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 29, 2019
BELL SUNDAY
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 - The Christ Candle 

Readers:  Deacons

*People’s Prayer: (In unison)*

God, our Life and Light, thank You for coming this night (day) to us. Thank You for touching all heaven and earth with Your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine (this night) with Your great Love. In every corner of our hearts, shine (this night) with Your Peace. Amen.

*People (sing):  (# 124  Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence v. 4)*

At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, “Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, God most high!”

*GREETING  (During flu season, remember to limit handshaking. Bows, Elbow bumps, or a wave are great)*

*CALL TO WORSHIP  

Leader:  Presents unwrapped, 

People:  Batteries are all run-down.

Leader:  Christmas trees are turning brown.

People:  Still, one present glows so bright –  

The Child in a manger with heavenly light.

Leader:  Christmas continues the whole year round

People:  Whenever love and kindness abound.

Leader:  So gather your wits and sing loud and strong.

People:  Christmas continues, so raise up your song!
PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Please be seated.)

Deacon

Heavenly Creator, may our hallelujahs ring loud and true as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Let us rejoice knowing that He is truly Emmanuel, God with us. Our hearts are filled with joy knowing that we see Your face in the precious baby Jesus. May our worship and praise be to Your glory. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Debts)

Deacon

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.

YOUTH’S MESSAGE

Rev. Remick

*CAROL HYMN (see insert) “The Twelve Days of Christmas”

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Rev. Remick

Luke 2:8-14

Pew Bible pg. 833

SERMON

Rev. Remick

“The Bell Family”

CAROL HYMN
(lyrics on back page)

Rev. Remick

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Remick

CAROL HYMN #150 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSHON

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Deacon

Invitation: Let a band of angels watch over us, O Lord, lest we set our foot against a stone. Send them now, Lord. Send them now so that fear may turn soon to rejoicing. And let our gifts flow freely, as though borne on angels' wings. In the name of the Child about whom the angels sing. Amen. Let us demonstrate our joy through our generous Christmas Offering.

Offertory Anthem

3
*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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison) Prayer Shawl Committee
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 plans, our work and our play. May hope, peace, and love blossom from our gifts. Amen.

*CLOSING CAROL HYMN #167 “Go Tell It on the Mountain” GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*BENEDICTION Rev. Remick

*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!

Thank you to Judy Ellis for filling in for Joe Stillitano today.
The Deacons are Advent readers and liturgists this morning. Theresa DiMeo and Rhona Nabakka are Deacons of the day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRAYERS &amp; CELEBRATIONS FOR DEC 29, 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bereavement: Berit Steen and family upon the death of her husband Milton on Sunday, Dec. 22.</td>
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<td>Continued Prayers: continued prayers for Mike and Stephanie Jaworsky; Kristy Kocou; 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); Nancy Reimann; Cathie Achorn’s mother Dee Mumby; Lauren Algelro undergoing cancer treatments; Bob Brown; Gini &amp; Tom Erwin; Anna Gavel, granddaughter/cousin of Karen Gavel and the Oevermanns; Linda Polatka (Cathie Achorn’s sister); Ron and Nancy Clark’s daughter, Melissa Dickinson.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayer requests: You can place prayer concerns on the church’s email distribution list at <a href="mailto:eprayers@uccwestboro.org">eprayers@uccwestboro.org</a>. 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.</td>
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO A SPECIAL MEETING – JANUARY 12, 2020
A Special Meeting of The Congregational Church of Westborough will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2020 following worship at 11:30 AM in the vestry. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

1. To discuss and vote on a budget for 2020.
2. To transact such other business as may regularly come before the meeting.

David R. Smith, Church Clerk

NEW DATE FOR DISMAS HOUSE DINNERS!
Our church goes once a month to cook and serve a meal with the people of Dismas House, a home for ex-prisoners. Beginning in January we will now be going on the 4th TUESDAY of each month. If you would like to help, be in touch with Karen Hutchinson at millarhutch@aol.com. The next dinner will be Tuesday, Jan 28th. Donations of Stop & Shop cards are greatly appreciated to help with the shopping for the meals! Thank you.

GROCERY CARD PROJECT

2019 Goal: $ 8,000 2019 YTD: $ 6,378.00
We’re ready! We’ve stocked up on Grocery Cards so that you can do all of your Christmas grocery shopping at Stop and Shop, Roche Bros. or Price Chopper. Every dollar we earn supports the Operation Budget of our Church. Please help us help the Church by having a grocery card in your wallet. Bring your checkbook to church and we’ll be waiting for you in the vestry. 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.

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
### DEC 29TH – JAN 5TH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 29</td>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 AM Worship Service &amp; FF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 30</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong> (office closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 &amp; 1:30PM PCC/Fannie Forbes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 PM AA/Nursery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 31</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday – New Year’s Eve</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 AM PCC/Fannie Forbes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td><strong>Happy New Year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong> (no events)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td><strong>Friday</strong> (no events)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 4</td>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong> (no events)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td><strong>Communion Sunday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 AM Worship Service &amp; FF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:30 PM GSA/Vestry</td>
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**Happy New Year 2020**
“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep.  
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!  
The wrong shall fail,  
The right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men!"