

The Congregational Church of Westborough

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

1724 – 2023



The Evangel
March 2023

Rev. Betsy Dorsi, Pastor
Joseph Stillitano, Director of Music

A Message from Rev. Betsy...

Thus says the Lord: Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom, do not let the mighty boast in their might, do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth; let those that boast in this, that they understand and know me, that I am the Lord; I act with steadfast love, justice and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the Lord. (Jer. 9:23-24)

Lent is the perfect time to listen to the prophets. The prophets remind us that our basic human instinct is to sin; to choose ourselves and our own desires over God and God's way of love. The prophets then tell us what we need to do to please God and remind us that God's love for us is great that God is always ready to forgive us when we repent. Lent is a time set aside for radical change in our daily lives. A time for returning to God, renewing our relationship with God and recommitting to following God's law of love.

As we enter this season of Lent, we would all do well to take time to read the prophets and let them lead us back to God. Jeremiah reminds us not to rely on our wisdom, strength or wealth, for all of these are gifts from God and not really ours and certainly nothing to boast about because we have done nothing to gain them. Instead, we should rely on God's love and righteousness without which we cannot live. We should use our God given gifts to live lovingly and to bring righteousness and justice to others as these are the things that delight God.

The Prophet Micah reminds us that the sacrifice God favors is not burnt offerings (for us not showy displays of charity) but to "do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with God". Amos tells us how angry God is when the poor are cheated at the market and God is cheated out of Worship when the Sabbath is cut short so more buying and selling can take place. What else can we learn as we read the prophets?

This Lent, I am committing myself to taking time every day to read the prophets, to praying with the Holy Spirit for understanding of their wisdom, and to daily acts of justice, kindness, and love. Will you join me? Jeremiah tells us that this is how we will come to understand God and God's ways, to become more God-like. As Christians, I think it's a great way to prepare ourselves to understand the incredible depths of his love for us when we hear his story's conclusion on Easter!

Keep shining brightly!

Rev. Betsy



Office Hours:

Monday - Closed

Tuesday - Friday
9am - 1pm

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Bereavement: Ted Jaworski and family on the loss of his mother Gina; The family of Annette Caron, Angela Caron's mother-in-law; Margaret's daughter Hannah Whatty.

Continued Prayers: Carolyn Bent's sister-in-law Debbie Bent; Ed Wong; Betty Simino; Edward Birch – Linda's son; Brenda Lord and her family; Cathy Purcell, her doctors & family; Kevin, Pam Kapitz's nephew; Tom Morgan's brother Harry; Dee Mumby, Cathie Achorn's mother; Nancy Walker (Deb Boucher's mom); Roberta Di Terlizzi's mother Donata; Dan- a friend of Deb & Rich Boucher.

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.

LENT PROGRAM

Every Wednesday in March, we will meet for a family dinner of soup, salad and bread, a simple meal to help us reflect on the personal sacrifices we should be making during this holy season. Following dinner Rev. Betsy will lead an adult education program on the Seven Last Words of Christ. As we reflect together on Jesus' final sacrifice for us and His last moments on earth, we will draw closer to Him and prepare ourselves for the Sacred Mysteries of Holy Week. Please let the office know if you plan to come and will need childcare. Plan to join us for a time of community building and Lenten preparation. The program portion of this will be on Zoom, but not Facebook. We want you to be able to be part of the discussion! Please look for the Zoom link information coming soon.

A NOTE FROM THE DEACONS



SCOUT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

As long as I can remember our church has supported the local Girl and Boy Scouts. For many years we have sponsored Troop 100 of the Boy Scouts, and we continue to offer our church space for Boy and Girls scoutS to meet and hold celebrations.

Many of our church members are past or present scout leaders and many of our children have benefited from these wonderful programs.

So, it is only fitting that on Sunday, February 12 we celebrated scouting in our church service.

