

April
2021



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

The Congregationalist

Monthly Newsletter

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Dear Members and Friends of Webster UCC, Congregational,



A woman stands in a garden weeping beside an open, empty tomb. Turning around, she sees but does not recognize the beloved man whose body she seeks. "Woman, why are you weeping?" he asks her. Thinking him to be the gardener, she replies, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Only when Jesus calls Mary Magdalene by name does she recognize who stands before her.

John 20:11 ff

As this story continues, Mary reaches out to touch her beloved teacher and friend and he holds up a hand to keep her distance and not hold on to him, for he has not ascended to God. For much of my life, I've thought those words sounded so harsh and offensive. It was kind of like compounding the heart-wrenching grief she was feeling – now she sees him and can't hug him!

During these days of pandemic – quarantine, masks, social-distancing – I truly understand how Mary must have felt! So many times in the past year I've been with someone who's lost a loved one, or has performed some kindness to me or my family and was unable to reach out to hug them! But I kept repeating: "In the long run, we have to stay safe and healthy..." So the words of Jesus seem quite appropriate this year.

I've also thought for a long time, couldn't he have said something different? Elisabeth Moltmann-Wendel suggests that what Jesus is really trying to say is, "Grow up, be more mature! Accept the grief of parting you are feeling..." Standing there seeing Jesus, Mary is a woman in pain. She is grieving, all while remembering everything Jesus meant to her – everything he had done for her. She wants to run to what ever it is she is seeing and embrace this miracle moment. But Jesus knows it's time for Mary to let go, to allow their relationship to move on, to tell the story of what has happened. And so she goes to tell the others. And Mary starts the journey to healing her grief and pain.

We all carry pain at certain times of our lives. I have carried my own personal grief and sorrows at times in my life, but I chose a path to healing those wounds, that pain. And while they may continue to plague us along life's journey, God invites us to stop clinging to them so we aren't forever victimized. Like Mary, we have the choice of standing and weeping at the tomb, or to let go and share with others what we've encountered.

Mary's healing can begin once she leaves that garden and journeys on to tell others what she has experienced. We can heal when we can find the words that can become our journey out of our pain. The Lenten season is like that journey. As we spend time meditating and thinking and praying to refresh and renew our spirits and our souls, we also recall the story of the last days of Jesus' life. And Easter is the culmination of that journey, as we walk from the tomb – as we walk out of our pain – and into new life.

The story of Jesus' resurrection isn't the only resurrection that occurs on Easter. Each year, we are given the opportunity to make that journey. To leave the pain and the struggle in the garden, in the tomb, and move onward – and SHARE all that we have encountered!

HAPPY EASTER!!

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 April 2021

As we approach the end of the Lenten season and enter the season of Easter, we celebrate new life – renewal and refreshment as the earth brings forth buds and blossoms. And even in the midst of all this newness, there are still people struggling to feel any of it. With unrest and injustice in our world and community, with folks still facing hunger and homelessness and hurting, with more lives lost and a pandemic that continues to plague us, we still pray for God’s presence in our lives, hearing our prayers and bringing hope and blessing to so many who live in these times of uncertainty. In your mercy, Holy One, hear our prayers!

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...

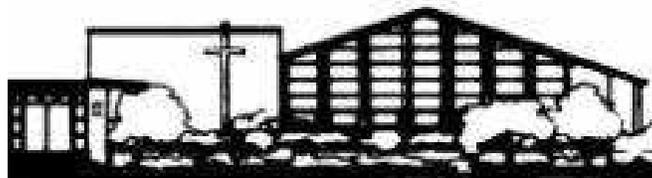
- + Continued Prayers for those in the world community dealing with the Corona virus, especially now as over 500,000 Americans that have lost their lives! We give thanks for vaccines, and the ability to receive them!
- + Thanksgiving for those who have recovered from the effects of the virus!
- + Continued prayers for our nation and world in such difficult times of unrest and division.
- + Healing energies for those who face new or returning diagnoses of illness and supportive energies for those who care for them...
- + Prayers for those facing surgery and/or hospitalizations,
- + 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 families and friends of those who have lost loved ones recently.
- + 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.

