

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

September 3, 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. 3, 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

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US 10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*CALL TO WORSHIP Janet Rivard

One: We live in confusing, fearful times.

Many: Jesus says, "Come to Me all who are weary."

One: We live with doubt and dread for our nation's future.

Many: Jesus says, "I will give you rest."

One: We want to do something to create positive change, to bring about social justice.

Many: Jesus says, "Follow me." And "I will give you the waters of everlasting life."

*OPENING HYMN #5 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" AZMON

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison) Janet Rivard

Jesus, we come to You for direction. You gave the perfect example of how to live and how to love. Help us heed Your advice and live as Your disciples in all the situations we find ourselves in. Help us to keep our cool, leave salvation in Your hands, and act in love to everyone, even our adversaries. We ask this in Your name, and we continue in prayer using the words You 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

Janet Rivard

Oh Lord, we confess before You and one another that we get worn out and torn down by decisive language and mean politics. We sometimes let our anger lead us to copy the bad language, angry tones and mean comments. Other times we just keep silent and let the angry rhetoric swirl around us. We know this is not the example You set for us. Help us to take Your lead and speak and act in love to everyone regardless of how they treat us. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURES	Matthew 16:21-28 Romans 12:9-21	(pew Bible pages 798 & 922)
SERMON	"Actions Speak Louder than Words"	Rev. Betsy Dorsi
*HYMN #344	"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"	ASSAM

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER	Rev. Betsy Dorsi
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OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation: *Let us bring our offerings before God with thanksgiving!* Janet Rivard
The morning offering will now be received.

Offertory "Prelude I from "The Well-Tempered Clavier" by J.S. Bach



"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)

Janet Rivard

We come before You with our gifts Lord, eager to do some good work to help our community and further Your ministry. Bless our gifts and teach us how best to serve in Your name. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

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

INVITATION

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison) Rev. Betsy Dorsi

Holy God, we thank You for inviting us to Your table just as we are. We thank You for the spiritual food You served us and for the sustenance it will give us as we continue to work hard at being Your disciples in our difficult, unequal, confusing world. Please continue to guide us and fortify us to be Your lights of love in our world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #452 "Here I Am, Lord" HERE I AM, LORD

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Go Ye Now in Peace" Composed by Joyce Elaine Eilers
JoySpring Songbook #25

*POSTLUDE "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" by L. Shackley

Allyn Phelps will be the guest keyboard player for the summer services.

Janet Rivard serves as liturgist today.

Linda Borglund and **Elizabeth Kafir** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

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).

Announcements

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Regular office hours resume this week. The hours are Tuesday – Friday 9am - 1pm and closed on Mondays.

WELCOME HERE SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 10TH

The Parish Life Committee and Christian Ed will be putting on a picnic for everyone after church on “Welcome Here Sunday”, Sept.10, 2023. Come join us as we kick off a wonderful year ahead of fun, worship and fellowship. Baked BBQ chicken, salads, beans, chips, lemonade, iced tea and more will be served followed by making your own sundaes for dessert. If the 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.

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

Sept. 3rd - Sept. 10th

Sep 3 10:00 AM	Communion Sunday Worship Service /chapel
Sep 4	Monday – office closed
Sep 5 10:00 AM	Tuesday Willows & Whitney Place
Sep 6 3:30 PM 6:30 -8 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday Journey Home Singers Choir Rehearsal Deacon's Meeting/Keryma Rm.
Sep 7	Thursday
Sep 8	Friday
Sep 9	Saturday
Sep 10 10:00 AM	Sunday Welcome Here Sunday Picnic on the lawn.