Participating in the service from the Boy Scouts were Jeffery Stillitano, Trever Lovely, Travis and Damien Knox, Mateo, Sebastian and Machay Moskal. From the Girl Scouts were, Dylan and Ayla McCoskery and Sabrina Caron. Also Scout leaders: Warren Anderson and Marilyn Lyle helped with the service.

We appreciate all who give their time and talents to make these important scouting programs available to our kids and the Westborough community.

Steve Achorn
Board of Deacons

MUSIC CORNER

Lent and Easter are fun seasons for music! Musically there is so much going on! We are bringing back the Bell Choir after their winter break. Guest soprano saxophone Matthew Lefebvre will be joining the Choir for a beautiful rendition of "Give Me Jesus." And then of course the magic of Easter Morning!



Easter Morning's Service will feature so much wonderful music - a true taste of joy for your ears on this wonderful morning of celebrating the Risen Lord Jesus Christ! We will have guest organist, David Hagberg join us for the day, as well as a spectacular Brass Quartet, which was assembled by our very own Warren Anderson! Our Bell Choir, Chancel Choir and

Guitars will also be part of this exciting day of music.

Please join us for this celebration of music - we rehearse Wednesday evenings in the music room, 6:30-8:00pm. You don't need to be able to read music - we're ready to embrace you, your energy and voice as we join together in song to praise our Lord!

Looking ahead to the summer months, if you or anyone you know is interested in sharing something musical as an anthem, we are looking for people to share! There will be a sign-up process after Easter, but the music committee wanted to put this bug in your ear now. We will also be looking for piano players to help with opening and closing songs.

Thank You and God Bless,
Joseph Stillitano

CHRISTIAN ED

Exciting news! We are thrilled to announce that Linda Borglund has graciously offered her time and talents to coordinate our Faith Formation and Youth Group programs! With Reverend Betsy back and Linda serving in this new role, we are looking forward to being able to provide more frequent programming for our children and youth. Linda will be working with our Sunday School teachers to implement our faith formation curriculum during weekly worship. She will also be working with our Youth to choose and develop service projects and to continue growing their faith.

Please consider any ways in which you might be called to support Linda as she steps into her new role. We are still looking for a few more Sunday School teachers to assist in this important ministry.

PARISH LIFE

GAME NIGHT A SUCCESS!

Our Game/Bingo night that was scheduled on February 3 had to be rescheduled to February 10 due to the frigid temperatures outside. We enjoyed pizza breadsticks, Caesar salad, regular salad, and fruit. The youth ran the bingo game and many prizes were given out. After Bingo, we

played cribbage, Uno and dominoes. A fun time was had by all.

FUN TIMES AT THE PANCAKE BRUNCH

The annual Lenten Pancake brunch was held on February 19th. We served pancakes with all the fixings, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice, coffee, tea and fruit salad. We even had a king cake this year bought by Rev. Betsy. Sandy Horton found the baby Jesus when she cut into it. Thank you to Sandy Horton, Steve and Diane Lindberg, Steve Achorn, the Parish Life crew that set up, and thanks to Paul and Elizabeth Kafig and the Morgan's for helping and for cleaning up afterwards.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER – MARCH 11th



Progressive Dinner!

Back by popular demand! This year's Progressive Supper will be held on Saturday, March 11th at 5:30 pm. If you've never been to one of these suppers, it's a wonderful evening – we hope you will join us.

Look for the poster and sign-up sheet in the Vestry (the big room downstairs). Be sure to write all adults' names who will be attending. Also check if you will be hosting appetizers or dinner at your house or if you will be hosting dessert. The deadline to sign up is March 5th. Call or text Cathie Achorn at 508-380-8671 for information.

Looking Ahead...

We will be having another game night in April. Details to be announced.

