

The Congregational Church of Westborough

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

1724 – 2024



The Evangel
February 2024

Rev. Betsy Dorsi, Pastor
Joseph Stillitano, Director of Music
Linda Borglund, Director of Faith Formation

A Message from Rev. Betsy...

And the Spirit immediately drove him into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness 40 days, tempted by Satan and the angels waited on him. (MK 1: 12-213)

Dear friends, while it is still cold outside with spots of snow lingering and wreaths still hung on doors, it's hard to believe Lent is here! 5 weeks of preparation to celebrate the most important event of human history.

Every year people excitedly tell me what they are giving up for Lent: chocolate, TV, coffee, nagging their spouse or children. Some people tell me of positive things they are doing for Lent: daily exercise, eating healthy, reinstating date night. These things will help us prepare for remembering Jesus' sacrifice because doing or not doing specific things makes us stop to remember why. So, there is some merit to these Lenten practices, though it is not intrinsic to the act itself.

This year, however, I recommend taking a different approach to Lent. Use these 5 weeks to focus on Jesus; to get to know him more, to become a close disciple of his. Watch and listen as you journey through a slow reading of any one of the Gospels. Become one of his early disciples and learn from him as he teaches you how to heal, feed, forgive and preach...how to spread his message of God's love far and wide.

As Jesus' disciples of today, we really need to know what he teaches in Scripture. He commissioned us to be the bearers of the Good News of God's love throughout our community and world. Prayer will help us connect to him and to the Holy Spirit who will give us the wisdom to see the opportunities for ministry all around us and the courage to use what Jesus has taught us, to get involved caring for our neighbors.

As we journey with Jesus this Lent both as individuals and as a community of faith, our church has several activities and resources to guide our way. Our Soup and book club will be reading and discussing the book [Forgiveness](#) by Adam Hamilton. It can be purchased on Amazon. Grab a copy and join us on Thursdays at 6pm for a bowl of delicious soup, fellowship and stimulating discussion. Our Lenten resource *Sanctified Art* supplies us with daily devotional cards and music for worship; Our Ash Wednesday and Holy Week Services help us walk with Jesus through his final days. Come, join us as we, one of Jesus' community of disciples, walk together towards Calvary and onward to the glories of Easter.

Keep Shining Bright!

Rev. Betsy



PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Bereavement: Pete Rossi; Betty Barclay; Ruth Bean.
Continued Prayers: Mary McLeod's granddaughter – Brittany Larson; Nancy Reimann; The Lord family; Ilda and Jim Engle; Betty Simino;

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.

PARISH LIFE

The Parish Life Committee provides opportunities for Christian Fellowship. We organize various activities for families, children and adults. Friends and non-church members are encouraged to participate. So, invite them to come and have fun with us.

The Parish Life Committee has been helping out with the 300th Anniversary Activities. They organized the Pancake Brunch on Feb. 11, 2024.

Upcoming Events and Activities:

(Dates are tentative and details will arise as the dates approach)

April 27th – Progressive Supper
May 12th – Mothers Day Tea
May 18th – Game Night
June 9th – Church picnic

Anyone wishing to help out with these events please let Sandy Horton, Diane Lindberg, Linda Borglund or Cathie Achorn know.



EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to donate Easter flowers in memory or in honor of someone, please fill out the order sheet at the back of the newsletter. Please return slips to the office by Monday, March 4th. The order form will also appear in the Sunday bulletin.

Lenten Worship Schedule

We are offering the following schedule of events to foster spiritual growth during the 2024 Lenten and Holy Week season.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28th - 7:00 PM

Join us in the sanctuary for a service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae.

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29th

ECUMENICAL SERVICE AT NOON

This will be at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, led by the Westborough Clergy.

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND ADORATION

7:00 pm in the Parkman Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY! MARCH 31st 10AM

Come celebrate Christ's resurrection!



Please invite family and friends to join us!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Please take your turn to host the Fellowship Hour after church on Sundays. There is a sign up sheet

near the church library. If you don't want to bake or buy goodies, there are goodies in the pantry you can use. Women's Fellowship provides juice which is in the refrigerator. Ask Diane Lindberg, Linda Borglund or Cahtie achorn if you have questions.

