

THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
September 25, 2011 10:00 AM
The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Our Living Church*

PRELUDE *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* arr. by Larry Shackley

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

INTROIT *In This Very room* Carol/John Harris

*CALL TO WORSHIP Pedro Silva

One: The Spirit of God moves among us, binding us in covenant with faithful people of every time and place.

All: The Spirit stirs within us, moving us to proclaim the gospel to all people.

One: The Spirit moves through us, making us channels of God's love.

All: As we gather to worship, we open ourselves to the spirit of the living God made known to us in Jesus Christ.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN # 288 *O God of Vision* LOBE DEN HERREN
Accompanied by the Parkman Bells
Directed by Jen Keeler

*UNISON PRAYER

Creating God, we thank you that you call us to be your church, and for the great cloud of witnesses who carried the lamp of hope to the world before us. As we discern your vision for the future, work in us to extend this loving, caring community to the least of your children everywhere. Self-emptying God, empower our passion for justice so that we may live truly, as your people in service to all humanity. Give us an attitude of joy as we unite our hearts and minds in the Spirit of your love, Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

Friends in Christ, God knows our needs before we ask, and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace. Let us open our lives to God's healing presence, letting go of all that separates us from God, from our neighbour, and from our own self.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, Alpha and Omega, we return to you with grateful hearts so that your miracle of grace may break afresh upon us. Remove any jangling distractions or pressing worries that crowd our minds and hearts this hour. May the light and stillness of Your presence center our lives with peace. As we bless Your unfailing presence in our community, turn us once more to face Your mercy, not through fear but with anticipation; not through overwhelming guilt, but with steady trust. Forgive our fragmented lives and mindless actions. Recall us to the rhythm of service and hope that enables our response to Your call, with steadiness of purpose and intention. Loving God, in the stillness of this moment, breathe awareness into us so that may we know you, and embody the change that your Spirit inspires, through Jesus Christ we pray.

*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

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. In Jesus Christ, God conquers sin and death reconciling the world to God. God promises to those who trust forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace. Rejoice in our gracious God! You are forgiven and free.

*ACT OF PRAISE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Tune # 2

**You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S WORD

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

Rev. Dr. Peter Wells

COMMISSIONING OF OUR STUDENT MINISTER: Mr. Pedro Silva

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Genesis 12:1 - 4

Hebrews 11:32 – 12:2

ANTHEM *Fairest Lord Jesus* arr. by Mark Hayes

SERMON Dragging Lumber up the Hill Rev. Dr. Peter Wells

SERVICE OF RESPONSE

*HYMN # 275 *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* WESTMINSTER ABBEY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Bell Offertory

Northern Lights Margaret Tucker
Directed by Sue Menzel; Pam Kapitz on flute

*DOXOLOGY (*Unison*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures her below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN # 717 *Let All Things Now Living* ASH GROVE

*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Wells

*POSTLUDE *March Triomphale* Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Melanie Borglund serves as liturgist
Marge Butcher greeted you this morning.
Linda Borglund and **Ed Newton III** are Deacons of the week.
Maggie Reynolds and **Julie Hutchinson** Acolytes
Brett Borglund is Trustee liaison.

Join us for refreshments and fellowship downstairs following worship

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS SEPTEMBER 18, 2011

New Prayers: Thalia Genes and Susan Tobias (friends of Phyllis Newton).
In Transition: Jack Hero 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: Nettie Seavey (friend of Carolyn Bent); Bob Gatley (friend of many in the congregation); Rev. Cindy Frado, Christopher Doyle (Pam Faustine’s brother-in-law); Betty Millard at Beaumont; Joanne & Jim Gringas (friends of Kathy Todd); Joan Jacobs; Marie Murphy’s daughter

Bell Anthem: When Margaret Tucker composed “Northern Lights”, she shared with us her inspiration. “Since I grew up in S. Dakota and my husband in Minnesota, I wanted to write a piece that would evoke memories of those places. One thing these states shared was strong Native-American heritage. The one song I knew was the Dakota-Sioux Hymn, “Many and Great”. Philip Frazier, a Native-American Congregational Minister, did the translation from the native language into English, which he taught to Pilgrim Fellowship campers in S. Dakota.”

