

June
2022



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,

Gosh, if I had a dime for every time I began my monthly or weekly letters to you with the words, "As I look out my office window..." I'd probably have enough money to buy a nice lunch somewhere – *and* treat a friend!! But as I sit and write articles, letters, emails, sermons here at my desk, and as I think and meditate on the thoughts and words, my gaze just naturally turns to the world just outside my window. It's probably the best office view I've had in 30 years of ministry – certainly the prettiest.

Life happens right outside this office window – abundant life! Cars on the road and in and out of the driveway, people jogging, running, riding bicycles, pushing strollers, walking dogs... As I've mentioned several times, the seasons change right outside this office window! The trees bud and leaf out green and vibrant, then change color, turn brown and fall – and then repeat the cycle all over again. The grass goes from green to dormant to covered in white and back again. Rain and snow fall from the skies, birds nest in the shrubbery, bees hover, deer graze in the yard and on the bushes right outside the window!! And I get to witness it all!

There is no time of year that produces more of nature's activity outside this office window than in the springtime. One can notice change almost daily! Sometimes it seems like its HOURLY Trees full of colorful blossoms one day and just green leaves the next; bright yellow dandelions shining on the lawn one minute and little white fuzzy globes the next. It's amazing!

We've also been seeing some new people in worship at Webster UCC. One saw our website and was intrigued, another started worshiping online with us during the pandemic, another family started after their kids found their way into the life of our Sunday School, someone else came because a friend told them about us, and still another is returning to WUCC after some time away.

In that life that is happening right there outside this office window, life is returning to Webster UCC in new ways, with new people, and new ideas, and innovative ways to BE THE CHURCH in the world today.

In the next few months, there will be lots of changes to "life as usual" at Webster UCC. Three months from Sunday will be my last Sunday with you. The Holy Spirit will breathe new life into what you are and who you are. You will be asked to look at what this church means to you and what it can mean to others, and I'll be willing to bet that your ideas about church have changed drastically since you last thought about these things.

Just as the trees bear leaves year after year, and flowers peak up through the soil, and the wind blows and the rain falls, and the cars zoom by, and the deer graze... as life happens right outside this office window, new life will be happening inside too! As you continue to welcome the questions of faith and those faithful doubts, as you continue to reach out to those in need and those on the edge, as you continue to laugh with some and cry with others, life goes on... ever changing and always moving forward.

Be aware of the amazing stuff that is going on outside and INside every window!

Light, Life, and Love,

Carl

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

Prayer Requests for June 2022

As the sun begins to shine a little brighter, the days lengthen some, the temperatures rise and outdoor activities increase, 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 Norman Seitz, a long-time member of our church family who died recently following several hospitalizations.
- + Prayers for the family and friends of Dorlisca (“Deede”) Kniffin who died recently at the age of 100! Deede was active in Lunch Bunch, Senior Visitation Team and church life in general at WUCC.
- + 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 @ The Maplewood, Webster
- + Larry Akins, Bob Daly, Ron Orchard, Andrea Oestreich and Marian Payne @ home.
- + Nancy Schlaffer @ Leo Center for Caring at St. Ann’s Community, 1500 Portland Ave. Rochester, 14621

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

Congregational Meeting

June 26

Please plan to attend.

Business items:

- Annual budget
 - Leadership slate
 - Other business
 - Your concerns and questions
-

Recently United in Love...

Our congratulations and best wishes to Nikki Knapik-Clauser & Ryan Taylor who were joined in sacred covenant in our sanctuary on Sunday, May 22nd! Nikki is the daughter of Dee & Dora Knapik-Clauser, and Ryan is the son of Clark Taylor and Elaine King Taylor. May God bless the union of these two amazing young people... and their wonderful families!

Prayer Shawl Group

In 2005, the book *Knitting Into the Mystery* by Susan S. Jorgensen and Susan S. IZard inspired a group to gather during Lent and knit shawls for those experiencing life's ups and downs. At the end of the 6 weeks, it was decided to continue knitting and giving shawls. The group met evenings in the church lounge on the 3rd Wed. Sept. through May to knit, chat, and bless completed shawls. Each year a challenge was given to knit a shawl during Lent. These were then blessed by the congregation during worship in June. COVID changed that routine and email connections were made on the 3rd Wed. of the month as shawls were knit at home and blessed online. Over 765 shawls have been given to those experiencing life's highs and lows during the 17 years of knitting. The group has decided it is time to set knitting needles aside. Since the Prayer Shawl Ministry began as a Lenten group, it was decided to end the same way. A challenge to knit a shawl during Lent was issued. The group will gather, bless shawls that were knit, and share time together one evening in June.

As long as there are shawls available, feel free to request one for someone who could use the prayers, hugs, and warmth they represent. Requests can be made to Linda Ims - lindaims63@gmail.com or 671-1101. Pocket prayer shawls can be found in a basket at the back of the sanctuary. There are days we could all use one so please help yourself.