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
- + Ted Ellstrom and Arlene Diller @ Sage Harbor, Baywinde Senior Living Center, Webster
- + 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



Mission Moment

One Great Hour of Sharing, part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis.



The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Donations will continue to be received during April and may be sent to the church or made online, payable to UCC Congregational, and marked for OGHS. Thank you!

The UCC book group extends an invitation to you-

We will be reading and having a ZOOM discussion on the book 'Lady Clementine' by Marie Benedict on Sunday afternoon April 18th at 3pm. If you'd like to join the discussion please contact Barbara Suter at bsuter1028@gmail.com so she can send you a ZOOM invitation just prior to our meeting.



Family Promise Giving Day

Family Promise of Greater Rochester (FPGROC, formerly RAIHN) is joining the more than 200 Family Promise affiliates leading up to and on **April 21, 2021** in an effort to raise funds and awareness to fight family homelessness across the nation. Having a strong safety net can often make the

difference for families at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Be sure to follow FPGROC on Facebook and Instagram to learn more about homelessness and join our efforts! (<https://www.facebook.com/RochesterAreaInterfaithHospitalityNetwork> and @rainh585 on Instagram)

Budget 2021

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

Income	2020	2020	2021
	Plan	Actual	Plan
Cash Offering	\$178,000.00	\$182,840.00	\$178,000.00
Pre Paid Pledge	\$7,000.00	\$2,044.00	\$7,000.00
Pledge recovery	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Sunday School	\$2,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,000.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stewardship Sunday Giving	\$187,000.00	\$190,884.00	\$190,000.00
Stewardship Fundraising	\$3,300.00	\$0.00	\$3,300.00
Finance /Misc	\$750.00	\$72.57	\$750.00
Congregational Life	\$0.00	\$179.00	\$0.00
Spiritual Nurturing	\$12,100.00	\$3,515.00	\$12,100.00
Other Youth Fundraising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Building Use Donations	\$26,276.52	\$24,340.75	\$25,110.00
Office & Admin	\$1,200.00	\$275.00	\$1,200.00
Worship & Music	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Mission	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Summer concert ministry	\$16,000.00	\$9,788.72	\$16,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$247,426.52	\$229,055.04	\$249,260.00

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

Ministry Expenses	2020	2020	2021
	Plan	Actual	Plan
Staff and Human Relations	\$214,686.39	\$215,593.47	\$218,756.42
Admin/Office/Communications	\$8,900.00	\$6,743.30	\$8,500.00
Building & Grounds	\$51,000.00	\$45,526.96	\$39,600.00
Worship & Music	\$2,100.00	\$509.50	\$2,100.00
Spiritual Nurturing	\$16,500.00	\$3,864.84	\$16,500.00
Congregational Life	\$2,900.00	\$129.93	\$2,900.00
Mission Outreach Tithe	\$17,887.75	\$20,303.13	\$17,863.00
Mission Awareness Project (MAP)	\$7,083.00	\$7,082.53	\$7,489.72
Summer concert ministry	\$16,000.00	\$9,029.92	\$16,000.00
TOTAL MINISTRY EXPENSES	\$337,057.14	\$308,783.58	\$329,709.14
Surplus/(deficit)	(89,630.62)	(79,728.54)	(80,449.14)
Transfer from Endowment - 6%	\$42,495.00	42,495.00	\$44,938.00
Transfer from Endowment - 1% (MAP)	\$7,083.00	7,082.53	\$7,489.72
Transfer from Memorials and Special Gifts	\$0.00	(75.00)	\$0.00
Additional transfer from Endowment to balance budget	\$40,100.00	27,505.00	\$28,100.00
Special gift for parking lot	\$0.00	-	\$0.00
Estate contributions	\$0.00	-	\$0.00
Net surplus/(deficit) after transfer from Endowment and M&SG	47.38	(2,721.01)	\$78.58

Dear Members:

We hope this email finds you healthy and well. Just like so many other things, our annual budget vote is going to look a little different this year. We will hold an optional Zoom Congregational Meeting at 11 AM on April 18 (invitation will be sent that week); **votes will be due by April 25** and can be submitted by any of the following methods:

1. Complete the 2021 Budget Vote Form accessible by clicking this [link](#).
2. Send an email to the church at office@uccwebster.org. Please be sure to include your name and your vote.
3. Call the church office at 585-671-3757 and leave a voicemail with your name and your vote
4. Print and fill in the information at the bottom of this form and mail it to the church office.

