



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.

Welcome 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. Activity bags are available in the back of the sanctuary for children who are with us in worship. Sunday school is held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Leading in worship today:

Guest Minister: Rev. Dennis TeBeest

Deacon: Chris Showalter

Reader: Deanna Randall

Guest Musician: Stephen Page

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

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.

Deadline

The deadline for the next Glad Tidings is Sunday, March 23rd.

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield United Church of Christ

*March 9, 2025
10 a.m.*



The First Sunday in Lent Order of Worship

Congregational Announcements

Karen Murphy

Prelude and Candle Lighting
Pastoral Greeting

*Words in **bold** are to be spoken in unison.*

☒ *Please stand as you are able.*

Call to Worship (*from Psalm 91 (CEV)*)

Deanna Randall

Leader: Live under the protection of God Most High and stay in the shadow of God All-Powerful. Then you will say to the Lord,

**People: “You are my fortress, my place of safety;
you are my God, and I trust you.”**

Leader: The Lord Most High *is* your fortress. Run to him for safety, and no terrible disasters will strike you or your home. The Lord says,

**People: “If you love me and truly know who I am,
I will rescue you and keep you safe.**

Leader: When you are in trouble, call out to me. I will answer and be there to protect and honor you.

People: You will live a long life and see my saving power.”

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Deanna Randall

**God, sometimes we live in fear;
we let anxiety and worry rule;
we try to find something outside ourselves to blame;
we shift responsibility away from ourselves.
Wash away our defensiveness. Let us respond more fully to
your generous and demanding love. Let us be vulnerable
enough to be open for you to work in us and on us.
Instruct us in imitating Jesus. Amen.**

☒ Hymn “If You Will Trust in God to Guide You” #429

Call to Offering and Offertory Music

*(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 # 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

Youth Message

Scripture Readings Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Deanna Randall
Luke 4:1-13

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

Special Music Stephen Page

Sermon “**Leaning, Leaning**” The Rev. Dennis TeBeest

☒ Hymn “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” #496

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

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.**

☒ Hymn “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” #506

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.

Open and Affirming Exploration Committee

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, March 23rd when Stephanie Beland will be sharing a testimonial on her family and their walk with their LGBTQ family members. And plan to stay for coffee time where we will be showing a video that shares how 3 UCC churches went through the Open and Affirming process.

Church Office Reminder:

The deadline for the April issue of our church newsletter, *Glad Tidings* is Sunday, March 23rd. Remember to send your information to Bonni at fccwbworship@gmail.com. Thanks!

Asparagus Festival - May 17th

W. Brookfield's Flower, Asparagus and Heritage Festival is just around the corner! Your planning committee has planned their first meeting for Sunday, March 30th following our service. If you have thoughts about last year's chowder and or the food tent please share with a member of the committee. *And please watch the April newsletter to see how you can help your church carry out this fun and important fundraiser in May!*

Festival Committee: Linda Barron, Angela Carville, JoAnn Bakulski, Karen & Mike Murphy, Karen Andersen, Wally & Terry Hall

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