

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
57 West Main Street, Westborough, MA 01581

1724 – 2026



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The Spire
May 2026

Rev. Betsy Dorsi, Pastor
Joseph Stillitano, Director of Music
Linda Borglund, Director of Faith Formation

A Message from Rev. Betsy...

SELF-NOMINATION: A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF STEWARDSHIP

We all say it. I give my treasures, time and talent in pledge to my Church. How many of us really do it? A good number of people here do work very hard for the church. For example, the Fair, Yard Sale and Coffee Hour workers. But there is another kind of worker that our Church really needs. A Church moves forward its mission by many little decisions made throughout the year. Guided by the vision set forth by the Church Board, Committees and Boards set goals and action steps to direct the work assigned to them. They provide much of the human power to meet their goals but often need to ask for help from the rest of the congregation. Our church has left many spots open on our roster of Board and Committee members listed on our Officiary. Our By-laws require us to fill them. Our church functions best with more people serving as members of our various boards and committees. More voices are heard, we get new ideas, new results. Lately our nominating committee, consisting of only 2 people, has had difficulty finding people to nominate for these positions. Please think about your own gifts and where you might best serve our Church and self-nominate yourself to serve on one of these boards or committees: Boards of: Deacons, Christian Education, Missions, Trustees, Committees of: Flowers, Historians, Music, Memorial Gifts, Delegates to the Association and Conference Meetings. For information about the scope of responsibility of any of the above groups, please talk to Rev. Betsy or the chairpersons and members of the group. A copy of the current officary is hanging on the bulletin board just inside the parking lot entrance to the Church. Pray about how God wants you to use your time and gifts and speak to either Dave Smith or Betty Gray to self-nominate yourself to fill a spot on a Board or Committee. You will get to know new people, be on the inside of decisions that affect all of us and contribute greatly to the ministry of this church in the world. The nomination slate must be ready before our June Annual Meeting, so start seriously considering now how you can serve your church in a new way.

Keep Shining Bright!

Rev. Betsy



PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

New Prayers: Meredith Morgan and her family.
Continued Prayers: Ted Jaworski and Betty Gray; Elaine Moore; Sue Menzel; Bev Hall; Jackie Smith; Adam Beckloff, Linda Birch’s nephew; Betty Gray’s niece Heather; Diane Travers; Judy Ellis’ 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

Prayer requests: You can place prayer concerns on the church’s email distribution list by emailing lisa.coffey@uccwestboro.org.

NOMINATING

SERVING GOD’S CHURCH

The church’s bylaws list the roles and responsibilities of the officers, boards and committees that comprise the organization and governance of our beloved church. The bylaw positions are listed on the Church Officiary, which total 95, give or take. Since most terms are for 3 years and not all terms are filled, the Nominating Committee is charged with seeking approximately 55 nominees for 2026.

Since some openings are for 1 or 2 years, they give a person the opportunity to join a group to try it out. Many members re-enlist on a committee or board when they find it suits their desires to serve. Many boards and committees meet once a month with Zoom offering remote connections to meetings.

New volunteers are approved at the Annual Boards and Committees Meeting in June with their official terms beginning July 1. Joining a group allows one to not only contribute to that group’s success, but it also gives the person insight into the workings of the

church. Some boards and committees meet regularly throughout the year, while others are only active at certain times of the year. People can also attend meetings via Zoom.

Certain boards and committees have many members, such as Deacons, Christian Ed and Flowers, which allows their efforts to be shared among a larger group. Please refer to the Church Officiary which is available on the church website under the “My Church” tab.

The Nominating Committee reaches out to people using email and phone calls and encourages volunteering for one or more positions which may be of interest. Please consider answering “the call” to ensure proper functioning and representation of all the groups and positions.

Please refer to the ballot included at the back of this publication to view the many opportunities to serve our church. If you would like more information about any of these openings or if you wish to volunteer, please call Betty Gray (508-277-9008) or Dave Smith (508-366-8174).

CORPORATE GIVING PROGRAMS

As you may already know, our Church has several physical improvement and mission projects in the pipeline. Currently, we fund them through the generosity of our Congregation. Going forward, we hope to supplement that traditional revenue with grant-writing. That requires identifying sources to help us:

- ◆ Do you or someone you know work for a company (especially one located in Westborough) that has a corporate giving program? These companies have funds and/or foundations that give back to their community and are responsive to their employees’ interests.
- ◆ If you don’t know if your employer has a giving program, please ask them and get the details. They are more apt to respond positively to a request if they know you are interested.
- ◆ Then pass the information on to me and I will follow-up. Reach me at banoeth@aol.com or text to 774-275-0136 or see me around Church if you have any questions.

Thank you for your help,
Barbara Noeth

MISSIONS

SAVE THE DATE!



