The Congregational Church of Westborough
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

OPEN DOORS – GROWING FAITH!
No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!

WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!
We are an “Open and Affirming” Church

February 2, 2020
**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.
INVITING THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Sue O. Remick
(Children and Youth will begin Faith Formation now. They will rejoin us for communion)

*GREETING

*SONG # 356 “We Your People, God, Confessing” IN BABILONE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As we come to worship, let us leave at the door our self-centered thoughts.
People: And open our eyes to see our neighbor in worship.
Leader: As we come to worship, let us leave at the door our feelings of exclusiveness
People: And open our minds to the possibilities of inclusion.
Leader: As we come to worship, let us leave outside our notion of generosity.
People: And open our hearts to the possibility of giving beyond our typical gift.
All: As we come to worship, let us open our eyes, our minds and our hearts to what can be instead of what is. For all of our gifts and for all possibilities, let us lift our voices in praise to our God in this sacred place where all are welcome!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Please be seated.)

Pete Graham
Guiding Light, who leads us on the bright path, who makes the way level before us, we confess our misunderstandings of the journey. We find it easy to see who doesn't belong on the path and miss seeing Christ's hand extended to all. We casually proceed without recognizing the persistent discipline and honest effort required. Like a vigilant coach, restore our commitment to go the distance. Like the skilled coordinator of a team, renew our awareness that each player is a vital part. Like a compassionate leader, call us again and again to a deeper love and vital ministry. God, You are the beginning and the end, the journey and our home. Praise be to You. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pete Graham
Help us, God, to let You take up residence in each one of our hearts. Forgive us our failures, our weaknesses, our fears and our doubts. It is in the name of Jesus, The Good Shepherd and The Prince of Peace, that we can be made new and whole. Amen.
THE LORD’S PRAYER *(Debts)*

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 Hebrews 13:1-3 Amy Glennon

(Pew Bible page 979)

REFLECTION “Obstacles in our Way” Rev. Remick

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pete Graham

MUSIC RESPONSE # 306 “Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS Amy Glennon

Invitation: God of mystery, You come to us through the love of Christ. God of grace. You come to us in the presence of the Holy Spirit. You come to us with abundance beyond words. Let us respond by meeting You at this time and in this place with gifts of gratitude for the love of God, the life of Jesus, and the movement of the Holy Spirit among us. Amen.

Offertory

*DOXOLOGY (Unison)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Thank you, extravagant God, for Your blessings in our lives. We offer ourselves in grateful response, seeking to live with such compassion toward others that Your blessings will flow through us to bless our community and our world. For the sake of Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

(The children and youth are welcomed back for Communion)
**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

(Communion at our church is always served with gluten free bread and is open to all. There is room at the table for all of us!)

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

“*This Is Me*”

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

I’m not a stranger to the dark.

*Hide away,* they say, *‘cause we don’t want your broken parts.*

*I’ve learned to be ashamed of all my scars.*

*Run away,* they say, *no one will love you as you are.*

But I won’t let them break me down to dust.

*I know that there’s a place for us, for we are glorious!*

*When the sharpest words wanna cut me down.*

*I’m gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out.*

I am brave, I am bruised, I am who I’m meant to be, this is me.

*Look out ‘cause here I come.* And *I’m marching on to the beat I drum.*

*I’m not scared to be seen, I make no apologies, this is me.*

Another round of bullets hits my skin.

*Well, fire away ‘cause today, I won’t let the shame sink in.*

*We are bursting through the barricades, and reaching for the sun.*

*We are warriors, and that’s what we’ll become!*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

“*Do You Like My Hat?*”

Rev. Remick

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Rev. Remick

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

Rev. Remick

(As the Song is played, Rev. Remick will silently go through the preparation for all to receive. As you listen, be mindful of our own Communion Table where everyone is welcome)

