children leave, please greet those near you.)*

Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-28(*pew Bible page 812*)

ANTHEM Look Around! Helen Kemp

SERMON A New Teaching Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

SERVICE OF RESPONSE

HYMN # 265 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart MORECAMBE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

SUNG RESPONSE #30 Masithi MASITHI

**Amen, we praise your name, O God. Amen, we praise your name, O God.**

**Amen Ba-wo, Amen Ba-wo. Amen, we praise your name, O God.**

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation:

Offertory I Sing the Mighty Power of God Ralph Vaughn Williams

\*DOXOLOGY (*Unison*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DEACON'S CALL

\*HYMN # 453 Called as Partners in Christ's Service BEECHER

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE Fanfare Jacque Lemmens

Flowers are given today in loving memory of Harold & Klye Howard by their family.

**Carolyn Bent** serves as liturgist.

**Lynne Caldwell** and **Bev Hall** are Deacons of the week.

**Brett Borglund** is Trustee liaison.

## Join us for refreshments and fellowship downstairs following worship

### PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS FOR JANUARY 29, 2012

Bereavement: Shriley Hero and family upon the death of Jack Hero on January 21<sup>st</sup>; The family of Louise Tyler.

New Prayers: Richard Nichols; Lisa DeArmond Wagner; Jen Keeler; Monica Osborn and son Christopher; Amy and daughter Lily (friends of Gen Benton); Susie Moore (Carol Moore's sister).

Continued Prayers: Jeremiah & Jayson Goodall (Wendy Roberts' nephews); Bill Goodall (Wendy Roberts' brother); Parker Uhlman (Nancy Uhlman's husband, Doug Uhlman's Dad); The family of Bruce Blackmer (friends of Justine Lovely); Audrey Birch (Dick & Linda Birch's sister-in-law); 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; Ruth Burke and her children (friends of Kathy and Gabe Leblanc); Jose and Zoila Del Cid (friends of Carolyn Bent); Jamie (Judy Ellis' son); Adam Bent and wife Amanda (Carolyn Bent's nephew); Jean Newton; Thalia Genes and Susan Tobias (friends of Phyllis Newton); Joanne & Jim Gingras; Joan Jacobs.

In the Hospital: Louise Tyler.

Bolton Manor: Richard Clapp.

Beaumont: Shirley Hero (recovering from hip replacement); Marge Lightbody.

Hospice: Robert Turbidy (Habitat construction supervisor).

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](mailto: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.

**Pedro will be away from January 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### IHN DISCUSSION

All are invited to stay after worship today to meet with Stacey Sicurella, Advisory Board member of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Worcester. Many of you are familiar with the IHN and our commitment each summer to help host families who are waiting for permanent housing. The Missions committee was thrilled to be able to support the IHN's campaign to purchase a permanent home this fall. Stacey will be here to tell us about their new home and changes they are making for their program. Please join us at coffee hour to find out more about this exciting local mission and how our Church can participate! *The Missions and Social Concerns Committee*



Perhaps the most famous promise in all Christendom is heard in the 23rd Psalm. Here the Psalmist expresses confidence of God's protection when he ends with: "and I shall dwell in the house of God forever". It is no coincidence that so many families request this Psalm at the funerals of loved ones. People want and need assurance that there is some place of safety here on earth and beyond. It is no accident that the worship space in a church is called a sanctuary...a place for refuge, of hope, of safety. For hundreds of years the church, the sanctuary, was sacred space that could not even be invaded by kings, anyone who entered was safe in God's hands.