Mission Moment

What makes us a Strive For Five church? Four special offerings plus a donation to OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) from the budget. Offering for OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing) this year totaled \$1,673.00. Next special offering is Strengthen the Church which supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Donations, marked for Strengthen the Church, may be placed in the offering plate, made online, or mailed to the church and will be received during June.

Webster Caring Community Concerts 2022

July 13 ALLEGRO
July 20 Rochester Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra
July 27 The Gate Swingers.
August 3 Mike 8-Days-A-Week

Share the news. Tell your friends to join us on our front lawn.
Concerts will begin at 6:30 pm.

Wednesday summer evenings at 570 Klem Road have been filled with music, friendships and caring for others. This summer we continue our concert tradition for our 18th year.

Our mission for the Webster Caring Community Concerts is focused on building community in our church, and in our town. We create an awareness of our larger community needs.

By collecting a free-will offering each week we support specific Webster charities.

In a thank you note from Jason Poole wrote, (Webster librarian supporting BookBox for Kids) “ As always, your support has been invaluable all these years and we are eternally grateful”.
It is a great feeling to know our mission is being carried out.

Your concert crew is looking forward grilling “hots” and burgers, popping popcorn, parking cars, and dancing on the lawn. We invite you to join the concert crew one or more Wednesday evenings this summer. **WE NEED YOU!!**

There are plenty of jobs to go around. For example: Set up and starting the grills is done before the concerts. Taking food orders and filling orders, collecting offering and security all happen during the concerts. The clean up crew pitches in near the end of the concerts. Good times will surely be had by all!

For more information, or to volunteer contact:

Sue Reindel at 585-233-6602 or susanreindel@gmail.com.



June 2022

Pastoral Search Update

The Interim Search Team has been working diligently to identify an interim minister to work with us after Carl's retirement. We are excited to announce that we have had several conversations with a candidate we think will be an excellent fit for us, and who is equally excited about the position. We are working with our guide in the UCC NY Conference to move forward to the offer stage. Because it is still early in the process and the candidate has not yet given notice to his current congregation we can't share more details at this time, but we will in the coming weeks.

Below are some answers to questions you may have at this point.

What is the role of an interim minister?

The interim minister is not just a person filling the gap between the current pastor's departure and a new settled minister coming in. The interim's role is not only to perform the day-to-day pastoral duties, but to guide us in the work of determining what we are looking for in our next pastor. The interim period is not a stage of "marking time", it is a time of deliberate work to define the next phase of the church's journey.

Why do we need an interim minister - Carl gave us plenty of notice, couldn't we have just hired our next regular ("settled") minister?

There are a few reasons for having an interim. One is to give the congregation time to process Carl's departure and deal with the emotions that go with that. The interim minister also plays a critical role in guiding us through envisioning the future of Webster UCC. We are currently in a time of transition for all churches, and in a way, we are privileged that we will have the help of an expert to help us find our direction and clarify the identity of the church. The work we do during our time with the interim will form the foundation for the success of our church well into the future.

If we really like the interim minister, can they become our settled minister?

The role & responsibilities of an interim minister are specific with well defined boundaries. Because the interim minister can not be a candidate for the settled position, they can be objective in helping us examine the role of pastor and discover what attributes are really needed or desired.





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



The side-by-side outdoor giving pantries at Webster UCC receive many visitors every single day. So donations from the church family and the wider community are needed !

The closet on the left side provides seasonal items and currently offers sneakers, books and summer fun activities. Ideas to donate to this pantry include:

- * gently used or new sneakers for the whole family. You know how fast kids grow out of sneakers.
- * used or new kids books for all ages
- * toys such as sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, soccer balls, basketballs, buckets, craft kits, coloring books etc



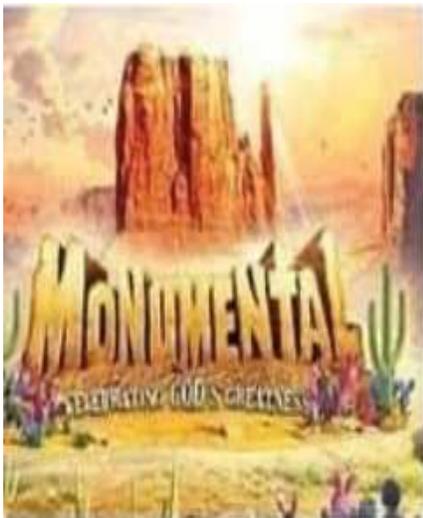
The pantry on the right side is for groceries of all kinds. You might want to consider juice boxes, lunch items, cereal and snacks as school will be out soon. Also it's been great to see people donating meal kits such as a lunchbag filled with a box of pasta, jar of sauce and a vegetable.

