The Congregational Church of Westborough
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

OPEN DOORS – GROWING FAITH!
No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!

WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!
We are an “Open and Affirming” Church

January 12, 2020
Statement of Inclusion

We, the people of The Congregational Church of Westborough, United Church of Christ, believe that all people are created equal, in God’s image. “We are all God’s children.” In our journey of faith, we strive for justice and equality for all.

We invite and welcome into our community and into the full life and Christian ministry of this church, persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, family structure, faith background, economic circumstance, mental and physical ability. We say, and mean, “No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

We declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing our belief in diversity and inclusion. We seek to be a faith community centered in Christ, ready to proclaim the Gospel and seek to grow through the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. We offer to each person acceptance and the responsibilities and blessings of participation in this congregation.

WELCOME!

Are you visiting with us today? We are glad you are here!

We celebrate “OPEN DOORS and GROWING FAITH”

“No matter who you are or where you are on your journey, you are welcome here.”

If you are here for a brief visit or are searching, let us be of help. Speak to an usher or the pastor and we will gladly be of service.

Our restrooms are located beyond the vestry on the first floor. There is a handicapped elevator located in the back of the sanctuary and a deacon will be glad to assist you. We have a handicapped bathroom next to the main office near the parking lot on the first floor.

Should there be a need to leave the service, there are exits to either side of the pulpit in front, or the stairs on either side in the back.

We celebrate open communion on the first Sunday of the month, where everyone is welcome to partake. Children are invited as well.

We welcome children to remain in worship today however we also offer a children’s program each Sunday in the nursery for children in grades 3 or younger and faith formation for older children most Sundays. We offer crayons and coloring pages for those who wish to keep their fingers moving during the service and we are comfortable with children being children! If your children need to move about, please feel free to stand in the back or go downstairs where the service can be heard over our speaker system.

WE HOPE YOU WILL BE INSPIRED AND PRAYERFULLY FILLED IN OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP

and that

YOU WILL FEEL WELCOMED, AS ONE WHO BELONGS!
*The Congregation is invited to stand.

**INVITING THE WORD**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETING**

*OPENING HYMN #247 “Wind upon the Waters”

**CALL TO WORSHIP (UCC.org)**

Leader: Sisters and brothers, today we recall how Jesus came to the waters of baptism.
People: In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred and death.
Leader: In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling
People: “There is no longer Jew or Greek
there is no longer slave or free
there is no longer male or female
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”
Leader: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love.
People: Therefore on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.
People: Let us worship God!

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Please be seated.)**

God of grace and majesty, we thank You for choosing to walk among Your people in all the circumstances of our lives. We pray that we would always be aware of Your presence among us. Almighty God, we give thanks for the strength, courage, and conviction to do justice, to speak loudly for those who need water, who need the refreshment that comes only from You and from those whom You have sent. We come before You this day to offer our worship, to seek Your presence, and to be restored to do great things among Your people. For this and every day of life, we give you thanks and praise. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying...
THE LORD’S PRAYER *(Debts)*

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.

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 10:34-38, 44-48 Wendy Reardon
*(Pew Bible page 895)*

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MESSAGE Pete Graham

CONGREGATIONAL SONG “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)” Matt and Beth Redman
JoySpring Binder

(Kids and Youth will go to Faith Formation)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 3:13-17 Mallika Das
*(Pew Bible page 784)*

REFLECTION “The Wellspring” Pete Graham

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Remick

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS Mallika Das

Invitation: Just as the waters of the earth are abundant and full of life, so are the blessings God pours upon us daily. Let us now joyfully offer our tithes, pledges, and offerings with the hope that they may enable others to feel immersed in God’s love.

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM “Let All Things Now Living” Welsh Folk Song, Harmonized by Katherine K. Davis

*Let all things now living, a song of thanksgiving*
To God the creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who guideth us on to the end of our days.
His banners are over us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,*
'Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
As forward we travel from light into light!

His law He enforces, the stars in their courses,  
The sun in his orbit obediently shine.
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
The deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine.

We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
With glad adoration a song let us raise,
'Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving  
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

*DOXOLOGY (Unison)  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)  
Mallika Das  
Giver and Sustainer of Life, pour out Your blessing upon these gifts and upon all who give from their hearts. Multiply them so they reach farther than our imaginations can carry them. In the blessed name of our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN # 365  
“Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”  
BEACH SPRING

*BENEDICTION  
Pete Graham

*POSTLUDE  
(You are invited to sit for the Postlude if you wish. Let the worship service settle in your heart. If you wish to exit, please do so quietly.)

