

Wellesley Village Church

Congregational † United Church of Christ



10:00 AM Worship
Fourth Sunday of Eastertide
April 30, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 30, 2023

10:00 AM

Hymns today may be found in the New Century (black) hymnal.

*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.



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PRELUDE

“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing”
Kristjon Imperio, Organ

Brian Solomon

WELCOME & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Stacy Swain

***OPENING HYMN NO. 527**

“We Offer Christ”

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

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Michaela McDonald

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

Rev. Martha Schick

Holy One, you have shown us the Way we are to live. You have shown us what
living love looks like.

**You walked among us, feeding, healing, teaching, sharing the good news of
God’s steadfast love with everyone.**

You have told us you came so that we may have life and have it abundantly.

And yet, we confess, sometimes we fall short in making your Way our own.

Sometimes we would rather detour or take a short cut from the path you have laid
out for us.

**Sometimes we would rather go our own way than walk ever more fully in yours.
Forgive us, we pray.**

Please use this time for your own silent prayer of confession.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

People of God, be assured. God does not expect us to be perfect. God knows we will fall down and fall away. And when we do, we can trust that God will never give up on us. God will call our name, open the gate, and welcome us home again, and again and again. So, as a wholly loved and wholly forgiven people, let us give ourselves to our creating, redeeming and sustaining God so that Love may ever more fully be at work in and through us all.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

INVITATION TO NEW MEMBERS

HYMN NO. 393 “Blessed Be the Tie that Binds” vv. 1 and 2

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

QUESTIONS TO NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME BY THE CONGREGATION

We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together as the people of God who worship, learn, serve and share.

PRAYER

***THE SHARING OF THE CHURCH COVENANT** (*see page 6*)

***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

“Sheep May Safely Graze”
Sanctuary Choir; Kevin McDonald, Conducting
Kristjon Imperio, Organ

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Sheep may safely graze and pasture
In a watchful Shepherd's sight.
Those who rule with wisdom guiding
Bring to hearts a peace abiding
Bless a land with joy made bright.*

GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-10

Rev. Stacy Swain

SERMON

“From Noun to Verb”

RESPONSE HYMN NO. 539 *“Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?”*

CALL TO OFFERING AND COMMON LIFE

Offertory

“The Strife is O'er”
Sanctuary Choir

Henry Ley

*The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung.
Hallelujah!*

*Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
And Jesus hath his foes dispersed;
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst.
Hallelujah!*

*On the third morn he rose again
Glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain.
Hallelujah!*

*Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee
From death's dread sting thy servants free,
That we may live, and sing to thee.
Hallelujah!*

***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:



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. 495 "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

***WELCOME TO VISITORS AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"Fugue in C Major, BuxWV 174"

Dietrich Buxtehude

Please be seated for the postlude.

†††

*Following the service ALL ARE INVITED
to get a cup of coffee in Village Common
and return to the sanctuary for the Sustainability Forum.*

*VISITORS - We're so glad you are here!
Please introduce yourself to a pastor near the Welcome sign.*

Wellesley Village Church Covenant

Adopted 1962

We are banded together as a Christian Church

to maintain the worship of God,

to proclaim the gospel of Christ,

to develop in all people a consciousness of their relations

and duties to God and to each other,

and to inspire them with love for truth, passion for righteousness, and enthusiasm for service.

To this end we pledge our loyalty to Christ

and covenant with each other

to express God's spirit in our individual and corporate life;

to live together as Christians,

and to submit ourselves to the government of this Church, working, giving, praying for its increase, its purity, its peace,

and seeking in every way to make it a power for

the building up of the kingdom of God.

~We welcome these new members into our covenant today~

Shawree An

Heather Conway and Patrick Conway

Susan Griesmer

Marc Kenton and Lorry Kenton

Christy Leeds

TODAY

- 9:00am** **Worship**, *Chapel*, Rev. Martha Schick, preaching; Rev. Stacy Swain
- 10:00am** **Worship**, *Sanctuary and Livestream*, Rev. Stacy Swain, preaching;
Rev. Martha Schick; Michaela McDonald
Childcare, *Family Worship Room*
Children's Church, *Sanctuary, pick up Upper Level*, Michaela McDonald
Middle School Youth Group, *Youth Room*, Rev. Pam Emslie
- 10:50-11:20am** **Village Children's Choir**
- 11:15am** **Sustainability Forum**, *Sanctuary*
Coffee and Fellowship, *Village Common*
- 2:00pm** **WVC-CSAME Feeding Frenzy**, *Village Common and Chapel*
- 3:00pm** **Chapel in the Pines**, *McKinnon Park, Wellesley*
- 5:00pm** **Worship at Congregational Church of Weston**
- 7:00pm** **High School Youth Group**, *Youth Room*, Rev. Pam Emslie

Sustainability Geothermal HVAC System Forums

Today, 11:15am, Sanctuary; and May 7, 11:15am, Chapel

The Energy Committee and Board of Properties are recommending that the current HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning) system, which is outdated and has reached the end of its useful life, be replaced by an energy efficient, carbon neutral geothermal system. As part of this sustainability effort and our mission to care for God's creation and the shared health of the world, the purchase of the leased roof solar arrays and completing the sealing of the building envelope by replacing the single-pane sanctuary windows with energy efficient dual insulated glass windows, will also be part of this major seven figure project.

