

September  
2021

Dear Members and Friends of Webster UCC, Congregational,



Where did August go? Where did summer go? (I mean, I realize it's still summer until the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the first day of fall... but WOW!)

I keep looking at the calendar and thinking, "It's September and I didn't get to..." Or "I wanted to get together with..." "I was hoping to get so many things done..." Oh well, I guess there's always fall!

So, instead of dwelling on what I didn't get to do or who I didn't get to see, I decided to take a few moments to think about all that DID happen in the summer of '21. The fun weekends at the cottage, getting to see family members I only get to see once a year, being able to worship in the sanctuary for a few weeks, rebuilding the deck, showing Lucas our childhood homes and neighborhoods and teaching him about the Amish and their lifestyles and beliefs, cooling off in the lake and enjoying the beach with the folks we only see during the summer months. And it was all good!

One of the online publications I subscribe to is "Lumunos – Faith & Light for the Journey." The September edition was in my email this morning. And very appropriately, it quotes Stephanie Rosenbloom who is a travel writer for the New York Times. And she focuses on how to maintain and sustain some of the well-being that comes from Sabbath time:

*"...psychologists say that reminiscing about a trip, even after it's over, can bring a deep pleasure in the present. Flipping through photos or watching old video clips of summer fun helps us relive the positive experience and the positive feelings we had at the time..."*

The article also quoted Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius who was to have said: *"Nowhere is there a more idyllic spot, a vacation place more private and peaceful, than in one's own mind... Take this vacation as often as you like, and so charge your spirit!"*

That made such sense to me that I'd like to suggest that we all take some time in the busy days ahead to reflect and remember our summer Sabbath times. Savor those memories of hot summer days, cool swims in the lake, reading a great book under a shady tree, and great friends, great food and good times around the picnic table. And in remembering and reflecting, go back to those perfect places and "charge your spirit!" And smile...

As September kicks our lives into high gear once again, what Sabbath or summer memory do you want to recall? Give thanks for what has been, and give thanks for what is to come!

Welcome home!

Grace, Peace, and Love,

**Carl**

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



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

# The Congregationalist

Monthly Newsletter

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## Prayer Requests for September 2021

Well, we were warned... lower infection rate numbers were short-lived, and once again COVID is on the rise – primarily among unvaccinated adults and children. Once again, we must be vigilant and careful! We've heard of friends, family members and loved ones who are suffering – at home and in the hospital. So once again we are facing the days with fear and anxiety. We are compassionate people of God, and need to express love and understanding for all our brothers and sisters in this family of faith. There are still folks facing hunger and homelessness and unemployment! Continue to pray for God's presence in all 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!

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 COVID, especially where vaccines are few and variants are on the rise! We continue to give thanks for vaccines, and the ability to receive them!
- + Prayers for the people in Haiti following yet another catastrophic earthquake.
- + Prayers for the people of Afghanistan who, after 20 years, are facing Taliban rule and what that means. We pray also for all seeking refuge, and American citizens struggling to return home to the US.
- + Thanksgiving for those who have recovered from the affects of the virus!
- + Thoughts and prayers for the entire Ellstrom-extended family on the death of Timothy Ellstrom, son of Ted and brother of Greg, Heidi, Becky & Polly – and Uncle Timmy to so many nieces and nephews.
- + 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,
- + Prayers for those in our church family who have lost loved ones recently...
- + Prayers for all parents, teachers and students as a new school year is upon us!
- + Prayers for those going off to college...
- + 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, Clive Barnsbee, Bob Daly, Wayne Ferry, Ron Orchard, Andrea Oestreich and Marian Payne @ 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
- + Mary Jane Nudd @ Castlepointe, Baywinde Senior Living Center, Webster
- + Jan Kujawa @ home with family in Buffalo
- + Bruce & Angie Clair, now at Traditions of Deerfield, 3455 Nantucket Circle, Apt. 248, Loveland, OH 45140, and closer to family.



## HOMECOMING SUNDAY 2021...

Each year on the second Sunday of September, we celebrate Homecoming at Webster UCC! We celebrate a return to a new and exciting program year at church – in worship, faith formation, and fellowship. Some people ask, “what does ‘Homecoming Sunday’ mean?” And I explain that it’s like that Homecoming football game in the fall, when everyone returns to root on the home team! Well, this year, with COVID still causing us to do things a little differently, let’s have a real humdinger of a true Homecoming – tailgate party and all!!!

Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> – Join us!

