

Many: Clear the way in us, your people, that we might call others to wholeness and integrity.

One: Holy, transforming Spirit, you call us from fear to faithfulness, from clutter to clarity, from a desire to control to deeper trust, from the refusal to love to a readiness to risk.

All: Clear the way in us, your people, that we might all know the beauty, and transforming power of your love.

HYMN # 323

Wonderful Words of Life

WORDS OF LIFE

*UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

God of the four winds, blow your Spirit through this space. From north and south, east and west, we gather to worship your holy name; we belong to you; we are clay in your hands. Open our ears to the sound of your voice echoing through the spheres. Open our eyes to the brilliance of your presence shining in each new day. Open our hearts to the new reign of Jesus Christ come now to earth. Amen.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

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

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You O God, are Father and Mother; like the potter you fashioned us from clay in your holy image. In these silent moments hear the sighing of our spirits as we lay open our hearts to you. Mold us anew, O God, recreate a right image within us.

*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

At God's command the heavens open, the mountains quake and love descends as an ever-flowing stream. A light shines in the night and the night cannot endure. Trust that the Power that created you in love now forgives and renews you in the same divine spirit. Go forth to proclaim the awesome deeds of our loving God!

*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'S WORD

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Matthew 18: 21-35 *(page 800 in the pew Bible)*

ANTHEM

SERMON Love Doesn't Count Pedro Silva

SERVICE OF RESPONSE

HYMN # 340 *Softly and Tenderly* THOMPSON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation *In good times and bad times, God is faithful to us. We bring forth our offerings – our tithes, our treasures – to demonstrate our faithfulness to God. Today we bring these offerings in the name of the Ruler of Peace, God's beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Come, give your peace to God.*

Offertory

*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**

God, whose faithfulness exceeds the limits of the earth, accept these gifts of our hearts and hands. May they be multiplied and magnified as the living presence of Christ's peace in the world. Amen.

DEACON'S CALL

***HYMN # 149**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Worship Note: The Advent Candle Hymn comes from the New Century Hymnal @1995 Pilgrim Press Permission is granted for this one time use

Susan Cochrane serves as liturgist.

Alan Ayotte and **his son Michael** greeted you this morning.

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

Brett Borglund is Trustee liaison.

Flowers are given today by the **Cochrane Family**.

Join us for refreshments and fellowship downstairs following worship

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS NOVEMBER 27, 2011

Bereavement: Helen Gerden passed away on November 20th. Funeral services will be held on Dec. 3rd at 10:00 am at the Rand Harper Pickering Funeral Home. The family of Bill Warren.

New Prayers: Beverly Campbell (friend of Nancy Walker); Fran Kelly (Megan Huber's mom, facing surgery next week); James Hight; Marge Lightbody.

Continued Prayers: Dave Russo; Ruth Burke and her children (friends of Kathy and Gabe Leblanc); Kyle Motta (age 1); Jennifer Hamel (John Oliver's fiancé); 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; Mike and Maranda Newton; Thalia Genes and Susan Tobias (friends of Phyllis Newton); Joanne & Jim Gingras (friends of Kathy Todd); Joan Jacobs.

Hospice: Aaron (Betty Gray's great-nephew).

Beaumont: George McKendrick.

Hospitalized: Audrey Birch (Dick and Linda Birch's sister-in-law).

Out of the Hospital: Richard Nichols; Brandon (Betty Gray's nephew).

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

“SERVICE OF QUIET” – DECEMBER 21st

A Service of Quiet has been put on the calendar for Wednesday, December 21st from 6:00-6:45 PM. This will be a service of music, scripture and meditation.

THE EVERGREEN FAIR

If anyone would like to take home a kit for the Crafts Table, Serena Leiser will be happy to give you one/some to do. See her after church.

COOKIE WALK IS COMING SOON

The annual ‘**Cookie Walk**’ will be held on **Sunday, December 11**, immediately following the Christmas Pageant Service. Come on down to the Vestry right after the service and feast your eyes on a grand selection of cookie treats. It's a great event for Kids and Adults alike. Grab a container and pile them up high! Cookies will be sold at \$6 a pound, with proceeds benefiting our Music Ministry.

