



WEBSTER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONALIST



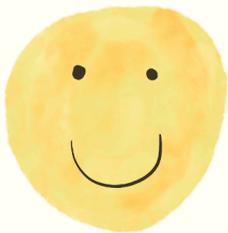
United Church of Christ, Congregational
570 Klem Road, Webster NY 14580
585-671-3757

office@uccwebster.org
www.uccwebster.org



[United Church of Christ, Congregational](#)

Check out something cool for Lent !! WUCC 40 Acts of Kindness on page 4



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR 40 Acts of Kindness

40 ways to LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS!
Do one or do them all ! Do them in any order...
on your own or with a friend/family



Check out the Schedule for Lent and
Easter on page 5 including special
worship services, an EMPTY TOMB
celebration and Easter Egg Hunt

IN THIS ISSUE

UPCOMING EVENTS

WUCC ON A MISSION

40 ACTS OF KINDNESS

LENTEN CELEBRATION
SCHEDULE

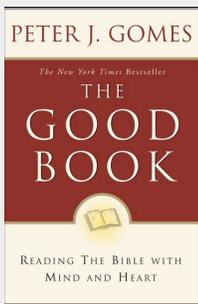
CHANGE AGENTS

VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL

FROM THE WISE TEAM

GATHERING PLACE

CALENDAR

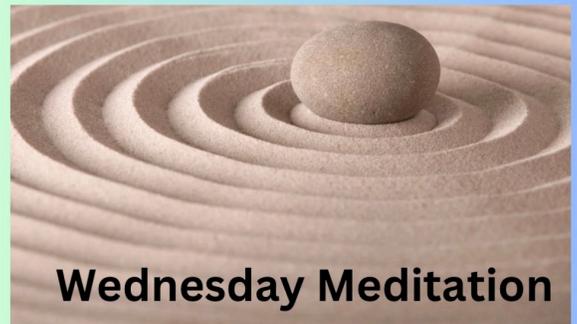


The next Thursday morning resource will be the best seller "The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart," by Peter Gomes. The book offers a crash course in biblical literacy in a nuanced but easy-to-understand style. It addresses many of the issues we face in our modern world. Beginning about March 27, 9:30-11:00 AM, Thursdays. By Zoom and live in the lounge. For information contact Carole Kohler (943-2121)



Hot Topics Discussion Group

The "Hot Topics" discussion group will meet March 4th and 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. 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



Wednesday Meditation

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



Cocktail Class: Tiki Drinks

On Tuesday, March 18th, at 6:30 PM, spend the evening with Joe Izzo investigating tiki-style cocktails. Learn about the origin and sample some drinks reminiscent of beaches and palm trees (Hawaiian shirts encouraged).

All are welcome. Please RSVP to joespub.xyz@gmail.com by March 15th.



Inside Webster UCC
570 Klem Rd
Webster NY 14580

gluten free and vegetarian options available

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

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



Lunch Bunch

March 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



MARCH OUTREACH at WUCC



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**

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We gather on First Sundays at 11:00 in the lounge to check-in, learn a skill, share progress, tips, tricks and encouragement.

Questions? contact Wendy
wlesko88@gmail.com



Crochet dish cloths

Not quite ready to make a prayer shawl? How about crocheting a dish cloth with cotton yarn for the grocery bags for Rochester Advocates for Children

Yarn is available in the narthex. Questions? See Wendy (wlesko88@gmail.com)

Other Collections:

**Easter Candy for the ginormous Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday-
NO HARD CANDY PLEASE**



Plastic Easter EGGS- We need thousands



Fleece scraps for super mini earmuffs for kids and comfort/care rolls for Pluta Cancer Center



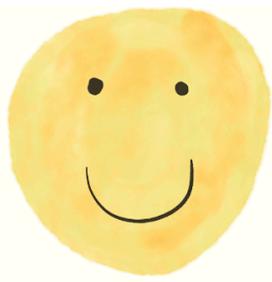
Make a tied fleece blanket to be given to a kid or teen in crisis or donate fleece. Questions? contact Wendy
wlesko88@gmail.com



Women's Care Bags Filling Event

April 5th 10:00-11:00

We are collecting full size women's body wash, shampoo, conditioner & deodorant



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

40 Acts of Kindness

40 ways to LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS!

