

March
2022



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

The Congregationalist

Monthly Newsletter

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Dear Members and Friends of Webster UCC, Congregational,



And so it begins...

Lent, that is.

As I said in my weekly epistle, we are beginning our annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem, walking with Jesus through all the struggles and troubles he endures. And even though we know the story, from beginning to end, off we go one more time to think about all that he goes through. And for some of us, it's not hard to imagine the struggles and the troubles because we have some pretty weighty issues ourselves. So grab those burdens. Hold them tight and join in the journey.

This year, we begin the Lenten journey in the wilderness. And as I try to imagine what that was like for Jesus, and what wilderness experiences mean for me, I keep seeing images of destruction and desolation in Ukraine on the news. And I can't think of a better, more descriptive image to behold during these days. The Ukrainian people are LIVING through Lent! Some journeying, some hiding in fear, some fighting... but all enduring the struggles and troubles of their current life situation as best they can.

As we read the Lenten gospel stories, we read about Jesus being bullied and tempted – and I think of Ukraine. We read about Jesus gathering more followers to stand up for peace and justice – and I think of Ukraine. We read about people opening their hearts and their home and sharing all they have with those in need – and I think about Ukraine.

So, what does your journey look like this year? What is it you are lugging along as we go forward – and what are you able to let go of and leave along the way? Are you journeying with an open mind as you hear the stories and find your place in line? Are you journeying with an open heart, ready to give help, pick up and carry – if necessary – those whose struggle is worse than yours? The journey of Lent is the journey of life. And we never have to walk it alone. There is always someone trudging along with the same “stuff” as you... And there is always someone trudging along with so much more!

Come along.

Grab your baggage and your gear... grab a hand... share your heart and soul...

“Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race... ‘cause I don't want to run this race in vain.”

See you on the journey!

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 March 2022

March begins and so does the season of Lent. So our prayers are focused on those trials and tribulations of Jesus – some of which we, ourselves, face – or that others we know of who are facing.

Most importantly, our prayers are focused on the conflict in Ukraine – the homeland of our beloved accompanist, Oleksandra Yurchenko. With family and friends still living in Ukraine, Alexa is in our hearts each day as she waits for news about their welfare. Please, join as a family to extend thoughts, prayers and powerfully positive energies for peace in Ukraine and an end to all conflict.

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...

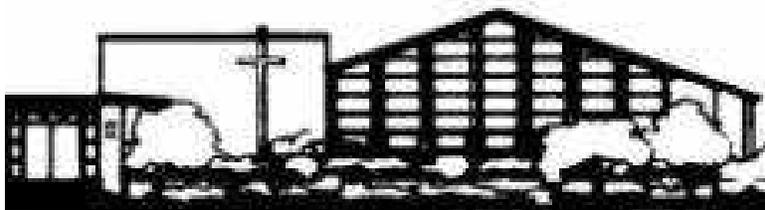
- + As infection rates continue to decline, we continue to lift up prayers for those in the world community dealing with COVID! We continue to give thanks for vaccines, and the ability to receive them!
- + Prayers for the Doster family as they grieve the passing of Hayes after a fight with cancer.
- + 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 effects 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 health and safety for those who returning to workplaces after a time 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



To Be Us...We Need You

Now more than ever

2022 Pledge Campaign

We know that times have been tough, but together we find reasons to **smile**. We have started worshipping in person, singing together, **laughing** together and **sharing** a sense of community. As a community we have continued to work together to find creative ways to connect and help during these unprecedented times.

We are currently in the midst of our **annual pledge drive**. What is a pledge drive? We do not receive funds from a central church office or separate organization. The everyday expenses of maintaining our building, the grounds, our wonderful staff salaries, and many of our mission projects are only possible due to the **support** of our members.

What is a pledge? A pledge is a promise of support from our congregation. We fund our church through pledged support from each of us, the members of the congregation. Every year we have the chance to review our decisions to financially support our church community.

We are currently **welcoming** pledges in any denomination. With a pledge, the expectation is not that the payments are made immediately, but throughout the course of the year. Please consider either completing the information on our website, www.uccwebster.org or completing and returning the form below. Submitting your pledge by March 15 will allow the Leadership Council to review the available finances, the budget and objectives of the church for the calendar year and present it to the congregation to vote. This year is especially important as we prepare for Carl's retirement and our upcoming pastoral search. Having a solid idea of our income will allow us to plan appropriately for the future.