The Festival Ringers are excited to present this anthem in recognition of American Indian Ministry Sunday.

The artwork for our lovely Growing Season banners was created by **Linda Crawford** and executed by **Linda Birch** and **Donna Morgan**.

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 eprayers@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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO A SPECIAL MEETING

OCTOBER 2, 2011

A Special Meeting of The Evangelical Congregational Church of Westborough will be held Sunday, October 2, 2011 at 11:30 AM in the church vestry. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

- * To hear and discuss presentation from the Properties Task Force on the sale of a church building. This will be a discussion only – No vote will be taken at this meeting.
- * To discuss and vote on a change in the name of the Church.
- * To hear an update on the Church’s year-to-date finances.
- * To transact such other business as may regularly come before the meeting.

NEW MEMBER SEMINARS

If you are interested in finding out more about our Church or would like to join the church, please plan on attending the New Member Seminars on October 16th and 23rd. New Members will be joining the Church on October 30th. For more information contact **Linda Borglund** at 870-5784 or the Church Office at 366-2000.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

On **Oct. 3rd**, 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, 6:30pm social time; 7:00pm dinner. Final sign up TODAY after church! **Donna Morgan**, President

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Please note that children in grades 4 through 8 have the option of staying with their families in church today to hear our guest preacher or leaving after the children’s chat for class.

* This month we focus on getting to know each other and making our plans for this coming church school year. Stop by our classrooms and take a peek at the bulletin boards in our hallways to see the art we have created. You might see a familiar “face” or name! *cont’d on next page*

* Thank you to all of you who filled out [registration forms](#) last week. Forms are available on our website, outside the church school classrooms and in the library during fellowship hour. All church school children must have a completed registration form. Please be sure to include your email so you can receive regular updates about our program.

* [Help Wanted](#) – we are currently seeking volunteers for our October Church School session. We will be following our new easy to use lectionary based curriculum. We need teachers, assistants, and substitute teachers (especially for the holiday weekend) for all age groups. If you have any questions, feedback, or would like to volunteer contact **Kathy Reynolds** kreynolds118@comcast.net (508)625-1491.

CONFIRMATION GATHERING

There will be an initial gathering of this year’s confirmands and their parents and interested mentors on Wednesday, Sept. 28th at 6:00 pm at Kirkside.

ADULT EDUCATION

Register now for: **Discovering Your Gifts, Vision and Call**, a 6 week adult education group that will meet **Wednesdays from 6-8 pm from Oct 5th – Nov 9th**.

This group, led by Rev. Elaine Gaetani, is from the 4th book in the Doorway Series (the same series at “Meeting Jesus in the New Testament”) and speaks to those who are concerned about the pain and despair in the world and looking to identify ways to contribute to positive change. It offers a process for discerning your vocation and a model for working with others who share you calling. It will help deepen your connection with the Divine, build caring community, and discern your purpose in life. Cost of the program is \$7 and scholarships are available. To register, please call the office at 366-2000.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Save the Date!!! The Music Committee invites you to our Musicale “MUSIC ‘n MORE, TALENT GALORE!” – Saturday, October 22, 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. This is a variety show featuring vocal soloists and music ensembles, instrumentalists, and comedy acts. Don’t miss it!!

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 2, 2011

We will join with our brothers and sisters throughout the world to participate in Holy Communion. We are planning to serve a variety of breads and adorn our Communion table with these loaves. If you would like to donate a loaf of bread for this holy occasion please contact **Linda Birch** at 508-870-9911 or at [Birchouse@verizon.net](mailto:birchouse@verizon.net). Suggestions are German style rye, Irish soda bread, Syrian bread, Italian bread, French bread, Swedish rye, etc. The breads will also be enjoyed at Fellowship hour following our Worship service. Many thanks!

CROP WALK

Mark you calendars for Sunday, October 16th at 1:00 pm and plan to join the interfaith community for the annual **Crop Walk**, which begins and ends at our church. Sponsor sheets are now available in the vestry. Please see **Judy Powell** or **Alan Hutchinson** with questions.

