

May
2022



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

The Congregationalist

Monthly Newsletter

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Dear Members and Friends of Webster UCC, Congregational,



In our “Carl & Wendy’s Lectionary Adventure” study, I have been intrigued by the stories from the Acts of the Apostles that pop up in the Common Lectionary following Easter. They are stories of the early “church” (it really wasn’t known as a church just yet) – a growing community of the followers of Jesus who were drawn together by his teaching – his ministry and mission.

What intrigues me the most, has to do with the changes that are occurring as that group of followers begin to take Jesus’ words to heart. They are reaching out “to the ends of the earth” rather than sticking to like-minded thinkers in one region, and engaging in dialogue with those who are different – those who do not follow the specific codes for eating and living. They were welcoming *everyone* to the table, regardless of gender or birthright, and that caused concern for the “powers that be.”

What I am understanding about those first followers of Jesus’ ministry and mission, is that they learned very early on just how important it was to meet the people where they were, and adapt the ways of worship and service and even living to fit the needs of the people – ALL the people! The welcome mat was laid out for everyone, and the table was set for all to come and share. And that’s where we are as the Church today. We can’t sit comfortably in what our traditional and long-held visions of “church” are and expect others to settle into those ways. We need to accept where folks are, find out what they need and how we can help, and where they find their vision of “church.” And like those early followers, this is a challenge.

The United Church of Christ, Congregational of Webster has never been a “set in its ways” congregation. It was founded on the ideals of some pretty progressive thinkers and doers in this community. And once again, the current thinkers and doers are looking beyond our nearly 70 years as a church community, and looking forward to what comes next! It is not time to retreat behind the doors of 570 Klem Road and stick to what’s safe and comfortable, it’s time to look ahead. It’s time to ask the tough questions, and accept the challenge to BE THE CHURCH that our vision calls us to be.

Like those first followers of Jesus, it’s time to ask the question: What does our vision of “church” look like – in 2022 and beyond! As we begin the next chapter, let’s strive to make that vision a reality.

*“This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing... our God is making all things new.”*

(“This Is a Day of New Beginnings” – New Century Hymnal #417)

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 May 2022

We are in the season known as Eastertide – the fifty days between the celebration of Easter and the celebration of Pentecost. It's a time when we Easter people continue to revel in the risen Christ, and try to live into his unfinished business – the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. Our prayers are being lifted as we continue the ministry and mission of Jesus in the world today – with the help of God. May that presence be with all who are struggling, grieving, seeking, ailing, healing, and trying to make sense of it all!

We continue to fervently pray for those whose lives are affected by 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 awaits news of 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 prayers for 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 rise but deaths and hospitalizations drastically 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 family and friends of Judy Haskins, a long-time member of our church family who died recently at Wesley Community in Saratoga Springs.
- + Continued prayers for all the refugee resettlement work going on in our area and the nation.
- + We pray for ALL who are seeking and struggling to make a home to the US.
- + 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
- + Ted Ellstrom @ Sage Harbor, Baywinde Senior Living Center, Webster
- + Fern Pellet @ Fairport Baptist Home in Fairport
- + Rene Nogaj is now a resident of The Maplewood, 100 Daniel Drive, Webster
- + 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 @ Leo Center for Caring at St. Ann's Community, 1500 Portland Ave. Rochester, 14621

Leadership Council Elections

As a Congregational Church, our Leadership Council plays a critical role in the success of the church. With the Covid-19 pandemic, we have lapsed in our election process; over the next 2 years, we will re-align with our 2 year election cycle.

Nominations may be submitted to office@uccwebster.org anytime before May 31, 2022. You may nominate yourself or another member. If you nominate someone else, a member of Leadership Council will approach that person to ascertain their interest. We will not place anyone on the ballot without their consent.

The following positions will be up for election in our June 2022 Congregational Meeting. The incumbents in most positions are willing to serve another term, but additional people are welcome to run for those positions, or may volunteer to shadow the position in order to learn about it so you can learn about the role and transition into the role next cycle. A few positions are currently vacant and it is critical that we fill them.

Positions to be filled in June 2022:

Membership Development & Stewardship (CRITICAL NEED) - position is currently vacant. coordinates our annual giving campaign as well as works with others to promote our church. It is not “asking people for money”, it is about figuring out how to communicate the value of what we have and the importance of giving to enable all our great programs to continue.

Vice Moderator - currently vacant

Assists and supports the moderator. Is a good transitional role on the path to becoming Moderator

Building & Grounds - off-cycle vacancy recently filled by Pete Sollame. June vote will officially place him in this position.

Finance & Endowment - incumbent John Norton has agreed to stay in the position for one more term, but we need someone to start working with him now with the intention of transitioning to this role in 2 years.