To be US...We need YOU.

For your records

For church records

Please return by 3/15/22

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: _____

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a pledge to the Webster United Church of Christ?

A pledge is a commitment to provide a certain amount of money in the upcoming year to use towards church activities.

Who sees the amount of my pledge?

Pledge amounts are kept confidential and only the Financial Secretary has access to the information for tracking and processing purposes. Individual pledge information is not shared with anyone else - including the staff or Leadership Council.

Do I have to pay my pledge all at once?

No. If you pledge an amount of money for the upcoming year, that money can be paid all at once or throughout the entire year. Whatever works best for you and your budget.

I'm not sure right now how much money I'll have to pledge to the church next year?

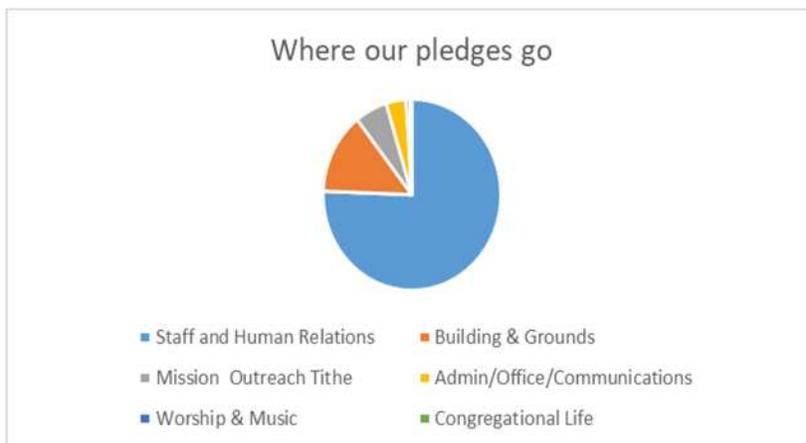
It's hard to know what expenses might pop up in the new year. Any pledge you can make is helpful to us in planning the budget for the upcoming year. This allows us to plan if any additional fundraising efforts are needed and consider if possible cuts may be needed in order to not exceed what we can spend.

If I commit to a specific dollar amount, am I tied into that amount for the year?

All pledges are appreciated. We ask parishioners to consider sticking to the amount of money they have pledged in order to help us make sure we have the incoming revenue to support our budget. However, members who would like to contribute more throughout the year are welcome to do so. It's also understandable that unforeseen circumstances may prevent people from honoring their original pledge.

What are the pledges used for?

Operating a church costs money. Pledge funding helps pay expenses including: staffing, building, grounds, and other church activities.



How is a pledge to the church different from when I make donations to specific church activities and causes?

A pledge from our congregational members is counted on as church revenue for budget purposes. Throughout the year, there are activities and mission opportunities that are not a part of the budget. These are times where additional donations are helpful and appreciated.

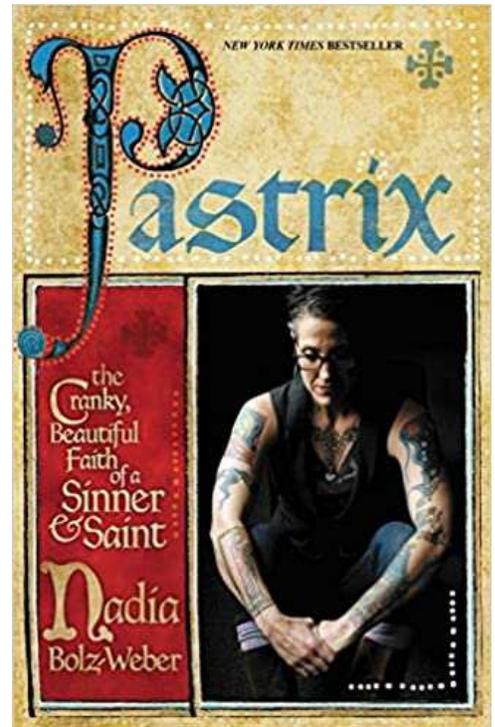
Thursday morning group

"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.



Recently Baptized...

The Fauth family has long had a connection to Webster UCC, so it was a blessing to offer the Sacrament of Baptism to members of the next generation of the Fauth family!

Brothers, Camilo David Fauth and Nicolas Andres Fauth were baptized on Sunday, February 20th following the morning worship service! Camilo and Nicolas are the sons of Scott And Luisa (Fernanda) Fauth.

