

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

Thanksgiving Sunday
Stewardship Sunday

November 19, 2023



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

Nov. 19, 2023

Thanksgiving Sunday
Stewardship Sunday

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens)

9:45 AM

PRELUDE

INTROIT

“Da Pacem Domine”
Composed by Melchior Franck (c.1579 - 1639)
Chancel Choir

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pam Faustine

One: Creator God fashioned us in His own image.

Many: Give thanks to God for His love and faithfulness.

One: Jesus came to earth to redeem us.

Many: Give thanks to God for His love and faithfulness.

One: The Holy Spirit dwells within us to guide and encourage us.

Many: Give thanks to God for His love and faithfulness.

*OPENING SONG

“Blessed Be Your Name” Comp. by Matt and Beth Redman
JoySpring Songbook #2

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Pam Faustine

Holy God, provider of all good things, we thank You for Your love for us which knows no bounds. We are so grateful to be Your beloved children and to know that all we need will be provided by You. We take great comfort in knowing that You will never leave or forsake us. Help us to grow more loving and kind like You. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Savior and we 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)

Pam Faustine

Holy One, though we know that all we have is a blessing from You, sometimes we act as though we have earned our wealth and don’t want to share it with others. Sometimes we put ourselves above others with less education or social status than us, forgetting that we had opportunities not open to them. Help us remember that all people are equal in Your sight and that everything You give us You expect us to share. Have mercy on us when we are not humble and giving. Help us become more loving like You. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

(Children leave to finish pies)

***HYMN #714**

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

AR HYD Y NOS

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 33:12-23 Matthew 22:15-22

(Pew Bible pgs. 70 & 803)

SERMON

“The Many Faces of God”

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGE CARDS

"Thanks Be To Thee"

Festival Ringers

Pam Kapitz, flute

Comp by George F. Handel

Arr. by John F. Wilson

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

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

Pam Faustine

The morning offering will now be received.

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise our hymn of gratitude and praise.
For the wonder of each hour, and the wonder of the night,
Sun and moon and stars of light;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise our hymn of praise.*

*This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears
All nature sings, and 'round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father's world: O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.*

*For Thyself, best gift divine, to the world so freely given;
For that great, great love of Thine;
God of all, to Thee we raise our hymn of praise.
Our hymn of praise, our hymn of grateful praise,
Alleluia!*



"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)**

Pam Faustine

Lord, please accept these gifts we humbly bring before You. Through our offering may we be reminded of all that You give us. Inspire us to use these treasures wisely, serving others in Your name. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

***CLOSING HYMN #717**

"Let All Things Now Living"

ASH GROVE

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*POSTLUDE

The flowers today are given in memory of **Nancy Walker**.

Pam Faustine served as liturgist today.

Linda Borglund and **Theresa DiMeo** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

Continued Prayers: Nancy Reimann; The Lord family; Cathie Achorn's mom, Dee Mumby; Betty Grays's niece Heather and her family; Ilda & Jim Engle; Betty Simino; Roberta Di Terlizzi's mother Donata.

STEWARDSHIP 2024

The Stewardship Committee wants to thank the 26pledging units who have already forwarded their pledge cards to the church office. For anyone who was not able to attend today's Stewardship Sunday in person, we encourage you to send in your pledge at your earliest convenience so that the 2024 operating budget can be finalized. If you are a previous pledger or a non-pledging contributor, the Stewardship Committee will be reaching out to you in the near future. If you need a pledge card, please contact the church office at 508-366-2000. The committee thanks you for your participation.

GIVING TREE 2023

The tags are here! The Mission Team will have Christmas trees set up this Sunday in the vestry with tags for children in Westborough and six for Friends of the Children of Boston. Tags will be on the trees beginning today and on the 26th of November and December 3rd. Please remember to sign out the tag(s) so that we have your contact information.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

"Giving Thanks for Our Shared Humanity"

The Interfaith Thanksgiving service will be on Tuesday, November 21st, 7 pm at New England Sikh Study Circle Gurdwara Sahib, 168 Flanders Rd. Westborough, MA 01581. If anyone in the choir would like to participate, please arrive at 6 pm. **Please note**: When you enter the Gurdwara, please remove your shoes and make sure your head is covered. Head coverings will be available to anyone who needs one. The service will have seating on the floor, as well as chairs, so please dress accordingly if you're able to sit on the floor.

FOOD PANTRY - NOVEMBER

Thank you for your generous donations of breakfast bars, mayo, Kleenex, and oatmeal. The white box was quite full several times. This month, the Food Pantry needs beef stew, instant potatoes (bag), Jello and pudding mixes. Donations can be placed in the white box at the side entrance or the basket at the front entrance.

CHRISTMAS FAIR DONATIONS

Please drop off your fair donations in the bins in the Church Library. Grandma's attic items (yard sale items) will be accepted starting Nov. 19 through Nov. 30. They can be put in the back of the chapel (no big furniture, clothes, or car seats.) The Evangel will have a list of the items you can donate for 67th annual The Evergreen Christmas Fair. Donations of grocery cards, money or checks to cover the cost of the luncheon are also greatly appreciated if you cannot help with the fair or cannot donate any items. This is going to be a fun time for our church and for the town. For info contact: Tri-Chairs, Linda Borglund, Sandy Horton or Cathie Achorn.

November 19th – November 26th

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| Nov 19 10:00 AM | Stewardship Sunday/Thanksgiving Sunday Worship PIE MAKING, SALES, DELIVERY |
| Nov 20 | Monday – office closed |
| Nov 21 7 PM | Tuesday Interfaith Thanksgiving Service/Sikh Temple |
| Nov 22 6:30-7:30 PM | Wednesday Choir Rehearsal |
| Nov 23 | Thanksgiving – office closed |
| Nov 24 | Friday – office closed |
| Nov 25 | Saturday |
| Nov 26 10:00 AM 2-5:00 PM | Sunday Worship Winter Stroll |

