

September 2022

Hi Everyone -

The parties are over and Carl & Marty have officially departed Webster UCC. Thank you to everyone who played a role in planning, carrying-out, or attending the festivities. We sent Carl and Marty off in Webster UCC style!



On behalf of Leadership Council, I want to assure everyone that we will continue to keep WUCC strong over the next two months until we hand over the reins to our Interim Minister, Rev. David Gregory. David and his husband Tripp were in town to visit family a few weeks ago, and they stopped by Webster to meet Leadership Council and

some of the staff. The feedback I have received from those meeting David for the first time is universally positive, and Tripp seems like he will fit right in with us, as well.

Change can be many things: disruptive, difficult, hopeful, exciting. We realize that different people are feeling different things, and during this transition period it's important that we are here for each other. To that end, I would like to share a few things so everyone knows what to expect during the next 9 weeks:

- The mid-week email will continue (minus Carl's "Weekly Epistle"), and will focus on announcements/events and will include the upcoming Sunday's bulletin, if available.
- A Visitation Team is being formed to provide support and connectedness to those in the congregation who would like it. We already have identified a core group of members, but all are welcome. We have two asks of *everyone*:
 - If you are interested in participating as a volunteer- by visiting, calling, or writing to people - please email wendi.latko@gmail.com and join us for our kick-off meeting on Wednesday Sept. 14 at the church.
 - If you know of anyone (including yourself) who would benefit from being added to the list to receive visits, calls, or notes, please send their info to me as well (wendi.latko@gmail.com).
- If anyone experiences an emergency need and needs support (e.g. hospitalization, death in the family, etc.), please call the church office (585-671-3757), Wendy Lesko (585-746-1965) or Wendi Latko (585-202-3948) and we will arrange for support.
- Senior Lunch Bunch is returning in October! A big thank you to Lou Erb for taking the lead on re-establishing this beloved activity. Look for more information in the upcoming newsletter.
- Ken Mihalyov and Wendy Lesko have been working diligently to establish a meaningful Sunday Worship schedule for the next two months. The schedule is on the next page - we have a mixture of traditional and innovative services.

Change is hard, but I have always believed that change is good, too. This is an exciting time for Webster UCC and I am glad that we all will be together for this journey.

Wendi Latko
Moderator

compassion
Ministry
journey
feel
gathering
people
group
mission
find
Outreach
Community

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

The Congregationalist

Monthly Newsletter

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Sunday schedule for September and October 2022

Date	Special topic	Worship Leader
Sept. 4	"Look Back! Look Ahead!"	Rev. Konrad Emmert
Sept. 11	Homecoming Sunday "Feed My Sheep" - followed by Community Service Party	WUCC Families
Sept. 18	"Carry the Mat"	Rebel Beat Youth
Sept. 25		Rev. John Cedarleaf
Oct. 2	World Communion Sunday	Women's Wine & Cheese group
Oct. 9		Rev. Ryan Henderson
Oct. 16	"I Am Because You Are"	Rebel Beat Youth
Oct. 23		Rev. Brian Krause
Oct. 30		Beth Stowe
Nov. 6	David Gregory's first Sunday	Rev. David Gregory



The Rev. David Gregory,
our interim minister.
... starting in November



Mission Moment -

Church World Service school kits - August/September has been our time to collect supplies for the kits. Though delivery is in the spring, school supplies are on sale now. A labeled bin is in the narthex to collect donated supplies. Monetary donations are always welcome and may be sent to the church marked for school supplies. The kits are sent worldwide as need arises. Thank you for helping with this mission project!!!

School Bag Supplies:

- one pair blunt scissors
- three 70-count spiral bound notebooks
- one 12" ruler
- one hand held pencil sharpener
- one large eraser
- six new unsharpened pencils with erasers
- one box 24 count crayons (only 24)

Many thanks to those who sew school bags. Each one uses a half yard of quilting cotton weight fabric. Instructions available from Linda Ims - lindaims63@gmail.com or 671-1101.

Senior Lunch: Welcome Back!

Senior Lunch Bunch in October!

It's been a long time, but let's get together again. Third Wednesday of October will start our soup and bread luncheons. Sign up sheets will be provided in the Narthex.

- Lou Erb

Neighbors in Need—5 for 5 special offering

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on **October 2**, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through our national Justice and Local Church Ministries office, <https://tinyurl.com/2bfyatb>, you can find resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network. (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

BEHOLD! With your assistance, we together can help our Neighbors in Need

Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you...

