

August
2020



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

The Congregationalist

Monthly Newsletter

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Dear Members and Friends of Webster UCC, Congregational!



FIVE MONTHS!!! We are five months into living life in a pandemic. Five months of worshiping online. Five months of learning to 'Be the Church' in new and very different ways. In some ways it seems so much longer, and in other ways it seems just about right.

I continue to pray that all of you have managed to stay healthy, and have gotten used to wearing a mask and socially distancing yourselves. I also continue to give thanks to God for all your love and support during these tough times!

As I've stated several times already, we are so blessed that for us, church hasn't closed! Life has gone on – the Community Garden got planted, and has been weeded and watered, and harvesting has begun; the Pet Food Pantry has shared nearly 5,000 pounds of pet food for people in need in our community as well as through Meals on Wheels distribution; the folks we support at Rochester Advocates for Children received Easter baskets and 50 bags of groceries – helping ease the burden of elders raising grandchildren and great-grandchildren; the bands are playing and we are presenting our Summer Caring Concerts – *virtually* – and people are watching and money is flowing in to support local neighborhood charities and programs!

We have not missed a Sunday sharing worship with you, and learning that MANY other people – unrelated to our church – are watching from all over the globe!! (That's the power of the internet!) Some are watching live on Facebook while others are going to the website later in the day and watching a recorded version via YouTube. Family of mine and friends, who still can't believe I'm a pastor, are tuning in and reaching out to let me know how much they enjoyed worshiping with us! Our congregation has actually grown!

And now, we are happily worshiping on the front lawn – re-gathering brothers and sisters of our family of faith here at 570 Klem Road – praising God and giving thanks each week – weather permitting! I can't begin to tell you how wonderful it is to see your faces (even masked), and feel the energy of your bodily presence here in our midst! Should the weather not cooperate, we're ready with a new FM transmitter, so you can come to church, park in the lot and tune your car radio to our special FM channel and listen to worship!

We are still discussing and planning for a return to worship in the sanctuary and what that might look like. We just want to calm our fears and be as safe as we possibly can. So please be patient and understanding just a little while longer. But in the meantime, let's enjoy our beautiful yard and God's amazing creation and worship as much as possible in the great out-of-doors!!

At a recent "Carl & Wendy's Lectionary Adventure," we looked at Genesis 28:10 -19a – it's the story of Jacob in the land of Bethel (or Beth El, as it was back then). And in the story, Jacob finds himself in a strange place – where he has to use a stone for a pillow. Yet it is in that place where Jacob hears again the promise of God to his own father, Abraham, "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go..." And Jacob uses that stone pillow as a sacred marker – a "pillar" to call the place "House of God."

Throughout that discussion, I was thinking how our definitions of "House of God," like Jacob's have changed. We are learning, through these days of pandemic, that anywhere we gather to hear and share the good news can be a sacred place – our own Bethel – House of God! May those places be safe and blessed!

Light, Life, and Love,

Carl

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed... nothing would be impossible to you."
- Matthew 17:20

Prayer Requests for August 2020

Summer 2020 in Webster, NY, USA, has been wonderful! The weather, the opportunities to worship in new and different ways, the ability to re-gather in the great outdoors and be with family and friends – are all a blessing to us as the pandemic goes on in our world.

Sharing our love and prayers for one another is what we're called to do - and be! Folks everywhere are struggling. Some struggle with health issues - mental and physical, some struggle with relationship issues, security issues, loneliness, abandonment, injustice and oppression. As followers of Jesus in the world - the hands, feet and heart of Jesus at work - we have been called to lift up those in need and struggling, as well as ourselves.

Here are some of the requests for prayers that have been shared during our "Time of Sharing" during Sunday morning services of worship. And if you've got a minute - after you read this - please add one more prayer, or send some positive vibes and energies through the cosmos for each and every one!

Thank you...

- + Prayers for those in the world community dealing with the Corona virus, especially the now 150,000 Americans that have lost their lives.
- + Thanksgiving for those who have recovered from the affects of the virus!
- + Thanksgiving for our state leaders who have led New York strongly and while we struggle at times to understand it all, our state remains healthy as our numbers continue to go down
- + Prayers for our nation and world in such difficult times of unrest and division.
- + Directed healing energies for those who face new or returning malignancy diagnoses and supportive energies for those who care for them...
- + Prayers for understanding for those who are adjusting to new living arrangements.
- + Thanksgiving for the new and exciting ways that God is calling us to BE THE CHURCH – livestream and recorded worship, ZOOM meetings and gatherings, YouTube Youth and Sunday School!
- + Prayers for our extended families who are struggling through the loss of a loved one.
- + Prayers for all teachers and students as decisions are made for the return to the classroom!