Do one or do them all ! Do them in any order...
on your own or with a friend/family

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. **Paint** a kindness rock with a positive message & leave for someone to find
- 4 **Write** a stack of encouraging notes and leave in an outdoor pantry
3. **Listen** to someone's stories. Share your own stories.
4. **Be** an encourager. Cheer someone on and tell them they are awesome!
5. **Volunteer** at Baber Hot Lunch
7. **Take Time** to stop and chat or give a hug.
8. **Help** a neighbor with a chore such as shoveling, walking their dog..etc
9. **Bring** your neighbor's garbage tote back up the driveway.
10. **Write** a note of thanks and give to a community helper
11. **Make** homemade cards and deliver to a nursing home.
12. **Check in** on a neighbor regularly.
13. **Greet** people with a warm smile and a friendly hello!
14. **Be present** when someone needs you to **be there**.
15. **Donate** non-perishable food items to an outdoor pantry
16. **Volunteer** at the Free Community Sunday Supper
17. **Share** a compliment
18. **Renew** a friendship
19. **Bear someone's burdens**. Be a good listener to someone having a tough time.
21. **Express** gratitude regularly
22. **Crochet** a dish cloth for Rochester Advocates for Children
23. **Teach** someone a skill such as crocheting or drawing a cat or baking a cake etc
24. **Tell someone they are loved**.
25. **Donate** gently used books to the free outdoor little library
26. **Tell** someone the ways they are special
27. **Make** cat toys and drop off at Lollipop Farm or the Pet Food Pantry
28. **Celebrate** someone's achievement
- 29 **Make** time to understand someone's perspective
30. **Encourage** someone to take a break. Remind them to rest.
31. **Offer** support for someone facing a challenge
32. **Start** a kindness chain. Do something nice and ask them to pass it on
- 33 **Say** good job to someone working hard
- 34 **Remind** someone of their strengths. Boost their confidence.
35. **Be** open-minded in a discussion
36. **Wave** hello to a neighbor. Build a sense of community.
37. **Turn off** your phone and be fully present.
38. **Tell** someone they inspire you
39. **Use** a kind tone, even when frustrated
40. **Encourage** someone who is learning something new. Say hey you're doing great.



Lent, Holy Week & Easter at Webster United Church of Christ

Wed	3/5	12:00 noon	ASH WEDNESDAY- Service in the Sanctuary with ashes
Sun	3/9		1st SUNDAY OF LENT: Trust (Luke 6:27-38)
Sun	3/16		2nd SUNDAY OF LENT: Temptation (Luke 4:1-13)
Sun	3/23		3rd SUNDAY OF LENT: Time & Talent (Isaiah 55:1-9)
Sun	3/30		4th SUNDAY OF LENT: Thanksgiving (Luke 15:11-32)
Sun	4/6		5th SUNDAY OF LENT: Treasure (John 12:1-8)
Sun	4/13		PALM SUNDAY: Triumph (Luke 19:28-40)
Thurs	4/17		MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 pm Communion & Tenebrae
Fri	4/18		GOOD FRIDAY
Sun	4/20		EASTER SUNDAY 6:10 am Community Sunrise Service at Sandbar Park 302 Lake Rd, Webster 10:00 am Easter Celebration in the Sanctuary 10:00 Youth & Kids Empty Tomb Celebration 11:00 am Breakfast & Community Egg Hunt on the lawn



The EMPTY TOMB CELEBRATION

Easter Sunday
10:00-11:00

kids & youth of all ages welcome !

The Empty Tomb Celebration is a fun, faith-filled Easter event designed for kids and teens to celebrate the joy and hope of Easter Sunday! This interactive event blends adventure, creativity, and community in a way that makes the Easter story come alive.



