



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](https://www.facebook.com/uccwebster.org)



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 9

11 AM, immediately following Worship

Primary agenda item: 2025 budget plan review and vote. Budget summary is on p. 11 of this newsletter. Detailed budget information is available by request from the church office.

If you have any questions about the budget, we request that you email them in advance of the Feb. 9 meeting so we can be prepared with the necessary information. Send questions to office@uccwebster.org.

The congregational meeting will not be publicly livestreamed; however, a Zoom link will be available upon request. If you would like to attend via Zoom, please email the church office (office@uccwebster.org) and we will send you a link. Only in-person attendees will be able to vote.

SEARCH UPDATE:

The Search Team would like to let you all know that we continue to meet, including interviewing candidates, and are awaiting more profiles to come our way. We have been assured from our conference liaison that the beginning of the year normally brings an uptick in activity and we are here waiting! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact anyone on the Search Team; we have bright green name tags!!

Sincerely,

Liz Green, Mindy Spencer, Lowell Edwards, Richard Kendrick, Heidi Zastowny, Jason Duga, Lisa Izzo and Karen Monachino

IN THIS ISSUE

UPCOMING EVENTS

WUCC ON A MISSION

CHANGE AGENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

BECAUSE YOU ASKED

GATHERING PLACE

ENCOURAGEMENT

BUDGET

CALENDAR

Special Event Sponsored by the WISE Team



Hot Topics Discussion Group

The "Hot Topics" discussion group will meet February 4th and 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We'll continue our discussion of the role of social justice in the vision, mission and ministry 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

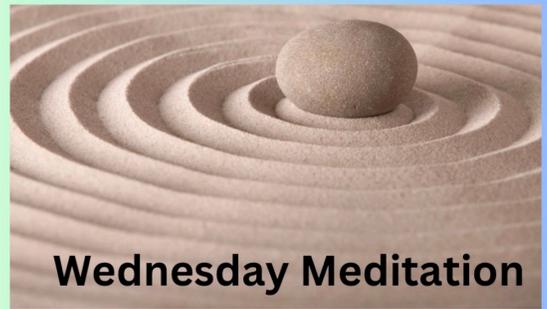


Renew & Recharge: a Wellness Evening

Friday February 28th
drop-in 5:30-7:30

Schedule yourself 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.



Wednesday Meditation

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

free community
Sunday Supper
at GATHERING PLACE WEBSTER
February 9
Meatloaf, Cheesy Potatoes
tossed salad & cake

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

February 19th at noon



Food, Fun & Fellowship



March Wine & Cheese

March 24th at 6:00pm

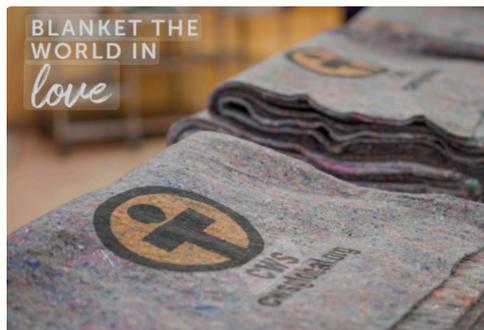
Come as you are.

Optional: bring a snack or drink to share



FEBRUARY OUTREACH

Blanket the World in Love **THREE** ways !



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 dramatic Kick-off February 2



Do you knit or crochet? If not, do you want to learn? If your answer is yes to either question, join our reboot of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. We'll meet Sunday February 2nd at 11:00 in the lounge to get introduced and plot our adventure moving forward. Questions? Contact Wendy wlesko88@gmail.com



Donations of yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks gratefully accepted !

Warm Fuzzy Blanket Program



The Warm Fuzzy Blanket Program was founded 19 years ago by a teen in the youth group who believed kids and teens in crisis would benefit from the comfort of a prayer shawl. She decided tied fleece blankets would be both comforting to the recipient and easily made by the kids & teens in the youth and children's program. We will work on blankets for a portion of each Sunday morning.

