

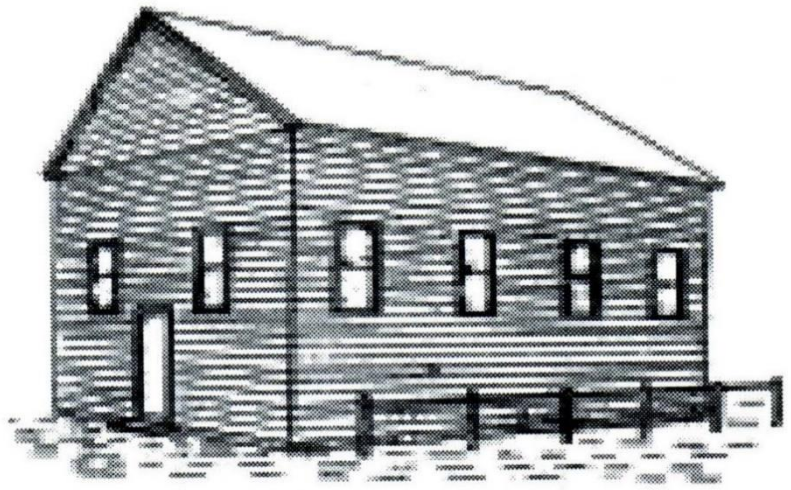
The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

February 18, 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 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens)

9:45 AM

PRELUDE

INTROIT

“Wade in de Water”
Chancel Choir

African-American Spiritual
Arranged by H.T. Burleigh

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Janet Rivard

One: Your Laws O God are righteous and good.

Many: Your ways lead us to prosper and live in peace.

One: Teach us Your ways Lord.

Many: Have mercy on us when we transgress.

All: Come, let us listen and learn of God’s ways.

*OPENING HYMN #565

“If You Will Trust in God to Guide You”

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Janet Rivard

We come together Almighty God to offer You Worship and praise. We come to listen to Your Word and learn of Your ways. We come to confess our human weakness and to be reminded of Your mercy. Accept our wandering minds and restless bodies, for we come to You just as we are, made in Your image yet frail in our humanity. Make us whole, strong and able as we strive to grow ever closer to You. We ask this in Jesus’ name and continue in prayer using the words He gave 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, it is hard to focus on our sins and admit the wrongs we have done. Wanting to be perfect like You, we fail every day. We confess that we have left kind words unsaid and passed on mean things we've heard. We have overlooked someone's pain not wanting to get involved. We've complained about the annoyance of emotionally needy people while seeking attention for ourselves in similar ways. We forget that we are all Your children seeking love and affirmation. Have mercy on our shortcomings and help us to see You in each other. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 25:4-10

(Pew Bible pgs. 436 & 985)

I Peter 3:8-22

SERMON

"Life is Hard, Be Gentle"

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*HYMN (insert)

"You Sought Me"

ERHALT UNS, HERR

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

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

Janet Rivard

Offertory

"I'm Gonna Sing"
Chancel Choir

African-American Spiritual
Arranged by Andre J. Thomas

Sing on! Dance on! Pray on!
Shout on! 'Till the spirit says sing!

*I'm gonna sing when the spirit says sing,
And obey the spirit of the Lord!*
*I'm gonna pray when the spirit says pray,
And obey the spirit of the Lord!*
*I'm gonna shout when the spirit says shout,
And obey the spirit of the Lord!*

*Sing on, brother, sing on!
Shout, my sister, shout on!
Sing 'till the spirit says sing!*



“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

Loving God, we are thankful for Your gifts to us and now offer back to You from the fruits of our labors and the talents You have bestowed on each of us. Bless our offering and us to Your service. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

***CLOSING SONG**

**“Word of God Speak”
JoySpring Songbook #21**

Bart Millard and Pete Kipley

***BENEDICTION**

Janet Rivard serves as liturgist today.

Linda Birch and **Elizabeth Kfig** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

New Prayers: Mary McLeod’s granddaughter – Brittany Larson.

Continued Prayers: Nancy Reimann; 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

In 1976, three handbell groups were launched under the leadership of Barbara Mandrell: Festival Ringers, Senior High and Junior High Bells. The first practice

had eight ringers who played two octaves (16) of bells. They first performed on the side lawn of the church, during the town's July 1976 Bicentennial Celebration.

STEEPLE AND CUPOLA PROJECT

Donations to date: \$42,900

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.

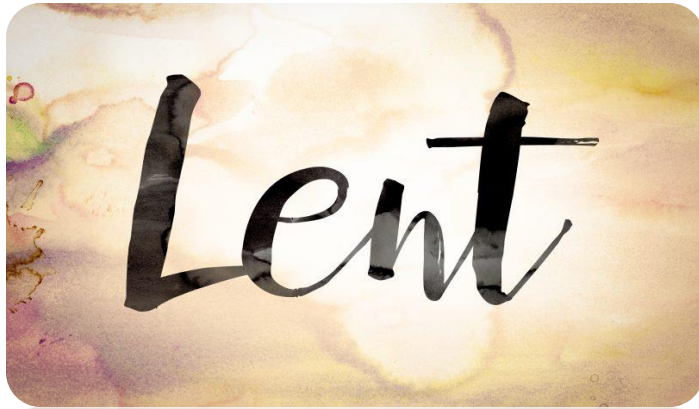
LENTEN SOUP AND BOOK STUDY

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.



Feb 18

10:00 AM

11:15 AM

Sunday – Lent I

Worship & Sunday School

Confirmation class

Feb 19

7:00 PM

Monday – office closed

Cabinet/Kerygma Rm.

Feb 20

7:00-8:00 PM

Tuesday

Bells Rehearse

Feb 21

6:30-8 PM

Wednesday

Choir Rehearsal

Feb 22

6:00 PM

Thursday

Lenten Book Club/Soup Dinner

Feb 23

Friday

Feb 24

Saturday

Feb 25

10:00 AM

Sunday – Lent II

Worship & Sunday School