MISSIONS

In the Hour of Need (IHN) Family Shelter

Our next week of hosting at the IHN Family Shelter is March 12th - 19th. We will need dinner hosts each night from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. (you do not have to bring dinner), and overnight hosts from 8:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. weekdays and until 8:30 a.m. on

Saturday and Sunday. This is a great way to share hospitality and caring for families who are homeless and seeking permanent housing. Most parents work during the day or evening so a little help with the children or a dinner are most welcome. Overnight is usually very quiet. Grocery cards are appreciated as well. If you are interested or want to learn more, please contact Pam Faustine at 978-505-7031 or anyone on the Mission Team. Sign-up sheet is in the Vestry.

Food Pantry Update - During the month of February many bottles or juice were donated. Thank you to everyone who contributed as there was no juice at the pantry. For March, we have a special event - the Soup Bowl of Caring! On Sunday, March 12th, the Mission Team will host a soup lunch right after the service. We are asking everyone to donate cans of soup such as clam chowder and chunky chicken and beef soups and stews. Can we collect 200 cans of soup? Let's make that our goal. Please bring your soup cans to church during the week of March 6 - 12.

Earthquakes in Turkey & Syria - Recent earthquakes in western Turkey and Syria have left over 45,000 people dead and many thousands injured and homeless during the winter months. The UCC is responding through their Disaster Ministries and the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) collection. You can also donate to UNICEF, Doctors without Borders and CARE International all of which have teams in Syria and Turkey helping with medical needs, food and shelter.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - We are planning to have a blessing of prayer shawls in April/May. If you are a knitter or crocheter and have completed a prayer shawl(s), please bring them to the church office (include your name so that we can thank you). We do have some shawls that have been blessed. If you have a loved one or friend who needs some special love, you can pick up a shawl during office hours at the church. There is a special poem for each shawl. Many who have received shawls mention how comforting they are to wear. Questions, please contact Pam Faustine.

Meal Packaging -At the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Saturday, March 11th from 1-3pm. All are welcome to join! You will package meals of macaroni and cheese and apple cinnamon oatmeal, which will be given to food pantries in Worcester County.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



We are Back in Business!
After many months (years) of COVID keeping us apart, we started off the year with January and February Breakfast meetings and an

excellent and informative presentation in February. Our next breakfast is March 18th, and in addition to the breakfast and fellowship, we will have a church building history presentation by Tom Morgan followed by a tour of places you may never have seen in the church by Brett Borglund.

On April 8th the Westborough Animal Control Officer, Melinda MacKendrick, will tell us about her responsibilities and interesting experiences.

The final meeting will take place on Saturday, May 13th.

It is a time of FELLOWSHIP, GOOD FOOD, GOOD CONVERSATION AND LEARNING AND YOU should be there. If you are interested, sign up in the vestry, or contact Ric Plummer at ricp@alum.wpi.edu or call 508-826-6656.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Monday, March 6, 2023

Pot Luck Supper

Social 6:00 ~ Meeting 6:30 ~ Program 7:00

Bring your favorite dish to share. And bring a friend too!!! Appetizers and social time at 6:00 pm. Following the meal we will have a short meeting to announce ... Ta Da... the 67th annual Evergreen Christmas Fair profit and vote on the budget.

Mission of the month: Food Pantry. Right now they need: salad dressing, mayonnaise, catsup, relish, pickles, mustard or anything you wish to bring. If you have any questions call or text Cathie Achorn at 508-380-8671.

Looking Ahead...

The April meeting will be Monday, April 3 at 6 pm social time.

PAST MEETINGS RECAP

Monday, January 2, 2023 - The Women's Fellowship met for a light supper, and to take the Christmas decorations down from the fair. We arrived to find that the light and a lot of the decorations were already taken down already and neatly put in boxes. The church mice we believe are Ted and Betty, but they won't admit to it. We were happy to see that the work was mostly done, and we spent a nice evening visiting, packing up the rest of the things and taking the boxes to the attic and garage. Thank you to all those that helped.

