Tis the Season to be… Grateful…. Fa, La, La, La, La, La, La, La.
I have always felt privileged to be a pastor to a congregation. It is truly an honor to serve you in this way. No matter what season it is when I arrive, it appears that we go through a few seasons before I leave. We have just now passed the week of gratitude with our Thanksgiving celebrations, challenging us to count our blessings in a blessing weary world.

Tis the Season to be… Humbled…. Fa, La, La, La, La, La, La, La.
This past month, I have faced my own health crisis. It has taught me to be more open to receiving help from others, something that is hard for me. It taught me that God is the driver, not me. It taught me and is still teaching me, that my problems are really nothing compared to so many and so this Thanksgiving, I ate my own humble pie and said thank you, great God.

Tis the Season to be… Panicked…. Fa, La, La, La, La, La, La, La.
Now we enter the season of great expectations with lists of things to do, cards to write, events to attend, concerts and recitals, fairs and bazaars, office parties, and neighborhood gatherings. We deck our halls and become so tired, that I think that is why we don't know the rest of the words to that song. Tis the Season to be…..Exhausted….. Fa, La, La, La, La, La, La, La.

Tis the Season to be… Watching…. Fa, La, La, La, La, La, La, La.
Now is the time to watch for meteors and stars of night. Now is the time to watch for God's arrival. Now is the time to look beyond the bright lights and sales ads to find the Christ who waits patiently while we watch for him. This Advent is my favorite season of all because of this. We are waiting and watching through this pregnant pause, not unlike an interim season. While we wait, may we pay attention to what God has for us to learn, notice, and take into our hearts.

Tis the Season to be… Quiet…. Fa, La, La, La, La, La, La, La.
It is in the pausing that we are quieted. During these clear and cold nights that take our breath away we begin to see in these Holy nights, how God brings our breath right back to us. It is this season of all seasons that Christ comes again and again as the greatest gift of all.

For all of this, let us sing out loud about the joy of Christmas even when our world and perhaps even our life has turned dark. Let us sing – even if we don’t know all the words and do not know as well what tomorrow will bring.

Tis the Season to be… Joyful…. Fa, La, La, La, La, La, La, La.
May this Christmas season and all seasons to come, bring you into sweet communion with the Holy One, Jesus the Lord.

Sue Remick
PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Bereavement: Jane Goland and family upon the death of her husband David.

New Prayers: 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 Jaworski; Kristy Kocou; Cheryl O’Toole’s mother Patricia (GiGi) Brand.

Continued Prayers: Robert Aldrich; Megan Huber’s mother Fran Kelly; Marie Murphy’s son Craig Jernberg and her daughter Lisa Jernberg; Marge Butcher’s grandnephew CJ Harris; Cathie Achorn’s friend Julie Noble and her preemie baby Kosmas Andrew Melitas; Diane Domeij; Judy Oliver; Nancy Reimann; Judy Kaprelian; Cathie Achorn’s mother Dee Mumby; Bob Brown; Gini & Tom Erwin; Tom Morgan’s brother, Dave; Wendy Reardon’s mother Sandy; Anna Gavel; Ron and Nancy Clark’s daughter Melissa Dickinson.

Kindred Health Care: Bea Ladner

You can place prayer concerns on the church’s email distribution list at eprayers@uccwestboro.org. To add or renew an ongoing concern, please call the church office 366-2000 or westboroucc@verizon.net

FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Highlights of this fall, besides the inspirational worship services we have had each week, are the two baptisms. In October, the Parent’s twin boys, Isaac and Simon were baptized. In November, Hilary and Harper, Todd and Jenna Minardi’s twin girls were baptized!

We have had well-attended and informative discussions following worship to assist the Search Committee.

The Board of Deacons is looking forward to Advent and the Christmas season. We thank the various committees of the church whose members will be lighting the advent candles and leading the readings.

