What a gift are the changing seasons for us in New England! For one thing, we see evidence of change around us unlike other parts of our world. For another thing, in New England, we are certainly kept guessing. One minute we think we are moving forward into the promise of spring, and the next we seem to be moving back into the drab of winter. The world around us is full of surprises.

Our days can be like that too. One minute the sun is shining on us and all is bright. The next moment it seems a storm front has come in and we are wrapping up tight under our comforters. This Easter, we gathered in joy and laughter. What a celebration we had. I hope you were able to join us. If you were not, I hope you can find a way to listen to the service. It sure had some surprises in it and we all shouted Jumping Geehosofat together! Yes, I know, it is also spelled Jehosophat. It was not the polished service I had tried to present for my first Easter with you. About half-way I remember shrugging my shoulders and saying –God is a God of surprise. It seems God takes great delight when I am kept on my toes and must use my wit and anything else I can find to help us get past all the kerfuffles. Once I let it all go, I was able to get my smile back. I think we all did.

When your days turn to cloudy with a chance of rain, wrap up tight under the comfort of the one who will hold you close in Shalom, the resurrected one, the Christ. Let him hold you tight when the storm fronts come in. Wait upon His goodness and look for the surprises that only God can bring. Remember no matter how dark the night, joy will come in the morning.

I pray we see more of the Son than the dark. I pray that you receive God’s comforting surprises that will bring a “Jumping Geehosofat” and a smile to your lips.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Sue Remick

PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO JOIN US HERE FOR WORSHIP!
**PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS**

Bereavement: Janice Rand and family upon the death of her husband Warren; Warren Anderson and family upon the passing of his mother Beverly Johnson; Rachel and Pete Graham and family upon the death of Rachel’s grandmother.

New Prayers: Sandy & Rosco Horton; Marge Butcher; Gini Erwin; Prayers for the recovering addicts at the Young Adult Program at Spectrum House; Emily who is battling alcoholism in Florida and her sister Cazzy & family affected by her disease.

Continued Prayers: Tom Morgan’s brother, Dave; Marilyn Lyle’s sister Sharon in hospice; Wendy Reardon’s mother Sandy; Jeffrey Bramley; Anna Gavel; Ron and Nancy Clark’s daughter Melissa Dickinson; Homelyn Augustin.

Beaumont: Jeffrey Bramley
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

**FARMERS’ MARKET**

The Dismas House Farmers’ Market will return to the church lawn on Thursday, June 6th, from 12-5 pm for its 9th season. Bring your reusable bags and join the fun. You’ll find your old favorites and new vendors to discover. Yummy Mummy Brownies, Five Loaves Bakery, Ackermann Maple Syrup, local farms Nourse and Harvey’s. We’ll have weekly live music, including our own Joe Stillitano, and crafts for the kids.

Follow the farm activity on Instagram: dismashouseofma, Facebook: @the.dismas.house or www.eatfresh01581.

If you are a student in need of community service hours or a part time summer job, we may have an opportunity for you. Please email Suzanne Arpante at sbarpante@aol.com. See you at the market!

**NOMINATING NEWS**

The new program year begins on July 1. There are a number of boards and committees which need volunteers going forward—more specifically, the Board of Deacons and the Stewardship Committee. Other opportunities include Missions, Nominating, Parish Life, Christian Ed, Safe Church Officer and Music. These groups work best when they have a full slate of members, allowing a sharing of ideas and of effort. The Nominating Committee urges you to get involved and learn more about the internal workings of the church and make new friends.

Terms are generally for three years, but one can try a position for a year to see if the group’s activities are a good fit.

To learn more about these positions or to volunteer, please call Betty Gray (508-366-1039) or Dave Smith (508-366-8174).

**WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP**

Annual Dinner, Monday, May 6, 2019 5:30 pm at Arturo’s Ristorante

The annual Women’s Fellowship May Dinner will be on Monday, May 6th at 5:30 pm at Arturo’s Ristorante. The deadline to sign up is May 1st, but call or text Cathie Achorn at 508-380-8671 because sometimes we have a cancellation at the last minute.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

We are planning to bless all prayer shawls at the worship service on Sunday, May 12th. Please bring all completed shawls to the church office by Friday, May 10th so that we can lay them on the altar for the blessing. Thank you so much for your time and caring. Pam Faustine
**BOARDS & COMMITTEES MEETING – JUNE 16TH**

We will have our Annual Boards and Committees meeting on Sunday, **June 16th** at 11:30am in the chapel. We will elect new officers for the year, and consider our budget for the rest of the year. All members and friends of the church are welcome. If you are responsible for a report, please email it to the church office at westboroucc@verizon.net no later than **Monday, June 3rd**.

**Staff & Officers:** Church Clerk, Interim Pastor, Moderator, Interim Minister of Music, Director of Youth and Children’s Ministries, Director of Bells, Student Minister, Delegates to Central Association, Delegates to Mass. Conference, Librarian, Communications Officer.

