

VILLAGE CHURCH

Congregational + United Church of Christ



Epiphany 2025

10:00 AM Worship † February 16, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 16, 2025

10:00 AM

What a blessing it is to have you here today!

Today's hymns may be found in the New Century (black) hymnal, except where noted.

**Please stand as you are able.*

For families who wish to be together in a child-centered space,

*Today's service is livestreamed into the Family Worship Room,
located just outside the Sanctuary through the exit on the piano side.*

PRELUDE

Chant de Paix, "Song of Peace"
Kristjon Imperio, Organ

Jean Langlais

***DOXOLOGY**

Abernethy version

**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.**

WELCOME & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Sarah S. Butter

***OPENING HYMN NO. 527 "We Offer Christ"**

Children are invited to gather on the floor in front of the chancel steps during the last verse.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Michaela McDonald

*All Children may proceed to Children's Church on the 2nd floor.
PreK – Grade 5 children may be picked up on the 2nd floor after worship.
Middle School Youth proceed to the Lower Level.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Please read aloud bolded text)*

Megan Strouse

Holy One, we confess we often hesitate to admit our need — for one another, and for You.

And Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Overwhelmed by suffering, we often turn away. We grasp for power and control instead of resting in You.

And Jesus said, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

We hold onto grudges rather than extending grace. We lament the division in our world, even as we contribute to it.

And Jesus said, “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Let us draw closer to God in silent prayer.

God of all mercy, forgive us. Renew us, guide us, and shape us into the people You call us to be. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our friend, our Savior, and our guiding light. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

*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

"Blest Are the Pure in Heart"

H. Walford Davies

Sanctuary Choir

Dr. Kevin McDonald, Conductor; Kristjon Imperio, Organ

*Blest are the pure in heart
For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs;
Their soul is Christ's abode*

*Still to the lowly soul
He doth Himself impart;
And for His cradle and His throne
Chooseth the pure in heart*

HEBREW BIBLE READING

John 8: 7-12

EPISTLE READING

Matthew 5:1-14

SERMON

"Shine!"

Rev. Carlos Aoun

RESPONSE HYMN NO. 170

"Your Ways Are Not Our Own"

COMMON LIFE, OFFERING & PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Rev. Sarah S. Butter

*God invites us to give
in proportion to what we have received.
Your gift may be mailed or placed in the sanctuary offering plates
or you may donate using this QR code.
Thank you.*

To give:



Offertory Anthem

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

John Rutter

Sanctuary Choir

Dr. Kevin McDonald, Conductor; Kristjon Imperio, Organ

*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace
Amen*

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 181 "You Are Salt for the Earth, O People" vv. 1-3

WELCOME TO VISITORS & BENEDICTION

Please join us in Village Common to enjoy coffee and conversation after worship.

POSTLUDE

"Rise, Shine, You People!"

David Cherwien

Go in peace!

†††

TODAY

8:30am-12pm Coffee & Tea Hospitality, *Village Common*

9:00am Chapel Worship, *Chapel and Livestream*

Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter; Rev. Carlos Aoun, preaching;

Rev. Stacy Swain; Megan Strouse

10:00am Sanctuary Worship, *Sanctuary and Livestream*

Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter; Rev. Carlos Aoun, preaching;

Rev. Stacy Swain; Megan Strouse

Childcare, *Family Worship Room*

Children's Church, *Sanctuary, pick up Upper Level*, Michaela McDonald

Middle School Youth Group

10:30am Young Adult Group, *Parlor*

10:50-11:20am Village Children's Choir, *Upper Level*

11:15am Coffee and Fellowship, **Birthday Sunday**, *Village Common*

11:15am Congregational Budget Hearing and Bylaw Change, *Chapel*

5:00pm Village Church Worship in Weston, *Megan Strouse*

7:00pm NO High School Youth Group (*Public School Vacation Week*)

*Visitors –
We're glad you are here!
Please come for refreshments in Village Common,
Questions? Ask anyone – we love to talk about our church!*

Spring Seekers Sessions

Want to learn more about Village Church? Considering membership?
You're invited to one of our Spring Seekers Sessions!

- **Sunday, March 2nd at 11:30 a.m., Chapel**
- **Sunday, March 9th at 11:30 a.m., Chapel**

This is an introductory conversation about membership, our life together as a spiritual community, and how we live out our faith. You will have an opportunity to ask questions, seek understanding, and get to know more about one another and Village Church. Childcare is available and RSVPs are not necessary. Those who are inspired to join will be welcomed into membership on Sunday, March 30th during 10 a.m. worship.

NOTICE OF VILLAGE CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

NEW DATE: March 16, 2025 (approx. 11:15 AM - following 10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship)

This meeting was originally scheduled for February 9, 2025

Light lunch and childcare provided.