First, we’ll worship on the lawn that morning at 10:00 AM... everybody bring a chair or a blanket and we’ll praise God and give thanks together! And there’ll be Sunday School fun for the kiddos! Then, following worship, bring your cars onto the lawn, and we’ll back them all up into a big circle, pop our hatches and trunks, play some tunes, and enjoy a picnic lunch together – everyone bringing their own lunches!

We’ll have some games – feel free to bring your Corn-Hole games, Ladder Golf, or Bocce, or just enjoy good conversation with your church family! We’ll celebrate being back together for another year to BE THE CHURCH!

Stay as long as you like, leave when you must (the Bills play the Steelers that day so that game is must-see-TV in our house!)

If it rains, we’ll just postpone it a week! No big deal...

## Celebrate Homecoming!!

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### ***Recently Baptized...***

*Charlie Sue Gregory was our first baptism since COVID began on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> during our “On the Lawn” worship service! Charlie Sue is the daughter of C.W. and Meghan (Bello) Gregory, the granddaughter of Caron & Wes Gregory, and little sister of Penelope Gregory.*

*The Family of Faith at Webster UCC welcomes Charlie Sue into the Body of Christ!!*

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### **Join us online for Sunday worship**

The pandemic forced us to use new ways to stay connected. One of these is livestreaming of worship services. Recognizing that this is a way to expand our church’s reach, we will continue to provide this service in the future even as we are able to provide in-person worship in the sanctuary. A generous gift has enabled us to upgrade our livestream equipment, including new pan-tilt-zoom cameras and a digital sound board. Soon, our Sunday worship will be available online with higher quality video, multiple camera angles and improved sound. Of course, we can expect some glitches along the way as we all learn how to make the best use of this new system.

Find the links to livestream on Facebook and YouTube by visiting our website [uccwebster.org](http://uccwebster.org)

# MAP Mission Awareness Projects

Helping Others to Help Themselves

Planting seeds of hope,  
one seed at a time for 8 years.

MAP has helped to fund 9 projects this past year. July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Total funding: \$7082.53



## Homeless Health Care \$1000

2 room mobile RV clinic  
1 room medical exams & 1 room dental  
Travels to Rochester homeless shelters

## RCTC \$1000

Rochester Construction Training Center  
Andrew Evans retired from RG&E  
Found an abandoned church on Buffalo Road  
Developed a 90 day training program  
introducing students to 12 major  
construction skills

This is a picture of a recent graduating class  
Most had jobs offers before they graduated



## Water for South Sudan. \$2000

Started in Rochester by Salva Dut, one of the "lost boys" of Sudan  
Since 2005 over 490 wells in use  
Over 325,000 people no longer have to search for water  
Old wells are rehabilitated as needed  
Hygiene education is provided



## NY/HELP Honduras \$722.53

This is a UCC project sponsored by Western NY UCC churches  
Serves 11 small villages in the Yoro Mountains  
Have provided 1/2 the funds to build a small elementary school a few years ago  
Presently a junior high is being completed

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)



Since 1989 1 to 3 groups of volunteers go there each year from Western New York  
1 Health clinic has been built & there is 1 full time nurse  
Recently sewing machines have been provided & sewing classes are taught



Many other projects also are done

### UCC CAIM \$500

Council of American Indian Ministries  
This mission trains Native Americans to pastor Native Americans  
Currently over 20 pastors have been trained & are working with other Native Americans  
Most live in extreme poverty



### UCC Seed Bank Silos - Nicaragua \$500

The Seed Bank is located in the Church for a safe place to keep the seed  
For Example, a member borrower 100 pounds of seed & is expected to pay back 120 pounds at the end of harvest.



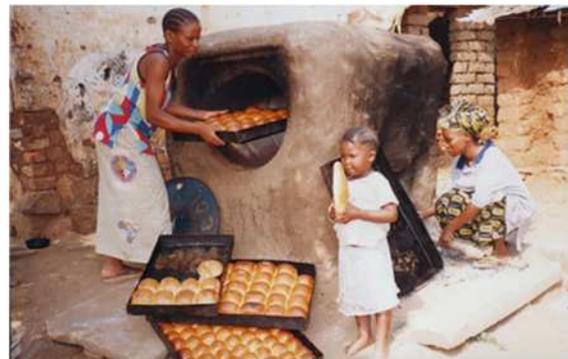
### UCC Child Sponsor \$360

Kelsang is in the Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala, India  
UCC has 15 of these villages in different places around the world  
The funds are used for education  
The agency doesn't send out pictures of Kelsang for safety reasons; this is a picture of another Tibetan child



