

*Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough and more.  
It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity.  
It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.  
Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.  
Melody Beattie*

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTBOROUGH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 13, 2011

10:00 am

Stewardship Sunday

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

*\*The Congregation is invited to stand.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Our Living Church*

PRELUDE Nearer, Still Nearer arr. By William Barnett

INTROIT

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

One: You, Holy God, made the earth and all that is in it. You give us life and breath,  
endowing us with the gifts of your vibrant Spirit.

**Many: "It would have been enough for us!"**

One: You give us safe shelter, heat and light. You give us food and clothing.

**Many: "It would have been enough for us!"**

One: You give us music, art, love and beauty. You create children to care for ours  
and the world's.

**Many: "It would have been enough for us!"**

One: You create trees that bear fruit and sustain life. You form a world with water  
and resources, enough for all to live mutually.

**Many: "It would have been enough for us!"**

One: You create Sabbath and leisure, joy and laughter. You give us neighbors and  
loved ones, communities of love; marriage and friendships.

**Many: "It would have been enough for us!"**

One: You freed us from the bondage of superiority and give us equality in Christ.

**Many: "It would have been enough for us!"**

One: You give us a sanctuary in Westborough and two buildings to resource our ministries, mission, and worship together.

**Many: "It would have been enough for us!"**

One: You call us into the priesthood of all believers; and bring us spiritual leaders in Ministers, Student ministers, a Choir Director, a staff and dedicated members and friends who serve faithfully.

**All: "It would have been enough for us!" Yet, you create this opportune moment, this new morning, this resurrected Christ, this passionate Spirit...this...this...and, this... Thank you for all of this! Come fill our hearts with joy as we worship you!**

HYMN # 86

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

\*UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

**We come with thanksgiving, knowing that all we are and all that we have are gifts from you, Loving God. Speak your Word into the depth of our souls so that we embody them as patience, compassion, and generosity. Accept our gifts of prayer and praise, and our offerings as acts of faith and love. Open our hearts this hour dear God, and anoint us by your unmerited grace, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

*Let us confess our sins so that we may live humbly as forgiven people.*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Forgive us, tender and merciful God, for our limited thinking and meager trust. Heal our impulse to grasp and to hold onto the gifts that you give. Open us to the abundant blessings of this beautiful world and expand our ability to share. Widen our compassion, broaden our vision, deepen our faith, and raise our hope so that we will continue to grow as your people, deepened by justice and love, and strengthened by openhanded giving.**

\*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

*The mercies of God are new each morning, and this morning God forgives us and sets us free from everything that limits our hope for our own lives, the life of this community, and the life of the world.*

\*ACT OF PRAISE #4

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S WORD

Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

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

### CONFIRMATION COMMISSIONING

Katey Allen, Mentor: Mary Ann Brayer

Tabitha Domeij, Mentor: Marge Butcher

Rob Herstedt, Mentor: Clif Newton

Max Keeler, Mentor: Ed Newton, III

Andrew McGrath, Mentor: Doug Wales

Jessica Olson, Mentor: Jen Keeler

Jacob Reynolds, Mentors: Kathy & Paul Reynolds

Katie Shaffert, Mentor: Suzanne Arpante

Leader: Confirmands, will you take responsibility for your journey, doing the best you can to participate fully during these months of exploration, study and walking with a mentor? If so, say "I will with the help of God."

**Confirmands: "I will with the help of God."**

Mentors Promise:

We offer our understanding, prayer and support as our confirmands go forth to explore life. We enfold them in our love, and continue our own journeys seeking together to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people, sharing the Gospel in our own lives, and our struggles to be loving and just Christians.

**Congregational Prayer:**

**Loving God of power, passion and grace, give to these confirmands and mentors strength for the journey, courage to take risks, the joy of faith, the freedom of love and the hope of discovering renewed life in Christ. Amen**

SCRIPTURE LESSON                      Matthew 25:14-30                      *(page 806 in the pew Bible)*

ANTHEM                                      All Things Bright and Beautiful                      John Rutter

SERMON                                      *Risking Enough*                      Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

SERVICE OF RESPONSE

HYMN # 695                                      *God of the Fertile Fields*                      ITALIAN HYMN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE                                      Pedro Silva

CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

    Invitation

    Offertory

    In a Quiet Place

    Ross Anderson

\*DOXOLOGY

*(Tune # 276)*

**We praise thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,  
    In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before thee, we kneel and adore thee,  
    We bless thy holy name, glad praises we sing.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Merciful God, some of us give from-- guilt, joy, obligation, gratitude, obedience, hope, control, or thankfulness. Remind us all of your call to examine our talents and treasures, to use them wisely, share them openly, and give them generously. Thank you for this celebration of giving and the honor of sharing in your realm. Receive these offerings and faith pledges, so that we and all who receive from this giving may be called blessed. Amen.**

\*HYMN # 606

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

    NETTLETON

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

With Grateful Hearts

William Barnett

Worship Notes: The Call to worship is adapted from “Dayenu”, a Passover song that teaches gratitude for having enough. Taken from MACUCC Annual Meeting Worship, 2009.

**Harry Cook** serves as liturgist.

**Ben** and **Ethan Huber** are acolytes.

**Doug Hall** and **Ed Newton III** are Deacons of the week.

**Brett Borglund** is Trustee liaison.

**Join us for refreshments and fellowship downstairs following worship**

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS NOVEMBER 13, 2011

Bereavement: The family of Arthur Wentzell.

New Prayers: James Hight; Aaron (Betty Gray’s great-nephew); Brandon (Betty Gray’s nephew); Jennifer Hamel (John Oliver’s fiancé).

