

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

January 14, 2024

10:00 AM



Photo by Deb Boucher

WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are an "Open and Affirming" Church



WELCOME!

To our worshipping community, especially to parents: God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house! We welcome you and your child/ren. Children are a gift to the church and a reminder that the church is growing. May our church be a place where we give smiles of encouragement to parents!

Are you visiting with us today? We are glad you are here!
WHETHER YOU HAVE JOINED US BY PHONE, IPAD, OR COMPUTER

We celebrate "OPEN DOORS and GROWING FAITH"
"No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here."

CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

Rev. Betsy Dorsi, Pastor – revbetsyccw@gmail.com
Joseph Stillitano, Director of Music – uccwestboromusic@gmail.com
Linda Borglund, Director of Faith Formation – lborglund53@gmail.com
Sue Menzel, Director of Bells – westcongmusic@gmail.com
Lisa Coffey, Administrator – westboroucc@verizon.net
Deb Boucher, Communications Coordinator – deb.boucher.15@gmail.com

Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday: 9am – 1pm
Monday: Closed
Church office phone 508/366-2000

*General Church email – westboroucc@verizon.net, Church website- www.uccwestboro.org
www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough*

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.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTBOROUGH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday after Epiphany

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens)

9:45 AM

PRELUDE

INTROIT

“My Lips Shall Praise Thee”
Chancel Choir

Rev. Stan Spottswood

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Max Keeler

One: We travel a rocky, twisted road on earth.

Many: Jesus also traveled this road.

One: We are not alone as we navigate the twists and turns and boulders in our way.

Many: Jesus our Brother and Savior walks with us.

All: Let us give praise to our God who never leaves us.

*OPENING SONG

“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”
JoySpring Songbook #3

Written by Brian Doerksen

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Max Keeler

Dear Jesus, You were born in a barn far from home. You grew up away from Your extended family. You knew hunger and estrangement as an adult. You truly became one of us, one of the poorest of us. You teach us many things through Scripture, continue to teach us about love as we care for the people we serve in Your name. Walk with us and guide us and help us to see You in everyone. We pray for this in the name of our Savior and continue in prayer using His words...

*THE 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.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Max Keeler

Dear Lord, we confess that sometimes we don't see You in others because we don't look for You. We get too busy getting the job done that we forget the people we are helping. We put our own needs and wants first and then serve others from what's left of our energy, time and money. We worry about our future needs while knowing others have very little now. Please forgive us. Teach us to rely on You to provide what we need so we can serve others with generosity and joy. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURES	Micah 6:6-8 Matthew 2:13-15	(Pew Bible pgs. 757 & 784)
SERMON	"Night Flight"	Rev. Betsy Dorsi
HYMN #600	"Jesu, Jesu"	CHEREPONI

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER	Rev. Betsy Dorsi
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OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation: <i>Let us bring our offerings before God with thanksgiving!</i>	Max Keeler
The morning offering will now be received.	

Offertory	"Circle Chant" and "We are Free!" Chancel Choir	Linda Hirschhorn and the Dundee Voices of Joy
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"For online giving, scan QR code with your phone's camera"

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Max Keeler

God of bounty and peace, we offer You gifts out of the riches You have bestowed on us. Bless our gifts, we pray, and make them bounteous for those we serve in Your name. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Communion at our church is open to all. Gluten free wafers are in the prepackaged containers.)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (as found on the inside cover of your hymn book)

Max Keeler

INVITATION

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

We thank You Jesus for inviting us to Your sacred table and feeding us Your heavenly feast. May it draw us closer to You and to the people we serve in Your name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN # 655

“Community of Christ”

LEONI

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Go Ye Now in Peace”
JoySpring Songbook #25

Composed by Joyce Elaine Eilers

*POSTLUDE

Max Keeler serves as liturgist today.

Theresa DiMeo and **Elizabeth Kfig** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

New Prayers: Marge Butcher’s grandson David Butcher Jr.; Pete Rossi.

Continued Prayers: Ron & Nancy Clark’s daughter Melissa Dickinson; Betty Barclay; Judy Oliver; Nancy Reimann; The Lord family; Cathie Achorn’s mom, Dee Mumby; Betty Grays’ niece Heather and her family; Ilda & Jim Engle; Betty Simino; Roberta Di Terlizzi’s mother Donata.

300th ANNIVERSARY FUN FACT

JAN 7th: Ebenezer Parkman, age 21, was ordained as the first minister in the newly incorporated Town of Westborough, Commonwealth of Massachusetts on October 28, 1724. During his 58 years of Ministry, he officiated over 382 new memberships, 1,346 baptisms, and 290 marriages.

JAN 14th: On June 25, 1957 our church began to discuss merging with the Congregational Christian Churches to form the United Church of Christ. Four years later, in May, 1961, the merger was established.

CALL TO A SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY 28, 2024

A Special Meeting of The Congregational Church of Westborough will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, immediately following worship in the sanctuary. The meeting will be broadcast via Zoom where those who are church members can vote online. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

1. To review the church's financial statement for 2023.
2. To discuss and vote on the church's operations budget for 2024.
3. To vote on funding the steeple and cupola refurbishment project.
4. To transact such other business as may regularly come before the meeting.

David R. Smith, Church Clerk

STEWARDSHIP 2024

As of December 31, 86 pledges have been received, for which the Stewardship Committee is very thankful. These pledges for operating expenses total \$239,915 towards a goal of \$246,500, which represents 71% of the total operating budget. We encourage previous pledgers, cash contributors and new pledgers to participate by submitting a pledge card for 2024—no contribution is too small.

WESTBOROUGH FOOD PANTRY

Wow! That white box was full last month. Thank you to everyone who donated food items. For January, they could really use spaghetti, elbow macaroni, and pasta sauce. Items can be placed in the white box at the side entrance to the church or in the basket at the front entry. Your kindness will provide hearty meals for your neighbors here in Westborough. The Mission Team

GOT PICTURES?

It's that time of year again, when many wonderful things are happening around our church, and many of you take pictures - THANK YOU! When you EMAIL pictures to Deb and Lisa, PLEASE help us out, and don't send them with "no subject" in the subject line! The time it takes for you to type a couple of words for the subject is WAY LESS than one of us trying to search every "no subject" email for a special picture. (And please, don't text the pictures. The quality is much better through email, and again, much easier to organize/find.) Thank you! Lisa westboroucc@verizon.net and Deb deb.boucher.15@gmail.com.



Jan 14	Communion Sunday
10:00 AM	Worship
11:30 AM	300 th Anniversary Mtg./Chapel
Jan 15	Monday – office closed
6-8 PM	Cub Scouts/Vestry
7:00 Pm	Cabinet/Kerygma Rm
Jan 16	Tuesday
7:00-8:00 PM	Bells Rehearse
Jan 17	Wednesday
6:30-8 PM	Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM	PRC Meeting
Jan 18	Thursday
Jan 19	Friday
Jan 20	Saturday
Jan 21	Sunday
10:00 AM	Worship & Sunday School
11:15 AM	Confirmation Class

