

APRIL 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](#)



Holy Week and Easter at Webster UCC

Sun 4/13 **PALM SUNDAY: Triumph** (Luke 19:28-40)

Thurs 4/17 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
7 pm Tenebrae Service with Readings, Music and Communion

Fri 4/18 **GOOD FRIDAY**

Sun 4/20 **EASTER SUNDAY**
6:10 am Community Sunrise Service at Sandbar Park Pavilion
(302 Lake Road, Webster)

10 am Easter Celebration in the Sanctuary

10 am Empty Tomb Youth Experience

11 am Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall and Community Easter Egg Hunt on the Lawn



If you want to talk more or if you or another church member needs a call or a visit, please let me know.

PastorKaren.uccwebster@gmail.com

585-236-8779 (mobile/messages)

PLEASE NOTE: Monday is my Sabbath Day so I generally will not answer phone calls or emails until Tuesday *except* for immediate pastoral concerns- which I absolutely want to know about promptly! Call or text me for those. And thank you for understanding.



When I look at our heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them – yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. (Psalm 8:4-5)

What are we, O God, that you are mindful of us: of our comings, our goings, our minor disasters and our major life events... Who are we, O God, that you care for us: our joys and our sorrows, our courage and our fears, our whole-hearted endeavors and our rapid retreats... Yet you made us just a little less than wholly and fully divine – kindred to you in the incarnate Christ, saved by your unfailing faith in us, forgiven, redeemed and renewed.

What is it like to wake up every day and know that you are deeply and completely loved?

How does it feel to be so important to the world that Jesus his whole self for your sake?

More often than not, we look past those simple truths as we race from feeling empty to completely overwhelmed. As we juggle the “too much” and “too little” in our lives, we lose sight of the stable center. But it is there. The solid ground on which we stand. The wind beneath our wings.

We live in a very big world these days – connected in unprecedented ways across time and space, economies, cultures and experience. We are pummeled with pictures of things we cannot fix and brokenness we can only hope to help heal.

For some it feels selfish to focus on the pressures that push in on our lives and can't help but compress our perspective. For others, it is easier to turn away. It is hard to establish priorities in the midst of so much need. The good news for us – yesterday, tomorrow and today – is that God's care and God's call are completely compatible. Both are real. Both bind us to God and each other. We are individually important AND communally responsible beyond ourselves.

Who are we, O God? We are Yours!

See you in church.

Pastor Karen

WE WANT YOU!!



Looking for singers to sing in our choir. We rehearse on Sundays at 11 am., or when the worship service has ended. We meet to prepare for worship at 9:30 am. on Sunday mornings. Any voice part or experience level is welcome. If you play a musical instrument and would like to share your talent with the congregation please see me.

I would like to make use of the handbells and have a handbell choir. The church has a 3 octave set of handbells that are not being used currently. Please see me Ron Milliman or you can email me at ron.milliman@gmail.com. if any of these interest you.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Blessings! Ron Milliman



ONA Meeting

Wednesday, April 23
5:30 PM, Sanctuary

Come help plan our Pride Parade participation and other potential ONA activities!



Save the date!
Pride Parade
Saturday, July 19



WISE Team Meeting

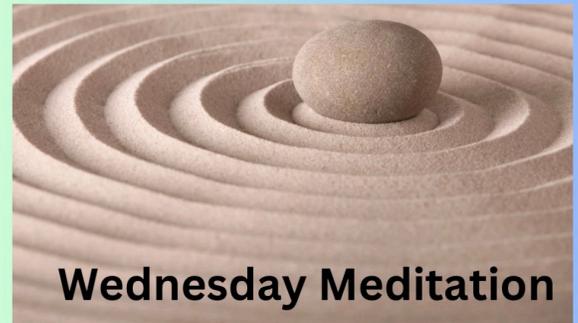
Monday, April 21
6:00 PM, Sanctuary

All are welcome to join us in planning Mental Health Sunday and other initiatives that help us live our commitment to be Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged in matters of mental health.



Hot Topics Discussion Group

The "Hot Topics" discussion group will meet April 1st and 15th 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.



free community Sunday Supper

at GATHERING PLACE WEBSTER

April 13

Quesadillas, beans, rice, churros & sopapilla

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

April 16th at noon

Food, Fun & Fellowship



April Wine & Cheese

April 29th at 6:00pm

Come as you are.

