

THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
August 28, 2011

SERVICE OF PREPARATION  
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

*\*The congregation is invited to stand.*

PRELUDE *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* Doris Akers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS - *Our Living Church*

OPENING SENTENCES

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God! Obey God's voice, and keep covenant with God.

**All: Day by day, we are lifted up on eagles' wings. Today we have been led to this place of worship.**

One: I appeal to you, sisters and brothers: remember the mercies of God, and seek God's will.

**All: We bring ourselves as living sacrifices, that we may be transformed and our minds renewed.**

One: Seek here what is good and acceptable and perfect. Recognize once more the gifts God has given you.

**All: We are here to recognize ourselves as one body. In Christ, we are empowered to be the church.**

\*HYMN # 623 *Woke Up This Morning* WOKE UP

\*UNISON PRAYER

**In this sanctuary set aside for your worship, we pause to contemplate your greatness, O God. Out of the thick clouds that limit our vision, we hear you whisper our names and call us into community. The mountains and the seas tremble before you; all living things announce your presence. You claim us as your own and equip us to be a holy people. Help us to accept that role without misusing it, that your name may be honored in all we do, and your way be lifted up among all people. Amen.**

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

*In what do we take pride? To whose standards do we conform? Is our faith all that God intends? Are we functioning effectively as members of one body? Are we using the gifts God has given for the benefit of all of God's creation? As we examine ourselves before the wonder of God, let us confess all that falls short of God's plan for us.*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We tremble before you, O God, when we consider our broken and damaged relationships. You have made us for community, but we act as isolates. You seek our transformation and renewal, but we tend rather to conform to the world's agenda. You call us to love what is genuine, and to affectionate devotion, but we have put self-interest first. You have called us to be zealous for the good but we have become complacent about evil. You have given us gifts to use for the common good, but we have hoarded them for our advantage. Save us from our self-destructive ways. 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, for ever. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Of what advantage will it be to gain the whole world and forfeit our lives? God has entrusted us with the gift of life and challenged us to spend it as followers of Jesus. In Christ, we find our true identity and experience the forgiveness and wholeness God intends for us. God claims us, grants us gifts, and equips us for our service in the world.*

\*ACT OF PRAISE #49

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, by every tongue!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

CHILDREN LEAVE FOR "SUNDAE" SCHOOL (As children leave, please greet those near you.)

GOSPEL LESSONS

Romans 12:9-21

(pew Bible page 922)

Matthew 16:21-28

(pew Bible page 798)

AHTHEM

*The Blessing*  
Thee Six

Brendan Graham & David Downes  
arr. by John Purifoy

SERMON

"LED BY THE SPIRIT"

Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

SERVICE OF RESPONSE

\*HYMN # 619

*My Life Flows On*

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

*Invitation: The God who bears us up on eagles' wings invites us to participate in the transformation of the world. The church at its best is devoted to nothing less than changing people's thoughts and actions to a more loving way. Contribute in liberality; give aid with zeal; service with caring devotion. Our offerings symbolize our commitment.*

Offertory

*We Will Always Share a Song*  
Thee Six

Becki Slagle Mayo & Lynn Shaw Bailey

\*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.***

\*Unison Prayer of Dedication

**We give our best, Gracious God, lest in gaining the whole world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to do our part to witness to your will and way. As we give, help us to perceive more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our management. As we contribute to the needs of the saints, we present ourselves as living sacrifices. Direct us according to your will. Amen.**

DEACON'S CALL

\*HYMN #22

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

\*BENEDICTION (Responsive)

One: Address the world I genuine love and affection. Hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

**All: All that God has spoken, we will do; we will keep covenant with our Creator.**

One: Walk with Christ in self-giving service; live in genuine affection as one body in Christ.

**All: We will use our differing gifts faithfully; we will give our best for the sake of all.**

One: Christ has promised to come to us again. In Christ, death itself is emptied of its power.  
**All: We enter a new week aglow with the Spirit. We pray that God's will may be done through us. Amen. Amen.**

SUNG BENEDICTION – Please join Thee Six in singing Hymn #444, *Let Us Now Depart in Thy Peace*

\*POSTLUDE

*Fanfare*

Gilbert Martin

We gratefully thank “**Thee Six**”, (**Myra Appleby, Carol Steinbrecher, Kathy Todd, Pam Kapitz, Jen Keeler** and **Sue Menzel**) for their music today. They were accompanied by **Curtis Richardson**.  
**Melanie Borglund** is Deacon of the week.  
**Brett Borglund** is Trustee liaison.