Donations of fleece appreciated
Questions? Contact Wendy wlesko88@gmail.com



WUCC MISSION

During the month of January, the congregation generously donated household items to fill eleven Welcome Home Baskets for families moving into apartments at Family Promise. The abundance couldn't all fit in the baskets !



each family will also receive a men's care kit and a purse filled with essentials



each family will also receive a set of pots & pans and cleaning supplies



each family will also receive a bag of personal care items and a bag of craft supplies



WUCC MISSION

coming up in 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 MISSION TEAM-

1. Thanks to the generosity of the Webster UCC congregation, \$1,185 was donated to the Christmas Fund which has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.
2. CWS Blanket Sunday will be February 2 and donations will be received all month. Blanket the world in love as together we can offer comfort, hope, and warmth to our neighbors during their most challenging times. Contributions may be placed in offering plates or made online. Please note on check or online that donation is for Blanket Sunday.



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 February 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.
2. work on Blankets for the Warm Fuzzy Blanket Program- tied fleece blankets for kids & teens in need of comfort & care
3. Set up for the monthly Free Community Sunday Supper
4. Fill Pet Food orders & refill outdoor pantry
5. Plan Lenten outreach project.
6. Launch KID TO KID Outreach

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

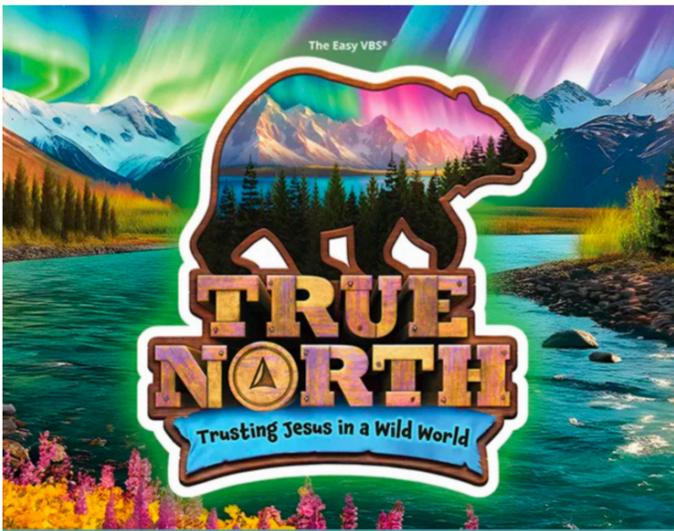
email wlesko88@gmail.com to receive Wendy's weekly email including all the outreach and leadership opportunities for youth, kids & families



SAVE THE DATE :
Our confirmation class
is planning a special
Community Event



June 1st 11:30



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

<https://uccwebster.org/donations/vacation-bible-school-signup/>



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



Because you asked...

What is WISE?

A WISE congregation/organization has joined the mission to be Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged in the Mental Health of the community and the wider world. Webster UCC voted to approve our WISE covenant in June 2018. The covenant is available here: <https://uccwebster.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Webster-UCC-WISE-covenant.pdf>

WISE is a congregation designation within the United Church of Christ, along with Open and Affirming, Accessible to All, and several others. Each WISE congregation determines how they will live into their covenant. At Webster UCC, we focus on education and open communication regarding mental health and fostering connection between people.

How is WISE implemented at Webster UCC?

Our WISE team plans our congregation's WISE activities. Everyone is invited to participate on the team. Our team meetings are not group therapy or a support group, and being a member of the team does not imply or indicate that one has a mental health issue. The only requirement is that members have an interest in helping our congregation grow in our welcome, inclusion and support of people with mental health issues, and engage in reducing the stigma surrounding mental health.

How do I join the WISE team?

Watch the announcements and come to a meeting! The team meets approximately every other month. If you have questions, contact Wendi Latko (wendi.latko@gmail.com) or Wendy Lesko (wlesko88@gmail.com).

WISE congregations DO:

- Offer support, acceptance, and respect to each person
- Create a safe environment for people to share their challenges and seek support
- Provide information & education
- Serve as advocates in our church and community at large to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness and brain disorders

WISE congregations DO NOT:

- Provide treatment or other recommendations that should be appropriately addressed by a trained professional
- Ask anyone to participate or share anything that they do not want to
- Assume that participation in any event implies anything other than an interest in mental health
- Share anything outside a gathering without explicit permission (with exception of immediate danger to self or others, in which case an appropriate mental health professional or emergency service will be contacted)



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 !

