

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

September 17, 2023



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. 17, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

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 (Exodus 15:2) Lindsay Custer

One: The Lord is my strength and my might.

Many: He has become my salvation.

One: This is my God, and I will praise him.

Many: The God of my parents and I will exalt her.

*OPENING SONG "Blessed Be Your Name" Comp. by Matt and Beth Redman
JoySpring Songbook #2

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison) Lindsay Custer

We gather in Your presence Lord, a people renewed and ready to begin again our service and ministry of presence. Instill in us a deep desire to seek justice and to work for equity and peace. Remind us often that it begins with us and our individual desires to live in the kingdom You imagined for us. Teach us to live following Jesus's example. We ask this in Jesus's name as we 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

Lindsay Custer

Almighty God, you created us out of love and planned for us to live in love with You. You gave us free will and we chose to go our own way. Forgive us for the many times we have strayed from Your vision. Often our own ways hurt others and their ways hurt us. We choose to stay hurt and hold a grudge and withhold our love rather than forgive. We cling to our sense of righteousness instead of bowing low to ask for forgiveness of another. Remind us of Your mercy and forgive us as we should forgive. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

(Children leave for Sunday School)

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 14:19-25 Matthew 18:21-35

(pew Bible pages 53 & 800)

SERMON

“True Freedom”

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*HYMN #73

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

WELLESLEY

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.

Lindsay Custer

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!*



“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)**

Lindsay Custer

Jesus, we Your followers come before You joyfully with our gifts. We know that through You little miracles occur every day. Help us to use these gifts in Your service and spread the joy of Your miracles throughout our community. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

***CLOSING HYMN# 546**

“Amazing Grace”

NEW BRITAIN

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Lindsay Custer serves as liturgist today.

Linda Birch and **Theresa DiMeo** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

New Prayers: Deb Boucher recovering from wrist surgery; Kathy Desrosiers (Sandy William’s sister-and-law).

Continued Prayers: Tom Erwin’s son-in-law, Mike Grundmann; 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

LIMITED OFFICE COVERAGE!

On Monday, September 25th, Deb Boucher, Lisa Coffey and Suzanne Arpante will be attending a conference in Ohio to learn more about the church membership and accounting databases. The staff have never been fully trained on this software and it will provide great insight into the many things it can be used for. The office will be open on Friday, September 29th. We appreciate your understanding and if anything crucial arises during that week, you may call Rev. Betsy at 508-389-3808.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FALL DINNER

Join us Monday, Oct. 2nd for our first Women's Fellowship Meeting of the new church year. Social Time and appetizers begin at 5:30 pm. The meeting will be at 6:00 and dinner at 6:35 pm. Our guest speaker will be Polly Thayer. The menu will be chicken cacciatore, barbecue chicken, salad, rolls, a TBA second entrée, and ice cream Sundaes, lava cake, cookies, and beverages. Please contact Cathie Achorn for dietary questions. 508-380-8671.

WESTBOROUGH FOOD PANTRY


We are collecting pasta, pasta sauce (all varieties), and instant oatmeal (single packets) for September. A hardy bowl of oatmeal is a good start to the school day and a plate of pasta makes a satisfying dinner. Donations can be placed in the white box at the side entrance or in the basket at the front of the church. Thank you for your support.

SAVE THE DATE!

We are scheduled for a Habitat for Humanity work day on Saturday, October 28th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The homes will be built on two lots at 521 and 523 Sunderland Road in Worcester. Construction is just getting started so we are getting in on the ground floor! Skills, no skills - all are welcome (ages 16 and up). Tools and instruction are provided. Sign-up sheet is in the vestry. Questions - contact the Mission Team.

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.



September 17th – 24th

Sep 17 10:00 AM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School
Sep 18 7:30 PM	Monday –closed Missions/Zoom
Sep 19 6:30 PM	Tuesday Bells Rehearse
Sep 20 3:30 PM 6:30 –7:30 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday Journey Home Singers Choir Rehearsal Cabinet/Kerygma Rm
Sep 21 6 – 9 PM	Thursday BSA Court of Honor
Sep 22	Friday
Sep 23	Saturday
Sep 24 10:00 AM 1– 4PM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School Eagle Court of Honor

