

***UNISON PRAYER**

Pedro Silva

Healing, Holy and Righteous God of hope, your glory is revealed to us day by day as valleys of despair are lifted up and mountainous problems are leveled. In your presence, we see more than our immediate situation. We catch a glimpse of your eternal purposes. So come among us and within us now, we pray and speak your word of peace. We seek to prepare the Way for God. Baptize us with your Holy Spirit, feed us with your truth, and equip us to welcome Christ's coming. Amen.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

God is patient with us, not wanting any to perish. Yet we have turned away from holiness and godliness. We have chosen to fit into society rather than give leadership for a New Day. Let the church confess its failures:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of glory, we confess that we have not recognized you in our midst, not listened for your voice. Our faith is fragile, and our iniquity goes unrecognized amid our massive self-concern. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the life we have been given. Our church is focused more on our own survival than on its mission in the world. We come to you today with sincere repentance for our neglect. We have failed to prepare the way for Christ's entry into our hearts and into our everyday environment. Sprinkle us, Cleanse us, heal us, forgive us. Pardon and change us, we pray In Jesus' name, the very one who is to Come, the one who taught us to pray

***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 speaks tenderly to us and assures us that our debt has been paid, our sin forgiven, our paths made straight. God's glory is waiting to burst into the midst of all who accept the good news. Surely our salvation is at hand. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. Enjoy the baptism of the Holy Spirit! Amen and Amen.

INVOCATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

By Intinction: You are invited to come forward to have your “Hearts Sprinkled and Cleansed” in the Healing Water of Christ and to Receive Holy Communion.

**(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.)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God thank you for uniting us at your welcome table and for this meal filled with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung your praises may speak in truth, that our eyes that have seen your love, may look with compassion on the needs of the world, our hands which have held this bread and cup may be active in the service of your love. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN # 129

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

TRURO

*BENEDICTION

PASSING OF THE PEACE

BLESSING: Peace of Christ

RESPONSE: Go ye now in peace

SUNG BENEDICTION

Go Ye Now in Peace

Joyce Elaine Eilers

Go ye now in peace, and know that the love of God will guide you. Feel his presence here beside you showing you the way. In your time of trouble, when hurt and despair are there to grieve you, know that the Lord will never leave you. He will bring you courage. Know that the God who sent his Son to die that you might live will never leave you lost and alone in His beloved world. Go ye now in peace. Go ye now in peace.

*POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

arr. Franklin Ritter

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

Elaine Gallo serves as liturgist.

Sterling and **Shawn Fitzgibbons** greeted you this morning.

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

Brett Borglund is Trustee liaison.

Flowers are given today in memory and in honor of loved ones by **Steve, Diana, Michael and Caroline Swets.**

Join us for refreshments and fellowship downstairs following worship

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS DECEMBER 4, 2011

New Prayers: Sheila Currie (a dear friend of Mary McLeod); Renee Jansen (sister of Deb Boucher's sister-in-law); Kathleen (Susan & David Cochrane's sister-in-law).

Continued Prayers: Beverly Campbell (friend of Nancy Walker); Fran Kelly (Megan Huber's mom); James Hight; Marge Lightbody; 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; 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).

Celebration: Betty Carlson has a new granddaughter, Breena May Carlson, parents are Wayne and Maria Carlson; Ina Donahue celebrates the birth of her great granddaughter, Norma-Jean Kruger, on November 21. Norma-Jean is the daughter of Courtney (Domeij) and Dylan Kruger, and granddaughter of Dianne Domeij.

Celebration: Let us celebrate the success of the "Coat Boston" drive that so many of you have participated in! THANK YOU for your donations, thank you for clothing those who are cold, thank you for doing this "unto Jesus". You are truly the Best! God Bless, Rev. Elaine.

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

A POST FAIR NOTE

To all you **wonderful** people who volunteered your time and talents for our 56th church fair, sincere thanks and my heartfelt gratitude. Carolyn Bent.

HONEY BAKED HAM HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

A representative from HoneyBaked Ham Co. will be in the vestry after services today and the next two Sundays selling \$25 gift certificates that may be used at any of their six locations. Gift certificates may be used to purchase their famous hams, turkey breast, platters, side dishes and desserts. Certificates do not expire and they make nice gifts. The closest location is Route 9 in Framingham. 50% of the total sales will be donated to the church! This is a Trustee sponsored fundraiser and all proceeds will go toward the operating budget deficit. Thank you for your support.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Santa's Workshop will be OPEN after church today. Children are welcome to do some "secret shopping" without their parents but everyone else is welcome, too. You may just find a perfect and VERY inexpensive basket for a teacher

gift, hostess gift, or anyone else on your list. A few items will be in the vestry, but most will be up in the Kerygma Room. Thank you to ALL who donated items, carried our bins up and down the stairs, created baskets, wrapped items and baskets, readied the room, volunteered the day of the fair, shopped, and brought little shoppers. This is truly a group effort where many hands make for lighter work and a successful fair. THANK YOU!!!