Monday, February 6, 2023 – The Women's Fellowship meeting was held in the sanctuary so Tom Morgan could zoom it to several members that could not make the meeting. Linda Birch did the opening devotion and Cathie Achorn led the short meeting that followed. For the program Jim and Linda Duncan did a presentation on the difference between the piano and the organ. After they performed a mini concert which was enjoyed by all. The mini concert was open to the public and followed by yummy refreshments in the vestry. Many stayed and visited for quite a while. Thank you, Jim and Linda Duncan, for bringing this wonderful program to us. Also, thanks to Donna Morgan for the programs and Tom Morgan for setting up Zoom and broadcasting it on Facebook.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To all people of The Congregational Church that love coffee hour after church on Sundays...



Currently there isn't anyone signed up to host coffee hour for the rest of the year. Please sign up and take a turn. Fellowship hour can't happen without volunteers. Linda Borglund or Cathie Achorn (508-380-8671) can answer any questions you might have. Women's Fellowship will provide you with coffee, treats, etc.; you just need to come set up and serve and clean up. If everyone just did one Sunday, we would be all set. Please sign up!

GROCERY CARDS

YTD 2023: \$ 762.00

Goal for 2023: \$4,000

Year End Update: Although we didn't quite reach our goal for 2022, we saw our profit increase by 10% over 2021. With a bit of a push from all of you while enticing new folks to participate, we feel optimistic about reaching our 2023 goal. Office sales have been strong, delivery list is increasing, and we love to see you on Sunday morning. And don't be shy about asking to be put on our delivery list. We'll bring the grocery gift cards to you! Shop local and stay well. Thanks! The Grocery Card Team: Karen Hutchinson 508 870-1782 or millarhutch@aol.com, Sally Petersen 508 259-2788 or sbpetersen4@gmsil.com, Nancy Quimby 774 843-4431 or ngquimby11@gmail.com, Linda Crawford 508 898-9527 or lindacrawf@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Westborough

Invites you to attend a free family event.

co-sponsored by Westborough Ecumenical VBS

Saturday 3/25/23 @ 3-5 p.m.

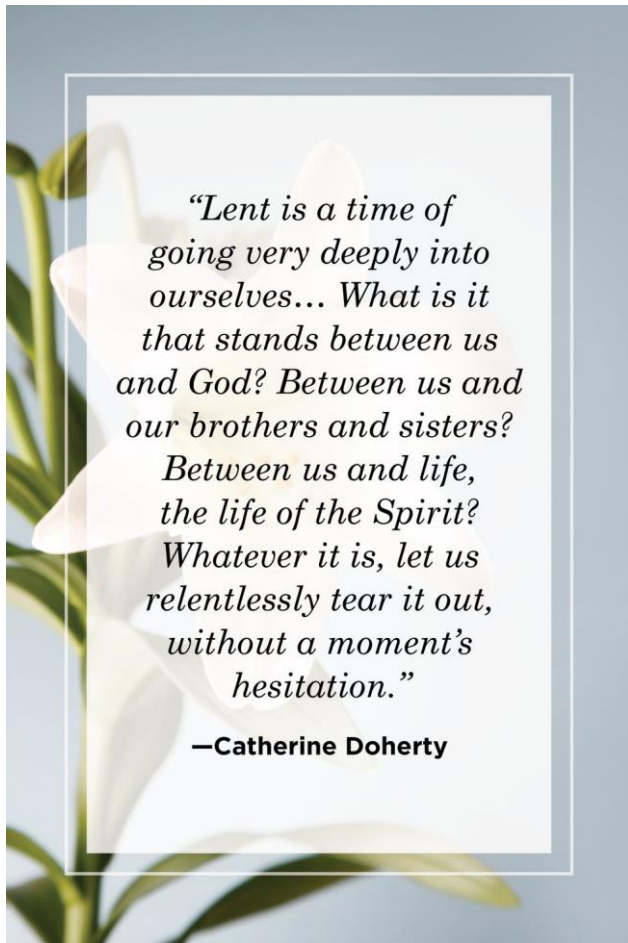
**Join us on our high-flying Easter adventure
as we celebrate that Jesus is alive.**

If you would like to participate, there are forms in the vestry with more detail.

