

July
2024



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

The Congregationalist

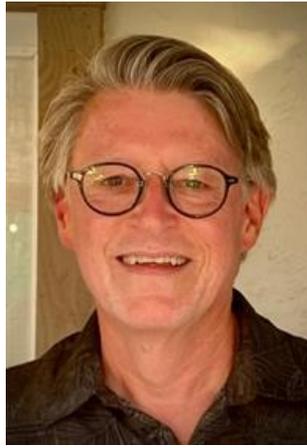
Monthly Newsletter

Rev. David S. Gregory, Interim Sr. Pastor
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From Our Interim Minister



Dear Ones,

The United Church of Christ of Webster is a very busy place these days! As July begins, Vacation Bible School is in full swing, and a week later the 20th season of the Caring Community Concerts will commence. And in the middle of all of that, our Open and Affirming Team will celebrate Rochester PRIDE with a strong contingent of UCC-ers walking or riding in the Pride Parade on July 20.

While many churches get a little sleepy in the summer months, ours comes alive and buzzes with activity. In an era where many are speaking of the decline of the Protestant Mainline, we are here to show the world something else, namely that we are a vital, growing community of faith AND practice, fully engaged in community outreach and partnership.

Running in the background is the work of our Pastoral Search Team, a dedicated group of eight folks who are processing all that we've been doing over the last twenty months and distilling the information into the church profile which will soon be posted in the search for potential candidates. As we all know by now, the search is on for a bi-vocational minister who might provide agile and visionary leadership over the coming years for a church that will move through the second quarter of this century with an excitement around innovation, and a desire to birth new ministries and form new community partnerships.

Does this sound like a tall order? In an older paradigm, maybe so. But as "Church 3.0" comes into view, the possibilities are endless. In the pandemic age we are not just learning new models of communication, but new ways of BEING. If we listen carefully to our culture, we're definitely being told what people do NOT need in a church. If we are patient enough to keep listening, we might learn what people DO need in a church, namely a way to express the values of Jesus in ways that religious dogma has not been able to.

The church growth models of the last half century have moved us to create all kinds of plans and programs. With our established identity and belief systems, we have invited others to come and be like us, to do what we do in the ways we like to do it. Younger generations have politely stepped aside and said by their absence, "This is not relevant for me. I will find my communities elsewhere."

If you'd like to be helpful in the process of the Pastoral Search, the best possible thing for you to do is to embrace agility, innovation and change. The best way to express it to others is by fully embracing our role as a caring community both inside and outside our walls. The best way to enhance our own spiritual practice is by following the things about which we are most passionate, whether in the realm of spiritual nurture or community outreach.

The passions for communal life that are planted deep within our souls is a representation of Divine Will. What does God want for us and from us? The answer to that is "Do what floats your boat." Do the things you love to do in concert with one another. Exercise your gifts within the beautiful tapestry of humanness that makes up Webster UCC. This will invite your new leader to partner with you in ways that will help this church beat the curve and THRIVE.

Happy Summer!
Rev. David

May 2024 as of June 16, 2024

Church Resources

	May Actual	YTD Actual
Balance at BOM	\$328,142.93	\$360,836.81
Receipts	\$13,678.66	\$96,259.67
Disbursements	-\$24,665.24	-\$140,468.13
Non Plan pass through receipts	\$0.00	\$2,268.00
Non Plan pass through disbursements	-\$2,364.26	-\$4,104.26
General Fund (Checking Account) - EOM	\$314,792.09	\$314,792.09
Less Cumulative Non Plan Pass Thru Not Disbursed	\$9,716.16	\$9,716.16
Available to Support Annual Plan	\$305,075.93	\$305,075.93
Ledger balance - CNB	25,080.54	
Vanguard account	288,504.58	
Bank balance - Pay Pal	1,206.97	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	314,792.09	-

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

Income	2023	2023	2024	May	
	Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual	Actual YTD
Cash Offering	\$147,000.00	\$149,050.00	\$150,000.00		
Pre Paid Pledge	\$2,700.00	\$6,055.00	\$6,000.00		
Pledge recovery	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00		
Sunday School	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Stewardship Sunday Giving	\$150,950.00	\$157,105.00	\$156,000.00	\$11,904.00	\$75,322.21
Stewardship Fundraising	\$0.00	\$361.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Finance /Misc	\$200.00	\$97.56	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Congregational Life	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Spiritual Nurturing	\$850.00	\$2,873.00	\$2,700.00	\$412.00	\$1,924.00
Other Youth Fundraising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Building Use Donations	\$25,535.00	\$13,034.60	\$7,614.00	\$620.00	\$12,564.85
Office & Admin	\$150.00	\$7,881.17	\$300.00	\$742.66	\$894.62
Worship & Music	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mission	\$100.00	\$140.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Summer concert ministry	\$12,000.00	\$19,841.80	\$17,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$189,785.00	\$201,334.63	\$183,714.00	\$13,678.66	\$90,705.68

