

December
2020

Advent and Christmas Worship at Webster UCC

Sunday, November 29 - First Sunday of Advent -

Virtual Worship at 10 AM

Join Marcia & Richard Kendrick lighting the first Advent candle.

Special music and message on "HOPE!"

Sunday, December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent -

Virtual Worship at 10 AM

Join the Duga Family in lighting the second Advent candle.

Special music by Lynne Sweeney!

Rev. Dr. Margo Markesteyn will be leading worship on "PEACE!"

Sunday, December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent -

Virtual Worship at 10 AM

Join Nancy & Ken Mihalyov as they light the third Advent candle.

Lynne Sweeney and Margo Markesteyn will be sharing Advent "JOY!"

Sunday, December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent -

Virtual Worship at 10 AM

The Spencer family will light the fourth Advent candle.

Special music by Lynne Sweeney!

Rev. Margo will share a message on Advent "LOVE."

Thursday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE:

A Virtual Family Christmas Eve Service

- With a special story just for you!

- Available for viewing from our website any time during the day!

- Have your candles ready for lighting as we sing, "Silent Night!"

A Traditional Virtual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

- Carols, candles, and beautiful music!

- Available for viewing from our website any time during the day!

- Get those candles ready so you can join in our candle lighting!

*And watch your email for a special Christmas Eve event!

(It's still in the works, so SHHH!)

Sunday, December 27 - First Sunday of Christmas! -

Virtual Worship at 10 AM:

Featuring Traditional & Contemporary "Lessons and Carols!"

- Rev. Carl returns to lead this service LIVE from our sanctuary!



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

The Congregationalist

Monthly Newsletter

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“Mustard Seeds” from our senior pastor



Dear Members and Friends of Webster UCC, Congregational,

I often try to find some wonderful, old, meaningful Advent hymn or carol to begin our annual holiday letter to friends and family. “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” “The Snow Lay on the Ground,” and “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” have been a few – from years gone by. But because this year has been such a strange year, searching for a hymn or carol with meaning was a more daunting task. But I finally found one that worked – at least for us. I hope it does for you, too...

The text was penned in 1825 by John Bowring, and the tune, known as “Aberystwyth” or “St. George’s Windsor,” was written in 1879 by Joseph Parry. We know it as “Watcher, Tell Us of the Night” from our New Century Hymnal (#103). As I read the first line, I thought about how appropriate it was for the struggles and the fears and the compromises we have all experienced this year.

***Watcher, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, O a wondrous sight! See that glory beaming star!
Watcher, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel!***

While we always long to see “...that glory beaming star” of Christmas, never before has it been so greatly anticipated – the promise, the joy, the hope. Yes, we do so need those beauteous rays, shining brightly in our troubled nights and days.

The second verse, goes a little further in anticipating new birth in the world:

***Watcher, tell us of the night, higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watcher, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see it bursts o’er all the earth.***

Our hope every Advent – but most especially this Advent – is for that light to shine brightly, and peace to be among us, and truth to rule the days... A light that we never hide or keep for ourselves, but a light that will shine over all the earth!

And then, in the third verse, the source of that light, that peace, that truth is revealed. The hope and promise for which we all wait during these four weeks breaks forth:

***Watcher, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight, doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watcher, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, I rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!***

Here’s hoping that, after so much fear and struggle this year, we might be able to put it all aside during Advent, and remember that a child was once born – one who brought great light and life and love into the world. And for a time, doubt and terror retreated and the people rejoiced. Emmanuel (God with us) had arrived!

My wish for you all is a meaningful and blessed Advent season, and a very Merry Christmas and much happiness in the New Year! Stay healthy, stay safe, and stay calm. Emmanuel is coming yet again!

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love,

Carl

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

We Need You

Now more than ever

2021 Pledge Campaign



2020 definitely did not end up being the year we anticipated. It turned into a year of stress, anxiety, and separation from our routines, family and normal lives. One thing remained constant though, and that was our congregation. Throughout this difficult and challenging year, we pulled together to continue to show [We Are The Church](#), no matter where we are.