### UCC Micro Loans to Congo women \$500

Loans are round \$50  
Loans are only given to women



(Continued from page 5)

Women start small business, become able to support their families, & their pay back rate is excellent

RAI HN \$500

New name:

Family Promise of Greater Rochester

Rochester is the 3rd poorest of the 75 metropolitan areas of the US

2 main goals:

Keeping families together

Getting families home for good

Many of you have volunteered in this program over the last few years

Eleventh Commandment  
Thou Shalt Not Stand Idly By

# Thank You Webster UCC!

for supporting the MAP Project

### Our Guidelines

1% of the Endowment Fund is used each year for the Mission Awareness Projects (MAP)

The 1% is determined on January 1 of each year

If the Endowment Fund drops below \$500,000 MAP will no longer be funded

We would love to have your ideas for future MAP projects

Contact Colleen Kunz:  
[cmaykunz@yahoo.com](mailto:cmaykunz@yahoo.com)

## A new building user—New Life United Methodist Church

As of September 1, 570 Klem Road is not just the home of the United Church of Christ, Congregational, we are also the new home of New Life United Methodist Church! We have been in dialogue with the folks of New Life for the last few years. Knowing that their building on Ridge Road was on the market, we extended an invitation to them to “nest” here with us. New Life will be gathering for worship at 9:00 AM each Sunday morning in the east side of Fellowship Center. And they will be sharing that space for as long as they need to make decisions about their future. They hope to also host some of their famous church dinners while here, as well as sharing space for Bible studies and meetings. Please join in welcoming the family of faith that is New Life UMC to our shared church home!! (Coincidentally, their former address was 570 Ridge Road!) And continue to hold them in your thoughts and prayers as they move forward.



## Mission Moment -

**Church World Service school kits** - August/September has been our time to collect supplies for the kits. Though delivery is in the spring, school supplies are on sale now. A labeled bin is in the narthex to collect donated supplies. Monetary donations are always welcome and may be sent to the church marked for school supplies. The kits are sent worldwide as need arises. Thank you for helping with this mission project!!!

### School Bag Supplies:

- one pair **blunt** scissors
- three 70-count spiral bound notebooks
- one 12" ruler
- one hand held pencil sharpener
- one large eraser
- six new unsharpened pencils with erasers
- one box 24 count crayons (only 24)

Many thanks to those who sew school bags. Each one uses a half yard of quilting cotton weight fabric. Instructions available from Linda Ims - [lindaims63@gmail.com](mailto:lindaims63@gmail.com) or 671-1101.



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## Neighbors in Need

**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. We will receive the NIN offering on **October 3, 2021** as part of the World Communion Sunday observance.



# REBEL BEAT YOUTH GROUP

think  
learn  
grow  
build  
serve  
love

currently meeting at 11:00 am Sunday



The Rebel Beat youth group is comprised of youth grades 5 through 12. We meet weekly on Sundays at 11:00 am. Our lessons are deep, our conversations are lively and our outreach projects are impactful. We like to build things and REALLY love to be challenged. I have learned much from these youth. Most recently ....NOTHING is impossible and NEVER underestimate the power of the love found in the heart of a teen or child.

If you thought Hermit Crab camp sounded like a fun and refreshing way to spend a summer morning.... Wait until you hear about this...

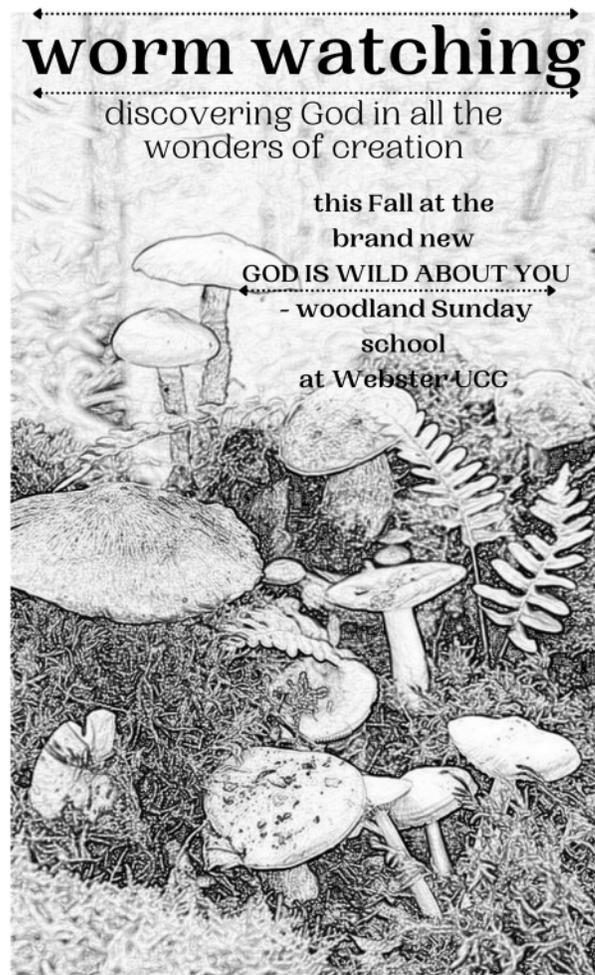
At Webster UCC, our children's ministry has been transformed into ——>

