



WEBSTER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONALIST



United Church of Christ, Congregational
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585-671-3757

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www.uccwebster.org

 [United Church of Christ, Congregational](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchofChristCongregational)

From our Interim Minister

Dear Ones,

Recently in a Sunday worship I held a dialogue with the congregation about what we want to talk more about during our remaining time. The very helpful responses were about communication and transparency, leading me to invest the next four to six weeks addressing the topic of the 501c3 non-profit called Gathering Place and it's relationship to Webster UCC.

For some of you, I sound like a broken record. If that is true of you, chances are you are highly connected via social media and the Gathering Place website. If you are active on the internet and have never visited <https://gatheringplacwebster.org/>, please do so today. If you are on Facebook, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/gatheringplacwebster/>.

One aspect of a healthy congregation is an abundance of information. Information builds trust. It says "I matter; I belong." The fact is that over the last year we have devoted newsletters, Sunday messages, countless Sunday morning "hot-seat" questions, Sunday announcements and weekly email updates to make information available. The thing about weekly worship is

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that there is no Sunday where everyone is present at the same time. And if you miss a Sunday without taking in the full service online, then you've missed any number of very important conversations. This comes with absolutely no judgment, but for the church to be healthy, you need this information.

One of the tasks of good leadership is to communicate abundantly, and one of our tasks as participants is to avail ourselves of that information. Here are some things you can do. First and foremost, read the monthly newsletter every month, start to finish. Much thought and effort go into providing it for you. Share it with others. Print it out if you need to. If you receive a printed copy pass it on. Check the weekly email updates. Do some digging. Ask some questions. Stay engaged. Chances are that your questions will be answered, and if not we can always go deeper. And we will. You deserve all the information you need to be a full participant in the life of the church.

Perhaps the most important question from that recent Sunday worship came from a mom with children who are as active in our church programming as they are in Gathering Place. This is not a direct quote, but in effect she said, "As younger families, where do we fit in this congregation?" It is a question that still rings in my ears, and she's asked it before. It's easy to see how they fit with Gathering Place, but what is it about the ministry of Webster UCC invites younger generations to participate?

The cultural shifts are clear. We have to figure out a way to answer this question for ourselves and our younger families. We cannot rely on the prospect of younger minister to do it for us. We must place ourselves in their shoes and try to figure out what this means for them, and then set about loving our neighbors as we do ourselves. Pretty soon, there won't be any more talk of "we" or "they." When that happens, we have a bright future!

More to come,

Rev. David



Hot Topics Discussion Group

The "Hot Topics" discussion group will meet on Wednesday, September 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will continue our discussion of "False White God" by Jim Wallis for one more session. All are welcome. For more information contact richard_kendrick@verizon.net.



Bobby Jo Valentine

**Tuesday
September 17
7:00 PM**

FREE CONCERT ON THE FRONT LAWN*

Bring a lawn chair – light refreshments will be available for purchase

Free will offering to benefit Webster Schroeder & Webster Thomas SAGE clubs – creating a welcoming environment for all students by supporting sexual and gender equity

**Webster
UCC
570 Klem
Rd**

*Concert will be indoors in the event of inclement weather

“Catchy songs with good tunes and intelligent, thoughtful lyrics in the tradition of Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens and Bruce Hornsby.”

- Stephen Schwartz, Creator of Godspell and Wicked

Sponsored
by the
ONA team

www.bobbyjovalentine.com

From the WISE Team

September is National Suicide Prevention Month

Many myths surround the topic of suicide, leading to stigma and misunderstanding. However, understanding it is crucial for fostering empathy and providing effective support. By debunking these myths with factual information, we can better support those struggling and promote mental health awareness. Here are some common myths about suicide, along with the facts that dispel them.

MYTH

VS

FACT

Talking about suicide increases the chance a person will act on it.

01

Talking about suicide may reduce, rather than increase, suicidal ideation. It improves mental health-related outcomes and the likelihood that the person would seek treatment.

People who talk about suicide are just seeking attention

02

Some individuals express thoughts of suicide or make suicidal gestures as a way to get the help they need. Giving them your time may save their lives. Always take expressions of suicidality seriously.

People who take their own lives are selfish cowards or weak

03

Often, people who die of suicide experience significant emotional pain and find it difficult to see a way out of their situation. Many who die by suicide have struggled bravely against immense internal battles.

Teenagers and college students are the most at risk for suicide

04

The age group with the highest suicide rate in the U.S. is men and women between 45 and 64. Though risk varies due to several factors, suicide is a problem among all ages and groups.

Safe firearm storage, barriers to bridges and other actions to reduce access to lethal methods of suicide don't work.

05

Numerous studies have indicated that when lethal means are made less available or less deadly, suicide rates by that method decline, and frequently suicide rates overall decline.

