

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

Summer Caring Community Concerts

at Webster UCC

Music, Connection and Compassion
under the summer sky!

**Bring a lawn chair, bring a friend, and bring
your heart—because Webster UCC is hosting
a summer series that's all about
community, kindness, and great music!**

What to expect :

Live local musicians
Food Tent
Good Vibes

Casual, outdoor setting (BYO chair!)

& a spirit of generosity—each concert supports
a local cause!

First concert Wednesday July 9

Pastor's Notes

Upcoming Events

Summer Concerts

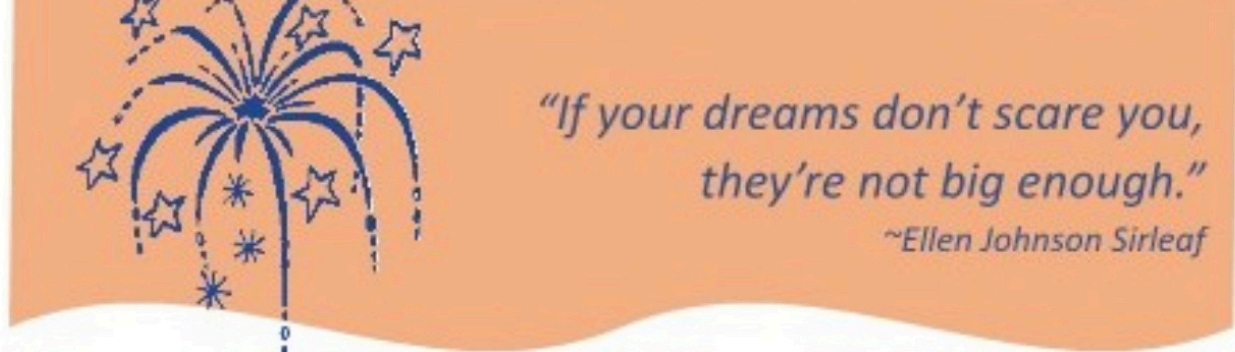
Center for Spirituality

Center Events

VBS

Youth & Kids

Gathering Place



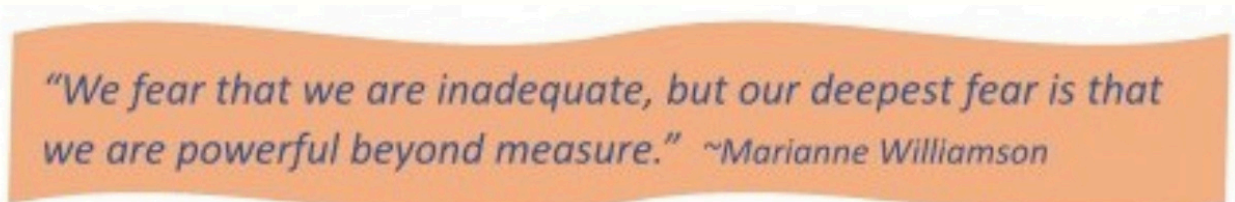
“...Now, friends, before a bunch of you stand up and walk out because you think I’m about to spout an objectionable position... and another bunch of you stand up and walk out because you think I’ll espouse the exact opposite... and the rest of you simply stare at me, aghast that I would have the audacity to do what I’ve done in church... let me assure you. I fall firmly into that last group.”

That quote is mine. From a sermon I have not yet delivered. I will say it immediately after singing, alone and unaccompanied, our national anthem. Softly. Somberly. Reverently. In low tones. On the Sunday after the 4th of July.

But I’ll stop just short of the end. In part, because folks tend to clap – an ingrained response and, in this congregation, a natural exuberance. I don’t want that for this. Because I don’t want to evoke an automatic response lest anyone feel obliged. And because the word I’ll leave out is “brave.” Followed by a question: “Are we?”

I believe the answer is yes. And, I believe, our struggle is how to embody that courage in concert with the truth of our diverse perspectives. Even in the warm embrace of our beloved church, we see things differently. Who wants to take the risk?

And yet, where better than in the warm embrace of those who know and love you, to ask hard questions? Respect is forged when we know one another. Not to force agreement. Perhaps to understand. We make idols of that which we fear to engage – too risky, too volatile, too sacred. Nonsense. We’re better than that.





New Member Sunday, June 29!

Lon Krautworst and Attila Lampert

introduced by Norma Fitzpatrick

Before coming to NY, Lon and Attila belonged to New Vision UCC in Canton, Ohio. It's a small but very close knit community, very progressive and committed to feeding the community at large with home cooked meals

every Sunday at 1pm in a downtown park. Lon and Attila moved to Irondequoit and attended Irondequoit UCC for 7 years before coming to WUCC. For them, this felt like a growth moment in their faith journey. They look forward to sharing their quirky gifts with this expansive and welcoming church. As they have said to many of us, "We have found everything we were looking for and more, thanks to WUCC!"