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

We utilize a "learning & action" model to equip children & youth to first understand and then identify opportunities to live the values of Jesus through involvement in community service.

coming up for kids & youth

On March Sundays we will start our hour with 10 minutes of Easter Egg filling for the Community Easter Egg Hunt taking place on Easter Sunday followed by a Lenten lesson and application 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.
2. Plan Empty Tomb EVENT
3. work on Blankets for the Warm Fuzzy Blanket Program- tied fleece blankets for kids & teens in need of comfort & care warm fuzzies for kid encouragement bags
4. Set up for the monthly Free Community Sunday Supper
5. Fill Pet Food orders & refill outdoor pantry
6. work on KID TO KID Outreach initiative

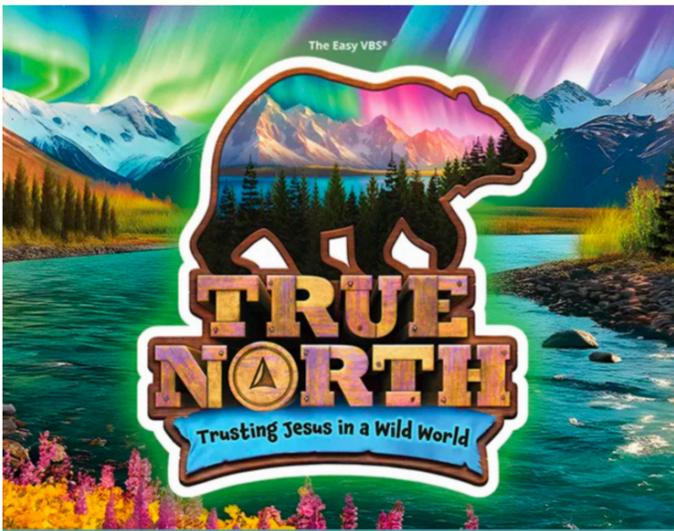
NOTE: Youth and Kids can take a leadership role in any of the above projects. Contact Wendy for details.

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





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

Pastor's Note

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

I love the Psalms. The poetry. The imagery. The raw humanity of verses drawn from the heights and depths of wonder and despair, happiness, hopefulness, wariness, worry and, consistently, confidence in the ability and willingness of God to understand. The Psalms model praise for God's goodness, even as they give us glimpses of how one might grieve or gripe or lash out in anger when that's what we most need.

It strikes me that the Psalms are the perfect companion for the times we live in now. Some invite us to count our blessings and to extol God's benefits. Others lament bad circumstances, bad behavior and bad outcomes. Some express profound sadness while others soar to new levels of joy. And then there are the "enemy" Psalms – the ones that demand vengeance, or at least some nasty consequences for those who wreak havoc on our lives.

We tend to shy away from those enemy Psalms, not because we've never gotten that mad or imagined the revenge of the righteous, but because calling down all that awfulness – even when it's deserved – feels wrong. Or maybe it's just saying it out loud that feels wrong...especially if someone can hear us.

And, of course, God hears us. Always. We're not fooling God for an instant by pretending we don't feel what we feel.

The Psalms give us words that can stretch the full breadth of our emotions. The Psalms help us remember that we are neither first nor alone in feeling what we feel. They connect us to all of history. And they open that connection to clearly and concretely include God in every moment.

The Psalmist writes: "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." That is an all-encompassing observation. God makes a gift of ALL our days. It is our job to live them fully.

With blessings, Pastor Karen

FROM THE WISE TEAM

Managing stress during uncertain political times can be tough, but there are several strategies we can use to maintain well-being and cope effectively. Here are some tips:



Limit News Consumption: Constant exposure to negative or overwhelming news can increase stress. Set specific times to check the news rather than consuming it all day.



Practice Mindfulness: Engage in mindfulness practices like meditation, deep breathing, or yoga to stay grounded. These practices can help calm your mind and reduce anxiety.



Focus on What You Can Control: In challenging times, it's easy to feel helpless. Redirect your energy toward actions that are within your control, whether that's supporting a cause, volunteering, or participating in local community efforts.



Stay Connected with Supportive People: Surround yourself with people who offer emotional support and a sense of belonging.



Take Breaks: Give yourself permission to step away from discussions that you find stressful. Engage in activities that bring you joy, like hobbies, exercise, or spending time in nature, to recharge.



Set Boundaries: Politically charged conversations can be draining. Set boundaries with people who engage in negative or hostile discussions, and don't hesitate to politely remove yourself from such conversations when needed.



Practice Self-Compassion: Acknowledge that it's okay to feel stressed or overwhelmed. Be kind to yourself and avoid self-criticism. Take time for self-care and rest.



Stay Educated and Empowered: While it's important not to overconsume negative news, staying informed in a balanced way can help you feel more empowered and less helpless. Focus on factual, constructive information that allows you to understand the situation without getting overwhelmed.



