

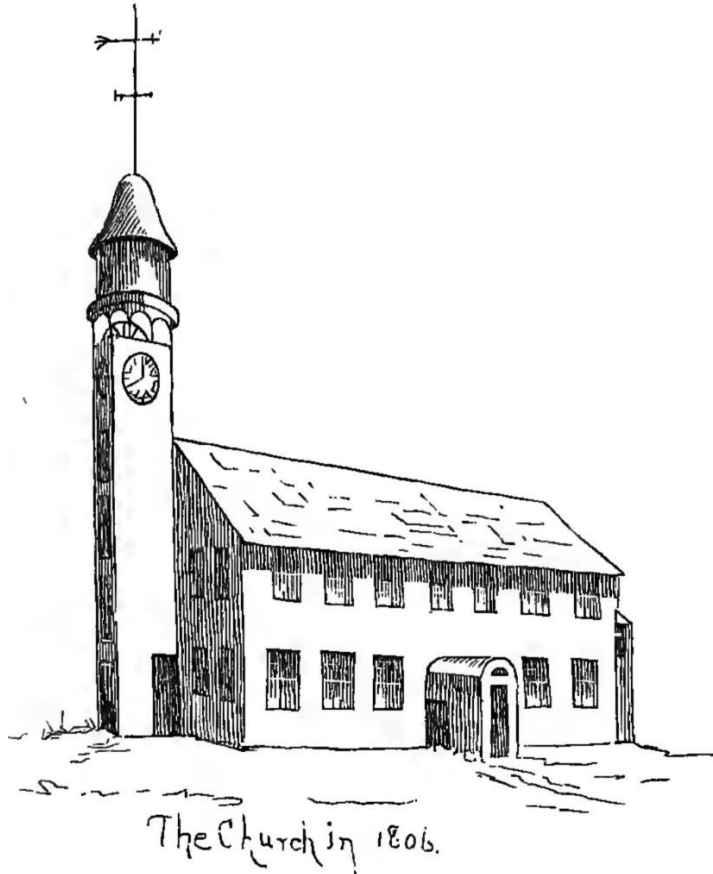
# The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

March 3, 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](mailto:revbetsyccw@gmail.com)*  
*Joseph Stillitano, Director of Music – [uccwestboromusic@gmail.com](mailto:uccwestboromusic@gmail.com)*  
*Linda Borglund, Director of Faith Formation – [lborglund53@gmail.com](mailto:lborglund53@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](https://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 3, 2024

Communion Sunday

Third Sunday in Lent

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens)

9:45 AM

PRELUDE

INTROIT

“Adoremus te Jesu Christe”  
Chancel Choir

Taizé

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

## INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

Today we will have a Service of Word and Table in the style of 1724, followed by a skit based on the early history of the town of Westborough.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Crawford

One: God’s house has open doors.

**Many: God’s house welcomes everyone.**

One: In God’s house we give praise.

**Many: In God’s house we hear His Word.**

One: In God’s house we eat at His table.

**Many: Let us meet in God’s house.**

\*OPENING HYMN (insert)

“Three Hundred Years of Faith!”

LEONI

\*GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

Linda Crawford

**Holy One, as we gather here in Your house, turn our thoughts to Your Word and our hearts to Your will. We ask this through Jesus our Redeemer and we continue to pray using His words ...**

\*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 Crawford

**Jesus, You teach us that Your way is love and we try to follow You. We confess that we have often strayed from Your path. We have not put others before ourselves. We have let pride, greed and power keep us from loving service to our neighbor. We have hoarded time, money and talents that could have been shared through ministry in Your name. We are truly sorry for our offenses and ask for Your mercy. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**RECEIVING THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 19:7-11

(Pew Bible pg 433)

\*HYMN (Insert)

“Here at the Peak”

HAMBURG

**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.

Linda Crawford

Offertory

“Return to You”

Lyrics by Sarah Speed  
Music by Can Olgun

300th Celebration Performance: This song was written for usage by Church Choirs for the 2024 Sanctified Art Series we are using this Lenten Season.