Optional: bring a snack or drink to share





Lenten 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

Other Collections:

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



Plastic Easter EGGS- We need thousands



COFFEE for Easter Grocery Bag collaboration with Webster Hope and Webster Community Chest



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)



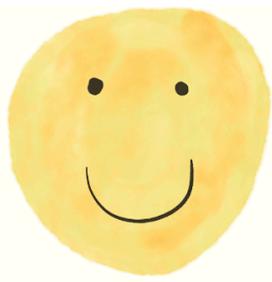
Make a tied fleece blanket to be given to a kid or teen in crisis or donate fleece. Questions? contact Wendy
wlesko88@gmail.com



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.



ripple

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



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.



fourth sundays at 10:00

faith in motion ~ love in action

The next Current is Sunday April 27th at 10:00 in the big green community room. Everyone is welcome.

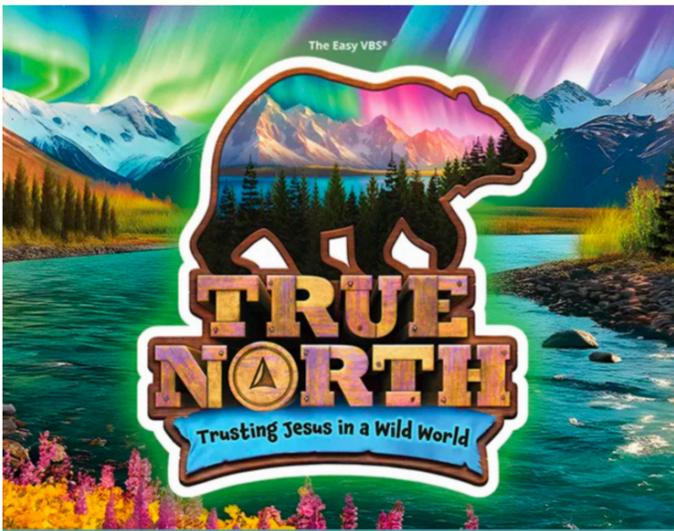
This youth & kid led worship experience doesn't push participants into a mold but naturally forms around them embracing their wonderfulness All ages welcome. Yes parents, that means you can attend too

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

FROM THE WISE TEAM

Creating a Church Culture of Belonging for All

At Webster United Church of Christ, we believe that every person who walks through our doors—physically or virtually—should feel seen, valued, and embraced just as they are. That’s the heart of a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) church: not just opening our doors, but opening our hearts.

Belonging Goes Beyond Welcome

It’s one thing to welcome someone—it’s another to help them feel like they truly belong. Belonging means you’re not just invited; you’re needed. You’re not just accommodated; you’re celebrated. True belonging means that everyone—from the lifelong member to the first-time visitor—can show up fully and authentically without fear of judgment or exclusion.

In many ways, creating a culture of belonging is spiritual work. It asks us to embody Christ’s radical hospitality and unconditional love. Jesus consistently reached across social, cultural, and religious divides to connect with people in a way that made them feel deeply known and deeply loved. That’s our call, too.

What Does Belonging Look Like?

A culture of belonging doesn’t happen by accident. It’s built intentionally, through our words, our actions, and our systems. Here are a few signs of a church that fosters belonging:

- People are welcomed by name, not just with a handshake.
- Diversity is reflected not only in who is present, but in who is empowered to lead.
- Mental health challenges, disabilities, and differences are met with compassion and understanding—not stigma.
- Stories of struggle are shared alongside stories of joy.
- Questions and doubts are welcomed, not silenced.

At Webster UCC, we are striving to be that kind of church—a place where you don’t have to hide your wounds, your identity, your questions, or your quirks. We want you to know: you don’t have to “fit in” to belong here. You already do.

WISE: A Framework for Belonging

Our WISE covenant helps guide us in this journey. It challenges us to consider mental health, accessibility, inclusion, and compassion not as side ministries—but as central to who we are as followers of Christ. That means training ourselves to notice who might feel invisible, to listen without fixing, and to speak up when someone is left out.

Ways We Can All Contribute

Creating a culture of belonging isn’t just the job of the WISE team—it’s something we all build together. Here are a few small ways each of us can help make that culture real:

- Say hello to someone you haven’t met.
- Use inclusive language in prayers and conversations.
- Ask how someone is really doing—and stay to listen.
- Notice who’s missing and reach out.
- Share your own story—it gives others permission to share theirs.

