

JANUARY 2025



WEBSTER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONALIST



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

office@uccwebster.org
www.uccwebster.org



[United Church of Christ, Congregational](#)

From our Designated Term Minister

Thank you for the warm welcome I have already received. I look forward to getting to know you in the coming months.

Contact information

Pastor Karen Bailey-Francois
Bridge Minister
pastorkaren@uccwebster.org
(585) 236-8779 (mobile)

Typical Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
9:30 to 2:00
or by appointment

Stewardship Update



\$148,373

Thank you to everyone who has generously pledged financial support for 2025. We are at 82% of our goal!

The campaign will wrap up on January 19. Pledges can be made online or via hardcopy forms available at church.

IN THIS ISSUE

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHANGE AGENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WUCC ON A MISSION

WORDS FROM WISE

GATHERING PLACE

VOLUNTEER CORNER

CALENDAR



Hot Topics Discussion Group

The "Hot Topics" discussion group will meet on January 7, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We'll continue our conversation about the future of our church. All are welcome to join us..For more information, or to be added to the "Hot Topics" e-mail list, contact richard_kendrick@verizon.net

January
Wine & Cheese
January 27th at 6:00pm
Come as you are.
Optional: bring a snack or drink to share

free community
Sunday Supper
at GATHERING PLACE WEBSTER
January 12
Shepherd's Pie, Dinner Roll
Brownie Dessert

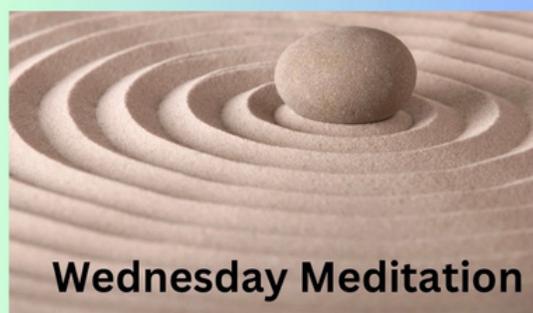
Inside Webster UCC
570 Klem Rd
Webster NY 14580

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

gluten free and vegetarian
options available

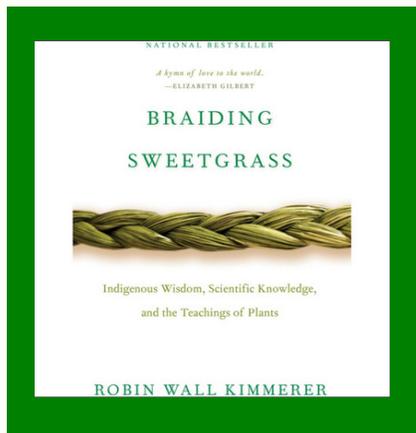
for more information
gatheringplacewebster@gmail.com
585-667-0411

Lunch Bunch
January 15th at noon
Food, Fun & Fellowship



Wednesday Meditation

Interested in finding a quiet & calm space for spiritual openness and practice? Wednesdays at 11:00.



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)



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 January 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 sets for TRUE NORTH Vacation Bible School set in the Alaskan wilderness .
Make the materials list. Set building begins in March.
1. Plan and implement a fundraiser for the Pet Food Pantry
2. Make Cold Weather Care Kits for people in need
3. Plan Blanket Sunday Fashion Show for Church World Service
4. Fill Pet Food orders & refill outdoor pantry
5. Plan Lenten outreach project.

