

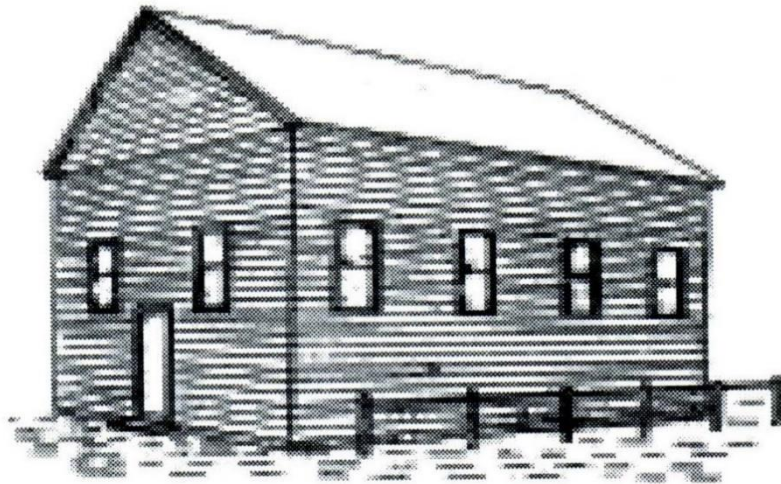
The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

February 25, 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 25, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens)

9:45 AM

PRELUDE

INTROIT

“Deep River”
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

Steve Achorn

One: Through faith Abraham recognized the voice of God.

Many: And it is His faith that was passed down to us.

One: Through faith prophets risked their lives to call people back to God.

Many: Through faith we listen and learn from them.

One: Faith brought us here today to Worship God.

Many: Through faith let us raise our voices in praise to God.

*OPENING SONG

“Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)”
JoySpring Songbook #17

Hillsong

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Steve Achorn

Faithful God, You have never broken Your covenant with Your people. You call us Your children and provide for us all we need. You are always ready to listen to us and guide us when we ask for direction. We come before You now asking for wisdom to know Your will, courage to follow it and mercy when we stray. Draw ever closer to us Lord, we want to be near You. We ask this in Jesus’ name and continue to pray 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)

Steve Achorn

Loving God, we so desire to walk in Your ways of love, yet is hard for us not to give in to our selfish desires. Forgive us for the times we have strayed from Your way. The times we weren't present for someone who was lonely. The times we avoided someone so we would not be asked to help. The times we did not listen and learn about an injustice so we would not feel pressured to stand up and lift our voice. Have mercy on us when we don't reach out to share our faith with one who is faltering, and the times we shy away from people in grief because we don't know what to say. In your mercy, please redeem us and strengthen our faith in You. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART – *Hidden Figure*

Linda Borglund

SCRIPTURES

Gen. 17:1-9,15-16

(Pew Bible pgs. 11 & 819)

Mark 8:1-38

SERMON

“Enduring Faith”

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*HYMN (Insert)

“Into the Waters”

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation: *Let us bring our offerings before God with thanksgiving!*

Steve Achorn

The morning offering will now be received.

Offertory

“David's Lamentation”

Composed by William Billings

Chancel Choir

300th Celebration Performance: William Billings (1746-1800), Boston based choral composer, wrote this anthem based on scripture from 2 Samuel 18.

*David the King was grieved and moved,
He went to his chamber and wept.
And as he went, he wept, and said,
O my son, would to God I had died for thee,
O Absalom my son.*



"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)**

Steve Achorn

God, through Your goodness You have blessed us with all we need. Use us, and what we have gathered here to feed the world with Your love. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

***CLOSING HYMN #180**

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

ST. FLAVIAN

***BENEDICTION**

Steve Achorn serves as liturgist today.

Theresa DiMeo and **Elizabeth Kfig** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

Bereavement: Family and friends of Ruth Bean.

Continued Prayers: Mary McLeod's granddaughter – Brittany Larson; Nancy Reimann; Marge Butcher's grandson David Butcher Jr.; Ron & Nancy Clark's daughter Melissa Dickinson; 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 current Allen organ was purchased for \$20,000 in 1982. It was dedicated with an Organ Extravaganza written by choir member Robert Paulson and performed by organist Faith Newark.