MISSIONS

Do you remember when two young women from Friends of the Children of Boston (FOCB) who visited with us at the Crawford's home? It has been five years since we met them and learned of their aspirations for the future.

If you can believe it, those young women are Juniors in college! It was Yadhirs who is at Columbia and Kathy who is at Mass College of Pharmacy. Kathy is actually the young woman featured in the year end appeal and our Achiever Spotlight. Check the bulletin board for her story and other news from FOCB. These are two amazing young women! There is so much happening with this organization, and they are expanding to reach more children at risk. The outcomes for children with a "Friend" from preschool through high school and even college are amazing!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

In the Hour of Need - (IHN) Family Shelter - We will be hosts at IHN from March 10 - 16, 2024. We need a dinner host (5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.) and an overnight host (8:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.) each day. There are six families at the shelter with many small children. Hosting is easy and it is a way to show hospitality to families that are going through a rough time. You can make dinners for the families are they can make their own. Playing games with the children or helping with homework helps busy parents. Since most of the children are young and go to bed early, overnight tends to be very quiet. A sign-up sheet will be in the vestry next week. Questions - contact Pam Faustine or any Mission Team member.

Meal Packing Event - March 17th! In honor of our 300th Anniversary, we will be sponsoring a meal

packing event on Sunday, March 17th, right after church. Our goal is to pack 30,000 meals in about 4 hours. We will need everyone's help for this event - all ages - from set-up to clean-up. Our church has a long history of mission work, both locally and overseas. We sent funds to Ireland during the potato famine and missionaries to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii). Meals will be sent to the Worcester County Food Bank which serves Food pantries and other food assistance organizations throughout our area. Some of the meals will also be sent to Maui to help residents who lost everything during the fire that destroyed Lahaina.

Dismas House - Do you like to cook for people who really appreciate your efforts? If so, please consider making a meal for the men at Dismas House. The men are working towards re-assimilating back into a normal life with friends and family after time in prison. They really love home cooked meals. If you can cook a meal but can't deliver it, we can probably arrange to bring the meal. If you are a first timer, one of our team can go with you. You can stay for dinner with the men or simply deliver the meal. Nothing fancy, just a tasty meal. If you can help, please contact Pam Faustine at 978-505-7031 or pfaustine@princeton-ma.us

Giving Tree - Thank you to everyone who purchased gifts for this year's Giving Tree mission. Our church provided gifts for more than 90 children from Westborough and six children from Friends of the Children of Boston. In all, six churches in town provided 1200 gifts for children from 164 families. The gifts included 40 bicycles and many other fun things that delighted children on Christmas morning.

NEWS FROM THE BELL LOFT



DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Save the date - APRIL 28th - Sunday afternoon in the Sanctuary for a program presented by Linda Duncan.

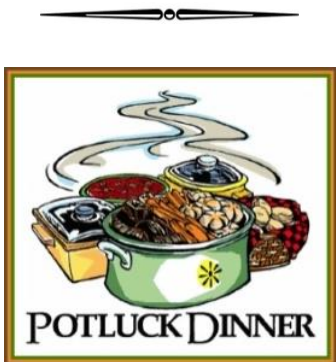
"Four Main Elements of Music will be discussed which only requires listening. The sounds will be demonstrated by 3 songs performed by the FESTIVAL RINGERS HANDBELL CHOIR.

This is Music 101, simply explained by 'hearing the sounds'. No musical training or note reading required."

We will be playing in the front of the Sanctuary so you will be able to see as well as hear. As we get closer to April 28 more information will be available. Looking forward to seeing you! Sue Menzel

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship would like to thank Mr. Tom Morgan for his presentation at the February 5th meeting. His presentation gave interesting and informative facts about our church beginnings, including pictures of how we've changed over the years. There was a great turn out and the presentation was recorded by Karen Henderson from Westborough TV. Thanks also to all those who brought in goodies. Thanks to those who donated money for the monthly mission to send out Valentines cards to our college students and military. We want them to know that we are always thinking of them.



◆ *Pot Luck Supper – March 4th* ◆

Appetizers at 6 PM Supper at 6:30PM
Short Meeting 7PM

Everyone is invited to bring and share a dish and bring a friend. Annie Wales will teach us how to make origami lilies.

Our mission is the Westborough Food Pantry. Bring items and we will put them in the big white box for Polly Thayer to pick up.