You may wish to include those of our church family who are living in health related facilities or at home:

- + Effie Wysocki @ The Landing of Brighton
- + Judy Haskin @ Home of the Good Shepherd, Malta, NY
- + Arlene Diller @ Sage Harbor, Baywinde Senior Living Center, Webster
- + Jane Wagenhals @ Creekside Home in Fairport
- + Larry & Janet Akins, Wayne Ferry, Andrea Oestreich, and Fern Pellett @ home.

Those now living in independent or assisted living centers are:

- + Alan Hunderup @ Chapel Oaks, St. Ann's, Rochester
- + Norma Fitzpatrick, Linda Battaglia & Betty Watkins @ CDS Monarch Senior Living Center, Webster
- + Angie & Bruce Clair, Ted Ellstrom and Mary Jane Nudd @ Castlepointe, Baywinde Senior Living Center, Webster
- + Jan Kujawa @ home with family in Buffalo

AN INQUIRING MIND WANTS TO KNOW...

I have loaned my copy of John Dorhauer's book, "Beyond Resistance..." to someone – and I can't remember who! I keep reaching for it to quote something and it's not there – and I forgot to write down who borrowed it! Can you help me out? Let this poor pastor know if you borrowed the book so I can put my inquiring mind to rest!

Thanks,
Carl

Reimagining Building Community



“Love your neighbor as yourself.”
Jesus Christ

One of the great commandments continues to inspire us to build community through the Caring Community Concerts...neighbors helping neighbors. Supporting local charities that support the Webster community has been a central feature of our outreach efforts. With our virtual concert series, we are supporting 5 Webster charities committed to building the Webster community.

“You must do the thing you think you cannot do.” Eleanor Roosevelt

The pandemic challenged us to reimagine what we can do to make the 2020 Caring Community Concerts a virtual reality. Social distancing, recording, editing, uploading, tracking seemed like insurmountable obstacles. With Ruby Shooz, Mr Mustard, and Johnny Matt concerts completed in July, it demonstrates that when we reimagine we can transform “can’t do” to “can do!”



“It’s kind of fun to do the impossible!”
Walt Disney

Several months ago, hosting Caring Community Concerts seemed impossible. And now, we are starting to see the impact of going virtual. The number of views of the first two concerts is over 800, and the free will offering is over \$1,500. Neighbors helping neighbors building community is really fun!



In August, there are two more Caring Community Virtual Concerts to enjoy, and two important charities that help Webster be a community where life is worth living...

- August 5: Alyssa Trahan** Benefit for Webster Comfort Care Home
- August 12: Allegro** Benefit for Heritage Christian Services- Jennifer Lane

Continue Helping to Build a Caring Community

- Support our Webster charities — 100% of free will offering goes to the Webster charity!
- Support Local Musicians — Tune in to the concerts, sing along, get up and dance.
- Support Webster restaurants — Take the night off of cooking...Order out on concert nights.
- Support your neighbors — Give them a shout out...Show them you care.

Mission Moment

August/September has been our time to collect supplies for Church World Service school kits. Though the kits are delivered in the spring, school supplies are on sale now. As COVID-19 challenges us to find new ways of doing things, there is a new collection place for school supplies this year - the pet food bench at the west end of the building. Monetary donations are always welcome and may be sent to the church marked for school supplies. Thank you for helping with this mission project!!!

School Bag Supplies:

one pair **blunt** scissors

one 12" ruler

one large eraser

one box 24 count crayons (only 24)

three 70-count spiral bound notebooks

one hand held pencil sharpener

six new unsharpened pencils with erasers

Many thanks to those who sew school bags and to 4TWG for using one meeting each year to cut, press, and sew bags. Each bag uses a half yard of quilting cotton weight fabric.

Instructions available from Linda Ims - lindaims63@gmail.com or 671-1101.

A Gathering Place Event

Gathering of Hearts

Saturday August 8 at 6:30 pm

On the front lawn !

Webster United Church of Christ, Congregational

570 Klem Rd, Webster, NY 14580

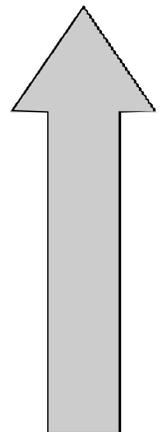
www.uccwebster.org

We will be social distancing.
Please bring your own chair and wear a mask.
Thank you so much !

