

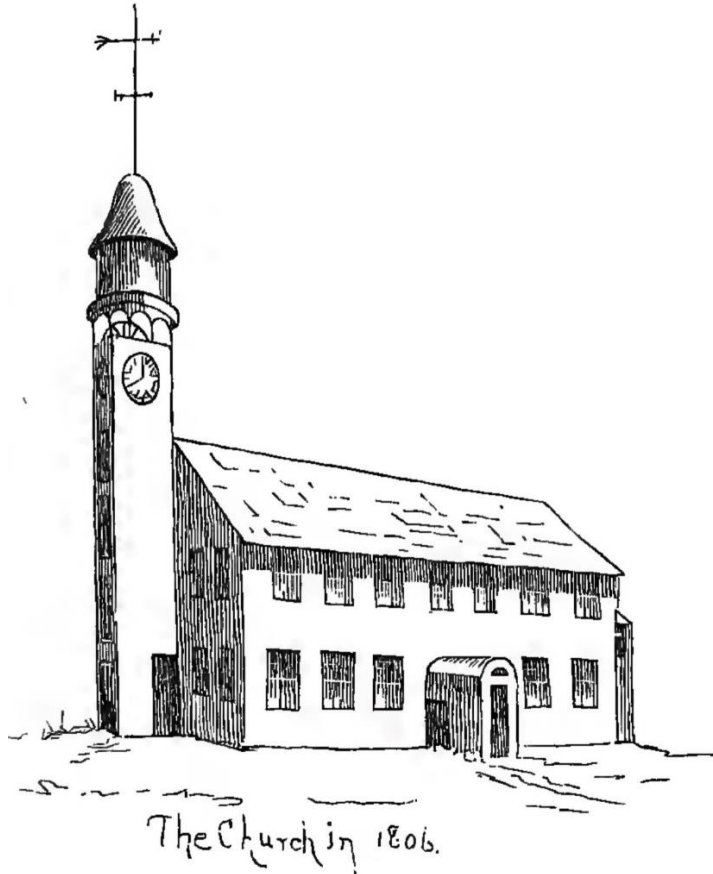
The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

March 10, 2024

10:00 AM



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

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens)

9:45 AM

PRELUDE

INTROIT

“Stay with Me”
Chancel Choir

Taizé

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Amy Glennon

One: Jesus is the way.

Many: Let us follow Him.

One: Jesus is the truth.

Many: Let us learn from Him.

One: Jesus is the life.

Many: Let us live in Him and He in us.

All: Come, let us worship the God of life.

*OPENING HYMN #642 “How Long, O God, How Long?” (vs. 1,2,3)

TAFT STREET

*GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

Amy Glennon

Almighty God, we gather here to learn about and from You. We gather to give strength to one another. We gather to draw strength from You. We gather to praise You and to offer ourselves to You for Your service. Fill our hearts with love and peace as we spend this time in Your presence. We ask through Jesus, our Savior and we continue in prayer using the words He gave us, 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)

Amy Glennon

Holy One, for the times we treated You as though You were just another neighbor we liked well enough but didn't have time for a real friendship, we ask Your forgiveness. Lord, for the times we treated Your house like our own and let things get messy and worn, loud and confrontational, we ask for Your forgiveness. For the times we get bossy, try to exclude others, want everything done our way, we seek Your mercy. Help us follow Your way, seek Your truth and live the life You give us abundantly, welcoming everyone and sharing with all. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART`

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

SCRIPTURE

John 2:13-22

(Pew Bible pg. 863)

SERMON

"Spring Cleaning"

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*HYMN (see back cover)

"The Way"

RATHBURN

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.

Amy Glennon

Offertory

"At the Cross (Love Ran Red)"

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt

Chancel Choir Armstrong, Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman

*There's a place where mercy reigns and never dies,
There's a place where streams of grace flow deep and wide;
Where all the love I've ever found, comes like a flood, comes flowing down.*

*At the cross, at the cross, I surrender my life.
I'm in awe of You, I'm in awe of You.
Where Your love ran red, and my sin washed white.
I owe all to You, I owe all to You, Jesus.*

*There's a place where sin and shame are powerless,
Where my heart has peace with God and forgiveness;
Where all the love I've ever found, comes like a flood, comes flowing down.*

*Here my hope is found, here on holy ground;
Here I bow down, here I bow down.
Here arms open wide, here You saved my life;
Here I bow down, here I bow.*



“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)**

Amy Glennon

**Lord, as we bring our offerings to You, we ask You to bless what we give and who we are for
Your service. Amen.**

BEING THE CHURCH

***CLOSING HYMN (Insert)**

“In Christ Alone”

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

***BENEDICTION**

Amy Glennon serves as liturgist today.

Linda Birch and **Linda Borglund** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

Bereavement: Sara Gannon passed away on February 8th in Florida.

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 1st missionary collection ever recorded was on September 22, 1776, to benefit, support and encourage two missionaries heading to Annamabo, Africa. Reverend Parkman invited Reverend Dr. Stiles (later a president of Yale) and Mr. Hopkins of Newport to come and make the appeal to church members. (Unfortunately, the two missionaries never actually made it to Africa.)

COMMUNICATIONS NOTE

Hi everyone - and especially those of you on Facebook! Please help me get the word out about all the great things we are doing. Each week I post about the upcoming worship service on the church's Facebook page, and also about special events. Please follow "The Congregational Church of Westborough" on Facebook and then "like" and "share" those posts. It's an easy and free way to get some publicity flowing! Thanks for the help! ~ Deb Boucher, Communications Coordinator

STEEPLE AND CUPOLA PROJECT

Donations to date: \$77,535.00

Estimated Goal: \$75,000

WOW! Just WOW! The generosity of members and friends as well as the anonymous donor will ensure that our Church Steeple and Chapel Cupola are well cared for. We are over our goal of \$75,000 and we expect a few more donations to arrive this week. After all the work is complete and all bills have been paid, we will contact those who put us over the top. They may opt for a refund or the opportunity to roll it over to the next project. We have much for which to be thankful. Any questions, please contact Sally Petersen.

EASTER FLOWERS

There is still time to purchase an Easter plant in honor of or in memory of someone. There are slips you can fill out in the basket with the bulletins.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

The youth group will be filling eggs on March 15th at 7:30 PM for the Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday. Bring your friends if you like. The Easter egg hunt will be on Sunday, March 24th inside the church after the service. Buckets will be provided for the hunt. Linda Borglund

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed Jello, beans, cookies and crackers. For the month of March, the Food Pantry needs Ramen noodles, and canned beets and potatoes.

LENTEN SOUP AND BOOK STUDY

The next Lenten Book Study is meeting on Thursday, March 14th and the following week, March 21st will be the last meeting. Come join us 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. A sign-up list for Soup makers can be found in the Vestry during Coffee Hour.

Mar 10 10:00 AM	Communion Sunday - Lent IV Worship & Sunday School
Mar 11 7:30 PM	Monday – office closed Trustees/Kerygma Room
Mar 12 10:30 AM 7:00-8:00 PM	Tuesday Beaumont Service Bells Rehearse
Mar 13 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 6:30-8 PM	Wednesday Weavers' Guild/Vestry/Kerygma Called to Care Choir Rehearsal
Mar 14 6:00 PM	Thursday Lenten Book Club/Soup Dinner
Mar 15	Friday
Mar 16 9:00 AM	Saturday Meal Packing set up
Mar 17 10:00 AM 11:30 AM	Lent V Worship & Sunday School Meal Packing/Vestry