Adapted from <https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health/speaking-of-health/8-common-myths-about-suicide>



Senior Lunch
September 18th
 fellowship & lunch
 at noon



Wine & Cheese
September 23rd
 at 6:00
 Come as you are.
 Optional: bring a snack or drink to share

free community
Sunday Supper
 at GATHERING PLACE WEBSTER
SEPTEMBER 8
 Chili, cornbread, tossed salad
 & magic bars

Inside Webster UCC
 570 Klem Rd
 Webster NY 14580

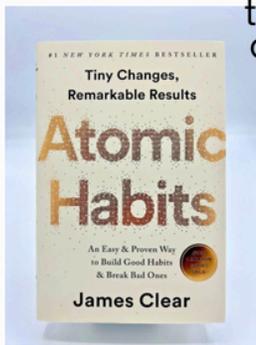
second Sunday
 of each month
 4:30-5:30 pm

KIDS' CRAFT &
 ACTIVITY CORNER
 gluten free and vegetarian
 options available

for more information
 gatheringplacewebster@gmail.com
 585-667-0411

Atomic Habits Book Group

Mondays at 6:00
starting Sept. 9th



Ready to transform your life one small habit at a time? We'll dive into James Clear's book, discuss practical strategies and help each other build lasting, positive habits.

wlesko88@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunity



free community
HOT LUNCH

at BABER A.M.E. Church

fourth Saturday of each month
11:30-12:30

BABER A.M.E.
550 Meigs St
Rochester 14607

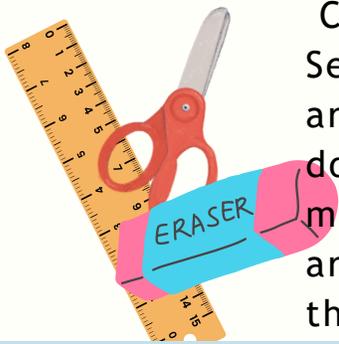
September 28
October 26
November 23
December 28

Now sponsored by Gathering Place

email gatheringplacewebster@gmail.com
to sign-up or for more information

Church World Service school kits

Collection of supplies for the kits will continue through September. 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 showing inches and centimeters
- 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 in kid friendly print or solid color. No logos please.

Instructions available from
Linda Ims - lindaims63@gmail.com.

GRIEF GROUP

The Grief Group will meet on Sunday, Sept. 29 in the lounge following the service. This is an informal time of sharing experiences and just talking about living through grief moving forward as life continues. Grief is experienced through many of life's ups and downs not just through the loss of a loved one. All are welcome! Grab a cup of coffee and join us.

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.

Ages preschool through grade 12. Questions ? Email Wendy Lesko at wlesko88@gmail.com

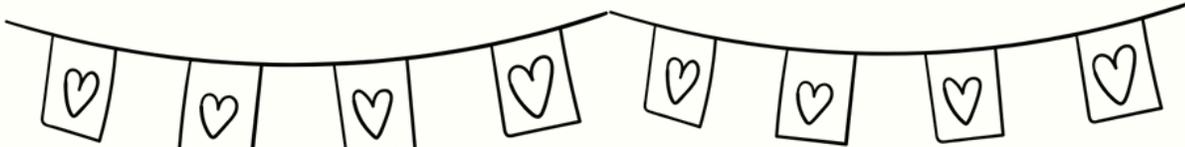
coming up for kids & youth

On September Sundays we will start our hour with a lesson and then apply what we learned by engaging in hands-on outreach projects. Potential projects include:

1. Setting up Sunday Supper
2. Filling Pet Food orders
3. Making CARE KITS for people in need
4. Planning Spooky Shenanigans event
5. Filling activity bags for kids at Cameron Community
6. Planning and prepping for the Halloween treat bags and Christmas bags for the kids at Rochester Advocates for Children

NOTE: Youth and Kids can take a leadership role in any of the projects for Rochester Advocates for Children. See page 7 of newsletter and contact Wendy for details.

email wlesko88@gmail.com to receive Wendy's weekly email including all the outreach and leadership opportunities for youth, kids & families



Rochester Advocates For Children Fall Outreach



back to school backpacks stuffed by campers at VBS



Youth & kids pack halloween treat bag on Oct 13



Thanksgiving groceries collected Oct 13-Nov 10 packed on Nov 17



Make lasagnas for the grandmas at 11:00 on Sunday December 1



Christmas Angel tree available on Nov 17 Gifts due Dec 15

MORE WUCC FALL OUTREACH

Clean Your Closet for a Cause



Gently Used

Winter Coats

Hats & Gloves

for the guests at BABER Free Hot Lunch.



