

The Congregational Church of Westborough

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

1724 – 2026



The Spire
April 2026

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

A Message from Rev. Betsy...

“Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.” - MT 28:5-6

Alleluia, Alleluia, He is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia, Alleluia! The traditional Easter greeting from my childhood is imbued with joy. You can't say it, either the statement or the response to it, without hearing and feeling joy. Joy is the emotion of Easter. Our hope has been realized. Jesus is our Redeemer. His suffering and death paid the price for our sin. His sacrifice redeemed, brought us back for God. His love for us is so great that he willingly died to show us how deep love can be. Wow! Look at what someone was willing to do for you! Your heart had better be overflowing with joy! You had better go tell someone. Your faith has set you free! Tell others the same way Jesus told you—tell them first with your actions. While you can't readily give up your life for them, you sure can love them with all you have! Love your family members; give in more instead of arguing, do more at home to lighten others' loads and make family life happier. Do more for your immediate neighbors; do errands, cook, babysit when needs arise. Wave, stop to chat, cut your lawn and plant flowers to make being your neighbor pleasant. Do more for neighbors you don't know; give to the food pantry, work on a Habitat House, cook for the men at Dismas House. Find your area of ministry and get involved. Love yourself; take care of your body with healthy food, exercise, rest and fellowship. Love God by reading your Bible, praying and telling others about your Redeemer. Keep the Easter Joy alive! Alleluia, Alleluia, Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Rev. Betsy Dorsi, Pastor





PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

New Prayers: Carolyn Bent
Continued Prayers: Ted Jaworski and Betty Gray; Elaine Moore; Julia O'Neil-Welsh; 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.

ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

On Saturday April 11, 2026 we will be holding an alternative Worship Service at 5pm in the Church Hall. This Service will provide both a new time option and a new way to experience worship. This Service's theme is Ministry as Worship. The Mission Team will be leading worship attendees in a mission project that they will complete during the Worship Service. They will be packing hygiene kits to give to the homelss in Worcester. Items for the kits have been collected at church for the past few weeks. People were so generous in their contributions! We have enough itmes to pack 50 kits using the Church World Services item list. While the packing is going on, a Service of prayer, song and reflection will surround and embrace attendees who will participate in the service. We invite everyone to come! Bring your family, grandkids, neighbors and friends. People of all age and faith backgrounds are

welcome. Come help us with this mission project and experience a different type of Worship Service.

PARISH LIFE



Progressive Dinner The annual Progressive Dinner will be on Saturday, May 2nd. Sign up will be in the Fellowship Hall or by texting or calling Cathie Achorn at 508-380-8671. All adults are invited. Bring a friend. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, April 26, 2026.

A progressive dinner party is a multi-course dinner that's served at multiple houses. Diners travel from house to house, eating a single course at each destination, and end up at the church for dessert. We need people to volunteer to host dinner or appetizers at their homes.

Other Parish Life News:

If you are interested in a game night, we are thinking of putting one together. Cathie and Steve Achorn want to play cribbage. Please see them if you are interested.

MISSIONS

Meal Packing - Thank you to everyone who helped make the meal packing event on March 22 a big success. We packed 20,000 meals and all the boxes have been distributed to food pantries. We are grateful to all who organized and set up, made signage, prepared the refreshment room, packed, boxed and moved meals, and helped clean up the fellowship hall. It was a lot of work, but many hands made it easier. Pam Faustine - Mission Team

Food Pantry - For the month of **April**, the Westborough Food Pantry is in need 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

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 9AM in the Fellowship Hall. Steve Achorn will be making blueberry pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, coffee, fruit, etc.

All men invited. Bring a friend or neighbor. The speaker will be our own Rev. Betsy Dorsi. To RSVP and for questions contact Rick Plummer.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Annual May Dinner - May 4th

Appetizers: 5:30 – 6:30 PM
Dinner at 6:30 PM

We hope you'll join us for our annual May Dinner at The Post Office Pub in Grafton. Appetizers, raffles and short business meeting from 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Dinner is approximately at 6:30 PM.

If you have items that you could donate for the raffle, contact Cathie Achorn.

This venue is back by popular demand...there will be fun, food and fellowship!

Sign up and pay (check or cash) deadline will be April 26, 2026. The fee is \$25.00.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP YARD SALE

The YARD SALE at The Congregational Church will be on Friday, April 24th from 10am -3pm and Saturday April 25th from 8am -2pm, 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.

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

Thanks, Yard Sale Team

Donations:

We do not accept clothing for our church Yard Sale BUT...

The Women's Fellowship (Cathie Achorn and Donna Morgan) can still accept good condition men's coats, clothes and shoes for the **Worcester Homeless Mission project**.

Also new or worn once ladies' up-to date Spring and Summer clothes are accepted for **Abby's House**. Do you have clothes that you still have tags on and will never wear? We have our own Anita Lawler that goes periodically to Abby's House in Worcester. These clothes must be clean and ready to wear. We cannot accept out-of-date, stained or torn items. See Cathie or Donna

Old Candles- Please place old/used candles in the box in the kitchen. The wax and sometimes containers are repurposed by our own Barbara Noeth. Beautiful candles (works of art) are sold by Barbara with proceeds going to various nonprofit organizations.

THE ANNUAL EVERGREEN CHRISTMAS FAIR

The tri-chairs Cathie, Linda and Sandy and Santa's Workshop Coordinator Julie (Achor)McCoskery are already thinking about and planning for the 70th fair which will be Saturday, December 5, 2026 9AM - 3PM. They started the day the 69th fair was over. As you may be doing your spring cleaning to get things for our annual yard sale, please consider these donations.

