

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
57 West Main Street, Westborough, MA 01581

1724 – 2023

“Welcome Here Sunday”

September 10th



Photo: Deb Boucher

The Evangel
September 2023

Rev. Betsy Dorsi, Pastor
Joseph Stillitano, Director of Music

A Message from Rev. Betsy...

Jesus said to them, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." MT 28:19-20

This past June I was officially installed as your pastor and teacher. A role I take very seriously. A pastor is responsible for planning their own installation service, starting with a theme, then choosing a preacher, two ministers to give charges — one to the pastor and one to the congregation, and music. This time of preparation is very important because the theme of your installation service reflects the theme you hope your time of ministry will reflect. The theme for my service was "Our Ministry Together." This theme acknowledges our partnership with the other churches in our Association as well as our covenant with the Conference and wider UCC. We work within our Association on special mission projects, sending help when disaster strikes a church within our Association, and sometimes doing programs together, like the shared interfaith portion of our Confirmation program for which we'll be joining the Grafton Church Confirmation program. We minister with the Conference by accepting leadership, recommendations, and enrichment programs and taking part in local mission projects. Most importantly, we minister together within our local church through worship, our Called to Care visitation program, our fellowship time, and our mission programs and Christian Education programs. Yes, I am your pastor and teacher. I can lead by my example, inspire by my preaching, open eyes, hearts, and minds by my teaching, but the ministry Jesus calls The Congregational Church of Westborough to do, is more than one person can accomplish and is meant for us all. Working together, each with our own gifts, perspectives, community connections, and inspiration, we accomplish so much in the building of God's Kingdom on earth.

Keep Shining Bright!

Rev. Betsy



PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Bereavement: Cathy Purcell; Dick Kruse.
New Prayers: Brenda Lord; Doris Trull; Marketa’s friend – Paula; Bob and Harriet Markert.
Continued Prayers: Meghan Donovan, Marge Buther’s granddaughter; Carrie Halbert (wife of Nicole Halbert’s cousin); Betty Simino; Edward Birch – Linda’s son; Tom Morgan’s brother Harry; Dee Mumby, Cathie Achorn’s mother; Nancy Walker (Deb Boucher’s mom); Roberta Di Terlizzi’s mother Donata; Dennis- a friend of Deb & Rich Boucher.
Prayer requests: You can place prayer concerns on the church’s email distribution list at epayers@uccwestboro.org. Prayers will remain listed for 8 weeks.
If you would like a prayer renewed, please call the church office.

“WELCOME HERE” SUNDAY IS COMING SEPTEMBER 10th!

The Parish Life Committee and the Christian Education will be putting on a picnic for everyone after church on “Welcome Here Sunday”, Sept.10, 2023. Come join us as we kick off for a wonderful year ahead of fun, worship and fellowship.
Baked BBQ chicken, salads, beans, chips, lemonade, ice tea and more will be served followed by make you own sundaes for dessert.
If weather permits, this will take place on the lawn outside and plans are that Steve Achorn will put up a temporary fence along the sidewalk as has been done in the past.

If you would like to help out with this picnic, please contact by calling or texting Cathie Achorn at 508-380-8671 or tell anyone on the committee. Looking forward to seeing you all,

Your Parish Life Committee,
Cathie Achorn, Linda Borglund, Sandy Horton, Diane and Steve Lindberg

300TH ANNIVERSARY
1724-2024

300th Anniversary Celebration and Activities
The Congregational Church of Westborough, UCC

The Cabinet has approved the formation of a committee to plan a celebration for the 300th anniversary of our church. Cathie Achorn has been appointed to head up this committee. If you would like to help out with this please contact her by message or text at cell #508-380-8671, or by email at camachorn@aol.com.

Are you interested in history, conducting tours of our church, ringing the bell on our church anniversary date, writing skits or acting, can you dress up like Ebenezer Parkman, make strawberry shortcake, organe a dinner, make music or sing? All these and more are great opportunities to use your talents to make this a wonderful celebration. Tell us how you would like to help and we will really appreciate it. If you were there to celebrate the 275th anniversary, could you contact Cathie to tell her what was done.

The committee will hold various activities and a special service to promote the 300th Anniversary within the church and the whole community. Cathie has lots of ideas from looking at what other churches have done in the last few years. If everyone does just one thing to help, it will be a great year of fellowship. What do they say? “...Many hands make light work!” Will you do one thing to make this a memorable year?

This committee will meet in September to get organized. Please let Cathie know if you will consider being a part of this group at such an important time in the history of our church. Looking forward to a fun and interesting 300th year.

