

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

February 4, 2024

10:00 AM



Photo by Deb Boucher

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 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens)

9:45 AM

PRELUDE

INTROIT

“Let Us Break Bread Together”
Chancel Choir

Spiritual/arr. by Moses Hogan

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sally Petersen

One: Jesus said, “Come, follow me.”

Many: They followed Him from village to village.

One: Jesus said, “Come, follow me.”

Many: We follow, not knowing where He will take us.

One: Jesus said, “All who follow me will become children of God.”

Many: Come let us follow Jesus. Let us begin by worshipping God!

***OPENING HYMN #23** “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven” (vs. 1-3)

LAUDA ANIMA

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)**

Sally Petersen

Lord, we come. We follow You, we listen to You and watch You. You train us to be Your servants, doing Your ministry on earth for our time. Help us to pay attention and learn from You. Draw us ever closer to You and make us know in our hearts and souls that we are beloved children of God. We ask this in Jesus’ name and we continue to pray in His name saying...

***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) Sally Petersen
God of all mercy, we confess before You and each other that we have been unfaithful to You. We lack love for our neighbors, we waste opportunities to do good, and we look the other way when You cry out to us in the suffering of our brothers and sisters in need. We are sincerely sorry for our sins, both those we commit deliberately and those that we allow to overtake us. We ask for Your forgiveness and pray for strength that we may follow more closely in Your way. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART		Rev. Betsy Dorsi
SCRIPTURES	Isaiah 40:21-23, 28-31 Mark 1:29-39	(Pew Bible pgs. 582 & 813)
SERMON	“Come and See”	Rev. Betsy Dorsi
HYMN #420	“I Come with Joy”	DOVE OF PEACE

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER		Rev. Betsy Dorsi
OFFERING OUR GIFTS		
Invitation:	<i>Let us bring our offerings before God with thanksgiving!</i> The morning offering will now be received.	Sally Petersen
Offertory	“Bridgwater” (1770) Chancel Choir	Comp. by William Billings

300th Celebration Performance: William Billings (1746-1800) is regarded as the first American choral composer. He lived in Boston, was a singing teacher, prolific composer, and published books with songs and instruction on that repertoire.

*Majestic God, when I descry
The planetary world on high;
Wherever I turn my wand'ring eyes,
I'm lost in rapture and surprise.*

*Creator of these orbs of light,
Kindly protect me in the night;
Then in the morn when I arise,
Accept my grateful sacrifice.*



“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)**

Sally Petersen

Generous God, we pray that these gifts will be a blessing to many. Remind us again and again what grace in action looks like. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Communion at our church is open to all. Gluten free wafers are in the prepackaged containers.)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (as found on the inside cover of your hymn book)**

Sally Petersen

INVITATION

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)**

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

**Holy God, we thank You for inviting us to Your table and refreshing us with Your divine feast.
May our participation here join us in community and strengthen us for the work we will do for Your Kingdom. Amen.**

***CLOSING SONG**

**“You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)”
JoySpring Songbook #22**

**Comp. by Marc Imboden
& Tammi Rhoton**

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Go Ye Now in Peace”
JoySpring Songbook #25

Composed by Joyce Elaine Eilers

*POSTLUDE

Sally Petersen serves as liturgist today.

Cathie Achorn and Steve Achorn are deacons of the day.

Elizabeth Kafig is a communion server.

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.

Celebrations: Michael Jaworski, a former student seminarian here, has been declared a Board Certified Chaplain by the National Board Association of Certified Christian Chaplains.

300th ANNIVERSARY FUN FACT

In 1809, Westborough resident Gardner Parker built and installed the first organ in the 2nd meeting house (now site of the Arcade Building.) It was initially on a six month approval, but we have never since been without an organ.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Monday, February 5th at 6-7 Women’s Fellowship will have its meeting. Then, 7:15 PM “300 Years and Counting” presented by Tom Morgan. All are invited to this (open to the community) special presentation by Tom Morgan about our church beginnings including pictures of how we’ve changed over the years.

MEN’S BREAKFAST

The Men’s Fellowship of the Congregational Church of Westborough is pleased to offer to the church family, a presentation on the new Community Center / Senior Center facility. The presentation will be given as part of the Men’s Fellowship on Saturday February 10th following the monthly breakfast. It will be given by Selectperson Shelby Marshall as a presentation overview of the project to get everyone up to speed, followed by an interactive discussion with those who attend. The presentation will start at 10:00 on Saturday February 10th. If you plan to attend, PLEASE RSVP TO: Ric Plummer email: ricp@alum.wpi.edu so we may set up for the correct size audience.

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.

300TH ANNIVERSARY KICK OFF CELEBRATION – FEBRUARY 11TH

Join us for worship service at 10:00 AM. We will introduce the 300 Acts of Kindness Program and introduce our own new Church Hymn. After the service come to the Pancake Brunch in the Vestry for fun and fellowship.

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!!!

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. Members of Troop 100 will be in the vestry selling tickets after the service. Tickets are \$7 per person, \$20 per family, \$5 for seniors. Please support our scouts and join this annual tradition.

URGENT NEED FROM PCCM

Mary Taber is working with a family who has an **urgent need** for a twin mattress for a child and a queen mattress for the parents (with or without box springs). If you or someone you know is looking to donate or has an extra one, please contact Mary at (508)366-5719.

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 4**

10:00 AM

11:15 AM

Communion Sunday

Worship & Sunday School

Confirmation Class

Feb 5

6:00 PM

7:15 PM

Monday – office closed

W.F. Meeting

Presentation by Tom Morgan
“300 Years and Counting”**Feb 6**

10:00 AM

7:00-8:00 PM

Tuesday

Willows and Whitney Place

Bells Rehearse

Feb 7

6:30-8 PM

7:00 PM

Wednesday

Choir Rehearsal

Deacons

Feb 8

Noon

6PM – 9PM

Thursday

Interfaith Clergy/Kerygma Rm

Court of Honor/Sanctuary & Vestry

Feb 9**Friday****Feb 10**

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Saturday

Men’s Breakfast/Vestry

Guest Speaker – Shelby Marshall

Feb 11

10:00 AM

300TH ANNIVERSARY KICKOFF SUNDAY

Worship & Sunday School