Led by Joe Morray, Candace Sutcliffe and Kathy Schleyer, Moderators
Julien Grant & Emily Lordi, Board of Finance co-chairs, and Jim Mongiardo, clerk.

All members are encouraged to attend in person or via Zoom.
(See website or e-news for link.)

LENTEN SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

For more details and sign up links please see our website or weekly Enews
Spiritual Memoir Workshop - Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7:00pm – 8:30pm and two more evenings TBD. The Rev. Dr. Lucy Forster-Smith. Have you wanted to plunge into the writer's life? Is there a spiritual or religious theme that awakens into life when you start to write? What questions puzzle you as you survey life's meaning and purpose? Does your relationship with God finds its voice in poetry, prose, inklings or fragments? If 'yes,' please join fellow pilgrims on the writing way for a five-week writing journey.

Book Study – “How We Learn to be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith”
By Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, from 10-11am

At Village Church in Wellesley in the Library with Christina Oliver and Rev. Stacy Swain

How do we know what is being asked of us? In this part memoir and part theological reflection, the Rev. Dr. Mariann Budde walks us through her personal journey of learning to be brave and how that might help all of us in our spiritual journey to show up fully in the times in which we find ourselves. Each week we'll read through and reflect on how the chapters of her accessible book might inform and inspire our own and collective faith journey and call to action.

Breath of Spirit: a Gentle Breath and Movement Class for Women
Sunday, March 9, 7:30-8:30 PM, Upper Room at Village Church in Wellesley Led by Caroline Johnson Hodge (200 hour certified yoga instructor) Join us for a prayerful breath and movement class to mark the season of Lent. Adapted from the principles of yoga, this class aims to help us slow down, connect with each other, and become grounded in God's spirit. No experience needed.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT AND SERVE

*For more details and sign-up links please see our website or weekly Enews
Email: christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org. to receive our weekly Enews.*

Deacon Ministries Retreat *Saturday, March 1, 9-11am, Village Church in Weston* All Community, Service, Welcome, Worship and Family Life Ministry Deacons are invited to a time of celebration, inspiration and planning. Contact: stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Village Church LGBTQIA+ Fabulous Fellowship Supper Group, *Saturday, March 1, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, at the home of Susannah Hann.* You're invited to attend our LGBTQIA+ Fabulous Fellowship Supper Group potluck dinner. This is an intentional space for LGBTQIA+ folks from Village Church to gather, share a meal, and build community. Contact: megsteere@hotmail.com.

Village Church Parents Group (VCPG) *March 2, 7:00-8:30pm, Village Church* parents meeting monthly, walking in faith together. **All parents are welcome!** Contact Pam Stazesky (pbstnt@gmail.com) or Caroline Johnson Hodge (cejh47@gmail.com) for more information.

Dads Group, *Third Wednesdays each month, various locations TBA*
All Dads welcome. Please email getinvolved@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

Village Churchwomen Spring Luncheon and Program, *Tuesday, March 11th at 12 PM*
Please join us for our Spring Luncheon to be followed by a program with our Pastoral Resident, Carlos Aoun. Carlos will share with us the story of his faith journey entitled "The unconventional call of a pastor out of Lebanon – a journey of faith and let go."
Please RSVP normajeankamar@gmail.com by Monday, March 3rd if you plan to attend.

Village Church Moms, *Next gathering, March 11th at 7pm.*
All Moms welcome! Contact Meg Steere for more details: megsteere@hotmail.com.

Families Befriending Families

Wednesday, March 5, 5:30-7pm and First Wednesdays, 5:30pm – 7:00pm, Village Common
Come for dinner and conversation with children's activities while adults talk. RSVP to Michaela McDonald: michaela@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

Young Adult Group *Sunday, Feb. 16, 10:30am-12pm, in the Church Parlor (we meet monthly)* Young Adults, you are invited to join a group of your peers for joyful community and thoughtful reflection each month. If you are interested, please join us on Sunday Feb. 16th, or contact Rev. Pam Emslie at pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org or Peter Hodge at: pjhodge47@gmail.com

Seniors Connect *First Tuesdays, 2pm, on Zoom, Contact:*
stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Village Church Walking Group *Mondays, 9:30am, Elm Bank Reservation*
Join in! ALL are welcome! It's a great way to start your week. If you'd like to be added to the email list, be in touch with Christina Oliver at christina.oliver20@gmail.com.

Prayer Shawl and Baptismal Blanket Ministry, *Thursdays, 10:30-11:30, on Zoom, and First Sundays, 11:15am, Parlor.* We welcome new knitters and crocheters to this special ministry. Yarn and patterns supplied. Please contact Bobbie Hayes at 781-400-1333 or rchkch@verizon.net.