Prepares and monitors the church budget and endowment fund.

Mission - incumbent Linda Ims has agreed to run for another term.

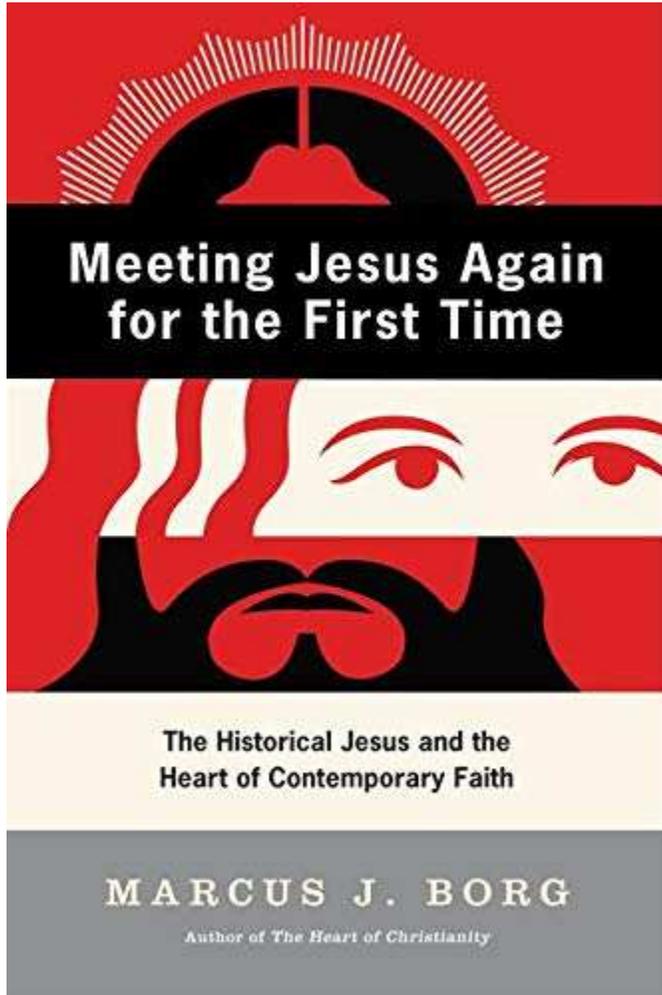
Oversees process for dispersing the money in church budget designated for Mission, coordinates special offerings and collection of items for various mission projects.

Organization Development/Personnel - incumbent Ken Mihalyov has agreed to run for another term.

Ensures completion of staff performance goal-setting and review process, maintain and implement HR policies, maintain position descriptions, ensure staff complete all required training.

Worship - incumbent Heather Himes has agreed to run for another term.

Provides support to ensure Sunday worship runs smoothly. Responsibilities include ensuring liturgist and greeters are available for services and making sure communion is set up on appropriate Sundays.



Thursday Morning Group

"Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time," by Marcus Borg, is the next Thursday morning resource. It explores how the best historical scholarship can lead to a new faith in Jesus.

Join us Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 in mid May through June as we read and discuss the book. Used books are about \$5.

Contact Joe Roth (671-8458) to order a book, to learn more or to join the group.

Cleaning Supplies Needed for Family Promise (RAIHN)

Family Promise now houses their guests in apartments instead of the local churches. This started during covid and has become the best way for Family Promise to give housing to families at this time and the future. They have five apartments hoping to expand. The local churches, such as ourselves, and volunteers help keep them clean after a guest family leaves and during their stay. We are collecting cleaning supplies for them during the month of May. If you would like to contribute please leave all donations in the Narthex or outdoor bins. The youth will collect them and store them during the month of May. We will deliver them to Family Promise the first week of June. If you want to give a monetary donation please make the check out to the church with Family Promise in the memo area. Or donate online leaving a notation "for Family Promise". If you have any questions contact Colleen Kunz 671-1078 or Wendy Lesko. Thank you so much!!!

Cleaning supplies that are needed:

Paper towels
Mops and brooms
Dust pans
all-purpose cleaning sprays
toilet bowl wands & cleaner
magic erasers
Microfiber cloths