Continued Prayers: Dave Russo; Gordon and Verna Dwyer in VA (Tom Dwyer’s parents); 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); 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; Thalia Genes and Susan Tobias (friends of Phyllis Newton); Joanne & Jim Gingras (friends of Kathy Todd); Joan Jacobs.

Beaumont: Phyllis Shelton; George McKendrick.

Out of the Hospital: Richard Nichols.

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. *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](mailto:westboroucc@verizon.net)*  
Bereavement: Betty Millard passed away this week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY DECORATIONS

The Flower Committee needs pumpkins, gourds, vegetables and apples to decorate the front of the church for Thanksgiving Sunday, which is November 20. Please leave your donations in the marked box in the Library starting Thursday, November 17th. Thank you. Nancy Gage.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

You and yours are cordially invited to attend the Annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 PM, which is being hosted by our Church this year. This is a wonderful opportunity not only to give God thanks, but to join with others of all faiths and to build upon our interfaith relationships which are such a gift and a blessing. If you would like to bring food or refreshments, it would be welcomed. Hope to see you all there!

## 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## MISSIONS

The 2011 Santa's Elves & Giving Tree Program will be set-up in the Vestry after Church starting Sunday, November 20th. Stop down and take a tag from the tree and help make a child's wish come true. The Missions Committee will be there to help and answer any questions you may have. Gifts are due back at the Church by Sunday, December 11.

## PARISH LIFE – MOVIE NIGHT

Parish Life presents Family Movie Night – Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Vestry. We will be featuring the movie **YOGI BEAR**. There will be refreshments and popcorn. Bring a blanket to sit on if you wish. Every one (all ages) is invited. Call **Cathie** 508-870-0521 with questions.

## CHURCH SCHOOL

Congo Kids (grades 4th - 5th) & Junior High Youth Group (grades 6th – 8th) –Our first meeting of the year is tonight from 5 to 7 PM. Pizza and drinks will be provided, and you may bring a snack or dessert to share. Besides eating, we will be planning future events and helping to package items for Santa's Workshop. Hope to see you all there and bring a friend along, too! Contact Kristi Allen ([kristinallen@comcast.net](mailto:kristinallen@comcast.net)) Kathy Reynolds ([kreynolds118@comcast.net](mailto:kreynolds118@comcast.net)) or Nancy Cavanaugh ([nriccav@verizon.net](mailto:nriccav@verizon.net)).

## GROCERY CARD SALES

**Goal for 2011 Budget:** \$12,000    **Year to Date Sales:** \$8,705.75    **Left to sell** \$3,394.25  
Only **6 more Sundays** to sell grocery cards to reach our goal!!! Thanksgiving is upon us; and we at Church have much to be thankful for. Our goal of \$12,000 is actually a commitment to the Church budget. While we realize that this is a stretch goal, together we can make this a success. So bring your checkbook or cash to Church or to Kirkside or call one of us and we will have cards ready for you as you make your many trips to the grocery store this Thanksgiving season. We will even deliver them if needed. So keep eating, keep shopping, and keep using your cards. Don't leave home without them! Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you, **Sue Menzel:** 366-1268; **Sally Petersen:** 366-5169 or [sbpetersen4@gmail.com](mailto:sbpetersen4@gmail.com); **Nancy Quimby:** 898-3463 or [nquimby11@charter.net](mailto:nquimby11@charter.net).

**THE EVANGEL** – deadline NOVEMBER 16, published NOVEMBER 23.

**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.

*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*

*Church Office Phone 508/366-2000*

*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)*



<b>CALENDAR</b>
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**Today                      Stewardship Sunday**  
**Confirmands and Mentors Commissioned**

10:00 AM                  Worship & Church School  
 11:30 AM                  Deacons/Kerygma Room  
 11:45 AM                  Music Committee/Thou Art  
 3:00 PM                    Interfaith Choir rehearsal  
 5:00 PM                    Congo Kids/Vestry  
 7:00 PM                    Senior High Group/Vestry

**Nov. 14                      Monday**  
 4:00 PM                    GSA/Vestry  
 7:30 PM                    BSA/Historical Room  
 7:30 PM                    AA/3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Kirkside

**Nov. 15                      Tuesday**  
 9:00 AM                    Called to Care/Board Room  
 2:00-5:00 PM              Weaver’s Guild/3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Kirkside  
 6:30 PM                    BSA/Board Room, Historical Room  
 7:00 PM                    BSA/Vestry  
 7:30 PM                    Festival Ringers/Bell Loft

**Nov. 16                      Wednesday**  
**EVANGEL DEADLINE**  
 4:00 PM                    GSA/Vestry  
 4:00 PM                    “Journey Home”/Choir Room  
 6:00 PM                    Confirmation Class/3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Kirkside  
 6:30 PM                    GSA Leaders/Vestry  
 6:30 PM                    Search Committee/Historical Room  
 7:00 PM                    Cabinet/Nursery Room

**Nov. 17                      Thursday**  
 1:00 PM                    Staff Meeting/Board Room  
 2:30 PM                    GSA/Vestry  
 4:15-5:00 PM              Youth Choir  
 5:00-5:45 PM              Parkman Bells  
 6:15 PM                    Rev. Gaetani’s PPRC/Board Room  
 7:30 PM                    Chancel Choir

**Nov. 18                      Friday**  
 7:00 PM                    Big Screen Movie Night/Vestry

**Nov. 19                      Saturday**  
 9:30 PM                    GSA/Vestry  
**Nov. 20                      Thanksgiving/Baptism Sunday**

10:00 AM                  Worship & Church School  
 3:00 PM                    Interfaith Choir rehearsal  
 4:00-8:00 PM              GSA/Vestry  
 7:00 PM                    Senior High Group/3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

# 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.