During the past year:

- We met all of our Mission Awareness Project (M.A.P) and Mission Team Commitments and outreach.
- The Community Garden was tilled and planted and had an amazing harvest.
- The Outdoor Food Pantry continued to be stocked and a new pantry was built.
- We continued to find ways to worship together.
- We held Bible study and book clubs
- We hosted virtual Women's Wine and Cheese and Men's Group gatherings.
- The Sunday School and Youth Group continued to meet.
- The Summer Concert Series was held virtually and five benefactors were supported.

Webster United Church of Christ continues to be a welcoming, caring and giving community where we have been able to adapt during uncertain times and find ways to provide a space for traditional and nontraditional worship. We found ways to continue to provide hands-on opportunities to serve others, and continue personal connections. We are reaching out to all members to ask:

If you have not done so already, and are able to do so, please consider providing the funding you pledged to the church for 2020.

Please consider pledging to the church for 2021 by completing the enclosed pledge card and return it to Webster United Church of Christ 570 Klem Rd. Webster, NY 14580 OR by visiting www.uccwebster.org, click on Signups and Donations and click on Make a Pledge.

We have shown that we continue to be **US** no matter the circumstances and will continue to [Be The Church](#) for each other and the community.

To be **US** we need **YOU** now more than ever.

To be US...We need YOU.

For church records

Please return by 12/15/20

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I plan to give \$ _____ each week month year

Beginning _____ for an annual total of \$ _____

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

For your records

Date _____

I plan to give \$ _____ each

week month year

Beginning _____

for an annual total of

\$ _____

Our church does **not** receive any type of funding from a larger UCC organization. 100% of our budget depends on giving.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a pledge to the Webster United Church of Christ?

A pledge is a commitment to provide a certain amount of money in the upcoming year to use towards church activities.

Who sees the amount of my pledge?

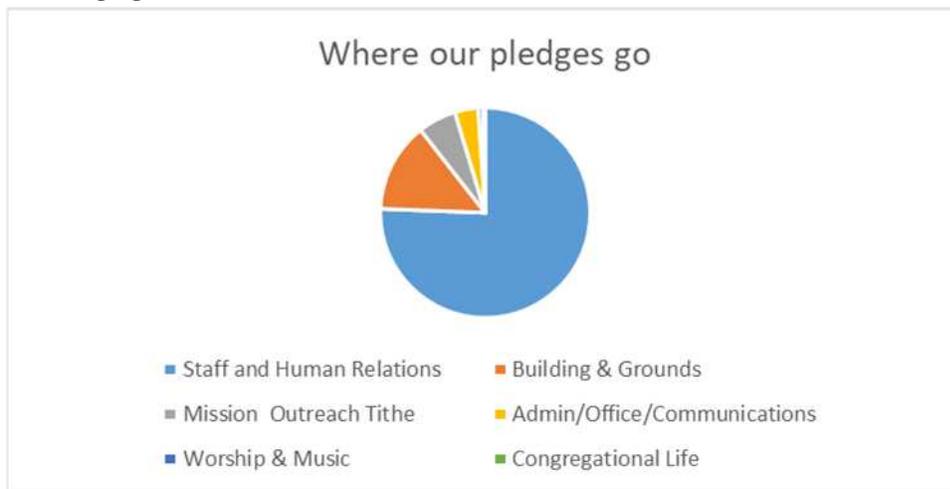
Pledge amounts are kept confidential and only the Financial Secretary has access to the information for tracking and processing purposes. Individual pledge information is not shared with anyone else - including the staff or Leadership Council.

Do I have to pay my pledge all at once?

No. If you pledge an amount of money for the upcoming year, that money can be paid all at once or throughout the entire year. Whatever works best for you and your budget.

What are the pledges used for?

Operating a church costs money. Pledge funding helps pay expenses including: staffing, building, grounds, and other church activities.



How is a pledge to the church different from when I make donations to specific church activities and causes?

A pledge from our congregational members is counted on as church revenue for budget purposes. Throughout the year, there are activities and mission opportunities that are not a part of the budget. These are times where additional donations are helpful and appreciated.

