



WEBSTER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONALIST



United Church of Christ, Congregational
570 Klem Road, Webster NY 14580
585-671-3757

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www.uccwebster.org



[United Church of Christ, Congregational](#)

From our Interim Minister

Dear Ones,

In this, my final newsletter as your Interim Minister, I'd like to express my appreciation to all of you for inviting me on this journey over the last couple of years. We have found open doors, open hearts and open minds in our work together. It hasn't all been simple or easy. We've tackled some tough questions together. Much work remains, but this is the nature of church as we begin the second quarter of the twenty-first century. There are massive cultural shifts that affect how we look at ourselves, our church, and our world.

Thanks for hanging in there for the birth pangs of a new avenue for community outreach and networking. The Gathering Place has great momentum, and is becoming a model for others who wish think beyond traditional ways of expressing our "Jesus Values." Every week new folks who would never dream of attending a worship service, a Sunday school, or a Bible study are jumping in to help one another in ways that have a huge impact on their own lives and the lives of others.

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David's letter continued from page 1

Thanks for making the tough choices involved in the ongoing reorganization of the church's finances, for pledging your support, for your willingness to change the status quo in order to secure a long-term future for the ministry of this place. This takes sacrifice beyond the financial realm. Sometimes we are asked to sacrifice some things that we're used to, to step in to an area of discomfort or inconvenience for the sake of the greater good.

To be able to think past our own life spans, to envision what the church will become when we're gone, to release our attachment to specific outcomes, opinions, or preferences—this is the real work of vision and innovation. During the interim period, we have experienced the seeds of that vision. Now is the time to tend, water, and cultivate those seedlings and to watch with the faith-filled eyes of a child what happens next.

The greatest privilege of all has been to work with such a great team, including the Moderator, the Leadership Council, the Transition Team, the Search Team, the Finance Team, the Music and Worship staff, and our new Office Manager who is a delight.

Last but certainly not least, I express my appreciation for our Director of Outreach and Family Programming, Wendy Lesko. It is no exaggeration to say that I became interested in working here as your interim minister based on what I saw of her work. I saw a level of energy and commitment that was unmatched by any other church I have ever served. I wanted to get on that ride for a while to see what might happen, and it has changed me forever. I have always pondered what "the church" is becoming, what it might be birthing, and how it might find a new path of relevance and importance. The future is coming into greater focus, and Webster UCC is poised to provide a lens that allows us to see it.

As the "interim" phase moves into a "bridge" phase, all I can say is keep on keeping on. You're doing great. Let yourselves dream! God will meet you in those dreams.

Peace,

Rev. David



Hot Topics Discussion Group

The "Hot Topics" discussion group will be meeting on Tuesday, December 3 and on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome. For more information, or to be added to the "Hot Topics" e-mail list, contact richard_kendrick@verizon.net

free community
Sunday Supper
 at GATHERING PLACE WEBSTER
December 8
 Lasagna, garlic bread, salad & a homemade chocolate chip cookie

Inside Webster UCC
 570 Klem Rd
 Webster NY 14580

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

gluten free and vegetarian options available

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

CHRISTMAS Wine & Cheese
 December 9th at 6:00pm
 Come as you are.
 Optional: bring a snack or drink to share

Lunch Bunch
Monthly Luncheon for seniors
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
 Join us Wednesday December 18th for Christmas Merriment and Luncheon catered by the committee
 Do you remember the year Mr & Mrs Claus and the three wisemen came to visit lunch bunch ?



Christmas Movie Night - Friday December 6
 Come and join us for - Elf
 Doors open at 6:00 and movie starts at 6:30
 Popcorn and treats for all!
 Wear your Pjs, bring a blanket for a cozy night!



Advent at WUCC

December 8: 11:00 Comfort & Joy Cookie sale

December 15: 10:00 Holy Cow a Christmas Play

11:00 Christmas Shenanigans

December 22: 10:00 Christmas Cantata

11:00 Special Send-off for Rev. David

December 24: 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

plus the 25 Acts of Advent

Kindness happens all month long



Comfort and Joy Cookie Sale

Sunday December 8 at 11AM Congregational Hall

Please drop off cookie donations in kitchen Sunday

between 9:00 and 10:00



Special Send-off for Rev. David

Help us to provide David with a UCC send off. Join us in Congregational Hall after the service on December 22. Enjoy some coffee, tea, special beverages and treats.

