

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

November 26, 2023



Photo: 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

Nov. 26, 2023

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens)

9:45 AM

PRELUDE

INTROIT

"Psalm 100"
Chancel Choir

Composed by Larry Sivis

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Janet Rivard

One: Let us praise God with pure hearts.

Many: We offer praise to God with prayers of thanksgiving.

One: Let us show gratitude for all of our blessings.

Many: We raise our voices and open our hearts.

All: Let us praise God!

*OPENING HYMN #33

"How Great Thou Art!"

O STORE GUD

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Janet Rivard

Almighty God, we come before You with grateful hearts because You have chosen us to be Your own people. You redeemed us and provided us with good things. You teach us how to live in love for one another. Stay with us, we pray, for Your presence keeps us safe and makes us grow in holiness. We pray in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus, and we continue in prayer 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)

Janet Rivard

Jesus, You saved us from the punishment of our sin and promised us life forever with You instead. Forgive us for the times we take Your mercy for granted. We forget to thank You, we often take credit for all You give us, we place ourselves above others when we know that our very life depends on Your will. Remind us that You alone can heal us. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

(Children leave to go to Sunday School)

SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Luke 17:11-19

(Pew Bible pgs. 145 & 852)

SERMON

“A Silver Lining”

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*HYMN #566

“Be Still My Soul”

FINLANDIA

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

“Jesus, Savior”

Composed by Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

Judy Ellis and Pam Kapitz, duet

Jesus, Savior, Master of all. Gentle Jesus, hear, now, my call;

Fill me with your love. Teach me today; Jesus, Savior, show me your way.

You left heaven for me; you know the fears I face.

You died on Calv'ry for me, you speak to my heart.



“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

Holy God, we give these gifts in gratitude for all You do for us. Help us use them to help others experience Your love. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

***CLOSING SONG**

"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman
JoySpring Songbook #1

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

***POSTLUDE**

Janet Rivard served as liturgist today.

Linda Borglund and **Amy Glennon** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

Bereavement: Family and friends of Patty Wyner.

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

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK – DEC. 17TH

The Annual Cookie Walk is a fundraiser for the Music program. It will take place immediately following the Christmas Pageant Service on Sunday, December 17th. If you need last minute cookies for your guests, the Cookie Walk is a great time to stock up!

Anyone willing to bake a couple dozen cookies and donate them to the sale should leave them in the kitchen before the service. Please label your cookies with your name, the type of cookie it is and whether or not they contain nuts. Thanks to all the bakers and consumers!! Questions? Call Linda Borglund (774) 245-1425

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.

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 and Deb

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 26th – December 3, 2023

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| Nov 26 10:00 AM 2-5:00 PM | Sunday Worship Winter Stroll |
| Nov 27 | Monday – office closed |
| Nov 28 7–8 PM | Tuesday Bell Rehearsal Dismas House |
| Nov 29 6:30-7:30 PM | Wednesday Choir Rehearsal |
| Nov 30 5:00 PM | Thursday Sensory Night |
| Dec 1 | Friday |
| Dec 2 9AM-3PM | Saturday Evergreen Fair |
| Dec 3 10:00 AM | Sunday Worship |

