

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

December 31, 2023

10:00 AM



Photo by Deb Boucher

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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**

December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens) 9:45 AM

PRELUDE "In the Bleak Mid-Winter" arr. Young

INTROIT

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US 10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP Janet Rivard

One: Look! A star shining in the east!

Many: We will follow it wherever it goes.

One: The journey may be long and difficult.

Many: It is a sign from God, we will follow it.

One: It leads to the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace.

Many: Come, let us follow the star wherever it goes.

*HYMN #173 "As with Gladness" DIX

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison) Janet Rivard

Holy parent, You loved Your earthly children so much that You sent Jesus, Your only heaven-born Son to visit earth and heal the rift between us and You. We lift up our hearts in praise for all You do for us. As we celebrate Epiphany, help us to see You in the midst of our daily lives. Help us to feel Your presence and see Your face in the people we serve for You. Teach us to call upon Your Spirit for wisdom and guidance as we travel the sometimes rocky and hazy path towards You. Be with us and show us Your love made manifest in our lives. We ask this through the name of Jesus and continue to pray in 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.

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE	Psalm 72:1-7 Matthew 2:1-12	(Pew Bible pgs. 464 & 783)
SERMON	“God Sightings”	Rev. Betsy Dorsi
*HYMN #172	“We Three Kings”	KINGS OF ORIENT

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER	Rev. Betsy Dorsi
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OFFERING OUR GIFTS

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

Offertory	“Do You Hear What I Hear?”	Regney & Shayne Arr. Brickman
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“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
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We offer these gifts O Lord to further Your ministry on earth. May those who are helped through them be blessed to know Your loving presence in their lives. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

* ADVENT & CHRISTMAS HYMN SING

(Beginning with #167 and ending with #145)

(Choose hymns from #122 - #177)

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

French Carol, arr. Young

Thank you to **Allyn Phelps** for filling in for Joe Stillitano today.

Janet Rivard serves as liturgist today.

Linda Borglund and **Darvin Kapitz** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

Continued Prayers: Ron & Nancy Clark’s daughter Melissa Dickinson; Betty Barclay; 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 COMMITTEE MEETING

There is a 300th anniversary committee meeting on Thursday, January 4 at 7 PM in the Kerygma room.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP MEETING – JAN 8th

Please note this is the 2nd Monday of the month because of New Years Day falling on the first Monday of the month. Join us for our Women's Fellowship “Get Together, Eat Supper and Get It Done Night”. The Women's Fellowship will meet on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:30 pm for a light supper and then put away the Christmas Decorations. It is always a fun night to get together. Please let Cathie Achorn know of any dietary restrictions you might have. Bring a friend or two or three. Let us know if you need a ride. Cathie Achorn, 508-380-8671 text or leave a message for info.

WESTBOROUGH FOOD PANTRY

This month, the Food Pantry is in need of cereal (all varieties), microwave popcorn, and pump soap. Donations can be placed in the white box at the side entrance to the church or the basket at the front entrance. Thank you so much for your generous donations.
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.

Dec 31	Sunday
10:00 AM	Worship & Hymn Sing
Jan 1	<i>Happy New Year</i>
Jan 2	Tuesday
10:00 AM	Willows & Whitney Place
7:00-8:00 PM	Bells Rehearse
Jan 3	Wednesday
6:30-7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM	Deacons Meeting
Jan 4	Thursday
7:00 PM	300 th Anniversary Meeting/Kerygma Rm
Jan 5	Friday
Jan 6	Saturday
Jan 7	Sunday
10:00 AM	Worship & Sunday School
11:15 AM	Confirmation class meets



Happy New Year!