Jewelry- Please place jewelry donations for the annual Evergreen Christmas Fair in the box in the kitchen.

Santa's Workshop- We also can accept new donated items for Santa's Workshop Store. Place in the donation box in the library. This would be any items that children can give to their friends, family, teachers, pets etc. Santa's Workshop is a place where children shop without their parents. Teen helpers guide them through the store with their lists and after purchasing gifts can wrap them free at the wrapping station.

Silent Auction- Do you have a gift card, gift basket, service or object that that could be sold in the silent auction room? Give it to Cathie, Linda or Sandy.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

The following organization has acknowledged donations/contributions from our church:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <i>The Christmas Fund</i> | <i>\$ 650</i> |
| <i>The Outreach Program</i> | <i>\$8,000</i> |

CONTACT INFORMATION

Reverend Betsy Dorsi, Pastor
Rev.Betsy.Dorsi@uccwestboro.org

Sue Menzel, Handbell Director
westcongmusic@gmail.com

Joseph Stillitano, Music Director
Joseph.Stillitano@uccwestboro.org

Linda Borglund, Director of Faith Formation
Linda.Borglund@uccwestboro.org

Ariana Dello Stritto
Communication Coordinator
Ariana.Dellostritto@uccwestboro.org

Lisa Coffey
Office Administrator
Lisa.Coffey@uccwestboro.org

General Church Email
info@uccwestboro.org
Church Office Phone (508) 366-2000
Church Website
www.UCCwestboro.org

www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough

Evangel Name Change

You may have noticed the new name on the cover of our newsletter. Cathie Achorn and Donna Morgan were tasked with coming up with a fresh new name for our “Evangel”.

Here is an overview of the thought process and what was presented to the Church Board by Cathie and Donna:

“We put our heads together to come up with a list of ideas that might get your creative juices flowing. After looking over our research, we came up with these things to consider:”

- Weekly vs. Monthly (“Weekly Word”...certainly not us!)
- Uplifting
- Something to Remember
- Catchy
- Positive and Comforting

“We also thought that we should avoid using similar names to other churches in town. So, here’s what we’ve found (thanks, Tom).”

- Few have newsletters. Some have podcasts, some post on their websites (including their bulletins) and others have blogs.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran – “Messenger”
- Methodist (Monthly) – “Messenger”
- Synagogue – “Tapestry” (More like a magazine)

“Then we listed a bunch of words that might be considered relevant” - Faith, Heartbeat, Monthly Message, Monthly Blessing, Spire, Pews News, Church Beacon, †Cross Currents, (this is only a small sampling)

Cathie and Donna did lots of research and found these suggestions:

- Should be words that are easy to remember
- Should not be too many words
- Should be catchy and easy to say
- Three syllables are best (The E- van- gel was used for decades.)
- Should not have the name of the church in the name – it’s redundant.

After a presentation to the Board and some thoughtful discussion “The Spire” was selected in reference to the church’s steeple.

Thank you to Cathie and Donna for their time and extended research to come up with a long overdue name change to our newsletter!

~ April 2026 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | | | 1 3:30 - 4:30 pm - Journey Home Singers/Choir Rm 6:30 - 8:00 - Choir Rehearsal THE SPIRE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 2 – MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service/Sanctuary | 3 GOOD FRIDAY Noon – Good Friday Service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church | 4 |
| 5 EASTER SUNDAY 10am Worship Service COMMUNION | 6 6:00 pm WF Meeting/Fell. Hall Church Office Closed | 7 6-10 pm – AV Setup 6:30 pm – Building Committee/Board Room 7-8 pm -Bell Rehearsal | 8 9 am – Weavers in Fell. Hall 9:30 am Called to Care 3:30 - 4:30 pm - Journey Home Singers/Choir Rm 6:30 - 8:00 - Choir Rehearsal | 9 | 10 6p Tom in Fellowship Hall | 11 9 am Men's breakfast/vestry 5:00 pm – Alternative Mission Service |
| 12 10am Worship Service | 13 Noon – 2pm – PCCM/Board Rm 7:00 pm- Trustees/Board Room Church Office Closed | 14 10:30 am - Whitney Place 7-8 pm -Bell Rehearsal | 15 3:30 - 4:30 pm - Journey Home Singers/Choir Rm 6:30 - 8:00 - Choir Rehearsal | 16 6 - 8 pm – Pride Connections | 17 | 18 |
| 19 10am Worship Service YARD SALE SETUP ALL WEEK IN FELLOWSHIP HALL & LIBRARY | 20 7:00 - pm Church Board/Board Rm Church Office Closed | 21 6:30 pm – Building Committee/Board Rm 7-8 pm -Bell Rehearsal | 22 3:30 - 4:30 pm - Journey Home Singers/Choir Rm 6:30 - 8:00 - Choir Rehearsal | 23 | 24 9am - 2pm – Yard Sale | 25 8am - 2pm – Yard Sale |
| 26 10am Worship Service | 27 7:30 pm – Missions/Zoom Church Office Closed | 28 7-8 pm -Bell Rehearsal Dinner/Dismas House | 29 3:30 - 4:30 pm - Journey Home Singers/Choir Rm 6:30 - 8:00 - Choir Rehearsal | 30 | |  |