

# Wellesley Village Church

*Congregational † United Church of Christ*



*10:00am Worship Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany January 29, 2023*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 29, 2023

10:00am

Hymns may be found in the New Century (black) hymnal unless noted otherwise.

\*Please stand as you are able.

What a blessing it is to have you here today!  
Please use this QR code to register your presence.



†††

**PRELUDE**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”  
Kristjon Imperio, organist

*Mary Beth Bennett*

**WELCOME & PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 326 “Crashing Waters at Creation”**

*Children are invited to sit up front with Michaela during the baptism  
before proceeding to church school.*

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter  
Rev. Megan Berkowitz

## **Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism**

Olivia Poppy Metheny, daughter of Kayla and Paul Metheny  
Godparents are Megan and Justin Metheny of Greenland, NH.

Madeline Alice Hall, daughter of Sarah and Brian Hall  
Daniel Jordan Hall, son of Sarah and Brian Hall

**Invitation**

**Covenant Promises of the Parents**

**Covenant Promises of the Congregation**

Deacon: Will you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support, and care to Olivia Poppy Metheny, Madeline Alice Hall and Daniel Jordan Hall, who are about to be baptized?

**All: We will, with the help of God. With this sacrament we welcome Olivia, Madeline and Daniel into the fellowship of Christ’s church. We promise to receive them as a children of God, nurture them in Christian faith, and grow with them in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.**

## **Blessing of Water**

### **Baptism of Olivia Poppy Metheny**

Deacon: See what love God has for us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are.

**All: Loving God, we thank you for Olivia; bless her and keep her, now and forever. Give her faith and strength for life's journey, the joy of fellowship, the freedom to love, the courage to serve, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

### **Baptism of Madeline Alice Hall**

Deacon: See what love God has for us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are.

**All: Loving God, we thank you for Madeline; bless her and keep her, now and forever. Give her faith and strength for life's journey, the joy of fellowship, the freedom to love, the courage to serve, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

### **Baptism of Daniel Jordan Hall**

Deacon: See what love God has for us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are.

**All: Loving God, we thank you for Daniel; bless him and keep him, now and forever. Give him faith and strength for life's journey, the joy of fellowship, the freedom to love, the courage to serve, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

## **Introduction to the Family of Faith**

**SUNG RESPONSE NO. 547 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" v.1**

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a CHILD like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.**

*Children may proceed to Children's Church, which concludes at 11:15am.  
Parents of 1<sup>st</sup> grade and younger should go to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classrooms after worship.  
Grades 2-5 will be brought to Village Common after Children's Choir rehearsal.  
Middle School Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades) meets on the lower level.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Stacy Swain

Holy One, you have told us what is good and what the LORD requires of us. You have shown us your way of love through Jesus. And yet, we find it hard to live as you would have us live.

**Sometimes our doing is filled with our desires more than your justice.**

Sometimes we are quicker to judge than we are to extend your mercy.

**Sometimes we think more about our needs than what you are needing from us.**

Forgive us we pray.

*[please use this time for your own silent prayer of confession]*

Help us to come home to your justice and mercy and to make your steadfast love our own.

**In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

People of God be assured. We are a wholly loved and forgiven people. God asks not for our perfection but our participation in the life changing and world redeeming work of love. Renewed by God's grace, let us let the light of God's love shine in and through us.

**Thanks be to God, Amen.**

## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you, **and also with you.**

*Please stand as you are able and share a greeting of peace with one another.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 6:1-8

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-12


## SERMON

"What Does Blessing Require?"

RESPONSE HYMN

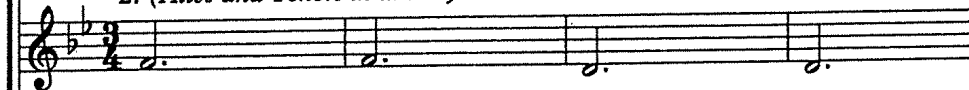
“What Does the Lord Require of You”

1. (Basses)




What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2. (Altos and Tenors in unison)\*




Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3. (Sopranos)\*\*




To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness

*Repeat as desired.*




What does the Lord re - quire of you? you?

*Repeat ending* *Last*



walk hum - bly with your God. God.

*Repeat ending* *Last*



and walk hum - bly with your God. God.

## COMMON LIFE, CALL TO OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Martha Schick

### Stewardship Testimony

#### Offertory

“Amazing Grace “

Arr. *Jay Althouse*

Sanctuary Choir; Dr. Kevin McDonald, conductor  
Kristjon Imperio, piano

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come  
This grace that brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home

When we've been here ten thousand years  
Bright, shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun  
Amazing grace how sweet the sound

#### \*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.**

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 576 “For the Healing of the Nations”

\*WELCOME TO VISITORS AND BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE**

“Toccata in Seven”

*John Rutter*

*Please be seated for the postlude.*

†††

*Following the service ALL ARE INVITED  
to join in the sharing of refreshments and conversation in Village Common.*