Cabinet Comments

This will be the first of a monthly summary of notes from Cabinet. We want to be sure that our congregation is aware of the major points in each meeting and all are well informed about what's happening. Sometimes things mentioned here will also be reported elsewhere, but we believe that being "overinformed" is better than being "uninformed". As you can imagine, some meetings will have more substance, and others less so. Also, these summaries, due to timing, will provide insights into the previous month's meetings---so this first summary will reflect the July 19th meeting. Please let me know what you think and if you have any suggestions to make these summaries more informative.

As a reminder, the cabinet consists of elected officers of the church, heads of boards and certain committees, as well as three "At-Large" members. In next month's Comments, I'll include a list of Cabinet member names. You should always feel free to speak to any Cabinet member about church-related activities—the Cabinet exists to represent you and ensure that your voice is heard!

July 19th Bullet Points:

- A prayer Vigil was held in the church for healing for Brenda Lord as she underwent another brain surgery. The Vigil was led by Rev. Betsy and Clif Newton, Pastor
- Rev Betsy is working to set up a parents meeting for youth who are ready for Confirmation. A curriculum has been selected and students will pick their mentors. Sign up will be September 10th and an opening dinner date will be established.
- Financially, we continue to track with a slight surplus, and are very grateful to all for their donations, for meeting their pledges, and making gifts to the church.
- Rev. Betsy will be moving into the second floor of our property at 7 Church St. A lot of work has gone into converting the space into a residential apartment from an office. Due to Rev. Betsy's mobility issues, stair lifts have been installed. Also, Rev. Betsy is looking for a China cabinet.
- A shed will be built and placed on the church parking lot to house lawn and other maintenance equipment so the garage can be emptied and used for a car.
- The tech team is looking for feedback on the audio/video that has been installed in the Chapel. Please let Tom Morgan know if you have any comments.
- We're grateful that Jack Glennon and others worked to get mini-splits installed in the chapel for both AC and heat.
- The Cabinet unanimously approved to add Dana Crawford to the Board of Trustees. For the time being, the Trustees will be utilizing a rotating chair. As always, we are looking for diverse representation on this important board, so please see Dave Smith if you are interested or if you have a suggestion.
- Missions Board is looking for volunteers to make dinner at Dismas House in Q3 and Q4, which occurs on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Please talk to Pam Faustine if you can help.
- A reminder, as noted earlier, WELCOME HERE SUNDAY is September 10th, featuring a picnic right after worship and Sunday School signups.

Blessings to all,

Roland Regnier, Moderator

REV. BETSY'S INSTALLATION

Sunday, June 4th, 2023 was an exciting day in the life and history of The Congregational Church of Westborough. On that day, we installed the Reverend Elizabeth (Betsy) Dorsi as our 26th settled pastor – the first woman ever to hold that position in our church. It was a service filled with music, prayers, and praise, followed by a delicious meal in the vestry.

During the installation, we formed a three-way covenant, between Reverend Betsy, our congregation, and The Central Massachusetts Association of the United Church of Christ. Installation is the action of an association of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local church. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local church, its pastor and teacher, and the United Church of Christ. Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

The service included music from our Chancel Choir, a duet by two youth members, four hymns which are special to Rev. Dorsi, and a special bell piece. The bell piece is an original composition commissioned by the Festival Ringers in 1997 to celebrate their 20th anniversary. Members representing various areas of our church participated in the service, as well as two pastors from local UCC churches, a member of the Westborough Interfaith Clergy group, and representatives from the MA Conference. The sermon was given by the pastor of Reverend Betsy's former church in Connecticut.

Afterwards, we enjoyed a meal that was catered by John Ayotte, of Chef du Jour, and it was delicious. Thank you to the Deacons for organizing the collation! Leftover food was delivered to homeless families living in one of the hotels in town.

Prior to the start of the service, a special video created by Tom Morgan was shown – highlighting the various women who have served our congregation as interim ministers, associate pastors, and students. Plans are in the works for the video of the entire service to be shown again on Westborough TV...stay tuned for notice of when that's happening!

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

As of the end of July 2023, pledges collected are at \$146,662 or 63% of our budget (with only 60% of the year gone by!) and \$11,153 more than what was collected at this time last year. A big thank you to all who continue to faithfully fulfill their pledge, even during the slow summer months! Your continued support of our church is greatly appreciated.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Greetings from the great state of Maine. Despite all the rain, Cathie and I are having a great summer up here on the coast of Maine. We are grateful to all the people at church that have been covering for us and performing deacon duties this summer. We watch the services each Sunday on Facebook. It looks like the chapel is working out well for summer services. We are thankful to the tech team for producing the services each Sunday and the Trustees for installing air conditioning in the chapel.