All of us at Webster UCC should be proud of all our church accomplished in the face of the pandemic. We quickly pivoted to virtual services and held wonderful outdoor services on the lawn when the weather permitted. We reimagined the summer concerts and brought music to the homes of hundreds of viewers while raising \$4000 for community organizations. We continued our partnership with Rochester Advocates for Children, providing school supplies, Christmas gifts, and food for holiday meals. Our Youth constructed a second Outdoor Giving Pantry to provide warm clothing and other non-food items to those in need. We participated in the Crop Walk, kept serving at Baber Hot Lunch, and contributed to several worthy causes through our MAP program. We also found creative ways to stay connected with each other.

2021 has already started strong, beginning with our Bonfires and Peace observance in early January. We just dedicated our new Milestones Ministry and the Youth have sorted and distributed 26 pallets of food donated through a partnership with the City of Rochester and Chewy. Our small groups are meeting virtually, our Livestream worship continues, and we will be resuming services on the lawn soon. Your leadership team is closely monitoring the health agency recommendations and we will return to Worship in the sanctuary as soon as it is safe to do so.

The 2021 budget information follows. If you have any questions about the proposed budget and will not be able to attend the April 18 Zoom meeting, please either send an email with your question or call and leave your message on the answering machine before 4/25/21 (office@uccwebster.org or 585-671-3757). A member of Leadership Council will get back to you provide any clarification needed.

To mail your vote, please cut at the dotted line and return to Webster UCC attn. Vote 570 Klem Rd. Webster, NY 14580. If the same form is being used for multiple members' votes, please be sure to indicate that on the form.

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

I/we approve the 2021 budget _____ Yes _____ No

Comments:

A Thank-You Note

I want to thank all of you for the get well cards you sent me. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and all the prayers. It's a good feeling to know so many people care.
God Bless all of you.

Dick Schmitt



"I want mental health to be so normalized that little children can tell their parents if they're feeling mentally ill just like they would if they had a stomach ache or fever.

I want mental health to be so normalized that school lets you go home after a panic attack episode like they do if you sustain an injury.

I want mental health to be so normalized that when someone's in recovery the people around them ask for progress reports and send get well soon cards just like they would for any other sort of recovery.

I want mental health to be normalized because every mental health disorder is just as frightening, just as damaging and just as life threatening as any illness. We pass people by every day who are so unwell in this sense but who don't receive a fraction of the care they deserve just because mental health is unseen."

I found this quote on an Instagram page. The author is known as aesthentique. I put it here in memory of the three young people this congregation has lost in the past two decades. For Erin Laraby, Jennifer Mathiason, and Daniel Gerard and all those who suffer from addiction or mental illness.



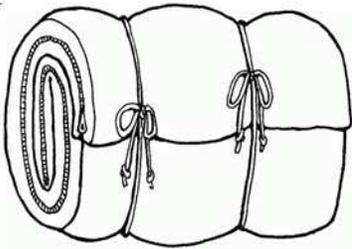
It's a Girl!

It's a girl!! Charlie Sue Gregory was born recently to C.W. and Meghan Gregory, joining big sister, Penelope! Caron and Wes Gregory are the ecstatic grandparents!!

Night Without a Bed

Coming in June...

RAIHN/Family Promise present #NightWithoutABed. This is a social media challenge to raise awareness about family homelessness. Look for more information in future newsletters.