If I don't fill out a pledge but put money in the basket every week, isn't that the same thing?

All donations are greatly appreciated. The difference between a pledge and a spontaneous weekly donation is that a pledge allows us to have an idea of how much money to expect from our members to use towards the budget to ensure that all of the programs we have can continue.

Prayer Requests for December 2020

The season of Advent brings candle lighting and prayers. Prayers with each candle lit: HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. Prayers for health and healing, for food and shelter for those who are lacking these blessings in their lives. And while there is much struggle and suffering and sacrifice, may the promise of “God with us” be the answer to prayer and the blessings to so many who live in these times of uncertainty.

Sharing our love and prayers for one another is what we're called to do - and be! Folks everywhere are dealing with issues: health issues - mental and physical, 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...

- + Continued Prayers for those in the world community dealing with the Corona virus, especially now as over 257,000 Americans that have lost their lives, and the over 12,000,000 who are, or who have been diagnosed with the virus!
- + Thanksgiving for those who have recovered from the affects of the virus!
- + Thanksgiving that a contentious election season is over!
- + Continued prayers for our nation and world in such difficult times of unrest and division.
- + Healing energies for those who face new or returning malignancy diagnoses and supportive energies for those who care for them...
- + Prayers for those facing surgery, that the virus doesn't cause cancellations of elective surgeries.
- + Continued prayers of support 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 the family and friends of charter member, Don Forsyth, who passed away last month.
- + Prayers for all parents, teachers and students in school – whether in person or virtually!
- + Prayers for everyone dealing with the stress of working from home.
- + Prayers of joy and celebration for Fern Pellet who turned 103 on November 19th!

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

- + Effie Wysocki and Ted Ellstrom @ 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
- + Fern Pellet @ Fairport Baptist Home in Fairport
- + Larry Akins, Wayne Ferry, and Andrea Oestreich @ 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 and Mary Jane Nudd @ Castlepointe, Baywinde Senior Living Center, Webster
- + Jan Kujawa @ home with family in Buffalo

CHRISTMAS EVE OUTDOOR SERVICE

at 7:00 pm
around barrel fires
ON THE
CHURCH LAWN



Wear a mask and dress
for the weather!
Pajamas, sweats, and
blankies welcome !

We will light four
barrels and remain
safely socially
distanced

Lets start
a new
WUCC
tradition

Questions? Contact
Wendy Lesko wlesko88@gmail.com or
Wendi Latko wendi.latko@gmail.com

One of our 5-for-5 offerings

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

“For Such a Time as This” Esther 4:14

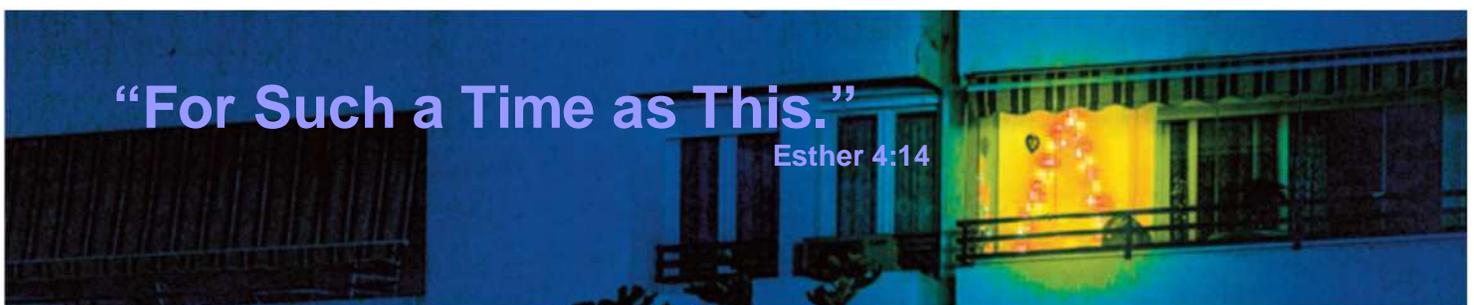
The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Over the past nine months, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically.