**Boards:** Trustees, Deacons

**Standing Committees:** Stewardship, Memorial Gifts, Music, Missions & Social Concerns, Flower, Properties, Parish Life

**Ad Hoc Committees:** Hospitality, Called To Care/Visitation

**Fellowship Groups:** Women’s Fellowship, Parish Life

**Other:** PCC of Ma, Treasurer

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**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**FAITH FORMATION**

In 2017 we traveled to St Vincent and the Grenadines to volunteer with Hands Across the Sea. We brought with us over $2000 worth of new books to “fill” the school libraries that we would be helping to create. It seemed like a lot of books, until we arrived. Sadly we saw that students had little, if any books, that would spark an interest in a child to discover what was between the covers…mostly because the covers were long missing!

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On Mother’s Day, May 12th we will be hosting our 7th Annual Scholastic Book Fair to benefit Hands Across the Sea. Illiteracy is the main factor in poverty, and poverty is the biggest threat to the world’s children! Hands Across the Sea is dedicated to raising literacy levels of children. They send great new books, and work with local educators and the US Peace Corps, to create borrowing libraries and sustainable positive change. All of the proceeds of our fair are used to purchase books to donate to Hands Across the Sea. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to see how the choices we make can do so much for so many. We all have the power to make a difference; we just have to choose to use it. Over 6 years, as a congregation, we have donated approximately $10,000 in new books to Hands Across the Sea. The program is working…we have seen it first “hand!” We hope that you will once again support this year’s book fair, whether you buy a book to give to a child of your own, purchase a book to donate or make a monetary donation…all purchases help us to build Scholastic Dollars we use to purchase books for donation to Hands Across the Sea!

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**GOOD FRIDAY: THE PASSION STORY**

On Good Friday at 7pm in the sanctuary, we recalled the story with a play, “The Passion”. It was an intergenerational experience with all age groups covered by our “actors” and narrators. Thank you to everyone who came to share in story, worship and fellowship.

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**FAITH EXPLORATION**

We have ten Confirmands in our group, all Faith Explorers! Our focus so far has been defining: “faith”, “religion” and “spirituality”, how do we
describe ourselves, and trends in world religions - how are people actually practicing their faith. This month we will turn our thoughts and questions to “Hinduism; origins, history and beliefs”.

COMMUNITY EVENT

The Easter Egg Hunt was Saturday, April 27 - Mission for the day...to share God’s unconditional Love throughout our community, “Jesus Loves You!” Thank you to our incredible volunteer force: Youth Group, members of Mission Trip 2020, adult church members, parents & children…and a very special “thank you” to Carolyn and Joan who filled thousands of eggs!!! We had over 175 children & youth enjoy the hunt, Mission accomplished!

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MAY 19TH

We are once again planning a very special Baccalaureate Service on May 19th and we want YOU to be a part of it. If you are graduating this spring (high school, college, military, etc.), please let us share in the celebration of your accomplishments! Please email: wendysreardon@yahoo.com We will send you a very brief “STAT” sheet to fill out and return (complete sentences NOT necessary!), and give you some more details about the service!

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GROCERY CARD SALES

Are You New to our Grocery Card Project?
The Grocery Card Fundraising Project supports the Operation Budget of our Church. We purchase grocery gift cards from Stop & Shop, Roche Bros., and Price Chopper in bulk at a discounted rate. If you purchase a $100.00 Stop & Shop gift card from us, you will get $100.00 worth of groceries. However we purchased that card for $95.00. The $5.00 profit goes to our Operation Budget. These gift cards can be purchased each Sunday after worship or in the Church Office. Thanks! 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: $ 1,995.00

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Dear friends,
Many thanks to all the thoughtful, caring people who sent me individual and group cards for my birthday. I feel truly blessed to be remembered by so many of my Church family.
With good wishes, Eleanor Myers

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Thank you to the many church friends who donated desserts for the social gathering that followed Carroll’s Memorial Service in March.

-----Marcia Hoffman

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Thank you for the beautiful Easter flowers. I am so appreciative. Ina Donahue

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Nancy Uhlman
2 Rogers Road, Apt. 10
Westboro, MA 01581
Blood Drive in Honor of Corinne Sciarappa

Saturday, May 11th
Congregational Church of Westboro
57 West Main Street
8:30 am – 2:30 pm

The Congregational Church of Westboro will be holding its 13th blood drive in honor of Corinne Sciarappa from 8:30am – 2:30pm here at the church. Corinne is continuing her courageous fight against rhabdomyosarcoma. Thank you to everyone who has supported Corinne’s blood drives by volunteering, spreading the word, and rolling up your sleeves to give blood.

We highly recommend scheduling an appointment to donate. You can sign up by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or visiting redcrossblood.org, sponsor code Corinne.