**AT THIS TABLE -by Idina Menzel**

*At this table, everyone is welcome*

*At this table, everyone is seen*

*At this table, everybody matters*

*No one falls between*

*At this table, you can say whatever*

*At this table, you can speak your mind*

*At this table, everything's forgiven*

*There's enough for everyone*

*So come as you are*
Remember that the door is always open
Yes, come as you are
The perfect gift that you can bring is your heart
So, come, come as you are
At this table, there will be no judgement
At this table, mercy has a seat
At this table, we're all sons and daughters
There's no place I'd rather be
So come as you are
Remember that the door is always open
Come as you are
The perfect gift that you can bring is your heart
Come, Come as you are, Come as you are, oh
At this table, everyone is welcome
At this table, everybody cares
At this table, everybody matters
So, come, pull up a chair

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Pete Graham and Rev. Remick

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pete Graham

We thank You gracious God for this meal which You have given us. As we gather around our own tables in the days ahead, might we be reminded of this table, where all are welcome, and love and acceptance is always the answer. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

“Mighty to Save”
Reuben Morgan & Ben Fielding
(JoySpring Praise and Worship Songbook #15)

*BENEDICTION

Pete Graham

*SUNG BENEDICTION

“Go Ye Now in Peace”
Joyce Elaine Eilers

Go ye now in peace and know that the love of God will guide you. Feel his presence here beside you showing you the way. In your time of trouble, when hurt and despair are there to grieve you, know that the Lord will never leave you. He will bring you courage. Know that the God who sent his Son to die that you might live will never leave you lost and alone in His beloved world. Go ye now in peace. Go ye now in peace.

*POSTLUDE (You are invited to sit for the Postlude if you wish. Let the worship service settle in your heart. If you wish to exit, please do so quietly.)
Amy Glennon greeted you this morning and served as liturgists. Steve Achorn and Elaine Moore are Deacons of the day. Communion servers are: Linda Birch, Theresa DiMeo, Liz Jarobski, Karen Gavel, Lynne Caldwell, and Roland Regnier.

### PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2020

**New Prayers:** Please pray for the family of Theresa Hall, a friend of Rev. Sue and her family who passed away unexpectedly.

**Continued Prayers:** Dorothy Collins; Kristy Kocou; Megan Huber’s mother Fran Kelly; Marie Murphy’s son Craig Jernberg and her daughter Lisa Jernberg; Cathie Achorn’s friend Julie Noble and her preemie baby Kosmas Andrew Melitas; Nancy Reimann; Cathie Achorn’s mother Dee Mumby; Bob Brown; Gini & Tom Erwin; Anna Gavel, granddaughter/cousin of Karen Gavel and the Oevermanns; Linda Polatka (Cathie Achorn’s sister).

**Prayer requests:** You can place prayer concerns on the church’s email distribution list at eprayers@uccwestboro.org. If you would like a prayer request included in today’s service, please let a Deacon know prior to the start of worship. Prayers will remain listed for 8 weeks. If you would like a prayer renewed, please call the church office.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SEARCH COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

The Pastoral Search Committee needs your help! This is the final question.

Please forward your answer in 7 days. You may mail your answer to the church office at 57 Church Street, or reply by emailing your answer to attention Linda Borglund (lborglund53@gmail.com) and Kathy Todd (lightsong60@gmail.com). Thanks, and here’s this week’s question: Please provide a brief paragraph. There are green cards in the Vestry if you want to put your response on that.

**Who is God calling us to become as a congregation?**

**VALENTINE’S DAY PACKAGES – DEADLINE IS TODAY!**

Attention: Parents of College Students & Active Duty Military

♥ Again this year, the Women’s Fellowship is going to send Valentine’s Day packages to our college students, and those in the military away from home. Also, if they are commuters and/or have any known allergies, please let us know. We can customize!

♥ Please email Donna Morgan at DKMNM@aol.com as soon as possible

♥ If you have a relative (niece, nephew, grandchild, etc.) who is **not** a member of our church family, we’d be glad to send them a package but will need to ask for a donation to cover the postage (approximately $10 if they are attending a school in New England).

