

The Congregational Church of Westborough  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

March 15, 2026

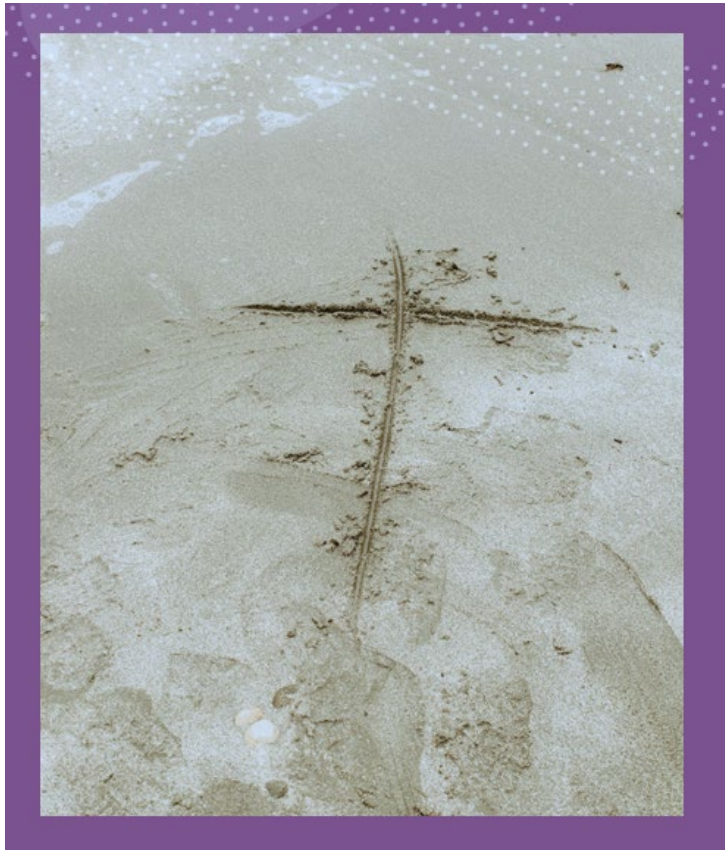


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**WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!**

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* – [Rev.Betsy.Dorsi@uccwestboro.org](mailto:Rev.Betsy.Dorsi@uccwestboro.org)  
*Joseph Stillitano, Director of Music* – [Joseph.Stillitano@uccwestboro.org](mailto:Joseph.Stillitano@uccwestboro.org)  
*Linda Borglund, Director of Christian Ed* – [Linda.Borglund@uccwestboro.org](mailto:Linda.Borglund@uccwestboro.org)  
*Sue Menzel, Director of Bells* – [westcongmusic@gmail.com](mailto:westcongmusic@gmail.com)  
*Lisa Coffey, Administrator* – [Lisa.Coffey@uccwestboro.org](mailto:Lisa.Coffey@uccwestboro.org)  
*Ariana Dello Stritto, Communications Coordinator* - [Ariana.DelloStritto@uccwestboro.org](mailto:Ariana.DelloStritto@uccwestboro.org)

*Office hours: Monday – Closed, Tuesday – Friday 9am – 1pm*  
*Church office phone (508)366-2000*

*General Church email* – [info@uccwestboro.org](mailto:info@uccwestboro.org) *Church website-* [www.uccwestboro.org](http://www.uccwestboro.org)  
[www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough](https://www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough)  
<https://www.instagram.com/uccwestboro>

## **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**

March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

*\*The Congregation is invited to stand.*

**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

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

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US 10:00 AM

**INVITING THE WORD**

WELCOME Rev. Betsy Dorsi

\*OPENING MUSIC

\* JoySpring Songbook #18 "Open the Eyes of My Heart" Paul Baloche

\* JoySpring Songbook #24 "Your Grace is Enough" Matt Maher

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 139) Pam Faustine

One: I praise You O God,

**Many: because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.**

One: Search me O God and know my heart;

**Many: test me and know my thoughts.**

One: Lead me in the way eternal.

**Many: We give thanks and praise Your holy name.**

\*GATHERING PRAYER (Unison) Pam Faustine

**O God, You who knew us before we were born, and knit us inside our mothers' wombs, we gather in Your presence today to give You thanks for creating us and giving us life. Help us learn to follow Jesus' ways more closely so we can grow closer to You. We know we can only approach Your heavenly throne through Jesus, Your son and our Savior. 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.**

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**O Lord, You know every fiber of my being and my in-most thoughts. There are times when I wish I could hide some of those thoughts from You. Please help me train my thoughts to be loving of others even when they irritate me or make me angry. You know all of my actions and inactions too. Please take away my idleness and infuse me with energy so I may reach out to those in need from my surplus of goods, faith and love. Please forgive me for the times I have not thought or acted out of love for You and my neighbors. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**RECEIVING THE WORD**

A TIME WITH THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART		Linda Borglund
SCRIPTURE	I Samuel 15:34-16:13	<i>(pew Bible pg. 226)</i>
SERMON	“A Heart Like His”	Rev. Betsy Dorsi
*HYMN #628	“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”	PRECIOUS LORD

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation		Pam Faustine
<i>At this time, let us all reflect on how much God has given us and on what we have chosen to give God back for God’s ministry. The morning offering will now be received.</i>		

Offertory	“Agnus Dei” Chancel Choir	Ruth Morris Gray
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Latin Text Sung:  
 Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi.  
 Miserere nobis. Dona nobis pacem.

