

*"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."  
Martin Luther King Jr.*

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTBOROUGH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 15, 2012

10:00 am

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

*\*The Congregation is invited to stand.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

One: God, who made the world and everything in it, is the Creator of heaven and earth, and does not dwell in temples made with hands.

**Many: Nor is God worshiped with people's hands, as though God needed anything, since Our Creator gives to all life, breath, and all things.**

One: The Holy One has made from one blood every nation of humankind to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.

**Many: God is not far from each one of us; for in God we live and move and have our being. As it has been said, 'For we are also God's offspring'.**

One: Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and human devising.

**All: Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all people everywhere to repent, because the Divine One has appointed a time in which the world must come into alignment with righteousness in the Way of Jesus Christ.**

HYMN # 546

*Amazing Grace*

NEW BRITAIN

**\*UNISON PRAYER**

Pedro S. Silva II

**Mysterious God whose very nature is sought and found in relationship. Thank you for hiding your gifts in the stranger and revealing Yourself in the mouths of children. You are never far from us. For you plant yourself in our hearts and bloom in our prayers. May our highest prayer be to do Your will.**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Confession is the gift of reflection. When we confess that we have missed the mark we are opening the way for hearts and minds to come into alignment with truth and God's reality. Let us confess together and open our hearts to correction in accordance the Divine Nature we profess.*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful One, We have called out to You and You have heard our prayers. You have given us wisdom. You have given us strength and You have given us life. You have given us all things. What could we possibly give to You? All you have asked of us is to love others as we love ourselves. But we have fallen short on both counts. Help us to receive the love You have shown us in and through Christ and to live that love into the world.**

**\*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**

*The mercies of God are new each morning, and this morning God forgives us and sets us free from everything that limits our hope for our own lives, the life of this community, and the life of the world.*

**\*ACT OF PRAISE #4**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S WORD

Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

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

**Congregational Prayer:**

**One God, Who is All in all. Jesus taught us that loving You with all of our heart, mind, and soul was equal to loving our neighbors as ourselves. Help us to see the truth in these commandments. As we go out into the world, purify our eyes, our ears, and our heart to see, hear, and feel Your Presence in every moment. You have called us. Teach us to live out that call day by day. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

2 Peter 1:1-21

*(page 987 in the pew Bible)*

ANTHEM

Amazing Grace

Jack Schrader

SERMON

*A View From the Mountain*

Pedro S. Silva II

SERVICE OF RESPONSE

HYMN # 608

*I Would Be True*

PEEK

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory

Offertoire

Alexandre Guilmant

\*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**

**Abundant God, In You there is no lack. Your Divine Energy is the Source from which all manifestations flow and the destiny to which all return. When we give, it is not to give to You, but rather it is to give like You. As we surrender to the Truth of Your abundance we understand that by withholding what You have given us to share with others we are denying Your reality and our inheritance. Thank you for yet another opportunity for us to remember who we are in You. Amen.**

\*HYMN # 606

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

NETTLETON

**\*BENEDICTION**

\*POSTLUDE

The Solid Rock

Lani Smith

Worship Notes: The Call to worship is adapted from Acts 17. Changes were made to make the passage more gender neutral.

**Leigh Hopkins-Walker** and her children, **Zachary** and **Mallory** greeted you this morning. **Melanie Borglund** and **Ed Newton III** are Deacons of the week. Brett Borglund is Trustee liaison.

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

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS FOR JANUARY 15, 2012

Bereavement: Janice Makris and family upon the death of her mother.

New Prayers: Amy and daughter Lily (friends of Gen Benton); Susie Moore (Carol Moore's sister); Jeremiah & Jayson Goodall (Wendy Roberts' nephews); Bill Goodall (Wendy Roberts' brother); Parker Uhlman (Nancy Uhlman's husband, Doug Uhlman's Dad); The family of Bruce Blackmer (friends of Justine Lovely).

Continued Prayers: Audrey Birch (Dick & Linda Birch's sister-in-law); Michael Newton (deployed to Afghanistan); Sheila Currie (dear friend of Mary McLeod); Renee Jansen (sister of Deb Boucher's sister-in-law); Michael Black (good friend of Steve & Diana Swets); Dirkje's mother-in-law (recovering from hip surgery); Kathleen (Susan & David Cochrane's sister-in-law); 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); 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); Jean Newton; Thalia Genes and Susan Tobias (friends of Phyllis Newton); Joanne & Jim Gingras; Joan Jacobs.

In the Hospital: Louise Tyler; Richard Clapp.

Beaumont: Marge Lightbody.

Hospice: Robert Turbidy (Habitat construction supervisor).

Celebration: Gerda and Dick Clapp on the birth of their Great Granddaughter, Irene Constance Sullivan, born December 19<sup>th</sup>.

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.

