

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTBOROUGH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 23, 2011

10:00 AM

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Our Living Church*

PRELUDE Berceuse Lani Smith

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

One: Eternal God, Alpha and Omega, we mark time in so many ways. May we enter now into your time.

All: A thousand years or a day makes no difference to you.

One: Help us to make the most of every moment you give us.

All: A day without you at the centre is a day wasted.

Children: Show us your love in the morning and we will skip and dance all day long!

All: May the blessings of God rest on us today so that we count ourselves blessed!

*HYMN # 517 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* BEECHER

*UNISON PRAYER Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

Spirit of Light, Life and Love, you are God through infinite space and all time. This alone is cause for celebration, but we also know that we are your people! In you, and through you, we are truly blessed. As we open to your love washing over us now, may we love you with every part of our being: heart, mind, body, and soul. We are grateful for your love in our lives, and we ask for your help as we try our best to share your love with others. We ask this in the name of your son who models the way for us. Amen.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins together so that we may live more boldly as forgiven people.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Everlasting God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Since the creation of the world, you have nurtured us with your love. And yet we do not always share your love with others. We are selective about who we choose as neighbors: only the clean, who look like us, who speak correctly, who seem safe. Loving God, teach us to love you more fully by expanding our love to those who are different from ourselves. For in loving you, our lives will show love to all others, even as your love encompasses all your creation, in all generations. We pray in the name of your greatest gift of love, Jesus Christ who taught us to love you and pray these words.

*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.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God infinitely generous and good beyond all measure, comes to us, reveals and proves God's love for us in Jesus Christ who lived and died and rose again to be with us now, and empowers us with the gifts of the Spirit to live and to share life abundant. Go forth and live and love abundantly!

*ACT OF PRAISE *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* Tune # 2

**You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S WORD God's Pie Pedro Silva

Presented by Stewardship - Neil Bock and Youth Group

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Responsive Psalter Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 pg. 746, Hymnal
Gospel Matthew 22:34-46 pg. 804, pew Bible

ANTHEM Passacaglia of Praise Craig Courtney

SERMON Without Beginning or End Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

SERVICE OF RESPONSE

HYMN # 600 Jesu, Jesu CHEREPONI

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation
Offertory Chapel Litany James Southbridge

*DOXOLOGY (Unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of Life, you have forgiven us and set us free. We respond with our whole lives,
to follow your lead in forgiving others. May these gifts we offer of our time, talent
and treasure extend your beloved community until all your children, everywhere,
know they are forgiven and free. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.**

*HYMN # 477 Pass It On PASS IT ON

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE Lebentanz: “Mit Freuden zart” Franklin D. Ashdown

Doug Wales serves as liturgist

Jean Hall greeted you this morning.

Linda Birch and **Beverly Hall** are Deacons of the week.

Flowers are given today by **Marion True** in loving memory of her parents.

Brett Borglund is Trustee liaison.

Coffee hour is hosted by **Stewardship**.

Join us for refreshments and fellowship downstairs following worship

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS OCTOBER 23, 2011

New Prayers: Gordon and Verna Dwyer in VA (Tom Dwyer’s parents); Garry and Ruth Burke (friends of Kathy and Gabe Leblanc); Kyle Motta (age 1) facing heart surgery.

Continued Prayers: Jose and Zoila Del Cid (friends of Carolyn Bent); Jamie (Judy Ellis’ son); Eileen Stewart (Bonnie Rossi’s mother); Adam Bent and wife Amanda (Carolyn Bent’s nephew); Amy (friend of Gen Benton); Jean Newton; Mike and Maranda Newton (Mike is being deployed to Afghanistan this month); Thalia Genes and Susan Tobias (friends of Phyllis Newton); Nettie Seavey (friend of Carolyn Bent); Christopher Doyle (Pam Faustine’s brother-in-law); Joanne & Jim Gringas (friends of Kathy Todd); Joan Jacobs; Marie Murphy’s daughter.

Hospice Care: Bob Gatley (friend of many in the congregation).

