

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 December's offering, the Sharing Cupboard has asked we provide jellies and jams. 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.

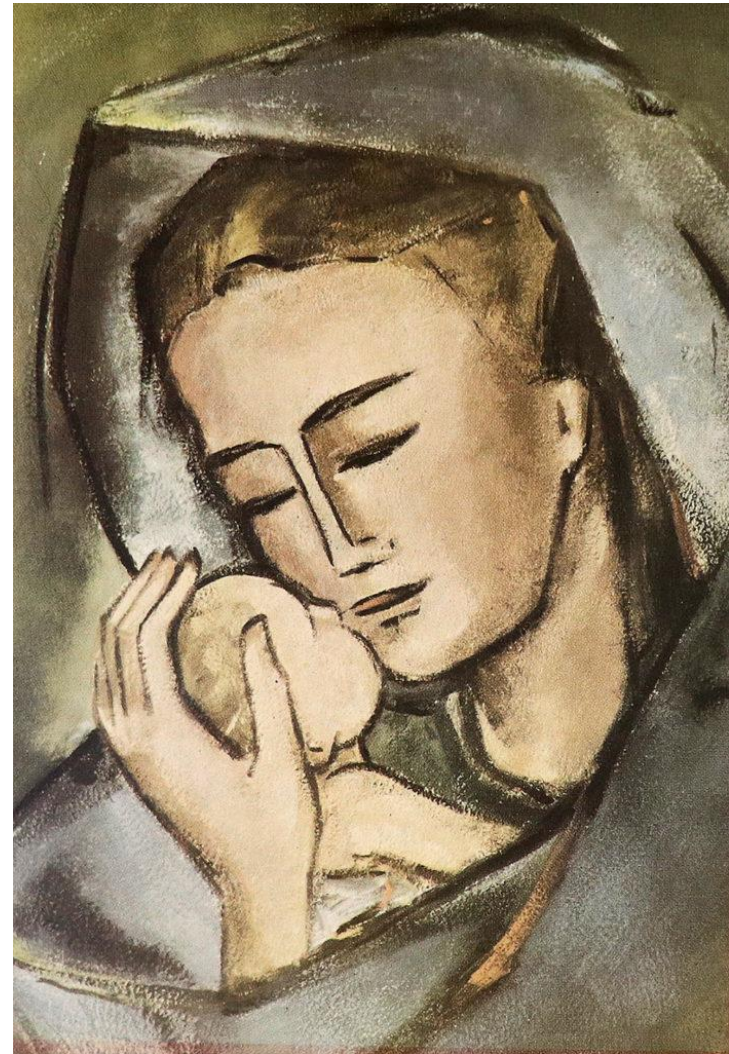
Contact Information.

Church Phone
Email
Website

(508) 867-3667
pastorchristygwumc@gmail.com
www.georgewhitefieldumc.weebly.com

George Whitefield United Methodist Church

West Brookfield, MA || 9:30 AM



Godbearing

December 15, 2019

George Whitefield United Methodist Church

West Brookfield, MA || 9:30 AM

Christy Wright, Pastor || Sharon Keith, Music Director
Sharon Collins, Liturgist || Heidi Jeldres, Lay Leader
December 15, 2019

PRELUDE *A Little One Will Come to Lead Us* Price/Besig

*LIGHT OF CHRIST

*PROCESSIONAL *Blessed Be the God of Israel* UMH #209

GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF PRAISE *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH #204
Fuel Fund for those wishing to contribute

*CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One: We gather this morning together as the family of Christ, as children of Christ awaiting our Messiah to come.

All: We gather this morning to witness to the love and joy that abounds during this season.

One: But sometimes we see shadows of grief and loss, and we see people dreading the holidays because it is a season of darkness and isolation, and they don't want to spend another Christmas alone.

All: Therefore, in the face of sadness, we light a candle of joy.

One: In the face of grief, in the face of loss, we light a candle of joy. May the light from this candle overcome the world.

All: And may the light from this candle say to all that God's joy is coming to earth as love personified. Siblings in Christ, be not afraid – God's joy is at hand, through 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.

OFFERATORY *O Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* Charles Wesley
An offering from our choir

*DOXOLOGY UMH #95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*GLORIA PATRI UMH #70

SCRIPTURE READING Sharon Collins
Luke 1:39-55

MAGNIFICAT *Breath of Heaven* Amy Grant
A dance offering from Nancy Collins

SERMON *Godbearing* Pastor Christy

*HYMN *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* UMH #216

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Royal David's Christian Men* Gauntlett/Tornquist

*Please stand as you are able.

∞ Adapted from *Advent Candle Lighting Litanies*, www.saltproject.org.

◇ Today's altar flowers are given by Gail Sledziewski in memory of Richard Dawkins.

Ways to Serve

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.

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 *\$538* in the plate and *\$244.50* from the Turkey Soup Luncheon for a total of *\$2,247.50* for the month of December so far.

In Our Prayers. Thanksgiving for: Cameron Jeanne, our Advent and Christmas decorations and decorators, Dan, David Merrill for his work on the church windows, family and friends, Kaylee & Tyler, Nicholas & new family, Rachel, Richie. Holding in our hearts: the Adams family and Mary Jane in the loss of her mother Faye, Al, the Armitage family, Betty, Charlie S., David Merrill and family in the loss of his brother John, Dell, Doris, Ginny, Judy, Henry, Kathy, Lebanon UMC in Tennessee, the Merrill-Rice family, the Miller family and Sharon Collins in the loss of Scott, Nicole, Paul D., the Reim family, the Tirrell and Buzzell families, safe travel for all those out on the road during snowy weather. **Note that this list will renew each month.**

Special Events

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 hoping to receive pledge cards as soon as possible so we can plan our 2020 budget. You are invited to place your pledge card in the offering plate; rest assured that your pledge will remain confidential - no one except for our Financial Secretary will see your pledge. If you haven't yet returned a pledge card, please place it in the offering plate in the coming weeks. Thank you!

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

Ad Council Meeting MOVED. Due to the snowy weather we experienced last Wednesday, the Ad Council will meet THIS week on Wednesday, 12/18 at 10 AM at the parsonage.

Christmas Eve Service. Christmas Eve is a special time to spend with family and friends - join us at 4 PM on Tuesday, December 24th for our special candlelit Christmas Eve Service.

Next Week's Worship Leaders, 12/22

Thank you so much for your service!

Special Music. Choir - be sure to join us at 9 AM for rehearsal next week. All voices are welcome!

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. Sharon Collins

Coffee Hour Hosts. Jane Dolan & Jackie Wood