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



For current eighth & ninth graders

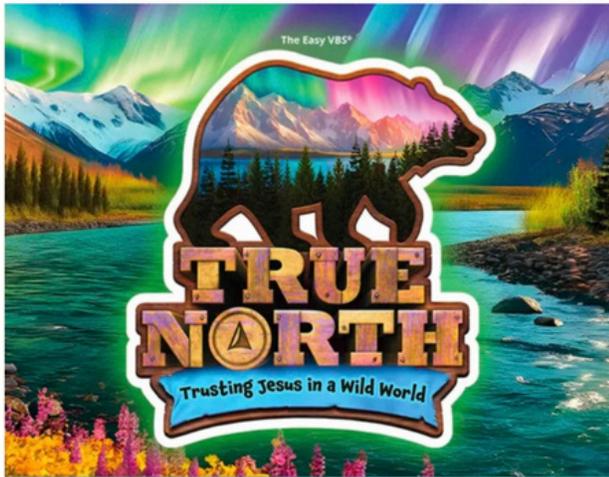
January 12th

11:15- 2:00

lunch included

contact Wendy for info

SAVE THE DATE



Trek with us on the ultimate Alaskan adventure
June 30-July 3
9:00-12:00

Children preschool through grade 3 as of 9/1/2025 register as campers \$40

Kids in grade 4 as of 9/1/2025 register as campers/counselors-in-training. They do all the fun camper things while learning how to be camp counselor. \$40

Youth grades 5 and up as of 9/1/2025 register as camp counselor \$8

All counselors & counselors in training are invited to participate in project impact after vbs from 12:15 to 2:30.

Online registration live mid January



Did you know that the VBS at United Church of Christ, Congregational is run by youth?! That's right ... ALL leadership positions are held by youth. Adults are encouragers/support/back-up. At Webster UCC we grow leaders with hearts for serving their neighbors.

Questions ?
contact Wendy
wlesko88@gmail.com



grocery bags for
Rochester Advocates
for Children



Christmas gifts for the kids
& teens at Rochester
Advocates
for Children



Christmas gifts at
BABER

Christmas brunch
at Baber

Christmas gifts at
BABER
Socks & Underwear,
care kits, purses and
groceries





WUCC MISSION



Winter Outreach Project Partner with FPGROC

January

For the month of January WUCC will...

1. Learn about the programs at FPGROC
2. Collect hats/gloves for the families
3. Fill Move-in kits for families graduating from the shelter program
4. make lunch for the staff at the day center

February



BLANKET THE WORLD IN LOVE

When you support the CHURCH WORLD SERVICE Blankets program, you offer more than just warmth—you provide hope and love to those facing challenging times. 27,275 CWS Blankets were shared with people in need in 2024.

Envelopes available in February. Together, we can continue to make a difference.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR : Blanket Sunday Fashion Show February 2

March



Rochester Advocates
For Children
Lenten Outreach



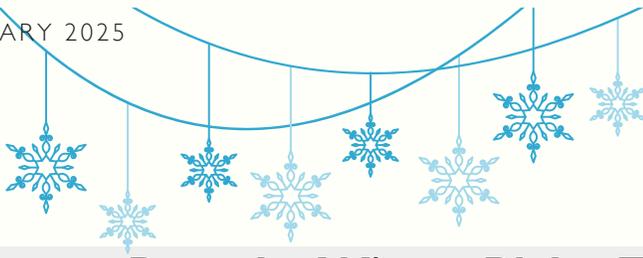
Easter groceries



Easter Baskets for grandchildren

Groceries and basket fillers collected
March 5- March 30

Grocery bags & Easter baskets will be
packed on April 6



From the WISE Team

Beat the Winter Blahs: Tips to Brighten Your Mood

As we welcome January, it's easy to feel the weight of the winter blahs. But winter doesn't have to be dreary! Here are some simple ways to keep your spirits high until spring.

1. **Embrace the Light:** Natural light can work wonders for your mood. Open the curtains during the day and consider using a light therapy lamp to mimic the sun's rays. Even a brisk walk outside on sunny days can boost your energy.
2. **Stay Active:** Exercise releases endorphins that naturally lift your spirits. Whether it's yoga, a home workout, or sledding with the kids, staying active keeps the winter blues at bay.
3. **Stay Social:** Don't let the cold isolate you. Host a cozy movie night, try a virtual game with friends, or explore local winter festivals to stay connected.
4. **Practice Self-Care:** Warm up with a good book and a cup of tea, treat yourself to a bubble bath, or try journaling. Taking time for yourself is a powerful mood booster.
5. **Try Something New:** Learn to bake, knit, or tackle that DIY project you've been putting off. Keeping your mind engaged can bring a sense of accomplishment and joy.

