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 darrest. 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 Markestieijn, Guest Pastor
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/1fb7Sqdu9ua9kt5R1ybmM46WqPzH3xglueLptcZFuJ6s/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 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 wwwchristmasfund.org.

Thank you for supporting the Christmas Fund!
December Birthdays

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 DeGroff 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

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.
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

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<th>Sun</th>
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<td><strong>7pm Carl and Wendy’s Lectionary Adventure</strong></td>
<td><strong>7pm Scout Troop 113</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30am Thursday Study Group</strong></td>
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United Church of Christ, Congregational
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Webster, New York 14580
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Email: office@uccwebster.org
Website: www.uccwebster.org

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

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.”