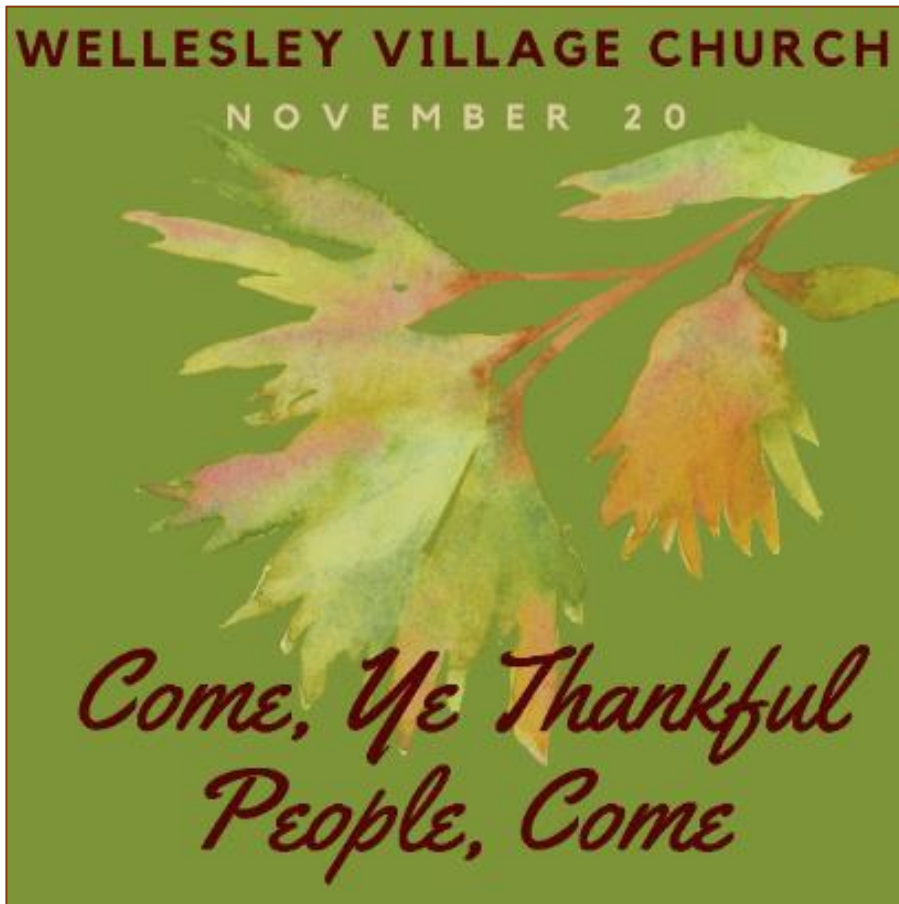


Wellesley Village Church

Congregational † United Church of Christ



10:00am Worship



November 20, 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 20, 2022

10:00am

Hymns 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.



+++

PRELUDE "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" *Mark Hayes*
 Kristjon Imperio, organ; Ilana Cady, piano

WELCOME & PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

***OPENING HYMN NO. 422** "Come, O Thankful People, Come"

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Michaela McDonald

Children may proceed to Children's Church, which concludes at 11:15am.

Parents of Pre K / K should go to 2nd floor classrooms after worship for pickup.

Grades 1-5 will be brought to Village Hall after worship to offer the Harvest potluck blessing.

Middle School Youth Group (6th - 8th grades) meets in the Upper Room today.

SUNG RESPONSE "Give Thanks/Thank you Lord" *Henry Smith, Paul Baloche, Don Moen*
 Youth Choir and Village Children's Choir; Dr. Kevin McDonald, Director
 Georgia Spangler and Piper Newman, soloists

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong."

let the poor say "I am rich"

because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks! Give Thanks! Give Thanks!

I come before you today and there's just one thing
that I want to say:

Thank you Lord! Thank you Lord!

For all you've given to me,

for all the blessings that I cannot see.

Thank you Lord! Thank you Lord.

With a grateful heart, with a song of praise, with an
outstretched arm, I will bless Your name.

Thank you Lord! I just want to thank you Lord!

Thank you Lord!

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

Rev. Megan Berkowitz

Loving God, we confess there are times when we become so focused on our large goals, on significant measures of success, we forget the power and potential of a small seed.

