

December
2021



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

The Congregationalist

Monthly Newsletter

Rev. Carl Richier, Sr. Pastor
Doug Hall, Editor

Email: office@uccwebster.org
Website: www.uccwebster.org

570 Klem Road, Webster, New York 14580
Phone: 585-671-3757
Fax: 585-671-3765

Dear Members and Friends of Webster UCC, Congregational,



Several years ago, a longtime clergy colleague of mine began his yearly Christmas letter with the words, "And just like that, we find ourselves in the season of Advent." I share them with you because that's just how I am feeling!

I always love it when there is a Sunday between Thanksgiving and the First Sunday of Advent. It gives us all a little time to breathe – to collect our thoughts – to really let the thankfulness and gratitude of Thanksgiving sink in a little – before heading into the busy-ness of Advent – with Christmas coming close at hand! Oh well, not so this year...

It's funny, how Advent comes – quiet, peaceful, hopeful, joyful, loving... Advent comes right smack dab in the midst of the busiest, craziest, most hectic, chaotic time of the year! The time when we're supposed to be the most meditative and mindful of preparing our hearts and home once again for the arrival of "Emmanuel, God will be with us!" "The Light of the World" comes when the days are the shortest, the nights are the darkest. Yet amidst the chaos and busy-ness, the coldness and the darkness, we manage to find time to light candles and sing carols. We find time to hold our family and friends close. We find time to share love and be loved... is it any wonder it's "the most wonderful times of the year?"

Ann Weems puts it so well in her writing, "December Darkness":

*The whole world waits in December darkness
for a glimpse of the Light of God.
Even those who snarl "Humbug!"
and chase away the carolers
have been seen looking toward the skies...
The one who declared he never would forgive
has forgiven,
and those who left home
have returned,
and even wars are halted,
if briefly,
as the whole world looks starward.
In the December darkness
we peer from our windows
watching for an angel with rainbow wings
to announce the Hope for the World.*

We wish you PEACE, HOPE, JOY and LOVE in your December darkness. May the Advent and Christmas bring all that you dream possible in a world in need of so much possibility...

Have a blessed and happy Christmastide!

Grace and Peace,

Carl

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed... nothing would be impossible to you."

- Matthew 17:20

2021 Advent and Christmas Worship at Webster UCC

Sunday, November 28 – First Sunday of Advent – Worship at 10 AM

In-person and Livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube.

Lighting the first Advent candle, special music and a message on “HOPE!”

Sunday, December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent – Worship at 10 AM

In-person and Livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube

Lighting the second Advent candle, special music and a message on “PEACE!”

**11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Christmas Shenanigans – a free outdoor event!*

Living Nativity - Carols - Bonfire - S’mores - Pizza - Cocoa - Crafts

Sponsored by the Rebel Beat Youth for the whole community!

Sunday, December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent – Worship at 10 AM

In-person and Livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube

Lighting the third Advent candle, special music and a message on “JOY!”

**11:00 AM – A WILD Christmas Pageant –*

in the outdoor learning space!

Presented by our “God is WILD about you” Sunday School kids!

Sunday, December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Worship at 10 AM

In-person and Livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube

Specially chosen music by the choir from past Cantata performances.

Lighting the fourth Advent candle and a message on “LOVE.”

Friday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE:

4:30 PM - Family Christmas Eve Service

** In-person (limited capacity) and Livestreaming on Facebook & YouTube*

- Uploaded to YouTube for viewing any time Christmas day!

- Have your candles ready for lighting at home as we sing, “Silent Night!”

11:00 PM - Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

** In-person (Limited capacity) and Livestreaming on Facebook & YouTube*

- Uploaded to YouTube for viewing any time Christmas day!

- Carols, candles, and beautiful music!

- Have your candles ready for lighting at home as we sing, “Silent Night!”

Sunday, December 26 – First Sunday of Christmas! – Worship at 10 AM

In-person and Livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube.

Featuring Traditional & Contemporary "Lessons and Carols!"