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

Ministry Expenses	2023	2023	2024	May	
	Plan	Actual	Plan	Act	YTD
Staff and Human Relations	\$232,785.80	\$233,121.15	\$229,489.67	\$17,599.13	\$93,420.88
Admin/Office/Communications	\$6,150.00	\$6,235.83	\$6,300.00	\$537.75	\$2,665.61
Building & Grounds	\$44,655.72	\$68,370.44	\$65,050.00	\$4,900.16	\$31,570.07
Worship & Music	\$950.00	\$4,410.27	\$1,450.00	\$0.00	\$204.90
Spiritual Nurturing	\$7,200.00	\$12,554.77	\$10,000.00	\$624.45	\$4,438.04
Congregational Life	\$200.00	\$19.99	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$110.89
Mission Outreach Tithe	\$16,938.00	\$14,689.60	\$16,388.00	\$1,003.75	\$2,503.75
Mission Awareness Project (MAP)	\$0.00	\$7,619.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,553.99
Summer concert ministry	\$12,000.00	\$16,974.47	\$17,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL MINISTRY EXPENSES	\$320,879.52	\$363,996.14	\$345,877.67	\$24,665.24	\$140,468.13
Surplus/(deficit)	(131,094.52)	(162,661.51)	(162,163.67)	(10,986.58)	(49,762.45)
Transfer from Endowment - 6%	\$33,324.00	30,000.00	\$0.00	-	\$0.00
Transfer from Endowment - 1% (MAP)	\$0.00	7,619.62	\$0.00	-	\$5,553.99
Transfer from Memorials and Special Gifts	\$0.00	3,410.12	\$0.00	-	\$0.00
Additional from Endowment to balance budget	\$97,771.00	45,000.00	\$0.00	-	\$0.00
From MAP for Concerts, Sunday Suppers and youth	\$0.00	2,000.00	\$0.00	-	\$0.00
Sale of Cell Tower	\$0.00	430,000.00	\$0.00	-	\$0.00
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Net surplus/(deficit) after transfer from Endowment and M&SG	0.48	355,368.23	(\$162,163.67)	(10,986.58)	(44,208.46)

A Thank You Note

“Thank you to all my church friends for all the kindness showed to me during the loss of my friend Marilyn.”

Marcia O'Connor

New recycling process

We now have a dumpster for recycling, instead of the tote we previously had. The goal is to prevent recycling from piling up and overflowing in the kitchen. To make effective use of the dumpster, please note the following process:

- Small recyclables should be placed in the yellow recycling bin in the kitchen. If you notice it is full, please take it to the dumpster and empty it.
- Boxes must be flattened and taken directly to the dumpster. Please do not pile them in the kitchen or hallway.

As a reminder, plastic bags are *not accepted* for recycling in the bin or dumpster.

Thank you for your help in keeping the building tidy!

GatherRings

Exciting News! Say hello to "GatherRings" – the clever, fresh identity for what we once called Cottage Gatherings. These clusters of church members are here to stay as a vital component of our church community. The aim of GatherRings is simple yet profound: to foster an intimate and welcoming platform for sharing and receiving important church updates, especially as we prepare to welcome a new minister and gear up for a fall stewardship campaign.

Comprising church members living in close proximity to one another, GatherRings will largely maintain the groupings established during our winter cottage meetings, with a few neighboring clusters being merged for greater cohesion.

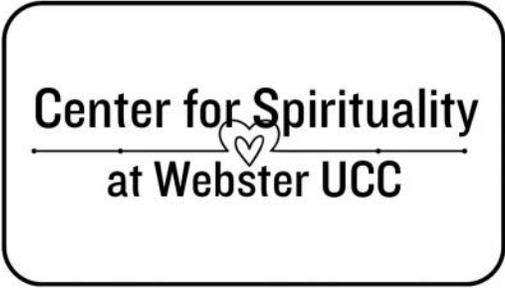
As we continue to navigate these transition times, GatherRings will serve as an important aspect of our church life. If you're eager to play a role in coordinating GatherRings or stepping up as a GatherRing leader, reach out to Colleen Kunz (cmaykunz@yahoo.com), Mike Green (mikpizza121@hotmail.com), Skip Erb (warren.erb@gmail.com), or Marcia Kendrick (kendricks@verizon.net). Let's continue this exciting journey together!