Winter may be chilly, but with the right mindset, it can also be a season of warmth and renewal.



Renew & Recharge: a Wellness Evening

February date tba

Kick off the new year by treating yourself to an evening of wellness, connection, and calm! This special event is designed to nourish your body, mind, and soul.

A separate program for kids & youth allows the whole family to attend.



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 !

January Events

- January 2 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- January 9 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- January 11 9:00-9:45 Young Leaders & Little Readers
10:00-11:00 Bag Lunch Outreach
make lunches for REACH ADVOCACY
- January 12 4:30-5:30 Free Community Sunday Supper (volunteers email gatheringplacewebster@gmail.com to volunteer)
- January 16 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- January 18 9:00-9:45 Young Leaders & Little Readers
- January 22 9:30-10:30 Homeschool Community Service
- January 23 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- January 25 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)
- January 29 9:30-10:30 Homeschool Community Service
- January 30 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.



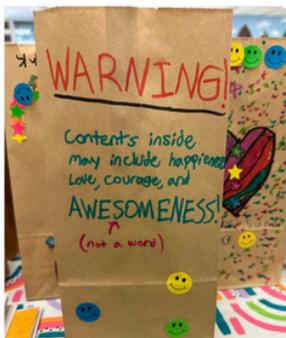
BAG LUNCH OUTREACH

caring for our neighbors

The bag lunches go to REACH in Rochester who serves the chronically homeless

Our grand total
SO FAR...
3,892
lunches !!

Next
Bag Lunch
Outreach is
Saturday
January 11th
at 10:00



Young Leaders and Little Readers

Youth & kids grow together
& discover the power of
storytelling and creativity!

Just drop-in
Saturdays 9:00-9:45
Gathering Place Webster
570 Klem Rd

Youth leaders grade 3 & up
follow link to sign-up to be the
reader/teacher. Other roles will
be assigned to youth
as they arrive.

WEBSTER UCC Volunteer Corner



Our church is a vibrant community, and there's always something exciting happening. From organizing events to helping ensure our building is well-maintained, there are countless opportunities for you to lend a hand and make a difference.

“Volunteer Corner” will be a recurring feature in our newsletter where we share the events and activities in need of your help. If you identify a need, have an upcoming event, or want to recognize someone who stepped up, send the information to Wendy (wlesko88@gmail.com) for inclusion in a future newsletter.

**THANK
YOU**

Next time you are at the west end of the building, check out the sparkling floor of Congregational Hall! Many thanks to Pete Sollame, Chris Hendrickson, Skip Erb and Mark Green for stripping and waxing the floor over the holiday week.



It's that time of year when snow and ice can make our sidewalks and steps slippery. There are shovels and ice melt at each of the church entrances. If you notice slippery conditions, please spread some ice melt to help keep our building safe for everyone.

COMING SOON

Church Photo Directory!

It has been over a decade since our last photo directory was published. Technology has come a long way since then and we now have the opportunity to create and maintain our own directory. Watch for more information later this month!

