

# The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

World Communion Sunday

October 1, 2023



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

Oct. 1, 2023

World Communion Sunday

*\*The Congregation is invited to stand.*

### GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens)

9:45 AM

PRELUDE

INTROIT

“Laudate Dominum”  
Chancel Choir

Taizé

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

### INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on John 4)

Janet Rivard

One: Let all who thirst come.

**Many: We come to the water.**

One: Let all who are weary come.

**Many: We come to find rest.**

One: Let all who seek come.

**Many: We come to find the Lord.**

\*OPENING SONG

“How Great is Our God”  
JoySpring Songbook #11

Composed by Chris Tomlin,  
Jesse Reeves & Ed Cash

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Janet Rivard

**Holy God, we gather today to spend some time with You and each other. We know that we get closer to You when we take time to be with You. Draw near to us and let us feel Your presence. We pray this in Jesus’ name and continue to pray using the words He 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

Janet Rivard

**Jesus, each of us has our own mistakes and failings harboring in our hearts. Every day it seems, we neglect someone who needs us or say some hurtful word. We are sorry for our sins. Help us to confess them to You and then put them aside so we can feel Your mercy and live in the freedom You bought us. Amen.**

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

#### RECEIVING THE WORD

##### A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*(Children leave for Sunday School)*

##### SCRIPTURE

Exodus 17:1-7

*(pew Bible pages 56)*

##### SERMON

“Water from a Rock?”

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

##### \*HYMN #622

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

CWM RHONDDA

#### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

##### PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

##### OFFERING OUR GIFTS

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

Janet Rivard

The morning offering will now be received.

##### Offertory

“Taste and See”

Written by Michael Helman

Chancel Choir

*Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.  
Bread of life, cup of salvation, come to the banquet of love.*

*Lord, you write your name upon our hearts;  
Praise and thanks we give to you.  
Come and share the Word of life and love;  
Gracious God we give you glory.*

*Lord, you rule o'er all creation, tending all with loving hand.  
You gave us your Son, the Bread of Life;  
Loving God we give you glory.  
Praise to you, O God, Creator.*

*Praise to Christ, Redeemer, King.  
Praise the Spirit who brings unity.  
Triune God we give you glory!*



“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)**

Janet Rivard

**We thank You God for all the gifts You give us. Now we bring some of our abundance back to You. Bless these gifts and make them holy for use in Your ministry. 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)**

Janet Rivard

**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 Lord for inviting us to share in Your heavenly banquet for Christian all around the world. May the meal we shared remind us that we are all Your disciples working in Your kingdom despite creed or tradition. Let all the world know us as Christians by the love we share. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #458**

“Ours the Journey”

OURS THE JOURNEY

**\*BENEDICTION**

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Go Ye Now in Peace”  
JoySpring Songbook #25

Composed by Joyce Elaine Eilers

\*POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of **Christopher Bramley** from the Bramley family.

**Janet Rivard** serves as liturgist today.

**Amy Glennon** and **Elizabeth Kfig** are deacons of the day.

## Prayers

New Prayers: Nancy Reimann

Continued Prayers: Deb Boucher recovering from wrist surgery; Tom Erwin’s son-in-law, Mike Grundmann; Marketa’s friend – Paula; The Lord family; Carrie Halbert (wife of Nikki Halbert’s cousin); Cathie Achorn’s mom, Dee Mumby; Marge Butcher’s granddaughter Meghan Donovan; Betty Grays’s niece Heather and her family; Ilda & Jim Engle; Betty Simino; Nancy Walker (Deb Boucher’s mom); Roberta Di Terlizzi’s mother Donata; Dennis in hospice (friend of Deb and Rich Boucher).

Celebration: October 6<sup>th</sup> will be Betty Barclay’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Prayer requests: You can place prayer concerns on the church’s email distribution list at [epayers@uccwestboro.org](mailto:epayers@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

### MEN’S BREAKFAST

On Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> the Men’s group will be meeting for breakfast at 9:00 am. The guest speaker will be Town Clerk Debbi Ledoux. All men of the church are welcome. It is a time of FELLOWSHIP, GOOD FOOD, GOOD CONVERSATION AND LEARNING.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FALL DINNER

Reminder: Tomorrow night is the first Women’s Fellowship Meeting of the new church year. Social Time and appetizers begin at 5:30 pm. The meeting will be at 6:00 and dinner at 6:35 pm. Our guest speaker will be Polly Thayer.

### A CONCERT: MEMORIES

Tickets are going on sale starting today for the Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> concert at 2:00 pm in our sanctuary. The concert entitled “Memories” stars our very own Adrianna Baltimore. She will be in the vestry at fellowship hour for those that wish to purchase tickets today. Tickets are \$10 and the proceeds will benefit the church kitchen renovation fund.

### SAVE THE DATE!

We are scheduled for a Habitat for Humanity work day on Saturday, October 28th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The homes will be built on two lots at 521 and 523 Sunderland Road in Worcester. Construction is just getting started so we are getting in on the ground floor! Skills, no skills - all are welcome (ages 16 and up). Tools and instruction are provided. Sign-up sheet is in the vestry. Questions - contact the Mission Team.

### 300<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

The Cabinet has approved the formation of a committee to plan a celebration for the 300th anniversary of our church. Cathie Achorn has been appointed to head up this committee. If you would like to help out with this please contact her by message or text at cell #508-380-8671, or by email at [camachorn@aol.com](mailto:camachorn@aol.com). This committee will meet in September to get organized. Please let Cathie know if you will consider being a part of this group at such an important time in the history of our church. Looking forward to a fun and interesting 300th year.



### **October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 8<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Oct 1</b>	<b>Communion Sunday</b>
10:00 AM	Worship & Sunday School
<b>Oct 2</b>	<b>Monday – closed</b>
6:30 pm	WF Meeting/Fall Dinner
<b>Oct 3</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
10:00 AM	Willows & Whitney Place
7-8 PM	Bells Rehearse
<b>Oct 4</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
6:30 -7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM	Deacons/Kerygma Rm.
<b>Oct 5</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>Oct 6</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Oct 7</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
3:00 PM	Wedding Rehearsal
<b>Oct 8</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
10:00 AM	Worship & Sunday School
4:00 PM	Wedding