New Socks Drive



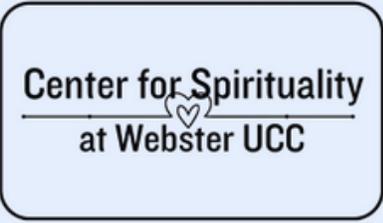
for the guests at BABER Free Hot Lunch.
Collecting 10/20- 12/1



Shop Your Home for a Cause

we're collecting gently used household items for Cameron Community's Christmas Shopping day when the kids pick out gifts for their parents

collecting from 11/3 to 12/1



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? Twice monthly on Thursdays at 6:00 Contact Wendy Lesko at wlesko88@gmail.com for dates

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? Goal to start gathering in September. Contact Wendy Lesko at wlesko88@gmail.com



BUILDING COMMUNITY TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

Gathering Place Webster, a non-religious non-profit nested inside the Webster UCC building, creates a wide variety of community service opportunities designed for ALL ages.

Everyone is welcome !

September Events

September 5	12:00-1:00	Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
September 8	4:30-5:30	Free Community Sunday Supper
September 12	12:00-1:00	Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
September 14	9:00-9:45	Young Leaders & Little Readers
	10:00-11:00	Bag Lunch Outreach
September 19	12:00-1:00	Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
September 21	9:00-9:45	Young Leaders & Little Readers
	10:00-11:00	You Matter Bags for Center for Youth
September 26	12:00-1:00	Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
September 27	12:00-1:00	Fourth Friday Lunch Learn & Serve
September 27	6:00-7:30	Purse Filling Party
September 28	9:00-9:45	Young Leaders & Little Readers

Looking Ahead

October 20 11:30-1:00 Spooky Shenanigans **WE NEED YOUR TRUNKS !!**



**WE
NEED
YOUR
TRUNKS !!**



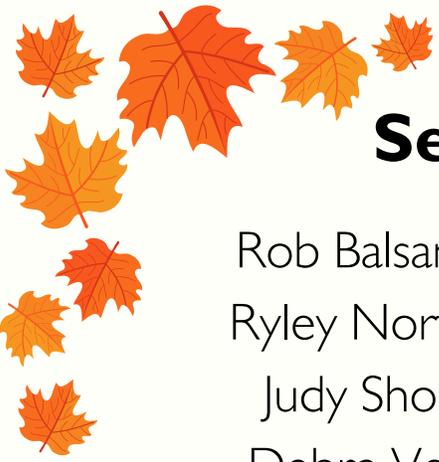
IN THE COMMUNITY

Tripp Hanson is playing the role of Dee Anthony in *The Boy from Oz*, which tells the dazzling, funny, and heartbreaking true story of singer songwriter Peter Allen. From humble beginnings growing up singing in country pubs throughout the Australian outback, Peter's career took off without warning after being discovered and taken under the mentorship of, the one and only, Judy Garland. The show runs from September 12 - 29 at OFC Creations Theater. Tickets are available at <https://www.ofccreations.com/boyfromoz>

Richard Kendrick will be appearing with the Geriactors in the Rochester Fringe Festival for three performances, Sept. 15, 16, and 19, at the Multi Use Community Cultural Center (MUCCC) on 142 Atlantic Ave, Rochester. Details and tickets for the performances are available at rochesterfringe.com/tickets-and-shows/the-geriactors-present-live-from-rochester. The show lasts about 55 minutes.

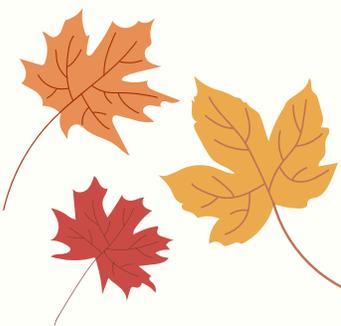
JUST A NOTE





September Birthdays

Rob Balsamo 09/02	David Gerard 09/19
Ryley Norton 09/07	Jim Painton 09/19
Judy Short 09/09	Jason Boland 09/21
Debra Vent 09/09	Skip Erb 09/22
Martha Leising 09/11	Joan Wunrow 09/22
Colter Mateo 09/11	Connor O'Brien-Mayer 09/25
Joseph DiTucci 09/12	Norman Short 09/25
Jeanette Guenther 09/16	David VanHousen 09/25
Keri Stetson 09/16	Richard Ashley 09/26
Colleen Kunz 09/17	Tessa Kilian 09/27
Ryan Henderson 09/18	Heidi LaDuca 09/30



September Anniversaries

Jan & Doug Farling 09/02
Frank & Jane Vavrick 09/04
Joseph & Carole Roth 09/03
Cindy & Ron Thompson 09/12
Keith & Debra Vent 09/21
Karl & Donna Fonda 09/03
Emily & Jason Duga 09/22
John & Barb Cittadino 09/27



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Phone: 585-671-3757
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Sunday Schedule

10:00 am

Worship Service

(also live stream on Facebook & YouTube)

Change Agents

(a.k.a. Youth & kids program)

*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 of Family
Programming & Community Outreach

Ronald Milliman, Music Director

Oleksandra Yurchenko, Accompanist