We hope to achieve at work, in our families, even in church. When we reach our lofty goals, we barely take a breath before setting off anew.

We do not slow down enough to take in each moment, appreciating what is, but instead rush off to the next big idea of what could be.

Forgive us. Help us put aside our desire for achievement so we can see your small miracles. Stir in us a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving for these small moments of goodness.

Through Christ our Lord we pray, **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

People of God, be assured. Even when we are busy with our big tasks and lofty ideas, God is at work sowing the small seeds from which grow all good things: peace, justice, healing, and love.

God's Kin-dom will grow from small seeds. Thanks be to God! Amen.

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter
Martha Schick

QUESTIONS TO NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME BY THE CONGREGATION

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

PRAYER

THE SHARING OF THE CHURCH COVENANT *(page 7)

*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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"We Gather Together"

Ron Mallory

Village Ringers; Kristjon Imperio, Conductor

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 4:30-32; 12:41-44

SERMON

"Trusting the Gardener"

RESPONSE HYMN NO. 540 "We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed" vv. 1-4 (*seated*)

COMMON LIFE AND CELEBRATION OF 50+-YEAR MEMBERS

Rev. Stacy Swain

RESPONSE SONG

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

**Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

BETTER TOGETHER AND STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Kirk Smith, Dan Garrison

CALL TO OFFERING, AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Offertory

"A Thanksgiving Tapestry"

John Purifoy

Sanctuary Choir; Kevin McDonald, conducting
Ilana Cady, piano; Kristjon Imperio, organ

Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world. I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, His hand the wonders wrought.

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies.

For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Rejoice ye pure in heart. Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
beneath the standard of our God, the cross of Christ our King!

Rejoice give thanks, and sing!

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild.

Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise!

***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.**

To give:



PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 419 "Now Thank We All Our God"**

WELCOME TO THANKSGIVING MEAL AND BENEDICTION

Children and youth will offer the blessing for our meal downstairs.

POSTLUDE

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Carl Piutti

You are invited to remain seated until the conclusion of worship.

*After the Postlude,
ALL ARE INVITED
to the Harvest Potluck in Village Hall (downstairs).*

There are no Zoom Fellowship or "Faithful Questions" gatherings today.

†††

The chancel flowers today are given by Linda and Ron Smith with gratitude for the loving care from our church family over the past months as Linda was treated for Lymphoma.

Support Martha on Her Way to Ordination!

You are invited to the Ecclesiastical Council for Pastoral Resident Martha Schick on November 21 at 7 p.m., at which she will present her theology paper. Delegates will vote on whether Martha should be approved for ordination. Each church has one vote, regardless of the number of members present.

Please attend as a delegate or an observer in-person at Old South Church in Boston or on Zoom. Please email martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org if you would like to be involved. Register here [≥](#) to receive the link.

~We welcome these new members into our covenant today~

Stephanie Coughlan

Kim Fox

Robert Fox

Huw Gilbert

Tindley Gilbert

Emily Lordi

George Lordi (in absentia)

Amit Mathew

Veena Mathew

Rev. Stacy Swain

Natalie Zwick

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.

TODAY

- 10:00am** **Worship, Sanctuary and Livestream**, Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter, preaching; Rev. Pam Emslie; Rev. Stacy Swain; Rev. Megan Berkowitz; Martha Schick; Michaela McDonald
Childcare, Family Worship Room
Children's Church, Upper Level, Michaela McDonald
Middle School Youth Group, Youth Room, Rev. Pam Emslie
- 11:15am** **Harvest Fest Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch, Village Hall**
Zoom Fellowship will not be meeting today.
"Faithful Questions" will not be meeting today.
- 3:00pm** **Chapel in the Pines, McKinnon Park, Wellesley**, Rev. Diane Anderson
- 5:00pm** **Worship at Congregational Church of Weston**, Rev. Sarah Sarchet Butter, preaching; Rev. Megan Berkowitz
- 7:00pm** **High School Youth Group, Youth Room**, Rev. Pam Emslie

Nov. 24 and 25 - Church Office Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving.

The First Sunday of Every Month is Birthday Sunday!



In worship we hear words that celebrate the presence of all who gather: "You matter to the church, and you matter to God." **That is worth celebrating!** We'd like to celebrate you! (and your children!) Let Stacy know you have a birthday this month, and we'll lift up your name in song during fellowship hour!