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 eprayers@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. This list is updated monthly. To add or renew an ongoing concern, please call the church office at 508-366-2000 or email westboroucc@verizon.net
Bereavement: Betty Millard passed away this week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN THE EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you are not a recipient of Prayer Chain emails but would like to be, please send an email to the Prayer Chain Coordinator at: eprayers@uccwestborough.org. We welcome new participants. It is a good way to be aware of the concerns and celebrations of the congregation for inclusion in your prayers. The Prayer Chain webmail site is password protected and accessible only to the Coordinator and the church Webmaster. Note: the Prayer Chain is different from the Prayer List which is managed by the church office and published in the weekly bulletins and monthly Evangel. Upon expressing your interest in joining the Prayer Chain, you will receive from the church’s webmail provider, DreamHost, an email asking you to confirm that you want to “subscribe” to Eprayers. “Subscribe” simply means that you want to receive the Prayer Chain emailings. There is no cost, no form to complete, nor anything else to do except to click on the link provided in the email. The confirmation reply is required by DreamHost to prevent people from using DreamHost’s webmail to send spam emails. Thank you. Jerry Lyle, Prayer Chain Coordinator.

NEW MEMBER SEMINARS

If you are interested in finding out more about our Church or would like to join the church, please plan on attending the New Member Seminars on October 16th and 23rd. New Members will be joining the Church on October 30th. For more information contact **Linda Borglund** at 870-5784 or the Church Office at 366-2000.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

All women of the church are invited to the November 7th meeting. In honor of Veteran’s Day, a female Veteran will come share her experiences of serving in the military. Lynne Soukup served in the Army from 1989 to 1993, serving as a Russian Linguist, post Cold War. Come listen as Lynne shares the experience she had during her service to our country as she served during Operation Desert Storm. Social Time begins at 6:30 followed by 7pm meeting and

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – cont'd

program. We are asking people to make their favorite Fudge/Candy/Bark and bring the recipe to share. The Mission will be Massachusetts Veterans Inc. of Worcester, a program that helps veterans as they return home. Some items needed are gift cards of all types, men's & women's personal care items (alcohol free). You can also go to the website to look at their Wish List, www.massveterans.org or get a copy from the Mission Table in the Vestry. We will be collecting items at the meeting and on Sundays in November.

Also, the Women's Fellowship is still collecting donations for the Church World Service Kits – Hygiene and School Bags, plus money donations for shipping the kits and for CWS to put together their Clean Up Buckets.

IHN – “A PLACE TO CALL HOME”

The Mission and Social Concerns Committee has recently made a \$1,000 donation to the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Worcester's “A Place To Call Home”, which will help make the dream of purchasing a permanent home become a reality! The IHN has the opportunity to purchase a two-family home in a safe, friendly neighborhood in Worcester with parking, a garage, a fenced yard for their guest families and enough space for their program to grow! The Interfaith Hospitality Network is an organization that unites people of faith to serve homeless families with shelter, meals, and assistance with housing and employment search. Our Church makes a commitment every summer to help the IHN with hosting responsibilities. Many of our Church members have signed up over the years to prepare meals, serve dinner, and stay overnight with these guests, many of which are young children. These families move to a different “host” location as often as every two weeks. Other Church members have helped raise money recently by participating in the IHN Ride for a Reason Bikeathon!

What an amazing gift from God to help provide a home so that they are not being displaced every two weeks! “To make the long-sought goal of a static site a reality; to promote the well-being of our IHN families; to abide by state codes and keep our guests and volunteers safe, we need to all come together!”

Anyone who would like to contribute may send their donation to: “A Place To Call Home”, BayState Savings Bank, 628 Main St., Holden, MA 01520, Attn: Veronika Tovanyan

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY (1/1/11 – 11/11/11)

Please join the Missions Committee and help support our local Food Pantry! For the first 11 Days of November we are hoping to collect 1,111 food and household items for the Westborough Food Pantry. Donate a Stop & Shop or Roche Bros. card (purchased at Church of course!) or write a check to the Food Pantry for \$11 or \$111! Did you know that a donation of \$1,000 from our Church can provide meat, eggs and bread for 85 families for a week! The Food Pantry is in desperate need of these items: canned fruit, tuna fish, rice, ramen noodles, canned pasta (raviolis, spaghettios, etc), baked beans, cake mixes and brownie mixes. (They do not need soup at this time).

Bring your items to Church and place them under the Missions table located in the Vestry. If you would like your donation picked up, call **Karen Hutchinson** at 508-870-1782.

