

February
2022



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

The Congregationalist

Monthly Newsletter

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Dear Members and Friends of Webster UCC, Congregational,



I have been trying to put into words how the struggles of doing ministry in these pandemic times have affected us, as a congregation, and me, as a pastor, not to mention numerous colleagues with whom I am in contact. On January 19th, the Rev. John Edgerton voiced those words – probably much more eloquently and succinctly than I ever could have – in the Daily Devotional of the United Church of Christ. With permission, I share those words you all in this edition of Mustard Seeds.

LEST WE BURST

John Edgerton

Jesus told them this parable: “No one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured in new wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, ‘The old is better.’” (Luke 5:37-39)

Between 2008 and 2019 I led worship approximately twelve hundred times, give or take a hundred. Leading services three times a week for almost eight years really ran up the numbers. I went from wobbly and nervous to loose and confident. I’m not boasting, just pointing out that practicing something a thousand times really helps.

Since the pandemic began, I’ve led worship maybe a hundred times. And those one hundred times have been in at least four or five formats that were new to me: live on Zoom, pre-recorded on YouTube, livestreamed in the sanctuary, outdoors on the lawn, a hybrid of all the above. I’m back to wobbly and nervous, and I don’t like it. I miss the old wine of well-known ways of worship. I’ve tasted the new and I would say, “The old is better!”

It’s okay if the time of worship during COVID isn’t your favorite. It’s okay if it doesn’t measure up to what used to be. No one should expect it to. This is a time of new wine. This time has to be given room to breathe and expand, to become whatever it will become. Our job as the church is to learn new lessons and strengthen new muscles. Our job as the church is to stretch and flex.

Because we aren’t the wine. We are the wineskins.

Prayer

God, this time is hard for us. Help us to worship you in beauty and truth, in new ways.

While I have led worship probably close to 2,300 times between 1994 and March of 2020, and then in the same various formats through these pandemic times, my sentiment echoes John’s. So I give thanks for a colleague who has gifted me with words I have struggled to share!

Grace and Peace,
Carl

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

Prayer Requests for February 2022

February has become known as the Love Month thanks to the huge emphasis on Valentine's Day. Valentines and Valentine-themed products have been in the stores since New Year's Day, creating a big ol' commercial holiday, instead of the quietly sincere recognition of those in our lives who are loved and cared for so deeply. So why not jump on the bandwagon, and take this month as an opportunity to check in on those who are loved in our lives? Send a card, an email, a text... make a phone call or a visit... reach out in loving ways to those who play an important part in our lives during this month and season of Love!

Please, also keep in mind, thoughts and prayer those who are facing loss, 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 the midst of such 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...

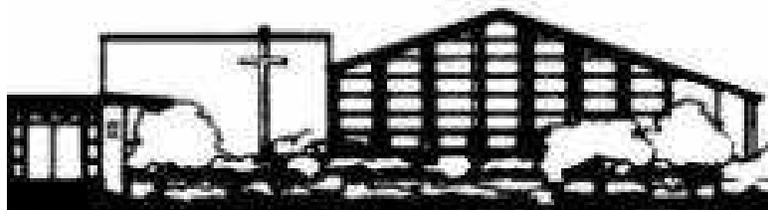
- + Continued Prayers for those in the world community dealing with COVID, especially where vaccines are few and variants are on the rise! We continue to give thanks for vaccines, and the ability to receive them!
- + Prayers for the people in the Ukraine facing a time of unrest, political upheaval, and threat of war.
- + Continued prayers for the people of Afghanistan, and those Afghan refugees here in our area and nation.
- + We pray for ALL who are seeking and struggling to make a home to the US.
- + Thanksgiving for those who have recovered from the affects of the virus!
- + 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 and subsequent rehabilitation.
- + Prayers for the family of Wayne Ferry who lost his battle with illness recently.
- + Prayers for those who continue to deal 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 @ Sage Harbor, Baywinde Senior Living Center, Webster
- + Fern Pellet @ Fairport Baptist Home in Fairport
- + Larry Akins, Bob Daly, Deede Kniffin, 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 @ Traditions of Deerfield, 3455 Nantucket Circle, Apt. 248, Loveland, OH 45140
- + Nancy Schlaffer @ Cherry Ridge, 965 Cherry Ridge Blvd., Apt. 217, Webster, NY 14580



(Continued from page 3)

Our church does **not** receive any type of funding from a larger UCC organization. 100% of our budget depends on giving. This is mostly made up by:

Regular giving from members (weekly, monthly etc.): This is the main source of funds for the church. Every year, church members are asked to commit to donating to the church for the upcoming year. These pledges assist the church in the budgeting process to understand how much funds are available for things like making sure our spaces are lit, warm, safe, staffed and ready to help those in need.