Mission Moment -

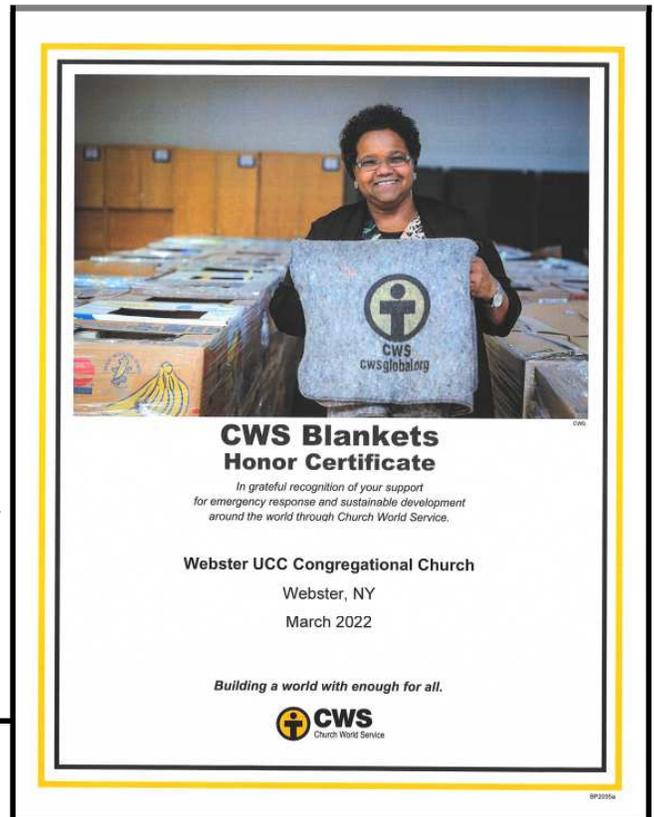
The pandemic has not stopped this congregation from caring and giving to others. Church World Service helps people in the US and across the world when natural and manmade disasters hit.

1. **Blanket Sunday** earlier this year resulted in \$445 being sent to CWS to help those who could use the warmth and comfort of a blanket.

Church World Service has recognized Webster UCC with the Honor Certificate shown to the right.

2. 94 **school kits** are on their way to CWS for distribution when and where needed.

Thank you for all you do to help others!!!



Recently Baptized...

On Sunday, April 24th following the morning worship service, Kaylie Lynn DeFranco was baptized in our sanctuary. Kaylie is the daughter of Kelly & Michael DeFranco. It should be noted that Daddy Michael also received the sacrament of baptism as an example for his daughter!

Welcome to the Body of Christ, Kaylie Lynn ...and Michael DeFranco!

May 2022

Pastoral Search Update

We are continuing on plan with our pastoral search process. The posting for our interim pastor went up on April 5. You can view it on the UCC Ministry Opportunities page: https://oppsearch.ucc.org/web/fastdetails.aspx?id=5051&KeepThis=false&TB_iframe=true&height=&width=

We hope to have an interim identified by June, with the intention of them starting in September immediately after Carl's departure. In the event that we do not have an interim in place by then, we will make use of "supply clergy" to fill in. The interim search committee is currently following up with an initial candidate expressing interest in the position.

We will provide an update on the process in the newsletter each month. If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to reach out to me at wendi.latko@gmail.com

Wendi
Moderator



Whenever weather allows, WILD Sunday School will take place in our outdoor space in the woods off the path near the playground. We will meet in the stone labyrinth at 10:00 and head to our WILD space together. If you have questions about WILD Sunday school *Where God is WILD about YOU*, just contact me! Wendy Lesko
wlesko88@gmail.com



**WILD
Bible
adventures**

This Spring the children will explore our favorite "Jesus stories". You'll find us hiking and climbing, painting and building, planting and weeding and reenacting those Jesus stories in ways only your kids could do.



USED SNEAKER COLLECTION



Sponsored by the WILD Sunday School children

We are collecting used sneakers for kids and teens to be distributed through our outdoor clothing pantry. Please bring your donated items to church during the month of May. A collection basket will be in the narthex.

THANK YOU !!!!

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 at wlesko88@gmail.com

The **I CAN DO HARD THINGS** youth coaching group meets Sundays at noon right after REBEL BEAT. A light healthy lunch is served.



I Can Do Hard Things: Group Coaching for Youth

I Can Do Hard Things offers a safe judgement-free zone for tweens and teens to discover that they are whole and resourceful and enough. The coach guides the tweens and teens to discover their strengths and craft a path of small purposeful steps toward a goal. Goals can be anything from coping with stress, gaining self-confidence, and speaking in public to navigating peer pressure. All group participants will be asked to agree to a promise of confidentiality. Also, a “suggestion box” is mounted on the wall outside the youth room to allow youth to anonymously suggest topics.



The youth are prepping the Webster UCC Community Garden for our fourth growing season ! We are asking for donations of the following plants: Tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, eggplant, beans and cucumbers. You can drop off your plants at the garden anytime after the weather turns warmer this month. Just let me (Wendy Lesko) know so I can look out for them. I could also pick them up from you !



