

# Wellesley Village Church

*Congregational † United Church of Christ*



**10:00 AM Worship**  
*Second Sunday of Eastertide*  
*April 16, 2023*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

**April 16, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

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  
with our new church check-in page.



. . .

## PRELUDE

“The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done”  
Kristjon Imperio, Organ

*Alan Bullard*

## WELCOME & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Martha Schick

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 241 “Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day”

*Children are invited to gather on the chancel steps during the last verse  
for their time as young disciples.*

## TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Please read bolded parts.)*

Rev. Stacy Swain

Holy One, you assured us that you would not leave us alone. You assured us  
that your presence would be with us always.

**We want to be your Easter people but can find it hard to trust that your  
redeeming presence could be for us as well. We tend to guard ourselves  
against hurt, disappointment, and despair.**

In doing so, we can end up shutting ourselves off from you.

**Forgive us. Help us to keep the doors of our hearts open so that you may find  
your way to the very center of who we are.**

*Please offer your silent confession in this time.*

In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray, **Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Be assured, we are a wholly loved and forgiven people, renewed by God's grace for there is nothing that can separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**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.*

## ANTHEM

"Holy, Holy, Holy" from *German Mass* Franz Schubert  
CCW Singers

## GOSPEL READING

John 20:18-29

Rev. Martha Schick

## SERMON

"Devoted, Courageous Thomas"

RESPONSE HYMN NO. 256 "We Live by Faith and Not by Sight"

## 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.**

## CALL TO OFFERING & COMMON LIFE

### Offertory

"Give Me Jesus"  
CCW Singers

*Jester Hairston*

**\*Doxology**

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

To give:



**BLESSING OF THE ATHLETES**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*“Blessed Assurance”*

Blessed assurance, here I belong!  
Siblings with Jesus all the day long.  
Love that he shared now also is ours.  
A Love that saves and also empowers.

(Refrain) This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Peace is the vision God has for all,  
Heavenly garden, enough for us all.  
Here we now till the ground where we stand,  
Joining with God in healing the land.

*(Refrain)*

We have a mission, work in God's name,  
To do our part to ease the world's pain:  
Choosing God's love and making it real;  
Sharing Christ's peace and helping all heal.

*(Refrain)*

**\*WELCOME TO VISITORS AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*“Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”*  
*Please be seated for the postlude.*

*Mary Beth Bennett*

†††

*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**

- 9:00am**      **Worship, Chapel**, Rev. Martha Schick, preaching; Rev. Stacy Swain  
**10:00am**      **Worship, Sanctuary and Livestream**, Rev. Martha Schick, preaching;  
Rev. Stacy Swain  
**11:15am**      **Coffee and Fellowship, Village Common**  
**11:30am**      **Handbell Rehearsal, Village Hall**, Kristjon Imperio  
**11:15am**      **Refugee Resettlement "Lunch and Learn," Chapel**  
**5:00pm**      **No Worship at Congregational Church of Weston today**

### **Making God's Love Real Together - CCW and WVC "Lunch and Learn"**

*Today, 11:15, Chapel*

Anyone interested in getting involved in a new refugee resettlement project supported by the International Institute of New England (IINE) is invited to listen, ask questions, and wonder together where God may be calling us to serve and to support a refugee family. There is no assumption of long-term commitment at this point. Please join us for a lunch and learn event, hosted by leaders from CCW, along with Stacy and Martha.

### **Marathon Monday**

*Monday, April 17*

The church restrooms will be open and available for public use between 10am-3pm.

The church office will be closed in observance of Patriots Day.

### **~Spring Seekers Orientation~**

*April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:15, Parlor and on Zoom*

Are you interested in exploring what Wellesley Village Church has to offer or curious about becoming a member? We invite you to attend the Spring Seekers Orientation session to learn more about our faith community.

We will then welcome new members on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Come learn about how Village Church works, how we fit into the United Church of Christ, and how we are "church" together! Childcare will be available. Please send questions and RSVP to Rev. Martha Schick at [martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org).

## OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, SERVE & ACT

### **Standing for Climate Justice!**

*Sunday, April 23, 11:15, Village Common*

Join in as we write postcards to send to our elected public officials as a call for climate justice. Postcards, addresses and sample writings will be available during fellowship hour.

