

# The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

March 24, 2024

10:00 AM



Photo by [Brooke Lark](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## *Palm Sunday*

**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 – [bdorsi64@outlook.com](mailto:bdorsi64@outlook.com)*  
*Joseph Stillitano, Director of Music – [uccwestboromusic@gmail.com](mailto:uccwestboromusic@gmail.com)*  
*Sue Menzel, Director of Bells – [westcongmusic@gmail.com](mailto:westcongmusic@gmail.com)*  
*Lisa Coffey, Administrator – [westboroucc@verizon.net](mailto:westboroucc@verizon.net)*  
*Deb Boucher, Communications Coordinator – [deb.boucher.15@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:westboroucc@verizon.net), Church website- [www.uccwestboro.org](http://www.uccwestboro.org)  
[www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough](http://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 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

*\*The Congregation is invited to stand.*

## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (SHOWN ONLINE AND ON THE SANCTUARY SCREENS)

9:45 AM

PRELUDE

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

PROCESSIONAL

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"  
Everyone

Stephen Schwartz

*Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!*

*Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!*

## INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pam Faustine

One: Hosannah to the Son of David!

**Many: Hosannah to our king!**

One: He comes riding on a donkey.

**Many: Throw your coats before him.**

One: Wave your Palms in Praise.

**Many: Hosannah! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

\*OPENING HYMN #191

"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!"

CANONBURY

\*GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

Pam Faustine

**With You Jesus, we begin our journey towards Jerusalem today. As we listen to the story of Your triumphal entry, help us put ourselves in Your place. Let us shout our praise today, even as we prepare for the sorrow of Holy Week. We ask this O Christ, in Your name and we continue in prayer using the words You taught 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.**

#### A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Pam Faustine

**Jesus, we confess that it's easier to shout for joy and much harder to stay with You in Your hour of need. It's easier to celebrate with a friend than to sit with one in their grief. It's easier to write a check and harder to serve hungry people face to face. Forgive us for the times we've taken the easy way out while serving You. Give us strength and courage to make the harder, more necessary choice. Amen.**

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

#### RECEIVING THE WORD

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29. Mark 11:1-11

(pew Bible pages 492 & 823)

SERMON

"Shout With Joy!"

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

\*HYMN #190

"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

STORIES OF JESUS

#### 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.

Pam Faustine

Offertory

"Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing"  
Chancel Choir

Gordon Young

*Now let us all praise God and sing Our great Redeemer's praise;  
That we may all with one accord Our joyful voices raise.  
Sing Alleluia!*

*All ye servants of the Lord, Praise God forever.  
Sing Jehovah's mighty pow'r, Praise God forever.  
Sing of God's righteousness, Praise God forever.*



"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)

Pam Faustine

**Our gifts, O Lord, come with shouts of praise! With thankful hearts we offer them and ourselves to Your service. Amen.**

BEING THE CHURCH

\*CLOSING SONG

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"  
JoySpring Songbook #13

Rick Founds

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

**Pam Faustine** serves as liturgist today.

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

*Prayers*

Bereavement: Lisa Coffey and family on the passing of her father-in-law, James Coffey.

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.



Today after Worship

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Please plan to join us for the following services during Holy Week:

**Maundy Thursday**, March 28th at **7pm** in the Sanctuary for Holy Communion and Tenebrae (this will be on Zoom and Facebook)

**Good Friday**, March 29th at **Noon** - St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 3 John St, (this will be on St. Stephen's Zoom - details coming later)

**Good Friday**, March 29th at **7pm** - in our Chapel (this will be in-person ONLY)

**Easter Sunday**, March 31st at **10am** in our Sanctuary (also on Zoom and Facebook)

### 300TH ANNIVERSARY MEAL PACKING

We did it! On March 17th our members along with folks from the community help pack 30,000 meals in just over 2 1/2 hours. Meals will go to local food pantries and shelters and 5,000 meals will be sent to Maui. I would like to thank everyone who helped make this event such a success, from the Mission Team, publicity, refreshments, set-up and clean-up and the music! You are fantastic and demonstrate what it means to serve joyfully. Pamela Faustine

### 300<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING

There will be a 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Kerygma Room. Anyone is welcome to join in on this committee so come on down and see what fun things are in store. A Quarterly Newsletter will be sent out the first of April. The meeting will be on Zoom. If you wish to be sent the link, please let Cathie Achorn know. Message or Text to 508-380-8671.

### 300<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUN FACT

In 1982 the annual "Adopt a Child" Christmas gift mission project was established by Gretchen Helm, wife of Pastor Norman Helm. In 1987, a Feed-a-Friend program was established to furnish food for hungry families in Worcester. We continue to donate food to places such as Prospect House, INH, and Westborough Food Pantry. Also in 1987, our church held its first Coat Drive, collecting 400 coats for those in shelters in Boston and Worcester, and we sponsored the Heifer Project to help farmers in developing countries become self-sufficient.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP APRIL MEETING

Mark your calendar! Women's Fellowship meeting is April 1st. Wear something on your head for April Fool's Day. There will be prizes. Social Time 6:30 and then a short meeting. Flaherty Physical Therapy will have a presentation on dealing with Vertigo & Dizziness at 7:30PM. This is open to all our congregation and to the town so bring a friend. Questions? Call Cathie 508-380-8671.

### 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: \$89,000

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.

## MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> – MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>



<b>Mar 24</b>	<b>Palm Sunday - Lent VI</b>
10:00 AM	Worship & Sunday School
11:15 AM	Easter Egg Hunt
1:00 PM	Baptism/Chapel
<b>Mar 25</b>	<b>Monday</b> – office closed
7:00 PM	300 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Kerygma Room
<b>Mar 26</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
7:00-8:00 PM	Bells Rehearse Dismas House Dinner
<b>Mar 27</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
6:30-8 PM	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Mar 28</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
7:00 PM	Maundy Thurs. Service/Sanctuary
<b>Mar 29</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
Noon	Ecumenical Service/St. Stevens Episcopal
7:00 PM	Good Friday service/Chapel
<b>Mar 30</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>Mar 31</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
10:00 AM	Worship