English Translation:  
 Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.  
 Have mercy on us. Grant us peace.



“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)**

Pam Faustine

**O God, we thank You for entrusting us to serve the people in our neighborhood. We dedicate these gifts to You and seek Your wisdom as we use them in Your service. Amen.**

**BEING THE CHURCH**

**\*CLOSING SONG**

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”  
JoySpring Songbook #33

Graham Kendrick

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**Pam Faustine** serves as liturgist today.

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

*Prayers*

Continued Prayers: Ted Jaworski & Betty; Elaine Moore; Julia O’Neil-Welsh; Sue Menzel; Bev & Doug Hall’s son Jeremy; Jackie Smith; Adam Beckloff, Linda Birch’s nephew; Carolyn Bent; Diane Travers; Judy Ellis’s daughter, Syreeta Peddlesden; Ron, brother-in-law to Betty & Ted; Betty Simino; Debbie Grega – Amy Glennon’s mother; Betty Gray’s niece Heather; Cathie Achorn’s sister-in-law, Lorie Mumby.

PALM SUNDAY PANCAKE BRUNCH ON MARCH 29

There will be a Pancake Brunch on Sunday, March 29th. Steve Achorn will make his famous pancakes, and the Parish Life Committee will serve fruit salad, scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage. Many toppings for the pancakes and juice will be served. If you would like to help, contact The Parish Life Committee. Hope to see you there. Cathie Achorn (508-380-8671), Linda Borglund and Sandy Horton

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Christian Ed will be holding an Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday, March 29th. If you would like to donate candy to fill eggs, please leave them in the kitchen by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Linda Borglund.

## MISSIONS

***Meal Packing Event*** - Save the Date! On Sunday March 22, 2026, we will roll up our sleeves and don our masks to pack 20,000 meals. Some meals will go to our Westborough Food Pantry to feed our hungry neighbors, and the rest will go to food pantries around New England. The need is great. There will be a lunch/refreshments room. Bring a friend and share the joy of helping others.

***Westboro Food Pantry*** - For the month of **March**, the Westborough Food Pantry is in need of the following: *Mustard, Pickles, Brownie Mix, Toothbrushes/Toothpaste*. The Westborough Food Pantry has thanked us for our continued support in helping to feed local families in need. Please continue to consider donating additional (non-perishable) food of all sorts to the white box. Thank you. The Mission Team

***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](mailto:pfaustine@princeton-ma.us)

## WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES ON WESTBOROUGH TV

Exciting news from our collaboration with Westborough TV! Our Sunday services will be replayed TWICE a week every week. You'll be able to watch us on **Mondays at 6:30PM** (please note, this is a half hour later than we have been), and again on **Thursdays at 6:30PM**. As a reminder, we're on Verizon channel 2124 (High Definition) and Verizon 24 & Charter 191 (regular definition)



## Holy Week Calendar of Services

- **Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM:** Seder Supper in the Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM:** Palm Sunday Service
- **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM:** Maundy Thursday Service
- **Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12 PM:** Ecumenical Good Friday Service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
- **Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM:** Easter Sunday and Communion Sunday

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## Alternative Worship

- **Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM:** Mission Project Worship Service in Fellowship Hall

*Dates of future alternative worship times coming soon.*

MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> – MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>

**Mar 15**                      **Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
10:00 AM                      Worship & Faith Formation

**Mar 16**                      **Monday - Office Closed**  
Noon-2PM                      PCCM/Board Room  
7:00 PM                      Church Board/Board Room

**Mar 17**                      **Tuesday**   
6:30 PM                      Building Committee/Board Room  
7:00-8:00 PM                      Bell Rehearsal

**Mar 18**                      **Wednesday**  
6:30-8:00 PM                      Choir Rehearsal

**Mar 19**                      **Thursday**  
6:00 PM                      Pride Connections

**Mar 20**                      **Friday**

**Mar 21**                      **Saturday**  
9AM                      Men's Breakfast/Fell. Hall  
Noon                      Set up for meal packing

**Mar 22**                      **Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
10:00 AM                      Worship & Faith Formation  
Noon                      Meal Packing Event