GRANDMA'S UPPER ATTIC

Grandma's Upper Attic will be open after church on Sunday, December 4th and the 11th. Marion True.

"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.

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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING – DECEMBER 18th

Join us at 4pm in the vestry for pizza and we will "hit the streets" beginning at 5pm to bring our joyful voices to the front door of many of our church family shut-ins. Back to the vestry around 7pm for hot chocolate and yummy treats. Elves and angels of all ages are welcome! You'll want to make this church tradition part of your family tradition! Thanks so much! **Leigh Walker**, Parish Life Committee, 508-847-2575.

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

Today - All children should meet in the chapel for a full pageant rehearsal. Children not in the pageant may attend the Communion Service with their families or participate in an alternative advent activity in the classrooms. 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) with any questions.

Saturday December 10th – Pageant Dress Rehearsal in the Sanctuary from 10AM-noon.

Sunday December 11th – Christmas Pageant takes place during our morning worship service. Immediately following the pageant the children will return to the classrooms to remove costumes and enjoy refreshments. They are invited to bring unwrapped NEW gifts of warm clothing items (hats, mittens, pajamas, jackets, sweaters, etc.) to this special birthday party for Baby Jesus.

Sunday December 18th – "Christmas Stations" – children of all ages will travel through our classrooms enjoying stories, music, crafts, cookie decorating, and fellowship during our morning classroom time.

GROCERY CARD SALES

Goal for 2011 Budget: \$12,000 Year to Date Sales: \$9,692.25

Left to sell \$2,307.75

Only 3 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

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

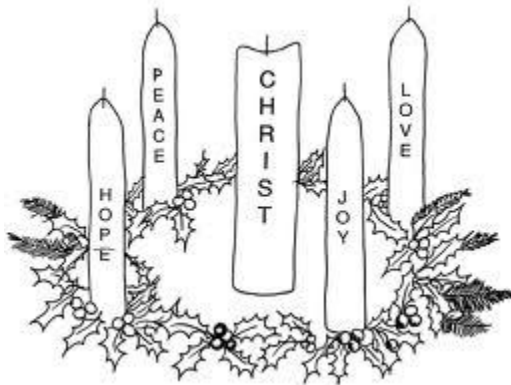
Office hours: Mon. Tue. Thur. 9am-2pm; Wed. Fri. 9am-1pm

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

Dec 4 Sunday Advent II/Communion

10:00 AM Worship & Church School

11:30 AM Deacons/Kerygma Room

4:00-8:00 PM GSA/Vestry

Dec 5 Monday

6:30 PM Women's Fellowship/Vestry

6:30 PM Search Committee/Board Room

7:30 PM AA/3rd Floor Kirkside

Dec. 6 Tuesday

10:30 AM Westboro Health Care Service

1:30 PM GSA/Vestry

7:00 PM BSA/Vestry

7:00 PM Missions/Board Room

7:30 PM BSA/Historical Room

7:30 PM Festival Ringers/Bell Loft

Dec 7 Wednesday

EVANGEL DEADLINE

4:00 PM "Journey Home"/Choir Room

4:00 PM Worship Planning/Board Room

6:00 PM Confirmation Class/3rd Floor

7:00 PM Trustees & Cabinet/Vestry

7:30 PM BSA/Kerygma Room

Dec. 8 Thursday

2:30 PM GSA/Kerygma Room

4:15 PM Children Rehearse

5:00 PM Children's Choir Party

6:30 PM Christian Ed/Kerygma Room

7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Dec. 9 Friday (no events scheduled)

Dec. 10 Saturday

10:00-12:00 Pageant Rehearsal/Sanctuary

12:00 PM Confirmation Class to Russian Icon Museum

1:00-4:00 PM Westborough Woman's Club Annual Holiday House Tour

Reception/Vestry

3:30 PM Cookie Walk set-up/Vestry

Dec. 11 Sunday/Advent III

10:00 AM Christmas Pageant

Cookie Walk following worship

11:30 AM TPC/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.