Volunteer help and donation of baked goods are also very much appreciated. To volunteer, contact anitalawler@verizon.net. Thank you so much for your continued support! You can read more about Corinne’s journey and stay up-to-date on her progress at http://posthope.org/corinne-sciarappa.

Thank you, Kaity and Anita Lawler
### May 2019

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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<th>Wed</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Church Office Hours</strong>&lt;br&gt;Monday - Closed&lt;br&gt;Tuesday - Thursday&lt;br&gt;9am-2pm&lt;br&gt;Friday 9am-1pm</td>
<td><strong>EVANGEL PUBLISHED</strong>&lt;br&gt;7- &quot;The Well&quot;/Chapel</td>
<td><strong>9am Playgroup/Nursery</strong>&lt;br&gt;1:30 PCC/F.F.</td>
<td><strong>8-3 GSA/Yard Sale</strong></td>
<td><strong>EVANGEL DEADLINE</strong>&lt;br&gt;7- &quot;The Well&quot;/Chapel</td>
<td><strong>BSA &amp; GSA – Scouts</strong>&lt;br&gt;PPRC - Pastor Parish Relations Committee&lt;br&gt;TPC - Teaching Parish Committee&lt;br&gt;PCC – Pastoral Counseling Center&lt;br&gt;FOC – Financial Oversight</td>
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<td><strong>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</strong></td>
<td><strong>5:30pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>9am Weaver's Guild/Vestry, Kerygma, classrooms</strong></td>
<td><strong>8:30am - 2:30pm</strong>&lt;br&gt;Blood Drive&lt;br&gt;Vestry &amp; Chapel</td>
<td><strong>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</strong></td>
<td><strong>9am Playgroup/Nursery</strong>&lt;br&gt;1:30 PCC/F.F.</td>
<td><strong>Parish Life Event</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5 COMMUNION</strong>&lt;br&gt;10- Worship &amp; Faith Formation&lt;br&gt;11:30 All Church Lunch/Vestry&lt;br&gt;11:30 Deacons/Kerygma&lt;br&gt;2:30 GSA/Vestry&lt;br&gt;5:30 GSA/Vestry</td>
<td><strong>Women's Fellowship Annual Dinner - Arturo's</strong>&lt;br&gt;7:30 AA/Nursery&lt;br&gt;7-9 BSA/Library</td>
<td><strong>10:30 Staff Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;7- &quot;The Well&quot;/Chapel&lt;br&gt;7- Cabinet/Kerygma</td>
<td><strong>7:30 AA/Nursery</strong>&lt;br&gt;7-9 BSA/Library&lt;br&gt;7:30 Troop Comm/Kerygma</td>
<td><strong>10:30 Eagle Court of Honor/Vestry and Sanctuary</strong></td>
<td><strong>7:30 AA/Nursery</strong>&lt;br&gt;7-9 BSA/Library&lt;br&gt;7:30 Troop Comm/Kerygma</td>
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<td><strong>12 Happy Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;10- Worship &amp; Faith Formation&lt;br&gt;&quot;Hands Across The Sea&quot; Book Fair</td>
<td><strong>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</strong>&lt;br&gt;7- Trustees/Kerygma&lt;br&gt;7:30 AA/Nursery&lt;br&gt;7-9 BSA/Library</td>
<td><strong>10:30 Staff Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;7- &quot;The Well&quot;/Chapel&lt;br&gt;7- Cabinet/Kerygma</td>
<td><strong>10- Worship &amp; Faith Formation</strong>&lt;br&gt;1:30pm Festival Ringers&lt;br&gt;11:30 Deacons/Kerygma&lt;br&gt;2:30 GSA/Vestry&lt;br&gt;5:30 GSA/Vestry</td>
<td><strong>1:30 PCC/F.F.</strong>&lt;br&gt;4:30 GSA/Vestry&lt;br&gt;6- BSA Pot Luck/Court of Honor/Vestry &amp; Sanctuary</td>
<td><strong>Blood Drive</strong>&lt;br&gt;Vestry &amp; Chapel</td>
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<td><strong>19 Baccalaureate Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;10- Worship &amp; Faith Formation&lt;br&gt;1:30pm Eagle Court of Honor/Vestry and Sanctuary&lt;br&gt;2:30 GSA/Kerygma&lt;br&gt;5-8 Pastoral Search Convention&lt;br&gt;5:30 GSA/Kerygma&lt;br&gt;6:30 GSA/Nursery</td>
<td><strong>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</strong>&lt;br&gt;7:30 AA/Nursery&lt;br&gt;7-9 BSA/Library</td>
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<td><strong>26 Memorial Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;10- Worship &amp; Faith Formation</td>
<td><strong>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</strong>&lt;br&gt;7:30 AA/Nursery&lt;br&gt;7-9 BSA/Library</td>
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Change Service Requested