♥ Please let me know as soon as possible...we need to plan and shop. TODAY, SUNDAY, FEB. 2ND WILL BE THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE.
WOMENS FELLOWSHIP – FEB 3rd
Join us next Monday, Feb. 3, 2020 at 6pm for our next Women’s Fellowship program. We will be having a Pot Luck Supper at 6pm, followed by Annie Wales who will teach simple folding of origami hearts. Last names, A-L Bring a salad, M-Z Bring a main dish, Program Committee will bring dessert.

Monthly Mission: Valentine Boxes for College students.

LOOKING AHEAD
Scout Sunday: February 9th – all scouts are invited to join us for a special service.
Evangel Deadline: February 19th
Ash Wednesday Service: February 26th at 7PM in the Chapel

NEW DATE FOR DISMAS HOUSE DINNERS!
Our church goes once a month to cook and serve a meal with the people of Dismas House, a home for ex-prisoners. If you would like to help, be in touch with Karen Hutchinson at millarhutch@aol.com. The next dinner will be this Tuesday, Feb 25th Donations of Stop & Shop cards are greatly appreciated to help with the shopping for the meals! Thank you.

GROCERY CARD PROJECT

2020 Goal $7,000 YTD: $ 432.25
NEW YEAR, NEW GOAL! We are stocked up and ready to go. Please help us to start strong and always keep a grocery card in your pocket for all your shopping, or those quick stops. We are thankful for your support. If you need cards delivered contact Karen Hutchinson at 508.870.1782 or millarhutch@aol.com or Nancy Quimby at 774.249.4431 or nquimby11@gmail.com or Sally Petersen at sbpetersen4@gmail.com and 366.5169.

CONTACTS AND INFORMATION
Rev. Sue Remick, Interim Minister – revsuerem@gmail.com
Peter Graham, Student Minister – petegrahamiam@icloud.com
Wendy Reardon, Director of Children’s and Youth Ministries - wendysreardon@yahoo.com
Joseph Stillitano, Interim Minister of Music – josephmstillitano@gmail.com
Sue Menzel, Director of Bells – westcongmusic@gmail.com
Office hours: closed Mon; Tues & Wed 9am-2pm, Thurs 10am-2pm, Fri 9am-1pm
Church office phone 508/366-2000
General Church email – westboroucc@verizon.net, Church website www.uccwestboro.org
www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough
Feb 2
10:00 AM  Worship Service & FF
11:30 AM  Souper Bowl of Caring Tailgate Party
2:30 PM  GSA/Vestry

Feb 5
9:15 AM  Playgroup/Nursery
10:00 AM  Staff Meeting
6:30-7:30 PM  Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM  Deacons/Kerygma
7:30-8:30 PM  JoySpring Rehearsal

Feb 3
11AM & 1:30PM  PCC/Fannie Forbes
6:00-8:00 PM  Search Committee/Kerygma
6:00 PM  W.F Pot Luck Dinner/Vestry
7:30 PM  AA/Nursery

Feb 6
4:30-6PM  GSA/Kerygma Rm

Feb 4
10:00 AM  Whitney Place Service
10:30 AM  Beaumont Service
11:00 AM  PCC/Fannie Forbes
11:15 AM  Willow’s Communion
7:00 PM  Festival Ringers
7:00 PM  GSA/Kerygma

Feb 7

Feb 8
8:00 AM  Men’s Breakfast/Vestry

Feb 9
10:00 AM  Worship Service & FF
2:30 PM  GSA/Vestry

Monday (office closed)

Search Committee/Kerygma
W.F Pot Luck Dinner/Vestry
AA/Nursery

Tuesday
Whitney Place Service
Beaumont Service
PCC/Fannie Forbes
Willow’s Communion
Festival Ringers
GSA/Kerygma

Wednesday
Playgroup/Nursery
Staff Meeting
Choir Rehearsal
Deacons/Kerygma
JoySpring Rehearsal

Thursday
GSA/Kerygma Rm

Friday (no events)

Saturday
Men’s Breakfast/Vestry

Sunday
Worship Service & FF
GSA/Vestry