

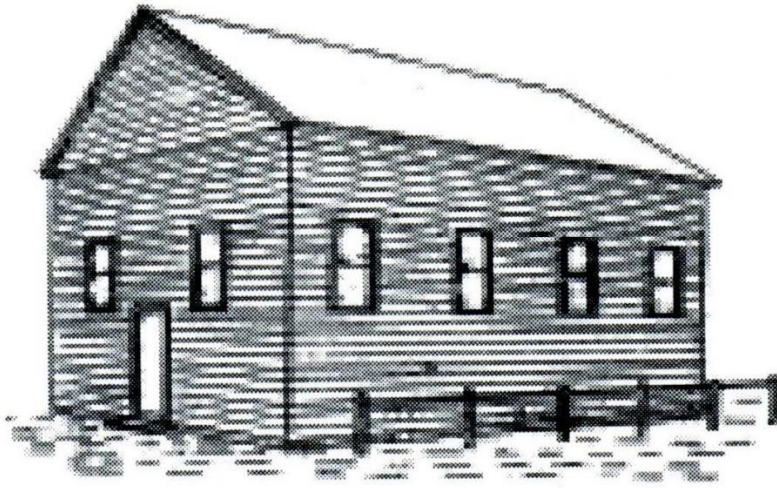
The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

February 11, 2024

10:00 AM



First Meeting House 1724 - 1749

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

February 11, 2024

**Today's Worship Service begins our Congregation's celebration of our 300th Anniversary as a community of faith. As part of our celebration, we will follow the Order of Service used at the time of our founding 300 years ago! A few modern elements have been incorporated within the traditional Service. Please observe Congregant notes as they appear in your bulletin. Please stand during the opening and closing processions, the singing of the Doxology and other hymns and Psalms. Otherwise, you may remain seated.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens)

9:45 AM

RAP OF THE TITHINGMAN'S STICK {signal for the Congregation to stand}

*PROCESSIONAL

{The Bible is brought forward by the Deacon; the Pastor follows him in.}

WELCOME

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*OPENING HYMN

"Let Us Build a House: All Are Welcome"
vs. 1,2,4,5 (insert)

TWO OAKS

LONG PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*HYMN (Lined Psalm)

Psalm 98:1-6

(1) Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!
For He has done marvelous things;
His right hand and His holy arm
Have gained Him the victory.

(2) The Lord has made known His salvation;
His righteousness He has revealed
In the sight of the nations.

(3) He has remembered His mercy
And His faithfulness
To the house of Israel;
All the ends of the earth
Have seen the salvation of our God.

(4) Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;
Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

(5) Sing to the Lord with the harp,
With the harp and the sound of a psalm.
(6) With trumpets and the sound of a horn;
Shout joyfully before the Lord, the King.

SCRIPTURES {usually 2-3 chapters were read by the Preacher}

Mark 9:2-9
Revelation 7:9-17

Amber Bock
(Pew Bible pgs. 820 & 999)

SERMON

“Dazzling Whites”

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

{The Sermon could last up to 3 hours and was an exposition of the Scriptures which the Pastor called “Dumb Scriptures” because the people could not understand them until a learned preacher explained them fully! Note the Deacon’s use of an hourglass to help the preacher know how long he had been preaching.}

COLLECTION

Amber Bock

{The Deacon announced the offering (in cash or kind). The Tithingman collected it.}

“Hear Ye! Brethren of the congregation, now there is time left for contributions: wherefore as God has prospered you, so freely give.”

Offertory

“In the Bleak Midwinter”
Festival Ringers

Holst/Buckwalter

(based on a poem by Christina Rossetti 1830-1894 – words are at the back of the bulletin)



“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)

Amber Bock

We thank You God for all of the good gifts You give us. Please bless these gifts we offer You now for the continuation of Your ministry on earth. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Amber Bock

THE LORD'S PRAYER (17th Century words)

**Our Heavenly Father, hear the prayer we offer now;
Thy name be hallowed far and near,
To thee all nations bow.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will on earth be done in love;
As Saints and Seraphim fulfill thy perfect law above.**

**Our daily bread supply while by thy word we live;
The guilt of our iniquity forgive as we forgive.**

**From dark temptation's power, from Satan's wiles, defend;
Deliver in the evil hour, and guide us to the end.**

**Thine then forever be glory and power divine;
The scepter, throne and majesty, of heaven and earth are thine.
Amen**

BEING THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION OF 300 ACTS OF KINDNESS

Ted Jaworski

*PREMIERE OF OUR 300TH

ANNIVERSARY HYMN
"Three Hundred Years of Faith!"
Lyrics by John A. Dalles*
(Insert)

*DISMISSAL

Amber Bock

"Hear Ye! The meeting is concluded. Go ye to your homes and serve the Lord in holiness and purity each day until we meet again!"