James 5:4



WILD Sunday school *Where God is WILD about YOU*, covers a lot of ground on Sunday mornings. We meet in the stone labyrinth at 10:00 and head to our WILD space together. It's located in the woods off the path near the playground. We share the morning's lesson, enjoy a lively discussion and even a drama/skit. Then we work at one of the many ministries at WUCC. Service is the highlight of our time together. If you have questions about WILD Sunday school just contact me ! Wendy Lesko wlesko88@gmail.com



The WILD Sunday School children love their "Jesus stories". But the one story whose lesson they LIVE OUT is ... "Jesus said feed my sheep". Every single time the children gather, they FEED JESUS' SHEEP. They know what it means. They know its their job. They know the *challenge* of serving in the various ministries at WUCC and they know the *joy*. They appreciate that the Rebel Beat Youth have founded several of the ministries but on a certain Sunday in August they asked "can we make a ministry?" Of course I said yes and they named it FEED MY SHEEP ministry. They will begin with 2 projects.....



The children will make cards for the senior visitation team to give to the people they visit. The kids have enjoyed making cards for the backpacks for students from UKRAINE and ROCHESTER ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN. They decided to continue making cards for the seniors.



The children enjoy filling gift bags for Milestones Ministry. Mothers contact Milestones when they need help with school supplies or gifts for their kids. Our WILD children thought the moms might need things too but might not ask. So the kids and their partners in the REBEL BEAT youth want to fill MOM BAGS with things that might make a mom feel good.

Some WILD kids and REBEL BEAT Youth filling pet food orders

"I love working in the pet food pantry"
~Juliana grade 1



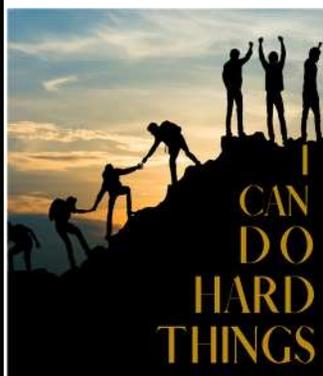
REBEL BEAT YOUTH MINISTRY

Connecting Serving Learning Leading

The REBEL BEAT YOUTH ministry will start the Fall schedule on September 18.

- REBEL BEAT youth group meets at 11:00 for Bible study with real life applications & outreach.
- Youth Coaching meets at noon with lunch.
- Additional gatherings and outreach opportunities TBA
- Friends always welcome !
- If you're not on the Rebel Beat email list but would like to be, contact Wendy
- Questions? Contact Wendy at wlesko88@gmail.com

On September 18, the **I CAN DO HARD THINGS youth coaching group** will start meeting again on 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.

carry the mat ministry



serving
like the
**FOUR
FRIENDS**

Do you know the Bible story of the four friends bringing their sick friend to Jesus? They carried him on a mat over a distance through a crowd up a ladder and down through the roof to lay him at the feet of Jesus.

The four loved their friend. They saw a need. Their hearts felt an urgency. Their faith identified the solution. Their brains saw the path to get there. The four worked together to devise a plan. They faced obstacles but together overcame them. They could have given up but didn't. When they saw a mountain they climbed it....together. CARRY THE MAT ministry is about equipping friends to work together, using their mind, body and soul to serve one another through tough times. We launch on September 18. There will be training, mentoring and serving. A podcast too !! Questions? Contact Wendy Lesko



Community Service Parties

Gather a group and celebrate making a difference !

Our congregation has enjoyed two community service parties since the launch on August 1. One to fill backpacks for students from UKRAINE and another to fill backpacks for the grandchildren served by Rochester Advocates for Children. **Our next party is Sunday September 11 right after worship. We will fill 50 CARE KITS for the guests at BABER HOT LUNCH.**



Community service parties are fun ways to gather together and make a difference. Groups can be a bunch of family or friends, scouts, neighbors, work colleagues... adults and/or kids and/or teens ! Webster UCC has numerous and varied ministries that offer hands-on tasks. A host will be present to provide a welcoming atmosphere and guidance.

For example, a scout troop could gather to fill CARE KITS for people in need. The items are organized in the MILESTONES MINISTRY room. The group could have a snack and discussion on the deck or in fellowship center. OPTION: group could have a drive to collect items for CARE KITS. Another OPTION: group could follow up by meeting our BABER team at the monthly HOT LUNCH & distribute CARE KITS.

The above scenario could happen with a group of families or a neighborhood friend group or high school / college students looking for community service hours!

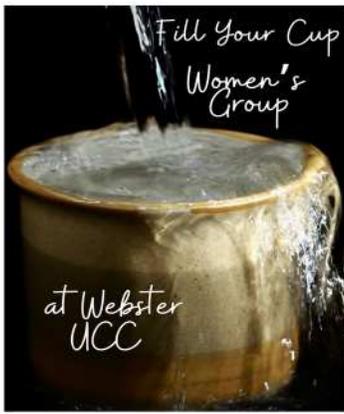
A parent might hold their child's birthday party at UCC with cake and games etc. and together the guests could enjoy serving the community. So many possibilities !

Instead of Care Kits the task could be to fill Pet Food Orders or tend the garden or stock the outdoor pantries.