The Table Is Big Enough

In God’s kingdom, the table is wide. There is room for joy and sorrow, for certainty and doubt, for all races, genders, orientations, and abilities. There is room for the neurodivergent and the grieving, the hopeful and the healing. There is room for you.

Let’s keep making room—not just in our pews, but in our minds and hearts. Because when we create a culture of belonging, we don’t just reflect the love of Christ—we become it.



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

- April 3 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- April 5 10:00-11:00 Women's Care Bags Filling event
- April 10 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- April 12 10:00-11:00 Bag Lunch Outreach
- April 13 4:30-5:30 Free Community Sunday Supper (volunteers email gatheringplacwebster@gmail.com to volunteer)
- April 17 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- April 24 12:00-1:00 Drop-in Community Service- Everyone welcome.
- April 26 10:15-1:00 Baber Hot lunch (BABER AME in Rochester-email gatheringplacwebster@gmail.com to volunteer)



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

Calling all kids and teens who want to make a difference! This summer, Gathering Place Webster is hosting a Community Service Camp, where young leaders will give back, build friendships, and learn valuable skills through hands-on projects.

- ✓ Help your community
- ✓ Develop leadership skills
- ✓ Earn service hours
- ✓ Have fun while making an impact!

Let's work together to create positive change! Sign up today and be part of something bigger.

registration form:

<https://forms.gle/gaNYYKWw6jn6w6BT8>

Use this link to pay the registration fee:

<https://gatheringplacwebster.org/product/community-service-kids-summer-camp/>

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

United Church of Christ, Congregational			
Profit and Loss Comparison			
January 1 - March 31, 2025			
	Q1 2025	Q1 2024	YOY change
Income			
Total 4000 STEWARDSHIP	72,933.53	42,814.60	30,118.93
Total 4100 RENTAL INC	1,504.55	7,906.85	(6,402.30)
Total 4300 DESIGNATED INC	1,924.23	85.00	1,839.23
4990 Uncategorized Income		75.00	(75.00)
Total Income	76,362.31	50,881.45	25,480.86
Expenses			
1.8328 UCC Conference Fees/Exp (deleted)		894.98	(894.98)
Total 5000 DESIGNATED EXPS	2,551.05	8,040.72	(5,489.67)
Total 5100 FUNDRAISING EXPS	0.00	221.21	(221.21)
Total 5200 SR. PASTOR	13,405.52	29,113.91	(15,708.39)
Total 5300 MUSIC	6,285.60	7,880.64	(1,595.04)
Total 5400 OUTREACH & FAM PGM	10,495.53	12,291.15	(1,795.62)
Total 5500 FACILITIES	14,773.10	11,954.45	2,818.65
Total 5600 ADMIN	4,504.48	8,780.03	(4,275.55)
Total 5700 PAYROLL TAXES	1,799.68	1,849.41	(49.73)
Total Expenses	53,814.96	81,026.50	(27,211.54)
Net Income	22,547.35	(30,145.05)	52,692.40

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.

From the MISSION Team

Donations were received during February for Blanket Sunday. **Thanks to your generosity, \$743 was sent to CWS to provide warmth, shelter, and comfort.**

During the month of April, donations will be received for **OGHS**. Theme this year is Share the Light. Jesus teaches that faith calls for action to show God's love here on earth - blankets, food pantries, cooking meals, building houses and schools, signing petitions for worthy causes, and protesting injustices. If writing a check or donating online please indicate it is for OGHS.

We are a Strive For 5 Church for 2024! That means we collected donations for 4 offerings - OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing), Strengthen the Church, NIN (Neighbors In Need), and the Christmas Fund. The 5th giving is to OCWM (Our Churches Wider Mission) which is given via our church budget.



April Birthdays

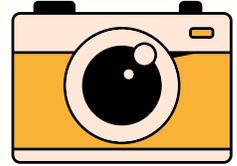
Shari Bechtold	04/01	Richard Heidorn.	04/15
Barbara Marcellus	04/01	Lily Rafferty	04/17
John Rider	04/03	Fred Suter	04/19
Matthew Chatfield	04/04	Aimee Koehler	04/20
Ruth Morrill	04/04	Pat Edwards	04/21
Nicholas Sollame	04/06	Elaine Seitz	04/21
Cindy Thompson	04/07	Owen Calus	04/26
Olivia Duga	04/08	Claire Fonda.	04/29
Roger Reed	04/09	Nancy Mihalyov	04/30
Linda Ims	04/13	Emelia van Wichen	04/30
Dan O'Neill	04/13		





New Church Directory Time for YOUR help!