The Family of Faith at Webster UCC welcomes Camilo and Nicolas into the Body of Christ!!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry began in 2005 as a Lenten group. Seventeen years later, the group is still knitting and has given over 750 shawls to those experiencing life's ups and downs. Once again the challenge to knit a shawl during Lent has been issued. The group continues to stay in touch via email as we knit and purl.

Recent shawl recipients include –

Judy Short

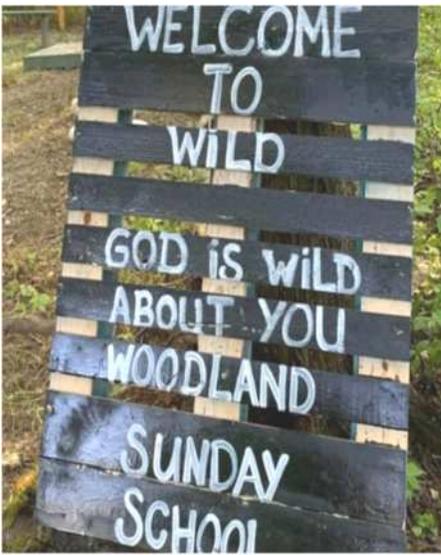
Cecelia, friend of Polly Ellstrom

Friends of Carole Kohler

Pat Edwards

Bonnie Ferry

If you'd like to take up the challenge to knit a shawl during Lent, you will need 3 skeins of Lion Brand Home-spun yarn and size 13 knitting needles. Cast on 57 stitches, then knit 3 purl 3 across the row. Repeat for every row until shawl measures 57" – 60". The number 3 is significant as it represents Father, Son, and Holy Ghost and/or yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Questions? Contact Linda Ims at lindaaims63@gmail.com or 671-1101.



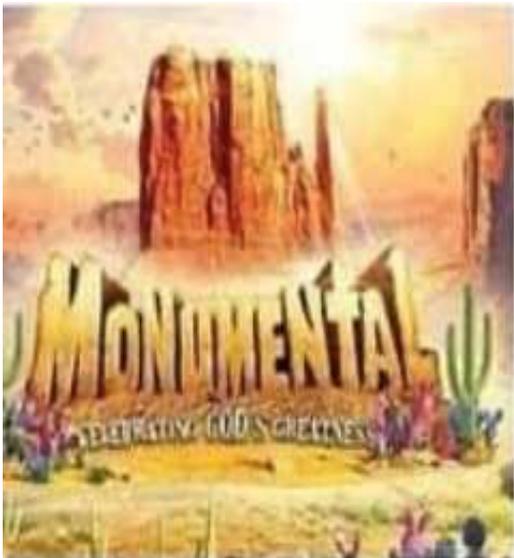
WILD Sunday School has moved into Congregational Hall until our outdoor space is accessible this Spring. If you have questions about WILD Sunday school *Where God is WILD about YOU*, just contact me ! Wendy Lesko wlesko88@gmail.com



Wild Lenten adventure

The kids will have a WILD Lenten Adventure through some of our favorite New Testament stories . Here's a sample... Walking on Water, Calming the Storm, Feeding 5000, the Four Friends, Last Supper and of course we will take a closer look at communion.

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





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

The Rebel Beat Lenten Journey
 Each Sunday during Lent the youth start the morning filling Eggs for the Easter Sunday Egg Hunt. OUR GOAL is to fill 2000 eggs ! Next we have a lesson and discuss how we can apply the lesson as followers of Jesus in 2022. We will have hands on projects every Sunday throughout the Spring as well.



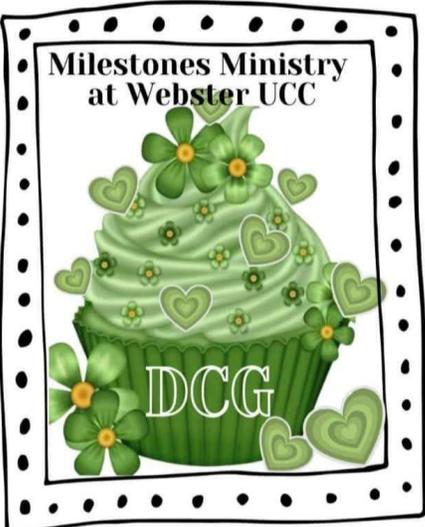
The Youth have resurrected the CARE 5000 project. They will care for 5000 people by filling and distributing 5000 CARE KITS. Contents of a CARE KIT, each packed in a gallon size ziplock bag, will differ slightly for adults and children. A sign-up sheet to help will be available via email March 1.