*RECESSIONAL

*BENEDICTION

Amber Bock serves as liturgist today.

Marketa Brzostowski Amy Glennon are deacons of the day.

Prayers

New Prayers: Nancy Reimann.

Continued Prayers: Marge Butcher's grandson David Butcher Jr.; Ron & Nancy Clark's daughter Melissa Dickinson; Judy Oliver; 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 FUN FACT

The first intimations of a choir appeared in 1778, but until 1841, hymns were still "lined-out" by Deacons. The Deacons sang the tune for the hymn, and the congregation would follow.

STEEPLE AND CUPOLA PROJECT

Donations to date: \$33,900

Estimated Goal: \$75,000

We're off and running to raise \$75,000 to repair and refurbish the steeple on our Church and the cupola on the Chapel. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation towards this project. We have an anonymous donor who will provide a 2 for 1 match to your gift. Simply stated, if you donate \$250, the donor will match that with a \$500 donation for a total gift of \$750. WOW! To make a donation visit our website or write a check. In the memo line, please write Steeple. For more information or any questions, please contact Sally Petersen.

WESTBOROUGH FOOD PANTRY

A big thank you for all the pasta and sauce! The white box was full. This month, the Food Pantry needs Jello, dry beans (any kind), cookies and crackers. Your support of this mission means so much to people right here in Westborough.

LENTEN SOUP AND BOOK STUDY

This Year's Lenten Book Study will be held on Thursday evenings beginning February 22nd and will continue through March 21st. We will meet at 6 pm in the Vestry to share a simple meal of soup and bread to remind us of our Lenten Fast and to strengthen one another for our Lenten journey. After dinner each week, we will discuss a portion of the book *Forgiveness* by Adam Hamilton. The book can be purchased on Amazon. A sign-up list for Soup makers can be found in the Vestry during Coffee Hour.

This Adult education program was very well attended last year, and participants found it a good way to journey through Lent together. Come join us!!!

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.

WORDS TO THE BELL OFFERTORY

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.

Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone.

Snow had fallen, snow on snow.

In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would give a lamb.

If I were a wiseman I would do my part.

But what I can I give Him, give Him my heart.

*Biography of the lyricist of the "Three Hundred Years of Faith"

John A. Dalles is a Presbyterian clergyman & hymn-writer. Most recently he was Interim Senior Minister of Shadyside Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh. A graduate of Penn State, Lancaster Theological Seminary (MDiv) & Pittsburgh Seminary (Doctor of Ministry), he has served First Presbyterian Church of South Bend, & Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh. From 1997 through 2018, he was Senior Pastor of Wekiva Presbyterian Church in Longwood, FL. Dalles is a writer of hymn texts. He has published three books of hymns, and his hymn texts are also set as choral anthems by noted sacred composers. He is married to the former Judith Taylor; they have a son and a daughter, and four grandchildren.

**Feb 11**

10:00 AM

11:00 AM

300TH ANNIVERSARY KICKOFF SUNDAY

Worship & Sunday School

Pancake Brunch

Feb 12

7:30 PM

7:30 PM

Monday – office closed

Missions/Zoom

Trustees/Kerygma Rm.

Feb 13

10:30 AM

7:00-8:00 PM

Tuesday

Beaumont Service

Bells Rehearse

Feb 14

9:30 AM

7:00 PM

Wednesday

Called to Care

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE/CHAPEL

Feb 15

6:30-8 PM

Thursday

Choir Rehearsal

Feb 16**Friday****Feb 17****Saturday****Feb 18**

10:00 AM

11:15 AM

Sunday

Worship & Sunday School

Confirmation Class