Wednesdays at the Well *Wednesdays, 8:30am-noon in the Wellesley Chapel,* Come, sit in the beauty of the Chapel, light candles in the Cloister, walk the Labyrinth, pray with Pastor Stacy. Drink deeply from the wellspring of grace and love here.

An Opportunity to Spread the Love Share in a beautiful ministry of care to our congregants. Help make and/or deliver bouquets of chancel flowers. Stop by the flower table in Village Common after 10:00 worship. Please contact Community Deacon Co-Chair Diana Anderson d.andersonpinzon@gmail.com to learn more.

LOOKING AHEAD

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

March 16 - New Date! - Annual Meeting after one 10am all church worship service

April 13 ~ Palm Sunday

April 17 ~ Maundy Thursday

April 18 ~ Good Friday

April 20 ~ Easter Sunday

June 1 ~ Joint Pentecost Worship with Charles St. AME at Charles St. AME Church

STEWARDSHIP 2025: A FIRM FOUNDATION!

A Message from the Stewardship Committee

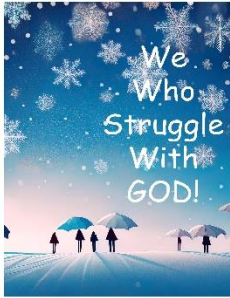
As we begin a new year, we wish to express heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support for Village Church.

Amid the new things God is calling us to do, the foundation of our life together is our annual Stewardship effort, which provides the resources that sustain our church. We appreciate your thoughtful participation in this process. As you consider your 2025 Stewardship pledge, we ask you to consider making your best commitment to the foundational work of our church community. Your pledges allow us to be a vibrant and welcoming community.

Pledge commitment cards can be found
in the pews and by offering plates in the sanctuary.

If you have questions about the role of stewardship in the life of our community, please
feel free to contact a member of
the Stewardship Committee.

Cynthia Sibold, Chair. Kathy McGraw Bently, Dix Leeson, Kim Fox, Ted Billes, Jack Salerno, Charle Peck, Huw Gilbert, Rev. Sarah Butter.



Invitation to Join **"We Who Struggle With God!"**

Starting: Monday, February 24th, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Are you a member of a faith community or not, feeling disconnected or struggling with faith? You're not alone!

I want to invite you to join me on a new, heartfelt journey titled **"We Who Struggle with God"** – a weekly gathering where we explore the challenges and doubts we all face in our walk with God.

Every Monday starting 24 February 2025 at 06:30 PM, we'll gather at the Wellesley Village Church Parlor to ask the tough questions, share our struggles, and seek encouragement and deeper insight of our faith together. **Pre-registration required.**

Sign up or for questions e-mail: carlos@wellesleyvillagechurch.org



"Making Space for Grace"

Women's Retreat

Saturday, March 15, 9:00-3:30

Village Church in Weston, 130 Newton Street

Come share a day of fun, fellowship, good food and growing together with Grace!

All women of Village Church are invited to share in a Grace-filled day at our day long women's retreat.

We will explore what Grace *IS*, and how it might be at work in our lives. *There is no cost for the retreat and lunch will be provided.* If needed, transportation and childcare will also be available.

We hope you will choose to join in on what will be a fun and enriching day together! Questions? Contact Stacy Swain, stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org, or reach out to any member of the planning team including, Ann Skipper, Susan Sullivan, Kerry Gorton Evans, and Lucy Forster-Smith. The registration form is available in the Enews.

LAY LEADERSHIP

Joe Morray – Moderator

Candace Sutcliffe– Vice Moderator

Kathy Schleyer – Immediate Past Moderator

PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

Sr. Pastor sarah@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

The Rev. Pam Emslie, Assoc. Pastor

Youth Ministry pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

The Rev. Stacy Swain, Assoc. Pastor

Congregational Care and Engagement

stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

PASTORAL RESIDENTS

Megan Strouse, 2nd Year

meganS@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Rev. Carlos Aoun, 1st Year

carlos@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

MINISTRY STAFF

Michaela McDonald

Director of Children and Family Ministry

michaela@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Jade Hargrave

Director of Confirmation and

Middle School Ministry

jade@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Dr. Kevin McDonald

Director of Music & Youth Music

kevin@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Kristjon Imperio

Director of Worship & Development,

(phone: (781) 577-0506)

kristjon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

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

At 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 Megan Strouse at: meganS@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.



Hearing Assistance Available

Induction loop systems are available in the Chapel and in the Narthex section of the Sanctuary. Hearing devices may be turned to the "T" setting. Those without devices may request a loop receiver with earphones.

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For information, please visit our website at:

wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Scan with smartphone →

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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