



### **Our Mission and Vision Statement:**

*We are a church where all are welcome to worship together, to share in fellowship and to grow spiritually in our journey with Christ. We value justice, diversity, and freedom of expression. We strive to serve our community and all God's creation and to spread the love of God to all people.*

**We welcome you, members, friends, and visitors, to our service this morning!** If you are a guest with us in worship, we invite you to sign our guest register and/or fill out a visitor card.

**Welcome to families with children and youth.** Activity bags are available in the back of the sanctuary, near the bookcase, for children who are with us in worship. Sunday school is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month and will begin again in September.

### **Leading in worship today:**

Pastor: Pastor Gina "Pastor T" Colorio

Deacon: JoAnn Bakulski & Nancy Arsenault

Reader: Deanna Randall

Guest Musician: Stephen Page

**Today is Communion Sunday.** Our bread is gluten free and our juice is pure grape juice.

### **Prayer Requests**

*Would you like to ask for prayers for someone? There are slips on the rear table and a basket to place them in. A deacon will share them with the pastor. Please see a deacon with any questions.*

**Contact Info:** First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

36 N Main Street, PO Box 371, West Brookfield, MA 01585

508-867-7078 Email: [FCCWBWorship@gmail.com](mailto:FCCWBWorship@gmail.com) Website:

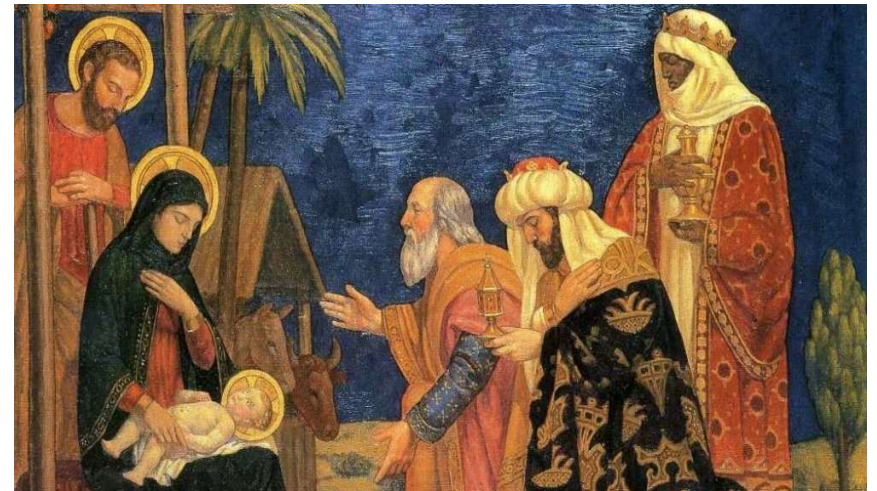
[westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org](http://westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org)

**Bridge Minister:** Rev. Beverly Prestwood-Taylor

413-563-7282 [b.prestwoodtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:b.prestwoodtaylor@gmail.com)

# *The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield United Church of Christ*

*January 5, 2025  
10 a.m.*



## *Epiphany Sunday*

Epiphany Sunday is a special date for Christians as it is when people celebrate how a star led the Magi - also known as the Three kings or the Wise Men - to visit the baby Jesus after he had been born. 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', as it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Congregational Announcements & Welcome

Karen Murphy

Prelude and Lighting of the Altar Candles  
(*Words in **bold** are to be spoken in unison.*  
*\*Please stand as you are able.*)

Pastoral Greeting

Call to Worship

Deanna Randall

Leader: Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last: gathered together for worship! We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

**People: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from deep in the past: “Arise, shine; for your light has come.”**

Leader: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

The magi followed a star to find a small child who is the Light of the world.

**People: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

Leader: So, let us receive the call of Isaiah and follow the example of the magi as we begin this new year turning our faces to God.

**People: Whose glory shows up among us as a vulnerable child, a poor carpenter, and a foot-washing servant who is the salvation of the world.**

**All: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and every day. Amen**

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Deanna Randall

**Dear God, reveal to us this day what our eyes look for but cannot see; what our ears hear and cannot understand. Shine your light on the pages of our lives.**

**We confess that in the places where we share the dark, everyone looks bright, and everything looks right. We are not anxious to move out of our darkness where we are fooled. In the darkness, our moves are not clear, our ideas are not voiced, and our relationships are not questioned.**

**But when your light shines, everything is like an open window. We see clearly. Thank you for inviting us to move on with you, Light of Lights. We praise you and pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silent Prayer

Words of Grace

\*Hymn “When God Is a Child” #165

Call to Offering and Offertory Music

~ (Offering plates are in the front and rear of the sanctuary for your gifts; you may place them in the plates during the music)

\*Doxology No. 34 (Old 100th)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

Blessing of Offering

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6 and Mathew 2:1-12

Deanna Randall

Our Response: **Word of God, Word of Life, Thanks be to God**

Special Music Stephen Page

Sermon “Epiphany – They All Gather Together” Pastor T

\*Hymn “We Three Kings of Orient Are” #233

Prayers of the People

(Spoken intercessions will be invited and your written prayer requests shared.)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen***

The Holy Communion

\*Closing Hymn “Angels We Have Heard On High” #188

Benediction (please be seated)

Postlude