

# The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

February 8, 2026



Photo: Deb Boucher

**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](mailto:Rev.Betsy.Dorsi@uccwestboro.org)  
*Joseph Stillitano, Director of Music* – [Joseph.Stillitano@uccwestboro.org](mailto:Joseph.Stillitano@uccwestboro.org)  
*Linda Borglund, Director of Christian Ed* – [Linda.Borglund@uccwestboro.org](mailto:Linda.Borglund@uccwestboro.org)  
*Sue Menzel, Director of Bells* – [westcongmusic@gmail.com](mailto:westcongmusic@gmail.com)  
*Lisa Coffey, Administrator* – [Lisa.Coffey@uccwestboro.org](mailto:Lisa.Coffey@uccwestboro.org)  
*Ariana Dello Stritto, Communications Coordinator* - [Ariana.DelloStritto@uccwestboro.org](mailto:Ariana.DelloStritto@uccwestboro.org)

*Office hours: Monday – Closed, Tuesday – Friday 9am – 1pm*  
*Church office phone (508)366-2000*

*General Church email* – [info@uccwestboro.org](mailto:info@uccwestboro.org) *Church website-* [www.uccwestboro.org](http://www.uccwestboro.org)  
[www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough](https://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 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

*\*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 #595 "Be Thou My Vision" (vs 1,2 and 4) SLANE

\*JoySpring Songbook #10 "Here I Am to Worship" Composed by Tim Hughes

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Janet Rivard

One: This time of worship is a personal and private event.

**Many: We come with individual concerns that move us toward confidential conversations with our God.**

One: This time of worship is a family reunion.

**Many: We come to enjoy companionship with persons who are our sisters and brothers in Christ.**

One: This time of worship is a creation of community.

**Many: We come to express a common faith in the God who bids us to set aside any differences or distractions that hinder our becoming a whole and Holy people.**

**All: We give thanks for this time of worship.**

\*GATHERING PRAYER (Unison) Janet Rivard

**Loving God, the earth speaks and tells us it is Yours. We look at Christ and remember we are Yours. With acts of kindness, words of truth, and laughs of joy, may we proclaim Your rule.**

**May Your peace fall upon all people as a blessing. We ask this in Jesus' name and continue 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)**

**Merciful Jesus, we know that all You want of us is to love You and love one another. It seems so easy to just do two things, yet it is very hard. Forgive us for the times we did not put You first. For the times we worshipped money, or recreation or rest instead of seeking and doing Your will. Help us to love more easily with Your help. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**RECEIVING THE WORD**

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART		Rev. Betsy Dorsi
SCRIPTURES	Psalm 112: 1-9. Matthew 5:13-20	<i>(pew Bible pgs. 490 &amp; 786)</i>
SERMON	“On Earth as in Heaven”	Rev. Betsy Dorsi
*HYMN #452	“Here I Am, Lord”	HERE I AM LORD

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

PASTORAL PRAYER		Rev. Betsy Dorsi
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**OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

Invitation		Janet Rivard
<i>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.</i>		

Offertory	“Circle Chant” and “We are Free!” Chancel Choir	Linda Hirschhorn and the Dundee Voices of Joy
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*Circle round for freedom, circle round for peace,  
For all of us imprisoned, circle for release.*

*Circle for the planet, circle for each soul,  
For the children of our children, keep the circle whole.*

*We are free! Let us celebrate! Oo-la-la, Oh-la!*



“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)**

Janet Rivard

**Gracious God, when we look upon all the things our offerings support, help us to see beyond the programs, wages, maintenance and supplies. Enable us to see Jesus, alive in the work and worship of this church, present in our gathering and in our giving. Amen.**

**BEING THE CHURCH**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #623**

“Woke Up This Morning”

WOKE UP

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**Janet Rivard** serves as liturgist today.

**Pam Faustine** and **Elizabeth Kafig** are deacons of the day.

*Prayers*

New Prayers: Sandy Williams’ Aunt, Karen Smith.

Continued Prayers: 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.

### LAST CALL

The Women's Fellowship will be sending Amazon Gift Cards for Valentine's Day to 'our' college students and active military. If you missed the deadline, let me know today. (They will be going out tomorrow.)

– Donna Morgan / dkmm@aol.com / (508) 566-5969

### CALL TO ANNUAL FISCAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

The 2026 Annual Fiscal Meeting of The Congregational Church of Westborough will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2026, immediately following worship in the sanctuary. The meeting will be broadcast via Zoom where those who are church members can vote online. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

1. To review the church's financial statement for 2025.
2. To discuss and vote on the church's operations budget for 2026.
3. To vote to approve the expenditure of \$88,000 for the bathroom Renovation Project.
4. To transact with such other business as may regularly come before the meeting.

David R. Smith, Church Clerk

### MISSIONS

***Soup Bowl of Caring*** - Join us today after worship for the "Soup Bowl of Caring". There will be a variety of tasty soups and breads. Donations to the Food Pantry will be accepted. We are asking for Dinty Moore Beef Stew and jam or jelly.

***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 **February**, the Westborough Food Pantry is in need the following: *microwave popcorn, mustard, and black beans (dry)*. 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](mailto: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)



## February 8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

### **Feb 8**

10:00 AM

11:15 AM

### **Sunday**

Worship & Sunday School

Annual Meeting/Sanctuary

**SOUPEL BOWL OF CARING**

### **Feb 9**

7:00 PM

### **Monday** - Office Closed

Trustees/Board Room

### **Feb 10**

10:30 AM

7:00-8:00 PM

### **Tuesday**

Whitney Place Service

Bell Rehearsal

### **Feb 11**

9:30 AM

11:00 AM

3:30-4:30 PM

6:30-8:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Called to Care

Staff Meeting

Journey Home Singers

Choir Rehearsal

### **Feb 12**

### **Thursday**

### **Feb 13**

4-5:30 PM

### **Friday**

Scouts/Fellowship Hall

### **Feb 14**

9:00 AM

### **Saturday** ❤️

Men's Breakfast/Fellowship Hall

### **Feb 15**

10:00 AM

Noon

### **Sunday**

Worship & Sunday School

Potluck Book Club Discussion