Fundraisers and miscellaneous donations: Fundraisers and miscellaneous donations can help to supplement the church budget. These sources of income are usually unknown when planning the budget and are not guaranteed. Fundraisers also need volunteers to help organize, plan and manage. *If you have a fundraising idea or would like to lead a group to run a fundraiser, please talk to any member of Leadership Council, Wendy or Carl!*

Funds for supporting church activities: Certain activities, such as Summer Mission Week, VBS, Pet Food Pantry, etc., charge participants a fee or depend on separate donations to pay for the program.

Money from non-church members: Certain funds are received from building use from people or organizations outside of the church such as the cell tower lease and groups using our building for meetings or classes.

Church endowment and memorials and special gifts: is made up of gifts from members who have generously contributed to our church in their wills or other special occasions. While we are lucky to have these resources, it is our desire to use them in a responsible manner that will enable us to preserve the funding for the future.

Over the next few weeks, you will see more information on the importance of pledging to the budget of the Webster UCC. By completing and submitting a pledge card, you are ensuring that [we](#) can be [us](#).

To be US...We need YOU.

For your records

For church records

Please return by 2/15/22

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I plan to give \$ _____ each
 week month year

I plan to give \$ _____ each week month year
Beginning _____ for an annual total of \$ _____

Beginning _____

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

for an annual total of \$ _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

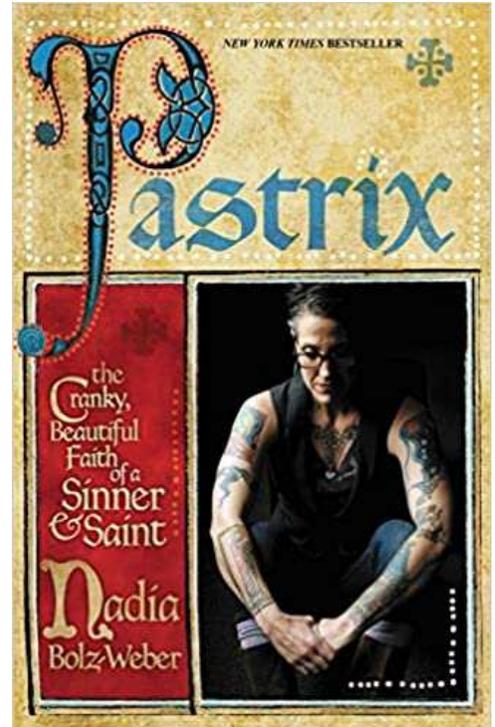
Thursday morning group

"Pastrix" is the next Thursday morning resource.

Written by Nadia Bolz-Weber, an inner city pastor in Denver, the book captures her life experiences with her less fortunate congregation mixed with a progressive philosophy. As the book's cover shows, she takes a less mainstream approach to her life and writing.

Join us Thursday mornings from 9:30 -11:00 AM beginning March 17, 2022 as we read and discuss the book over about eight weeks. Used books are about \$6.

Contact Joe Roth (jaro462@gmail.com) to order a book, to learn more or to join the group.



A Special THANK YOU

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the members and friends of Webster UCC for your amazing generosity in contributing to Christmastime gifts for the church staff. [note: staff gifts were distributed in January after all contributions were received] It is a blessing to serve this wonderful and caring community that is Webster UCC!

Your Staff, Loraine Speer, Scott Loiacono, Oleksandra Yurcheenko, Ron Milliman,
Doug Hall, Wendy Lesko, and Carl Richter

Mission Moment -

What can you do with a blanket? It can provide warmth, shelter from the elements, comfort, and the knowledge that someone cares. For many years Webster UCC has had a Blanket Sunday offering to provide blankets for many via Church World Service. This year donations for Blanket Sunday can be mailed to the church or made online, payable to UCC Congregational and marked for Blanket Sunday.

Thank you!!