After-Church forums are scheduled for **today** and Sunday, May 7 to discuss the need for an HVAC replacement, the significant advantages now and in the future of a geothermal system, how it works, and the associated costs.

Geothermal uses the constant ground temperature, 55°F, to minimize the energy required to provide heating and cooling and eliminates the need for burning fossil fuels. The economics of the geothermal system which has been designed for our Church have been dramatically and positively impacted by the Inflation Reduction Act. This Act makes it possible for non-profit organizations like our church to receive direct payments of up to 40% of the project costs.

Come and learn how we can live into our mission of being passionate about God's creation while saving annual operating expenses.

**Village Church/Charles Street AME Feeding Frenzy -
Everyone, please come! You are welcome even if you have not signed up!**

Today, 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. Reach out to Lisa Weinstock, leweinstock@gmail.com or Deryle House, derylehouse@gmail.com with questions.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, SERVE & ACT

Village Churchwomen Luncheon and Program

Tues., May 9, noon, Village Common

RSVP by tomorrow, May 1

Please join us for a luncheon at noon, to be followed by our program, "Spring into a Good Book" with book expert, Lorna Ruby, senior book buyer for the Wellesley Book Store. Lorna will present us with an entertaining and insightful overview of the new books to read this spring and summer. Please RSVP normajeanamar@gmail.com by Monday, May 1, if you plan to attend.

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

The Stewardship of Last Things:

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

Tuesdays at 10:30am, May 2, 9, and 16, Parlor and on Zoom

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. We will learn about the grieving process and talk about other practical considerations. Optional reading is "When Breath Become Air" by Paul Kalanithi. Please RSVP to stacy@welleleyvillagechurch.org.

Village Church Parents Group (VCPG)

Sunday, May 7, 7:00-8:30pm, 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! Contact Pam Stazesky (pbstnt@gmail.com) or Caroline Johnson Hodge (cejh47@gmail.com) for more information.

Village Church Moms Group, Wednesday

Wednesday, May 17 at 7:00 pm

MOMS, please come join us!!! We are a "come when you can" kind of group, welcoming moms of all ages for monthly gatherings; usually in someone's home for wine, dessert and conversation. It is a great way to meet other moms at our church. This gathering will take place at the home of Jen Beachell, 190 Oakland St.

Contact: nancyjsmith@comcast.net.

Empty Nesters + Walking Group

We are a group of singles and couples (not just empty nesters), who gather weekly, weather permitting, for a walk in various locations, currently at the beautiful Elm Bank Reservation in Wellesley. Won't you join us? Email Christina.oliver20@gmail.com to receive a weekly email for location details and confirmation or weather cancellation.

Village Church Dads Group

Monthly on the third Tuesday, 7pm, The Local in Wellesley

Please email getinvolved@wellesleyvillagechurch.org to sign up.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Calling all knitters and crocheters! You are invited to join in a special ministry to create prayer shawls and baptismal blankets. This is a rewarding way to use your creative hands, as well as help the church be ready when needs that arise. All materials and patterns will be provided and help given as needed. Please contact Bobbie Hayes (781-400-1333) for more information.

Village Churchmen

Monthly on the third Thursday, 12:30pm-2:30pm via Zoom

Please email getinvolved@wellesleyvillagechurch.org for the link.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The Village Church Stewardship Committee is grateful to everyone who has pledged or donated to this year's Campaign! If you have not had a chance to do so, please return your pledge card to the office, or email Meg Sweeting at meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org. You may also give online at 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.

BOOK DRIVE FOR TANYARADWZA HOME IN ZIMBABWE

Thank you all for your generous donations. We have collected 17 bins of books!! We are excited to bless the 80 children of the Tanyardwza Home. We know these books will be well-read and well-loved.

The books will travel by boat from Boston to South Africa, then by land to Chipo's home in Zimbabwe. From there, Chipo, Trevor, and Lexi will deliver the books into the hands of the children. Thank you for your contributions to this blessing of books for children.



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
The Rev. Pam Emslie, Assoc. Pastor, Youth Minister
pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
The Rev. Stacy Swain, Assoc. Pastor, Congregational Care and Engagement
stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

PASTORAL RESIDENTS

The Rev. Megan Berkowitz, 2nd Year
megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
The Rev. Martha Schick, 1st Year
martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Michaela McDonald – Children’s Ministry
michaela@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
Dr. Kevin McDonald –
Director of Music & Youth Music
kevin@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
Kristjon Imperio – Organist &
Assistant Director of Music
kristjon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
Ilana Cady – Chapel Worship Lead Musician
ilana@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
Meg Sweeting – Church Administrator
meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
Cynthia Sibold - Engagement & Advancement
cynthia@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
Christine Toppin – Communications
christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
Sharon Funk – Admin. Assist.
sharon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
Marina Berga – Church Accountant
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.

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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

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