Because the Christmas Pageant will be presented Christmas week, we will have only one service, at 7:00 p.m., on Christmas Eve. There will be an inspirational message, beautiful music, carol singing and candle lighting. We look forward to seeing you there! The next Deacons meeting is Wed. Dec. 4, 7:00 p.m.

LETTER FROM THE CABINET

As many of you are aware, medical issues have necessitated that Rev. Sue reduce the amount of time she is able to devote to her role as our Interim Pastor. Consequently, she has generously suggested that her compensation be reduced accordingly during her absence. She is especially concerned that she has had to reduce the time she would like to devote to visitation. Our Student Minister Peter Graham has agreed to take on some additional hours during which he would visit several of our homebound and/or hospitalized members. Rev. Sue will coordinate visits with the Board of Deacons, the Called to Care Committee and Pete.

We ask that you continue to pray for Rev. Sue’s full recovery and thank you for your understanding.

FLOWER COMMITTEE

It’s that time of year to purchase poinsettias in honor of or in memory of a special person. This year we will have the display up on Sunday, Dec. 22nd. We would ask that you purchase them by Dec. 13th. The flowers will then be delivered to the octogenarians and shut-ins after the service. The price this year is $12.00 per plant.

See the order form at the back of the Evangel.
MISSIONS

HABITAT NEWS

On Saturday, November 6th we helped to construct framing for doors and windows for 3 townhouse units to be built in Worcester. We worked hard all day and had a wonderful lunch. If you missed the work day, there will be another one in the spring. Thank you to everyone for your continued support of this mission. Pam Faustine

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING BASKETS

The Interfaith Thanksgiving baskets were a huge success! We collected 27 $25 gift cards to Stop & Shop. This helped ease a burden for 27 Westborough families during Thanksgiving this year. Thank you so much for your generous and kind spirit.

SO GRATEFUL!

The Missions Team is thankful for YOU!!! Our 2019 Giving Tree and Santa’s Elves programs were a HUGE success. We actually ran out of tags three times and had to get MORE - a total of 199 tags representing HUNDREDS of gifts for people in need were shopped for! Thank you SO much for your generosity and support of these great programs! Don’t forget...

• All WRAPPED gifts are due back to the church vestry before Church THIS Sunday December 8th.

If you have any questions please contact Kathy Reynolds (774-262-4326).

A MISSIONS UPDATE

We have some good news and some not so good news - PLEASE READ to the END.

Here is some good news from your Missions Team:

• The Interfaith Thanksgiving baskets collected 27 $25 gift cards to Stop & Shop

• We collected 140lbs of food for the food pantry the month of August

• We had 199 tags taken off the tree this year!

• Our own youth are hugely supported by our congregation through: Book fairs, Work Camp, Youth mission trips, The Great Pie Challenge, and many other adventures

• There are also UCC missions that are well supported throughout the year: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Christmas Fund, Neighbors in Need.

We still need your support - here are some opportunities where you can get involved:

• DID YOU KNOW — that our budget is coming up short?

YTD pledged Missions income is $20,433, YTD pledged income budget is $25,416 that is a $5000 shortfall. We expect a $4000 overall shortfall this year

• Dismas House dinners is struggling to get volunteers to cook/attend dinner. We go every 1st Thursday of the month

• Inter Faith Hospitality Network also struggles to get new volunteers for dinner/overnights. We only have 2 weeks a year to cover

If you would like, you can make a single contribution to offset that. See Karen Hutchinson to help with Dismas House and Megan Huber to help with IHN.

Your Missions team: Megan Huber, committee chair

DISMAS HOUSE DINNER

Dinner with the residents at Dismas House is on the first Thursday of every month. Our next dinner will be Thursday, Dec 7th

How can you get involved?
1. Help prepare a meal for 15 to 20 people.
2. Donate a grocery card that can be used to help shop for food.
3. Come along and join us as we share great food and fellowship with the residents!