- The Rev. Dr. Margo Markesteijn, Guest Pastor

WILD plans
 (God is WILD about you)
 woodland Sunday School

NOVEMBER :
 it's all about
 gratitude & giving


DECEMBER :
 it's all about baby Jesus

AND
 decorating our
 learning space for
 Christmas and
 creating the "set"
 for the outdoor
 Christmas Pageant



a WILD Christmas Pageant

Sunday December 12
 11:00 am
 in the outdoor WILD
 learning space



Rebel Beat Youth Plans

NOVEMBER:
 gratitude
 giving
 &
 sharing our
 abundance

DECEMBER:
 Christmas
 Shenanigans
 & loving our
 neighbors

and the
 Sunday
 bonfires
 return Nov 7



Christmas Shenanigans
 Sunday December 5 11:00 to 1:00
 free outdoor event

Living Nativity
 Bonfire
 Smore

Crafts
 Pizza
 Cocoa

Carols

sponsored
 by the
 Rebel Beat
 Youth




Meeting families
 where they are on
 life's journey



Thank you for your generosity! We filled over 33 giant bags stuffed with Thanksgiving groceries for the Grandmas at Rochester Advocates for Children. Gladys and the grandmas were overjoyed!

NOW CAN WE DO IT AGAIN FOR CHRISTMAS ????

We are collecting 30 Grocery BAGS BY DECEMBER 16.

Please fill a reusable grocery bag (paper bags are not strong enough for the delivery process) with mostly non-perishables to help fill their cupboards for the holidays. Also because the church has a thriving woodland creature population, we will not be collecting the groceries outside at church as we have in the past. Instead please drop off your bags on Wendy Lesko's porch at 525 Bay Road... 1.3 miles away from church at the north end of Bay road.

ALSO IT'S ANGEL TREE TIME

Please return gifts to church narthex by Sunday December 12. Place unwrapped gifts in a gift bag with a nametag. Gift Cards should be in an envelope with the teen's name written on the front and the amount written on the card. Give gift cards to Carl or Wendy on Sunday mornings. If you can't get to church on Sunday then drop gifts and cards on Wendy's porch at 525 Bay Road. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!** If you have questions, contact Wendy Lesko wlesko88@gmail.com 585-746-1965

Here's the link...

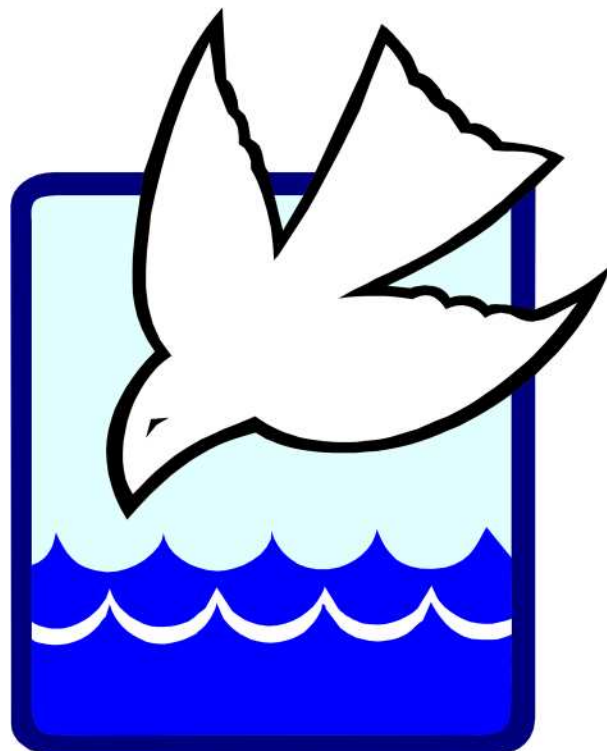
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fb7Squd9ua9kt5R1ybmM46WqPzH3xqlueLptcZFuJ6s/edit?usp=sharing>

Recently Baptized...