Upcoming Events

- February 1 9:00-9:45 Young Leaders & Little Readers
- February 6 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- February 8 9:00-9:45 Young Leaders & Little Readers
10:00-11:00 Bag Lunch Outreach
make lunches for REACH ADVOCACY
- February 9 4:30-5:30 Free Community Sunday Supper (volunteers email gatheringplacewebster@gmail.com to volunteer)
- February 13 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- February 15 9:00-9:45 Young Leaders & Little Readers
- February 20 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- February 22 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)
- February 27 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.

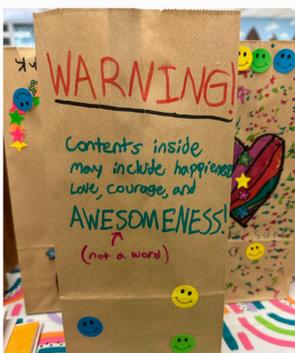


BAG LUNCH OUTREACH

caring for our neighbors

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

Our grand total
SO FAR...
3,982
lunches !!
Next
Bag Lunch Outreach is
Saturday
February 8th
at 10:00



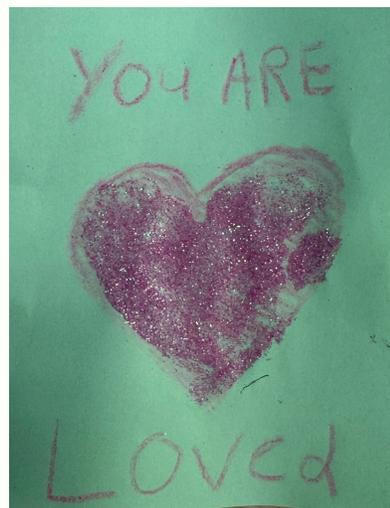
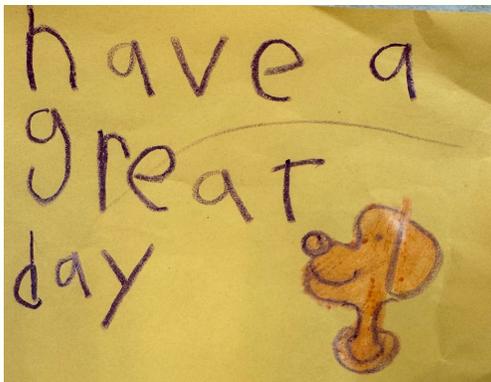
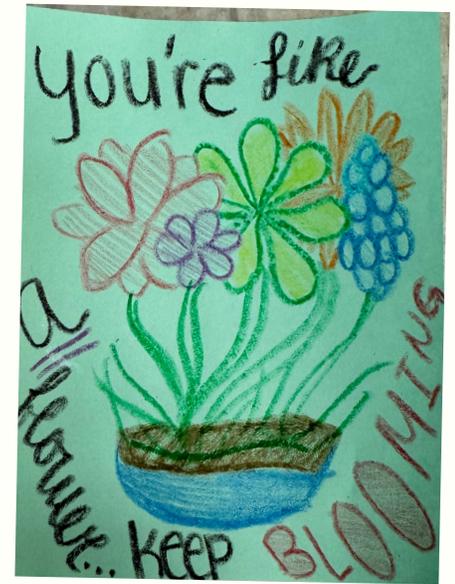
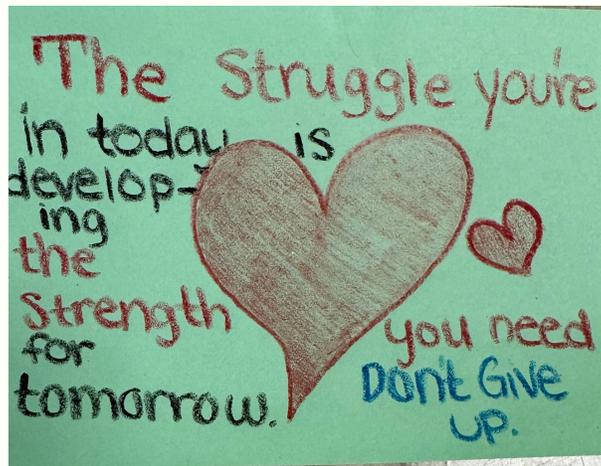
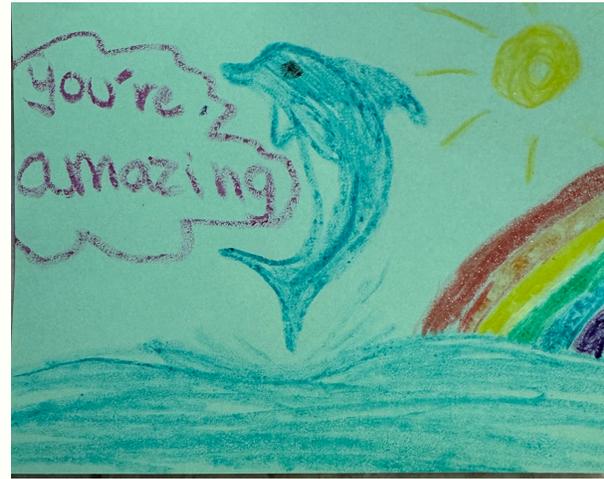
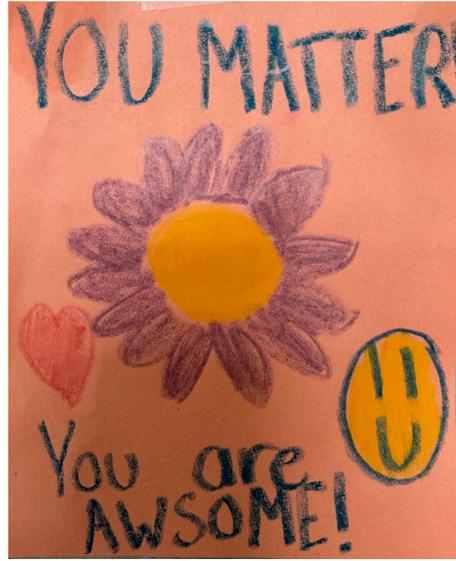
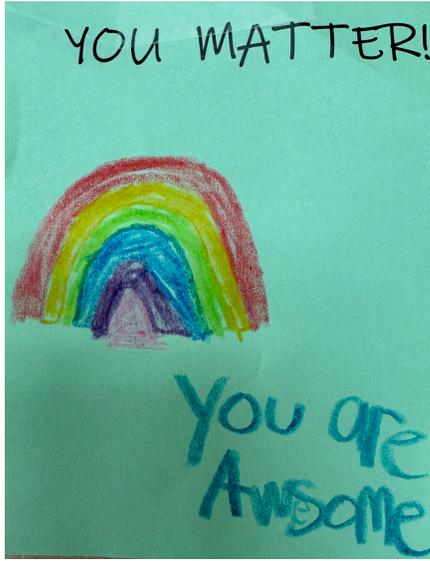
Young Leaders and Little Readers

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.

These notes were made but some pretty amazing kids and youth.
Feel free to print this page and share these notes with people who
might need a reminder that they matter and are loved.

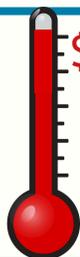


2025 Budget Summary

To be reviewed and voted on at Congregational Meeting Feb. 9, 2025.
Budget detail is available upon request from the church office.