For more information please contact Karen Hutchinson at 508-870-1782, millarhutch@aol.com or chat with her during fellowship hour!
MUSIC NOTES

MUSIC PROGRAM
Advent is a wonderful time of year! The sounds, the sights, the smells, the memories... This is a wonderful time to spread cheer and have fun in the music program! We are singing such beautiful music this season and would love to have you join us. Please consider joining us for 1 week or all 4 weeks of Advent. You'll love the people and the music! Chancel Choir rehearses 6:30-7:45pm and JoySpring rehearses 7:45-8:45pm in the music room. The music you can be a part of (Chancel Choir and JoySpring, respectively):

December 1st - "A la Nanita Nana" and "Even So Come"
December 8th - "Ave Verum Corpus" (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart) and "Mary Did You Know"
December 15th - "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" (Johann Sebastian Bach) and "Hope Was Born This Night"
December 22nd - "Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming" (Michael Praetorius) and "Believe (from "The Polar Express")"
December 24th - "Carol of the Bells" and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen / We Three Kings"

BAKERS NEEDED FOR COOKIE WALK

The Annual Cookie Walk fundraiser for the music program will take place immediately following the Children's Pageant on Sunday, December 22nd. If you need last minute cookies for your guests, the cookie walk is a great time to stock up.

Anyone willing to bake a couple dozen cookies or bars (i.e. brownies, cranberry bars, turtles) should leave them in the kitchen before the morning service.
- Arranged on a plate, ready to serve
- Labeled what kind of treat
- Nuts/no nuts, gluten free

Thank you. The Music Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

THE GREAT PIE CHALLENGE 2019
was a huge success!
Together we were able to donate: 300lbs of apples, 55lbs of flour, 50lbs of butter, 45lbs of sugar, 750 ounces of pumpkin puree, 1 pound of spices, 300 pie tins, 540 Total Service Hours, 179 pies donated & served! 31 Volunteers helped to deliver pies & stayed to help with stuffing prep at the Curtis' in Framingham. Our Great Pie Sale raised over $700 for Mission Trip 2020 – Costa Rica Sea Turtle Conservation Project. Thank you to everyone for coming together this Thanksgiving, as a congregation and for remembering...

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”
- Jane Goodall


Mission Trip 2020 – Sea Turtle Conservation

FAITH EXPLORATION
“Discover... Explore... Practice”
Faith Explorers spent November learning about different faiths and their beliefs and practices. We had interesting and thought provoking discussions about similarities and differences, and whether we believe it makes a difference.
**WHAT WILL DECEMBER BRING??**

**THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** of course!
We will once again have an intergenerational Christmas Pageant! If you are interested please see Wendy or email: wendysreardon@yahoo.com
We have parts for all ages! The pageant will be Sunday, December 22 at 5pm.

**DROP & SHOP** – December 14th, 10AM – 5PM
Finish off your Christmas list, house cleaning, decorating or finally meet for that holiday lunch... “kid-free”!

Drop off your child at The Congregational Church of Westborough for a fun-filled day of activities while you go and get things done!!!

PIZZA and water will be served for lunch and we will be making a healthy holiday treat together for an afternoon snack!

**CHILDREN AGES 4-11 OPEN TO PUBLIC!**
please share with your friends & neighbors!
$30 PER CHILD (Pay for 2 children and get 1 FREE!)

**PRE REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY DECEMBER 7th**
Sign up @ the fair on Saturday or Contact Wendy Reardon at wendysreardon@yahoo.com

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT MISSION TRIP 2020 – COSTA RICA SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROJECT

**PARISH LIFE EVENTS**

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th**

Meet in the Vestry at 4:30PM for a Light Supper
Caroling at 5:00 PM

People of all ages are invited.

Come Christmas Caroling Sunday, Dec. 15th, sponsored by the fun Parish Life Committee. Come to one of the most popular activities. It's a great way to spend time with our youth and the shut in people enjoy our visits. Bring your Santa hat or reindeer antlers and your jingle bells. Then afterwards we have hot chocolate and fellowship. If you have questions call Cathie Achorn at 508-380-8671.