WELCOME NEW CHOIR MEMBERS

The Music Committee and the members of the Chancel Choir extend a hearty “**Welcome Back**”; to *Pat Ainsleigh, Judy Ellis, and Celeste Chenet-Monte!* We have missed their presence and are delighted that they have reclaimed their seats in the Soprano section! We are also happy to welcome a new member – **Rob Herstedt** – who has joined Charlie Flood in the tenor section! Rob has a busy 9th Grade schedule at WHS, but he will join us as often as possible!

CHURCH SCHOOL

Congo Kids (grades 4th - 5th) & Junior High Youth Group (grades 6th – 8th) – Our kick-off meeting was a great success with 20 youth and many adults including our student minister Pedro, his wife Kelly, and their precious daughter Calista. We had pizza and fellowship, planned for future meetings, and helped to create and package crafts and Santa’s Workshop items for the Evergreen Fair. Thanks to all who came and to the parents who transported them. Our next event will be the Church Caroling on December 18th followed by a “yankee swap” holiday party. Watch for more details soon.

Church School Update - November 27th and December 4th will focus on preparations for our Christmas Pageant which will take place during the church service on December 11th. There will also be a dress rehearsal on Saturday December 10th from 10AM-noon. Please encourage your children to participate in the pageant this year. We have an exciting new script that needs children of ALL ages to participate, especially our older youth. Contact Kristi Allen (kristinallen@comcast.net) to sign up!

Alternative Advent curriculum will be offered to children who are not participating in the pageant, so keep coming to Church School during this very special and important season.

Christmas Pageant Update – This week we are starting to assign parts for the Christmas Pageant! November 27th and December 4th will focus on preparations for our Christmas Pageant which will take place during the church service on December 11th. There will also be a dress rehearsal on Saturday December 10th from 10AM-noon. Please encourage your children to participate in the pageant this year. We have an exciting new script that needs children of ALL ages to participate, especially our older youth. Contact Kristi Allen (kristinallen@comcast.net) to sign up!

GROCERY CARD SALES

Goal for 2011 Budget: \$12,000 **Year to Date Sales:** \$9,363 **Left to sell** \$2,636.50
Only 4 more Sundays to reach our goal! We think we can! We think we can! We know we can! We know we can successfully fulfill our commitment of contributing \$12,000 to the annual Church budget. In this season of shopping, Stop & Shop and Roche Bros. not only have food items, they have an incredible selection of gift cards to stores and restaurants, iTunes and gas stations, and more. So buy your grocery cards at Church and use them to buy your gift cards at these locations. You'll be supporting our Church at the same time.

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

CHAPEL IMPROVEMENTS

Stop by the chapel. The sheers have been hung. Brad was down there tonight grouting the tile in the foyer. Jon Oliver is going to strip the floor and polish it on Monday. Next weekend the pews will be put back in place and secured in time for the pageant rehearsal the following Sunday. Steve was putting a second coat of paint on the hallway this afternoon. Many thanks to the Memorial Gifts Committee for supporting this project.

THE EVANGEL – **Note the change -deadline DECEMBER 7, published DECEMBER 14

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

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

***Note: This week from 9am-9pm, the Vestry/Kerygma Room, kitchen & classrooms are in use for the Fair & Santa's Workshops & set-up**

Nov. 27	First Sunday in Advent
10:00 AM	Worship & Church School
2:30 PM	Beaumont Nursing Home
Nov. 28	Monday
4:00 PM	GSA/Nursery School Room
6:30 PM	Search Committee/Board Room
7:30 PM	AA/3 rd Floor Kirkside
Nov. 29	Tuesday
9:00 AM	Called to Care/Board Room
2:00-5:00 PM	Weaver's Guild/3 rd Floor Kirkside
7:00 PM	Stewardship/Board Room
7:30 PM	Festival Ringers/Bell Loft
Nov. 30	Wednesday
4:00 PM	"Journey Home"/Choir Room
6:00 PM	Confirmation Class/3 rd Floor
Dec. 1	Thursday
1:00 PM	Staff Meeting/Board Room
4:15-5:00 PM	Youth Choir
5:00-5:45 PM	Parkman Bells
6:30 PM	BSA/Board Room, Historical Room
7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Dec. 2	Friday
Dec. 3	Saturday
10 AM – 3 PM	Evergreen Christmas Fair with Santa's Workshop and Luncheon
Dec. 4	Sunday/Communion/Advent II
10:00 AM	Worship & Church School
11:30 AM	Deacons/Kerygma 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.