~ We Celebrate Our 50+ Year Members ~

*50-year members as of 2022

“Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.”

Psalm 119:90

Jeb Bachman	Anne Kott
Libby Bachman	Steve Kott
Lois Ball	Barbara Levings
Mike Barton	Martha Litle
Wendy Barton	Jim Loehlin
Diane Bedrosian	Janis Luedke
Ed Bedrosian	Cyndi Miller
Ruth Breden	Marge Mitchell
Wil Breden	*Penny Mitchell
Steve Burtt	Gretchen Morrison
Ken Chaulk	Bob Morrison
Bob Cleverdon	Almeda Nicholson
Ann Cunningham	Dorothy Patton
Bob Derderian	Barbara Peirson
Gail Doorley	Brad Perry
Tom Doorley	Betty Peterson
Polly Ellms	Carolyn Pruyne
Phyllis Gibson	Betty Seaborn
Elizabeth Goodhart	Allison Sheffield
Jackie Griffiths	Dave Sheffield
Sally Hammerness	Jeanne Sluyter
Bobbie Hayes	Chuck Staples
Casey Hayes	Jamie Talbot
*Barbara Howland	Joanne Woods
*George Howland	

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Giving Tree for Children of Hoops and Homework and Family Promise Metrowest

Sign up online. Drop-off starts Sunday, Nov. 27 in Village Common Lobby.

Express your care for others this holiday! You may select a child's name and desired gift online. Please bring your gift to the church for Family Promise children by Dec. 8. and Hoops and Homework children by Dec. 18. Please bring the gift in a gift bag with your child's name clearly labelled, along with the name of the program, either Hoops and Homework or Family Promise. Please see Enews for sign-up.

Alternative Gift Fair

December 4th In-Person and Online through Christmas 2022

Make Christmas gifts to those in need through 9 organizations with strong Village Church connections, including For His Children, A Place to Turn, and Hoops & Homework. Come to the in-person fair to talk with these groups about giving and volunteering. Donations at the Fair may be made by cash, check, Venmo, and online. Find more information in the Enews or on the website.

H.O.M.E. Store is Back!

Sat., Dec. 10, 9am-4pm & Sun., Dec. 11, 9am - noon, Village Common

Support H.O.M.E. store while doing your Christmas shopping! Stop by and browse the lovely, handcrafted gifts from the H.O.M.E. (Homeowners Organized for More Employment) Store. H.O.M.E. Store is a craft cooperative in Maine that offers jobs, food, education, temporary shelter and home ownership to people in need.

Family Life Advent Workshop

Nov. 27, 11:30am-1pm, Upper Level Classroom

Join the advent wreath-making festivities. Pizza and fun with fellow church folk while you make a wreath for your home.

Family Life Gingerbread House Decorating and Chrismon Tree Decorating

Fri., Dec. 9. 6-8pm, 2nd Upper Level Classrooms

Create a beautiful gingerbread house and decorate the Chrismon tree! (Houses and candy provided.) Come, all, for intergenerational fun!

OPPORTUNITIES

For a complete listing and more information please go to our website or check the weekly Enews. To be added to the weekly Enews, contact Chris Toppin at: christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

Village Church Parents Group (VCPG)

Sun., Dec. 4, 7:00-8:30pm, Parlor

We are a group of Village Church parents walking in faith together who gather for conversation and support, especially when our kids -- or we!--struggle. All parents are welcome! Contact Pam Stazesky (pbstnt@gmail.com) for more information.

Moms Group, *Thurs., Dec. 8, 7:30pm-9:30pm, Home of Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter*

Moms of every age are invited to join us for our annual Advent/Christmas gathering.

Dads Group, *Tues., Dec. 20, 7pm, location TBD*

All Dads welcome. Please email getinvolved@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

"Faithful Questions" will pause for the next few weeks. Please watch Enews for the next time when we will meet for an open-hearted, non-judgmental conversation to explore questions of faith with Rev. Stacy Swain.

Empty Nesters+ Walking Group, *Mondays, 9:30am, Elm Bank Reservation.*

Please contact Christina Oliver at 617-529-9246 for more information.

Seniors Connect, *First Tuesday of the month, 2pm on zoom*

Please email Rev. Stacy Swain at stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

Prayer Shawl and Baptismal Blanket Ministry, *Wednesdays, 10-11:30, via Zoom*

Welcome to new knitters and crocheters! Yarn and patterns supplied. Please contact Bobbie Hayes at 781-400-1333 or rchkch@verizon.net.