**The Famous Pancake Breakfast**
Join us Sunday, Jan 26th after church for our annual Pancake Breakfast where you will enjoy pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit salad, juice, coffee and pastries. For more information, call Cathie Achorn at 508-380-8671.

**Looking Ahead...**

Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020
**Leap Year Pot Luck Party**
6PM – Bring a dish

Saturday, March 28, 2020 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)
**Progressive Dinner (adults only)**
6PM- Appetizers
WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Christmas Party & Yankee Swap
Monday, December 9, 2019
(NOTE: this not the first Monday.)
No program … just fun and fellowship
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
An evening of fun and relaxation before the “rush”. Bring a wrapped gift ($10- $12 limit) to swap. Bring a friend or two. Be prepared to laugh and enjoy extra special refreshments.
Mission: Westborough Senior Center (gift cards: Stop & Shop, Roche Bros., Dunkin’, Target, Walmart, etc.)
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
Women’s Fellowship Looking Ahead:
Dec. 7th – Annual Christmas Fair
Dec. 9th – Yankee Swap
Mission: Westborough Senior Center
Jan. 6th – Fair Wrap-up and Supper
Feb. 3rd – Potluck Dinner – Annie Wales/origami
Mission: Valentine Boxes for college students
Mar. 2nd – Hymn program with Nancy Gage
Mission: Westboro Food Pantry
Apr. 6th – Adriana Baltimore – program of songs
Mission: IHN
May 4th – May dinner at Arturo’s Ristorante.

GROCERY CARD SALES
Are You New to our Grocery Card Project?
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 can’t make it to church 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. They’d be happy to deliver them.

2019 Goal: $ 8,000 | 2019 YTD: $ 5,701.55

WORDS OF APPRECIATION
Dear Friends at the Congregational Church,

Thank you for your recent donation of $750.00 to Dismas House. We appreciated your generosity and goodwill towards Dismas House.

In Gratitude,
Colleen Hilferty, Co-Executive Director.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS
Jennifer Louloudes
21 Hadsall Crt.
Clayton, NC 27527
SENSORY FRIENDLY SANTA’S WORKSHOP

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6\textsuperscript{th}

4PM to 8PM

Congregational Church, 57 West Main Street | Westborough

Let your kids do the shopping for their family and friends without the sensory overload. Gifts are easily priced with gifts ranging from $0.50-$11.00.

New this year we are adding an evening catered to kids with disabilities and their families. Enjoy a fun low key event that lets your kids experience the thrill of giving without the hysteria of shopping in traditional stores. This new special Friday evening event offers a quiet calm down area with kinetic sand and sensory cool down bottles, quiet atmosphere with no music, no bright lights and experienced and patient helpers to help the kids shop. This special event also gives children the ability to avoid the crowds on fair day. Our special Santa’s helper Steve Achorn will be there to help children that use wheelchairs get up the elevator and to the Santa’s workshop area. Cookies with Mrs. Claus are available after and make for a great photo opportunity.

Contact Cathie Achorn for more info (508)380-8671
Let your kids do the shopping! This fun tradition of more than 30 years allows children to shop for their family and friends without their parents. Gifts are easily priced with most gifts ranging from $0.50-$11 and most items are priced below $5 each. All profits from Santa's Workshop go to Missions of the Congregational Church in Westborough.

After they shop, cookie decorating, kids crafts and pictures of Santa are available just around the corner. Downstairs enjoy the Evergreen fair of homemade gifts, gingerbread, baked goods and have lunch at the Christmas Cafe.