Thank you 

Dear Church Family & Friends

Thank you so much for your love and support. Your gift from the Comfort & Joy Cookie Sale was unexpected and very much appreciated.
Love, Steph (Lesko) Case & Family

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>10am - no Change Agents : Youth</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>6:30pm - Cub Scout - den</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p>	<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>11am - Wednesday Meditation</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30am - Rockers at Nutcracker</p> <p>9:30am - Thursday Study Group @</p> <p>11am - Lunch Bunch Planning</p> <p>12pm - Drop-in Community</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9am - Young Leaders & little</p> <p>10am - bag lunch outreach in</p>
<p>5</p> <p>10am - Change Agents : Youth &</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>6pm - atomic habits 6:00 in</p> <p>6:30pm - Cub Scout - den</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>5:30pm - Community Service *</p> <p>6:30pm - Hot topics group at 6:30</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>11am - Wednesday Meditation</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scout Troop 6:00-8:00</p> <p>7pm - Scouting Troop 113</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30am - Thursday Study Group @</p> <p>12pm - Drop-in Community</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9am - Young Leaders & little</p> <p>10am - bag lunch outreach in</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10am - Change Agents : Youth &</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>11am - confirmation 11:15-2:00</p> <p>4:30pm - Free Community Sunday</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>6pm - community service at 6:00</p> <p>6:30pm - Cub Scout - den</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>5:30pm - Community Service *</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>11am - Wednesday Meditation</p> <p>12pm - Lunch Bunch</p> <p>7pm - Scouting Troop 113</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30am - Rockers at Nutcracker</p> <p>9:30am - Thursday Study Group @</p> <p>12pm - Drop-in Community</p> <p>5:30pm - WISE meeting - Lounge</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9am - Young Leaders & little</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10am - Change Agents : Youth &</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Inauguration Day (regional)</p> <p>Marin Luther King Jr. Day</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Pack 113</p> <p>6pm - atomic habits 6:00 in</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>5:30pm - Community Service *</p> <p>6:30pm - Hot Topics group 6:30 in</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>9:30am - Homeschool Community</p> <p>11am - Wednesday Meditation</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scout Troop 6:00-8:00</p> <p>7pm - Scouting Troop 113</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30am - Thursday Study Group @</p> <p>12pm - Drop-in Community</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9am - Young Leaders & little</p>
<p>26</p> <p>10am - Change Agents : Youth &</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>6pm - community service at 6:00</p> <p>6pm - wine & cheese in narthex at</p> <p>6:30pm - Cub Scout - den</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>5:30pm - Community Service *</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p> <p>9:30am - Homeschool Community</p> <p>11am - Wednesday Meditation</p> <p>7pm - Scouting Troop 113</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:30am - Thursday Study Group @</p> <p>12pm - Drop-in Community</p> <p>4pm - woodside open house</p> <p>6:30pm - Leadership Council</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9am - Young Leaders & little</p>



January Birthdays

Heidi Zastowny 1/01

Mark Cholach 1/02

Jo O'Neill 1/03

John Dennis 1/05

Jonathan Daniels 1/06

Doug Farling 1/08

Kay Orchard 1/09

Megan Cholach 1/16

Carter Calus 1/17

Doug Hall 1/18

Jim Coakley 1/19

John Cittadino 1/21

Maya Mitchell 1/22

Jaime Story 1/22

Cheryl DiTucci 1/23

Daniel Zastowny 1/23

Donald Baird 1/24

Carla Biuso 1/24

Polly Ellstrom 1/25

Bruce Yanz 1/27

Rick Kunz 1/28

Wendi Latko 1/28

David Marcellus 1/31

January Anniversaries

Charles & JoAnne Jones 1/23

Jim & Kathy Dolan 1/20

Tony & Heidi Laduca 1/07

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

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. Karen Bailey-Francois
Designated Term Minister

Beth Royer, Office Manager

Wendy Lesko, Director of Family
Programming & Community Outreach

Ronald Milliman, Music Director

Oleksandra Yurchenko, Accompanist

Webster UCC Leadership Council

Wendi Latko, Moderator

Lisa Izzo, Vice Moderator

Konrad Emmert, Stewardship

Heather Himes, Worship

Linda Ims, Mission

Ken Mihalyov, Personnel

Pete Sollame, Building & Grounds

Mindy Spencer, Outreach & Family Programming

Heidi Zastowny & Polly Ellstrom, Congregational
Life