INTERFAITH EVENT – ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

The Westboro Unitarian Church is collecting electronic waste to be upgraded or recycled. Please help by bringing your old electronics and leaving them in the box near the Ruggles Street entrance by Sunday, October 23rd. They accept all Apple products, laptops, e-readers, routers, hard drives, video console games, cell phones, cameras, portable DVD players and much more. Please include power supplies, chargers, batteries if possible. They DO NOT accept monitors, cable boxes, satellite receivers or desktop computers. If you have questions, contact Karen Hutchinson 508 870-1782

THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR WESTBOROUGH RESIDENTS

Once again, the Knights of Columbus, in conjunction with several civic organizations and religious communities in Westborough, will be sponsoring a Thanksgiving Day dinner. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, November 16th, at the Senior Center. Home deliveries will be made at noontime on Thanksgiving Day and will only be available for those folks who receive *Meals on Wheels*. The dinner itself will begin at 1pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall. There are some openings available for volunteers in a variety of capacities. Sign-up sheets will be forthcoming.

GROCERY CARD SALES

Goal for 2011 Budget: \$12,000

Year to Date Sales: \$8213.25

Left to sell \$3,786.75

Financial Update: Our goal to raise \$12,000 for the operation budget of our Church is an ambitious one. At the end of the 3rd quarter in September, grocery cards had raised \$7,636.00. That's pretty impressive but **15% below** where we need to be at this time. And we realize that some of our shoppers will be curious about the opening of the new Wegman's. Who isn't? We think we can still reach our goal if we use grocery cards to buy Halloween candy, gift cards to restaurants, stores, movies and more. Together we can do this! Contact us if you need cards. Thank you, **Sue Menzel:** 366-1268; **Sally Petersen:** 366-5169 or sbpetersen4@gmail.com; **Nancy Quimby:** 898-3463 or nquimby11@charter.net.

THE EVANGEL – deadline OCTOBER 19, published OCTOBER 26

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.

AUDIO VISUAL REQUESTS – Let **Tom & Donna Morgan** know at least one week in advance 366-0358.

The Rev. Dr. Dirkje F.Legerstee, Interim Pastor - dlegerstee@comcast.net

The Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani, Associate Pastor - revelaineg@aol.com

Mr. Pedro Silva, Student Minister – Psilva@ants.edu

Curtis Richardson, Director of Music

Church Office Phone 508/366-2000

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

General Church email – WestboroUCC@Verizon.net

Church web site 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

Today	Sunday
10:00 AM	Worship & Church School
11:30 AM	New Member Class Part II/Kirkside
2:30 AM	Beaumont Nursing Home
Oct. 24	Monday
4:00 PM	BSA/Vestry
6:30 PM	Search Committee/Board Room
7:00 PM	BSA Pack/Vestry if raining
7:30 PM	AA/3 rd Floor Kirkside
Oct. 25	Tuesday
9:00 AM	Called to Care/Board Room
1:15 PM	Willows Communion
2:00-5:00 PM	Weaver's Guild/3 rd Floor Kirkside
7:00 PM	BSA/Vestry
7:00 PM	Stewardship/Board Room
7:30 PM	Festival Ringers/Bell Loft
Oct. 26	Wednesday
EVANGEL PUBLISHED	
4:00 PM	"Journey Home"/Choir Room
6:00 PM	Confirmation Class/3 rd Floor Kirkside
6:00 PM	Adult Study/Historical Room
6:30 PM	Trustees/Board Room
Oct. 27	Thursday
2:30 PM	GSA/Kerygma Room
4:15-5:00 PM	Youth Choir
5:00-5:45 PM	Parkman Bells
6:00 PM	Court of Honor/Vestry & Sanctuary
6:30 PM	Teacher Training/Kerygma Room
7:00 PM	"Bosom Buddies"/Study
7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Oct 28	Friday
9:30 AM	Playgroup/Vestry
Oct. 29	Saturday (no events scheduled)
Oct. 30	Sunday
10:00 AM	Worship & Church School
NEW MEMBERS JOIN	
4:00-8:00 PM	GSA/Vestry Ministry
	Kerygma Room in use for Santa's Workshop

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.

