

ABOUT LABYRINTHS

Labyrinths are found in many world cultures. They feature one circuitous path leading into the center and back out again. In medieval Europe, labyrinths were used as a tool for Christian devotion, allowing believers to engage in the practice of pilgrimage while staying safely at home. In recent decades, labyrinths have re-emerged as a kinetic form of prayer or meditation, attractive to many both within and outside of Christian traditions.

The labyrinth in the Welcome Garden is a simplified version of a design found in the floor of a cathedral in Chartres, France. It was handcrafted with stone cut specifically for this site.



TRAVELING THE LABYRINTH

Please feel free to travel the labyrinth as you feel moved. You might find it helpful to set an intention before you begin, to repeat a brief prayer as you go along, or to spend some quiet time in the center before you follow the path back out. For more resources, visit our church library or the website of the Labyrinth Guild of New England: www.labyrinthguild.org.



RESPECTFUL USE

Please be considerate of this space and others who are using it. If someone is engaged in silence or prayer, please keep noise and activity to a minimum.

Please do not smoke or use alcohol, ride bikes, or use skateboards in the garden.

If you would like to bring a group to the garden, please contact the church office at 978-369-6309.

CHILDREN

This garden was designed to welcome all ages. Children are welcome to walk or run the labyrinth under the supervision of their caretakers. We also encourage children to add their art to the garden by drawing in chalk on the concrete circle or building stone structures in the adjacent play area. Please do not use chalk to draw on the labyrinth.

CONSTRUCTION

The Welcome Garden was built during the spring and summer of 2012. Marty Kermeen, of Labyrinths in Stone, created the labyrinth. A Blade of Grass did the landscaping and initial design ideas came from Lisa Bailey of Bayleaf Studio. Past and present members of West Concord Union Church provided the funding.





SUPPORTING THE GARDEN

If you are interested in being part of a crew of volunteers who help care for the garden, please contact the church office.

If you would like to make a financial donation to support the garden's development and maintenance, you can write a check to West Concord Union Church (memo: Welcome Garden) or donate on our website. Thank you!



ABOUT WEST CONCORD UNION CHURCH

We are a Protestant Christian congregation affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Our vision is to be a welcoming community being transformed by the Spirit of Christ and engaging in service with our neighbors.

All are welcome to join us in worship or fellowship regardless of age, ability, religious or cultural background, or sexual orientation. Our building is handicapped accessible.

To learn more about us, please join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m., visit WestConcordUnionChurch.org, or contact us at 978-369-6309 or office@westconcordunionchurch.org.



Donate



Our Website



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE WELCOME GARDEN

AT WEST CONCORD UNION CHURCH



OUR VISION

A space of rest, prayer, and play for all.

This garden is an extension of the congregation's "Place for Everyone" campaign to make our church fully accessible with the addition of a new elevator. We hope the garden will further our welcome, offering a physically and spiritually accessible space for neighbors, friends, and visitors.