

# The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

September 24, 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](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

Sept. 24, 2023

Seventeenth 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 "Bless the Lord" Taizé  
Chancel Choir

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US 10:00 AM

### INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME Rev. Betsy Dorsi

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Taken from Psalm 100) Darvin Kapitz

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord.

**Many: Worship the Lord with gladness!**

One: Come into his presence with singing!

**Many: Know that the Lord is God.**

One: It is he who made us,

**All: And we are his!**

\*OPENING HYMN #276 "We Gather Together" KREMSER

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison) Darvin Kapitz  
**O Lord, we come before You humbled by Your love for us. Inspired by Your early disciples, we are ready to learn from You and to take our place in Your vineyard. Prepare us for the ministry You set before us and equip us with strong faith to help us through the trials of our lives. We ask this through the name of our Savior, Jesus and 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

Darvin Kapitz

**O Lord, we know there is so much work still to be done for Your kingdom on earth. We confess that we don't always make ministry a priority in our lives. We overlook the needs all around us and miss opportunities to share our faith. Forgive us as we pray, and help us to put service before self. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**RECEIVING THE WORD**

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*(Children leave for Sunday School)*

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 20:1-16

*(pew Bible pages 801)*

SERMON

"The Pay is Fantastatic!"

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

\*HYMN #459

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

ABBOT'S LEIGH

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation: *Let us bring our offerings before God with thanksgiving!*

Darvin Kapitz

The morning offering will now be received.

Offertory

"Sing the Lord a New Song"  
Chancel Choir

Composed by Shirley Porter

*Sing to the Lord a new song,  
Sing His praise to the end of the earth,  
Sing a new song of praise,  
Sing a new song of joy,  
Sing, rejoice, give thanks and praise,  
Oh ye righteous ones, Sing!*

*The Lord is your keeper,  
The Lord is your shade on your right hand.  
The sun will not smite you by day,  
Or the moon by night.  
The Lord will protect you from evil;  
He will keep your soul.*

*The Lord will guard you from this time  
Forth and forever more.*



“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)**

Darvin Kapitz

**Jesus, we accept Your call to serve in Your vineyard. Please accept our gifts and help us use  
them wisely to serve Your Kingdom. Amen.**

**BEING THE CHURCH**

**\*CLOSING SONG**

**“He Knows My Name”  
JoySpring Songbook #7**

Composed by Tommy Walker

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**Darvin Kapitz** serves as liturgist today.

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

<p><i>Prayers</i></p>
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New Prayers: Nancy Reimann

Continued Prayers: Deb Boucher recovering from wrist surgery; Tom Erwin’s son-in-law, Mike Grundmann; Marketa’s friend – Paula; The Lord family; 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](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> THRU Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 ONLY on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate your understanding and if anything crucial arises during that week, you may call Rev. Betsy at 508-389-3808.

### NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

On October 1, we will have a special offering. Those who have pledge envelopes will find one for this mission. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. In 2023, the Neighbors in Need “BEHOLD!” theme continues. This year’s focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. We must be better stewards of our planet!

### GROCERY CARD FUNDRAISER 2003 - 2023

**Update:** It's a wrap! After 20 years of selling you grocery gift cards or delivering them to your door, we have wrapped up this project. We sold all of the cards we had on hand. You helped raise thousands of dollars for the Operation Budget of the Church over the last 20 years. All good things come to an end. We will miss chatting with you after church or delivering them to your home. Thank you, thank you, thank you all! *The Grocery Card Team - Nancy, Karen, Linda, and Sally.*

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FALL DINNER

Join us Monday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### 300<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 24<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Sep 24**                      **Sunday**  
10:00 AM                  Worship & Sunday School  
1– 4PM                      Eagle Court of Honor

**Sep 25**                      **Monday – closed**

**Sep 26**                      **Tuesday - closed**  
6:30 PM                      Bells Rehearse  
                                        Dismas House Dinner

**Sep 27**                      **Wednesday - closed**  
6:30 -7:30 PM              Choir Rehearsal

**Sep 28**                      **Thursday - closed**

**Sep 29**                      **Friday**

**Sep 30**                      **Saturday**

**Oct 1**                        **Communion Sunday**  
10:00 AM                  Worship & Sunday School

The staff will be at a  
conference this week. The  
office will reopen Friday