Gathering of Hearts is a non-traditional Christian faith community. We hope to provide an inclusive and affirming space for all people no matter what their spiritual path. Gathering of Hearts involves open discussion and creative expression of our faith in action in today's world.

Feel free to bring your own snack/drink... even your favorite Craft Beer, Micro-brew, or any other beverage - and a willingness to engage in conversation!

Questions? Contact Wendy Lesko wlesko88@gmail.com





The WUCC Outdoor Giving Pantry is located on the east side of the church building. If you are in need, stop by and help yourself . If you have groceries to donate, stop by and just place them in the pantry. We try and restock almost daily but we need your donations to help keep it full .

Thank You so very much !!



Pet Food Drive For Meals on Wheels

Now more than ever, the pets of Meals on Wheels clients are important to the well being of their owners.

Thank you for your help feeding these "pawsome" pets !

The Pet Food Pantry cupboards are bare except for a surplus of dry dog food. By August 9 we need the following :

- 500 pounds of dry cat food
- 500 cans of wet cat food
- 500 cans of wet dog food



Please place your donations in the bench outside the west entrance ! Thank you !!!!!



June 2020 as of July 25, 2020

	Jun	YTD
	Actual	Actual
Church Resources		
Balance at BOM	\$12,423.76	\$22,895.61
Receipts	\$29,559.89	\$150,440.41
Disbursements	-\$23,420.80	-\$154,262.70
Non Plan pass through receipts	\$1,215.00	\$5,811.51
Non Plan pass through disbursements	-\$805.00	-\$5,911.98
General Fund (Checking Account) - EOM	\$18,972.85	\$18,972.85
Less Cumulative Non Plan Pass Thru Not Disbursed	(\$6,116.30)	-\$6,116.30
Available to Support Annual Plan	\$12,856.55	\$12,856.55

Stewardship, Fundraising, Donations and Other Sources of Income to Enable Ministry Plan

Income	2019	2019	2020	Jun	YTD
	Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual	Actual YTD
Cash Offering	\$178,000.00	\$177,179.43	\$178,000.00		
Pre Paid Pledge	\$7,000.00	\$8,914.00	\$7,000.00		
Pledge recovery	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Sunday School	\$2,000.00	\$1,842.00	\$2,000.00		
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Stewardship Sunday Giving	\$187,000.00	\$187,935.43	\$187,000.00	\$12,018.00	\$102,872.00
Stewardship Fundraising	\$3,300.00	\$3,166.50	\$3,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Finance /Misc	\$750.00	\$653.85	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Congregational Life	\$0.00	\$56.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$179.00
Spiritual Nurturing	\$19,100.00	\$12,055.00	\$12,100.00	\$10.00	\$3,240.00
Other Youth Fundraising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Building Use Donations	\$26,276.52	\$27,848.02	\$26,276.52	\$1,704.89	\$13,047.41
Office & Admin	\$1,200.00	\$1,361.55	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$275.00
Worship & Music	\$600.00	\$620.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mission	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Summer concert ministry	\$16,000.00	\$18,439.37	\$16,000.00	\$5,827.00	\$5,827.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$254,426.52	\$252,135.72	\$247,426.52	\$19,559.89	\$125,440.41

Cost of our Ministries, Outreach, Pastors and Staff, Building and Grounds, and Administrative

Ministry Expenses	2019	2019	2020	Jun	YTD
	Plan	Actual	Plan	Act	YTD
Staff and Human Relations	\$224,642.69	\$214,983.66	\$214,686.37	\$18,696.59	\$106,984.77
Admin/Office/Communications	\$10,700.00	\$7,684.12	\$8,900.00	\$903.81	\$4,026.25
Building & Grounds	\$41,100.00	\$37,634.88	\$51,000.00	\$621.01	\$30,346.82
Worship & Music	\$2,100.00	\$2,545.60	\$2,100.00	\$0.00	\$484.50
Spiritual Nurturing	\$17,000.00	\$16,968.90	\$16,500.00	\$86.32	\$2,979.98
Congregational Life	\$1,100.00	\$2,908.83	\$2,900.00	\$57.75	\$129.93
Mission Outreach Tithe	\$17,512.75	\$12,990.17	\$17,887.75	\$2,500.00	\$8,755.13
Mission Awareness Project (MAP)	\$6,548.57	\$6,548.57	?????	\$0.00	\$0.00
Summer concert ministry	\$16,000.00	\$17,675.81	\$16,000.00	\$555.32	\$555.32
TOTAL MINISTRY EXPENSES	\$336,704.01	\$319,940.54	\$329,974.12	\$23,420.80	\$154,262.70
Surplus/(deficit)	(82,277.49)	(67,804.82)	(82,547.60)	(3,860.91)	(28,822.29)
Transfer from Endowment - 6%	\$39,291.45	39,291.45	\$42,495.00	\$10,000.00	\$25,000.00
Transfer from Endowment - 1% (MAP)	\$6,548.57	6,548.57	?????	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer from Memorials and Special Gifts	\$0.00	-	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Additional transfer from Endowment to balance budget	\$37,000.00	37,075.82	\$40,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Special gift for parking lot	\$0.00	2,710.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Estate contributions	\$0.00	-	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net surplus/(deficit) after transfer from Endowment and M&SG	562.53	17,821.02	\$47.40	6,139.09	(3,822.29)



