The Congregational Church of Westborough
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

OPEN DOORS – GROWING FAITH!
No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!

WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!
We are an “Open and Affirming” Church

Dec 1, 2019
**WELCOME!**

Are you visiting with us today? We are glad you are here!

We celebrate “OPEN DOORS and GROWING FAITH”

“No matter who you are or where you are on your journey, you are welcome here.”

If you are here for a brief visit or are searching, let us be of help. Speak to an usher or the pastor and we will gladly be of service.

Our restrooms are located beyond the vestry on the first floor. There is a handicapped elevator located in the back of the sanctuary and a deacon will be glad to assist you. We have a handicapped bathroom next to the main office near the parking lot on the first floor.

Should there be a need to leave the service, there are exits to either side of the pulpit in front, or the stairs on either side in the back.

We celebrate open communion on the first Sunday of the month, where everyone is welcome to partake. Children are invited as well.

We welcome children to remain in worship today however we also offer a children’s program each Sunday in the nursery for children in grades 3 or younger and faith formation for older children most Sundays. We offer crayons and coloring pages for those who wish to keep their fingers moving during the service and we are comfortable with children being children! If your children need to move about, please feel free to stand in the back or go downstairs where the service can be heard over our speaker system.

**WE HOPE YOU WILL BE INSPIRED AND PRAYERFULLY FILLED IN OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**and that**

**YOU WILL FEEL WELCOMED, AS ONE WHO BELONGS!**

**Statement of Inclusion**

We, the people of The Congregational Church of Westborough, United Church of Christ, believe that all people are created equal, in God’s image. “We are all God’s children.” In our journey of faith, we strive for justice and equality for all.

We invite and welcome into our community and into the full life and Christian ministry of this church, persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, family structure, faith background, economic circumstance, mental and physical ability. We say, and mean, “No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

We declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing our belief in diversity and inclusion. We seek to be a faith community centered in Christ, ready to proclaim the Gospel and seek to grow through the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. We offer to each person acceptance and the responsibilities and blessings of participation in this congregation.
*The Congregation is invited to stand.

INVITING THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Sue O. Remick

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Women’s Fellowship: Lighting the Candle of Hope – The Prophet’s Candle

Prayer:  Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from You. We ask for Your mercy and reform us in Your image. This Advent, visit us with Your hope. Amen.

People (*sing*): (Tune # 119 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive, Israel. That mourns in lonely exile here. Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*GREETING

* SONG #119 (v. 2-4)  “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  VENI EMMANUEL

*CALL TO WORSHIP  Women’s Fellowship

Leader:  Listen. Deep in the darkest night is the sound of hope.
People:  Deep in the midst of despair is a message of new life.
Leader:  Listen. It is coming closer.
People:  A bell in the distance,
Leader:  A sound of joy,
People:  An echo of love,
Leader:  A note of promise,
People:  A melody of praise.
Leader:  Listen.
O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, touch and easily believe. But You did not ask us to believe what is easy, You have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways You work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us when we question how You chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that You sent your Son, born of a virgin — the One who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of Your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

(=Jan Brooks, Cottonwood Falls Presbyterian Church=)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE
Rev. Remick
O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. As we wait for Christmas, we know that Christ has already come into our world and lives, has already been born in us. We are renewed and restored. Go and share the good news of God’s love and restoration. Amen. —Adapted from Rev. Mindi, rev-o-lution.org.

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.

(Children in grades 3 or younger may leave for their program)

RECEIVING TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE
Romans 13:8-14
(Pew Bible page 923)

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM
“A la nanita nana” Spanish Carol, arr. Roger Folstrom

A la nanita nana, nanita ea.
Mi Jesús tiene sueño, bendito sea.
Fuentecilla que corres clara y sonora,
Ruisenor q’en la selva cantando llora,
Callad mientras cuna sebalancea.

A lan nanita nana, nanita ea.
My Jesus, He is sleepin, O come behold Him.
Little brook ever flowing, rushing and ringing,
Nightengale in the forest, sighing and singing,
Quiet while the cradle gently enfolds Him.
REFLECTION

“Toward the Rising Sun”  

Pete Graham

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

(Communion at our church is always served with gluten free bread and is open to all)

COMMUNION HYMN

“As We Gather at Your Table”  

BEACH SPRING

As we gather at your Table,  
As we listen to your Word,  
Help us know, O God, your presence:  
Let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
Till we claim it as our own;  
Teach us through this holy banquet  
How to make Love’s vict’ry known.

Turn our worship into witness  
In the sacrament of life;  
Send us forth to love and serve you,  
Bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
To forgive as you forgave;  
May we still behold your image  
In the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
Other guests to share that feast  
Where triumphant Love will welcome  
Those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
Nor will pride our peace destroy,  
As we join with saints and angels  
To repeat the sounding joy.