A note from our Leadership Council Moderator

As all of you know, Carl will be retiring from full time ministry at the end of August. The greater UCC has a well-established process for selecting a replacement, which typically includes a period with an interim pastor. Rev. David Gaewski, UCC NY Conference Minister, will be guiding us and we have engaged with him to begin the process. Ken Mihalyov (Leadership Council HR/Personnel Lead) and I will be the focal points, but we will be engaging others in the congregation as part of the process. There will be many opportunities for congregational involvement and input.

Wendi Latko
Moderator

Financial Summary —December 2021 as of January 10, 2022

	Dec	YTD
	Actual	Actual
Church Resources		
Balance at BOM	\$5,421.72	\$22,444.13
Receipts	\$46,051.01	\$286,046.77
Disbursements	-\$36,770.26	-\$300,579.43
Non Plan pass through receipts	\$2,690.00	\$14,034.50
Non Plan pass through disbursements	-\$670.00	-\$5,223.50
General Fund (Checking Account) - EOM	\$16,722.47	\$16,722.47
Less Cumulative Non Plan Pass Thru Not Disbursed	\$17,297.30	\$17,297.30
Available to Support Annual Plan	-\$574.83	-\$574.83
Total Resources	-\$574.83	-\$574.83

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

Income	2020	2020	2021	Dec	
	Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual	Actual YTD
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	\$19,016.00	\$166,895.19
Stewardship Fundraising	\$3,300.00	\$0.00	\$3,300.00	\$0.00	\$828.50
Finance /Misc.	\$750.00	\$72.57	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$132.00
Congregational Life	\$0.00	\$179.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Spiritual Nurturing	\$12,100.00	\$3,515.00	\$12,100.00	\$987.00	-\$488.00
Other Youth Fundraising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Building Use Donations	\$26,276.52	\$24,340.75	\$25,110.00	\$3,558.29	\$25,267.08
Office & Admin	\$1,200.00	\$275.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$35.00
Worship & Music	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mission	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Summer concert ministry	\$16,000.00	\$9,788.72	\$16,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,013.25
TOTAL INCOME	\$247,426.52	\$229,055.04	\$249,260.00	\$23,561.29	\$199,783.02

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

Ministry Expenses	2020	2020	2021	Dec	
	Plan	Actual	Plan	Act	YTD
Staff and Human Relations	\$214,686.39	\$215,593.47	\$218,580.12	\$20,013.99	\$215,787.56
Admin/Office/Communications	\$8,900.00	\$6,743.30	\$8,500.00	\$422.64	\$7,117.99
Building & Grounds	\$51,000.00	\$45,526.96	\$39,600.00	\$4,037.08	\$39,266.00
Worship & Music	\$2,100.00	\$509.50	\$2,100.00	\$137.83	\$700.78
Spiritual Nurturing	\$16,500.00	\$3,864.84	\$16,500.00	\$250.00	\$4,344.90
Congregational Life	\$2,900.00	\$129.93	\$2,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mission Outreach Tithe	\$17,887.75	\$20,303.13	\$17,863.00	\$4,419.00	\$15,812.06
Mission Awareness Project (MAP)	\$7,083.00	\$7,082.53	\$7,489.72	\$7,489.72	\$7,489.72
Summer concert ministry	\$16,000.00	\$9,029.92	\$16,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,060.42
TOTAL MINISTRY EXPENSES	\$337,057.14	\$308,783.58	\$329,532.84	\$36,770.26	\$300,579.43

Surplus/(deficit)	(89,630.62)	(79,728.54)	(80,272.84)	(13,208.97)	(100,796.41)
Transfer from Endowment - 6%	\$42,495.00	\$42,495.00	\$44,938.00	-	\$44,938.00
Transfer from Endowment - 1% (MAP)	\$7,083.00	7,082.53	\$7,489.72	7,489.72	\$7,489.72
Transfer from Memorials and Special Gifts	\$0.00	(75.00)	\$0.00	-	\$5,374.03
Additional transfer from Endowment to balance budget	\$40,100.00	27,505.00	\$28,100.00	15,000.00	\$20,062.00
Special gift for sound system	\$0.00	-	\$0.00	-	\$8,400.00
Estate contributions	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net surplus/(deficit) after xfer from Endowment,M&SG	47.38	(2,721.01)	\$254.88	9,280.75	(14,532.66)

One of our members is turning 100 years *young* this month!!

...So let's celebrate!

Deede Kniffin is turning 100 on February 15th!
Let's see if we can send her 100 cards for her 100th...

510 Adams Rd., Webster, NY 14580 is her address!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEEDE!!!

What if?