Donations accepted starting August 1

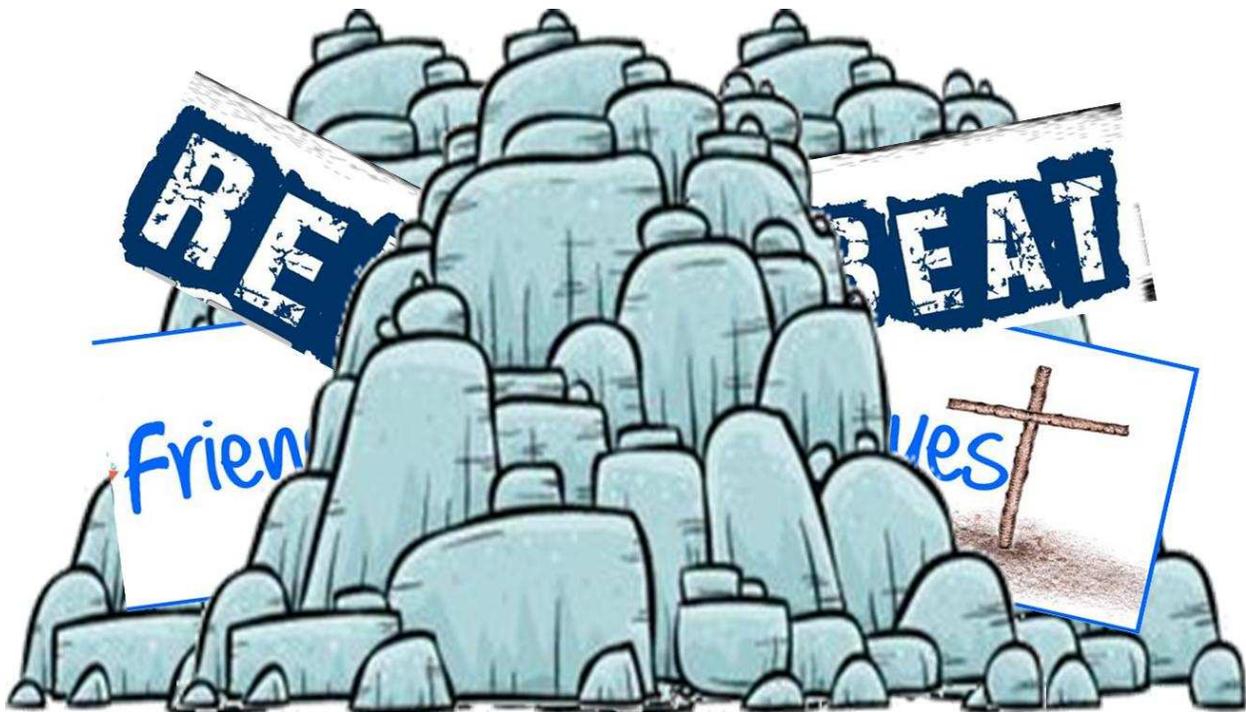
Place donations on the table outside the west entrance and email Wendy when you drop them off.

Details will be released soon regarding WHEN AND HOW the virtual sale will take place .

NOTE:

No clothing, televisions or computers accepted.

Questions? Contact Wendy Lesko
wlesko88@gmail.com
585-756-1965



The Rebel Beat Youth Ministry & the Friends' Quest Children's Ministry are under construction ! New programming to be revealed in the September Newsletter !



August Birthdays

Did we miss anyone? If you know someone who has an anniversary or birthday in August who isn't listed please contact the church office.