From the WISE team

On June 9 we held our annual celebration of Mental Health Sunday. Our guest speaker, Todd Youngman, shared how his own mental health journey led him to his career in comedy, and he discussed the importance of laughter in our lives. If you were moved by Todd's story and would like to hear more about his relationship with his mother, who suffered from borderline personality disorder, check out his YouTube video at <https://youtu.be/q4xhm0S2ZWs?si=TXG9oTly6VYSbq6>

WISE GRIEF GROUP -

Interested in talking about grief? There will be a gathering in the lounge after the Sunday morning service on July 28, Aug. 25, and Sept. 29. Grief comes into our lives in a variety of ways. This will be a time to share and listen to accounts of various grief journeys and talk about ways to deal with the feelings.. You are welcome to attend all or any of the gatherings. Questions? Contact Linda Ims at lindaims63@gmail.com.

The logo for the Center for Spirituality at Webster UCC is enclosed in a rounded rectangular border. It features the text "Center for Spirituality" in a bold, sans-serif font, with a small heart icon positioned between the words "for" and "Spirituality". Below this, a horizontal line separates the text from "at Webster UCC", which is also in a bold, sans-serif font.

Center for Spirituality
at Webster UCC

Thursday Book Study Group: Interested in reading thought-provoking books and discussing them with others? Thursdays at 9:30. Contact Joe Roth jaroth462@gmail.com

Hot Topics Discussion Group: Interested in making sense of our cultural madness by sifting and sorting with others in evidence-based conversation? First and third Wednesdays at 6:30. Contact Richard Kendrick at richard_kendrick@verizon.net

Wednesday Meditation: Interested in finding a quiet and calm space for spiritual openness and practice? Wednesdays at 11:00. Contact David Gregory at david@uccwebster.org

Open and Affirming group (ONA): Interested in promoting a just world for everyone? Contact Jeff Peck at Jefferypeck@gmail.com

W.I.S.E. Team: Interested in being supportive of those affected by mental health conditions and those who love them, and helping to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health? Contact Wendi Latko at Wendi.Latko@gmail.com

Nurture Team: Interested in reaching out to people who would appreciate a visit, call or letter? If you or someone you know would appreciate a visit, call, or letter? Contact David Gregory at david@uccwebster.org

Lunch Bunch: Interested in fellowship and lunch with seniors? Third Wednesday at noon September through May. Contact Lou Erb at Lounskip@yahoo.com

Grief Group: Interested in a grief group where you'll be embraced by understanding hearts and empowered through shared experiences? Meeting the last Sunday of the month after worship. Contact Linda Ims at Lindaims63@gmail.com

Book Group: Interested in a book group that shares their thoughts on selected literature? Contact Heidi Zastowny at heidizastowny@gmail.com

Spiritual Coaching Group : Interested in a group that cultivates practices that align with your beliefs & values, fostering growth & harmony in all aspects of your life? Next meeting Thursday June 27th at 6:00 Contact Wendy Lesko at wlesko88@gmail.com

Atomic Habits: Interested in a group that reads and discusses ATOMIC HABITS by James Clear, with the goal of implementing effective strategies for habit formation? Informational meeting July 14 at 11:00. Goal to start gathering in September. Contact Wendy Lesko at wlesko88@gmail.com

The Youth & Kids Program has had a makeover



CHANGE AGENTS

A group of youth & kids that's a force for good, dedicated to creating waves of positive change in their community & beyond

Imagine a vibrant group of youth and kids that's a force for good in their community. Through a series of impactful initiatives and projects, this group is always making a meaningful difference, inspiring others to join their mission of service and making their community a better place for everyone. This dynamic group is dedicated to creating waves of positive change in their community and beyond. They aim to catalyze a ripple effect of compassion, empowerment, and social transformation. Every action they take creates a ripple that spreads far and wide, inspiring others to join the movement and amplify the collective impact for a brighter future. Ages preschool through grade 12 gather on Sunday mornings at 10:00 for a faith-filled discussion followed by hands-on community service. Yes all ages together ! The mentoring that happens is priceless. Questions ? Email Wendy Lesko at wlesko88@gmail.com

What's coming up in July for youth & kids:

JULY 1-3 : SCUBA Vacation Bible School Kids are campers and youth are staff

July 1-2: Project Impact 12:30-2:00 Youth do community service projects

July 14 Kids set up for FREE COMMUNITY SUNDAY SUPPER @ 4:30-5:30

Youth & kids & families encouraged to volunteer. All ages welcome!