A month of post-pandemic ponderings...

During the month of February, you will receive a daily pondering from the StillSpeaking Writers' Group of the United Church of Christ via email. We invite you to take a moment or two to further ponder the question before us each day, maybe even jot down the ones that kind of cause us to think a little deeper – a little harder, or that force us to imagine a little further than usual.

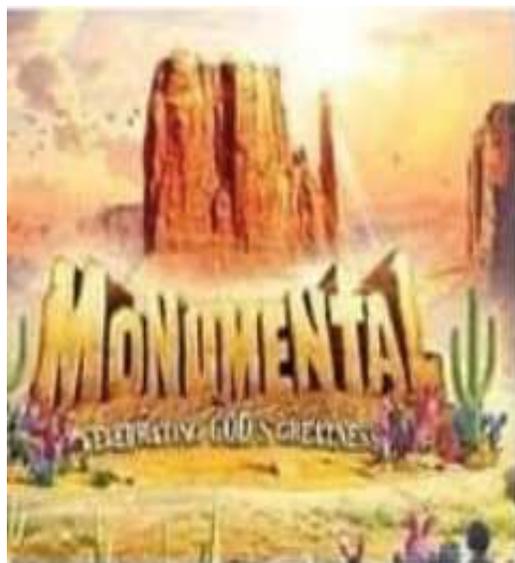
We hope these ponderings will lead to more discussion as we emerge from these pandemic times we have been experiencing, and continue to BE THE CHURCH in new and exciting ways.

So watch for your daily emails in the month of February!

As a little teaser, here is the pondering for February 1st:

What if... you could perceive in real time how God is making all things new?

Vacation Bible School Registration is LIVE on the church website



Who: 3 years through grade 4

4th graders register as campers but are Jr staff.

Grade 5 and up are staff

What: An awesome adventure

When: June 27 through July 1

9:00 am-12:00 pm

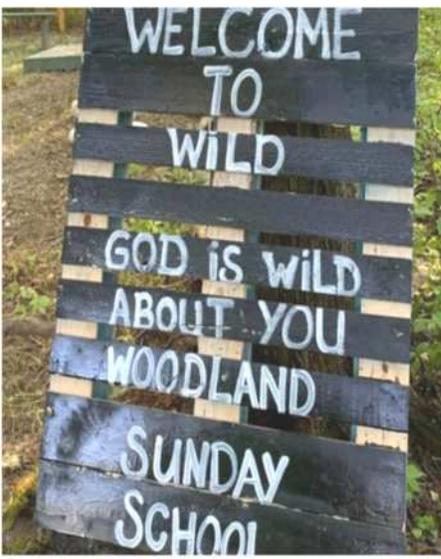
Where: 570 Klem Road

Webster NY 14580

Cost: Campers : \$35 (includes camper t-shirt & 5 piece buddy set)

Staff : \$8 covers the cost of the staff t-shirt





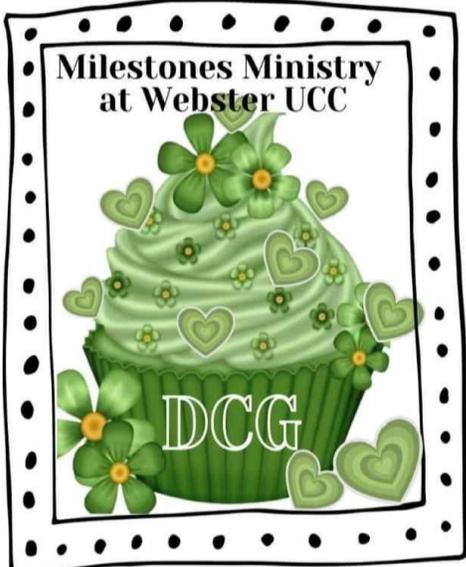
WILD Sunday School has enjoyed hands-on learning in spite of the cold weather. We celebrated Jesus' baptism by making snow people and named them Jesus and John the Baptist of course. There was even a snow dove ! Then everyone was baptized by snow ! The next week we walked into the wilderness with Jesus as he prepared himself for ministry. The Kids ventured into the deep snow in the wide open front yard. They could only talk to God while they made their difficult trek across the yard. We always try to close our time together by restocking the outdoor pantry. Hands-on Learning at work ! If you have questions about WILD Sunday school *Where God is WILD about YOU*, just contact me ! Wendy Lesko wlesko88@gmail.com