In such a time as this, the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

Donations can be made online at <https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/donate> ... or mail your donation to church ... or donate through our church website at <https://uccwebster.org/donations/>

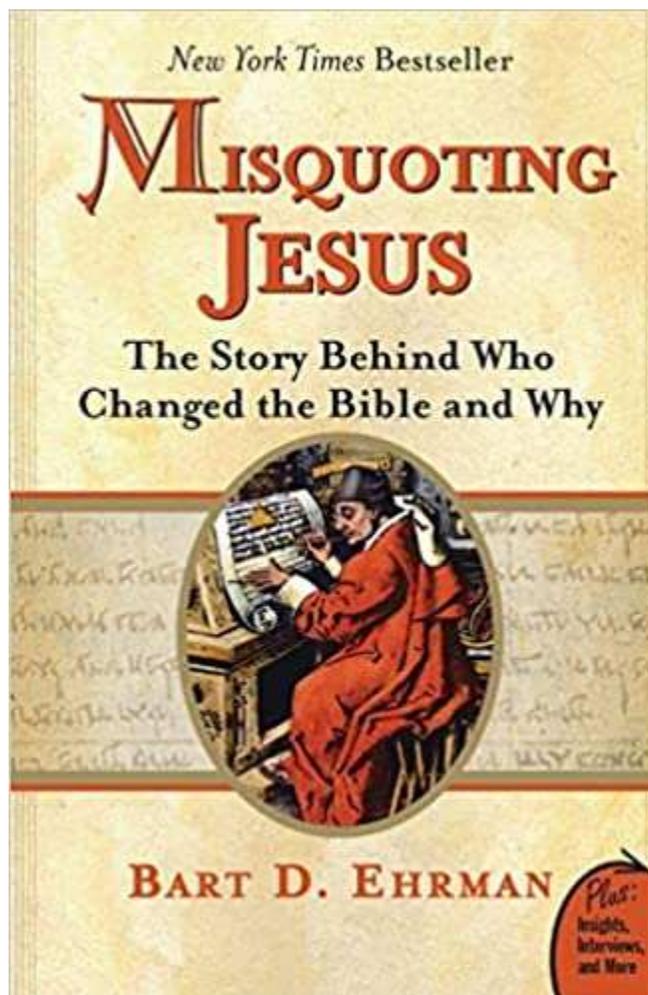


Join the Thursday morning group for a new topic this January

The Thursday morning group will be reading "Misquoting Jesus" beginning in late January. This book follows the evolution of the Bible from an historical perspective. Dr. Ehrman uses textual criticism and ancient manuscripts to answer questions about what we know and what we do not know.

Join us Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00 AM beginning late January.

Contact Joe Roth (671-8458) to learn more or to join the group.



Mission Moment

The Christmas Fund is our annual December special offering used to help retired clergy with their expenses. Contributions can be via check to the church or online marked for Christmas fund in the memo. This is one of our 5 for 5 donations each year. Thank you!

REBEL BEAT YOUTH MINISTRY

grit
&
HOPE

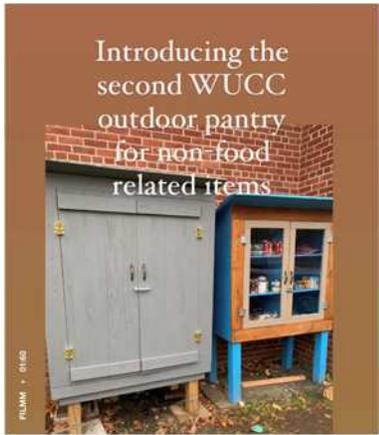
This year's theme

The youth are collecting new/gently used sweat-shirts/hoodies for our neighbors in need. Please place donations in the new collection bench outside the west entrance



Ilei's girl scout troop filled "care bags for mom's" and placed them in the pantry to help mom's with some self care

Second Outdoor pantry is COMPLETE ! Drop off cold weather clothing any time. You can put it directly in the new pantry or in the bench outside the west entrance and the youth will place it in the pantry on Sunday



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (yes that's toilet paper)

REBEL BEAT YOUTH MINISTRY

The youth meet on Sunday's at church outdoors. We have 4 burn barrels to help us stay warm while meeting outside & social distancing.