Miles Paul Narum was baptized on Sunday, November 7th during the morning worship service! Myles is the son of Christopher and Jennifer (Hermanet) Narum, and the grandson of Cathy and Phil Stoneham.

Aaron Kyle Hartman and Phoebe Annelies Hartman were baptized following the service on November 21st. Aaron and Phoebe are the children of Michael and Samantha (Reynolds) Hartman, and Great-Grandchildren of the late Chuck and Annelies Reynolds, long time members of Webster UCC!

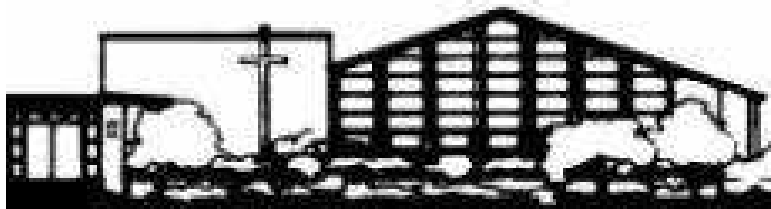
The Family of Faith at Webster UCC welcomes Miles, Aaron, and Phoebe into the Body of Christ!!



Mission Moments -

Four special offerings plus a donation to OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) from the budget is what makes Webster UCC a Strive For Five church. The 4th offering - The Christmas Fund - will be received in Dec. This fund provides emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to lower income retirees of the UCC.

Thank you for your continued support of these special offerings! Contributions can be made via cash, checks payable to the church, or online. Please note on check or online the contribution is for The Christmas Fund.



The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

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 18 months, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church increased dramatically. Many of our clergy continue to bear the consequences of lost or decreased income. These difficult times make the need for the Christmas Fun more urgent than ever.

The Christmas Fund is one of our “Five-for-Five” offerings of the national church that we celebrate at the United Church of Christ, Congregational of Webster. It is our hope that we can continue to support the Christmas Fund and all of their good works to those people who have devoted their lives to leadership in the United Church of Christ worldwide.

You can donate with a check made out to Webster UCC – and place it in the offering plate at the rear of the church, or you can mail it in (write “Christmas Fund” in the memo line).

You can also give online by going to our website at www.uccwebster.org and clicking on the link.

Or, if you prefer, you can give directly and securely at www.christmasfund.org.

Thank you
for supporting
the Christmas Fund!



Happy Birthday



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	Chandler Story
12/02	Gregg Foster	12/22	Robin Maimone
12/02	Janice Kujawa	12/23	Diane Gummoe
12/02	Willard Scott	12/25	Fran Beth
12/03	Christopher DeGross	12/27	Spenser Dewey
12/03	Gary Salatino	12/27	Ted Higgs
12/05	Mike Gerard	12/27	Laura Zarcone
12/07	Grace Lang-Stutz	12/29	Kylie Raguso
12/07	Sharon Litto	12/30	Margaret Hart
12/07	Katy Rose Maccagnini		
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		
12/21	Matthew Nevol		



December Anniversaries

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

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.

DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	01-Dec	2	3	4
10am Combined Worship	6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 113	7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	7pm Scout Troop 113	9:30am Thursday Study Group	5pm Drama Kids	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am Combined Worship 11am Christmas Shenanigans		7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	7pm Scout Troop 113	9:30am Thursday Study Group	5pm Drama Kids	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am Combined Worship 11am Christmas Play		7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	7pm Scout Troop 113	9:30am Thursday Study Group	5pm Drama Kids	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am Combined Worship		6pm WISE group 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	7pm Scout Troop 113	9:30am Thursday Study Group	Christmas Eve 4:30pm Family Christmas Eve service 11pm Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	Christmas Day
26	27	28	29	30	31	01-Jan
10am Combined Worship	6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 113	7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure		9:30am Thursday Study Group	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day

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Sunday Schedule

10:00 AM

*Worship Service in our Sanctuary
Plus live stream on Facebook & YouTube*

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
Lorraine Speer, Nursery Coordinator
Scott Loiacono, Custodian