SERVICE OF HEALING & WHOLENESS

The First United Methodist Church, 120 W. Main, Westborough is offering a Service of Healing & Wholeness on **Sunday, Sept. 25th** at 5:30 pm. This service offers an atmosphere in which healing can begin. All healing is of God. He can restore us to health and heal our hearts. We are all in need of healing of some kind. We may need physical healing. We may need healing from feelings of rejection, grief, failure, fear, frustration, or anxiety. We may need strength, courage, patience, guidance, and hope. We may need reconciliation with God or with family or friends. Come join us to feel God’s great love and awesome power. Personal prayer will be available.

CARE FOR CAREGIVERS

Care for Caregivers will be held Saturday, Oct 22, 9:30am – 3:30 pm at Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, MA just south of Boston. The day will include unique worship, gentle yoga and stretching, large and small group spiritual exercises, a presentation on practical caregiver resources and more. The retreat cost \$50 per person. If you have any questions or want more information, contact Lindsay McGrath at 781-385-9401 or visit www.spiritedmovements.org.

GROCERY CARD SALES – Stop & Shop – Roche Bros.

Goal for 2011 Budget: \$12,000 **Year to Date Sales:** \$7,440.75 **Left to sell** \$4,559.25

You are welcome here! You are welcome to help boost sales of our Grocery Card program. Our Church buys Stop & Shop and Roche Bros. gift cards in bulk at a discounted price. We sell them to you at face value. The profits support our Church programs. Sales have been steady all summer long and sales at the Farmer’s Market have been strong. We continue to seek your support in order to meet our 2011 goal.

You are welcome to purchase cards after worship on Sunday morning, during office hours at Kirkside, or add your name to our delivery list and we’ll bring the cards to you! Thank you, **Sue Menzel:** 366-1268; **Sally Petersen:** 366-5169 or sbpetersen4@gmail.com; **Nancy Quimby:** 898-3463 or nquimby11@charter.net.

THE EVANGEL – deadline SEPTEMBER 21, published SEPTEMBER 28

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.

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

Today	Sunday
10:00 AM	Worship & Church School Program All church lunch following worship
4:00-8:00 PM	GSA/Vestry
7:00 PM	BSA parent’s meeting/Chapel
Sept. 26	Monday
4:00 PM	GSA/Vestry
6:30 PM	Search Committee /Kerygma Room
7:00 PM	ITT/Board Room
7:00 PM	BSA Pack Meeting/Vestry
7:30 PM	AA/3 rd floor Kirkside
Sept. 27	Tuesday
1:30 PM	Willows Communion
2:00-5:00 PM	Weavers Guild/3 rd floor Kirkside
6:30 PM	BSA/Board Room, Historical Room
7:00 PM	BSA/Vestry
7:30 PM	Festival Ringers/Bell Loft
Sept. 28	Wednesday
EVANGEL PUBLISHED	
4:00 PM	“Journey Home”/Choir Room
6:00-7:00 PM	Confirmands, parents, mentors meeting/3 rd Floor/Kirkside
Sept. 29	Thursday
1:00-6:00 PM	Dismas House Farmer’s Market/Church Lawn
2:30-4:00 PM	GSA/Kerygma Room
4:15-5:45 PM	No Youth Choirs – no school
7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Sept. 30	Friday
9:30 AM	Playgroup/Vestry

Oct. 1 **Saturday**
 8:00 AM-3:00 PM Super Saturday, Mass Bay Community College
 10:00 AM Memorial Service & Collation/Vestry

Oct. 2 **Sunday**
 10:00 AM Worship & Church School Program / Communion
 11:30 AM See Call to a Special Meeting under announcements
 Music Committee/Thou Art: following Special Meeting
 4:00-8:00 PM GSA/Vestry

Ministry: By the whole congregation
 The Rev. Dr. Dirkje Legerstee, Interim Pastor - dlegerstee@comcast.net
 The Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani, Associate Pastor - revelaineg@aol.com
 Mr. Pedro Silva, Student Minister
 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)

The Evangelical Congregational Church

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.