We welcome back **Rev Elaine Gaetani** from her well deserved vacation.  
**Rev. Dr. Dirkje Legerstee** is away today.

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

PRAYERS AUGUST 28, 2011

New Prayers: Mike Newton who is being deployed to Afganistan in Oct. and is expecting his first child any day.  
In Transition: Jack Hero at Beaumont; Richard Smith at Beaumont; Robin Tammik (Heidi Tammik Synnott's sister).

In Treatment: Olympia Fournarakis (friend of Jen Todd); Peggy McCaleb (Mary Ann Brayer's friend)

Continued prayers: Nancy Dellaire (friend of Betty Barclay); Bob Gatley (friend of many in the congregation); Rev. Cindy Frado, Christopher Doyle (Pam Faustine's brother-in-law); Bob Rider (Nancy Reimann's Son); Fran Kelly (Megan Huber's Mom); Donna and Tony Marge (friends of Serena Leiser); Betty Millard at Beaumont; Joanne & Jim Gringas (friends of Kathy Todd); Monica Osborn; Debbie Weber (Richard Nichols' daughter); Joan Jacobs; Marie Murphy's daughter; Cindy (Kathy Todd's co-worker)

Prayer or 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. *To add or renew an ongoing concern, please call the church office 366-2000 or [westboroucc@verizon.net](mailto:westboroucc@verizon.net).*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4  
WORSHIP STARTS AT  
10:00 AM**

STOP & SHOP – ROCHE BROTHERS GROCERY CARD SALES

Goal 2011: \$12,000.00      Year to Date: \$6698.50

**Summer Hours**: After worship each Sunday and at Kirkside Tuesday and Thursday, 10am-1pm.

**Farmer's Market**: From lawn of our Church each Thursday 1-6 PM

**Delivery to your home**: Any time, every day!! Just call us. We need strong sales throughout the summer. It's never an imposition to call us.. Thanks! **Sue Menzel** 366-1268; **Sally Petersen** 366-5169 [sbpetersen4@gmail.com](mailto:sbpetersen4@gmail.com);

**Nancy Quimby** 774-249-4431, [nquimby11@charter.net](mailto:nquimby11@charter.net)

**JOIN US FOR START-UP SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 11  
“Following in Jesus' Footsteps”**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our program schedule traditionally begins in October, but this year we will have an informal program on Monday, **Sept. 12** to start planning for the Christmas Fair. Come and help us get a little bit of a head start on the Fair and hopefully reduce some of the last minute stress we have run into in the past. On **Oct. 3**, we will have our traditional Opening Fall Dinner hosted by the Board. This is a free dinner open to all women of the church, so mark your calendars now. **Donna Morgan**, President

PARISH LIFE  
September 10, 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm  
Second All Church Barbecue  
Achorn Acres, 67 North Street Upton, Home of Steve and Cathie Achorn  
Features hot dogs and hamburgers from the grill, horse back rides, horse and cart rides, Bocci ball. Please bring a dish to share.

THE EVANGEL – deadline

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** at 870-9011.

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.

**CALENDAR August 28-September 3**

**Today**      **Sunday**  
9:30 AM      Worship/Church School program  
**Aug. 29**      **Monday**  
6:30 PM      Pastoral Search Committee/Board Room  
6:45 PM      BSA Troop 382/Kerygma Room  
7:30 PM      AA/3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Kirkside  
**Aug. 30**      **Tuesday**  
No Events Scheduled  
**Aug. 31**      **Wednesday**  
4:00 PM      Journey Home Singers/Choir Room  
**Sept. 1**      **Thursday**  
1-6 PM      Dismas House Farmer's Market/Church Lawn  
**Sept. 2**      **Friday**  
No Events Scheduled  
**Sept. 3**      **Saturday**  
No Events Scheduled  
**Sept. 4**      **Sunday**  
10:00 AM      Worship & Summer Church School Program - **NOTE NEW STARTING TIME**

Sharing the Ministry of Our Church

Ministry by the People of the Church

The Rev Dr Dirkje Legerstee, Interim Pastor - [dlegerstee@comcast.net](mailto:dlegerstee@comcast.net)

The Rev Elaine Gaetani, Associate Pastor - [revelaineg@aol.com](mailto:revelaineg@aol.com)

Church Office Phone 508/366-2000

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)

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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.

Our vision: *Embodying Compassion, Embracing Change, Growing Together in Faith and Love*  
(ECC vision in process as of May 2011)