**Rev. Gaetani will be on a 2 week “working from home” vacation from January 8<sup>th</sup> through January 21<sup>st</sup>.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS
---------------

ANNUAL FISCAL MEETING

Call: The 286<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiscal Meeting of The Congregational Church of Westborough will be held Sunday, January 22, 2012 on or after 11:30 AM in the church vestry. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

1. To hear and act upon the reports of the Moderator, Church Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees and the Missions & Social Concerns, Capital Campaign, Stewardship and Properties Committees.
2. To approve monies for the current expenses of the church.
3. To discuss and vote on the sale of a building.
4. To hear an update from the Financial Oversight Committee.
5. To transact such other business as may regularly come before the meeting.

**David R. Smith**, Church Clerk

GROCERY CARD SALES

2011 Goal: \$12,000

2011 Profit: \$11,228.50

2012 Goal: \$12,000

2012 YTD Sales: \$338.25

**Financial Update:** Very strong sales in November and December resulted in a successful year for our Grocery Card program. During 2011, \$252,850.00 worth of gift cards were sold to net us a profit of \$11,228.50 which will go to the operation budget of our Church. That's a lot of gift cards! **Don't stop now!** Many folks participated in year-end sales who do not participate on a regular basis throughout the year. If we can keep these new customers along with the regulars, we should be able to surpass our 2012 goal, all to benefit our Church. So keep eating, keep shopping, and keep using your grocery cards. **On sale:** Grocery cards are available each Sunday after worship, at Kirkside during office hours, or add your name to our delivery list.

Happy New Year! Sue Menzel 366-1268, Sally Petersen 366-5169 or [sbpetersen4@gmail.com](mailto:sbpetersen4@gmail.com), Nancy Quimby 898-3463, [nquimby11@charter.net](mailto:nquimby11@charter.net).

## PROGRESSIVE DINNER – JANUARY 28th

One of the most enjoyed activities for years has been the Progressive Supper. This year we will do it again – on Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup>. If you've never participated, please consider joining us. It is a great way to spend time in a smaller setting with several different groups of people.

Here's how it works:

You'll have appetizers at one house (6:30-7:45)

Then proceed to dinner at another house (8-9:30)

And return to the church for dessert (9:45-?)

All with a different crowd of church friends at each location!

### Again this year – Childcare!

We are again having a children's pajama party at the church. For \$20 per family, your kids can join in the fun and activities at the church while you enjoy the grown-up dinner. Proceeds go to the Sr. High work camp trip.

Please sign up soon as it takes a little effort to coordinate who goes where and to plan for the children's activities. Sign up by **January 20<sup>th</sup>** in the Vestry or by emailing or calling **Nancy Cook** ([508-366-0047](tel:508-366-0047) [nancycook8@msn.com](mailto:nancycook8@msn.com))

Please also indicate if you are willing to host a course of the dinner. Responsibilities are:

**Appetizer hosts:** host approximately 8 people at your home and provide 2 simple hors d'oeuvres, beverages and name tags.

**Dinner hosts:** host approximately 8 people at your home and provide salad and beverages

**Dinner co-host:** responsible for main dish, rolls, etc. – bring to the dinner host's home

**Dessert hosts:** responsible for dessert and coffee, set-up and clean-up at church.

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

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

*Mr. Pedro Silva, Student Minister – [Psilva@ants.edu](mailto:Psilva@ants.edu)*

*Curtis Richardson, Director of Music*

*Lisa Coffey, Church Office Phone 508/366-2000*

*Bonnie Rossi, church office [brossi6@verizon.net](mailto:brossi6@verizon.net)*

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

*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)*

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

# CALENDAR - JANUARY 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Jan 15**

10:00 AM

11:15 AM

**Jan 16**

4:00 PM

6:30 PM

7:30 PM

**Jan 17**

6:30 PM

7:00 PM

7:30 PM

**Jan 18**

4:00 PM

4:00 PM

6:00 PM

6:30 PM

7:00 PM

**Jan 19**

2:30 PM

4:15 PM

5:00 PM

7:30 PM

**Jan 20**

6:30 PM

**Jan 21**

**Jan 22**

10:00 AM

11:30AM

4:00-8:00 PM

**Sunday**

Worship & Church School

Music Committee/Kerygma Room

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

(CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED)

BSA/Vestry

Search Committee/Kerygma Room

AA/3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Kirkside

**Tuesday**

BSA/Board Room, Historical Room

BSA/Vestry

Festival Ringers/Bell Loft

**Wednesday**

**EVANGEL DEADLINE**

GSA/Vestry

“Journey Home”/Choir Room

Confirmation Class/3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

GSA Leaders/Vestry

Cabinet/Trustees/Kerygma Room

**Thursday**

GSA/Kerygma Room

Parkman Bells Rehearse

Youth Choir Rehearse

Chancel Choir

**Friday**

GSA Sleepover until 9am Sat. /Vestry

**Saturday** (No events scheduled)

**Sunday/Baptism**

Worship and Church School

Lunch & Annual Fiscal Meeting/Vestry

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.

