

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

March 22, 2026

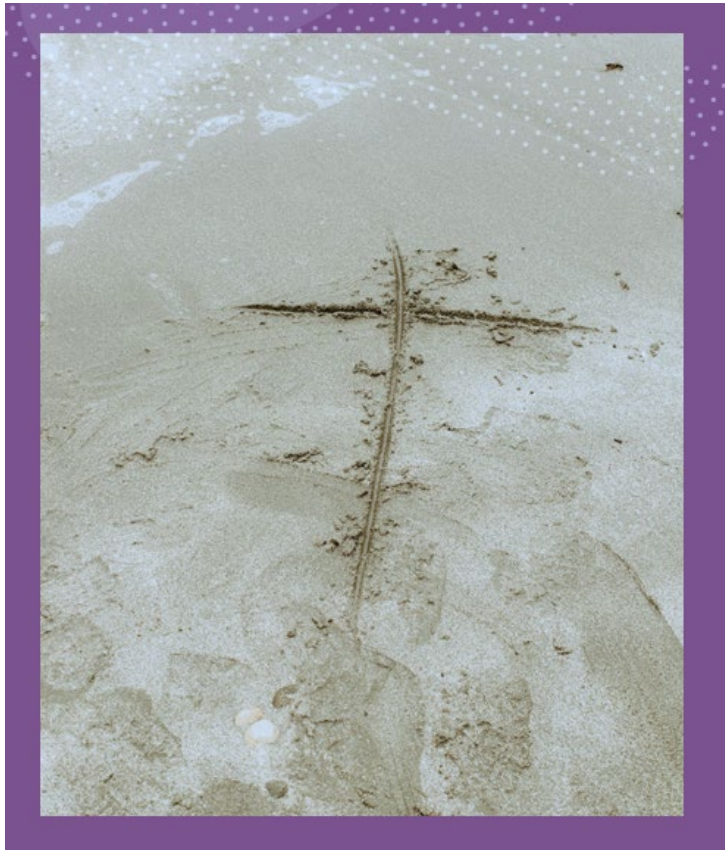


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WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!

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**

March 22, 2026

Fifth 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 #227 "In the Garden" GARDEN

* JoySpring Songbook #23 "You Are My All in All" Dennis Jernigan

*CALL TO WORSHIP Ron MacKendrick

One: We come here with heavy, grief-stricken hearts.

Many: And You weep with us.

One: We come here with confused minds.

Many: And You offer us insight and peace.

One: We come here with joyful souls.

Many: And You dance with us.

All: Let us worship our God who meets us wherever we are!

*GATHERING PRAYER (Unison) Ron MacKendrick

Jesus, You challenge us with Your miracles. Our minds keep saying that it couldn't happen, but our hearts tell us they know it did. As we worship today, help each of us find Your truth in a song, a prayer, a scripture verse, another congregant, somewhere, somehow, lead us to You. We ask this in Your Holy name, and we continue to pray using the words You gave 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)

Prince of Peace, in our troubled world we pray often for peace. We seldom admit our role in conflict. Please forgive us for the times we disagreed with someone and kept pushing our point. For the times we could have kept silent and the times we could have admitted that someone else could be right, have mercy on us. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we did not intervene in an argument or try to help others peacefully disagree. Make us channels of Your peace. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

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

SCRIPTURE John 11:1-45 (pew Bible pg. 873)

SERMON “Yes Lord, I Believe!” Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*HYMN #578 “I Need Thee Ev'ry Hour”(vs 1,2 and 4) NEED

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Response: **Jesus hear us** Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation Ron MacKendrick
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 “God's Amazing Grace” arr. Lloyd Larson
Bell Choir Based on Hymn tunes
NEW BRITAIN/MOODY



“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)

Ron MacKendrick

God, we come before You with joyful hearts bearing gifts from Your own bounty. Help us as we use these gifts joyfully to spread the Good News of Your power over death. Bless our efforts to share our joy through acts of love and kindness. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

*CLOSING SONG

“In Christ Alone”
JoySpring Songbook #29

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Ron MacKendrick serves as liturgist today.
Linda Borglund is deacon 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.

**WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR THE MEAL PACKING
EVENT TODAY AFTER WORSHIP!**

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

Westboro Food Pantry - For the month of **March**, the Westborough Food Pantry is in need of 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)

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.

Mar 22 10:00 AM 11:15 AM	Fifth Sunday in Lent Worship & Faith Formation Meal Packing Event	Mar 26 6:30 PM	Thursday Christian Seder Meal Fellowship Hall
Mar 23 7:30 PM	Monday - Office Closed Missions/Zoom	Mar 27	Friday
Mar 24 7:00-8:00 PM	Tuesday Bell Rehearsal DISMAS HOUSE DINNER	Mar 28	Saturday
Mar 25 11:00 AM 6:30-8:00 PM	Wednesday Staff Meeting Choir Rehearsal	Mar 29 10:00 AM	Palm Sunday Sixth Sunday in Lent Worship & Faith Formation Easter Egg Hunt

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)