

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTBOROUGH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 19, 2012

10:00 AM

The Last Sunday after Epiphany

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Our Living Church*

INTROIT

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

Leader: Jesus was transfigured before them on that Holy Mountain; his garments became iridescent, brilliantly white such as no laundry powder can produce.

People: With the perfection of Holy Beauty, the light of God shines in our darkness. Transfusing & transforming light. Divine light flooding out the shadows.

Leader: Light of love, light of delight. Light that turns doubters into followers.

It is the same God who at the beginning said, "Let there be Light," who has shone in our hearts with an understanding of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

People: The mightiest One of all, God the Eternal, speaks and summons the whole earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Leader: From God's holy mountain, God's light, the perfection of beauty, shines out. From the rising of the sun to its setting, the Awesome One, The Eternal.

All: And a cloud came over them on the mountain, and from this cloud a Voice spoke; "This is my beloved Son, Listen to him." Amen.

*HYMN # 452

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM, LORD

*UNISON PRAYER

God of dazzling beauty, yours is the radiance that transfigured Christ Jesus. Please grant us, this 21st century of disciples, a glimpse of your glory. Within this house of praise, within this congregation, within our prayers and music, within our speaking and listening, within the Communion of all of the Saints, may the radiance of Christ enthrall our minds and hearts once more...that we might rise up and serve You. All glory, Laud and Honor be unto You, the Living Light. Amen.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess our failures, our shadow-self and short-comings before God and one another. Let us pray:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

People: Our days, Most Holy Friend, are spent between light and darkness.....between shadow and light. Often, as the result of our own ignorance, our own wounded egos, or the evil of others, we find ourselves in the darkness. On other precious occasions we find ourselves caught up in your light and love. More often we are in between, busy in the half light, trying to make the best of a compromising existence, stumbling and falling, rising and achieving. With your help we do make some headway for your Kingdom, but still fall far short of the light of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

All: Most gracious God, please persist with your mission of saving us all. By your grace, banish our darkness and enlighten us today. Sweep our shadow selves away with the Wind of your Holy Spirit. Do not allow us to linger dolefully in the gloom of guilt or self-pity. Make us bold to move out to where the shadows are fewer, even though the brighter light shows up our flaws. Please give us more of the light of Christ that our lives may declare your praise. In his radiant Light we pray. 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**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, Cheer Up! Jesus says to you, "Your sins are forgiven!" Take Heart and Believe in this profound News! My friends, permit God's mercy to transfigure your lives; Be no longer ruled by doubt and worry, by shadow casting out the light, but by light and love shining forth! Let us walk as people of the light whose ultimate glory is assured. Amen.

Leader: The light of Christ Jesus be with you always.

All: And also with you.

***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.)

Pedro Silva

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

2 Corinthians 4:3-7

(pew Bible page 939)

Mark 9:2-9

(pew Bible page 820)

ANTHEM

Guidance

Lani Smith

SERMON

Of Shadow and Light

Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

SERVICE OF RESPONSE

*HYMN # 182

Transform Us

PICARDY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

*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

Peace Descending

Franklin Ritter

*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

*HYMN # 464

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

*BENEDICTION

Leader: Let us go forth with quiet confidence in the transfiguring light of Christ.

People: It is the same God who at the beginning said, "Let there be light," who has shone in our hearts with an understanding of the glory of god in the face of Jesus Christ.

Leader: May the love of God encircle you, the grace of Christ enthral you, the friendship of the Spirit enliven you, now and evermore!

All: Yes! Now and evermore! Amen. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

March on in Victory

David Paxton

Worship notes: Parts of this worship were adapted from Worship Resources: Bruce Prewer.

Sara and Grace Cavanaugh are acolytes.

Carolyn Bent and **Linda Borglund** are Deacons of the week.

David and **Jackie Smith** greeted you this morning.

Brett Borglund is Trustee liaison.

Join us for refreshments and fellowship downstairs following worship

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2012

New Prayers: Lisa Coffey's mother Judy (recovering from hip replacement surgery).

Continued Prayers: Dorothy & Homer Angers (dear friends of Sue Menzel); Linda Palatka (Cathy Achorn's sister); Larry and Sue (friends of Allison Caron); Allison Caron; Charlie Flood; Richard Nichols; Monica Osborn and son Christopher; Amy and daughter Lily (friends of Gen Benton); Lisa DeArmond Wagner; Jeremiah & Jayson Goodall (Wendy Roberts' nephews); Bill Goodall (Wendy Roberts' brother); 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); 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); Thalia Genes and Susan Tobias (friends of Phyllis Newton); Joan Jacobs.

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

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

TEACHING PARISH COMMITTEE

Today after church the Teaching Parish Committee will meet in the Board Room at Kirkside.

NOTE FROM JANUARY ANNUAL MEETING

Have you heard the opportunity to remove almost \$9,000 from our budget needs by each of us paying our own UCC dues in the amount of \$18.60 per person. This suggestion was made at the annual meeting, a basket was passed and many started the ball rolling then and there. For any who are able to do this for themselves or their family, it is a big help to our church (other UCC churches are doing this). Between this small effort and buying regular food cards, we could, without much effort, reduce \$21,000 from our budget needs. Thanks for your enthusiastic response at the meeting! **Mary Taber**. *Please write "UCC dues" on your check.*

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The next Women's Fellowship meeting will be held on Monday, March 5th. The program will be a special treat to welcome the approach of spring. Annie Reid, an avid naturalist and the author of "Nature Notes" in the Westborough News, will speak and show pictures of "Spring Comes to Westborough". Men are also invited to attend.

CONGO KIDS EVENTS

-Hello Everyone! The Valentine's Delivery went great! Thank you to all the kids who participated in making and delivering cards and to our wonderful parents who volunteered to drive and support them. Our kids did a great job bringing their sweet smiles to our friends at Beaumont and Whitney Place. The seniors were so excited to interact with them and to read all the uplifting messages on the cards. We also made sure to pay a special visit to all of our former church members at Beaumont and Whitney Place. They all seem to be doing well and send their appreciation and love back to the church.

-So, with that said, I am looking forward to some exciting upcoming events. How would everyone feel about Rock Climbing at the Central Rock Gym in Worcester? I need to get an idea of what day works best for those who are interested in going? We can either plan for Sunday, March 4th (after church again), Friday night, March 9th or Saturday, March 10th.

-This will be a wonderful opportunity to expand to great heights and work on personal skills of trust and awareness. It will also be a ton of fun!! By the way, if there are any parents that have experience with rock climbing, specifically belaying, let me know. If we have our own volunteers to work the ropes, it will only cost \$12 per child. Here's the link to the website: <http://www.centralrockgym.com/worcester/>. Kelly FitzSilva.

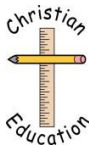
CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

-Today and February 26th – Combined School Vacation Week Classes

Following the “Children’s Word” children in grades K-3rd will meet together in the K/1 and 2/3 classrooms. Grades 4th-8th will meet in the Kerygma Room (6th-8th classroom).

-**This week** the children are revisiting the “Thin Places” in their lives and creating “windows” into these special places. You might notice some new artwork shining through the doors and windows in our Church School Hallways.

-**Next Week:** Please bring a “special” container safe for planting. It could be your favorite color, from a favorite place you’ve been, something you’ve made in the past, a family piece, or just something that catches your eye. You will be sure to get it back after the growing begins!



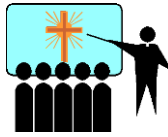
Exciting New Curriculum Coming in March:

“Deepening Communion” with Pedro Silva - Grades 4th-12th welcome!!!

“What’s So Amazing About Polar Bears” – Teaching Kids to Care for Creation – Grades K-3rd

Volunteers are needed to help with this program. *Even if you have never taught before this might be the right opportunity for you. Help us explore the wonders of God’s Creation through some amazing animals: the blue whale, polar bears, hummingbirds, octopuses, and eagles.* Contact Kathy Reynolds (kreynolds118@comast.net) to volunteer for one or more Sundays in March. You can do as little or as much planning as you want. We will do the rest. This is going to be a FUN month in Church School!!!