*I've read the stories of heartache and of glory.  
I've prayed ev'ry prayer for you.  
And I've tasted glory because you say we're worthy.  
I've sung ev'ry song for you.*

*But I have a wandering heart, and a fickle faith.  
Can you find me here, can I see your face?*

*Help me return to you. There's nothing I'd rather do.  
Than return to you. There's nothing I'd rather do.  
The storm may rise, the trumpet sound,  
the curtain tear, and even now, Return to you,  
There's nothing I'd rather do, Than return to you.*

*I'll leave the boat, but when the storm comes, I'll let go*

*And I'll sink faster than a stone.  
And I've called your name when the world is full of pain,  
But I still need to see your hands.*

*Teach me to rend my heart. Teach me to turn to you.  
Teach me to rend my heart. Teach me to love like you.*



“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 Crawford

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

**BEING THE CHURCH**

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

Linda Crawford

**SERVICE OF THE LORD’S TABLE**

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

Commentary on the early Puritan Service of the Lord’s Table

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

**INVITATION**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP AROUND THE TABLE**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP AMONGST THE CONGREGATION**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)**

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

**Lord Jesus, we thank You for feeding us at Your sacred table. May this spiritual food bring us closer to You and to each other. Bless us with Your Spirit to help us serve others in Your name. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #214**

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” (vs. 1,3,4)

TOPLADY

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**“Go Ye Now in Peace”**  
**JoySpring Songbook #25**

Composed by Joyce Elaine Eilers

**300<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL SKIT**

*Cast: Roland and Paul Regnier, Max Keeler, Kristina and Susanna Di Terlizzi, Steve Achorn, Mike Lawler, Haley Kapitz, and other supporting actors*

**Linda Crawford** serves as liturgist today.

**Pam Faustine** and **Amy Glennon** are deacons of the day.

*Prayers*

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.

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

During February and March 1847, the church contributed \$185.65 (today \$6,971.82) plus twelve bushels of grain for relief of people of Ireland suffering from famine. This was considered repayment for contributions from Ireland after the Indian Wars.

**STEEPLE AND CUPOLA PROJECT**

Donations to date: \$73,000

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.

**WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP MEETING**

Women’s Fellowship is gathering tomorrow night, March 4th. The meeting will begin at 6 pm with appetizers followed by a potluck supper at 6:30 pm. We will do a fun craft following dinner. If you have any questions, call Cathie 507-380-8671.

**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.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next men's breakfast is 9am this Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a full breakfast and fellowship with open discussion. All are welcome.

### 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 17<sup>th</sup>***. In honor of our 300th Anniversary, we will be sponsoring a meal packing event on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

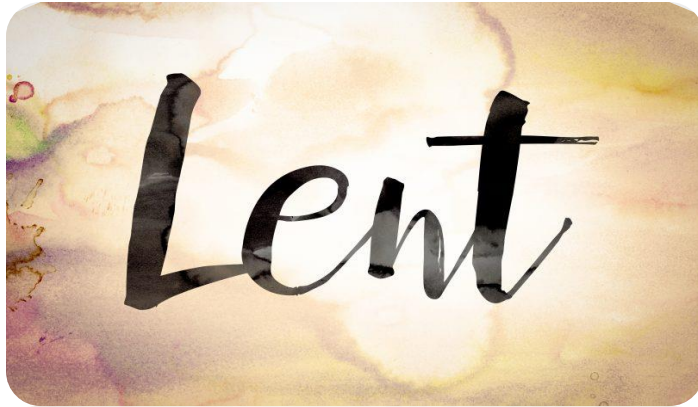
### ***Westborough Food Pantry***

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 March 7<sup>th</sup> and will continue each Thursday through March 21<sup>st</sup>. We 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!!!



**Mar 3**

10:00 AM

11:15 AM

**Communion Sunday - Lent III**

Worship & Sunday School

Confirmation Class

**Mar 4**

6:00 PM

**Monday** – office closed

WF Meeting/Vestry

**Mar 5**

10:00 AM

7:00-8:00 PM

**Tuesday**

Willows & Whitney Place

Bells Rehearse

**Mar 6**

6:30-8 PM

7:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Choir Rehearsal

Deacons/Kerygma Rm

**Mar 7**

6:00 PM

**Thursday**

Lenten Book Club/Soup Dinner

**Mar 8**

**Friday**

**Mar 9**

9:00 AM

**Saturday**

Men's Breakfast

**Mar 10**

10:00 AM

**Lent IV**

Worship & Sunday School