April 1st Meeting

Social Time at 6:30PM Meeting at 7 PM
Program at 7:30 PM

Kevin Flaherty, the owner of Flaherty Physical Therapy, will give a presentation on dealing with vertigo and dizziness. He works as a physical therapist and has 2 locations, one in Northborough and one in Hudson. There will be a question and answer session following. This is one program you don't want to miss.

ALL CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED
TO THIS PROGRAM

For any questions regarding these programs or if you would like to be added to the Women's Fellowship e-mail list, you can call (leave a message) or text Cathie Achorn at 508-380-8671.



The office staff would like to remind everyone that if you have a change in address, phone number or email, please let us know so we can keep the directory up to date!

Also, any person or committee who has a mailbox, please check it periodically.

Thank you.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

*To The Congregational Church of Westborough,
Thank you so much for your support of In the Hour of Need (IHN) Family Shelter...Your contribution makes it possible for us to continue offering a temporary home to families in crisis.*

*Sincerely, Sheri Linn
IHN Program Director*



Dear Congregational Church members,

On behalf of our clients and volunteers, we thank you for your recent donation.

With sincere thanks,
Donna Kittredge

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THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE SENT IN NOTES OF APPRECIATION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Elaine Moore  
Bob & Harriett Markert  
Linda & Jim Duncan  
Jane Harvey

CONTACT INFORMATION

Reverend Betsy Dorsi, Pastor  
[revbetsyccw@gmail.com](mailto:revbetsyccw@gmail.com)

Sue Menzel, Handbell Director  
[westcongmusic@yahoo.com](mailto:westcongmusic@yahoo.com)

Joseph Stillitano, Music Director  
[Uccwestboromusic@gmail.com](mailto:Uccwestboromusic@gmail.com)

Linda Borglund, Director of Faith Formation  
[Lborqlund64@gmail.com](mailto:Lborqlund64@gmail.com)

Deb Boucher  
Communication Coordinator  
[deb.boucher.15@gmail.com](mailto:deb.boucher.15@gmail.com)

Lisa Coffey  
Office Administrator  
[WestboroUCC@Verizon.net](mailto:WestboroUCC@Verizon.net)

Church Office Phone 508/366-2000

General Church email  
[WestboroUCC@Verizon.net](mailto:WestboroUCC@Verizon.net)

Church web site  
[www.UCCwestboro.org](http://www.UCCwestboro.org)

[www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough](https://www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough)

EASTER FLOWERS



If you would like to give a plant in memory of a loved one or in honor of a family member or friend, send **\$12.00** for each plant to the office by Monday, **March 4<sup>th</sup>**. Make checks out to: *Congregational Church of Westborough*, noting *Easter Flowers*

in the memo line.

CIRCLE ONE

(In memory of) or (In honor of)

To:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For questions, speak to Suzanne Arpante.



MARCH 10, 2024

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## *300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update*

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### **300 Years of Faith, Love and Service**

We have been having regular committee meetings and invite anyone to come share their ideas with us. Our next meeting will be February 26, 2024 at 7 PM in the Kerygma Room.

On Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> we had a kick off service. Rev. Betsy patterned the service from Rev. Parkman's order of service and we tried to give everyone a taste of what it was like in the 1700's. The hymn written just for our church was sung by the choir. The hymn lyrics were written by John A. Dalles, a retired minister who does this for churches celebrating special occasions.

During this service, the **300 Acts of Kindness** was announced by Ted Jaworski. Everyone is invited to fill out a card and post it on our new bulletin board in the Vestry. Donna Morgan has done a great job designing it, so be sure to take a look. We are striving for 300 cards to be posted before December 31, 2024. The cards are available near the bulletin board. Questions? Talk to Donna Morgan or Cathie Achorn.

The service was followed by a Pancake Brunch. There were beautiful arrangements on the tables along with 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gift Bags that were designed by Donna Morgan and Celeste Chenet-Monte. Thank you to both who have been working on this for months.

Our next event will be on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will be reenacting the way communion was done by Rev. Ebenezer Parkman in the early 1700's. Also, there will be a skit with adults and children taking the parts of historical figures of our past. The skit that was taken from the 1924 pageant at the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, was written as a skit by Charle Flood and performed in 1999. It will be rewritten again and performed on March 3, 2024 at the worship service at 10 AM.

Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> the Mission Committee has planned a special mission project. The whole community is invited to help in the afternoon. Missions have always been a big part of what we do at The Congregational Church of Westborough. Look for upcoming information from the Mission Committee.

Stay tuned for more activities planned by the 300<sup>th</sup> Committee. Old fashioned hymns will be sung, there will be concerts and lots of fun music. The first 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary quarterly newsletter was sent out via e-mail and there are hard copies available on the table in the church library. Another quarterly newsletter will come out around April 1, 2024 with a calendar of events. If you do not have a way to print out the newsletter from the email sent or you do not have email, please let Cathie Achorn know. Call 508-380-8671 leave a message or text.

This is an exciting and busy year for our church. Thank you to all of those that have been working so hard on this committee. Thank you also to the music committee, Joe Stillitano, Sue Menzel, and the choirs and mission committee for all of the work you have done thus far. Blessings to you all.

Here's to 300 Years and Counting....

Cathie Achorn, 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Chair



# The Congregational Church of Westborough, UCC

57 West Main Street, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

Phone (508)366-2000 Email: WestboroUCC@verizon.net Website: [www.UCCwestboro.org](http://www.UCCwestboro.org)

Rev. Elizabeth Dorsi, Pastor

January 30, 2024

Dear Members and Friends,

Excitement is building! The year 2024 marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our congregation. The **Anniversary Committee** has many plans to celebrate this birthday. We hope you have already noticed the Fun Facts that have been posted in the Sunday Bulletin. Keep a look out for more events to come throughout the year.

**The Board of Trustees** has also been busy setting goals for our beautiful Church building. At the Special Congregational Meeting held on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Church membership voted to authorize the raising of funds to support the repair and refurbishment of the Church Steeple and the Cupola on the Chapel.

The Church Steeple:

- Six windows on the first pedestal of the steeple will be replaced or repaired
- Louvres on the second pedestal will be repaired, mesh netting replaced
- Fiberglass steeple will be power washed
- All exterior wooden areas of steeple will be painted

Cupola on Chapel:

- Deteriorated trim will be replaced with a composite wood
- Cupola will be cleaned and painted

The estimated cost of this project is \$75,000.

An anonymous member has offered a 2 for 1 matching gift until we reach our goal for this project. **WOW!** Simply stated, if you donate \$250, the donor will match that with \$500 which equals a combined donation of \$750.

It's important for us to be good stewards of our beautiful Church. We prayerfully ask that you consider donating to this Church Steeple and Cupola Refurbishment fund. Together we can do this!

Your donation can be placed in the offering plate, dropped off or mailed to the Church Office, or made online ([www.uccwestboro.org/give](http://www.uccwestboro.org/give)). Please write **Steeple** on the memo section of your check or select the **Steeple** fund if giving online.

We do indeed have much for which to be thankful, especially all the church members who came before us over the last 300 years, giving of their talents, time and treasure.

Blessings,

Sally Petersen, Chair of Fundraising

Church Steeple and Cupola Restoration Project



## A Note from Tom Morgan:

As we celebrate our church's 300th anniversary, some topics lend themselves to an in-depth depiction of specific events. Others, though, have more value when viewed over time, to highlight evolution and change.

This article begins to show the evolution away from the strict Puritanism of Parkman's day — an evolution which is worth exploring during this year. As tragic as epidemics of diphtheria were, they also led to important changes we take for granted today, for example using bed sheets, and the adoption of municipal water and sewer systems. Drawing on an article by Helena Engberg, I proposed this for an Evangel in the early days of the COVID pandemic. After some consultations, I decided to withhold it. Today, it may bring a brighter message from our history of better days that did come for Parkman's congregations, and hopefully for us will come as well.

### Throat Distemper and The Great Awakening

The Great Awakening helped make Americans what they are today, while the Throat Distemper [diphtheria] Epidemic prepared the people of Westborough for its message. Through The Great Awakening the independent thinking, which had pushed the Puritans to emigrate to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, was reawakened -- leading to dissent and to the American Revolution.

The deaths of thousands of children in New England contributed to the success of itinerant preacher's messages by appealing to a population whose religion was rooted in Puritan traditions of self-control and of accepting God's will. Families who had lost all of their children during the epidemic could vent their emotions during a revival meeting – actions which otherwise would not be socially acceptable.

