

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

February 22, 2026

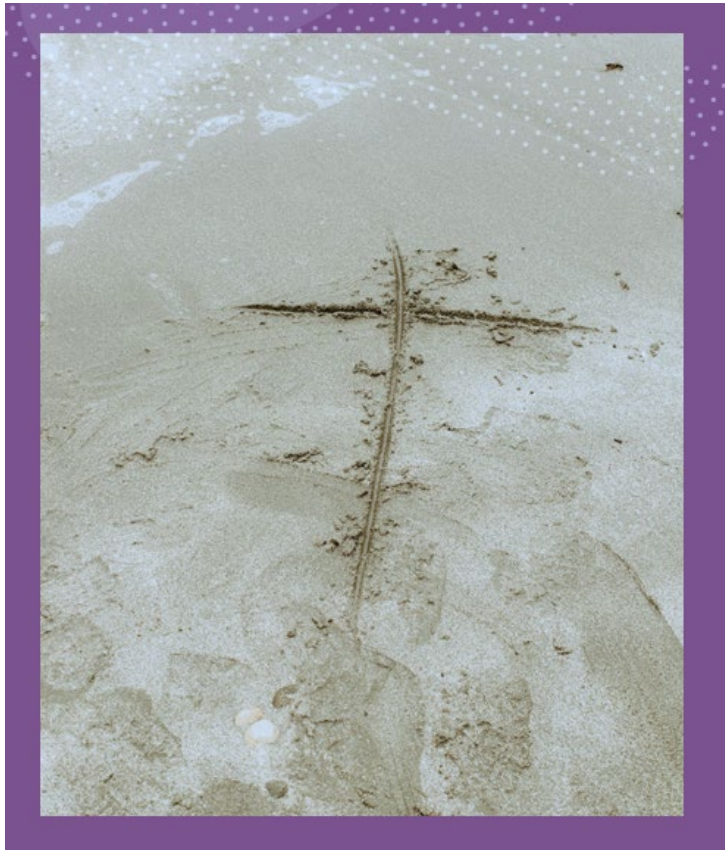


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WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!

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**

February 22, 2026

First 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 #211 "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley LONESOME VALLEY

*JoySpring Songbook #37 "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" John Newton, Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio

*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 121 by Dr. Chris Hughes) Steve Achorn

One: Looking to the mountains, we recall the source of hope.

Many: Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

One: On the paths we walk, the way can be treacherous, the footing unsure.

Many: God will not let our foot slip. God watches over us with care.

One: Our concerns can be given to our faithful God. God loves us and will deliver us from harm.

All: We rest in the Lord as we might recline under a tree on a summer day. Wherever we go, the Lord watches over us and keeps us safe. We will offer our Praise to God.

*GATHERING PRAYER (Unison) Steve Achorn

We gather here under Your protective wing O God. Teach us Your way of love and help us as we begin our Lenten journey. Give us the strength to really look at ourselves and root out anything that does not bring us closer to You and Your law of love. May this time together increase our faith and nourish us for this journey toward You. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Redeemer and continue on in prayer 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)

Jesus, we want to be closer to You, but our selfish ambitions keep getting in the way. Forgive us for all of the times we put our own interests first instead of thinking about anyone else. Have mercy on us for our thoughts that do not please You, for our judgments of others, and our feelings of superiority. Help become more like You. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

TIME WITH THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

SCRIPTURES

Matthew 4:1-11

(pew Bible pgs. 785)

SERMON

"There's Power in the Word"

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

***HYMN #180**

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

ST. FLAVIAN

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Steve Achorn

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

"Swing Low Sweet Chariot"

Festival Ringers



"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

We bring our gifts to You with loving hearts God. Please accept them and help us use them as You would like. Help us spread Your love far and wide. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

*CLOSING HYMN #579 “Standing in the Need of Prayer” (vs 1,3,4)

PENITENT

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Steve Achorn serves as liturgist today.

Pam Faustine and **Ron MacKendrick** are deacons of the day.

Prayers

New Prayers: Ted Jaworski & Betty.

Continued Prayers: Sandy Williams’ Aunt, Karen Smith; 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.

BOYSCOUT TROOP 10 ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Troop 100’s 47th annual Pancake Breakfast is March 1st between 7:30 am and 11:30 am at the Knights of Columbus (17 Willow St, Westborough, MA 01581). You can buy tickets directly from the scouts (Stop & Shop, Roche Brothers) or online at <https://my.cheddarup.com/.../2026-westborough-troop.../items>

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)



Feb 22 10:00 AM	First Sunday in Lent Worship & Faith Formation
Feb 23 7:30 PM	Monday - Office Closed Missions/Zoom
Feb 24 10:30 AM 7:00-8:00 PM	Tuesday Whitney Place Service Bell Rehearsal Dismas House Dinner
Feb 25 11:00 AM 6:30-8:00 PM	Wednesday Staff Meeting Choir Rehearsal
Feb 26	Thursday
Feb 27	Friday
Feb 28 5:00 – 8:30 PM	Saturday Bahà'ís of Westborough/Fellowship Hall
Mar 1 7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Second Sunday in Lent/Communion Troop 100 Pancake Breakfast/K of C Worship & Sunday School



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 the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
- **Sunday, April 5th at 10 AM:** Easter Sunday and Communion Sunday