*VISITORS - We're so glad you are here!*

*Please introduce yourself to a pastor near the Welcome sign.*

*Today's chancel flowers are given in celebration of Danny and Maddie by the Hall Family.*

**TODAY**

- 9:00am**      **Worship, Chapel**, Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter, preaching;  
Rev. Stacy Swain
- 10:00am**      **Worship, Sanctuary and Livestream**, Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter,  
preaching; Rev. Megan Berkowitz; Martha Schick; Michaela McDonald  
**Childcare, Family Worship Room**  
**Children's Church, Sanctuary**, then pick up on Upper Level,  
Michaela McDonald  
**Middle School Youth Group, Youth Room**, Rev. Pam Emslie
- 10:50-11:20am** **Village Children's Choir**
- 11:15am**      **Coffee and Fellowship, Village Common**  
**Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary**, Kristjon Imperio
- 4:00pm**      **Family Friendly Afternoon Social, Village Common**,  
Rev. Dr. Sarah Butter, Michaela McDonald, and Lilly Stafford
- 5:00pm**      **Worship at Congregational Church of Weston**, Rev. Megan Berkowitz
- 7:00pm**      **No High School Youth Group tonight, Youth Room**, Rev. Pam Emslie

**Annual Meeting**

Our **Annual Meeting** will be on February 12  
after the 10am worship service.



All are invited to join with fellow Wellesley Village Church friends, to joyfully celebrate the blessings of Stewardship 2022, and to begin this season of giving and pledging for Stewardship 2023.

Each "Pick Your Party" offering is a wonderful opportunity to gather informally in small groups, share the blessings of each other's company, and feel the Spirit as we contemplate our OWN BEST GIFTS to Wellesley Village Church -- and answer God's call to **Choose Love and Make it Real**.

**We hope to see you at one (or more!) of these events!**

**Sunday, January 29, 4:00 p.m.**

Family-Friendly Afternoon Social at Wellesley Village Church, Hosted by Rev. Dr. Sarah Butter, Michaela McDonald, and Lilly Stafford

**Friday, February 3, 7:00 p.m.**

Wine & Cheese Gathering at the home of Cynthia & Bill Sibold, 130 Abbott Road, Wellesley

To sign up please go to [www.wellesleyvillagechurch.org](http://www.wellesleyvillagechurch.org) home page or Enews or email Cynthia Sibold at [cynthia@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:cynthia@wellesleyvillagechurch.org).

**Stewardship Dedication Sunday is February 5, 2023!**

Please return pledge cards in worship that day,  
or send by mail, or make a pledge online.

THANK YOU!



## VILLAGE TABLE IS READY!

Happy New Year! After a brief hiatus we are looking forward to getting back into the kitchen with all of you! We've heard from a few of our partner organizations who are counting the days until our meals fill their freezers once again.

Please see Enews for ways you can get involved. Great ways to contribute include cooking or packaging on specific dates, volunteering on a regular basis, joining a fundraising team to brainstorm plans, and joining the marketing/PR team.

For more information, please reach out to Shannon Kelly at [spkelly611@gmail.com](mailto:spkelly611@gmail.com).

## NEW SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

### Exploring the Bible - A new Bible study for the new year

*Tuesday mornings, starting Tuesday January 31<sup>st</sup> 8:30-9:30 in person and on zoom*

Are you new to the Bible? Do you have questions as to how it came to be and what it is all about? If so, perhaps you'd like to join in a new Bible study. Please reach out to Pastor Stacy at [stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org).

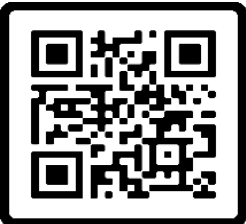
**For ongoing opportunities, please see the Enews or speak with a pastor.**

## VISITORS INFORMATION WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH!

If you are visiting, please let one of the pastors know, so that we can welcome you fully.

Please visit our website (QR on the left) and let us know you are here (QR on the right).

We would love to meet you!



## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Deacons Retreat**

*Sat., Feb. 4, 9-11:30am*

All of the **Village Church deacons** from the core ministries (Community, Service, Welcome, Worship and Learning) are invited to gather at church for a time **to learn, discern, share and have some fun**. Each and every one of you is important and it is important that your heart, voice, and perspectives are a part of the morning. So please plan on coming. RSVP to Pastor Stacy: [stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org), so that can plan for you being with us.

### **Sunday, February 5th is Birthday Sunday!**

In the welcome given at the start of worship, we hear words that celebrate the presence of all who gather. We hear words that affirm how each of us matters. We matter to the church, and we matter to God. *That is worth celebrating*. We will celebrate with song and cake immediately following 10am worship at the start of fellowship hour. If you (or your children) were born in the month of February and would like your name(s) lifted up in song, please email Associate Pastor, Stacy at: [stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

### **Village Church Parents Group (VCPG)**

*Sundays Feb. 5, March 26, and May 7, 7:00-8:30pm, church parlor*

We are a group of Village Church parents walking in faith together. We gather for conversation and support, especially when our kids -- or we!--struggle. Please feel welcome to join us to connect with other parents and to share our stresses, joys, tips, and resources. All parents are welcome! Email Caroline Johnson Hodge at [ceh47@gmail.com](mailto:ceh47@gmail.com).