We are planning a Habitat for Humanity workday on Saturday, June 20th (location TBD). Whether you have carpentry skills or no skills, there is work for everyone. Age 16 and up. Sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall next week. Missions Team

Food Pantry - For the month of **May**, the Westborough Food Pantry is in need the following: *Jello, Salad dressing, Pickles, Ketchup*. 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

PARISH LIFE



We hope you can join us Friday, June 5th at 6:00 PM for Game Night in the Fellowship Hall. We will have pizza and chicken from The Coop. There will be BINGO with prizes, cribbage and other games to play. You can even bring a favorite game of yours. For information contact Cathie Achorn call/text 508-380-8671.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

On May 4th, 40 women signed up for the Women's Fellowship Annual May Dinner Meeting and Elections. The table of appetizers and the Raffle Table started at 5:30PM with a meeting presided by Elizabeth Kafig at 6PM. The officers and committees were voted on. The list of names will be posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Copies of the program with the year's wrap up information will be available to everyone soon.

Dinner was served at about 6:35PM after a couple of the raffles were drawn. A delicious and hot buffet of chicken piccata, steak tips, rotini and marinara sauce, baked haddock, salad, rolls and butter were served at The Post Office Pub. Ending with a beautiful tray of mini cakes, cookies and Ghirardelli chocolate brought by Celeste.

Thanks to Donna Morgan and crew who organized a fun raffle table, Cathie Achorn and crew who decorated the tables and Celeste Chenet-Monte who ran the check-in table with help from Nicole Halbert who passed out the free raffle tickets. A big shout out to Tom Morgan who set up a sound system for us in the garden room so we could conduct the meeting, make announcements and run the raffle.

We will not be meeting in June, July, August and September. So our next meeting will be Moncay, Oct. 5, 2026 in The Fellowship Hall. Appetizers and social time at 5:30 PM and dinner at 6:30 PM. Be sure to put this on your calendar along with the 70th Evergreen Christmas Fair date of Dec. 5, 2026.

There will be an executive committee meeting in September (time TBA) and a Finance Committee in September (time TBA). If you have any questions about Women's Fellowship you can reach out to Cathie Achorn, Elizabeth Kafig or Donna Morgan or any officers or committee members. Cathie Achorn's cell is 508-380-8671.

CHRISTIAN ED

Children Sunday is June 14th. The service will be led by Faith Formation followed by a BBQ put on by C.E. We need people to bring salads, burgers and hot dogs. Desserts will be supplied by C.E. The event

will take place on the lawn (weather dependent).
Hope you all can attend.
Linda Borglund, C.E. Director

WHAT THE REFLECTIVE MOMENT MEANS TO ME

It is my hope that this moment in the church service means as much to you as it does to me. When I was a deacon several years ago, I mentioned that we no longer had a silent moment of prayer. I explained to the board of deacons what it meant to me and I thought we should do it again. They agreed.

It was first practiced in my lifetime by the pastor when we first came to this church. I was too shy to speak up when the pastor asked for prayers from the congregation. But he started out with a moment before his pastoral prayer. The pastor would say something like this, “at this time take a moment to bring those unspoken concerns or celebrations to God”. Then the pastor would include our unspoken prayers in the prayer. So this is how I personally interpret this time in the church service:

A reflective silent moment in our church service creates space for a deeply personal encounter with God—one that doesn’t rely on spoken words, but on what we feel in our heart. In the stillness, we are invited to step away from the noise, distractions, and pressures of daily life and enter into a sacred pause. It is a moment to be fully present before God.

During this time, each person can speak to God in their own way, sharing what may be too heavy, too private, or too complex to express aloud. It becomes a place to lay down fears, grief, and concerns, while also lifting up joys, gratitude, and celebrations. In silence, nothing is too small or too overwhelming to bring before Him.

This quiet reflection also allows us to remember others in prayer—those whose needs we carry in our hearts but may not yet be ready to name publicly, or those too many to mention one by one. It honors both the spoken and unspoken burdens. Beyond prayer, the silence helps settle our minds. It gently redirects our thoughts away from worldly worries and centers our attention on God’s presence. In a world that constantly demands our

attention, this pause becomes an act of worship in itself—choosing stillness, trust, and connection over distraction. Ultimately, this moment of silence is not empty; it is full—full of presence, listening, surrender, and quiet communion with God.

