

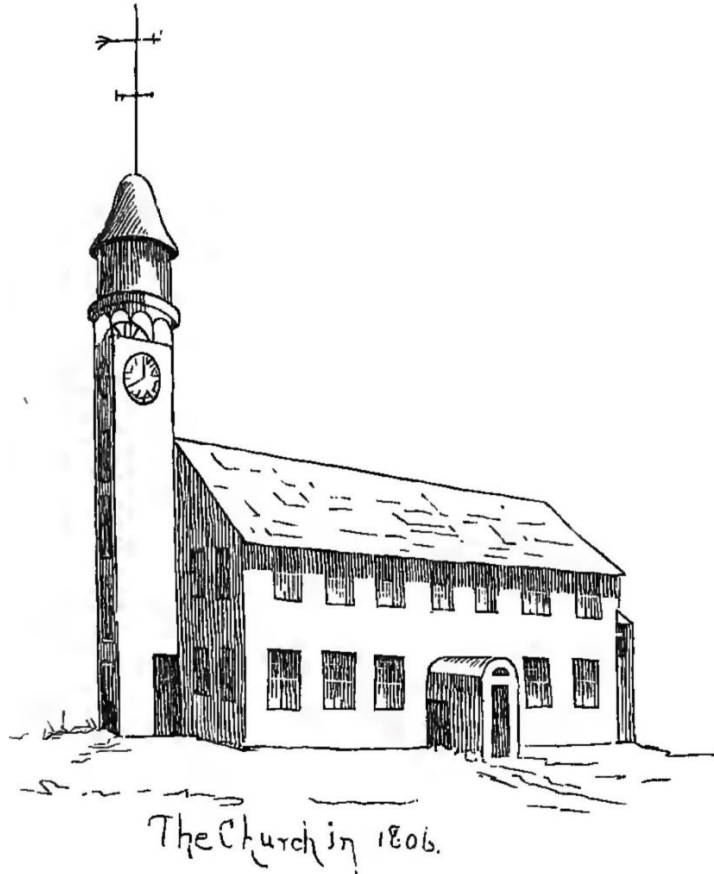
The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

March 17, 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 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens)

9:45 AM

PRELUDE

INTROIT

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”
Joseph Stillitano

HEINLEIN

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Birch

One: Love bids us to come and learn.

Many: We have come to listen to God’s word.

One: Love bids us to come for mercy.

Many: We have come to confess our sinfulness.

One: Love bids us to come and offer thanks and praise.

Many: We have come, let us worship God.

*OPENING SONG

“You Are My All in All”
JoySpring Songbook #23

Dennis Jernigan

*GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

Linda Birch

We gather from different streets, and different towns. We come with different opinions, different preferences, and different gifts. Unite us Lord into one family of faith gathered around You to learn and praise and carry on Your ministry together. We pray this in the name of Jesus 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)

Linda Birch

Lord Jesus, You came to earth in obedience to Your heavenly parents' wishes. Your life modeled love and obedience. We confess that we have not always said yes when God called us to an act of kindness. We aren't quick to respond to needs that put us out of our comfort zone. We wait to see if someone else does the job before we volunteer. We are sorry for the times we put our own comfort before the needs of others. Have mercy on us, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART`

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 31:31-34 John 12:20-33

(Pew Bible pg 642 & 875)

SERMON

"God is Glorified!"

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*HYMN (on back cover)

"Love Your Neighbor and Forgive"

REDHEAD 76

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

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

Linda Birch

The morning offering will now be received.

Offertory

"The Beaux Delight" and "Goddesses"

English, 17th/18th century

Elizabeth Kafig, fiddle

John & Henry Playford

300th Anniversary Program Notes: Instrumental music was always a popular part of early American society. The fiddle was a common instrument, used to play folk tunes and to accompany dances. The dance tunes played here were written down by Ebenezer Parkman in a small book, dated 1721, that contained music he had heard and liked, including dance tunes from the London-published "The Dancing Master."



"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)

Linda Birch

Holy One, please accept these gifts we offer back to You with gratitude for all You have given us. Inspire us to use them wisely and creatively in Your ministry of love. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

*CLOSING HYMN #16

"Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing"

NETTLETON

*BENEDICTION

Linda Birch serves as liturgist today.

Linda Borglund and **Steve Achorn** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

Bereavement: Cathie Achorn and family upon the passing of her mother Dee Mumby.

Continued Prayers: Mary McLeod's granddaughter – Brittany Larson; Nancy Reimann; Marge Butcher's grandson David Butcher Jr. and her granddaughter Mehan Donovan; Ron & Nancy Clark's daughter Melissa Dickinson; The Lord family; Betty Grays niece Heather and her family; Ilda & Jim Engle; Betty Simino; Roberta Di Terlizzi's mother Donata.

300th ANNIVERSARY FUN FACT

Members of our church, Daniel and Jerusha Chamberlain and their family served as missionaries in Honolulu from 1820 to 1823. Before they left Westborough, Jerusha and her Flanders Road neighbors sewed baby garments for island children. They also brought Westborough-made straw hats as gifts. Jerusha said afterwards that they never would have been allowed to land, except for the garments and hats.

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

EASTER EGG HUNT

There will be an Easter egg hunt on Sunday, March 24th inside the church after the service. Buckets will be provided for the hunt. For more info speak to Linda Borglund.

EXCITING NEWS FROM DISMAS HOUSE!

On March 1st the Dismas House Family celebrated the opening of the Rev. Richard and Gail Pryce House in Oakham. After years of careful planning, financial support, and many blessings, the new house will provide permanent, supportive housing for six Dismas graduates and their families. A mile from the Dismas Farm, the duplex is all furnished, bright and comfortable. The Dismas Family staff, supporters and residents were all involved in making the dream come true, including some beautiful bedside tables created in the woodworking shop at the farm. Our church family can be sure that supporting Dismas House is definitely a worthwhile mission.

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.

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 final Lenten Book Study is meeting on Thursday, March 21st. 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.



Mar 17	Sunday - Lent V
10:00 AM	Worship & Sunday School
11:30 – 4:00	Meal Packing Event/Vestry
Mar 18	Monday – office closed
7:00 PM	Cabinet/Kerygma Room
Mar 19	Tuesday
10:30 AM	Beaumont Service
1:00 – 3:00 PM	Trustees/Kerygma Rm
7:00-8:00 PM	Bells Rehearse
Mar 20	Wednesday
6:30-8 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Mar 21	Thursday
6:00 PM	Lenten Book Club/Soup Dinner
Mar 22	Friday
Mar 23	Saturday
Mar 24	Palm Sunday - Lent VI
10:00 AM	Worship & Sunday School
1:00 PM	Baptism/Chapel