Please remember our outdoor giving pantry when you go grocery shopping. Also, summer clothing including kid’s sneakers and rain boots can be dropped off in the outdoor clothing pantry !

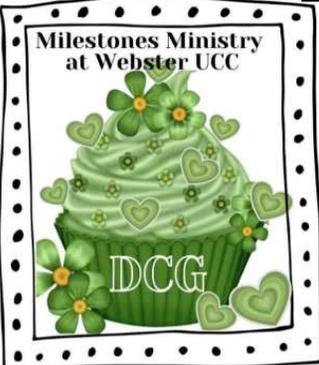


The Youth have resurrected the CARE 5000 project and we need your help !Together we will care for 5000 people by filling and distributing 5000 CARE KITS. Contents of a CARE KIT, each packed in a gallon size ziplock bag, will differ slightly for adults and children.

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

We will collect items through July 1. A collection basket will be in the narthex . THANK YOU



With YOUR help, MILESTONES MINISTRY gifted 30 bags of groceries, 30 Easter baskets and 15 Walmart gift cards to ROCHESTER ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN. Gladys was overjoyed. Thank you soooo very much !

Happy Birthday



May Birthdays

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

05/01	Shannon O'Donnell	05/15	Dave Dewey	05/26	Jay Smith
05/01	Carl Richter	05/15	Chita McKinney	05/30	Debbie Dippel
05/03	Bruce Smith	05/15	Lucy Schultz	05/31	Cathy Dolan
05/03	Matthew Wooster	05/15	Kenneth Smith	05/31	Meghan Dunham
05/04	Katelyn Wagner	05/16	Gil Gockley	05/31	Sandra Page
05/05	Margaret Brown	05/16	Kristin Reindel		
05/05	Sarah Painton	05/18	Jared LaDuca		
05/05	Dawn Wooster	05/18	Lucinda Lamme		
05/06	Nancy Wheeler	05/19	Eleanor Curry		
05/07	Kristen Meiler	05/19	Jean Fauth		
05/07	Scott Mitchell	05/19	James Morath		
05/07	Lyla Wagner	05/19	Melissa Painton		
05/08	Judith Edwards	05/20	Yvonne Plain		
05/08	Susan Smith	05/20	Thomas Syracuse		
05/08	Evelyn Varlan	05/21	Jeff Brackett		
05/08	Frank Vavrick	05/22	Linda Rayburn		
05/09	Victoria Lesko	05/23	Despina Mitchell		
05/09	Mason Mitchell	05/24	Bonnie Ferry		
05/10	Nancy Mis	05/24	Andrew Uruburu		
05/11	Jamie Schild	05/25	Carolyn Galen		
05/12	Alexis Sharp	05/25	Vickie Schild		
05/12	Keith Vent	05/25	Aidan Sharp		
05/14	Matthew Brincka	05/25	Nicholas Uruburu		
05/14	Barb Cittadino	05/26	Linda DeVeronica		
05/14	Gregg Minichiello	05/26	Laurie O'Mailey		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



May Anniversaries

05/01	David & Barbara Marcellus	05/26	Richard & Diane Cannarozzo
05/07	Carolyn & Eric Brown	05/26	Leslie King & Elizabeth Diedrich
05/07	Greg & Priscilla Gumina	05/28	Jeffrey & Tamra O'Donnell
05/09	Claudia & Frank Bell	05/31	Megan & Mark Cholach
05/09	Jessica & Ryan Uruburu	05/31	Cathy & Philip Stoneham
05/10	Ben & Jane Bashaw		
05/15	Lynne & John Sweeney		
05/20	Karin & Richard Beachner		
05/21	Paul & Anita van Wichen		
05/25	Jo & Dan O'Neill		

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.

MAY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
01-May First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month 10am Combined Worship	2	3 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	4 7pm Scout Troop 113	5 Cinco de Mayo 9:30am Thursday Study Group	6 5pm Drama Kids	7
8 Mother's Day 10am Combined Worship	9	10 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	11 7pm Scout Troop 113	12 9:30am Thursday Study Group	13 5pm Drama Kids	14
15 10am Combined Worship	16	17 6pm WISE group 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	18 7pm Scout Troop 113	19 9:30am Thursday Study Group	20 5pm Drama Kids	21 10am Remembrance of Tim Ellstrom 4pm Rehearsal dinner FC
22 10am Combined Worship	23	24 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	25 7pm Scout Troop 113	26 9:30am Thursday Study Group	27	28
29 10am Combined Worship	30 Memorial Day 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 113	31 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	01-Jun 7pm Scout Troop 113	2 9:30am Thursday Study Group	3	4

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Sunday Schedule

*10:00 AM
Worship Service
also live stream on Facebook & YouTube
Sunday School*

*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