

Wellesley Village Church

Congregational † United Church of Christ



10:00 AM Worship
Eighth Sunday of Eastertide
May 28, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 28, 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.



. . .

PRELUDE

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” *Rebecca Groom te Velde*
Kristjon Imperio, Organ

WELCOME & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Sarah Sarchet Butter

*OPENING HYMN NO. 66 “O Day of Radiant Gladness”

*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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Martha Schick

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism

John Alan Grant Forsayeth, son of Jack Forsayeth and Julie Grant
Grandchild of Alan and Cynthia Grant

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 John Alan Grant Forsayeth, who is about to be
baptized?

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

Blessing of Water

Baptism of John Alan Grant Forsayeth

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 John; 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

RESPONSE HYMN NO. 325 "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" vv. 1-4

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

Rev. Megan Berkowitz

Holy God, we know that you call us to give of ourselves willingly and joyfully, to be a blessing to one another and all your people.

Yet we confess we have not loved one another as we should; we have not sown the seeds of gospel hope throughout our lives.

We seek to create distance between ourselves and others, and we fail to recognize that in you, all your people are one.

Forgive us and restore us, O God, so we may hear you calling, share our faith, and follow in the way of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

People of God, Jesus has promised to be with us always, to the end of the age. He didn't promise to be with us only if we were perfect, or successful, or right all the time. He promised to be with us, full stop. In all that we do and all that we are, we are known, loved, and forgiven.

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

“Beside a Stream of Living Water” Thomas Keesecker and Nancy Kraft

Sanctuary Choir

Dr. Kevin McDonald, Conducting

Kristjon Imperio, Organ

*Beside a stream of living water
stands a tree of God's blest people,
It's roots run deep, from those before us.
By grace, it grows by grace, the love of God abounding.*

*So many rings, a living history
some are thin from years of struggle,
Some circle wide from times of plenty.
By grace, it grows by grace, the love of God abounding.*

*The branches soar beyond the steeple,
Leaves as varied as its people;
So many gifts and yet one body.
By grace, it grows by grace, the love of God abounding.*

*O tree of life, o tree of glory,
May our witness tell God's story
For all who follow in the future.
By grace, it grows by grace, the love of God abounding.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mark 1:9-11
Galatians 3:26-28

Rev. Sarah Sarchet Butter

SERMON

“Promises, Promises!”

RESPONSE HYMN NO. 73 "Like a Healing Stream"

♩=88

Bsus B Bmaj¹¹ B Bsus B Bsus B E A E

1. Like a heal- ing stream_ in a bar- ren
2. Like a gen- tle rain_ on a thirs- ty
3. Like a ri- ver strong_ with a rest- less
4. Like a migh- ty sea_ reach- ing far hor-

E/G# A A/C#

des- ert,___ Spir- it wat- er bring- ing life_ to dus- ty
 gar- den,___ Spir- it wat- er come to nour- ish ti- ny
 cur- rent,___ Spir- it wat- er rush- ing on_ to dis- tant
 - i - zons,___ Spir- it wat- er with a love_ both deep and

E A A/C# E E/D# C#sus C#m/B

earth, God is trick- ling through our lives as in a dream un- fold- ing,
 seed, God is bub- bling through the soil_ to coax a new cre - a - tion,
 shore, God is carv- ing out a chan- nel in a new di - rec- tion,
 wide, God is work- ing in our hearts to shape a new to - mor - row:

F#m7 E/G# A/C# A F#m7 F#/B Bmaj¹¹ 1.2.3.

pro- mis- ing re - viv - al and re - birth_ like a heal- ing stream.
 yearn- ing for an end_ to want and need_ like a gen- tle rain._
 call - ing for an end to hate and war_ like a riv - er strong.
 God will al- ways chal- lenge and pro - vide!_ Like a migh- ty

4. E A/E E A/E E Aadd⁹/E A/E E

sea, _ like a ri- ver strong, _ like a gen- tle rain, _ like a heal- ing stream.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Stacy Swain

**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

Offertory

“O How Amiable”

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Sanctuary Choir;

Dr. Kevin McDonald, Conducting

Krisjton Imperio, Organ

*O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house.
They will be always praising thee.
The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.
O prosper thou our handiwork.
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

***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:



COMMON LIFE

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 82 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”**

***WELCOME TO VISITORS AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Charles Callahan

Please be seated for the postlude.

†††

*Following the service ALL ARE INVITED
for refreshments and conversation.*

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

TODAY

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

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Congregational Meeting

11:15am, Sanctuary

The Pastoral Residency Committee is pleased to announce Megan Strouse as the candidate for pastoral resident commencing this summer. We are holding a Congregational Meeting on June 11th to make this call, more details will be forthcoming.

Pentecost and Pizza

11:30 am, Village Common

You are invited to a Pentecost and Pizza Celebration following 10am Worship and a brief congregational meeting. Let's celebrate the Pentecost season and the terrific progress of this year's Stewardship Campaign. Please mark your calendar and remember to wear something red!

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, SERVE & ACT

For His Children (FHC) Ecuador ~

Service Partnership Presentation & Communion Sunday Offering

Sunday, June 4th in the Chapel following 10am Worship

On Sunday, June 4, Jennifer Schneider Thomas, Executive Director of our service partner, For His Children (FHC) - Ecuador, will speak during both services and we will hold a reception in the Chapel at 11:15. Jen will be accompanied by a young adult, Darwin Snyder, who was adopted from FHC as a child. Come and get an update on the extraordinary work that FHC does, and hear about plans for our next church service trip (February 17-25, 2024).

FHC operates 2 homes in Ecuador for about 50 children who have been abandoned, abused, or neglected. Village Church volunteers of all ages (12 and up) have visited FHC over the past 20 years to serve and nurture infants, children, young adults, and their caretaker "Tias". Volunteers help with daily care, read, play, initiate activities and assist with projects. Sign-ups have begun for the 2024 trip, and will close by June 30.

During worship, our offering will support FHC's ministries. We encourage you to bring a check or make a cash offering during the service. We will also include a special QR code for your donations.

Boston Pride Parade Pilgrimage

Month of June and Saturday, June 10, 9:45

June is Pride Month, and we are celebrating with a field trip to the Boston Pride for the People Parade on Saturday, June 10! We will leave WVC to take the commuter rail into Back Bay at 9:45 a.m. Wear your rainbows, bring water, wear sunscreen, and get ready to party! Please RSVP to martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org if you're interested in attending.

Bible Study: Exploring the New Testament

Tuesdays, 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

Dads Group

June 20, 7pm, offsite

All Dads welcome! Please refer to Enews for more information.

Village Churchmen

June 15, 12:30pm-2:30pm via Zoom

Please email getinvolved@wellesleyvillagechurch.org for the link.

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.

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 to help the church be ready when needs arise. All materials and patterns will be provided, and help will be given as needed.

Please contact Bobbie Hayes (781-400-1333) for more information.

~ VISITORS ~
WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH!

If you are visiting, we invite you to let one of the pastors know.

We would love to meet you!

FAMILY LIFE AT VILLAGE CHURCH

Wellesley Village Church is a place children and youth can call home. Our intergenerational community at Village Church is an extended family where children and youth find mentors and adults who truly care about them. We gather to experience the love and joy of God both personally and in relationship with each other. In this vibrant community of seekers and learners, we draw near to the stories of our faith and the stories of our lives as we journey together on the Christian path. Our faith changes and transforms our hearts and calls us to action in our community and in our world. We welcome you to be a part of our family at Village Church.

LAY LEADERSHIP

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

PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter,
Sr. Pastor 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.



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



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