Wish David and Tripp well on their new adventure. See Heidi Zastowny or Wendi Latko to help out, or sign up in the narthex.



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR ADVENT CALENDAR

25 ways to LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS

One way for each day from December 1 through Christmas Day!! Do one or do them all ! Do them in any order...on your own or with a friend/family

*collection center in narthex

1. **Write** a special note to someone & **tell** them how much you appreciate them.
Mail, deliver or text!
2. **Treat** your neighbor with dignity and respect.
3. **Listen** to someone's stories. Share your own stories.
4. **Be** an encourager. Cheer someone on and tell them they are awesome!
5. **Donate** a small bag of dry Cat Food to the Pet Food Pantry *
6. **Donate** lip balm and/or hand warmers for cold weather care kits.*
7. **Take Time** to stop and chat or give a hug.
8. **Help** a neighbor with a chore such as shoveling, washing dishes, etc
9. **Donate** new socks or underwear for the guests at Baber Hot Lunch program *
10. **Check in** on a neighbor regularly.
11. **Donate** hats/gloves/mittens for the children at Cameron Community
12. **Greet** people with a warm smile and a friendly hello!
13. **Donate** a new or gently used children's book to children at Family Promise
14. **Be present** when someone needs you to **be there**.
15. **Donate** non-perishable food items to the outdoor pantry *
16. **Donate** a package of 4 fruit cups for the guests at Baber Hot Lunch *
17. **Share** a compliment
18. **Renew** a friendship
19. **Bear someone's burdens**. Be a good listener to someone having a tough time.
20. **Donate** a new pair of socks to a child or teen at Cameron Community
21. **Express** gratitude regularly
22. **Donate** a jar of sauce to Baber Hot Lunch program *
23. **Donate** a kitchen dish towel to a family at Family Promise of Greater Rochester*
24. **Tell** someone they are loved.
25. **Donate** gently used boots for kids to the outdoor clothing pantry



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



HOLY COW a Christmas Play is presented by the WUCC youth & kids. A meaningful message shared in a most unexpected way.

All youth & children invited to participate !

coming up for kids & youth

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

1. Design and build the cow and barn for the Christmas play .
2. Make Cold Weather Care Kits for people in need
3. Fill Pet Food orders
4. Present the Holy Cow Christmas Play on December 15th
5. Plan & Lead activities at Christmas Shenanigans Free Community Event on Dec 15th
6. Play instruments at Shenanigans event
7. Fill gift bags for the children & youth at Rochester Advocates for Children
8. Make fleece and lip balm care rollups for hospital patients

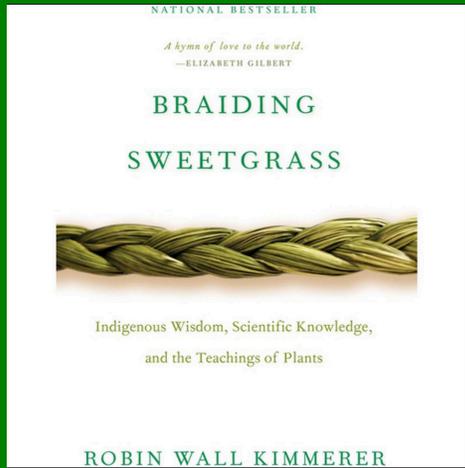
NOTE: Youth and Kids can take a leadership role in any of the above projects. Contact Wendy for details.

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

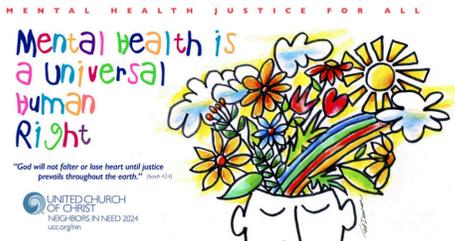


Angel Tree gifts for Rochester Advocates for Children AND the gifts for the family from Family Promise of Greater Rochester are all due by December 8 UNWRAPPED.

Thank you !!