Please donate often as the need is greater than ever. Just add to the pantries any time.

Questions? email Wendy wlesko88@gmail.com

Thank you so very much !

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



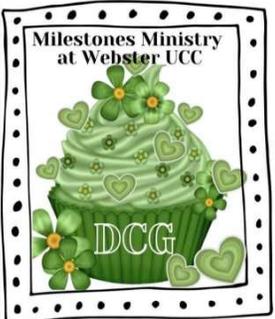
On Sunday June 5 during worship (10:00-11:00) the youth will hold a car wash. Donations will go towards the bus rental for the kids from Cameron Community ministries to come to the Field Day in July !



The Webster UCC Community Garden is ready 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 !. Just let me (Wendy Lesko) know so I can look out for them. I could also pick them up from you !



Did you know that MILESTONES MINISTRY gave away 25 Mother's Day gifts ? Next we will give 25 Father's Day gifts. People in need of a little help getting their dads a gift can just fill out a google form requesting a gift. The pick-up day in Sunday June 12.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfi8sf-IJWJMYSANuixLCDiB4Ru6mWu6UVBGiykRGcSaeyvZQ/viewform?usp=pp_url



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

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.

Happy Birthday



June Birthdays

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

06/01	June Coakley	06/19	Lorraine Field
06/01	John Liberty	06/20	Chris Tsai
06/01	Katelyn MacDonald	06/20	Casey Whipkey
06/01	Hank Schultz	06/21	Katie Breedy
06/02	Nancy Elchisak	06/21	Kelly Reeves
06/02	Heather Himes	06/23	Mark Shull
06/02	Ron Wagenhals	06/25	Kirtan Cannan
06/04	Matthew Jr Brincka	06/25	Kristina Henderson
06/04	Dayna Maimone	06/27	Janice Baird
06/05	James Ores	06/27	Richard Mangus
06/06	Bryan Dunham	06/27	Susan Speer
06/07	Laurie Yanz	06/27	Nadia Williams
06/08	Cassandra Spencer	06/28	Telaney Kilian
06/09	Jack Beaston	06/28	Thomas Lamme
06/09	Linda Withall	06/29	Bruce Clair
06/10	Linda Battaglia	06/30	Karl Fonda
06/13	Steven Lesko		
06/18	Claudia Bell		
06/18	Karen Kittredge		
06/19	Richard Cannarozzo		
06/19	Lou Erb		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



June Anniversaries

06/01	Robbie & Dave Dewey	06/24	Doug & Heidi Hall
06/01	Thomas & Lucinda Lamme	06/24	Norman & Judy Short
06/04	David & Sharon Mathiason	06/24	James & Linda Withall
06/05	Laurie & Bruce Yanz	06/25	Carl & Martha Richter
06/06	Robert & Diane Daly	06/26	Shari & Joseph Bechtold
06/08	Brenda & Ramona Sharp	06/26	Gil & Tanya Gockley
06/10	Donald & Janice Baird	06/27	Katelyn & Andrew Wagner
06/12	Holly & Greg Garritano	06/28	Paul & Doris Kittredge
06/16	Elwood & Cleda Kuttruff	06/29	Mike & Betsy Schroeder
06/16	Charles & Diane Wagner	06/30	Peter & Becky Sollame
06/22	Lowell & Pat Edwards		
06/23	Debbie & Don Dippel		

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 meets at 10am Sunday morning.
Youth Group meets at 11am Sundays.

JUNE 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10am Combined Worship	30 Memorial Day 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 113	31 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	01-Jun First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month 6:45pm Prayer Shawl group 7pm Scout Troop 113	2 9:30am Thursday Study Group	3 10am Woodside rummage sale	4 10am Woodside rummage sale
5 Car Wash 10am Combined Worship	6	7 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	8 7pm Scout Troop 113	9 9:30am Thursday Study Group	10	11
12 10am Combined Worship	13	14 Flag Day 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	15 7pm Scout Troop 113	16 9:30am Thursday Study Group 10am Woodside Graduation	17 11am Woodside Graduation 4pm Woodside End- of-Year celebration	18
19 Father's Day Juneteenth 10am Combined Worship	20 Juneteenth (substitute)	21 6pm WISE group 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	22 7pm Scout Troop 113	23 9:30am Thursday Study Group	24	25
26 10am Combined Worship	27 9am VBS 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 113	28 9am VBS 7pm Carl and Wendy's Lectionary Adventure	29 9am VBS	30 9am VBS 9:30am Thursday Study Group	01-Jul	2

United Church of Christ, Congregational
570 Klem Road
Webster, New York 14580

Phone: 585-671-3757
Fax: 585-671-3765
Email: office@uccwebster.org
Website: www.uccwebster.org



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