Adult: toothbrush, toothpaste, bar of soap or small size body wash, wash cloth, hand towel, deodorant, lotion, hand sanitizer, chapstick

Child: child size toothbrush and child appropriate toothpaste, wash cloth, hand towel, pillowcase, small stuffed animal, granola bar

BINGO				
3	29	45	56	68
1	f	O	r	72
11	25	a	49	61
C	a	u	s	e
4	27	42	54	71

BINGO For a Cause
 Sunday April 10 at 11:00
 Pizza Lunch and PRIZES galore !
 This month's BINGO game will support the CARE 5000 impact project. Just bring 1 item for a CARE 5000 BAG for each BINGO card you would like to play.



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. A Link to grocery bag sign-up and Easter basket sign-up will be distributed via email on March 1.





March Birthdays

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

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 03/01 Ana Chatfield | 03/13 John Norton | 03/30 Anthony Biuso |
| 03/02 Hannah McAdoo | 03/14 Ethan Bell | 03/30 Kaitlyn Minichiello |
| 03/02 Susan Mitchell | 03/14 Benjamin Karam | 03/31 Jan Farling |
| 03/03 Cleda Kuttruff | 03/14 Carole Roth | 03/31 Joseph Gerard |
| 03/03 Tony LaDuca | 03/15 Jack Bickford | |
| 03/04 Carole Gabbert | 03/17 Clare Boehly | |
| 03/05 Donna Fonda | 03/17 Barbara Henry | |
| 03/05 Margaret Tsai | 03/17 Lindsay Shull | |
| 03/06 Emily Duga | 03/19 Norman Seitz | |
| 03/06 Amanda Dunn | 03/20 Peter Zarcone | |
| 03/07 Taylor Peterson | 03/21 David Babcock | |
| 03/08 Lori Kilian | 03/22 Fritz Kilian | |
| 03/09 Joelle Boland | 03/23 Ian Fellows | |
| 03/09/ Lynne Sweeney | 03/23 Alison Reindel | |
| 03/10 Shannon Liptak | 03/23 Jayme Stephens | |
| 03/10 Marian Payne | 03/24 Trevor Balsamo | |
| 03/10 Ruth Peck | 03/25 Garrett Reeves | |
| 03/11 Lyn Foster | 03/26 Bethany Patterson | |
| 03/11 Danielle Hollis | 03/26 Becky Sollame | |
| 03/11 Holly Marushak | 03/28 Tamra O'Donnell | |
| 03/11 Debbie Miller | 03/28 Michael-Ann Peterson | |
| 03/11 Josh O'Mailey | 03/29 Jim Beachner | |
| 03/12 Joyce French | 03/29 Sarah Bila | |
| 03/13 Trey Breedy | 03/29 Chester French | |
| 03/13 Wendy Lesko | 03/29 Michael Green | |



March Anniversaries

- 03/22 Dan & Donna VanHousen
- 03/24/ David & Shirley Babcock
- 03/27 Alison Calus & Rob Balsamo
- 03/31 Craig & Sheryl Akins

Sunday worship is at 10am each Sunday. Services are in-person and livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. See our website for the link. Watch our website and your email for updates.

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

MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 10am Combined Worship	28 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 113	March 1, 2022 First Day of Women's History Month 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	2 Ash Wednesday 7pm Scout Troop 113 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	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 7pm Lenten Book Study (via Zoom)	11 5pm Drama Kids	12
13 Daylight Saving Time starts 10am Combined Worship	14	15 2pm Webster Council of Churches 6pm WISE group 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	16 7pm Scout Troop 113	17 St. Patrick's Day 9:30am Thursday Study Group 7pm Lenten Book Study (via Zoom)	18 5pm Drama Kids	19 Memorial service 9am Bus Safety Training class
20 10am Combined Worship	21	22 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	23 7pm Scout Troop 113	24 9:30am Thursday Study Group	25 5pm Drama Kids	26
27 10am Combined Worship	28 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 113	29 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	30 7pm Scout Troop 113	31 9:30am Thursday Study Group 7pm Lenten Book Study (via Zoom)	01-Apr 5pm Drama Kids	2

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Sunday Schedule

*10:00 AM
Worship Service
also 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