

## 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 ON PAUSE.** Our Thursday afternoon Bible Study is on pause this winter season. We will start up again in the spring.

**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 January's offering, the Sharing Cupboard has asked we provide socks, gloves, and hats. So far this fall and winter, 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 is available by phone or by appointment Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 12 PM. 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 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



*Overwhelming Love*

December 22, 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

**December 22, 2019**

PRELUDE *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* Gehrke

\*LIGHT OF CHRIST

\*PROCESSIONAL *Angels, Realms of Glory* UMH #220

GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*SONG OF PRAISE *Jesus, Name Above All Names* FWS #2071

*All Hail King Jesus* FWS #2069

Fuel Fund for those wishing to contribute

\*CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One: The prophet Isaiah declares, "A young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel, which means, 'God with us.'"

**All: The risen Christ declares, "I am with you always, to the end of the age."**

One: We light this fourth candle of Advent as a sign of God's overwhelming love and presence in Christ, now and always.

**All: We pray that we may trust that God is with us and live in the light of Christ's coming.**

One: We pray that we may experience the hope, peace, joy, and love of this season in its fullest.

**All: Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now. 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 *Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow* Trad. Spiritual  
An offering from our choir

\*DOXOLOGY UMH #95

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*GLORIA PATRI UMH #70

SCRIPTURE READING Crystal Armitage  
*Matthew 1:18-25*

SERMON *Overwhelming Love* Pastor Christy

\*HYMN *Go, Tell it on the Mountain* UMH #251

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Who is this Boy?* Wilson

\*Please stand as you are able.

∞ Adapted from Brian Wren's *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship*, page 35.

◇ Today's altar flowers are given by Sharon Collins in memory of her mom, Donna Koza.

## 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 *\$1,811* in the plate for a total of *\$4,058.50* 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, Karen, 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

**THANK YOU!** The poinsettias look amazing – thank you so much for decorating our church during this Christmas season, and many thanks to Heidi Jeldres and Ken Mundell for organizing the effort. If you donated toward the poinsettias, be sure to take your plant home with you today after worship service.

**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!

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

**Bible Study ON PAUSE.** Our Thursday afternoon Bible Study is on pause this winter season. We will start up again in the spring.

**History Potluck.** Our History Potluck originally scheduled for November will take place on **Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>** following church service. Bring a favorite family recipe and your memories from the church's history, including photos, journals, and records. This will be a great time of remembering who we are, where we came from, and where we hope to go.

## Next Week's Worship Leaders, 12/29

*Thank you so much for your service!*

**Special Music.** Open opportunity. Please contact Sharon Keith or Pastor Christy if you would like to serve!

**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.** Open opportunity. Please contact Jane Dolan or Pastor Christy if you would like to serve!

**Coffee Hour Hosts.** Tommy McKeon & Karen Farrell