



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.

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.

First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

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Rev. Dennis TeBeest - 201-390-5548

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The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield United Church of Christ

*March 16, 2025
10 a.m.*



**The Second Sunday in Lent
Order of Worship**

Congregational Announcements

Karen Murphy

Pastoral Greeting

Prelude and Candle Lighting

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

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Call to Worship (*selections from Psalm 27*)

Nancy Zurawka

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble.

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”

Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;

wait for the Lord!

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Nancy Zurawka

Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart,

which no unworthy affection may drag downwards,

Give me an unconquered heart,

which no tribulation can wear out.

Give me an upright heart,

which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Bestow upon me, O Lord my God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness

that may finally embrace you.

St. Thomas Aquinas

✠ Hymn “The God of Abraham Praise”

#16

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

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Nancy Zurawka

Luke 13:31-35

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

Special Music

Stephen Page

Sermon

“Brooding”

The Rev. Dennis TeBeest

✠ Hymn

“Give Thanks”

#359

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 “O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising” #582

Benediction

(please be seated)

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Pictures of the Church

I am looking for pictures of the church in different seasons for the bulletins, newsletters and website. If you have any to share, please send them to fccwbworship@gmail.com. Thank you. Bonni.

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