As Summer winds down, we are looking forward to getting back to our normal routines. Join us for "Welcome Here Sunday", September 10th, for a picnic celebration and returning to the Sanctuary.

I am happy to announce that we have 3 new deacons. Beginning July 1, Amy Glennon, Elizabeth Kafig and Paul Regnier joined the Board of Deacons. WELCOME!

The board of deacons is always looking for ways we can better service our congregation. If you have any suggestions or if you or your family is in need of assistance or prayers, please contact anyone on the deacons listed below.

Blessings,
Steve Achorn

Your Board of Deacons:

Steve Achorn, Cathie Achorn, Linda Birch, Linda Borglund, Marketa Brzostowski, Theresa DiMeo, Pam Faustine, Amy Glennon, Elizabeth Kafig, Darvin Kapitz, Paul Regnier

Mission in Action:

BIG IDEA MISSION PROJECT: MEALS FOR UKRAINE!

Sunday, June 11th was a BIG day at our church! Following a Sunday School year-end picnic, 90 volunteers gathered in the vestry to pack meals for Ukraine. Young and old alike participated in the setup and cleanup, with lots of assembly-line work in between. In a little under 2 hours, we packed 12,858 meals which were sent to Ukraine this summer. Matthew from Outreach.org was stunned at how quickly we accomplished all this. Many thanks to the members and friends & family of our church who participated, along with members of Westborough High School's National Honor Society, and folks from Congregation B'nai Shalom. These meals will make a big difference in the lives of those receiving them.



OTHER MISSION UPDATES:

In the Hour of Need Family Shelter - We were able to fill most dinner and overnight spots during our week of hosting in July. It was good to see that three of the families who were at the shelter in March had moved out to permanent housing. The children at IHN were able to go to summer camp this year and the families and staff really appreciated our help.

Habitat for Humanity - The folks at Habitat are just waiting for the go ahead to start scheduling groups at their next build site in Worcester. Look for a work date in October/November.

Dismas House - If you enjoy cooking a hearty meal for a group of men who are working hard to pull their lives together, Dismas House needs you. We provide a home cooked meal on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The men appreciate a home cooked dinner and welcome us to stay and eat with them. If you are interested, please contact Karen Hutchinson or Pam Faustine.

WEBSITE UPDATING

Pictures/Write-ups wanted!

I am planning to update the website over the next few weeks, so would love some updated photos (and write-ups) of happenings around church. COMMITTEE CHAIRS - I'm especially looking for write-ups of what you've done in the past and plans for future events. It would be great to have things ready for the start of the Sunday School year.



PLEASE REMEMBER, when you send pictures to me, send them via email (the quality is much better). (For example:

yourname@email.com TO deb.boucher.15@gmail.com) and PLEASE put a topic in the subject line. Unlabeled topics in the subject line leads to a lot of extra work searching for things.

Thank You. Deb Boucher

PARISH LIFE

Planning has started for this Fall and into the coming year to celebrate and acknowledge that our 300th anniversary of the church is approaching.

Please Note: We welcome you to submit ideas for church activities and welcome all the help we can get. We would like to have a Fall Bon Fire and Sing-A- Long and an old fashion Pot Luck Supper this Fall. Also, we will try to go Christmas Caroling this year. If you can help with any of these activities, please talk to us or email camachorn@aol.com or text 508-380-8671

FLOWERS

Wanted! Flower lovers. We need members on the Flower Committee. It's not hard work! Making arrangements – wait – not really doing the flower arrangements (unless you want to!) – just making sure we have flowers in church. If they are donated on a particular Sunday, you would just get the information to the church office. (And we do have many silk pieces in the attic). Come work with us. The Flower Committee

PROPERTIES

7 Church Street Garage Storage

The photo below shows the equipment that the Properties Committee has stored in the left-side garage at 7 Church for the last many years. In order to maximize the rental potential for the second-floor apartment, it was deemed necessary to find another storage space. To that end, it was decided to purchase a 10-foot by 12-foot shed kit which will accommodate the ride-on lawnmower, the barbecue grill, the snowblower and the battery-operated push mower. Other items, such as hoses and bags of lawn lime can also be accommodated in the shed, which will be locked.



THE STORAGE SHED

Once the decision was made to utilize the second-floor unit at 7 Church St. as a residence, it became obvious that the garage, with its direct access to the second floor, would be a critical component to garner the highest rent for the apartment. Hence, the Trustees and the Properties Committee set out to find alternate storage for the large items that are stored in the garage, namely the ride-on lawnmower, the snowblower, the barbecue, the electric push mower and the popcorn machine. It was decided to purchase and assemble a 10-foot by 12-foot, wooden shed for this purpose since wooden sheds are wind-rated whereas metal ones are not. In order to locate the shed in the least conspicuous location, it was decided to put it in the parking lot near the north side of the office. This location will not impede the installation of a handicap ramp if one is installed in the future.