The youth read ADVENT scripture around the fire. We recorded the readings and will show the videos during Worship on the next 3 Sundays

The new Sunday School Program.

loving our neighbors near and far

love in action every day in lots of ways

Love Out Loud

The children are collecting books, hats, gloves, mittens, winter coats and boots for new outdoor pantry for our neighbors in need



The children and youth are supporting the grandmas at Rochester Advocates for children again during this holiday season. We are asking our congregation to fill 28 grocery bags of food to help the grandmas with Christmas dinner, If you would like to fill a bag, please contact Wendy Lesko wlesko88@gmail.com. Groceries due to church by Dec 10



We are collecting Christmas gifts for the grandchildren again this year and \$10 walmart gift cards for the Grandmas. Contact Wendy Lesko if you would like to contribute





December Birthdays

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

12/01	Aubrie Wagner	12/21	Matthew Nevol
12/02	Gregg Foster	12/21	Chandler Story
12/02	Janice Kujawa	12/22	Robin Maimone
12/02	Willard Scott	12/23	Diane Gummoe
12/03	Christopher DeGross	12/25	Fran Beth
12/03	Gary Salatino	12/27	Spenser Dewey
12/05	Mike Gerard	12/27	Ted Higgs
12/07	Grace Lang-Stutz	12/27	Laura Zarcone
12/07	Sharon Litto	12/29	Kylie Raguso
12/07	Katy Rose Varlan	12/30	Margaret Hart
12/08	Kathy Karam		
12/09	Natalie Shull		
12/10	Marissa Brincka		
12/10	Janet Murray		
12/14	William Spencer		
12/15	Adam Dunn		
12/16	Jonelle Lang-Stutz		
12/16	Catalino Mateo		
12/17	Bradley Hutton		
12/18	Julia Boland		
12/20	Jennifer Brazener		
12/20	David Kohler		
12/20	Dalton Loren		
12/21	Alexandra Liberty		



December Anniversaries

12/17	Ken & Nancy Mihalyov
12/17	Susan Richardson & Scott Mechler
12/22	Bruce & Angie Clair
12/23	Fred & Barbara Suter
12/27	Matthew & Michelle Brincka

Live stream of Sunday morning worship is at 10am each Sunday.
 Sunday School and Youth Group are meeting online. Check your email for details.

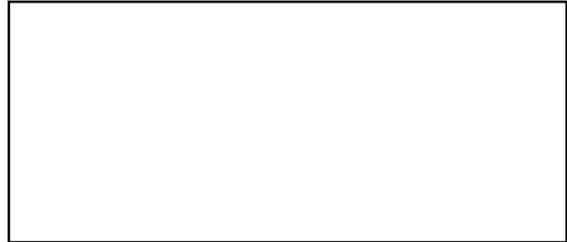
DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10am Combined Worship	30	01-Dec 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	2 7pm BSA Troop 113	3 9:30am Bible Study Group	4 5pm Drama Kids	5
6 10am Combined Worship	7	8 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	9 7pm BSA Troop 113	10 9:30am Bible Study Group	11 5pm Drama Kids	12
13 10am Combined Wor- ship	14	15 6pm WISE group 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	16 7pm BSA Troop 113	17 9:30am Bible Study Group	18 5pm Drama Kids	19
20 10am Combined Wor- ship	21	22 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	23 7pm BSA Troop 113	24 Christmas Eve 9:30am Bible Study Group ? Christmas Eve worship online	25 Christmas Day	26
27 10am Combined Wor- ship	28	29 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	30	31 New Year's Eve 9:30am Bible Study Group	01-Jan New Year's Day	2



United Church of Christ, Congregational
570 Klem Road
Webster, New York 14580

Phone: 585-671-3757
Fax: 585-671-3765
Email: office@uccwebster.org
Website: www.uccwebster.org



Tentative Sunday Schedule

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

11:30 AM
“Sunday School has left the building!”
on ZOOM

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