The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

October 18, 2026

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
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
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

Oct. 18, 2026 21st Sunday after Pentecost / Laity Sunday

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE Feel Free to Join Us and Sing Along!

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME Ron MacKendrick

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*OPENING MUSIC

* JoySpring Songbook #40 "Way Maker" OSINACHI KALU OKORO EGBU

*JoySpring Songbook #27 "Let Us Build A House: All Are Welcome" (vs 1, 3, 5) TWO OAKS

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rich Lord

One: Lord of compassion, You are near to the broken hearted and present with us in every season of grief.

Many: We come before You carrying sorrow, questions, and loss.

One: Teach us not to suffer in silence or walk alone through difficult days.

Many: Give us courage to reach out, and humility to receive help.

ALL: God of hope, hold us in your mercy and lead us towards healing in the name of Jesus Christ, who walks with us in every valley, we pray. Amen

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison) Rich Lord

Lord, dim skies and gathering storms have clouded our way recently. Yet even as leaves fall around us, they give promise of a bountiful harvest. As the crops of the season are gathered together, so too should we gather together in prayer, compassion, and gentle reflection of Your love for us through Your gift of our Savior in Christ. We now extend our voices to Your ear, and 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) Rich Lord

Jesus, forgive us when we have left others to carry heavy losses alone. For being hesitant to enter another's grief, afraid of saying the wrong thing. Too busy to offer our presence, or too uncomfortable to sit with pain. Forgive us when we failed to listen, failed to notice, or failed to reach out in love. By your Spirit, soften our hearts, open our eyes to those who are hurting and make us willing companions on the road of healing. Teach us to share one another's burdens as You have born ours. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

TIME WITH THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART Ron MacKendrick

SCRIPTURES Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12 *(pew Bible page 538)*

SERMON "I Am Not Alone" Ron MacKendrick

*HYMN #214 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" TOP LADY

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER Ron MacKendrick

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation Rich Lord

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 "Black Sheep" Written by Ben Fuller,
Chancel Choir Michael Farren, and Tony Wood

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgement throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

"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) Rich Lord

Lord, we bring You ourselves along with our gifts of money and talents. Please accept what we offer and teach us how to multiply it so it meets the needs of our neighbors. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

*CLOSING SONG

*JoySpring Songbook #33 "Shine, Jesus, Shine" GRAHAM KENDRICK

*BENEDICTION Ron MacKendrick

*POSTLUDE Feel Free to Join Us and Sing Along!

Charlotte Bramley and Melinda MacKendrick are deacons of the day.
Rich Lord serves as liturgist today.

Prayers

New Prayers: Friends of Cathie Achorn (Rebecca, Florence F., Linda Palatka, and Pari)
Continued Prayers: Trevor Lovely; Jen Hossack; Marie Murphy's son – Craig Jernberg; Pete; Bev & Doug Hall's son Jeremy; Adam Beckloff, Linda Birch's nephew; Diane Travers; Judy Ellis's daughter, Syreeta Peddlesden; Betty Simino; Betty Gray's niece Heather; Cathie Achorn's sister-in-law, Lorie Mumby.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR OPEN POSITION:

The Personnel Committee, chaired by Janet Rivard, is overseeing the search for a new Office Administrator. If you or someone you know may be interested in the position, please contact Janet at Janet.Rivard@uccwestboro.org for a copy of the job description. The position is 16 hours per week, with four mornings per week on-site in the church office. Key responsibilities include greeting visitors, answering phone calls, serving as a

liaison among Rev. Betsy, church members, and community members, printing weekly bulletins, ordering office supplies, coordinating building-use requests, and maintaining church files.

PARISH LIFE

We are going to be collecting candy and treats for the Main Street Trick or Treat Event on October 27th. There will be a box in the kitchen for your donations.

GIVE THE GIFT OF BETTER SIGHT!

We are collecting gently used eyeglasses, reading glasses, and sunglasses for adults and children. Donations will be provided to a Lions group to help make glasses available to people in need. Have an extra pair at home? Simply place them in the black basket in the library. Thank you for helping give others the gift of better sight!

MISSIONS

Westboro Food Pantry **-** For the month of **October,** the Westborough Food Pantry needs the following: *Dinty Moore Beef Stew, chili, hash and instant potatoes.* Please no expired food or dented cans. 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 enjoy cooking for people who truly appreciate a home-cooked meal? Consider preparing a meal for the men at Dismas House as they work to rebuild their lives and reconnect with family, friends, and community after incarceration. If you can cook but cannot deliver, transportation can usually be arranged, and first-time volunteers are welcome. You're invited to stay and share the meal or simply drop it off. Nothing fancy, just a good meal prepared with care. To help, contact Pam Faustine at 978-505-7031 or pfaustine@princeton-ma.us.

OCT 18TH – OCT 25TH

Oct 18	**Sunday**
10:00 AM	Worship Service
Oct 19	**Monday –** Office Closed
12:00 PM	PCCM Board/Board Rm
Oct 20	**Tuesday**
6:30 PM	Building Committee/Board Rm
7-8 PM	Bell Rehearsal
Oct 21	**Wednesday**
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Journey Home Singers
6:30-8:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Oct 22	**Thursday**
Oct 23	**Friday**
Oct 24	**Saturday**
9:00 AM	Men's Breakfast
Oct 25	**Sunday**
10:00 AM	Worship Service