So, the next time we have the silent reflective moment in church, be still and know God is with you in this holy place. NOTHING IS TOO SMALL OR TOO OVERWHELMING TO BRING BEFORE HIM/HER.
Cathie Achorn

CONTACT INFORMATION

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**The Congregational Church of Westborough
2026 Ballot for the Election of Officers and Board and Committee Members**

Terms begin on July 1 for Program Years 2027-2028-2029

<u>Title and Nominee(s)</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Title and Nominee(s)</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Title and Nominee(s)</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
<i>Moderator</i>		<i>Delegates to Central Ass'n</i>		<i>Delegates to SNE Conf.</i>	
<u>Lindsay Custer</u>	6/2029	<u>Roland Regnier</u>	6/2028	<u>Roland Regnier</u>	6/2028
			6/2029		6/2029
<i>Assistant Moderator</i>		<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>		<i>Music Committee</i>	
<u>Roland Regnier</u>	6/2029	<u>Suzanne Arpante</u>	6/2029	<u>Celeste Chenet-Monte</u>	6/2029
					6/2029
<i>Board of Deacons</i>		<i>Memorial Gifts</i>		<i>Historian</i>	
	6/2027		6/2029	<u>Elizabeth Kafig</u>	6/2027
<u>Pam Faustine</u>	6/2028	<i>Flower Committee</i>			
<u>Darvin Kapitz</u>	6/2028	<u>Charlotte Bramley</u>	6/2028		
	6/2028	<u>Suzanne Arpante</u>	6/2029		
	6/2028		6/2029	<i>Nominating</i>	
	6/2029		6/2029	<u>David Smith</u>	6/2027
	6/2029	<i>Board of Trustees</i>		<u>Betty Gray</u>	6/2027
	6/2029	<u>David Smith</u>	6/2029		6/2027
	6/2029	<u>Jim Tashjian</u>	6/2029	<i>Rev. Betsy's PPRC</i>	
<i>Properties Committee</i>		<i>Missions & Social Concerns</i>		<u>Suzanne Arpante</u>	6/2029
<u>Rich Boucher</u>	6/2029	<u>Pam Faustine</u>	6/2029		6/2029
	6/2029	<u>Sarah Cushman</u>	6/2029	<i>Women's Fellowship</i>	
<i>Board of Christian Ed</i>		<i>Stewardship Committee</i>		<u>Elizabeth Kafig</u>	6/2028
<u>Sterling Fitzgibbons</u>	6/2028	<u>Neil Bock</u>	6/2029	<u>Celeste Chenet-Monte</u>	6/2028
	6/2028	<u>Ted Jaworski</u>	6/2029	<u>Melinda MacKendrick</u>	6/2028
	6/2029			<u>Donna Morgan</u>	6/2028
	6/2029	<i>Church Clerk</i>		<u>Cathie Achorn</u>	6/2028
	6/2029	<u>David Smith</u>	6/2029	<u>Linda Birch</u>	6/2028
<i>Parish Life Committee</i>		<i>Cabinet-at-Large</i>		<u>Betty Gray</u>	6/2028
	6/2027	<u>Carrie Brown</u>	6/2029	<u>Suzanne Arpante</u>	6/2028
	6/2027			<u>Linda Borglund</u>	6/2028
				<u>Barbara Noeth</u>	6/2028

May 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 5:30-7 pm – Bahais of Westboro 8:30 pm – Dessert/Prog. Dinner PROGRESSIVE DINNER
3 10am Worship Service COMMUNION FAITH FORMATION 1-6 pm – Eagle Court of Honor	4 6:30 pm W.F. Dinner 6-8:00 pm – Cub Scouts/Board Rm Church Office Closed	5 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 6:30 pm – Building Comm./Board Rm 7:00-8:00 pm - Bells Rehearse	6 6:30-8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal THE SPIRE DEADLINE.	7	8 6 pm - Tom Set up in vestry	9 9 am - Men's breakfast/vestry 5 pm – Second Saturday Service/Chapel
10 10am Worship Service MOTHER'S DAY	11 7:30 pm- Trustees/Board Rm Church Office Closed	12 10:30 am - Whitney Place Service 6:00-10:00 pm – AV Setup 7:00-8:00 pm - Bells Rehearse	13 9:30 am - Called to Care 9:00 am - Weavers Guild/vestry 6:30 -8:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16 11am - 3pm – Eagle Court of Honor
17 10am Worship Service FAITH FORMATION	18 7:00 pm - Boardt/Board Rm Church Office Closed	19 6:30 pm – Building Comm./Board Rm 7:00-8:00 pm - Bells Rehearse	20 5-9 pm – Troop Court of Honor 6:30 - 8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 6-8 pm - Pride Connections	22	23
24 10am Worship Service Noon – 2pm – Meeting in Fell. Hall	25 7:30 pm – Missions/Zoom Church Office Closed MEMORIAL DAY	26 10:00 am – Staff Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm - Bells Rehearse Dinner/Dismas House	27 6:30 -8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30
31 10am Worship Service 6-8 pm – Cub Scouts/Vestry (only if it rains) BACCALAUREATE						