For one of Jonathan Edwards' sermons preached here in 1741, he chose the text. "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," taking his message from Deuteronomy 32:35, "Vengeance is mine and recompense for the time when the foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly." His description of the tortures that a wrathful God could inflict were intended to stir the religious complacency of the congregation, "awakening" them to their sin. The impact of his words caused some to groan and scream as they considered their sin and consequence.

George Whitefield, master of The Great Awakening, came to [the area as well], and many other itinerant preachers followed. The people of Westborough were especially susceptible to their words. Having lost many children to throat distemper, and also because the congregation were seeing that the good had been stricken along with the bad, they believed that the calamity was punishment for the sins of the community as a whole. When their children died, they believed that God had withdrawn His help because of their lack of righteousness. Many were out of their wits, sober reason giving way to the terrors of eternal damnation. The people were thrown into confusion and frenzy.

Multiple deaths occurred within families, often within a few days. Throat distemper killed mostly children under the age of ten years. During the first year of excessive deaths in Westborough, Rev. Parkman reported the deaths of twenty-seven children and four adults.

This was also the first year that Whitefield preached in this area. Children's deaths and church admissions would soar after a visit from him: revival meetings were a source of spreading the contagious disease.

Bereaved parents truly believed that “God is giving us warning to prepare for all events.” Generally speaking, the isolated frontier towns like Westborough suffered a great number of deaths, possibly because their children were exposed to fewer diseases and consequently had lower immunity. In throat distemper, parents literally watched their children strangle, as the children would have “difficulty breathing” and struggle “until released by slow suffocation, the Stoppage of Breath.”

Unfortunately, the doctors had concluded that throat distemper was not contagious. In fact, Boston physicians issued a proclamation. “After many months observation, we conclude that the prevailing Distemper appears to us to proceed from some Affectation of the Air, and not from any personal Infection receiv'd from the Sick, or Goods in their neighborhood.”

The practice of the healthy taking turns sitting with the sick undoubtedly encouraged the spread of the disease. Those who recoiled from that task were chided by one minister, “only inordinate and sinful Fear” would keep someone from watching with a sick neighbor. No effort was made to keep healthy children away from sick ones. When a young child in Boston was dying, she “took the other children in her arms and kiss'd them.” Children shared dishes at meal times and when the dishes were washed it was in cold water. Children would share beds, played with others at church and school and went to the funerals of their playmates. Conscientious ministers, like Rev. Parkman, visited sick and healthy alike, carrying the infection from one house to the other.

The epidemic shook New England out of their religious complacency. It was unnatural for so many children to die before their elders, who felt helpless, realizing that doctors could not help. The parents naturally turned to God for help, feeling that they needed to repent for whatever they had done to deserve “the terrible Judgement of the Throat Distemper.” As they had always done, they expected religion to give them hope as they suffered.

The preachers of The Great Awakening capitalized on the deaths of the children, taking the opportunity to exhort their messages about the sins of the father being visited on the children. Whitefield also played upon the children’s fear in one sermon, “Come little children, come to Christ. Do not think that you are too young to be converted - you may not live to be old.” The fear of God being heavy in Westborough in 1740, the throat distemper prepared them for the message Rev. Whitefield would bring.

Before [Whitefield’s first area visit], Rev. Parkman’s diaries show little religious dissent, the worst criticism was Samuel Fay's objection to “new Singing and my wearing a Wigg.” After Whitefield’s first visit, [a talk in Marlborough] on October 14, 1740, in the middle of the epidemic, Ebenezer wrote of the increase of the following behavior among Westborough adults: asking for help for their souls, offering up their own religious opinions, and openly criticizing the minister, causing him to take an increasingly critical look at how the congregation practiced or neglected their faith.

In his diary of 1742, the throat distemper epidemic was the central issue, but the goings on in church were also noted. On September 19th of that year, he notes, “the most remarkable Signs were immediately after the Blessing was pronounced Mr. Stephen Fay's wife cryed out, and Cousen Winchester presently upon it both of whom Strove what they could to contain themselves, but burst forth with great Agony of Soul. Sarah Shattuck and Betsey Fay also discovered their inward Distress. But Sarah Sparhawk was unbounded, and like one deprived of her Reason. A great Tumult ensued. ...