Parties are booked through the Calendly link <https://calendly.com/uccwebster>

Questions ? Or looking for a date not listed on the calendly app? Contact Wendy Lesko wlesko88@gmail.com

Saturday and Sunday dates will be available this Fall



FILL YOUR CUP *Women's group* (a.k.a. Wine & Cheese)

Our next gathering will be Monday September 26th
at 6:30 pm on the deck at church

Come as you are. If you happen to have a snack and/or
drink to share, bring it along !

Casual. No fuss. Just Fun.



BABER HOT LUNCH VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME

Our next Hot Lunch is Saturday September 24 th
10:30 –1:30 at BABER AME Church 550 Meigs St, Rochester

The team of volunteers changes monthly ! If you'd like to try
it out, follow the link below. If you want more information
please email Wendi or Wendy

wendi.latko@gmail.com wlesko88@gmail.com

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeUMX29h9xIM-w4b9rPxgzGSTROTdySlxZfbJRLscc6nd7zUw/viewform?edit_requested=true

Spaghetti SAUCE & THIN SPAGHETTI NEEDED !



It's time to restock our BABER groceries ! Each month we need
15 jars of spaghetti sauce AND 15 pounds of thin spaghetti. Our
goal is to collect a two month supply. Please consider donating
either or both items by Sunday September 18. A collection
basket is in the narthex.

WHAT IS BABER HOT LUNCH ??? The fourth Saturday of each month, Webster
UCC serves a hot lunch at Baber AME church in Rochester. We serve spaghetti, Italian bread,
salad, dessert, lemonade, water and coffee. There are many tasks that need to be done such
as setting up the dining room, cooking sauce and spaghetti, preparing the salad, buttering the
bread, serving, hospitality and clean-up. This is a terrific opportunity for families to partici-
pate together. Kids of all ages have a great time learning all the tasks! Youth are also invited to
participate without family. Wendy and Wendi will be there to guide volunteers. As always
friends are welcome !!!!!

Gathering Place



Connect. Learn Grow Serve

We are compiling a "list" of ministries, groups, projects, events etc. that make up the fabric of Webster UCC. The ways we all gather. The ways we grow. The ways we learn and have fun. The ways we serve and worship.

All the ways the congregation and our friends & neighbors can be engaged in the life of WUCC.

This list will be ever changing! The moment we think its complete, it will change. This is a starting point.

Please email Wendy wlesko88@gmail.com to add to the list.

This info will be available on the website this fall.

1. Caring Community Concerts
2. Vacation Bible School
3. Mission Week
4. Choir
5. Music Ministry
6. Sunday morning 10:00 worship
7. Milestones Ministry
8. WILD Sunday School
9. REBEL BEAT youth ministry
10. BABER HOT LUNCH
11. Cameron Community Ministries Field Days
12. Thursday BS group
13. Senior Visitation Team
14. Senior Lunch Bunch
15. WISE
16. Family Promise Team
17. Angel Tree Gifts for Family Promise
18. MAP
19. Mission Team
20. Fill My Cup/Wine & Cheese Women's group
21. Warm Fuzzy Blanket Ministry
22. Feed My Sheep Ministry
23. CARRY THE MAT ministry
24. Pet Food Pantry
25. Outdoor Pantries
26. Community Garden
27. CARE 5000
28. Community Service Parties
29. MOM Bags
30. I CAN DO HARD THINGS youth coaching
31. Book Group
32. 4TWG
33. Church World Service School Kits
34. Woodside
35. Rochester Advocates for Children (RAC)
36. Angel Tree Gifts for RAC
37. Thanksgiving groceries for RAC
38. Christmas Groceries for RAC
39. Easter Baskets for RAC
40. Backpacks for RAC
41. Grandma gifts for RAC
42. Easter Sunday community EGG Hunt
43. Women's Closet- Personal care items for women
44. Summer Fun kits for Outdoor pantry
45. Mitten Ministry
46. Coffee Hour
47. Bingo for a Cause
48. Digital team
49. Birthday Kits
50. Fall Fleece Gift away
51. Spooky Shenanigans
52. Christmas Shenanigans

What did Wendy forget ???

Please email [wlesko88@gmail](mailto:wlesko88@gmail.com)

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.

SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 10am Combined Worship	29	30 6:30pm Fill Your Cup - women's group	31	1-Sep 8:30am Rockers at Nutcracker 9:30am Thursday Study Group	2	3
4 10am Combined Worship	5 Labor Day	6	7	8 9:30am Thursday Study Group	9	10
11 Homecoming Sunday 10am Combined Worship	12	13	14	15 First Day of His- panic Heritage Month 8:30am Rockers at Nutcracker 9:30am Thursday Study Group	16	17
18 10am Combined Worship	19	20 6pm WISE group	21	22 9:30am Thursday Study Group	23	24
25 10am Combined Worship	26	27	28	29 9:30am Thursday Study Group	30	01-Oct

September 11, 2022 — Homecoming Sunday, Community Service Party after worship

October 2, 2022 — World Communion Sunday, Neighbors in Need special offering

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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*

*“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. , 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