Eve McDowell, *introduced by Heather Himes*

Eve started coming to WUCC in January of this year and has already been involved in all kinds of different things. She graduated with a degree in Psychology and is hoping to go on to Seminary. As she considers the "transition moments" before her, she has found a great fit with this church. With our own search going on, we are also in that in space between where we are and where we're going. It is a pleasure to welcome Eve to join in that journey with us!



Mission Moment

Note change to CWS School Kits **are now called Kids Kit** and are tailored for elementary students. In August a collection bin will be placed in the narthex with papers listing the supplies. For those who sew bags, they can be cotton or lightweight canvas - solid color of kid friendly but no logos! Contact Linda Ims for instructions - lindaaims63@gmail.com

Kids Kit Supplies --
12 colored pencils
Two-pocket folder
Glue stick
Blunt-tip scissors
70-page wide spiral-bound notebook
30-cm/12" ruler
Hand-held pencil sharpener
Large eraser
Six new, unsharpened pencil
Box of 24 Crayon

Upcoming ONA events

Questions? contact Jeff Peck 585-500-9587



Pride Parade Saturday July 19

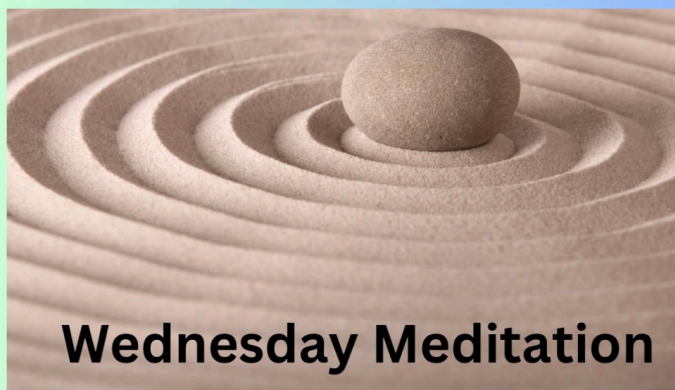
Sign up in narthex (limited seats available for those who would rather ride than walk). Last day to order shirts and hats is July 6.

Purchase your tickets at carlsoncomedy.com. The show starts at 7:30 but feel free to meet for a drink at 6:30.



Hot Topics Discussion Group

The "Hot Topics" discussion group will take a hiatus in July and August and will resume in September at a date and time to be determined. 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.

save the date



August 19
6:30

THEME : Joe's Original Creations

Spend an evening with Dr. Joseph Izzo, Master Mixologist of Joe's Pub, and investigate the master's secret recipes
All are welcome (≥ 21 years of age)



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
gatheringplacwebster@gmail.com
585-667-0411



2025 Caring Community Concerts

A Summer Concert Series to Benefit Our Community.

July 9: 8-Days-a-Week

Benefit for Webster Association of Senior Program Supporters...Free will offering

The 60s were defined by the music of The Beatles. The band 8-Days-A-Week will bring back many of those memories! They've been entertaining in the Rochester area for more than ten years. 8-Days-A-Week always provides a wonderfully nostalgic and authentic sound. Come enjoy the timeless classics of The Beatles recreated by this talented quartet!

July 16: Uptown Groove

Benefit for Webster Public Library BookBox for Kids and Teens...Free will offering

The Uptown Groove is a high-energy, elite party band from Western and Central, NY. The band performs a variety of Motown, R&B Funk/Soul, Disco, Rock and Current Top 40 Pop/Rock. The Uptown Groove brings world-class musicianship, superior professionalism and an exemplary experience for every audience. GROOVE on!

July 23: Allegro

Benefit for Webster Health and Education Network...Free will offering

Allegro is Western New York's premier party band! Allegro's members are experienced, very versatile and have performed for thousands of satisfied customers over the past 20 years. They are known for playing many different styles of music, from straight ahead jazz to today's current hits. Allegro will surely energize and entertain you.

July 30: Ruby Shooz

Benefit for Webster Community Chest ...Free will offering

The Shooz are known for their high energy extravagant Rock-N-Roll show...EXCITING from the moment they hit the stage, the Shooz play songs from the 1950's and 60's, and now some classic 70's. Ruby Shooz is one of the most unique bands to come out of this region in decades.

August 6: Rochester Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra

Benefit for Webster Comfort Care...Free will offering

Established to foster the preservation, education, and celebration of music known as big band. The group continues to perform a vast array of traditional and contemporary big band music. You will find RMJO performing in a wide variety of public and private venues across the region. Recently they released their newest album entitled "Just Friends".



**Concerts to be held on front lawn of Webster United Church of Christ
570 Klem Road - Webster, New York 14580**

Bring a blanket, Bring a friend...Bring a picnic, or Choose from our picnic menu.

