

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

March 8, 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
Joseph Stillitano, Director of Music – Joseph.Stillitano@uccwestboro.org
Linda Borglund, Director of Christian Ed – Linda.Borglund@uccwestboro.org
Sue Menzel, Director of Bells – westcongmusic@gmail.com
Lisa Coffey, Administrator – Lisa.Coffey@uccwestboro.org
Ariana Dello Stritto, Communications Coordinator - Ariana.DelloStritto@uccwestboro.org

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

*General Church email – info@uccwestboro.org Church website- www.uccwestboro.org
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 8, 2026

Third 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

*HYMN #284 "Gather Us In" (vs 1, 2 and 3) GATHER US IN

*JoySpring Songbook #21 "Word of God Speak" Bart Millard and Pete Kipley

*CALL TO WORSHIP Roland Regnier

One: Come just as you are to Worship.

Many: I come with many questions about God.

One: Come and seek answers.

Many: I come with doubts about God's existence and care for me.

One: Come meet with God even in your doubts.

All: We come, just as we are, with questions and doubts to worship our God.

*GATHERING PRAYER (Unison) Roland Regnier

God, we come before You admitting that we often want to see You in order to believe in You. We have so many questions because Your heavenly realm doesn't seem possible to us who only know earth. As we come before You today, help us grow a little more in faith, a little more trusting in You. We ask this in Jesus' name and continue in prayer saying 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)

Jesus, we confess that we often feel like we don't know You. We have questions without answers. We have doubts because we cannot see You. We know that we can learn more about You and Your love for us in the Bible. Have mercy on us for not meeting You in Scripture enough. Forgive us for not sharing about our faith so others may grow stronger through our witness. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART Rev. Betsy Dorsi

SCRIPTURE Exodus 17:1-17 (*pew Bible pg. 56*)

SERMON “Water From a Rock” Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*HYMN #195 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” HAMBURG

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation Roland Regnier
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.

Offertory “At the Cross (Love Ran Red)” Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash,
Matt Armstrong, Jonas Myrin
& Matt Redmond
Chancel Choir

*There's a place where mercy reigns and never dies,
There's a place where streams of grace flow deep and wide;
Where all the love I've ever found, comes like a flood, comes flowing down.*

*At the cross, at the cross, I surrender my life.
I'm in awe of You, I'm in awe of You.
Where Your love ran red, and my sin washed white.
I owe all to You, I owe all to You, Jesus.*

*There's a place where sin and shame are powerless,
Where my heart has peace with God and forgiveness;
Where all the love I've ever found, comes like a flood, comes flowing down.*

*Here my hope is found, here on holy ground;
Here I bow down, here I bow down.
Here arms open wide, here You saved my life;
Here I bow down, here I bow.*



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*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)

Roland Regnier

Holy One, accept these gifts along with our open hearts. Bless us who use them and those who receive them, that all may grow closer to You. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

*CLOSING SONG

“God of Wonders”
JoySpring Songbook #6

Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Roland Regnier serves as liturgist today.

Linda Borglund and **Melinda MacKendrick** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

Bereavement: Family and friends of Nancy Reimann upon her passing this week.

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 15th. 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 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

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

Alternative Worship Times

- **Saturday, April 11th at 5 PM:** Mission Project Worship Service in Fellowship Hall
- **Saturday, May 9th at 5 PM:** Worship in the Chapel
- **Saturday, June 13th at 5PM:** Children's Saturday Service with Worship led by our youth in the Sanctuary

MARCH 8TH – MARCH 15TH

Mar 8	Third Sunday in Lent
10:00 AM	Worship & Faith Formation
11:15 AM	Deacons' Meeting
Mar 9	Monday - Office Closed
7:00 PM	Trustees/Board Room
Mar 10	Tuesday
10:30 AM	Whitney Place Service
7:00-8:00 PM	Bell Rehearsal
Mar 11	Wednesday
9AM – 3PM	Weaver's Guild/Fell. Hall
9:30 AM	Called to Care
11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
6:30-8:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Mar 12	Thursday
Mar 13	Friday
9AM – 5PM	Weavers Workshop/Fell. Hall
Mar 14	Saturday
9Am – 5PM	Weavers Workshop/Fell. Hall
Mar 15	Fourth Sunday in Lent
10:00 AM	Worship & Faith Formation