The Congregational Church of Westborough affirms that our church will provide a safe, secure environment for all who worship and participate in fellowship and ministry. What does it mean to provide a "safe church" in actual practice? To learn the answer to this question, the Congregational Church of Westborough with the help of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ will be offering a learning / training event on the evening of Tuesday, February 28, 2012 in our church; specifically in the Fellowship Hall; starting at 7:00pm. The well being and safety of our Church depends on everyone's participation. Subsequently, we are asking everyone to attend, including youth and workcamp participants. Please put this important date on your calendar today!  
Your Safe Church Committee, **Dana**

GROCERY CARD SALES

2011 Goal: \$12,000

2011 Profit: \$11,228.50

2012 Goal: \$12,000

2012 YTD Sales: \$531.25



**Financial Update:** Very strong sales in November and December resulted in a successful year for our Grocery Card program. During 2011, \$252,850.00 worth of gift cards were sold to net us a profit of \$11,228.50 which will go to the operation budget of our Church. That's a lot of gift cards! **Don't stop now!** Many folks participated in year-end sales who do not participate on a regular basis throughout the year. If we can keep these new customers along with the regulars, we should be able to surpass our 2012 goal, all to benefit our Church. So keep eating, keep shopping, and keep using your grocery cards. **On sale:** Grocery cards are available each Sunday after worship, at Kirkside during office hours, or add your name to our delivery list.

Happy New Year! Sue Menzel 366-1268, Sally Petersen 366-5169 or [sbpetersen4@gmail.com](mailto:sbpetersen4@gmail.com),  
Nancy Quimby 898-3463, [nquimby11@charter.net](mailto:nquimby11@charter.net).

*The Rev. Dr. Dirkje F.Legerstee, Interim Pastor - [dlegerstee@comcast.net](mailto:dlegerstee@comcast.net)*

*The Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani, Associate Pastor - [revelaineg@aol.com](mailto:revelaineg@aol.com)*

*Mr. Pedro Silva, Student Minister – [Psilva@ants.edu](mailto:Psilva@ants.edu)*

*Curtis Richardson, Director of Music*

*Lisa Coffey, Church Office Phone 508/366-2000*

*Bonnie Rossi, church office [brossi6@verizon.net](mailto:brossi6@verizon.net)*

*Office hours: Mon. Tue. Thur. 9am-2pm; Wed. Fri. 9am-1pm*

*General Church email – [WestboroUCC@Verizon.net](mailto:WestboroUCC@Verizon.net)*

*Church web site [www.UCCwestboro.org](http://www.UCCwestboro.org)*

*U.C.C. web sites - <http://www.macucc.org> (Mass Conference) & <http://www.ucc.org> (National)*

*Our vision: Embodying Compassion, Embracing  
Change, Growing Together in Faith and Love  
(ECC vision in process as of May 2011)*



**CALENDAR - JANUARY 29<sup>nd</sup> – FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
10:00 AM	Worship & Church School
3:00-5:00 PM	Rehearsal for Black History Concert
<b>Jan 30</b>	<b>Monday</b>
4:00 PM	GSA/Vestry
6:30 PM	Search Committee/Board Room
7:00 PM	BSA Pack/Vestry
7:00 PM	Rev. Legerstee's PPRC/Study
7:30 PM	AA/3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Kirkside
<b>Jan 31</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
7:00 PM	BSA/Vestry
7:00 PM	Investment Committee/Board Room
7:00 PM	Website Training/Historical Room
7:30 PM	Festival Ringers/Bell Loft
<b>Feb. 1</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
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 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
7:00 PM	Trustees/Board Room
7:30 PM	BSA/Kerygma Room
<b>Feb 2</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
2:30 PM	GSA/Kerygma Room
4:15 PM	Parkman Bells Rehearse
5:00 PM	Youth Choir Rehearse
6:30 PM	Teacher Training/Kerygma Room
6:30 PM	BSA/Board Room, Historical Room
7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
	<b>NE Women's MA/Vestry</b>
<b>Feb 3</b>	<b>Friday</b>
	<b>Confirmation Retreat/Grotonwood Conference Center (Fri 6:45 – Sat 5:00)</b>
<b>Feb 4</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
9:30 PM	GSA/Vestry
<b>Feb 5</b>	<b>Sunday/Communion</b>
10:00 AM	Worship and Church School
11:30AM	Deacons/Kerygma Room
3:00-5:00 PM	Concert Rehearsal/Choir Room
4:00-8:00 PM	GSA/Vestry

# 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.