Mallika Das greeted you this morning and served as liturgists.  
Mareketa Rosecka and Karen Gavel are Deacons of the day.

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS FOR JANUARY 12, 2020

New Prayers: Dorothy Collins at Beaumont after suffering a stroke.  
Continued Prayers: Kristy Kocou; Megan Huber’s mother Fran Kelly; Marie Murphy’s son Craig Jernberg and her daughter Lisa Jernberg; Cathie Achorn’s friend Julie Noble and her preemie baby Kosmas Andrew Melitas; CJ Harris (Marge Butcher’s grandnephew); Nancy Reimann; Cathie Achorn’s mother Dee Mumby; Bob Brown; Gini & Tom Erwin; Anna Gavel, granddaughter/cousin of Karen Gavel and the Oevermanns; Linda Polatka (Cathie Achorn’s sister); Ron and Nancy Clark’s daughter, Melissa Dickinson.
Prayer requests: You can place prayer concerns on the church’s email distribution list at eprayers@uccwestboro.org. If you would like a prayer request included in today’s service, please let a Deacon know prior to the start of worship. Prayers will remain listed for 8 weeks. If you would like a prayer renewed, please call the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN US FOR THE BUDGET MEETING DOWNSTAIRS IN THE VESTRY AFTER WORSHIP!

There will be a HOT luncheon put on by the youth downstairs before the meeting. Good will offerings will be used to support the Mission Trip - Costa Rica.

PARISH LIFE PANCAKE BREAKFAST – JAN 26TH
Join us Sunday, Jan 26th after church for our annual Pancake Breakfast where you will enjoy pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit salad, juice, coffee and pastries. For more information, call Cathie Achorn at 508-380-8671.

NEW DATE FOR DISMAS HOUSE DINNERS!
Our church goes once a month to cook and serve a meal with the people of Dismas House, a home for ex-prisoners. Beginning in January we will now be going on the 4th TUESDAY of each month. If you would like to help, be in touch with Karen Hutchinson at millarhutch@aol.com. The next dinner will be Tuesday, Jan 28th. Donations of Stop & Shop cards are greatly appreciated to help with the shopping for the meals! Thank you.

THE G.I.F.T. PROGRAM POSTPONED
The G.I.F.T. program that was to be held on Wednesday evenings has been postponed until the Lenten Season.

GROCERY CARD PROJECT
NEW YEAR, NEW GOAL! We are stocked up and ready to go. Please help us to start strong and always keep a grocery card in your pocket for all your shopping, or those quick stops. We are thankful for your support. If you need cards delivered contact Karen Hutchinson at 508.870.1782 or millarhutch@aol.com or Nancy Quimby at 774.249.4431 or nquimby11@gmail.com or Sally Petersen at sbpetersen4@gmail.com and 366.5169.
SEARCH COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Pastoral Search Committee needs your help! Over the next few weeks, we will be seeking your response to some questions as we create our local church profile used in the search. We want accurately to capture the thoughts and feelings from the church members and friends about the near term (3-5 years) future for our church. We will be using several means of communication (Weekly Bulletin, eNews, and index cards on the Mission table, etc.) to reach as many folks as we can. Please forward your answer in 7 days. You may mail your answer to the church office at 57 Church Street, or reply by emailing your answer to attention Linda Borglund (lborglund53@gmail.com) and Kathy Todd (lightsong60@gmail.com)

Thanks, and here's this week's question: Please provide a one word to brief paragraph

What would you like to see our church become over the next 3 - 5 years?
## CALENDAR Jan 12<sup>th</sup> - Jan 19<sup>th</sup>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10:00 AM Worship Service &amp; FF</td>
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<td>11:15 AM Lunch &amp; Budget Meeting/Vestry</td>
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<td>7:00 PM GSA/Kerygma Rm</td>
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<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11AM &amp; 1:30PM PCC/Fannie Forbes</td>
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<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Festival Ringers</td>
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<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:15 AM Playgroup/Nursery</td>
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<td>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>7:45 PM JoySpring Rehearsal</td>
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<td>1:30-6:30 PM Court of Honor/Vestry, Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10:00 AM Worship Service &amp; FF</td>
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<td>11:15 AM Music Committee</td>
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