

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

March 1, 2026

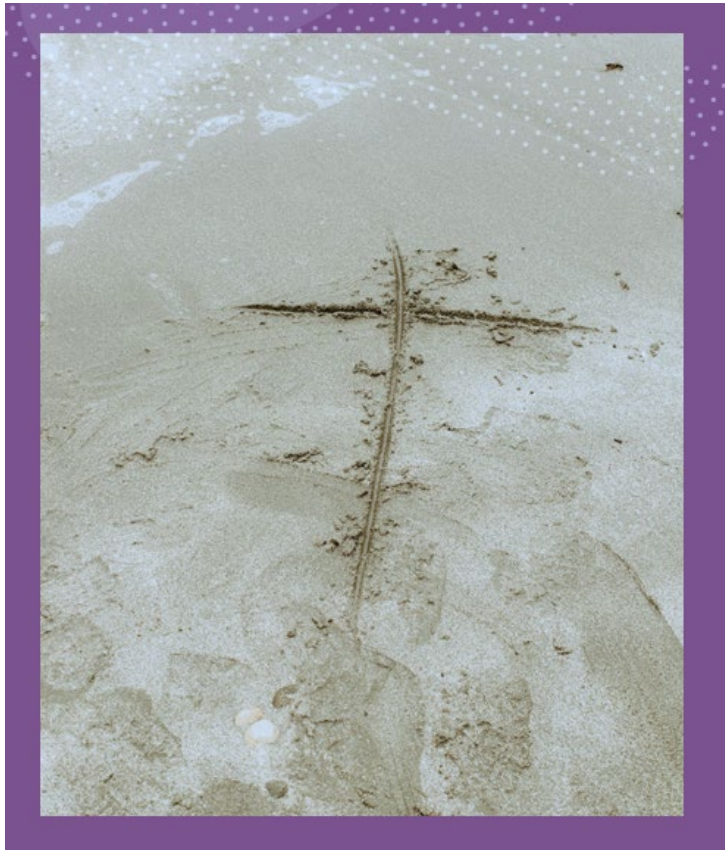


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**WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!**

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](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**

**March 1, 2026**

**Second 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

\*JoySpring Songbook #38      "Because He Lives (Amen)"      Cash, Gaither, Ingram, Maher,  
Carson, Gaither and Tomlin

\*JoySpring Songbook #13      "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"      Rick Founds

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Janet Rivard

One:    Come feast on the Word of God.

**Many:    We come with open minds.**

One:    Come to pour out your hearts.

**Many:    We come in hope to raise our needs, hopes and joys to God.**

One:    Come to feast at Jesus' table.

**Many:    We come to share in Communion with Jesus.**

**All:      Come, let us worship our Savior.**

\*GATHERING PRAYER (Unison) Janet Rivard

**We've come together here to learn of Your ways O Lord. We come with questions and confusion. We come with doubts seeking proof. Calm our restless hearts and clear our cloudy minds so we can see Your message of love written within Your Word. 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)

**Jesus, we try so hard to follow You, but we are tempted often to go our own way. Forgive us when we rationalize that our little effort to help others really isn't enough to make a difference. Have mercy on us when we give into tiredness, when we wait for someone else to do the work, when we pretend to not hear You call us to help. Strengthen us against the temptations that pull us away from You. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**RECEIVING THE WORD**

*(Children will now go to Faith Formation class)*

SCRIPTURE	John 3:1-17	<i>(pew Bible pg. 863)</i>
SERMON	“Are You Born Again?”	Rev. Betsy Dorsi
*HYMN #108	“Lift High the Cross” (vs 1,3,4)	CRUCIFER

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

BEING THE CHURCH

PASTORAL PRAYER	Rev. Betsy Dorsi
Response to the Petitions: <i>Lord help your children.</i>	

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	“Come to the Table”	Composed by Allen Pote
	Chancel Choir	

*Come, come, come to the table and bring your joy,  
Bring all your gladness and come, come, come to the table.  
Eat the bread, drink the wine, come rejoice in the Lord.*

*Bring all your sorrow, bring all your pain,  
Bring all the heartaches you bear:  
Bring who you are and hope to become,  
Come to the table to share.*

*Come, come, come to the table, remember Christ,  
Remember his love when you come, come, come to the table.  
Come in faith, come to serve, come rejoice in the Lord.*

*Share in the bread, share in the wine, share in the risen Lord.  
Share as a family, one in community, one in the name of the Lord.*

*Come, come, come to the table to follow Christ  
Forgiven and free, you must come, come, come to the table.  
Come in faith, come in love, come, rejoice in the Lord.*



“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

**Jesus, we bring You our gifts and are ready to serve You. Please guide us in our ministry and  
bless our gifts to Your service. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Communion at our church is open to all. All bread is gluten free)

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (as found on the inside cover of your hymn book)**

INVITATION

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)**

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

**We thank You Jesus for offering us this heavenly feast. May we be strengthened by it to  
continue the ministry You have called us to do. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING SONG**

“In Christ Alone”  
JoySpring Songbook #29

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

\*BENEDICTION

\*SUNG BENEDICTION

“Go Ye Now in Peace”  
JoySpring Songbook #25

Composed by Joyce Elaine Eilers

\*POSTLUDE

**Janet Rivard** serves as liturgist today.

**Elizabeth Kafig** and **Ron 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.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Join us on Monday night, March 2<sup>nd</sup> for our Women’s Fellowship meeting. Social Time at 6:30 pm, Meeting at 7pm, followed by a Program at 7:30 pm. The Women's Fellowship will welcome our own Melinda MacKendrick, Westborough's Animal Control Officer. Melinda will teach us about the animals that live alongside us here in the Westborough area. She will be bringing her registered therapy dog also. Our mission this month is the Wildlife Center at Tufts. We will be accepting monetary donations for this cause. Also, if you would like to bring old towels or blankets, they can be used by Melinda, Tufts and animal shelters. All church members and friends are welcome to the meeting on this informative topic. There will be some yummy treats.

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 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Linda Borglund.

## MISSIONS

**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 **March**, the Westborough Food Pantry is in need 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](mailto:pfaustine@princeton-ma.us)

### MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> – MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>

<b>Mar 1</b> 10:00 AM	<b>Communion</b> - Second Sunday in Lent Worship & Faith Formation	<b>Mar 4</b> 6:30-8:00 PM	<b>Wednesday</b> – EVANGEL DEADLINE Choir Rehearsal
<b>Mar 2</b> 6:30 PM 6:00–8:00 PM	<b>Monday</b> - Office Closed Women’s Fellowship Meeting Scout Leaders/Board Room	<b>Mar 5</b> <b>Mar 6</b>	<b>Thursday</b> <b>Friday</b>
<b>Mar 3</b> 6:30 PM 7:00-8:00 PM	<b>Tuesday</b> Building Committee/Board Room Bell Rehearsal	<b>Mar 7</b> 2-3:30 PM <b>Mar 8</b> 10:00 AM 11:15 AM	<b>Saturday</b> Scouts/Fellowship Hall <b>Third Sunday in Lent</b> Worship & Sunday School Deacons’ Meeting



## Holy Week Calendar of Services

- **Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM:** Seder Supper in the Fellowship Hall
  - **Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM:** Palm Sunday Service
  - **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM:** Maundy Thursday Service
  - **Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12 PM:** Ecumenical Good Friday Service at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
  - **Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM:** Easter Sunday and Communion Sunday
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## Alternative Worship Times

- **Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM:** Mission Project Worship Service in Fellowship Hall
- **Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM:** Worship in the Chapel
- **Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5PM:** Children's Saturday Service with Worship led by our youth in the Sanctuary