UPDATES IN ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS



-Beginning **today**, Please join us on an independent spiritual Lenten journey through the use of the book ***Writing to God: 40 Days of Praying With My Pen*** by Rachel Hackenberg. We will gather as a group on **Sunday, March 18 from 11:30 - 12:30** to discuss our journeys with Rev. Elaine Gaetani. Please contact Nancy Cavanaugh (nriccav@verizon.net) if you have questions or if you would like a book ordered for you. Cost of the book is \$11.

-**Wednesday Evenings 6:30 - 8:00, 2/29 - 3/21 -- Lenten Book Study** with Rev. Elaine Gaetani *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times* by Pem Chodron. **This book study will also offer an online discussion forum for both those who cannot make the Wednesday time and for those who wish to continue the discussion beyond the evening. The hardback book costs \$16 or may be ordered as an ebook for your kindle or other e-reader. Please contact Nancy Cavanaugh (nriccav@verizon.net) if you would like to have a book ordered for you.

-**Saturday, March 31: “From Death to Everlasting Life,”** a special Lenten offering. Please join us for dessert and fellowship at 6:30 followed by a special program with visiting Rev. Cynthia Maybeck of Northborough. This program combines stories, songs and Gospel to tell inspiring stories in the midst of funerals and grief. Church vestry.

-**March 29 and May 3: Biblical Studies from the Lectionary:** Led by Rev. Elaine Gaetani, these evening long programs offer Biblical study and insight following the lectionary based lessons used in our church school. They also serve as trainings for church school teachers and assistants. Church School leaders, parents and all adults interested in hearing these stories come to life are invited to the Kerygma room in the church school at 6:30 on 3/29 and 5/3.

***If you ordered a book last week, you may pick it up after church today. For more information on upcoming programs, or if you want to browse through our books, please see our display in the vestry. Cost should not limit anyone from participating in our programs. Please contact either Rev. Elaine Gaetani or Nancy Cavanaugh if you need a scholarship for any books associated with our programs.**

WESTBOROUGH READS TOGETHER

Westborough Reads Together is designed to create a shared community experience, encourage literacy, and promote a community conversation about the issues high school students can face. We are reading Please Ignore Vera Dietz by A.S. King, which is the story of a high school senior girl who struggles to come to terms with the death of her best friend, the loss of her mother, and life in high school. It is designed to be read by high school students and adults. This program is being organized by Westborough Public Library, Westborough Public Schools’ Libraries, Westborough Youth and Family Services, and Westborough TV. Books are available in all formats from the Library, and locally at Tatnuck Booksellers. Discussion groups

will be held throughout February and March, and the author will be at Tatnuck on April 10 at 7 pm. Other activities will be announced. Further information is available at WestboroughReadsTogether.com or by calling the Library at 508-366-3050.

NEW ORLEANS 2012 ADULT MISSION TRIP

It has been seven years since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast and devastated the city of New Orleans. Our church has sent members to help rebuild for the past six years. We have worked on 13 homes and one church. One of the homes we worked on last year was for an elderly, disabled man who became homeless after the storm. I am happy to tell you that his home was completed before Christmas and volunteers held a “welcome home” party for him. Please check the Missions bulletin board for a picture and information. While the UCC Disaster Recovery Office has been closed, another organization is continuing the work. Phoenix of New Orleans (PNOLA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing disaster recovery assistance to residents of Lower Mid-City and the surrounding neighborhoods.

We will be heading to New Orleans on Sunday, May 13th and returning on Saturday, May 19th. It is a four day work week with Friday free to explore and enjoy all that makes New Orleans so unique. Housing (bunk style) will be provided with kitchen facilities. The cost for housing, meals, and rental vans is \$250. Airfare is running about \$200 right now. We do need some skilled labor but unskilled, or some skill is fine. This trip is open to college students and adults. **Please sign up by March 30th.** I hope you will consider joining us this year as we continue to show the love of Jesus by helping others in need. It is an experience you will not soon forget. For more information, please check out the Missions table or call Pam Faustine at 978-464-2026 or Doug Wales at 508-870-0086.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONCERT – FEBRUARY 26th

The Congregational Church of Westborough will host an uplifting afternoon of music, once again celebrating African American History. This has become an annual event among the joint churches led by choir director Curtis Richardson. Choir members from the Congregational Church, Pleasant Street Seventh Day Adventist Church from Worcester, and many more from other houses of worship in Westborough and surrounding towns will be joining us for this special event. The concert will be held on **Sunday, February 26, at 4pm**. Spirituals and gospel music will celebrate and honor Black History Month. Among the songs are “Down to the River to Pray”, featured in the movie “O Brother, Where Art Thou?”, as well as “Peter, Go Ring Dem Bells”, “Ride Up in the Chariot”, and “Lift Every Voice and Sing”. Free will donations will be accepted and all proceeds from the concert go towards music ministry. There will be a reception in the vestry with refreshments afterwards. It’s open to the public and all are welcome.



GROCERY CARD SALES



2012 Goal: \$12,000

2012 YTD Sales: \$1331.25

Keep on buying those grocery cards. If you're going out to dinner or need a gift for someone, both grocery stores have a wide variety of gift cards to restaurants and retail stores. **On sale:** Grocery cards are available each Sunday after worship, at Kirkside during office hours, or add your name to our delivery list. Thanks! Sue Menzel 366-1268, Sally Petersen 366-5159 or sbpetersen4@gmail.com, Nancy Quimby 898-3463 or nquimby11@charter.net

THE EVANGEL – Share your story with us. Deadline FEBRUARY 15, published FEBRUARY 22.

BULLETIN – deadline WEDNESDAY

HOSTING COFFEE HOUR – You can too! Call **Linda Borglund** 870-5784.

BAPTISM – Call the church office 366-2000 or speak to a Deacon.

SUNDAY GREETERS – Contact **Linda Birch** 870-9911. Help us to welcome new friends.

LITURGIST – Contact **Lynne Caldwell** 366-7635.

CHANCEL FLOWERS –If you would like to celebrate or honor a person or event with flowers, you can sign the 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 – If you would like to learn more about serving on a Board or 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

Lisa Coffey, Church Office Phone 508/366-2000

Bonnie Rossi, church office brossi6@verizon.net

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 - FEBRUARY 19 – 26th

Feb 19	Sunday
10:00 AM	Worship & Church School Parish Life Pancake Lunch following worship
12:00 PM	Teaching Parish/Board Room
3:00-5:00 PM	Concert Rehearsal/Choir Room
Feb 20	President's Day/ Church office closed
4:00 PM	BSA/Vestry
6:30 PM	Search Committee/Board Room
7:30 PM	AA/3 rd Floor Kirkside
Feb 21	Tuesday
10:00 AM	Meeting/Study
1:00-3:00 PM	GSA/Vestry
7:00 PM	BSA/Vestry
7:00 PM	Communications Task Force/Board Room
7:30 PM	Festival Ringers/Bell Loft
Feb. 22	Wednesday
	EVANGEL PUBLISHED
4:00 PM	"Journey Home"/Choir Room
7:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Service with Communion
Feb 23	Thursday
1:00 PM	Staff Meeting/Board Room
4:15 PM	Parkman Bells Rehearse
5:00 PM	Youth Choir Rehearse
6:30 PM	Rev. Gaetani's PPRC/Board Room
7:00 PM	"Bosom Buddies"/Study
7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Feb 24	Friday
7:30 PM	Concert Rehearsal
Feb 25	Saturday
9AM-5PM	AVPCC Retreat/all of Kirkside
4:00 PM	Black History Concert Dress Rehearsal/ Sanctuary
Feb 26	Sunday/LENT I
10:00 AM	Worship & Church School
4:00 PM	Black History Concert and Reception

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

West Main & Church Streets, Westborough, Massachusetts



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

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.