STEEPLE AND CUPOLA PROJECT

Donations to date: \$63,555

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.

MISSIONS

In the Hour of Need (IHN) Family Shelter - We will be hosts at IHN from March 10 - 16, 2024. We need a dinner host (5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.) and an overnight host (8:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.) each day. There are six families at the shelter with many small children. Hosting is easy and it is a way to show hospitality to families that are going through a rough time. You can make dinners for the families, or they can make their own. Playing games with the children or helping with homework helps busy parents. Since most of the children are young and go to bed early, overnight tends to be very quiet. A sign-up sheet will be in the vestry next week. Questions - contact Pam Faustine or any Mission Team member.

Meal Packing Event, Save the Date - March 17th. In honor of our 300th Anniversary, we will be sponsoring a meal packing event on Sunday, March 17th, right after church. Our goal is to pack 30,000 meals in about 4 hours. We will need everyone's help for this event - all ages - from set-up to clean-up. Our church has a long history of mission work, both locally and overseas. We sent funds to Ireland during the potato famine and missionaries to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii). Meals will be sent to the Worcester County Food Bank which serves food pantries and other food assistance organizations throughout our area. Some of the meals will also be sent to Maui to help residents who lost everything during the fire that destroyed Lahaina. Bring a friend and join a fun mission project that will help many in our area.

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.

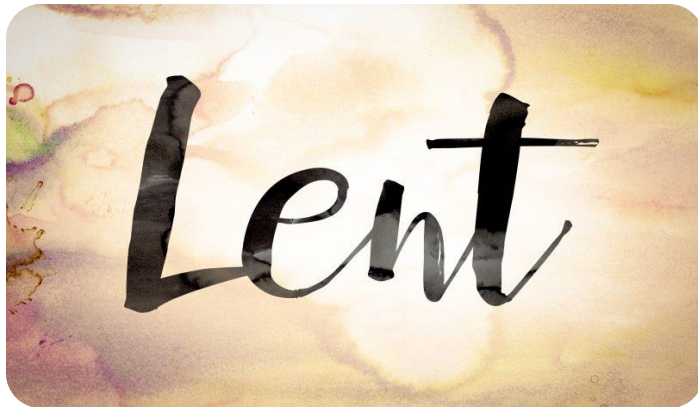
LENTEN SOUP AND BOOK STUDY

This Year's Lenten Book Study is off to a great start! The next meeting will be February 28th and will continue each Thursday 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!!!

TROOP 100'S ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Troop 100's annual pancake breakfast will take place on Sunday, March 3rd at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 17 Willow Street. Tickets are \$7 per person, \$20 per family, \$5 for seniors. Please support our scouts and join this annual tradition.



Feb 25

10:00 AM

Sunday – Lent II

Worship & Sunday School

Feb 26

7:00 PM

Monday – office closed

300th Anniversary meeting/Kerygma Rm

Feb 27

7:00-8:00 PM

Tuesday

Bells Rehearse

Dinner/Dismas House

Feb 28

6:30-8 PM

Wednesday

Choir Rehearsal

Feb 29

6:00 PM

Thursday

Lenten Book Club/Soup Dinner

Mar 1

Friday

Mar 2

11:00 AM

Saturday

Patty Wyner's Celebration of Life & Collation

Mar 3

10:00 AM

11:15 AM

Communion Sunday - Lent III

Worship & Sunday School

Confirmation Class

Lenten Worship Schedule

The Congregational Church of Westborough is offering the following schedule of events to foster spiritual growth during the 2024 Lenten and Holy Week season.

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24th

We will celebrate Palm Sunday at 10:00 am in the sanctuary.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28th - 7:00 PM

Join us in the sanctuary for a service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae.

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29th

ECUMENICAL SERVICE AT NOON

This will be at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, led by the Westborough Clergy.

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND ADORATION

7:00 pm in the Parkman Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY! MARCH 31st

10AM

Come celebrate Christ's resurrection!



Please invite family and friends to join us!