### **Bible Study: Exploring the New Testament,**

*Beginning Tuesday, April 25th, 8:30-9:30 am, Parlor (in person and online)*

Do you have questions about the Bible? Do you wonder who wrote it and why? Would you like to learn more about the stories of our faith? If so, join us as we embark on an exploration of the New Testament using the Exploring the Bible Series written by Rev. Ann Robertson. This accessible, introductory study welcomes all. No previous study or biblical literacy is needed. Come explore with us! If you are interested, please reach out to [stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

### **Village Church/Charles Street AME Feeding Frenzy – Sign up Now!!**

*Sunday, April 30, 2-5 pm, Village Common*

We will pack thousands of nutritious meals headed to local food pantries and to Ukraine, and we need your help to make it happen! This is a wonderful service opportunity for everyone, including families. Please see the e-news to sign up for one (or two! or three!) one-hour work slots, or just come! Reach out to Lisa Weinstock, [leweinstock@gmail.com](mailto:leweinstock@gmail.com) or Deryle House, [derylehouse@gmail.com](mailto:derylehouse@gmail.com) with questions.

### **“Stories From The Southern Border”**

*Exhibit on display, now until April 23, Village Common*

*Forum on immigration crisis, April 23, after worship, Chapel*

Rolf Larson, chair of the Metrowest Asylee Family Coalition (winner of the 2022 Abernethy Award), created Stories from the Southern Border, a photography exhibit of portraits and stories of people he met during a 2019 visit by members of Christ Lutheran Church in Natick to the U.S./Mexico border. The Coalition, including Village Church and other area churches, now accompanies a family of four on their asylum-seeking journey. We hope you will visit the exhibit and join us for the forum led by Rolf. For more information contact Judy Mongiardo, [judymongiardo@gmail.com](mailto:judymongiardo@gmail.com) or Lisa Weinstock, [leweinstock@gmail.com](mailto:leweinstock@gmail.com).

## **The Stewardship of Last Things:**

**Join fellow sojourners in life to plan and prepare for life's ending.**

*Tuesdays at 10:30am, May 2, 16, and 23<sup>th</sup>*

Communicating end-of-life decisions is a gift we give ourselves and others, and an act of gratitude and thanksgiving to the God who has created us and given us this life to live. Using the Stewardship of Last Things booklet as a resource, we will learn about how to plan for our or a loved one's funeral/memorial service, review documents that are helpful to have in order, learn about the grieving process, and talk about other practical considerations - all of this with love and support, knowing that talking through and planning for death is not something most of us are comfortable with or have much experience doing. We will be reading together "When Breath Become Air" by Paul Kalanithi. To secure a copy of the book, reach out to [stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org).

## **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

Deep thanks from the Village Church Stewardship Committee to the 231 people who have pledged or donated to this year's Campaign! These commitments provide important momentum toward this year's goal of \$1.4 million.

If you have not yet made your pledge or gift, please return your pledge card to the office, or email Meg Sweeting at [meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org). You may also give online at [wellesleyvillagechurch.org/give](https://wellesleyvillagechurch.org/give). If circumstances allow increasing the size of your commitment, this will accelerate our progress. Pledging now allows the Finance Committee to better manage expenditures. In addition, members of the Stewardship Committee are beginning to follow up, so knowing your intentions will make their job much easier.

## LAY LEADERSHIP

**Kathy Schleyer** ~ Moderator  
**Joe Morray** ~ Vice Moderator  
**John Snyder** ~ Immediate Past Moderator

## PASTORS

**The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter**,  
**Sr. Pastor** *is on sabbatical, returning 5/14/23*  
[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)  
**The Rev. 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 &  
Assistant Director of Music  
[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)  
**Cynthia Sibold** - Engagement & Advancement  
[cynthia@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:cynthia@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** – Church Accountant  
[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).

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## WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH

Congregational • United Church of Christ

*Choose Love. Make it Real.*

For information, please visit our website at:

[wellesleyvillagechurch.org](http://wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

For smartphone access →  
Or speak to any one of us!

2 Central Street,  
Wellesley, MA 02482

Church Office & Directory: 781-235-1988

Urgent Pastoral Care Cell: 781-591-7451