### **Ministry Matters: An Evening of Conversation**

*Feb. 9, 6:30-8:30pm @ Wellesley Hills Congregational Church*

The Southern New England Conference is a great resource from which Village Church may draw support as we seek to live into our mission to make God's love real in the world. All are invited to hear The Rev. Darrell Goodwin, Executive Conference Minister, The Rev. Eric Elley, Digital Minister, and Ms. Karen Ziel, Assistant Director of The Center for Transformational Leadership, who will talk about new and exciting ministries offered by the SNEUCC and engage in Q&A.

## LAY LEADERSHIP

**John Snyder** ~ Moderator

**Kathy Schleyer** ~ Vice Moderator

**Cynthia Sibold** ~ Immediate Past Moderator

## PASTORS

**The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter,**

**Sr. Pastor** [sarah@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:sarah@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

**The Rev. Pam Emslie, Assoc. Pastor, Youth**

**Minister** [pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

**The Rev. Stacy Swain, Assoc. Pastor,  
Congregational Care and Engagement**

[stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

## PASTORAL RESIDENTS

**The Rev. Megan Berkowitz,** 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

[megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

**Martha Schick,** 1<sup>st</sup> Year

[martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

## MINISTRY DIRECTORS

**Michaela McDonald** – Children’s Ministry

[michaela@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:michaela@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

**Dr. Kevin McDonald** –

Director of Music & Youth Music

[kevin@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:kevin@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

**Kristjon Imperio** – Organist & Assist Music

Director

[kristjon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:kristjon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

**Ilana Cady** – Chapel Worship Lead Musician

[ilana@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:ilana@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

**Meg Sweeting** – Church Administrator

[meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

**Christine Toppin** – Communications

[christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

**Sharon Funk** – Admin. Assist.

[sharon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:sharon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

**Marina Berga** – Financial Secretary

[marina@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:marina@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

## WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

At Wellesley Village Church, we believe in a vision for God’s Beloved Community where all people are welcomed and enthusiastically affirmed, as well as honored and celebrated as made in God’s holy image. This intentional inclusivity welcomes people of all races, sexual orientations, gender identities/expressions, abilities, family dynamics and configurations, and so much more. We recognize that our world and our church community do not always live into this vision, and yet as a church, we are continually working to widen our welcome and witness. If you have suggestions for how we can better welcome you and those you love, please reach out to Rev. Megan Berkowitz at:

[megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org).

## WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH

For information, please visit our website at: [wellesleyvillagechurch.org](http://wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

For smartphone access →

Or speak to any one of us!

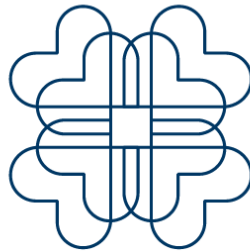
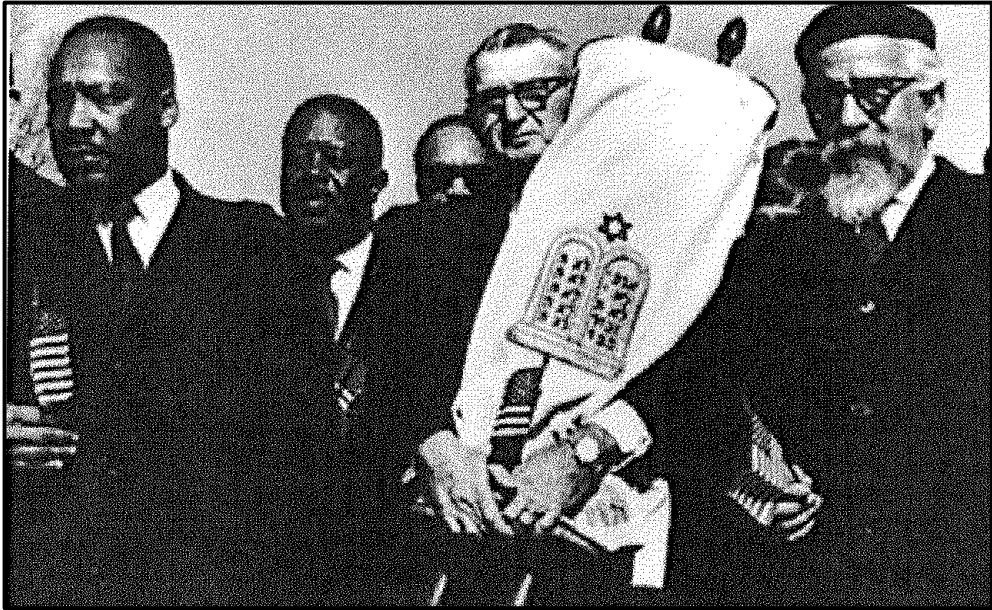
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*Choose Love. Make it Real.*