New this year! High quality gifts from "Gift N Things" in addition to our normal gift baskets. Also new this year ability to purchase a gift certificate for shopping with a credit card through "Gifts N Things"

Contact Cathie Achorn for more info
(508)380-8671
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<td>ADVENT I COMMUNION</td>
<td>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</td>
<td>10- Worship Service &amp; Faith Formation</td>
<td>11-Noon PCC/FF</td>
<td>10- Whitney Place Service</td>
<td>2-3 PCC/Fannie Forbes</td>
<td>Noon-6pm</td>
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<td>2:30 GSA/Vestry</td>
<td>1:30 PCC/F.F.</td>
<td>10:30 Beaumont Service</td>
<td>11:15 Willow's Communion</td>
<td>Santa's Helper/Kerygma</td>
<td>Room and Classrooms</td>
<td>9-12 &quot;Main Character&quot; Rehearsal/Sanctuary</td>
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<td>11-Noon PCC/FF</td>
<td>7:30 AA/Nursery</td>
<td>11-Noon PCC/FF</td>
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9am - on All rooms in use for Fair preparations

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<td>ADVENT II</td>
<td>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</td>
<td>10- Worship Service &amp; Faith Formation</td>
<td>9am PCC Board/Kerygma</td>
<td>11-Noon PCC/FF</td>
<td>2-3 PCC/Fannie Forbes</td>
<td>9-12 Pageant Rehearsal/Sanctuary</td>
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<td>5- GSA/Vestry</td>
<td>11-2:30 PCC/F/F</td>
<td>7- Trustees/Kerygma</td>
<td>9:15 Playgroup/Nursery</td>
<td>7- Set up For House Tour/Vestry</td>
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<td>7- GSA/Kerygma</td>
<td>6:30 Women's Fellowship Yankee Swap/Vestry</td>
<td>9:30 Called to Care/Office</td>
<td>1-4 Westborough Women's Club Holiday House Tour Reception/Vestry</td>
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<td>ADVENT III</td>
<td>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</td>
<td>10- Worship Service &amp; Faith Formation</td>
<td>11-Noon PCC/FF</td>
<td>2-3 PCC/Fannie Forbes</td>
<td>9-12 Pageant Rehearsal/Sanctuary</td>
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<td>2:30 GSA/Vestry</td>
<td>1:30 PCC/F.F.</td>
<td>7- Staff Meeting</td>
<td>4-6 GSA/Kerygma</td>
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<td>4:30 Parish Life Caroling &amp; Pizza</td>
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<td>ADVENT IV</td>
<td>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</td>
<td>10- Worship Service &amp; Faith Formation</td>
<td>11-Noon PCC/FF</td>
<td>Merry Christmas</td>
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<td>5- Christmas Pageant &amp; COOKIE WALK</td>
<td>11-Noon PCC/FF</td>
<td>7- Christmas Eve Service</td>
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<td>5- Christmas Pageant &amp; COOKIE WALK</td>
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<td>10- Worship Service &amp; Faith Formation HYMN SING</td>
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**Church Office Hours**
Monday · Closed
Tuesday · Thursday 9am-2pm
Friday 9am-1pm

**Choir Rehearsals:**
Tuesdays: 7:00 Festival Ringers
Wednesdays: 3:30 Journey Home
6:30 Chancel Choir & 7:45 JoySpring

**BSA & GSA – Scouts**
F.F. - Fannie Forbes Rm
PCC – Pastoral Counseling Center
CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Sue Remick, Interim Minister
revsuerem@gmail.com

Peter Graham, Student Minister
petegrahamiam@icloud.com

Wendy Reardon, Director of Children’s and Youth Ministry
wendysreardon@yahoo.com

Joseph Stillitano, Interim Minister of Music
Josephmstillitano@gmail.com

Sue Menzel, Handbell Director
westcongmusic@gmail.com

Church Office Phone 508/366-2000

General Church email
WestboroUCC@Verizon.net

Church web site
www.UCCwestboro.org

POINSETTIAS

The Flower Committee is taking orders for poinsettias. 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, DECEMBER 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:
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________