(Children and youth enter to join us for communion)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pete Graham

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION
WORDS OF INSTITUTION and SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP
(We will receive communion by coming forward, taking a piece of bread and dipping it into the cup. If you would like to receive from your seat, please raise your hand after others have been served and we will be glad to come to you.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
We thank You gracious God for this meal which You have given us. As we gather around our own tables in the days ahead, might we be reminded of this table, where all are welcome, and love always is the answer to hate. Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Rev. Remick

MUSIC RESPONSE # 306 “Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”
Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS
Women’s Fellowship
Invitation: Gracious God, we thank You for this season of carols and gifts, and for Your most precious gift of Jesus. We offer You our lives and these gifts: our hopes and our hearts as the morning offering is given and received.

JoySpring Anthem “Even So Come” Chris Tomlin, Jess Cates Jason Ingram

All of creation, all of the earth. Make straight a highway, a path for the Lord.
Jesus is coming soon.

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint. Let every nation, shout of Your fame.
Jesus is coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom, we'll be a church ready for You.
Every heart longing for our King, we sing: Even so come, Lord Jesus, come.

There will be justice, all will be new. Your name forever, faithful and true.
Jesus is coming soon.

So we wait, we wait for You. God, we wait. You're coming soon.

*DOXOLOGY (Unison)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)  Women’s Fellowship
God of great gifts and great love, as we await the birth of Your son in hope and peace and joy and love, may our gratitude be reflected in the gifts we give. Because of our generosity, might others know of the babe, born in a manger — and in our hearts anew. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG #140  “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”  SHEFFIELD

*BENEDICTION  Rev. Remick

*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  (You are invited to sit for the Postlude if you wish. Let the worship service settle in your heart. If you wish to exit, please do so quietly.)

Join us for fellowship and refreshments downstairs after worship!

Women’s Fellowship members greeted you this morning and served as liturgist. Liz Jarobski and Chris Murphy are Deacons of the day.

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS FOR DEC 1, 2019

New Prayers: For Betty and Ted’s family in the unexpected death of a nephew Scott and for families as they travel to Delaware; for their niece Heather and her family; continued prayers for Mike and Stephanie.
Continued Prayers: Kristy Kocou; Cheryl Toole’s mother Patricia (GiGi) Brand Robert Aldrich; Megan Huber’s mother Fran Kelly; Marie Murphy’s son Craig Jernberg and her daughter Lisa Jernberg; Cathie Achorn’s friend Julie Noble and her preemie baby Kosmas Andrew Melitas; CJ Harris (Marge Butcher’s grandnephew); Dianne Domeij; Nancy Reimann and Judy Kaprelian; Cathie Achorn’s mother Dee Mumby; Lauren Algelro undergoing cancer treatments; Bob Brown; Gini & Tom Erwin; Wendy Reardon’s mother, Sandy; Anna Gavel, granddaughter/cousin of Karen Gavel and the Oevermanns; Linda Polatka (Cathie Achorn’s sister); Ron and Nancy Clark’s daughter, Melissa Dickinson.

Prayer requests: You can place prayer concerns on the church’s email distribution list at eprayers@uccwestbоро.org. If you would like a prayer request included in today’s service, please let a Deacon know prior to the start of worship. Prayers will remain listed for 8 weeks. If you would like a prayer renewed, please call the church office.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOOKING AHEAD
Please be advised that on Christmas Eve, we will have only one service of Lessons and Carols at 7:00 pm. The family service will be the Pageant which will be on Sunday, Dec. 22\textsuperscript{nd} at 5 pm. Spread the word!

CHRISTMAS FAIR NEWS
Please sign up on the poster in the library today. Many hands make light work and we need more hands. If you can bake, donate jewelry, donate grandma’s attic white elephant items, donate silent auction items or you can work on the wreaths the week before, starting tomorrow Dec.2 please let us know. Several people donated stop and shop cards last week. Thank you so much. We could use another one. Just stop in between Dec. 1-6 and we can put you to work on a variety of projects. Thank you in advance you Fair Chairs, Linda, Sandy and Cathie 508-380-8671

GIVING TREE AND SANTA’S ELVES PROGRAMS
HO HO HO!!! Do we have your attention??? We know you haven’t even eaten your turkey yet, but tags for our 2019 Westborough Interfaith Giving Tree and Framingham Department of Children and Families’ Santa’s Elves programs will be available again TODAY 12/1. Gifts of all types for children of all ages are available and are expected to be about $25 each. Don’t have time to shop? Make a donation and we will do the shopping for you. Important details:

\begin{itemize}
  \item ALL tags must be SIGNED OUT. Please see an adult or youth member of our Missions Team to sign out the tags at the tables after choosing a tag(s) off the trees.
  \item All WRAPPED gifts are due back to the church vestry by 11AM on Sunday December 8th.
\end{itemize}

If you have any questions please contact Kathy Reynolds (774-262-4326) kreynolds118@comcast.net. Thank you in advance for your generous support of these great missions!