Beth has been hard at work adding basic contact information to the new system. Here's what will happen next:



1. REGISTER

- We will begin sending out emails with instructions for logging into Instant Church Directory. These will be phased over the next few weeks, so please be patient!

2. UPDATE

- If you are comfortable updating your profile yourself, you will be able to add or change any details as necessary. You can also upload a photo.

IN PERSON OPTION

If you would rather we help you, we'll be set up in the Lounge at the following times to help update information and take photos:

- Sunday April 13 - 9:00-10:00 AM and 11-11:30 AM
- Sunday April 20 - 9:00-10:00 AM (yes, it's Easter but we thought perhaps some would want their photos taken in their Easter finest!)
- Sunday April 27 - 9:00-10:00 AM and 11-11:30 AM

(*we'd love to have a volunteer or two to help with these slots. If you're interested, see Wendi or Wendy)

Frequently asked questions:

- Is my information secure?
 - You can read about Instant Church Directory's security features here: <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/online-church-directory-security>. Our church directory will only be accessible to our members, and you will be able to select what information is visible.
- Do I need a computer to be in or use the directory?
 - Not at all! We will help you update your information and load a photo. Once everyone's profile is complete, we will have copies printed for anyone who would like one.

More questions? Email Beth (office@uccwebster.org) or see Wendy or Wendi

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10am - Change Agents : Youth & 10am - Worship Service</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6:30pm - Cub Scout - den</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6:30pm - Hot topics group at 6:30</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved 11am - Wednesday Meditation 7pm - Scouting Troop 113</p>	<p>8:30am - Rockers at Nutcracker 9:30am - Thursday Study Group @ 11am - Drop-In Community 11am - Lunch Bunch Planning 1pm - Cong Hall will be set up for</p>	<p>7am - Cong Hall will be set up for</p>	<p>10am - Community Service</p>
<p>10am - Change Agents : Youth & 10am - Worship Service 11am - easter grocery bag filling 11am - prayer shawl group in</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6pm - boy scouts 6:30pm - Cub Scout - den</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved 11am - Wednesday Meditation 6pm - Girl Scout Troop 5:00-6:00 7pm - Scouting Troop 113</p>	<p>9:30am - Thursday Study Group @ 11am - Drop-In Community 1:30pm - Cong hall will be set up 6pm - girl scout community</p>	<p>9:30am - cong hall will be set up</p>	<p>9am - Sunday supper prep - 10am - bag lunch outreach in 12pm - Woodside Spring family</p>
<p>10am - Change Agents : Youth & 10am - Worship Service 4:30pm - Free Community Sunday</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6:30pm - Cub Scout - den</p>	<p>Tax Day 8am - Fellowship set up for Lunch 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6:30pm - Hot Topics group 6:30 in</p>	<p>8am - Lunch Bunch- event la 12:30 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 11am - Wednesday Meditation 7pm - Scouting Troop 113</p>	<p>8:30am - Rockers at Nutcracker 9:30am - Thursday Study Group @ 11am - Drop-In Community 7pm - Maundy Thursday service</p>		
<p>Easter Sunday 10am - Empty Tomb Event for 10am - Worship Service 11am - Easter Egg Hunt at 11:00</p>	<p>Easter Monday 8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6pm - Cub Scout Pack 113 6pm - WISE meeting - lounge or</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved 11am - Wednesday Meditation 5:30pm - ONA planning meeting 6pm - Girl Scout Troop 5:00-6:00 7pm - Scouting Troop 113</p>	<p>9:30am - Thursday Study Group @ 10am - middle school class 11am - Drop-In Community 5pm - scout community service in</p>		
<p>10am - THE CURRENT 10am - Worship Service</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6:30pm - Cub Scout - den</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved 6pm - wine and cheese</p>	<p>8:30am - Lounge Reserved 11am - Wednesday Meditation 7pm - Scouting Troop 113</p>	<p>8:30am - Rockers at Nutcracker 9:30am - Thursday Study Group @ 11am - Drop-In Community 11am - Lunch Bunch Planning 6:30pm - woodside board meeting</p>		

United Church of Christ, Congregational
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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

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