SAVE THE DATE!

Kulanu Community Program
Monday, May 22, 2023, 7:00 pm
at Congregation B'nai Shalom

We hope you can attend this Anti-Semitism Program, featuring guest speaker Peggy Shukur, ADL-New England Interim Director. This will be an informative program to help us understand what we can do to curb Anti-Semitic language and actions in our community and beyond. The Congregational Church is a sponsor of this program.



“Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves... What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment’s hesitation.”

—Catherine Doherty

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Joseph Stillitano, Music Director
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Lisa Coffey
WestboroUCC@Verizon.net

Church Office Phone 508/366-2000

General Church email
WestboroUCC@Verizon.net

Church web site
www.UCCwestboro.org

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 **March 31st**. 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:

PROJECTS HAPPENING AROUND THE CHURCH

7 Church Street Renovation

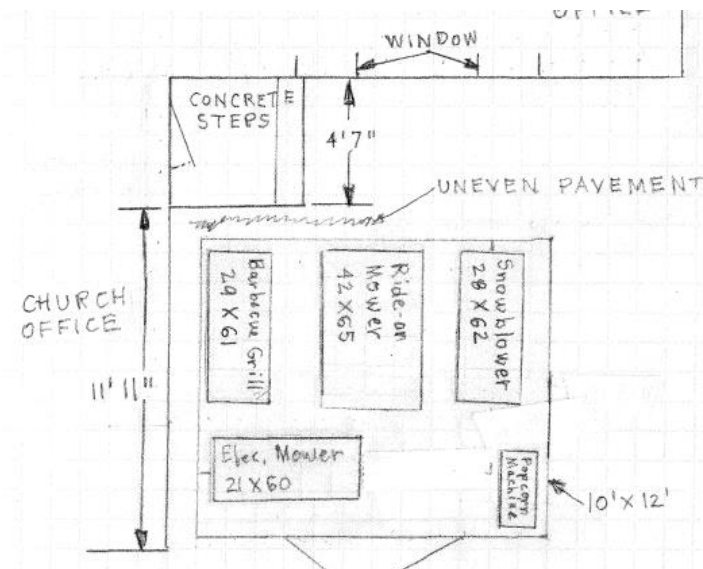


After having rented the second floor of 7 Church St. to the PCC of Mass., it was decided that this facility should have a higher use, especially after the pandemic interrupted the PCC's use of this 4-office space. Hence, the PCC moved to Lyman St., and the unit is being converted into living space. Since all the kitchen appliances had been removed, all-new stainless-steel ones have been ordered.

A wall which had been added to create a 4th office (to augment the existing 3, bedroom office spaces) has been removed and the whole apartment will be repainted. The front stairway will be deleted, and the garage will be cleared for use by the new tenants, who will also have use of the third-floor attic space, which is unfinished.



To accommodate the yard equipment which must be removed from the garage, a shed will be erected in the church parking lot.



Saving Energy!

Always looking for energy savings wherever they present themselves, the Properties Committee has facilitated the replacement of numerous incandescent bulbs and fluorescent lighting fixtures. LED bulbs often use about 1/10th the wattage of an incandescent bulb and are more efficient than CFL's.

