



### **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, 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.

### **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  
36 N. Main Street  
PO Box 371  
West Brookfield, MA 01585*

*508-867-7078*

*[FCCWBWorship@gmail.com](mailto:FCCWBWorship@gmail.com)*

*[Westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org](http://Westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org)*

<p><i>Rev. Dennis TeBeest - 201-390-5548 <a href="mailto:dtebeest109@gmail.com">dtebeest109@gmail.com</a></i></p>
---

# *The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield United Church of Christ*



*May 11, 2025  
10 a.m.*


*"We come today seeking Wisdom.  
If we seek Wisdom, She will come to us.  
Come, Wisdom! ...."*

*-- Inspired by Proverbs 3:13-15, 17-18 (below); by Jann Aldridge Clanton—*

- <sup>13</sup> *Happy are those who find wisdom and those who get understanding,*  
<sup>14</sup> *for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold.*  
<sup>15</sup> *She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. ...*  
<sup>17</sup> *Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.*  
<sup>18</sup> *She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy.*

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER  
MOTHER'S DAY  
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

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

 *Please stand as you are able.*

Congregational Announcements

Pastoral Greeting

Prelude and Candle Lighting

A Call to Worship for the Easter Season Deanna Randall

Pastor: Christ is risen. **People: Christ is risen, indeed.**

Leader: God is alive. **People: New birth is given.**

Pastor: Hope is alive... **People: A new age is dawning.**

Leader: Joy is alive... **People: Redemption is here.**

Pastor: Love is alive **People: Death cannot harm us.**

Leader: We are alive... **People: New life is within us.**

Leader: The church is alive...

**All: God's spirit is within us.**

**God of life, we worship you.**

**God of creation, we praise you.**

**God of revelation, we learn from you.**

**God of resurrection, we come to celebrate you.**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life Deanna Randall

**God of new life, I was stumbling in the valley – now I'm  
standing on the mountaintop.**

**I was diseased with distress – now I'm healed with happiness.**

**I was marching to the grave – now I'm skipping with the  
living.**

**I used to cry myself to sleep – now I laugh myself awake.**

**I once sung the blues – now I dance in the streets.**

**My wardrobe was "sadness" – now my closet contains "joy."  
And you, O God - you're the one who did this. I will praise you  
forever. Amen.**

*--The Great Turnaround, inspired by Psalm 30; by Chris Altrock--*

 Hymn

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

#311

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.**

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.**

A Litany for Mothers (please see insert)

Youth Message

Special Music

Stephen Page

Reading of Scripture Acts 19:1-20 Deanna Randall

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

 Hymn

"God of Many Names"

#58

Sermon "We Have Met the Village, and They Are Us!"

Rev. Doug Williamson

 Hymn

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love #273

Benediction (please be seated)

Postlude

## A LITANY FOR MOTHERS (by Janice Hill)

Pastor: Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all! **All: Thank God for mothers!**

*Leader: Each one of us is someone's child.*

**All: Thank God for our mothers!**

Pastor: For those women who have died and whom we miss dearly.

**All: Thank God for the mothers who are no longer with us.**

*Leader: For every woman who is working day and night to raise her children, right now.* **All: Thank God for mothers of today.**

Pastor: For all women who are expecting but aren't quite mothers yet!

**All: Thank God for soon-to-be-mothers.**

*Leader: For women who took in others' children through adoption and foster care.* **All: Thank God for mothers with hearts so big.**

Pastor: For women who have lost a child to death and must carry on in their grief. **All: Thank God for mothers who are so strong, and may they receive comfort from you.**

*Leader: For those who were not emotionally, mentally, physically ready to have children and made heart wrenching decisions.* **All: May God bless these hurting women who have made hard decisions.**

Pastor: For women who choose not to have children, yet their influence is felt by many. **All: Thank God for the ability to make choices.**

*Leader: For women who have desperately wanted to have children of their own but chose instead to mother children of others.*

**All: Thank God for abounding love.**

Pastor: For women who have 'less than' mothers and struggle with this day. **All: Thank God for the ability to heal.**

*Leader: For women who were and maybe are 'less than' caregivers to their children.*

**All: Thank God for the forgiveness and hope offered to all.**

Pastor: We give thanks for all the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. **All: May we in turn be an encouragement to all.**

*Leader: We will honor them*

**All: As God honors all humankind. Amen.**

## A LITANY FOR MOTHERS (by Janice Hill)

Pastor: Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all! **All: Thank God for mothers!**

*Leader: Each one of us is someone's child.*

**All: Thank God for our mothers!**

Pastor: For those women who have died and whom we miss dearly.

**All: Thank God for the mothers who are no longer with us.**

*Leader: For every woman who is working day and night to raise her children, right now.* **All: Thank God for mothers of today.**

Pastor: For all women who are expecting but aren't quite mothers yet!

**All: Thank God for soon-to-be-mothers.**

*Leader: For women who took in others' children through adoption and foster care.* **All: Thank God for mothers with hearts so big.**

Pastor: For women who have lost a child to death and must carry on in their grief. **All: Thank God for mothers who are so strong, and may they receive comfort from you.**

*Leader: For those who were not emotionally, mentally, physically ready to have children and made heart wrenching decisions.* **All: May God bless these hurting women who have made hard decisions.**

Pastor: For women who choose not to have children, yet their influence is felt by many. **All: Thank God for the ability to make choices.**

*Leader: For women who have desperately wanted to have children of their own but chose instead to mother children of others.*

**All: Thank God for abounding love.**

Pastor: For women who have 'less than' mothers and struggle with this day. **All: Thank God for the ability to heal.**

*Leader: For women who were and maybe are 'less than' caregivers to their children.*

**All: Thank God for the forgiveness and hope offered to all.**

Pastor: We give thanks for all the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. **All: May we in turn be an encouragement to all.**

*Leader: We will honor them*

**All: As God honors all humankind. Amen.**