Physical Activity: Exercise is one of the best ways to reduce stress. Regular physical activity helps release endorphins, which can improve mood and help you manage stress.



Seek Professional Help: If stress becomes overwhelming, consider seeking support from a therapist or counselor. Mental health professionals can help you develop coping strategies and provide a safe space to discuss your feelings.

Taking care of our mental health in these times is essential, and by focusing on self-care and managing our exposure to external stressors, we can navigate this challenging period more effectively...together.



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

- March 1 9:00-9:45 Young Leaders & Little Readers
10:00-11:00 Invisible String Event
- March 6 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- March 8 9:00-9:45 Young Leaders & Little Readers
10:00-11:00 Bag Lunch Outreach make lunches for REACH ADVOCACY
- March 9 4:30-5:30 Free Community Sunday Supper (volunteers email gatheringplacewebster@gmail.com to volunteer)
- March 13 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- March 15 9:00-9:45 Young Leaders & Little Readers
- March 20 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- March 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)
- March 27 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- March 29 9:00-9:45 Young Leaders & Little Readers



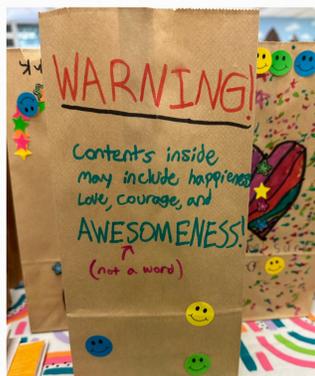
BAG LUNCH OUTREACH

caring for our neighbors

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

Our grand total
SO FAR...
4,072
lunches !!

Next
Bag Lunch
Outreach is
Saturday
March 8th
at 10:00



COMMUNITY SERVICE KIDS SUMMER CAMP

July 14-16
9:00 to noon

campers in kindergarten to grade 4 (in Sept 2025) will participate in a variety of community service projects

youth in grades 5 & up in Sept 2025 are camp counselors and earn 9 community service leadership hours

cost: \$25 per camper \$15.00 per camp counselor

check website ongoing programs tab to register

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM



The 2025 budget was approved at the February 9 Congregational Meeting. Many thanks to all who helped bring us to this balanced budget.

United Church of Christ, Congregational			
Profit and Loss Comparison			
January 2025			
	Total		
	Jan 2025	Jan 2024 (PY)	YOY Change
Income			
STEWARDSHIP			
4000.10 Pledges paid - (Current Year)	23,621.95	7,347.00	16,274.95
4000.40 Other donations	3,882.00	2,939.00	943.00
Total 4000 STEWARDSHIP	27,503.95	10,286.00	17,217.95
Total 4100 RENTAL INCOME	570.00	0.00	570.00
Total 4200 INTEREST & DIVS (non-investment)	826.18	7.68	818.50
Total 4300 DESIGNATED INC	584.57	100.00	484.57
Total Income	29,484.70	10,393.68	19,091.02
Expenses			
Total 5000 DESIGNATED EXPS	309.99	140.55	169.44
Total 5100 FUNDRAISING EXPS	0.00	221.21	(221.21)
Total 5200 SR. PASTOR	4,447.53	9,089.89	(4,642.36)
Total 5300 MUSIC	2,020.20	2,546.68	(526.48)
Total 5400 OUTREACH & FAM PGM	3,446.33	5,052.08	(1,605.75)
Total 5500 FACILITIES	5,021.47	5,329.11	(307.64)
Total 5600 ADMIN	1,082.69	1,934.89	(852.20)
Total 5700 PAYROLL TAXES	529.87	579.76	(49.89)
Total Expenses	16,858.08	25,789.15	(8,931.07)
Net Income	12,626.62	(15,395.47)	28,022.09

Free to a good home!



We have a piano that is no longer in use that we'd love to see find a home. See Wendy or Beth if you are interested.

In The Community



“Love is Greater” - an evening of community advocacy and support for LGBTQ+ and allies, as a response to the flood of initiatives at clawing back the hard-won rights of the LGBTQ+ community and the attacks on the Trans community in particular.

Tuesday, March 18
7 - 9 PM
West Bloomfield
UCC

Music

Speakers

Panel
discussion

Presentations about
various forms of advocacy

Sponsored by
churches, clergy,
and other
concerned citizens

MISSION and MAP

Mission and MAP teams will meet Monday March 10 at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Looking forward to being together and planning for 2025. Questions? Contact Linda



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.