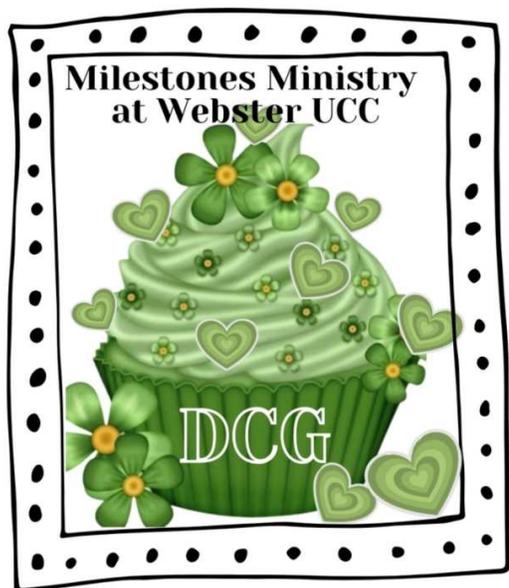
GOD IS WILD ABOUT YOU (WILD FOR SHORT)

Woodland Sunday School.

That means new lessons, new outdoor learning space and a new approach to Sunday school. And it gets even better. This Fall at WILD we launch WORM WATCHING. It's true.

September 12 at 10:00. Dress for the weather.





## Meeting families where they are on life's journey

To all women....you are invited.

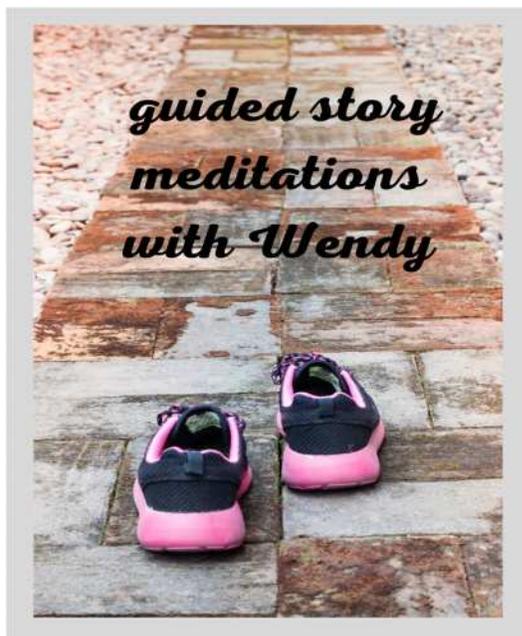
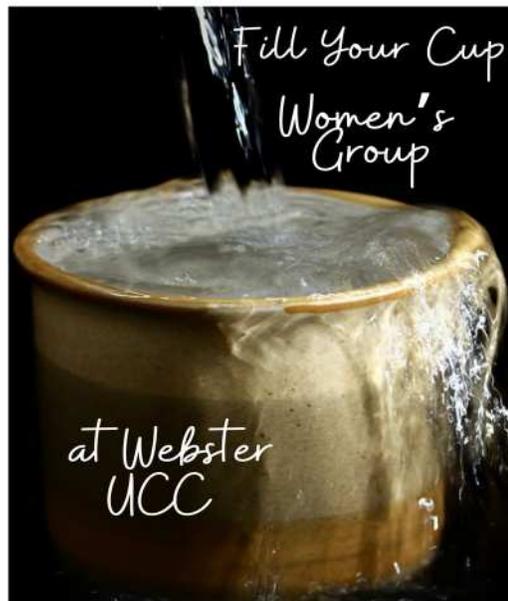
Whether your cup is empty or full or somewhere in between, you are welcome to gather at Webster UCC (dates and times yet TBD) to be refreshed and refilled by a caring community of loving souls ready to laugh and lift and even carry.