The next Thursday morning resource will be the best seller "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This book blends science with spirituality to shine a light on what is needed to preserve and restore a healthy ecosystem. Beginning about January 9th, 9:30-11:00 AM, Thursdays. By Zoom and live in the lounge. For information contact Joe Roth (671-8458)



Mission Moment Thanks to your contributions and generosity, \$1446 was sent to Neighbors In Need, the 3rd special offering of the year. As noted before, Webster UCC has been a Strive For Five church for many years. To achieve this recognition, a donation from the church budget goes to Our Church's Wider Mission, and four special offerings are taken- One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors In Need, and the Christmas Fund which will be collected in Dec. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the UCC for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas 'thank you' gift checks each December to the lower-income retirees. Contributions may be placed in the offering plate or made online. Please note on check or online that the donation is for the Christmas Fund. Thank you and a blessed Christmas to all



From the WISE Team

The holiday season can bring a lot of joy, but it also comes with its own set of stressors. By practicing a few mindful strategies, you can reduce stress and enjoy the season to the fullest. Here are five tips to help stay balanced and focused during the holidays:

1. Plan and Prioritize

- Make a to-do list and focus on what truly matters to you and your family. Let go of unnecessary obligations and set realistic expectations to avoid feeling overwhelmed.

2. Learn to Say No

- It's okay to decline invitations or requests that don't align with your priorities or add unnecessary stress. Protect your time and energy by focusing on what feels meaningful.

3. Stop, Look and Listen

- Spend a few intentional moments admiring twinkling lights, listening to a favorite carol, or savoring the smell of fresh evergreen. Focusing on our senses helps keep us grounded.

4. Practice Self-Care

- Make time for activities that help you relax, such as exercising, meditating, or reading. Prioritizing sleep and avoiding going overboard with seasonal treats can also help you stay balanced during the hectic season.

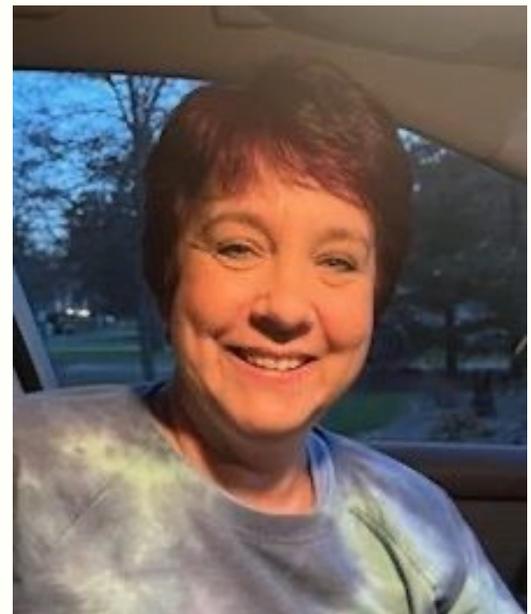
5. Focus on Connection, Not Perfection

- Embrace the imperfections and focus on spending quality time with loved ones. It's the shared moments and memories that truly make the holidays special.

Meet Beth!

September 17 we welcomed our new office manager, Beth Royer. Beth brings experience in office and business management with multiple local small businesses, including her husband's construction business. Her enthusiasm and quick responses stood out during our candidate interview process, and we are pleased to note that she has jumped right in to the role. We welcome Beth to our staff, and we believe she will contribute excellent skills and excitement to our church during our current transition and beyond.

Beth's normal "in office" days are currently Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you are in the building, stop in and give her a Webster UCC welcome!





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 !

December Events

- December 4 9:30-10:30 Homeschool Community Service
- December 5 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- December 7 9:00-9:45 Young Leaders & Little Readers
10:00-11:30 Community Service Sampler
Try out 10 community service projects
- December 8 4:30-5:30 Free Community Sunday Supper (volunteers email gatheringplacewebster@gmail.com to volunteer)
- December 12 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- December 14 9:00-9:45 Young Leaders & Little Readers
10:00-11:00 Bag Lunch Outreach
- December 15 Christmas Shenanigans Free Community Event 11:00-12:30
- December 18 9:30-10:30 Homeschool Community Service
- December 19 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- December 21 9:00-9:45 Young Leaders & Little Readers
- December 28 9:00-9:45 Young Leaders & Little Readers
10:15-1:00 Baber Hot lunch (BABER AME in Rochester-email gatheringplacewebster@gmail.com to volunteer)



Saturday December 7th

10:00 am to 11:30

Drop-in and try activities for TEN different community service programs!

