

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

January 28, 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 28, 2024

Fourth 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

"The Lord is My Light"
Chancel Choir

Taizé

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Darvin Kapitz

One: Who is this who speaks with such great confidence?

Many: Jesus of Nazareth, the One our prophets foretold.

One: Who is this that even demons obey?

Many: Jesus, son of God, our Redeemer.

All: Let us worship the Savior of the World!

*OPENING SONG

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"
JoySpring Songbook #18

Composed by Paul Baloche

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Darvin Kapitz

O Lord, we come before You in awe of Your power and love. Teach us to watch and learn from You. Help us be quiet and listen to Your Call on our lives. Fill us with Your Spirit to inspire us to act of mercy and love in Your name. We pray this in Jesus' sacred name 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)

Darvin Kapitz

Jesus, we hear You call us to be Your disciples. We listen to Your Word and we know Your Spirit dwells within us. Many times Lord, we hear You call us to service, but we are afraid to go. Forgive us for the times we have not trusted Your Spirit to guide and protect us. Forgive us for the people we did not help, the times we did not share Your Good News. Help us call upon the Holy Spirit to inspire us to be more active as Your disciples. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 111 Mark 1:21-28

(Pew Bible pgs. 490 & 812)

SERMON

“With Authority!”

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

HYMN #609

“Take My Life”

HENDON

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation: *Let us bring our offerings before God with thanksgiving!*
The morning offering will now be received.

Darvin Kapitz

Offertory

“Newport” (1785)
Chancel Choir

Composed by Daniel Read

300th Celebration Performance: "Newport" was written by Daniel Read (1757-1836), singing school teacher, composer, and comb manufacturer, who lived in Connecticut. He was the third American-born composer to put out a collection of his own music.

*I send the joys of earth away; Away, ye tempters of the mind!
False as the smooth, deceitful sea, And empty as the whistling wind.
Your streams were floating me along Down to the gulf of black despair,
And while I listened to your song, Your streams had e'en conveyed me there.*

*Lord, I adore Thy matchless grace, That warned me of that dark abyss;
That drew me from those treach'rous seas, And bid me seek superior bliss.*

*Now to the shining realms above I stretch my hands and glance mine eyes;
O for the pinions of a dove, To bear me to the upper skies!*



"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)**

Darvin Kapitz

**Please accept our gifts, Holy One, given for the ministry of this, Your Church. Bless them to
Your use and us to Your obedience. Amen.**

BEING THE CHURCH

***CLOSING HYMN #452**

"Here I Am, Lord"

HERE I AM, LORD

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Darvin Kapitz serves as liturgist today.

Pam Faustine and **Marketa Brzostowski** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

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.

300th ANNIVERSARY FUN FACT

In 1773, the town voted not to build a steeple on the meeting house. In 1801, Samuel Parkman (son of Ebenezer) purchased a Paul Revere bell and brought it to Westborough. There was another vote to add a steeple, which passed. The new bell was installed in the steeple. This was the first bell that had ever called people to worship in Westborough.

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.

300TH ANNIVERSARY KICK OFF CELEBRATION – FEBRUARY 11TH

Join us for worship service 10:00 AM. We will introduce the 300 Acts of Kindness Program and introduce our own new Church Hymn. After the service come to the Pancake Brunch in the Vestry for fun and fellowship.

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.)"

TROOP 100'S ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Troop 100's annual pancake breakfast will take place on Sunday, March 3rd at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 17 Willow Street. Members of Troop 100 will be in the vestry selling tickets after the service. Tickets are \$7 per person, \$20 per family, \$5 for seniors. Please support our scouts and join this annual tradition.

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 28 10:00 AM	Sunday Worship & Annual Meeting
Jan 29	Monday – office closed
Jan 30 7:00-8:00 PM	Tuesday Bells Rehearse
Jan 31 6:30-8 PM	Wednesday Choir Rehearsal
Feb 1 7:00 PM	Thursday 300 th Anniversary Meeting/Kerygma
Feb 2	Friday
Feb 3	Saturday
Feb 4 10:00 AM 11:30 AM	Communion Sunday Worship & Sunday School Annual Meeting

