

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. Pastor Christy 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! 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 October's offering, the Sharing Pantry has asked we provide healthy shelf-stable snacks (gluten-free and/or nut-free and/or low-sodium and/or low/sugar-free, if possible, but they could use anything – think: applesauce, dried fruit, GF crackers, GF granola/trail mix, etc.). So far this fall, we have donated 24.7 pounds of food and goods. Thank you for sharing!

Contact Information.

Church/Parsonage Phone

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Website

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George Whitefield United Methodist Church

West Brookfield, MA || 9:30 AM



Creation's Goodness

September 29, 2019

George Whitefield United Methodist Church

West Brookfield, MA || 9:30 AM

Christy Wright, Pastor || Sharon Keith, Music Director
Crystal Armitage, Liturgist || Heidi Jeldres, Lay Leader

September 29, 2019

PRELUDE *Morning Has Broken* Farjeon

*LIGHT OF CHRIST

*PROCESSIONAL *All Things Bright + Beautiful* UMH #147

GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF PRAISE *For the Beauty of the Earth* UMH #92
(Fuel Fund for those wishing to contribute)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea.

All: They share in the fortunes of human existence and have a part in human life.

One: God, who confers gifts on all living things, has often used the service of animals or made them reminders of the gifts of salvation.

All: Animals were saved from the flood and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah.

One: The paschal lamb recalls the Passover sacrifice and the deliverance from slavery in Egypt.

All: A giant fish saved Jonah and ravens brought bread to Elijah.

One: Animals also share in Christ's redemption of all creation.

All: We, therefore, invoke God's blessing on these animals.

And as we do so, let us praise the Creator and thank God for setting us a stewards and caretakers of all creation. 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 *This is My Father's World* UMH #144

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH #70

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1 (MSG)

Crystal Armitage

MESSAGE

Creation's Goodness

Pastor Christy

BLESSING

(All are invited to bring their animals/photos of beloved pets forward for a blessing. Please form a line at the front of the sanctuary.)

*HYMN

All Things Bright (vs. 1)

UMH #147

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Genesis 1

Hawkins/Skillings

*Please stand as you are able.

∞ Adapted from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 608-609.

◇ Today's altar flowers are given by Jane Dolan.

Special Announcements

Technology Fund. As we continue to be blessed with a laptop and projector for Sunday morning worship services, we are recognizing the need for a technology fund. These funds will be directed toward covering the cost of projector bulbs, cables, and other technological needs, and donations are being accepted. Thank you!

Ham & Bean Supper Fundraiser. Huge thanks to all who led, donated, setup, cooked, served, and cleaned up from yesterday's Supper! It was a huge success, and we're so thankful for your support!

Community Acts of Kindness. If you would like to donate gift cards in \$20 denominations for CVS, Hannaford, or gas cards for folks in our community who are requesting financial assistance, 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. A locking mailbox is hanging in the hallway to the fellowship hall to receive your gifts. 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).

Operation Christmas Child. Many thanks to the Reims for their Operation Christmas Child ministry! Boxes are available now to be picked up at the altar, but please wait to fill them until we receive a list from the organization. Thank you for your support!

***Church Conference.** Our annual meeting with our new District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe, is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23rd at 7:00 PM. Be sure to join us for this special time of worship and planning for the coming year.

October Meetings. SPRC will be meeting at the parsonage on Wednesday, October 2nd at 6:30 PM; Ad Council will also be meeting at the parsonage on Wednesday, October 9th at 7:00 PM.

In Our Prayers. Arnold, Betty, Bob, Dean and Jamie, Dell, Ed, Edacia and Nori, 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, Rose, Russ & Joy, Sage, Sandy, 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.

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi *For All Created Things*

One: O most high, omnipotent, good Lord God, to You belong praise, glory, honor, and all blessing. For our brother the sun, who is our day and who brings us the light, who is fair, and radiant with a very great splendor;

All: Praised be our Lord.

One: For our sister the moon, and for the stars, which You have set clear and lovely in heaven;

All: Praised be our Lord.

One: For our brother the wind, and for air and clouds, calms and all weather;

All: Praised be our Lord.

One: For our sister water, who serves us and is humble and precious and chaste;

All: Praised be our Lord.

One: For our brother fire, by whom You light up the night, and who is fair and merry, and very mighty and strong;

All: Praised be our Lord.

One: For our mother the earth, who sustains us and keeps us, and brings forth various fruits, and flowers of many colors, and grass;

All: Praised be our Lord.

One: For all those who pardon one another for Your love's sake, and who bear weakness and tribulation;

All: Praised be our Lord.

One: Blessed are they who peaceably shall endure, walking by Your most holy will; for You, O Most High, shall give them a crown.

All: Praise and bless the Lord, and give thanks unto God, and serve God with great humility. Amen. ∞

∞ Saint Francis of Assisi, Italy, 12th Century, Alt.