Questions?

Wendy Ann Lesko wlesko88@gmail.com

585-746-1965

The DCG MILESTONES MINISTRY is excited to love and serve our neighbors. Milestones actively reaches out to individuals and families who could use love and support during their "everyday" or on special days such as birthdays and holidays. Sometimes it's a card or a gift or a bag of groceries. We also partner with service organizations who distribute clothing, food and school supplies. Look for MILESTONES updates on Facebook. And if you know of someone in need, please tell them about MILESTONES, or let us know and we will reach out.



I'll meet you early mornings in the labyrinth or evenings around the campfire. Or Saturday afternoon in the WILD story circle. Bring your coffee or your water bottle. Young or old or in between. Dates and times to be announced early September.

# Happy Birthday



## September Birthdays

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

09/02	Rob Balsamo	09/19	Jim Painton
09/02	Jeffrey Hermenet	09/20	Cameron Davis
09/03	Veronica Speer	09/21	Jason Boland
09/04	Susan MacDonald	09/22	Skip Erb
09/06	Jason Vent	09/23	John Gummoe
09/07	Amir Hamouda	09/23	Ella Wambach
09/07	Ryley Norton	09/24	Kelly Kozlowski
09/09	Morgan Peterson	09/25	Natalie Bila
09/09	Judy Short	09/25	Nancy Schlaffer
09/09	Debra Vent	09/25	Norman Short
09/10	Sharon Randall	09/25	David VanHousen
09/11	Peter Andrews	09/26	Richard Ashley
09/11	Martha Leising	09/27	Jessica Abbey
09/11	Colter Mateo	09/27	Frank Bell
09/12	Joseph DiTucci	09/27	Christine Daniels
09/14	Jeffrey Wagner	09/27	Tessa Kilian
09/15	Daniel Schoenberger	09/27	Carol Schmitt
09/16	Jeanette Guenther	09/29	Kathryn Bickford
09/16	Robert McVay	09/29	Thomas Story
09/16	Keri Stetson	09/30	Heidi LaDuca
09/17	Colleen Kunz		
09/18	Ryan Henderson		
09/18	Ava Magin		
09/18	Wyatt Murray		
09/19	David Gerard		

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



## September Anniversaries

09/02	Jan & Doug Farling
09/03	Karl & Donna Fonda
09/03	Joseph & Carole Roth
09/04	Harold & Nikki Langworthy
09/04	Richard & Carol Schmitt
09/04	Frank & Jane Vavrick
09/09	Kenneth & Janice Smith
09/12	Cindy & Ron Thompson
09/21	Keith & Debra Vent
09/22	Emily & Jason Duga
09/27	John & Barb Cittadino

Sunday worship is in our sanctuary at 10am each Sunday. Services are livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. See our website for the link.

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

## SEPTEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10am Combined Worship	30	31	01-Sep	2 9:30am Bible Study Group	3	4
5 10am Combined Worship	6 Labor Day	7 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	8	9 9:30am Bible Study Group	10	11
12 10am HOMECOMING Sunday - wor- ship and tailgate party	13	14 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	15 First Day of His- panic Heritage Month	16 9:30am Bible Study Group	17	18
19 10am Combined Worship	20 2pm Webster Council of Churches (tentative)	21 6pm WISE group 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	22	23 9:30am Bible Study Group	24	25
26 10am Combined Worship	27	28 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	29	30 9:30am Bible Study Group	01-Oct	2

### ***Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> – HOMECOMING SUNDAY Worship and Tailgate Party!!***

- We'll worship on the lawn at 10:00 AM, and then back our cars onto the lawn in a big circle, open our "tailgates" (or trunks) and enjoy a picnic lunch (bring your own family's lunch) and some games on the lawn!  
Stay as long as you like – bring some lawn games (corn hole, bocce, ladder golf...), and just enjoy! If it rains, we'll postpone to the 19<sup>th</sup>!  
(I know the 12<sup>th</sup> is the Bills Home Opener with, of all teams, THE STEELERS, so we understand if you have to head home for the game.)

United Church of Christ, Congregational  
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Website: www.uccwebster.org



*Summer Sunday Schedule*

*10:00 AM*

*Worship Service in our Sanctuary  
Plus live stream on our Facebook page*

*11:00 AM*

*Youth group*

*“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