The REBEL BEAT YOUTH meet on Sundays at 11:00. Questions? Contact Wendy Lesko at wlesko88@gmail.com

On the Sunday we celebrated Jesus' Baptism, the Rebel Beat Youth launched PROJECT IMPACT. Each week the youth and their families receive a mini mission to complete at home. Then we unpack our experience on Sunday and apply what we learned to an outreach project. So far this month the youth and their families accepted the \$5 challenge and found ways to have impact in someone's life using the \$5. No two experiences were the same. Each youth used creative ways to have the greatest impact in ways that were meaningful to them. For the next mission the youth contemplated what they would need/want in a backpack if they couldn't be home for an extend period of time. Everyone reported their list and "why" certain items were important to them. Then we applied what we learned to thoughtfully fill 18 backpacks for children entering foster care. Some of the items in the bags were gathered from MILESTONES MINISTRY but most items were donated by the youth families. Our next mission involves food. I wonder what it might be ?



Did you know that Milestones Ministry provides gifts, clothes, food, and more to our neighbors in need? During Lent we will fill grocery bags for the grandmas at Rochester Advocates for children and Easter Baskets for the kids.



Happy Birthday



February Birthdays

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

02/01	Colette Fellows	02/13	Sean O'Neill
02/02	Joey Baxter	02/13	James Wooster
02/02	Amy Lang-Stutz	02/14	Emily Smith
02/04	Keith Maimone	02/14	Yuriy Yurchenko
02/05	Carole Kohler	02/15	Deede Kniffin *** 100 yrs
02/05	Tara Mateo	02/15	Patricia Patterson-Hauck
02/05	Kaya Raguso	02/15	Kyle Perrin
02/06	Peter Sollame	02/17	Amy Dunham
02/08	Matthew III Sanfilippo	02/17	David Mathiason
02/08	Lillian Spencer	02/17	John Peterson
02/09	Peter Hart	02/19	Elizabeth Neubert
02/10	Olivia Bell	02/20	Molly Chatfield
02/10	Brady Calus	02/22	Barbara DeGroff
02/10	Brian Kohler	02/22	Carrie Gilroy
02/10	Susan Reindel	02/22	Vincent Palese
02/10	Maxwell Wagner	02/22	Brenda Sharp
02/11	Peter Varlan	02/23	Elwood Kuttruff
02/12	Jenna Boland	02/23	Richard Morrill
02/12	Eric Brown	02/23	Christina Grace Newman
02/12	Julia Duga	02/24	JoAnne Jones
02/12	Joan Lang	02/25	Nathanial Tsai
02/12	Rene Nogaj	02/27	Erica Brackett
02/12	Joseph Roth	02/27	Peter DiCecco
02/13	Hayes Doster	02/27	Hannah LaDuca
02/13	Amy Kniffin	02/29	Julia Henderson



February Anniversaries

02/14	Chris & Cheryl Hendrickson
02/14	Jeffery Peck & Brandon Johnson
02/19	Karen & Joe Monachino
02/23	Barbara & Ron DeGroff
02/24	Nell & Gary Herman

Sunday worship is at 10am each Sunday. Services are livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. See our website for the link. In-person worship is suspended for the first few weeks of the new year.. Watch our website and your email for updates.

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

FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10am Combined Worship	31 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 113	01-Feb First Day of Black History Month 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	2 7pm Scout Troop 113	3 9:30am Thursday Study Group	4 5pm Drama Kids	5
6 10am Combined Worship	7	8 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	9 7pm Scout Troop 113	10 9:30am Thursday Study Group	11 5pm Drama Kids	12
13 10am Combined Worship	14 Valentine's Day	15 Pledge cards due 6pm WISE group 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	16 7pm Scout Troop 113	17 9:30am Thursday Study Group	18 5pm Drama Kids	19
20 10am Combined Worship	21 Presidents' Day 8am Bus Safety Course	22 8am Bus Safety Course 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	23 8am Bus Safety Course	24 8am Bus Safety Course 9:30am Thursday Study Group	25 8am Bus Safety Course	26
27 10am Combined Worship	28 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 113	01-Mar First Day of Women's History Month 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	2 Ash Wednesday 7pm Scout Troop 113	3 9:30am Thursday Study Group	4 5pm Drama Kids	5

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570 Klem Road
Webster, New York 14580

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Sunday Schedule

10:00 AM

Worship Service 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