Sarah Sparhawk was brought away Home by some Young Men. A Number of the Distressed and others came to my House -- but went home about Nine o'clock. Sarah Sparhawk was however often crying out, and Striving much in her Fitts for an Hour or Two -- then went to Bed and slept well."

On October 20th, Ebenezer wrote with some relief that there was "No crying out in the meeting House, but as I was going home from the Meeting House, Mrs. Ruth Fay in anguish of Spirit, burst out and went into my house. I took her into my Study and gave her what Instructions I could. In the Mean Time Sarah Sparhawk was crying and Screaming upon her Bed in another part of the House." He concluded the entry, saying drily, "It was an Evening of great Engagement." In a later entry, "I have understood there are various Commotions on religious Accounts among the brethren on the South side of Town."

In November, Rev. Parkman was criticized by Stephen Fay, who said if the minister, "had a true sight of eternal things, his preaching should be more zealous and fervent so that I could cry out."

In 1744, the fervor was still in Westborough. Men and women met with Ebenezer to discuss the state of their souls. After a visiting pastor preached, "Two very awakening sermons, ... Mrs. Whitney in great agitation and Sometimes was heard crying out Oh! Oh!" Rev. Parkman rebuked Mrs. Stephen Fay for her outburst "at the Time of a loud Clap of Thunder. ... She said the Spirit of God struck her at the Same Time with that Clap, and (having been in great Distress for some Time before) she was fill'd with much Terror by reason of her sins." Mrs. Benjamin Fay, "Seeing the follys and vanitys of men and the Extreme Brevity of Life, cry'd out with loud crys and Lamentations and fervent Besechings to all about her."

Throat distemper made a comeback in 1745 in Westborough, when Rev. Parkman recorded the deaths of fourteen children and two adults. At that time, George Whitefield was preaching in Grafton. Reports of dissent increased. Ebenezer feared that the town would "Violate and Destroy the Covenant and Contract which has hitherto been between us."

Ministers were contending against each other. Ebenezer sounded out leading members of the church. One deacon was so "Shaken in Mind [and] to be disposed to listen to any Defence of the Church of England, or opinions of the Baptists." Others, though, he found "through Grace, Stedfast." Feelings ran so high that when Westborough's north parish, who wanted their own church, was divided off, Josiah Rice, incensed at being on the wrong side to be in Parkman 's church, built a new house and moved his family into Parkman's precinct.

Eventually, Rev. Parkman signed a published testimony against Whitefield and avoided attending his services, writing in his diary, "Indignation and Contempt cast on Mr. William Hobby for his published Vindication of Mr. Whitefield."

In late August of that year, throat distemper reappeared in Westborough and children began dying in September. The following entries from Parkman's diary showed how the disease affected the town.

**October 20:** "The sickness creeps in upon us in this parish. The Lord prepare us to meet with Him in the way of His Judgments!"

**October 21:** “Visited Mr. Samuel Fay junior who lyes sick of the Distemper; and Mr. Gershom Brigham’s family who have all been so sick of the Same, and has bury 'd one Child whilst I was absent: Mrs. Brigham and the remaining Child, now sick.”

**October 22:** “I Visited Martha Warrin who lyes weak and low and some measure under the Distemper.”

**October 23:** “My wife and I were at the Funeral of Mr. Gershom Brighams other Child ... Also visited Mr. Samuel Fay junior who (with Several of his Children Sick likewise but himself) lyes very bad.”

**November 4:** “To Mr. Josiah Bowkers, to the Funeral of one of his Children, another being very bad.”

**November 6:** “Lt. desir'd me to attend the Funeral of Mr. Bowkers Child at 2 p.m. which I did. A Fast in Sutton (on account of the Sickness) next Wednesday.”

**November 21:** “Mr. Bowker bury'd a Third Child with the Same Distemper.”

**November 22:** “Sent for early in the morning to go to Mr. Grouts Three of his Children being bad with the Throat Distemper, Mehitable, Jonathon and Sarah. Sarah was in an Exceeding Dangerous State.”

**November 23:** “Sent Ebenezer [his son] to Mr. Grouts to See how they did; who return'd me word that Sarah dy'd last night about 9 o'Clock.”

