

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

April 12, 2026



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 – 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: Tuesday – Friday 9am – 1pm
Monday - Closed
Church office phone 508/366-2000*

*General Church email - info@uccwestboro.org 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

April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

**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 Ron MacKendrick

*OPENING MUSIC

* JoySpring Songbook #38 "Because He Lives (Amen)" Cash, Gaither, Ingram, Maher,
Carson, Gaither and Tomlin

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP Steve Achorn

One: Lord, we are Your handiwork created in Jesus Christ to do Your works.

Many: You have prepared a place for us in Your puzzle.

One: No one here is a missing piece; You have called us all by name.

Many: We are essential to Your divine plan.

One: Bring us together, strengthen our connections, and unite us as one body to fit together in Your masterpiece.

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison) Steve Achorn

We confess Lord, that we often try to force our own pieces into the wrong places. We strive and worry, comparing our shapes and sizes to others, forgetting that You hand-picked each one of us for a specific purpose and place. Lord, teach us to fit together, we surrender our plans to Your purpose, using the words He taught us...

*THE LORD'S PRAYER Steve Achorn

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)

Lord, we sit together to draw from Your comfort, yet our thoughts drift alone. We miss Your harmony, because we let the world outside of this Sanctuary in. Forgive us. Bring us back to Your message and wholeness. A family of one, reunited by the hope and love of Your return. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Ron MacKendrick

RECEIVING THE WORD

TIME WITH THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Ron MacKendrick

SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

(pew Bible page 933)

Luke 15:20-24

(pew Bible page 850)

SERMON

“God is Puzzling”

Ron MacKendrick

*HYMN #108

“Lift High the Cross” (vs. 1,3 and 4)

CRUCIFER

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Ron MacKendrick

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Steve Achorn

Invitation

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 Anthem

“Gloria Canon”

Franz Joseph Haydn,
arr. by Donald Moore,
edited by Joseph Stillitano

Latin Text:

Gloria in excelsis. Et in terra pax hominibus.

Deus, Domine Deus. Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.

English Translation:

Glory in the highest. And on earth peace to men.
God, Lord God. We praise you. We bless you.



“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)

Steve Achorn

Lord, You are the master puzzle-maker. Thank You for the privilege of being part of Your great assembling work. We dedicate these offerings, and ourselves, to Your service. May our work, our giving, and our living fit together so that Your love, justice, and grace are reflected to a world in need. May our church be a place where every piece fits together. And where Your love is known. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

*CLOSING SONG

“Trading My Sorrows”
JoySpring Songbook #19

Darrell Evans

*BENEDICTION

Ron MacKendrick

POSTLUDE

Thank you to Ron MacKendrick for leading the service today.

Steve Achorn serves as liturgist today.

Elizabeth Kafig and **Pam Faustine** 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.

PARISH LIFE

Progressive Dinner



The Progressive Supper will be on Saturday, May 2nd. There is more information and a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, or you can call or text Cathie Achorn at 508-380-8671. The deadline to sign up is April 26th. Come join the fun as we go from one house to another for appetizers and dinner. We will all meet at 8:30 PM for dessert and fellowship at the church. Your Parish Life Committee, Cathie, Linda and Sandy

CHURCH YARD SALE

The YARD SALE at The Congregational Church will be on Friday, April 24th from 10 am -3 pm and Saturday April 25th from 8 am -2 pm, with the “bag sale” starting at 1 pm.

Beginning Sunday April 19th, you may drop off clean, resalable items in the library. Monday and Tuesday the church will be open from 8am - 3pm for drop-offs and Tuesday and Wednesday from 6-8 pm. No more donations will be accepted after Thursday April 23rd at 6 pm so we can prepare for Friday sale set up.

This is a good chance for ALL BOARDS and COMMITTEES to check your storage areas and downsize to contribute items for sale. ALL proceeds for this fundraiser go to the kitchen renovations. Thanks, Yard Sale Team

We **ARE** accepting: Small furniture, Baby items that do not have expiration dates

We **ARE NOT** accepting: Hardcover books, Expired baby items, Electronics/TV, Medical supplies, Hazardous materials, Clothing/shoes, VHS tapes

MISSIONS

Westboro Food Pantry - For the month of **April**, the Westborough Food Pantry is in need of the following: *Jello, Mustard, Salad dressing, Relish*. 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)

	Apr 12	Sunday
10:00AM		Worship Service & Faith Formation
Apr 13		Monday – office closed
Noon – 2PM		PCCM/Board Room
7:00 PM		Trustees/Board Room
Apr 14		Tuesday
10:30 AM		Whitney Place Service
7:00 - 8:00 PM		Bell Rehearsal
Apr 15		Wednesday
3:30 – 4:30 PM		Journey Home Singers
6:30-8:00 PM		Choir Rehearsal
Apr 16		Thursday
6:00 – 8:00 PM		Pride Connections
Apr 17		Friday
Apr 18		Saturday
Apr 19		Sunday
10:00 AM		Worship Service & Faith Formation