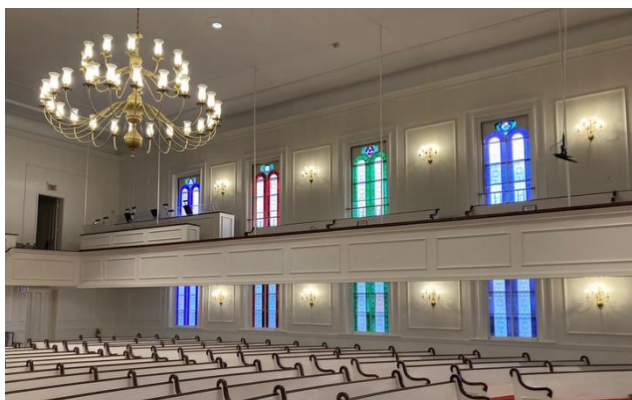


Just recently the bulbs in the two chandeliers in the Chapel were changed, replacing 60-watt incandescent bulbs with 5-watt LED ones. Since 24 bulbs were involved, the usage went from 1440 watts to 120, reducing the power requirement by 92%.

Another benefit of these bulbs is that the reduced power draw eased a problem with the light dimmers overheating and LED's have longer lives.

Another area where incandescents were replaced with LED bulbs is the sanctuary sconces. 22 fixtures with 5, 25-watt bulbs each were updated with 2.5-watt LED's, a total of 550 bulbs, reducing the power drawn by 90%.

The 36 bulbs in the sanctuary chandelier have also been replaced with LED's. All chandeliers in the Vestry library and the front entrance of the church have also all been changed to LED's. Now, if we only had solar panels . . .




A New Ceiling

Strictly by accident, it was recently discovered that the ceiling in the Fannie Forbes room had sagged about 5 inches. The original ceiling was horsehair plaster, but at one point a drop ceiling was installed, but over the years, the nails came loose and it support along with some of the horsehair plaster fell down on it. A hardy work crew completely disassembled the drop ceiling, resulting in 2500 pounds of demolition debris, which was graciously hauled away by Al Hutchinson.



Since this room is used for formal gatherings (such as weddings, funerals and baptism and new member seminars) the new drop ceiling will be formal in nature also, utilizing coffered, 24" by 24" tiles like those below. Estimates for the purchase and installation of this type of tile are being requested.

~ March 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:30 Journey Home Singers 6:00 pm Lenten Supper/Book Group 6:30-8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3 10:00 am WF Meeting/Library	4
5 10am Worship Service/Sanctuary, 11:15 am Deacons' Meeting 11:30 am - New Members Mtg COMMUNION	6 6:00 pm WF Meeting/Vestry Church Office Closed	7 10 am Willow's & Whitney Place 7-8 pm Bells Rehearse	8 3:30 Journey Home Singers 6:00 pm Lenten Supper/k Group 6:30-8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 9 am Weaver's Guild 9:30 am Called to Care	9 6:30 pm- Trustees/Kerygma 9 am - 5pm Weaver's Workshop Noon - Interfaith Clergy Lunch	10 9 am - 5pm Weaver's Workshop	11 5:30 Parish Life Progress Supper 9 am - 5pm Weaver's Workshop
12 10am Worship Service/Sanctuary, Zoom, Facebook New Members Join	13 6:30-8:30 pm Cub pack 100/vestry Church Office Closed	14 10:15 am Beaumont Service 11:45 am - Staff Meeting 7 pm Vestry in use/Tom Morgan 7-8 pm Bells Rehearse	15 3:30 Journey Home Singers 6:00 pm Lenten Supper/Book Group 6:30-8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm- Cabinet/Kerygma	16 7:30 pm Missions	17 6-10 pm Vestry in use/Tom Morgan 	18 9am Men's Breakfast/Vestry
19 10am Worship Service/Sanctuary, Zoom, Facebook	20 Church Office Closed	21 7-8 pm Bells Rehearse	22 3:30 Journey Home Singers 6:00 pm Lenten Supper/Book Group 6:30-8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25
26 10am Worship Service/Sanctuary, Zoom, Facebook Baptism	27 Church Office Closed	28 7-8 pm Bells Rehearse Dinner/Dismas House	29 3:30 Journey Home Singers 6:00 pm Lenten Supper/Book Group 6:30-8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31	