**November 24:** “At Eve my wife and I rode to Mr. Grouts distract'd Family, Sarah Dead and Two more ill. Concerning Sarah there was Testimony of her dying very hopefully. The Glory to God who has shown His Great Grace to Children!”

**December 4:** “More of Mr. Grouts Family taken ill of the Throat Distemper and Two of Mr. Winchesters.”

**December 8:** “At Eve visited Mr. Seth Rice's little Daughter lying at the Point of Death.”

**December 9:** “Mr. Seth Rice's little Daughter Hannah (of 2 and 1/2) dy'd last night.”

**December 10:** “At the Funeral of Seth Rice’s Daughter.”

**December 11:** “Mr. Grouts Children were much better.”

In 1746, Rev. Parkman mentions no outcries in church and the number of people concerned about the state of their souls had receded to the pre-Awakening level, even though he reports the deaths of twenty-eight children and four adults.

By 1746 The Great Awakening was history. Perhaps it had induced the disaffected to join new churches, leaving Ebenezer with those who were satisfied with him and his unevangelical preaching.

Our church's censure of Whitefield may have led the faithful to reassess their own awakenings. Some had come to associate Whitefield's visits with the epidemics. Religious cohesion dissolved as new sects were established around Westborough - the Separatists, Baptists, Perfectionists and others.

~ March 2024 ~

| Sun                                                                                                                                | Mon                                                                                 | Tue                                                                                    | Wed                                                                                                  | Thu                                                      | Fri                                                                                                     | Sat                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                        |                                                                                                      |                                                          | <b>1</b>                                                                                                | <b>2</b><br>11:00 am Patty Wyner's Service/ Followed by collation |
| <b>3 LENT III</b><br>10am Worship Service<br>11:15 am Confirmation Class<br>COMMUNION (Parkman Style)<br>Lent III<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL | <b>4</b><br>6:00 pm WF Meeting/Vestry<br>Church Office Closed                       | <b>5</b><br>10 am Willow's & Whitney Place<br>7:00-8:00 pm Bells Rehearse              | <b>6</b><br>6:30-8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal<br>7 pm Deacons/Kerygma Rm.                                 | <b>7</b><br>6 pm - Lenten Book Club                      | <b>8</b><br>6p Tom Set up in vestry                                                                     | <b>9</b><br>9 am Men's breakfast/vestry                           |
| <b>10 LENT IV</b><br>10am Worship Service                                                                                          | <b>11</b><br>7:30 pm- Trustees/Kerygma<br>Church Office Closed                      | <b>12</b><br>10:30 am Beaumont Service<br>7:00-8:00 pm Bells Rehearse<br>Tom in vestry | <b>13</b><br>6:30 -8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal<br>9:30 am Called to Care<br>9:30 am Weavers Guild/vestry | <b>14</b><br>6 pm - Lenten Book Club                     | <b>15</b>                                                                                               | <b>16</b><br>Meal Packing set up/Vestry                           |
| <b>17 LENT V</b><br>10am Worship Service<br>11:30 - 4pm Meal packing event/vestry<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL                                 | <b>18</b><br>7:00 pm Cabinet/Kerygma Rm<br>Church Office Closed                     | <b>19</b><br>7:00-8:00 pm Bells Rehearse                                               | <b>20</b><br>6:30 -8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal                                                           | <b>21</b><br>6 pm - Lenten Book Club<br>7:30 pm Missions | <b>22</b><br>       | <b>23</b><br>place holder                                         |
| <b>24 LENT VI</b><br>10am Worship Service<br>11:15 am Confirmation Class<br>1:00 pm - Baptism/Chapel                               | <b>25</b><br>Church Office Closed                                                   | <b>26</b><br>7:00-8:00 pm Bells Rehearse<br>Dinner/Dismas House                        | <b>27</b><br>6:30 -8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal                                                           | <b>28 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b><br>7 pm - Sanctuary            | <b>29 GOOD FRIDAY</b><br>12:00 pm Ecumenical service/St. Stephens<br>7:00 pm Good Friday Service/Chapel | <b>30</b>                                                         |
| <b>31 EASTER SUNDAY</b><br>10am Worship Service                                                                                    |  |                                                                                        |                                                                                                      |                                                          |                                                                                                         |                                                                   |