

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

October 22, 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
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

Oct. 22, 2023

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens)

9:45 AM

PRELUDE

“Morning Has Broken”
“For the Beauty of the Earth”
Marcia Hoffman, piano

Gaelic Melody
Conrad Kocher

INTROIT

“O Master Let Me Walk With Thee”
Festival Ringers

Smith/Callahan

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Cathie Achorn

One: The Kingdom of God is vast and always growing.

Many: We are called to work in its fields.

One: God calls us and equips us for ministry.

Many: We gladly labor for his Kingdom in thanksgiving for all he has done for us.

*OPENING HYMN #25

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (vs. 1-3)

LOBE DEN HERREN

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Cathie Achorn

Jesus, You call us to be Your disciples. You have equipped us for the work You set before us. Teach us Your ways and guide us in our ministry, we pray. We want to do Your will and please You. We offer this prayer 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 (Unison)

Cathie Achorn

Almighty God, You call us to continue Your ministry by caring for the poor and sick and by sharing our faith. We confess that too often we are uncomfortable and even ashamed to talk about our faith. Often we see ministry opportunities but either we look the other way or we convince ourselves that we can't really help here. Forgive us for the times we hide our lights from view and turn from the work You set before us. Have mercy on 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)

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 123 Matthew 25:14-30

(pew Bible pages 498 & 807)

SERMON

"Measuring Up!"

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*HYMN #609

"Take My Life" (vs. 1-3)

HENDON

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

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

Cathie Achorn

The morning offering will now be received.

Offertory

"He Leadeth Me"

Bradley/Dobrinski

Festival Ringers



"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)

Cathie Achorn

Holy God, please accept our offering of treasure and talents. Help us use them for the building of Your Kingdom on earth. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

*CLOSING HYMN #606

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

NETTLETON

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Marcia Hoffman, piano

Ludwig van Beethoven
Adapted by Edward Hodges

Cathie Achorn serves as liturgist today.

Pam Faustine and **Steve Achorn** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

Continued Prayers: Nancy Reimann; 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; Roberta Di Terlizzi’s mother Donata; Dennis in hospice (friend of Deb and Rich Boucher).

Announcements

STEWARDSHIP 2024

This year’s stewardship theme is “Because of You Our Church Changes Lives.” Our church reaches out to help people both locally and worldwide. We seek to continue this ministry and mission in the coming year with the help of our members and friends. As we prepare for Stewardship Sunday on November 19, let us consider all that we have and how we can share them with others. Please be on the lookout for the stewardship mailing in the coming week. The Stewardship Committee

CONFIRMATION CLASS MEETING

Next Sunday, Oct. 29th Rev. Betsy will be meeting with the Confirmation class after church in the Chapel.

FOOD PANTRY – OCTOBER WISH LIST

Thank you for all those packets of oatmeal, pasta and sauce! For October we will be collecting Nutri-grain bars, jars of mayonnaise, and boxes of tissues for the cold and flu season. We will continue to collect oatmeal packets as they are in high demand. Donations can be placed in the white box at the side entrance to the church or in the basket at the front entrance. Thank you again for caring about your neighbors in need. The Mission Team

ENEWS & EPRAAYER CHANGES

We are in the process of getting things set up so we can email you directly from your contacts stored in the church database. In the interim, you can expect to see "eNews" or "Prayer" emails either from Lisa (westboroucc@verizon.net) or Deb (deb.boucher.15@gmail.com). Once I have all the kinks worked out, you will receive emails from "comms@uccwestboro.org". The sender name will be "The Congregational Church of Westborough". Thank you, Deb Boucher, Communications Coordinator

GREAT PIE CHALLENGE



We are excited to continue our tradition of the Great Pie Challenge! We will be making pies in the vestry on November 5th, 12th, and 19th. Last year we donated more than 150 pies to the Curtis Family for their Thanksgiving Feast, and we hope to do it again! We would be grateful for your donations of: apples, canned pumpkin, and pie tins! Please leave donations in the box in the kitchen.

MAIN STREET TRICK O' TREAT– OCT 24th

We will be participating in the town Halloween stroll this year on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023, from 4-7pm. We will assemble bags after church in the library. If you need information on how you can help on Oct. 24th, call Cathie at 508-380-8671.

300th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER

There will be two meetings coming up in October for the planning of the 300th Anniversary of our church. One will be in the evening and one in the morning to allow more people to come. The first meeting is **Monday, Oct. 23rd at 7 pm** and the second will be **Wednesday, Oct. 25th at 9 am**. Both will be held in the Kerygma room. Please stop by if you would like to help out. The **Monday** night meeting will be available by Zoom for those who need it.

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.

A CONCERT: MEMORIES

If you would like to buy tickets for the concert on Saturday, November 4th at 2:00 pm in our sanctuary, you can stop by the church office during regular hours. The concert entitled "Memories" stars our very own Adrianna Baltimore. Tickets are \$10 and the proceeds will benefit the church kitchen renovation fund.

FLOWER COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

The Nominating Committee is seeking new members for the Flower Committee as its ranks have shrunk to 4 from a full cadre of 9. If you can help out and want more information, please contact Betty Gray or Dave Smith.

KIRKSIDE POOL TABLE

Ten years ago, the Church held an indoor yard sale on items from our Kirkside Building as we were preparing this building for sale. Coincidentally, this sale was held on Scout Sunday. A Boy Scout spotted the pool table in the basement of Kirkside where youth groups often hung out. He convinced his Dad that this is what their family needed. Now the family is downsizing and looking to pass this pool table onto to the next stewards!! This table is a 9-foot Brunswick table with a 3-piece slate bed. bearing a plaque from Joseph and Winifred Quick in 1967. Being able to relocate the pool table is the only charge. Spread the word! Contact Sally Petersen for pictures or more info. sbpetersen4@gmail.com.



October 22nd - October 29th

Oct 22 10:00 AM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School
Oct 23 7:00 PM	Monday – closed 300 th Anniversary Mtg./Kerygma Rm
Oct 24 4-7:00 PM 7-8 PM	Tuesday Halloween Stroll Bells Rehearse Dismas House Dinner
Oct 25 9:00 AM 6:30 -7:30 PM	Wednesday 300 th Anniversary Mtg./Kerygma Rm Choir Rehearsal
Oct 26	Thursday
Oct 27	Friday
Oct 28 8 AM – 4 PM 2:00 PM	Saturday Habitat Work day Dress Rehearsal for Concert
Oct 29 10:00 AM 11:30 AM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School Confirmation Class meeting/Chapel