Over the past few months, the components for the shed—four, 4 X 4 X 10 base supports, the two base

assemblies, the 4 walls, the shed floor and the 5 roof rafters, were preassembled and on Saturday, August 12, a group of six dedicated, talented workers put the 4 walls, the roof rafters, the roof sheathing and the doors together to produce the shed shown in the picture above. Master Electrician Brett Borglund brought power to the shed for lighting and a 110-volt receptacle. The blue tarp pictured above is to protect the roof until the shingles are installed.

As it turned out, Reverend Betsy decided to move into the second-floor apartment, which was accomplished on August 8. Some finishing work on the shed is proceeding, but it is now able to accept the large items for storage. A hearty “thank you” to Brett Borglund, Jack and Cam Glennon, Mike Lawler, Ted Jaworski, Roland and Paul Regnier and Dave Smith for their dedication to and time spent on this endeavor.



CHRISTIAN ED

It's a new Sunday school year coming up. Registration for all ages will begin on sept 10th. We are currently looking for teachers to help out throughout the year. If you would like to teach you will need to fill out a Cori form. Looking to do every Sunday! We will be using spark house again, a very easy curriculum to use. I will have all the materials for you to use and I will also send a copy for you to look over before the Sunday you would be teaching. Any questions please let me know by email lborglund53@gmail.com, or cell phone 774-245-1425.

Linda Borglund,
Director of Faith Formation

NEWS FROM THE BELL LOFT

The Festival Ringers will resume the church year by gathering in the Church Library on Tuesday, September 12th at 6:30 pm. Our gathering will include a light supper, bringing each other up to date on our summer, planning our rehearsal dates and Sunday dates to ring though December. Rehearsals will start on Tuesday, September 19th, time TBD.

If you are interested in joining the Bell Choir this would be a good time. We have room for 2 more people. Call me at 508-341-8239 with questions. Sue Menzel

MUSIC CORNER

I hope this copy of the Evangel finds you well. I hope you've had a wonderfully restful summer. Now it's time to get excited for the return of the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir! This summer we were blessed to have Allyn Phelps join us as our summer pianist - a huge Thank You to Allyn!

I encourage any of you that might even consider joining our music program to do so. It's non-committal, friendly, warm, encouraging and super fun! We make music every Wednesday evening, 6:30-8:00pm, in the music room. Please join us for 1 week, 1 month, 1 season or the entire year. You do not need to know how to read music. If you play an instrument, feel free to join us too - we're not just singers 😊 We begin Wednesday rehearsals on August 30th.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



After a summer hiatus, the men's breakfast will resume. They meet at 9 am the second Saturday of the month. The first meeting will be October 14th, followed by November 11th and December 16th. All men of the church are welcome.

It is a time of FELLOWSHIP, GOOD FOOD, GOOD CONVERSATION AND LEARNING.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Fall Dinner - Monday, October 2nd

5:30 Social Time & appetizers

6:15 Guest speaker

Buffet Dinner to Follow

The first meeting of the Fall will be held on Monday evening, October 2, 2023. This will be a great time to catch up on what we've been doing all summer and to meet new people. Bring a friend or two. The Social Time and Appetizers will start at 5:30- until about 6:15PM. At that time, we will have a guest speaker, Polly Thayer. She will tell us about the Westborough Food Pantry, what it's been doing and how we can help. A buffet supper will follow. It's always a fun time.

The Mission for October will be the Westborough Food Pantry. Please bring items to the dinner. Each month we have a mission that we contribute to. At the October meeting, we will have a booklet that will outline what meetings, activities and fund raisers have been planned. Also, it will tell what the mission for each month is. If you would like a copy, please let the church office know or Cathie Achorn (camachorn@aol.com).

All women and teens are invited. Come to one meeting or come to all. Some people just choose to help with the fund raisers. We love to see you all. This is a time of fellowship and a chance to help our church and our community and sometimes even the world. We donated to several Ukrainian causes last Spring in addition to several other organizations throughout the year. This August we helped the Youth and Family Services in Westborough by donating school supplies. They contacted us personally this year as we really helped a lot last year with the leadership of Donna Morgan. She stepped up again this year and made sure all the donations left in the Vestry got to the Youth and Family Services. As a former teacher, I can tell you that this makes such a difference in a child's life to be like their friends and have a new backpack and to be able to bring in their own school supplies!