5:30 Community Service Camp Counselor Training

July 15-17 Community Service Camp for ages Kinder and up, youth are staff 9:00-12:00

July 16 3:00-4:30 Friendship Tuesday - Making Friends & Cherishing Diversity Through Play

July 19 Youth staff the FIELD DAY FOR CAMERON COMMUNITY

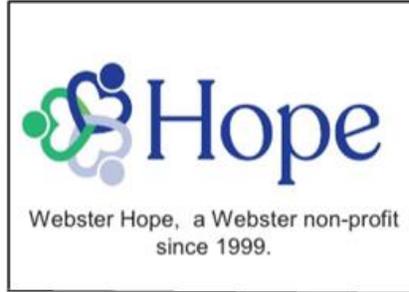
July 23 3:00-4:30 Friendship Tuesday -Making Friends & Cherishing Diversity Through Play

July 27 Baber Hot Lunch 10:15 TO 1:00. Youth and families encouraged to volunteer. All ages welcome!

July 30 3:00-4:30 Friendship Tuesday -Making Friends & Cherishing Diversity Through Play

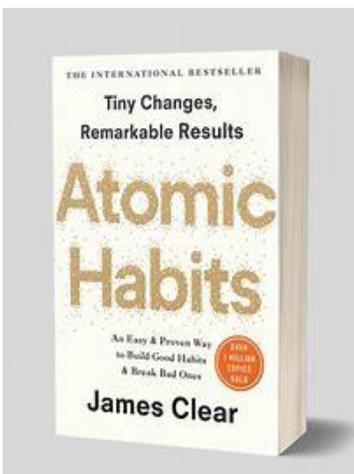
July 31 Youth Leadership Workshop 5:30-7:30

Webster Community Holiday Meal Distribution Collaboration



The Easter Grocery Bag collaboration was so successful, we've decided to work together with the community to fill grocery bags 4 times a year for Webster families in need. The next grocery bag distribution will be July 16th. During the month of June **WEBSTER UCC WILL CONTRIBUTE**

**50 ONE POUND BOXES OF ELBOW MACARONI.
COLLECTION BASKET IN THE NARTHEX.
THANK YOU SO MUCH**



Atomic Habits Group

Purpose: To read, understand and discuss "Atomic Habits" by James Clear, with the goal of implementing effective strategies for habit formation and improvement in personal and professional lives.

Informational gathering on Sunday July 14th at 11:00 to talk about a September start-up. Questions? Contact Wendy Lesko wlesko88@gmail.com

GATHERING PLACE WEBSTER



BUILDING COMMUNITY TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

July 1– PROJECT IMPACT 12:30-2:00 GRADES 6 & UP

July 2– PROJECT IMPACT 12:30-2:00 GRADES 6 & UP

July 11- Drop-in Community Service—Thursdays at noon– All ages

July 13 - Bag Lunch Outreach 10:00-11:00. Just drop in. –All ages

July 14 -Free Community Sunday Supper 4:30-5:30

July 14– 5:30 Camp Counselor training

July 15-17– Community Service Camp—Kinder and up

July 16– Friendship workshop– Making friends & cherishing diversity through play 3:00-4:30

July 16– Holiday grocery Bag distribution 4:30-6:00

July 18- Drop-in Community Service—Thursdays at noon

July 23– Friendship workshop– 3:00-4:30

July 25- Drop-in Community Service—Thursdays at noon

July 27– Baber Hot Lunch

July 30– Friendship workshop– 3:00-4:30

July 31– YOUTH LEADERSHIP Workshop– 5:30-7:30

For more information on any of the above events, check gatheringplacewebster.org or email gatheringplacewebster@gmail.com

Happy Birthday



July Birthdays

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

07/03	Audrey Dunn	07/21	Jim Dolan
07/03	Sharon Mathiason	07/21	Marybeth Gilbert-Young
07/04	John Abbett	07/22	Ruth Heidorn
07/04	Scott Daniels	07/22	Emily Marushak
07/05	John LaDuca	07/23	Joseph Bechtold
07/06	Chris Hendrickson	07/23	Robert Daly
07/06	Courtney Levy	07/24	Brandon Johnson
07/06	Lindsay Levy	07/24	Jessica van Wichen
07/07	Talia Cholach	07/25	John Piucci
07/10	Norma FitzPatrick	07/26	Lowell Edwards
07/12	Erwin Tschanz	07/27	Doris Kittredge
07/14	Sienna Duga	07/28	Casey Biuso
07/15	Peyton John Sanfilippo	07/28	Timothy Craft
07/16	Ethan Daniels	07/28	Edward Maeske
07/16	Ella LaDuca	07/29	Joe Monachino
07/17	Ethan Sharp	07/29	Charlotte Story
07/17	Neil Sood	07/30	Devyn Phelps
07/19	Louise Andrews	07/31	Michael Cerame
07/19	Konner Lieberman	07/31	Craig Pratt
07/20	Cheryl Hendrickson		
07/20	Kyle Lieberman		