DISMAS HOUSE
Our church goes on the first Thursday of the month to cook and serve a meal with the people of Dismas House, a home for ex-prisoners. If you would like to help, be in touch with Karen Hutchinson at millarhutch@aol.com. The next dinner will be Thursday, Dec. 5\textsuperscript{th}. Donations of Stop & Shop cards are greatly appreciated to help with the shopping for the meals! Thank you.

GROCERY CARD PROJECT
\begin{tabular}{ll}
2019 Goal: $ 8,000 & 2019 YTD: $ 5,553.80 \\
\end{tabular}
\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{We’re ready!} We are stocked up with a variety of denominations of grocery gift cards. Great Pie Challenge? Be sure to purchase a grocery gift card donation here. Interfaith Thanksgiving Baskets? We’re ready for that too! We will be sure to get your donation to whichever project you wish to support. And don’t forget your own Thanksgiving shopping. We are thankful for your support. If you need cards delivered contact Karen Hutchinson at 508.870.1782 or millarhutch@aol.com or Nancy Quimby at 774.249.4431 or nquimby11@gmail.com or Sally Petersen at sbpetersen4@gmail.com and 366.5169.
\end{itemize}
CONTACTS AND INFORMATION
Rev. Sue Remick, Interim Minister – revsuerem@gmail.com
Peter Graham, Student Minister – petegrahamiam@icloud.com
Wendy Reardon, Director of Children’s and Youth Ministries - wendysreardon@yahoo.com
Joseph Stillitano, Interim Minister of Music – josephmstillitano@gmail.com
Sue Menzel, Director of Bells – westcongmusic@gmail.com
Office hours: closed Mon; Tues & Wed 9am-2pm, Thurs 10am-2pm, Fri 9am-1pm
Church office phone 508/366-2000
General Church email – westboroucc@verizon.net, Church website www.uccwestboro.org
www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough

POINSETTIAS
The Flower Committee is taking orders for poinsettias for display in the Sanctuary on
Sunday, December 22nd. Plants will be delivered to octogenarians and shut-ins. Send
your order and check (made out to "The Congregational Church of Westborough" noting
Flower Committee on memo section) to the church office

BY FRIDAY, DEC. 13TH
#_______ of plants at $12 each. $___________ total

Plants are given (please note which) in memory of or in honor of:
(Please print clearly)
FOR: ____________________________________________  FROM: ____________________________________________
_____________________________________________  ________________________________________________
_____________________________________________  ________________________________________________
_____________________________________________  ________________________________________________
# Calendar

**Dec 1**
- **Advent I - Communion Sunday**
  - 10:00 AM Worship Service & FF
  - 11:15 AM Kid’s bells & Chimes
  - 2:30 PM GSA/Vestry

**Dec 2**
- **Monday** (office closed)
  - 11:00 & 1:30PM PCC/Fannie Forbes
  - 7:30 PM AA/Nursery

**Dec 3**
- **Tuesday**
  - 10:00 AM Staff Meeting
  - 10:00 AM Whitney Place Service
  - 10:30 AM Beaumont Service
  - 11:00 AM PCC/Fannie Forbes
  - 11:15 AM Willows Communion
  - 2:00 PM Worship Planning

**Dec 4**
- **Wednesday**
  - 9:15 AM Playgroup/Nursery
  - 7:00 PM Deacons/Kerygma Rm

**Dec 5**
- **Thursday**
  - 2:00 PM PCC/Fannie Forbes

**Dec 6**
- **Friday**
  - Noon-6PM Santa’s Helper Kerygma /Classrooms

**Dec 7**
- **Saturday – Evergreen Fair**
  - 9AM-Noon “Main Character” Rehearsal/Sanctuary
  - 9AM-3PM 64th Evergreen Fair & Luncheon

**Dec 8**
- **Advent II**
  - 10:00 AM Worship Service & FF
  - 11:15 AM Kid’s bells & Chimes
  - 5:00 PM GSA/Vestry
  - 7:00 PM GSA/Kerygma Rm
The 64th Evergreen Fair

The Fair will be this Saturday
We hope you come to share the day.
The homemade pies and breads galore
The Kids can shop in their own store.

Santa will sit and pose with you
The Greens look great, enjoy the view.
  Jewelry of days gone by
  May be the thing to catch your eye.

Handwork made with loving care
A time for lunch when you can share
  Activities for the younger set
  Make an ornament or cookie yet.

The Crafty Ladies worked as well
They hope their handmade crafts will sell.
  With blankets of cloth and beads
  Colors galore to suit your needs

‘Grandma” has those unknown treasures
Ignore the cold, laugh at the weather.
The work’s been long and hard, it’s true
For worthwhile things, this you must do.
  The food, the gifts, the fellowship
  We think it will be worth the trip.
