

George Whitefield UMC Ministries

Music Ministries. We have a special opportunity to work with our Music Director, Sharon Keith, to provide special music during the offering. If you are interested in sharing your gifts and talents, please sign up on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall or speak with Sharon. We also have the opportunity to join in our choir! We welcome all voices. Under the direction of Sharon, the choir meets at 9:00 AM every other Sunday morning to rehearse for their piece during the service.

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!

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry. We are so delighted by the response of our prayer shawl ministry, where we crochet and knit small pocket-sized prayer shawls and include a prayer card with each gift. Feel free to pick a few up to take to friends who are ill, neighbors who may have just moved in, or to family members. These prayer shawls have traveled near and far, and we're so thankful to witness God's love in this way!

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 November's offering, the Sharing Cupboard has asked we provide toiletry items such as travel-sized soap, shampoo, conditioner, wash cloths, deodorant, hand sanitizer, small packs of tissues, socks, women's hygiene products, and infant diapers and toddler pull-ups. So far this fall, we have donated 86.9 pounds of food and goods. Thank you for sharing!

Pastor Christy's Office Hours. Office hours have changed! Pastor Christy will be available at the Merriam-Gilbert Library here in town each week on Wednesdays from 10 AM to 12 PM. 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. Please note that Pastor Christy's Sabbath Days are on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, but she is available if an emergency arises.

Contact Information.

Church/Parsonage Phone

Email

Website

(508) 867-3667

pastorchristygwumc@gmail.com

www.georgewhitefieldumc.weebly.com

George Whitefield United Methodist Church

West Brookfield, MA || 9:30 AM



A Vision of Heaven

November 17, 2019

George Whitefield United Methodist Church

West Brookfield, MA || 9:30 AM

Christy Wright, Pastor || Sharon Keith, Music Director
Peg Hannigan, Liturgist || Heidi Jeldres, Lay Leader

November 17, 2019

PRELUDE *Blessed Quietness* Douglas

*LIGHT OF CHRIST

*PROCESSIONAL *It is Well With My Soul* UMH #377

GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF PRAISE *Soon & Very Soon* UMH #706
Fuel Fund for those wishing to contribute

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Have you heard?

All: Something new is coming!

One: A different world than the one we know.

All: And we're the ones to help make it happen.

One: Let us gather together, to support and encourage one another and to praise God.

All: We gather to praise God for new visions, for hope, for new beginnings, and for new possibilities. A vision of Heaven is coming, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. ∞

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

BLESSING OVER CHRISTMAS BOXES

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.

OFFERATORY *Joy in the Morning* Sleeth
An offering from our choir

*DOXOLOGY UMH #95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*GLORIA PATRI UMH #70

SCRIPTURE READING Peg Hannigan
Isaiah 65:17-19; 23-25

SERMON *A Vision of Heaven* Pastor Christy

*HYMN *Marching to Zion* UMH #733

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Promised Land* McIntosh

*Please stand as you are able.

∞ Adapted from Ministry Matters *Worship Elements: November 17, 2019.*

◇ Today's altar flowers are given by Karen Merrill & Sandy Lefavre in memory of Susan Towne.

Ways to Serve

Security Fund. The Administrative Council is looking into getting a video doorbell security system for the parsonage to increase safety for Pastor Christy. The system they are looking at has a one-time \$199.99 fee for the system with a \$3/monthly charge for maintenance. If you would like to donate to this fund, please see Gail.

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!

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.

Operation Christmas Child. Many thanks to the Reims for their Operation Christmas Child ministry! The last day of collection is today, November 17th. Thank you for your support!

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 in 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 in the Fellowship Hall, and Pastor Christy will give you a call on Monday with the coming week's scripture passage.

Budget. Our church budget is approximately *\$1,250 per week* for all expenses or *\$5,000 per month*. Last week we received *\$515* in the plate and *\$1,750.50* from the Fall Fair for a total of *\$3,334.50* total for the month of November.

In Our Prayers. Thanksgiving for: Cameron Jeanne, family birthdays, health, Kaylee & Tyler, new babies, new employment opportunities, the Reim family and Marge's numbers, Tom's eyesight, our Veterans and those who serve our country. Holding in our hearts: the Adams family – Mary Jane and her mother Faye, Al, the Armitage family, Jennifer and her husband, Judy, Louis and Dave, the Reim family, Sage, Shirley, Tenisha, the Tirrell and Buzzel families, our natural world, those who are in the path of California wildfires, those facing violence in Mexico, those who have received our prayer squares. **Note that this list will renew each month.**

Special Events

Church Fair. THANK YOU! Thank you so much for all of your hard work on our largest fundraiser of the year! Whether you donated crafts, goodies, or food, or if you were present to support our church, thank you! We raised a total of \$1,750.50!

Open Spirit Task Force Town Hall Meeting. Be sure to join Pastor Christy at the parsonage at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 19th this coming week for a special Open Spirit Task Force digital meeting where we will be discussing your questions regarding the future of the United Methodist Church. If you'd prefer to tune in at home, you can log into the meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/477972958>.

Stewardship Campaign. This season, we are looking back at the ways in which we've been blessed by God and our church community and the ways in which we can respond. We are half-way through our four-week journey to discover the *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, which include radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. Please remember to bring your *Heart Cards* with you each Sunday morning!

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. Be sure to join us on Tuesday, November 26th at 6 PM at Spencer Congregational Church for our new annual ecumenical partnership Thanksgiving service.

Christmas Season Decorating. Be sure to join us on Saturday, November 30th at 10:30 AM at the church to begin decorating for Advent and Christmas! We'll have coffee and goodies to ring in the season.

Turkey Soup Luncheon. Sunday, December 1st following church. We'll take your leftover turkey carcasses from Thanksgiving. Pastor Christy will be collecting leftover turkeys in an ice-packed cooler outside of the Fellowship Hall from Friday, 11/29 until Saturday, 11/30. Sign-up sheets are available today after church to share gifts of bread, salad, and desserts for this fundraiser as well as for help before and after.

White Christmas. We're very excited to open our church to the community on Sunday, December 8th from 12 noon until 3 PM, where we will share in crafts, goodies, and fun with kids and adults alike.

Pastor's Christmas Open House. Be sure to join us at the parsonage on Sunday, December 15th from 4 PM to 6 PM for hot cocoa, cookies, and carols with Pastor Christy.

Next Week's Worship Leaders, 11/24

Thank you so much for your service!

Special Music. Open opportunity! Please see Sharon Keith to sign up.

Liturgist. Open opportunity! Pastor Christy will contact Liturgists on Monday each week with the scripture reading and will have it printed out for you for Sunday.

Flowers. Jane Dolan

Coffee Hour Hosts. Kelly Rice & Karen Merrill – History Potluck after church!

History Day Potluck

Sunday, November 24th

Immediately Following Church Service



Bring your favorite family recipe

Reflect with us on our church's history

Share your treasured memories

Dream for the future