March Birthdays

Susan Mitchell 3/2
Tony LaDuca 3/3
Carole Gabbert 3/4
Donna Fonda 3/5
Margaret Tsai 3/5
Emily Duga 3/6
Tim Kendrick 3/6
David Gregory 3/7
Lori Kilian 3/8
Joelle Boland 3/9
Lynne Sweeney 3/9
Thomas Hopkins 3/10
Marian Payne 3/10
Ruth Peck 3/10

Lyn Foster 3/11
Holly Marushak 3/11
Josh O'Mailey 3/11
Kristen Alvito 3/12
Joyce French 3/12
Trey Breedy 3/13
Wendy Lesko 3/13
Carole Roth 3/14
Jack Bickford 3/15
Clare Boehly 3/17
Julie Mihalyov 3/21
Fritz Kilian 3/22
Alison Reindel 3/23
Jayme Stephens 3/23

Trevor Balsamo 3/24
Lynn Battablia-Triggs 3/26
Becky Sollame 3/26
Jennifer Alvito 3/28
Sarah Bila 3/29
Michael Green 3/29
Anthony Biuso 3/30
Kaitlyn Minichiello 3/30
Jan Farling 3/31
Joe Gerard 3/31

Pastor Karen's typical days in the office are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 2:00 or by appointment. Drop ins are welcome. If you need pastoral support at other times, contact pastorkaren.uccwebster@gmail.com or (585) 236-8779 (voice or text).

Holidays in United States, Webster UCC		Mar 2025 (Eastern Time - New York)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
2 10am - Change Agents : Youth & Worship Service 11am - prayer shawl group in	3 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6pm - atomic habits 6:00 In 6:30pm - Cub Scout - den	4 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6:30pm - Hot Topics group at 6:30	5 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 11am - Wednesday Meditation 7pm - Scouting Troop 113	6 8:30am - Rockers at Nutcracker 9:30am - Thursday Study Group @ 11am - Lunch Bunch Planning 12pm - Drop-in Community 4:30pm - Guidance Document 6:30pm - LC - lounge 6:30pm - Leadership Council - 6:30pm - woodslide board meeting	7 9am - Heidi Zastowry 9am - Young Leaders & little 10am - bag lunch outreach in	8		
9 Daylight Saving Time starts 10am - Change Agents : Youth & Worship Service 11am - confirmation 4:30pm - Free Community Sunday	10 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6pm - community service at 6:00 6:30pm - Cub Scout - den	11 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6pm - private Community Service -	12 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 11am - Wednesday Meditation 6pm - Girl Scout Troop 6:00-8:00 7pm - Scouting Troop 113	13 9:30am - Thursday Study Group @ 12pm - Drop-in Community	14 9am - Young Leaders & little	15		
16 10am - Change Agents : Youth & Worship Service	17 St. Patrick's Day 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 10:30am - woodside Irish dance 6pm - Cub Scout Pack 113 6pm - atomic habits 6:00 In	18 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 10:30am - woodside Irish dance 5pm - Joe's Pub - CH 6:30pm - Hot Topics group 6:30 In	19 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 11am - Wednesday Meditation 12pm - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Scouting Troop 113	20 8:30am - Rockers at Nutcracker 9:30am - Thursday Study Group @ 12pm - Drop-in Community	21 9am - Young Leaders & little 12pm - Norma Fitzpatrick- party 1pm - Two Jr Girl Scout Troops	22		
23 10am - Change Agents : Youth & Worship Service	24 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 5:30pm - Pack 113 reserves Cong 6pm - wine & cheese 6:30pm - Cub Scout - den	25 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 11am - Wednesday Meditation 6pm - Girl Scout Troop 6:00-8:00 7pm - Scouting Troop 113	26 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 12pm - Drop-in Community	27 9:30am - Thursday Study Group @ 12pm - Drop-in Community	28 9am - Young Leaders & little	29		
30 10am - Change Agents : Youth & Worship Service	31	1 10am - Change Agents : Youth & Worship Service	2	3	4	5		

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

Phone: 585-671-3757
office@uccwebster.org
www.uccwebster.org



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

Rev. Dr. Karen Bailey-Francois
Bridge 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