United Church of Christ, Congregational 2025 Budget Presentation January 1 - December 31, 2025

	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	COMMENTS re' 2025 Budget
Income				
Total 4000 STEWARDSHIP	156,500	147,531	184,741	Pledges, Loose Offering & Contributions
Total 4100 RENTAL INC	7,614	23,993	13,767	Note: Large rent payment for 2023 was received in 2024
Total 4300 DESIGNATED INC	2,500	2,680	2,450	VBS Tuition, Misc. Receipts & Reimbursements
Draw from Total Investments (6%)	60,000	60,045	48,000	6% draw policy - goal
Additional Draw from Investments	104,286	53,895	0	"shortfall" (additional draw) or "overage" (not withdrawn)
Total Income	330,900	288,144	248,958	
Expenses				
Total 5000 DESIGNATED EXPS	17,938	14,746	19,287	Worship, Fellowship, UCC, GVA dues, VBS & Mission Camp
Total 5200 SR. PASTOR	122,393	121,378	63,384	2025 reflects shift to 1/2 time Minister
Total 5300 MUSIC	37,145	28,170	26,361	Includes piano tuning, © license and 3% staff salary increase
Total 5400 FAMILY & OUTREACH	47,248	44,366	44,976	All C&Y programs except VBS & Mission Camp, 3% salary incr.
Total 5500 FACILITIES	62,150	101,756	60,520	2024 Actual includes flood repair and fire system replacement
Total 5600 ADMIN	35,692	40,560	26,793	2025 reflects shift to 10 hr/wk Office Manager w/ 3% over 2024
Total 5700 PAYROLL TAXES	8,334	6,897	7,637	Actuals included as available. Estimates based on 2024.
7999 Adjust and Correct (2024 adjustments)		(69,729)		To facilitate 2024 "clean up" - no longer using this line item
Total Expenses	330,900	288,144	248,958	
Total Income (from above)	330,900	288,144	248,958	
Difference (Income less Expenses)	(0)	0	(0)	



\$177,463

Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone who has generously pledged financial support for 2025. We are at 98.6% of our \$180,000 goal!

Project IMPACT Naloxone Box

UCC Webster has become the latest site to support the Monroe County Health Department's Project IMPACT by allowing installation of a naloxone (Narcan) Box outside our West entrance. These boxes are installed, monitored and re-supplied by the county and provide free, publicly accessible naloxone at over 600 locations countywide.

Naloxone is a medication that quickly reverses opioid overdoses by blocking the effects of opioids on the brain and can prevent death from an opioid overdose. Our engagement with this program aligns with our commitment to be a WISE congregation, as addiction is considered a mental health disorder. It is classified as a substance use disorder (SUD) and involves changes in the brain that lead to compulsive behavior despite harmful consequences. Addiction affects both the brain and behavior, making it a chronic and relapsing condition that requires appropriate treatment and support

Please let everyone know that UCC Webster is a location where free Naloxone is available. Contact Joe Monachino if you would like to know more information about this resource. If you'd like to learn how to administer naloxone in the event of an overdose, online training is available at <https://www.getnaloxonenow.org/#getnaloxone> or <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/12028.pdf>



We are working on setting up our new church directory. As names are added you will be contacted to confirm your information and submit a photo if you desire.

In The Community

Richard Kendrick has a supporting role as Senator Hedges in the upcoming Rochester Community Players production of "Born Yesterday," the classic American comedy of the 1940s. This timely play runs February 7-15 for six performances at the Multi Use Community Cultural Center (MUCCC) at 142 Atlantic Ave., Rochester. For details and tickets visit www.muccc.org/events/born-yesterday-rochester-community-players.



February Birthdays

Grace Germano	02/03	Sean O'Neill	02/13
Keith Maimone	02/04	Myles Maccagnini	02/14
Carole Kohler	02/05	Patricia Hauck	02/15
Tara Mateo	02/05	David Mathiason	02/17
Peter Sollame	02/06	Elizabeth Neubert	02/19
Brady Calus	02/10	Molly Chatfield	02/20
Susan Reindel	02/10	Barbara DeGroff	02/22
Peter Varlan	02/11	Vincent Palese	02/22
Jenna Boland	02/12	Brenda Sharp	02/22
Eric Brown	02/12	Elwood Kuttruff	02/23
Julia Duga	02/12	Richard Morrill	02/23
Joseph Roth	02/12	JoAnne Jones	02/24
Amy Kniffin	02/13	Peter DiCecco	02/27
		Julia Henderson	02/29

February Anniversaries

Nell & Gary Herman	02/24
Chris & Cheryl Hendrickson	02/14
Karen & Joe Monachino	02/19



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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. 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