

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

“Welcome Here Sunday”

September 10th



Photo by Deb Boucher

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**

Sept. 10, 2023

10:00 AM

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (SHOWN ONLINE AND ON THE SANCTUARY SCREENS) 9:45 AM

PRELUDE "Open the Eyes of My Heart with Be Thou My Vision" arr. M. Hayes

INTROIT "Sing to the Lord" Taizé
Chancel Choir

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US 10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 95) Roland Regnier

One: Come, let us sing to the Lord.

Many: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

One: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving.

Many: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.

*OPENING HYMN #284 "Gather Us In" GATHER US IN

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison) Roland Regnier

We are here in your house Lord. We have gathered to give You praise, to learn from Your word and to grow stronger through our bonds with each other. Bless this sacred time and let us each feel Your presence and hear Your message and be filled with Your Spirit. We pray this through Jesus' Holy name and continue to pray using the words He 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.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Roland Regnier

Holy God, we often stray from Your dream, not finding time to meet You in prayer or Bible study, letting other important events take us away from Worship, ministry and fellowship. Our world calls us in so many different directions and we are enticed. Forgive us for not always putting You first. Call us home as often as we wander. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Linda Borglund

SCRIPTURES

Proverbs 2:1-11 Luke 2:41-52

(pew Bible pages 510 & 833)

SERMON

“In Our Father’s House”

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

“Trading My Sorrows”
JoySpring Songbook #19

Darrell Evans

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.

Roland Regnier

Offertory

“Jubilance”
Chancel Choir

Composed by Linda Spevacek

*Clap your hands all people, shout to God your praises,
Let your heart be joyful with singing!
Alleluia! Sing praise to God!*

*Ev'ry form of life, ev'ry hill and valley is clothed in beauty.
Ev'rywhere on earth life is in rebirth, molded by the wondrous hand of God.
God the artist, God the painter, blessed be.
O, be joyful now in harmony!*

*Clap your hands all people, shout to God your praises,
Lift your voice in song to God!*



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***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)**

Roland Regnier

O Lord, we stand here in Your house, with gifts to offer You for Your work amongst Your people. We gladly accept this work as our own. Accept our gifts and our efforts and bless the ministry of this congregation, we pray. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Let Us Build a House: All Are Welcome” vs. 1,2,5

TWO OAKS

(*Glory to God* Hymnal – see handout)

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Roland Regnier serves as liturgist today.

Cathie and **Steve Achorn** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

New Prayers: Tom Erwin’s son-in-law, Mike Grundmann.

Continued Prayers: Marketa’s friend – Paula; Bob and Harriet Markert; The Lord family; Doris Trull, long time member/choir member, who is in rehab; Carrie Halbert (wife of Nikki Halbert’s cousin); Cathie Achorn’s mom, Dee Mumby; Marge Butcher’s granddaughter Meghan Donovan; Betty Grays’s niece Heather and her family; Ilda & Jim Engle; Betty Simino; Nancy Walker (Deb Boucher’s mom); Roberta Di Terlizzi’s mother Donata; Dennis in hospice (friend of Deb and Rich Boucher).

Prayer requests: You can place prayer concerns on the church’s email distribution list at epayers@uccwestboro.org. If you would like a prayer request included in today’s service, please let a Deacon know prior to the start of worship. Prayers will remain listed for 8 weeks. If you would like a prayer renewed, please call the church office.

Announcements

CHURCH PICNIC TODAY & SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please join us after the service for our picnic on the lawn. This is also the time to register children for Sunday School. Please see Linda Borglund. Sunday School will begin on Sept. 17th.

WESTBOROUGH CONNECTS EVENT TODAY!

Westborough for Life! Stay. Connect. Thrive. This event is taking place today at Westborough High School from 1-4pm. Our church will have a table there. 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+



FESTIVAL RINGERS' REHEARSALS

The Festival Ringers will have a light dinner at 6:30PM on Tuesday, Sept. 12th in the library. Regular rehearsals will begin the following Tuesday, Sept. 19th. Sue Menzel will determine the time.

300th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

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. 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.

GROCERY CARDS

2003 - 2023

The Grocery Card Fundraising Project has had a great 20-year run. We have added thousands of dollars to the Operation Budget of our Church. Our peak year was 2014 when we profited \$14,000. But times have changed, and shopping options have changed. In the past few years, we've struggled to meet our goal. We have decided to wrap up this project. We still have lots of inventory to sell and we'll count on you to help with that. However, we will not be ordering any new cards. We will miss chatting with you on Sunday morning or when we deliver. Thanks for all the support you've given our Church.

The Grocery Card Team
Nancy, Karen, Linda, and Sally



Sep 10 10:00 AM 1:00-4:00 PM	Sunday Welcome Here Sunday Picnic on the lawn. Westborough Connects/High School
Sep 11	Monday –closed
Sep 12 10:15 AM 6:30 PM	Tuesday Beaumont Service Bells dinner/library
Sep 13 9:30 AM 3:30 PM 6:30 -7:30 PM	Wednesday Called to Care Journey Home Singers Choir Rehearsal
Sep 14 6:30 PM	Thursday Trustees/Kerygma Rm
Sep 15	Friday
Sep 16	Saturday
Sep 17 10:00 AM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School