Wednesday Bible Study, *Wednesdays, 10am-11:45am, via Zoom*

Please email getinvolved@wellesleyvillagechurch.org to sign up.

Thursday Evening Bible Study, *Thursdays, 7pm-8:30pm, hybrid via Zoom and in the Parlor*

Email martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org to be added to our winter/spring list.

Village Churchmen - 12:30 - 2:30pm, on third Thursdays via Zoom.

Please email getinvolved@wellesleyvillagechurch.org to sign up.

Village Table is Cooking Up Something New!

Village Table leadership and volunteers are pausing their cooking efforts for two months to take some time to imagine new ways to serve the community going forward, and will start cooking again in January.

Giving Notes

Thank you for fulfilling pledges throughout the year and by year end. Your annual giving is essential to life and mission together.

Special year-end gifts are a wonderful way to express gratitude for the blessings of the past year. Additional gifts will help the church meet unmet needs and enable us to end the year with financial strength.

Checks may be placed in the offering plates at front and back of the sanctuary or mailed to the church. Please visit our website for on-line giving, or call Marina at 781-235-1988 ext. 18 or email her at marina@wellesleyvillagechurch.org for any questions, or to notify her of a stock transfer.

Thank you for ALL of your gifts to Village Church!



Better Together Initiative with Charles St. A.M.E. Choosing Love and Making It Real!

THANK YOU to all who have made financial commitments to partner with our beloved sister congregation and lift the burden of debt on their historic church. For conversation about this special opportunity, please contact any member of the Campaign team: Kirk & Nancy Smith, Dan Garrison, Cynthia & Bill Sibold, Carolyn Wood, Rev. Sarah Butter. **EVERY GIFT OF EVERY SIZE COUNTS** toward meeting the matching goal of \$500,000. Blue Gift Commitment forms are available at information tables and on-line. Thank you for your prayerful participation!

Draw Near to **HOPE ~ Advent I ~ Nov. 27**

- Family Life Advent Wreath Workshop 11:30am

Draw Near to **PEACE ~ Advent II ~ Dec. 4**

- Alternative Christmas Gift Fair, through 12/25

Friday, Dec. 9, 6pm Family Life

- Gingerbread House & Crismon Tree Decorating

Draw Near to **JOY ~ Advent III ~ Dec. 11**

- H.O.M.E. Store to support residents of rural Maine

Draw Near to **LOVE ~ Advent IV ~ Dec. 18**

- Harpist in 9am Worship
- Intergeneration Nativity Story in 10am Worship

Longest Night Service @ CCW ~ in Weston Wed. Dec. 21, 7:30pm



Christmas Eve

- **4:00 pm** Family Service with Children's Pageant
- **5:00 pm** CCW Christmas Eve Service in Weston
- **7:00 pm** Candlelight Service with Sanctuary Choir
- **9:00 pm** Candlelight Service with Youth and Alumni Choir

Christmas Day ~ Dec. 25 ~ 10am Worship ONLINE ONLY

January 1, 2023 ~ One 10am Service

- New Year's Day Communion

January 8, 2023 ~ One 10am Service

- Installation of the Reverend Stacy Swain, Assoc. Pastor

January 15, 2023 ~ One 10am Service

Sharing the Dream with Charles Street A.M.E. at WVC

FAMILY LIFE

For current information on opportunities for Children and Youth and families,
please visit the Church website for the Family Life Enews, or email
pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org (Youth)
or michaela@wellesleyvillagechurch.org (Children)



WELCOME, VISITORS!

We're glad you're here!
Questions? Ask a pastor or anyone near you.
We love to talk about our church!



**WELCOME IS OUR
FAVORITE WORD**
@ Wellesley Village Church



Connect with us!
Scan this QR Code or visit:
wellesleyvillagechurch.org

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

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

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 & Assist Music

Director

kristjon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Ilana Cady – Chapel Worship Lead Musician

ilana@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Meg Sweeting – Church Administrator

meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Christine Toppin – Communications

christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Sharon Funk – Admin. Assist.

sharon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Marina Berga – Financial Secretary

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

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



All music and words in this bulletin are reprinted by
permission under OneLicense.net, License #A-714276

and by CCLI, License #2910233.
CCLI Streaming License #20812468.