ALL AGES WELCOME

**Christmas Shenanigans
Sunday December 15
11:00 to 12:30**

**Bonfire
Smores
Crafts
Pizza
Cocoa**

**free
outdoor
event**





December Birthdays

Willard Scott 12/2

Mike Gerard 12/5

Katy Rose Maccagnini 12/7

Janet Murray 12/10

Kyle Hegedorn 12/13

William Spencer 12/14

Catalino Mateo 12/16

Julia Boland 12/18

David Kohler 12/20

Chandler Story 12/21

Ted Higgs 12/27

December Anniversaries

Ken & Nancy Mihalyov 12/17

Fred & Barbara Suter 12/23



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10am - Change Agents : 10am - Worship Service 11am - make lasagnas for</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6pm - atomic habits 6:00 in 6:30pm - Cub Scout - den</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved 5pm - Joe's Pub 6:30 6:30pm - Hot topics group at</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved 9:30am - Homeschool 11am - Wednesday 7pm - Scouting Troop 113</p>	<p>8:30am - Rockers at 9am - middle school class 9:30am - Thursday Study 11am - Lunch Bunch 12pm - Drop-in Community 4pm - Drama Kids in 6pm - Spiritual Coaching 6:30pm - woodside board</p>	<p>2pm - set up for saturday' 6pm - ELF Movie night at 6:</p>	<p>9am - Young Leaders & little 10am - Holiday Community 1:30pm - set up for cookie</p>
<p>8 10am - Change Agents : 10am - Worship Service 11am - Comfort & Joy cookie 4:30pm - Free Community</p>	<p>9 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 9:30am - woodside field trip 6pm - wine & cheese at 6:00 6:30pm - Cub Scout - den</p>	<p>10 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 9:30am - woodside field trip 5:30pm - Community Service</p>	<p>11 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 9:30am - Homeschool 11am - Wednesday 6pm - Girl Scout Troop 6:00- 7pm - Scouting Troop 113</p>	<p>12 9:30am - Thursday Study 12pm - Drop-in Community 4pm - Drama Kids in 6pm - Spiritual Coaching</p>	<p>13 9am - Young Leaders & little 10am - Bag Lunch Outreach 4pm - set up for shenanigans</p>	<p>14 9am - Young Leaders & little 10am - Bag Lunch Outreach 4pm - set up for shenanigans</p>
<p>15 10am - Change Agents : 10am - Worship Service - 10am - angel tree gifts due 11:30am - Christmas</p>	<p>16 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6pm - Cub Scout Pack 113 6pm - atomic habits 6:00 in</p>	<p>17 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 4:30pm - Private 6:30pm - Hot Topics group 6:</p>	<p>18 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 9:30am - Homeschool 11am - Wednesday 12pm - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Scouting Troop 113</p>	<p>19 8:30am - Rockers at 9:30am - Thursday Study 12pm - Drop-in Community 4pm - Drama Kids in 6pm - Spiritual Coaching</p>	<p>20 9am - Young Leaders & little</p>	<p>21 9am - Young Leaders & little</p>
<p>22 10am - Change Agents : 10am - Christmas carntata 10am - Worship Service 11am - David going away</p>	<p>23 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6pm - atomic habits 6:00 in 6:30pm - Cub Scout - den</p>	<p>24 5:30pm - Community Service</p>	<p>25 11am - Wednesday 6pm - Girl Scout Troop 6:00-</p>	<p>26 9:30am - Thursday Study 12pm - Drop-in Community 6pm - Spiritual Coaching</p>	<p>27 9am - Young Leaders & little</p>	<p>28 9am - Young Leaders & little</p>
<p>29 10am - Change Agents : 10am - Worship Service</p>	<p>30 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6pm - atomic habits 6:00 in 6:30pm - Cub Scout - den</p>	<p>31 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 5:30pm - Community Service</p>	<p>1 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 9:30am - Homeschool 11am - Wednesday</p>	<p>2 8:30am - Rockers at 9:30am - Thursday Study 11am - Lunch Bunch 12pm - Drop-in Community 4pm - Drama Kids in 6pm - Spiritual Coaching</p>	<p>3 9am - Young Leaders & little</p>	<p>4 9am - Young Leaders & little</p>

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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