Concessions open at 6:00 pm ★ Music plays 6:30-8:00 pm

For additional information contact the church office at (585) 671-3757

Center for Spirituality at Webster UCC

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

Open and Affirming group (ONA): Interested in promoting a just world for everyone? Contact Jeff Peck at Jefferypeck@gmail.com

W.I.S.E. Team: Interested in being supportive of those affected by mental health conditions and those who love them, and helping to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health? Contact Wendi Latko at Wendi.Latko@gmail.com

Traditional Worship Service: Sunday mornings at 10:00 featuring our choir, prayer, scripture readings, and message that uplift the spirit and deepen faith.

Gathering of Hearts (Alternative Worship): Craving something real, rooted, and a little sacred? Join us for Gathering of Hearts — a casual, conversational, circle-style worship experience focused on community, connection, and how we can better care for one another and our neighbors. Third Saturdays at 6:00 pm Contact Wlesko88@gmail.com

The Current -Youth led Worship Experience: Current Worship doesn't push participants into a mold but naturally forms around them embracing their wonderfulness. High energy, interactive, thought provoking. All ages welcome. Yes parents, that means you can attend too. Fourth Sundays at 10:00. Questions wlesko88@gmail.com

Thursday Book Study Group: Interested in reading thought-provoking books and discussing them with others? Thursdays at 9:30. Contact Joe Roth jaro462@gmail.com

Hot Topics Discussion Group: Interested in making sense of our cultural madness by sifting and sorting with others in evidence-based conversation? Resuming in September. Contact Richard Kendrick at richard_kendrick@verizon.net

Nurture Team: Interested in reaching out to people who would appreciate a visit, call or letter? If you or someone you know would appreciate a visit, call, or letter? Contact Rev.Karen Bailey-Francois

Lunch Bunch: Interested in fellowship and lunch with seniors? Third Wednesday at noon September through November and. March through May. Contact Lou Erb at Lounskip@yahoo.com

Book Group: Interested in a book group that shares their thoughts on selected literature? Contact Heidi Zastowny at heidizastowny@gmail.com

Change Agents: Interested in a vibrant group of teens & kids that's a force for good in their community? Sunday mornings at 10:00. Contact Wendy Lesko at wlesko88@gmail.com

A Conversation with WISE

July 22 6:30 pm on the deck

Join the WISE Team for a casual discussion:

Words Matter: Changing the Conversation on Mental Health

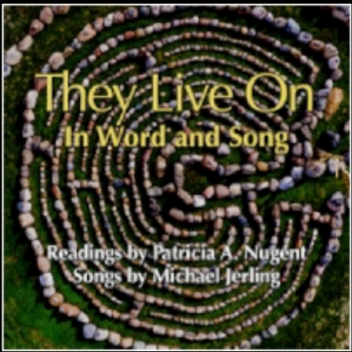
United Church of Christ Mental Health Network is presenting a resolution at Synod titled "Recognition of the Continually-Evolving Language of Mental Health," calling on the church to adopt more inclusive, affirming, and person-centered language when discussing mental health experiences. Join us to explore together: What does this really mean? Why is the language we use important? How do we find language that is affirming to all?



Welcoming • Inclusive
Supportive • Engaged

CENTER EVENTS

Events sponsored by the Center for Spirituality,
designed to enrich your journey



Sunday September 21st : An afternoon with Michael Jerling and Patricia Nugent . Singer-songwriter Michael Jerling lends his poignant lyrics and melodies to author Patricia A. Nugent's memoir



Saturday October 25th : An evening with Bobby Jo Valentine ! Save the date for a fall evening of heartfelt stories and music of Bobby Jo !



A reading shared by Sharon Mathiason from her memoir. Date to be announced .

GATHERING OF HEARTS

alternative worship

Craving something real, rooted, and a little sacred?

Join us for Gathering of Hearts — a casual, conversational, circle-style worship experience focused on community, connection, and how we can better care for one another and our neighbors.

THIRD SATURDAYS AT 6:00

This month's theme: "Exploring what it means to listen deeply without fixing or judging."

We'll gather under the evening sky and reflect together on what it means to belong — and how to become the kind of community our world is aching for. Come as you are. No pressure, just presence. All are welcome. Really.



IMPACT REPORT

from vbs & project impact

109 Youth & Kids participated---> 109 hearts impacted through Bible Storytelling, amazing music, crafts, games, prayers, community building & leadership development.