08/01	LaRae Plain	08/19	Jennifer Mechler
08/02	Hannah Davis	08/21	Diane Daly
08/02	Diana Newman	08/21	Paul Kittredge
08/02	Andrew Painton	08/21	Denielle Newman
08/02	Debbie Peterson	08/21	Patrick Sharp
08/03	Todd Enright	08/22	Angie Clair
08/03	Andrea Oestreich	08/23	Jennifer Hermenet
08/03	Caleb Story	08/23	Ken Mihalyov
08/06	John Elchisak	08/24	Margaret Hall
08/06	John Murray	08/27	Julianne Daly
08/06	Teri Reynolds	08/27	Pamela Killaby
08/07	Andrew Newman	08/27	Kitty Varlan
08/08	Heidi Hall	08/28	Hillary Lesko
08/08	Fredric Mis	08/28	John McBeth
08/08	Jordan Phelps	08/28	Stella Williams
08/09	Jan Salatino	08/29	Daniel Gerard
08/10	Aaron Tsai	08/31	Laura Abbett
08/11	Diane Cannarozzo		
08/12	Richard Schmitt		
08/12	Mindy Spencer		
08/14	Sharon Pratt		
08/16/	Ron Orchard		
08/17	Michael Syracuse		
08/18	Cathy Perrin		



August Anniversaries

08/01	William & Sharon Armbruster	08/17	Nelson & Patricia Milne
08/01	Rachel Mayer & Christiaan van Aswegen	08/17	Thomas & Heidi Zastowny
08/01	Mark & Cathy Perrin	08/20	John & Diane Gummo
08/05	Fritz & Lori Kilian	08/22	Craig & Sharon Pratt
08/05	Jim & Melissa Painton	08/23	Caron & Wes Gregory
08/12	James & Karen Tanney	08/26	Ronald & Suzanne Milliman
08/13	Connor O'Brien-Mayer & David Mayer	08/26	William & Susan Reindel
08/13	Mark & Rosemary Shull	08/28	Lawrence & Suzanne Ford
08/14/	Wendy & Steven Lesko	08/28	Charles & Susan Speer
08/15	Heidi & Ted Higgs	08/29	Don & Andrea Oestreich
08/15	Kathleen & Michael Syracuse	08/31	Wendi Latko & Mike Gerard
08/17/	Tara & Catalino Mateo	08/31	Richard & Ruth Morrill

Until further notice - there are no gatherings being held in the church building. Please stay in touch via phone calls, email, zoom, and any other means you can think of that maintains social distancing.

Live stream of Sunday morning worship is at 10am each Sunday.

Sunday School and Youth Group are meeting online. Check your email for details.

« August 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1 Lammass
2 10:00am Combined Worship ;	3	4 7:00pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure;	5 7:00pm Caring Community - Virtual- Concert Series;	6 Transfiguration 9:30am Bible Study Group;	7	8
9 10:00am Combined Worship ;	10	11 7:00pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure;	12 7:00pm Caring Community - Virtual- Concert Series;	13 9:30am Bible Study Group;	14	15 Assumption Day
16 10:00am Combined Worship ;	17	18 6:00pm WISE meeting; LG 7:00pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure;	19	20 9:30am Bible Study Group;	21	22
23 10:00am Combined Worship ;	24	25 7:00pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure;	26	27 9:30am Bible Study Group;	28	29
30 10:00am Combined Worship ;	31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5
https://uccwebster.org/calendar/						

Sunday morning worship is now being held both online and on the front lawn of the church (weather permitting) . Attendees must wear a mask, bring their own chair and remain seated in their designated area.

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Tentative Sunday Schedule

10:00 AM
Worship Service live stream
on our Facebook page

1:00 PM
“Sunday School has left the building!”
live stream on our Facebook page

details at uccwebster.org

*“The United Church of Christ,
Congregational of Webster is an Open and
Affirming community of faith. We welcome
and affirm God's people of every sexual
orientation, gender identity, gender
expression, race, ethnicity, marital status,
mental ability, physical ability, economic
circumstance, and spiritual tradition to
fully participate in the life and ministry of
our church family.”*

Webster UCC Staff

the Rev. Carl J. Richter, Sr. Pastor
Wendy Lesko, Director Christian Education
Ronald Milliman, Music Director
Doug Hall, Office Manager
Oleksandra Yurchenko, Accompanist
Loraine Speer, Nursery Coordinator
Scott Loiacono, Custodian