

# The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

January 21, 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](mailto:revbetsyccw@gmail.com)*  
*Joseph Stillitano, Director of Music – [uccwestboromusic@gmail.com](mailto:uccwestboromusic@gmail.com)*  
*Linda Borglund, Director of Faith Formation – [lborglund53@gmail.com](mailto:lborglund53@gmail.com)*  
*Sue Menzel, Director of Bells – [westcongmusic@gmail.com](mailto:westcongmusic@gmail.com)*  
*Lisa Coffey, Administrator – [westboroucc@verizon.net](mailto:westboroucc@verizon.net)*  
*Deb Boucher, Communications Coordinator – [deb.boucher.15@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:westboroucc@verizon.net), Church website- [www.uccwestboro.org](http://www.uccwestboro.org)  
[www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough](https://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 21, 2024

Third 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

“Spirit of Jesus”  
Chancel Choir

Taizé

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

## INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adrianna Baltimore

One: Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Many: We have prepared our hearts through repentance and prayer.**

One: You have been baptized into Christ.

**Many: We have received the Holy Spirit.**

One: Come Christians, join the praise of God.

**Many: We come to worship our Creator, our Savior and our Sanctifier.**

\*OPENING HYMN #497

“In Loving Partnership”

PARTNERSHIP

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Adrianna Baltimore

**Holy God, light of the world and Savior of many, send Your spirit upon us anew today as we come to worship and praise You. Give us the strength, wisdom and love for each other that will help us be Your hands, feet and mouth in our world today. Inspire us with stories from Your sacred word and encourage us by the example of others. We ask this through Your powerful name O Jesus, and we continue in prayer using the words You taught us...**

\*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)

Adrianna Baltimore

**Jesus, we look to You as our example for discipleship. We confess to You our teacher, that at times we have overlooked needs for justice in our midst. We spoke up once but not loudly and boldly. We let fears for our reputation or our safety hold us back. We purposely do not keep up our knowledge about our community’s poorest or most hurting members because we don’t have to help those we don’t know. Forgive us for the times we turned our back on those who needed us. Help us be more faithful in bringing Your light to the world. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURES

Mark 1:1-11 Acts 19:1-7

(Pew Bible pgs. 812 & 903)

SERMON

“Will You Go?”

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

HYMN #266 (vs. 1-4)

“Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me”

LUX PRIMA

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation: *Let us bring our offerings before God with thanksgiving!*

Adrianna Baltimore

The morning offering will now be received.

Offertory

“Solitude” (ca.1780)

Composed by Lemuel Babcock

Chancel choir

*My flesh shall slumber in the ground,  
'Til the last trumpet's joyful sound;  
Then burst the chains with sweet surprise,  
And in my Savior's image rise.*

300th Celebration Performance: "Solitude" was written by Lemuel Babcock/Badcock (1748-1835) who was a singing school teacher in Westborough. Singing schools developed from the attempts of Harvard-educated clergy to improve the ease of singing psalms in the Puritan Church.



"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)**

Adrianna Baltimore

**Jesus the Light of the World, we give You gifts from the fruit of our labor and the love in our hearts. By Your holy Spirit, please bless them and inspire us that through our offering Your light may brighten our community. Amen.**

**BEING THE CHURCH**

**300<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY INTRODUCTION**

Cathie Achorn

**\*CLOSING SONG**

"Ev'ry Move I Make"  
JoySpring Songbook #4

Composed by David Ruis

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**Adrianna Baltimore** serves as liturgist today.

**Linda Birch** and **Elizabeth Kafig** are deacons of the day.

*Prayers*

Bereavement: Betty Barclay passed away at the age of 100.

Continued Prayers: Marge Butcher's grandson David Butcher Jr.; Ron & Nancy Clark's daughter Melissa Dickinson; 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.

### 300<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUN FACT

Reverend Ebenezer Parkman grudgingly started preaching in the second meeting house (now site of the Arcade Building) in September 1749. Uncomfortable, cold winds blew through the building, and when it rained, his head got wet as he preached.

### 300TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee will meet Thursday, Feb. 1 at 7 PM in the Kerygma Room. You are invited to come join us. Let us know your ideas or how you can help.

### Just a Peek Ahead to Put on Your Calendar - *Women's Fellowship Meeting*

Monday, February 5th at 6-7 Women's Fellowship will have its meeting. Then, 7:15 PM "300 Years and Counting" presented by Tom Morgan. All are invited to this (open to the community) special presentation by Tom Morgan about our church beginnings including pictures of how we've changed over the years.

### 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

**"Please note**, the Special Meeting will ONLY be on Zoom. For those of you who normally watch us on Facebook, you will need to log in to Zoom before the meeting starts. (The link is our normal service link - we'll just go right into the meeting after the service ends.)"

### 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](mailto:westboroucc@verizon.net) and Deb [deb.boucher.15@gmail.com](mailto:deb.boucher.15@gmail.com).

<b>Jan 21</b>	<b>Communion Sunday</b>
10:00 AM	Worship & Sunday School
11:15 AM	Confirmation Class
<b>Jan 22</b>	<b>Monday – office closed</b>
<b>Jan 23</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
7:00-8:00 PM	Bells Rehearse
	Dismas House Dinner
<b>Jan 24</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
6:30-8 PM	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Jan 25</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>Jan 26</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Jan 27</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>Jan 28</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
10:00 AM	Worship
11:30 AM	Annual Meeting