Save the Date

The Women's Fellowship is sponsoring a musical event with the entertaining Adriana Baltimore on

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 in our Sanctuary. Please see information about this event at the back of this Evangel. Tickets will be sold ahead of time. The proceeds will be donated.

Of Note

Please note that The Women's Fellowship is NOT having a Church Yard Sale this Fall.

Evergreen Fair

We (Fair Chairs-Linda Borglund, Sandy Horton and Cathie Achorn) are doing the Evergreen Christmas Fair on Dec. 2, 2023 from 9 am-3pm. At that time, we will have a Grandma's Attic room and will be taking donations starting Nov.26 through Nov. 30. If you have an item for the silent auction (basket, item or gift certificate, etc.) or you have new items that can be used for the children's store "The Santa's Workshop", we can take that starting now. Also, we can take used or new jewelry now. Please talk to the Fair Chairs. We have already started planning the fair. We want to decorate it like an old-fashioned fair to start celebrating our 300th anniversary.

For information you can contact Cathie at 508-380-8671 (leave a message or text) or email her at camachorn@aol.com.

God Bless You All and We hope to see you on October 2nd! Cathie Achorn, President

GROCERY GIFT CARDS

Grocery Gift Cards
2003 – 2023

History: In 2003 Steve Achorn, Nancy Quimby, and Doug Wales were instrumental in bringing the grocery gift card fundraiser to our Church. This program took off and over the years brought thousands of dollars to support our operation budget. In one peak year this program realized a profit of \$14,000. Perhaps you were the one who used grocery gift cards to go to Stop and Shop where you purchased Lowe's gift cards to buy a new refrigerator. Or maybe you used grocery gift cards to purchase Best Buy cards and bought a new computer. And many of us used grocery gift cards to purchase other gift cards at Stop and Shop to fulfill the wishes of little ones on the Christmas Giving Tree.

Times have changed! No longer do many folks have a checkbook in their pocket to buy grocery cards after Church. No longer do most folks buy their groceries at just Stop and Shop or Roche Bros. And no longer does the Grocery Card Team pick up the gift cards at Stop and Shop. Those gift cards are ordered through a distribution center in North Carolina who then sends them to the Church office where we must then activate them before adding them to inventory. We've struggled over the last couple of years to reach our goal of \$4,000. for the Church budget. Sometimes all good things come to an end. After much thought and consideration, the Grocery Card Team has decided to end this fundraiser. We still have many cards in inventory. We will continue to sell until that is depleted. We'll count on you to help us accomplish this. However, we will not be ordering any new cards. Many, many thanks to all who have supported this program. We will miss chatting with you after Church or delivering cards to your home.

With thanks,
 Nancy Quimby, Linda Crawford, Karen Hutchinson, Sally Petersen

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support of Friends of the Children-Boston! Your generous donation of \$250 in honor of Dana Crawford was received. Thank you for supporting our Achievers!

*Sincerely,
 Y-Chin Chen, Executive Director*

The Westboro Food Pantry sent a thank you for the Stop & Shop gift cards that were donated to them.

TOWN EVENT

Westborough Connects Presents:

Westborough for Life! Stay. Connect. Thrive.

This event takes place on September 10th at Westborough High School from 1-4pm. Come celebrate all the ways to connect and live well across our ages & stages of life in Westborough. This event is targeted to all adults, ages 45-99+



CONTACT INFORMATION

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General Church email
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Church web site
www.UCCwestboro.org

www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough



~ September 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10am Worship Service/Chapel, Zoom, Facebook COMMUNION	4 Church Office Closed	5 10 am Willow's & Whitney Place 6:30 pm Festival Ringer's dinner	6 3:30 Journey Home Singers 6:30-7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 	8	9
10 10am Worship Service/Chapel, Zoom, Facebook	11 Church Office Closed	12 10:15 am Beaumont Service Time TBD Bell Rehearsal starts	13 3:30 Journey Home Singers 6:30-7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Called to Care	14 6:30 pm- Trustees/Kerygma	15	16
17 10am Worship Service/Chapel, Zoom, Facebook	18 Church Office Closed	19	20 3:30 Journey Home Singers 6:30-7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm- Cabinet/Kerygma	21 6-9pm BSA Court of Honor/Sanctuary 7:30 pm Missions	22	23
24 1-4 pm Eagle Court of Honor/Sanctuary & vestry 10am Worship Service/Chapel, Zoom, Facebook	25 Church Office Closed	26 Dinner/Dismas House	27 3:30 Journey Home Singers 6:30-7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29 	30