NIGHT WITHOUT A BED

NEW event to raise awareness for families experiencing homelessness. Remember our church partnership with **RAIHN**? Well this wonderful organization continues their mission under a new name to **Family Promise of Greater Rochester**. To renew our congregation's interest in this valuable partnership, we are organizing a series of events.

First the **WUCC Family Promise team** is inviting you and your friends and family to sleep for a Night Without A Bed. This campaign is a social media challenge that raises awareness for families experiencing homelessness. We ask participants to sleep anywhere without a bed: in a car, in a tent, in a treehouse, or even on the living room floor. Then, take a picture or a video and post it on social media using the hashtag **#NightWithoutABed** to describe your experience. In the run-up to this event, participants can challenge another friend, family member or their community to take part in the Night Without a Bed sleepout or donate to Family Promise of Greater Rochester. Registration information will be forthcoming. Questions contact Wendy Lesko wlesko88@gmail.com

REBEL BEAT YOUTH MINISTRY

Register online at uccwebster.org

June 28-July 2

Mission Week 2021

An amazing week of loving
boldly, serving humbly &
changing the world.



Vacation Bible School

For children entering preschool
through grade 4 as of Sept. 2021
Grade 5 and up are staff



Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs'.



Dates: Monday through Friday
June 28-July 2
Time: 9:00 am to noon
Place: United Church of Christ
570 Klem Road
Webster NY 14580
Cost: \$35 (includes t-shirt)

Space extremely
limited to 50
campers
Register Early!

Register online at www.uccwebster.org

Happy Birthday



April Birthdays

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

04/01	Shari Bechtold	04/25	Victoria Syracuse
04/01	Barbara Marcellus	04/25	Chaney Whipkey
04/03	John Rider	04/26	Mark Perrin
04/04	Matthew Chatfield	04/26	Cathy Tschanz
04/04	Ruth Morrill	04/27	Kristin Withall
04/04	Mary Jane Nudd	04/29	Elizabeth Brackett
04/04	Connor Daniel Reynolds	04/29	Claire Fonda
04/07	Cindy Thompson	04/30	Nancy Mihalyov
04/08	Robbie Dewey	04/30	Emelia van Wichen
04/08	Olivia Duga		
04/09	Roger Reed		
04/10	Cara Cerame		
04/10	John Minichiello		
04/10	Ajay Zarcone		
04/12	Aubrey Bila		
04/13	Linda Ims		
04/13	Dan O'Neill		
04/14	Martha Richter		
04/15	Cassandra DeGroff		
04/15	Richard Heidorn		
04/17	Jake Saffran		
04/17	Kaili Saffran		
04/19	Michelle Brincka		
04/19	Fred Suter		
04/21	Pat Edwards		
04/21	Melissa Minichiello		
04/21	Elaine Seitz		
04/22	Jeffrey O'Donnell		
04/25	Dona Carroll		
04/25	Kelsy Norton		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



April Anniversaries

04/04	Richard & Janet Abbott
04/12	Cheryl & Joseph DiTucci
04/15	David & Carole Kohler

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

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Palm Sunday 10am Combined Worship	29	30 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lection- ary Adventure	31 7pm BSA Troop 113	01-Apr 9:30am Bible Study Group	2 5pm Drama Kids	3
4 Easter Sunday 10am Combined Worship	5 Easter Monday	6 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lection- ary Adventure	7 7pm BSA Troop 113	8 9:30am Bible Study Group	9 5pm Drama Kids	10
11 10am Combined Worship	12	13 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lection- ary Adventure	14 7pm BSA Troop 113	15 Tax Day 9:30am Bible Study Group	16 5pm Drama Kids	17
18 10am Combined Worship 11am Congregatio nal Meeting (Zoom) 3pm UCC Book Club (Zoom)	19	20 6pm WISE group 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lection- ary Adventure	21 7pm BSA Troop 113	22 9:30am Bible Study Group	23 5pm Drama Kids	24 Pinewood Derby - Pack 113
25 10am Combined Worship	26	27 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lection- ary Adventure	28 7pm BSA Troop 113	29 9:30am Bible Study Group	30 5pm Drama Kids	01-May



April 4 is Easter Sunday

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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