109 kids & youth experiencing the vbs awesomeness means at least 109 parents get to witness their child's transformation while the kids continue to sing the songs, retell the stories and live out the love of Jesus

7 adults participated -full time--> 7 adult hearts impacted

Cleaning supplies donated for 51 families in need (at least 2 people per family) ---> 102 people

40 "FEEL GOOD" bags assembled for Cameron Kids

40 "ART BAGS " assembled for Cameron Kids

Community garden mulching leads to a better harvest which will impact approximately 50 families through Webster Hope (approx 100 people)

130 Snack Bags assembled for Ronald MacDonald House ... 130 kids fed also means 130 parents relieved

150 CARE KITS assembled for people in need

140 FIRST AID KITS assembled for people in need

12 LASAGNAS assembled for 10 families in need through Lasagna Love (approx 30 people fed)

organized School supplies for 50 Back to School Backpacks for kids in need at Rochester Advocates for Children and Family Promise of Greater Rochester. (50 kids receiving supplies means at least 50 adults relieved

1,187 people impacted



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



because you never know
who needs it

Sometimes, the smallest act...
a smile, a kind word, a moment of presence...
can make the biggest difference.

Smile First. Speak kindness. Spread love. Repeat. 

Through simple, everyday gestures,
we're building a community
where no one feels invisible
and everyone feels seen.
Smile First. Speak kindness.
Spread love. Repeat.

the Current
youth led worship experience

faith in motion ~ **love in action**

The next Current is Sunday July 20th
at 10:00 in the big green community room.
Everyone is welcome.



Topic:
**LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR**

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



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 !

**225 Bags of
Cleaning Supplies
for Webster
families in need**



a collaboration between
Webster Hope, Gathering Place
& Webster Community Chest

follow the
link....

\$20 fills a bag !

<https://gatheringplacewebster.org/donations/>



BAG LUNCH OUTREACH

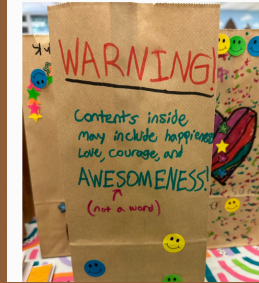
caring for our neighbors

The bag lunches will go
to House of Mercy for
their new outreach
program

**Our grand
total
SO FAR...**

**4,491
lunches !!**

Next
Bag Lunch
Outreach is
Saturday
July 12th
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**

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/gaNYKWWw6jn6w6BT8>

Use this link to pay the registration fee:

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



THANK YOU TO....

Diane Cannarozzo for transforming our gardens
and all the VBS volunteers who helped things
run smoothly and safely !!!!!

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

	Income	Expense
June	\$15,943	\$19,999
Year to Date	\$120,797	\$110,478
Investments	Balance	% change from prior month
Endowment	\$648,477	3.3%
Cell Tower	\$206,647	-4.3%



July Birthdays



Thomas Hondorf 7/01
 Abigail Zastowny 7/02
 Sharon Mathiason 7/3
 John Abbett 7/04
 John LaDuca 7/05
 Chris Hendrickson 7/06
 Courtney Levy 7/06
 Lindsay Levy 7/06 Talia
 Nell Herman 7/9
 Norma FitzPatrick 7/10
 Autumn Case 7/17

Jacqueline Hermetet 7/12
 Sienna Duga 7/14
 Ella LaDuca 7/16
 Neil Sood 7/17
 Cheryl Hendrickson 7/20
 Jim Dolan 7/21
 Ruth Heidorn 7/22
 Emily Marushak 7/22
 Robert Daly 7/23
 Jessica van Wichen 7/24

Kyle Hondorf 7/25
 Lowell Edwards 7/26
 Doris Kittredge 7/27
 Casey Biuso 7/28
 Joe Monachino 7/29
 Cameron Tsai 7/29
 Craig Pratt 7/31

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
cong hall	Lounge Re	Lounge Re	Lounge Re	Rockers at		
Change A	Vacation B	Vacation B	Vacation B	Vacation B		
Worship S	project im	project im	Wednesda			
			project im			
			Karen Mor			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Change A	Lounge Re	Lounge Re	Lounge Re	Thursday		bag lunch
Worship S			Wednesda			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Change A	Communit	Communit	Communit	Rockers at		Pride para
Worship S	Lounge Re	Lounge Re	Lounge Re	Thursday		Gathering
Free Com			Wednesda	Drop-in Co		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Change A	Lounge Re	Lounge Re	Lounge Re	Thursday		
Worship S		Communit	Wednesda	Drop-in Co		
		WISE disc				
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Change A	Lounge Re	Lounge Re	Lounge Re	Thursday		
Worship S			Wednesda			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Change A	Lounge Re	Lounge Re	Lounge Re	Rockers at		bag lunch
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United Church of Christ, Congregational
570 Klem Road
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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

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

Lisa Izzo, Moderator

Richard Kendrick, Vice Moderator

Wendi Latko, Immediate Past Moderator

Konrad Emmert, Stewardship

Heather Himes, Worship

Linda Ims, Mission

Ken Mihalyov, Personnel

Pete Sollame, Building & Grounds

Mindy Spencer, Outreach & Family Programming

Heidi Zastowny, Congregational Life