July Anniversaries

07/02	Jennifer & Ted Brazener	07/27	Scott & Despina Mitchell
07/02	Beverly & Jack Guild	07/31	Sharon & John Randall
07/04	Jeff & Kristie Cimo		
07/09	George & Margot Hanley		
07/09	Debbie & John Peterson		
07/10	Kelly & Vincent Kozlowski		
07/11	Matthew & Kristi Chatfield		
07/13	Melissa & Gregg Minichiello		
07/16	William & Mindy Spencer		
07/21	Marcia & James Morath		
07/21	Judy & Ken Scott		
07/23	Jessica & Kyle Hegedorn		

JULY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10am Kids Group & Youth Group 10am Worship Service	01-Jul 7am VBS/youth mission combo, 7 AM-3:30 PM 8:30am Lounge Reserved 4pm Buddy Bag Distribution event 6pm Search team	2 VBS/YOUTH MISSION COMBO 7am VBS/youth mission combo 8:30am Lounge Reserved	3 7am VBS 8:30am Lounge Reserved 6:30pm Hot Topics discussion group	4 Independence Day 8:30am Rockers at Nutcracker 9:30am Thursday Study Group 12pm Drop-in Community Service 12:00 Thursdays in Cong Hall- Everyone Welcome 6pm Spiritual Coaching Group	5	6
7 10am Kids Group & Youth Group 10am Worship Service	8 8:30am Lounge Reserved	9 8:30am Lounge Reserved	10 8:30am Lounge Reserved 11am Wednesday Meditation Group - Sanctuary 3pm community service sampler 6pm Caring Community Concert	11 9:30am Thursday Study Group 12pm Drop-in Community Service 12:00 Thursdays in Cong Hall- Everyone Welcome 6pm Spiritual Coaching Group 6:30pm Leadership Council - Lounge 6:30pm Leadership Council - Lounge	12	13 10am bag lunch outreach
14 10am Kids Group & Youth Group 10am Worship Service 11am Atomic Habits at 11:00 4:30pm Free Community Sunday Supper 5:30pm Youth Camp Counselor training 5:30-	15 8am Community Service Camp 8:30am Lounge Reserved	16 8am Community Service camp 8:30am Lounge Reserved 3pm Friendship Tuesday 4:30pm Holiday Grocery Bag Distribution 4:30-6:00	17 8am Community Service Camp 8:30am Lounge Reserved 11am Wednesday Meditation Group - Sanctuary 6pm Caring Community Concert 6:30pm Hot Topics discussion group	18 8:30am Rockers at Nutcracker 9:30am Thursday Study Group 12pm Drop-in Community Service 12:00 Thursdays in Cong Hall- Everyone Welcome 6pm Spiritual Coaching Group	19 8am FIELD DAY FOR CAMERON	20
21 10am Kids Group & Youth Group 10am Worship Service	22 8:30am Lounge Reserved	23 8:30am Lounge Reserved 3pm Friendship Tuesday	24 8:30am Lounge Reserved 11am Wednesday Meditation Group - Sanctuary 6pm Caring Community Concert	25 9am Private event 9:30am Thursday Study Group 12pm Drop-in Community Service 12:00 Thursdays in Cong Hall- Everyone Welcome 6pm Spiritual Coaching Group 6:30pm Leadership Council Meeting- Lounge	26	27 10am baber hot lunch
28 10am Kids Group & Youth Group 10am Worship Service 11am Grief support group	29 8:30am Lounge Reserved	30 8:30am Lounge Reserved 3pm Friendship Tuesday	31 8:30am Lounge Reserved 11am Wednesday Meditation Group - Sanctuary 5:30pm Youth Leadership Workshop, Wednesday, Jul 31 · 5:30-7:30 PM 6pm Caring Community Concert	01-Aug 8:30am Rockers at Nutcracker 9:30am Thursday Study Group 12pm Drop-in Community Service 12:00 Thursdays in Cong Hall- Everyone Welcome 6pm Spiritual Coaching Group	2	3 10am community service event

United Church of Christ, Congregational
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Webster, New York 14580

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Sunday Schedule

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

*“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. David Gregory, Interim Sr. Pastor
Wendy Lesko, Director Christian Education
Ronald Milliman, Music Director
Doug Hall, Office Manager
Oleksandra Yurchenko, Accompanist