

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

March 29, 2026



Photo by [Brooke Lark](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Palm Sunday

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**

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (SHOWN ONLINE AND ON THE SANCTUARY SCREENS)

9:45 AM

PROCESSIONAL

“Hosanna in the Highest”
Sung by Entire Congregation
Kristina Di Terlizzi, violin

David W. Music

*Hosanna, hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!*

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*OPENING MUSIC

* HYMN #286

“This is the Day”

THE LORD’S DAY

* HYMN #344

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

ASSAM

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Barbara Noeth

One: Hosannah to God in the Highest! Here comes our King, riding on the colt of a donkey.

Many: He comes in peace. He comes with love to set captives free.

All: Hosannah to God in the Highest! Let us worship our King!

*GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

Barbara Noeth

Jesus, You entered Jerusalem as a King, yet no one recognized You. As we come together in Worship today, speak within our hearts and offer the forgiveness and healing each of us needs in order to recognize You. Help us understand the kind of King You are and our need for You. We ask this in the name of our Holy Redeemer and continue to pray using His own words...

***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, today we sang our praise of You and showed our adoration by waving palm branches. How long will it be before we deny You? Please have mercy on us for the times when we said we did not know You by being embarrassed that we came with friends from Church, or when we chose not to share our faith, or not to invite someone to church with us? Forgive us for the times we acted in ways we knew You would disapprove of but ignored Your values. Forgive us for the times we chose our friends over You, our wants over another's needs. Teach us to be better disciples. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART Rev. Betsy Dorsi

SCRIPTURE Matthew 21:1-11 (*pew Bible pg. 802*)

SERMON "Hosannah to God in the Highest!" Rev. Betsy Dorsi

***HYMN #461** "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" (vs 1,2 and 4) BEACH SPRING

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation Barbara Noeth
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 "Hosanna in the Highest" David W. Music
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Daughter of Zion, rejoice and see, your King comes to you.
Shout now, O daughter of Jerusalem, your King comes to you.

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.*



“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)**

Barbara Noeth

Jesus, we offer You these gifts and we offer You ourselves. Please accept our offering and help us build up Your kin-dom on earth. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

***CLOSING SONG**

“My Lighthouse”
JoySpring Songbook #16

Written by Rend Collective

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Barbara Noeth serves as liturgist today.

Pam Faustine and **Melinda MacKendrick** 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.

PALM SUNDAY PANCAKE BRUNCH ON MARCH 29

There will be a Pancake Brunch on Sunday, March 29th. Steve Achorn will make his famous pancakes, and the Parish Life Committee will serve fruit salad, scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage. Many toppings for the pancakes and juice will be served. If you would like to help,

contact The Parish Life Committee. Hope to see you there. Cathie Achorn (508-380-8671), Linda Borglund and Sandy Horton

EASTER EGG HUNT

Christian Ed will be holding an Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday, March 29th. If you would like to donate candy to fill eggs, please leave them in the kitchen by March 15th. Thank you, Linda Borglund.

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

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)



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

Alternative Worship

- **Saturday, April 11th at 5 PM:** Mission Project Worship Service in Fellowship Hall

Dates of future alternative worship times coming soon.

MARCH 29TH – APRIL 5TH

Mar 29 10:00 AM	Palm Sunday Worship & Easter Egg Hunt	Apr 2 7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Maundy Thursday Service
Mar 30	Monday - Office Closed	Apr 3 Noon	Good Friday Good Friday Service/Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Mar 31 7:00-8:00 PM	Tuesday Bell Rehearsal	Apr 4	Saturday
Apr 1 6:30-8:00 PM	Wednesday Choir Rehearsal SPIRE DEADLINE (formerly named EVANGEL)	Apr 5 10:00 AM	Easter/Communion Sunday Worship

ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

On Saturday April 11, 2026 at 5:00 PM, we will be celebrating an alternative Worship Experience. We will Worship God through service to our local neighbors. During our Worship Service we will be packing hygiene kits to be given out to homeless people in our area and in Worcester. Please help us with this ministry by bringing in items from the list below. There will be a sign on the library table showing where to leave them. Thank you so much for your help! Rev. Betsy



CWS Hygiene Kits: A small package that makes a meaningful difference.

Each kit includes everyday essentials - soap, towels, a toothbrush - offering comfort and care and a fresh start each day.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR A KIT:

One washcloth

One fingernail or toenail clipper (either is acceptable; remove from package)

One bath-size bar of soap (in the original package)

One toothbrush (in the original package)

One travel-size deodorant stick (3.4 ounces or less, non-aerosol)

One travel-size lotion (3.4 ounces or less, fragrance-free)

One travel-size shampoo (3.4 ounces or less)

One travel-size toothpaste (3.4 ounces or less, with an expiration date at least one year out)

One sturdy wide-tooth comb (remove from package; must have at least 6 inches of teeth; pocket combs or picks not accepted; rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable)