

In the Church

Special Offering Music. Anyone wishing to provide special music during the offering should sign up on the calendar in Fellowship Hall or speak with Sharon Keith, our Music Director.

Choir. We welcome all voices to join our choir! Under the direction of Sharon Keith, the choir will meet at 9:00 AM every other Sunday morning to rehearse for their piece during the service. Speak with Sharon if you'd like more details.

Sunday School. All youth are invited to join in Sunday School during church services. We're thankful for Crystal Armitage's leadership in creating disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Coffee Hour Hosts. Coffee Hour is a perfect time to catch up with friends and make new ones, and we're so grateful to all who have hosted us with coffee and refreshments. The host list is posted through December; if something comes up and you're not able to host, please see if you can swap with someone. Thank you!

Gifts of Flowers. Altar flowers are a wonderful way to honor or remember loved ones. If you'd like to provide flowers on any given Sunday, please sign up on the bulletin board heading into the Fellowship Hall so we can plan ahead. Thank you!

Liturgist Sign Up. Do you feel called to share God's Word with us on Sunday mornings? Would you like to be a part of the worship service? There is an opportunity each week to share your voice with us by reading the scripture passage during Church. Sign up on the bulletin board heading into the Fellowship Hall, and Pastor Christy will give you a call on Monday with the coming week's scripture passage.

Pastor Christy's Office Hours. In an effort for Pastor Christy to get to know the community, she will be available at the Merriam-Gilbert Library here in town each week on Mondays from 1 PM to 3 PM. She will also have evening hours on Wednesdays from 5 PM to 7 PM at the Dunkin' Donuts on Main Street in West Brookfield. Feel free to join her! Note that these hours will shift on Monday Holiday Weeks and Meeting Weeks, but if you would like to schedule a different time to get together, please email or call Pastor Christy to set up an appointment.

Communion Sunday Dedication. In response to the needs of our local community, the first Sunday of the month will be dedicated to food donations for the Sharing Cupboard here in town. For September's offering, the Sharing Pantry has asked we provide bags of ground coffee, both caffeinated and decaf. So far this fall, we have donated 24.7 pounds of food and goods! Thank you for sharing!

Contact Information.

Church/Parsonage Phone
Email
Website

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George Whitefield United Methodist Church

West Brookfield, MA || 9:30 AM



The Social Gospel

September 15, 2019

George Whitefield United Methodist Church

West Brookfield, MA || 9:30 AM

Christy Wright, Pastor || Sharon Keith, Music Director
Vicki Chisholm, Liturgist || Heidi Jeldres, Lay Leader

September 15, 2019

PRELUDE *Lord, I'm Coming Home* Kirkpatrick

*LIGHT OF CHRIST

*PROCESSIONAL *Come Thou Fount* UMH #400

GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF PRAISE *Have Thine Own Way* UHM #382
(Fuel Fund for those wishing to contribute)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ calls us by grace

All: to be renewed in the image of our Creator, that we may be one in divine love for all the world.

One: Today is the day God cares for the integrity of creation, for the healing and wholeness of all life.

All: Today is the day God embraces all hues of humanity.

One: Today is the day God delights in diversity and difference and favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.

All: Today is the day God brings good news to the poor, proclaims release to the captives, gives sight to the blind, and sets the oppressed free. And so shall we, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ∞

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING *Love Lifted Me* Rowe/Smith
An offering from our choir

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH #70

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-10

Vicki Chisholm

SERMON

The Social Gospel

Pastor Christy

*HYMN

Forth in Thy Name

UMH #438

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Nine and Ninety

Sankey/Clephane

*Please stand as you are able

∞ Adapted from the General Board of Church and Society's *Celebration of 100 years of the United Methodist Social Creed: General Conference – May 2, 2008.*

◇ Today's altar flowers are given by Nancy & Sharon Collins in memory of our mothers, Annalee Collins and Dona Koza.

Special Announcements

Technology Fund. THANK YOU! Last week, we received a donation of a laptop from a friend to our congregation for us to use on Sunday mornings and in other church events. We're so grateful for this generous gift! If you have made a donation toward the church's purchase of a laptop, these funds will be redirected into a "Technology Fund" to cover the cost of projector bulbs, cables, and other technological needs, and donations are still being accepted.

Ham & Bean Supper Fundraiser. Be sure to join us for a fantastic gathering with great food and friends on Saturday, September 28th at 6:00 PM. Special thanks to Jane Dolan for organizing and for all those who are cooking, hosting, and cleaning up! Tickets are a suggested donation of \$10 per person and includes ham, beans, coleslaw, potato salad, rolls, and plenty of desserts. All proceeds will benefit the mission and ministry of George Whitefield UMC.

Community Acts of Kindness. Since starting her appointment on July 1st, Pastor Christy has received numerous calls from folks in West Brookfield requesting financial help. While the church has a minimal budget for such requests, the needs exceed our budget. If you would like to donate gift cards in \$20 denominations for CVS, Hannaford, or gas cards, we would gladly receive your donations and pass them onto folks who need them most while also providing ways to engage in more sustainable solutions. Please see Pastor Christy if you'd like to make a donation. Thank you!

Bible Study. We are pleased to bring back a Bible Study Small Group led by Sharon and Nancy Collins. This small group will meet weekly beginning Thursday, October 3rd at 4 PM in the Church Fellowship Hall. Throughout the fall and winter season, the location will shift, but we will keep everyone updated!

Donate Toward Recovery Efforts. The devastation of the Bahamas in the wake of Hurricane Dorian is unlike anything ever seen. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has a long history of being one of the first charitable responders in natural disasters. They are a reputable organization connected with the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church. Please consider making a donation online at www.umcor.org or by check (please make checks out to George Whitefield United Methodist Church with "*UMCOR Advance #982450*" in the memo line).

Listening Session. Following next week's church service on 9/22, Pastor Christy will be hosting a Listening Session during coffee hour to hear your thoughts on the current events of the United Methodist Church. Pastor Christy is currently serving on the Open Spirit Task Force of the New England Annual Conference, so if there is interest in continuing the conversation, she has insight into possible outcomes.

In Our Prayers. Arnold, Betty, Bob, Dell, Ed, Edacia, Elsie, Emily, the family of Evelyn, Gus, Heidi, John, Judy, the Keith family, Linda, Lisa's Dad, Millie, Nicole, Paul D., Priscilla, the Reim family, Richard, Russ & Joy, Sage, Shirley, Tomassa, those who are experiencing homelessness and food insecurity, mass violence victims, those who are in recovery from natural disasters, our natural world, our nation and world, our political leaders.