



Our Mission and Vision Statement:

We are a church where all are welcome to worship together, to share in fellowship and to grow spiritually in our journey with Christ. We value justice, diversity, and freedom of expression. We strive to serve our community and all God's creation and to spread the love of God to all people.

We welcome you, members, friends, and visitors, to our service this morning! If you are a guest with us in worship, we invite you to sign our guest register and/or fill out a visitor card.

Welcome to families with children and youth. Activity bags are available in the back of the sanctuary, near the bookcase, for children who are with us in worship. Sunday school is held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and will begin again in September.

Leading in worship today:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter

Deacon: JoAnn Bakulski & Nancy Arsenault

Reader: Megan Frano

Guest Musician: Stephen Page

Today is Communion Sunday. Our bread is gluten free and our juice is pure grape juice.

Prayer Requests

Would you like to ask for prayers for someone? You may write your request in the red prayer book on the table located in the back of the sanctuary. A deacon will share them with the pastor. Please see a deacon with any questions.

Contact Info: First Congregational Church of West Brookfield
36 N Main Street, PO Box 371, West Brookfield, MA 01585
508-867-7078 Email: FCCWBWorship@gmail.com Website:
westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org

*The First Congregational
Church of West Brookfield
United Church of Christ
March 2, 2025
10 a.m.*



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Congregational Announcements & Welcome Karen Murphy

Prelude and Lighting of the Altar Candles
(Words in **bold** are to be spoken in unison. *Please stand as you are able.)

Pastoral Greeting

Call to Worship Megan Frano
Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

People: Because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

Leader: He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,

People: To let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Prayer of Transformation And New Life Megan Frano

Eternal God, as we gather this morning in the spirit of worship and thanksgiving, we marvel at your grace. Where there is strife, you bring understanding. Where there is pain, you bring healing. Where there is oppression, you bring deliverance. Teach us to trust you through all our days. And help us to know that in our difficulties as in our joys, it is your unfailing goodness and love which upholds us. In Jesus' name, we lift up this prayer. Amen

*Hymn "When Morning Gilds the Skies" #111

Call to Offering and Offertory Music
Choir Anthem: "We Are Yours Lord"
~ (Offering plates are in the front and rear of the sanctuary for your gifts; you may place them in the plates during the music.)

*Doxology No. 34 (Old 100th)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

Blessing of Offering

Children's Message Megan Frano

Scripture Readings: Mark 5:1-20 Megan Frano

Our Response: **Word of God, Word of Life, Thanks be to God**

Special Music Stephen Page

Sermon "Forgiveness" Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter

*Hymn "Be Still, My Soul" #451

Prayers of the People
(Spoken intercessions will be invited and your written prayer requests shared.)

Pastoral Prayer

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

The Holy Communion

*Closing Hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" #106

Benediction (please be seated)

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dismas

We'll be hosting the gents from Dismas on Tuesday March 11 at the church. Please come and join us for fellowship. If you are able to bring a dish (main/side/salad/ dessert) that would be lovely.

Sharing Cupboard

The Sharing Cupboard is in need of canned peas. Please leave your donations in the box that is available in our narthex. Thank you.

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Spring Forward! Remember to set your clocks forward one hour to be on time for 10 am DST worship next Sunday!

Ash Wednesday

This week, on Ash Wednesday, all are invited to enter Lent by stopping in at George Whitefield UMC anytime from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm. This will be an unstructured service using Visio Divina (Latin for "divine seeing"). Visio Divina is a method of praying with art or visual images. Written reflections from Pastor Sandy Dam and our Bridge Pastor Dennis TeBeest will be available. Please enjoy the images from the Hubble telescope, set to music, as you contemplate God and His love for us and use the written meditations as you choose.

You are welcome to sit and pray and come forward to receive the anointing of ashes from one of the pastors whenever the Spirit moves you. The symbol will be in the shape of a cross, and you can choose to have it placed on your forehead or on your hand.

Come for a moment, or as long as you would like, to find yourself on a path of hope in God, and ready to practice the disciplines of the journey.

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