

APRIL 2025



WEBSTER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONALIST



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

office@uccwesbter.org

www.uccwebster.org



[United Church of Christ, Congregational](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchofChristCongregational)

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 :

Food Tent

Good Vibes

& a spirit of generosity—

**FINAL SUMMER 2025 CONCERT
this Wednesday August 6**

[Pride Parade Photos](#)

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[Youth & Kids](#)

[Gathering Place](#)

2025 Pride Parade

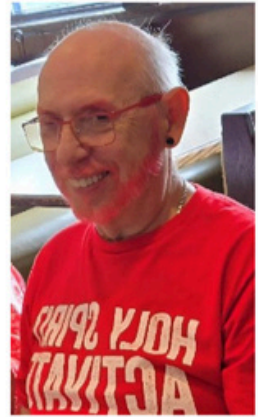


Great showing
by Webster
UCC -
24 strong!



VIEW FROM THE PEW

For this month's "Pastor's Note" I offer this submission from a church member and a reminder that each and all have a voice in God's community. May the Spirit guide our shared and individual reflections on Jesus' call to love and serve. Pastor Karen



Will you be my neighbor?

musings by Attila Lampert

Many recall a TV show for children called Mr. Roger's neighborhood. Mr. Rogers was a kind soul. He tried to exemplify what we as caring, practicing Christians should be striving to achieve. He tried to teach children to be kind, loving, compassionate and a respectful member of society. Do you remember one of his favorite songs: "Would you be my neighbor?"

What exactly does this mean?

- ✚ Will you be my white neighbor?
- ✚ Will you be my gay neighbor?
- ✚ Will you be my republican or democrat neighbor?
- ✚ Will you be my immigrant neighbor?
- ✚ Is this a qualification of what we think a neighbor is?

As we all know, our political climate has changed the meaning of neighbor. It appears to be politically correct to call immigration on your immigrant neighbor. It appears politically correct to abuse or murder your transsexual neighbor. It appears politically correct to deny equal human rights to your LGBTQ neighbor. It appears politically correct to practice racism.

Where did we go wrong? When did we disavow the teachings of Jesus we profess to follow? To love your neighbor as yourself?

I know it is very easy for all of us to fall into the habit of referring to our neighbor in these qualifications. Oh, you know, my "gay" neighbor... Or I have a "black person" living in our "white" neighborhood.... Or those "Mexican" neighbors on our street are probably dealing drugs.

But have we taken the time to get to know them? To include them or be cordial, and to, I don't know, maybe do what Jesus said to? Say, love thy neighbor as yourself? Do we hate ourselves as much as we hate our "neighbor"?

Neighbor doesn't just mean next door, or on the same street or town or church pew. Neighbor means our Canadian, Mexican, South American, European, African, Asian, Indian, Indigenous and every human being on Earth created by a loving God in the image of God.

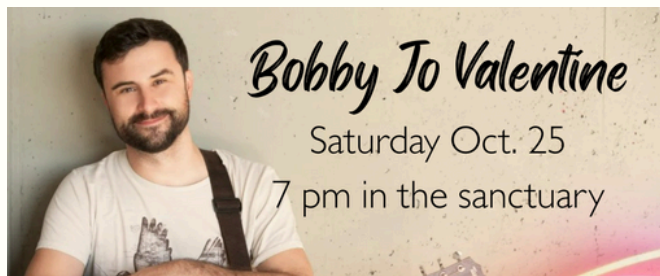
Can we mindfully utter this phrase and humbly ask: Will YOU be my neighbor? Can we ask it with love and kindness in our hearts, rejecting the pervasive hate permeating our world.? May it be so, neighbor. Namaste, Amen

Upcoming ONA events

Questions? contact Jeff Peck 585-500-9587



August 14. Purchase your tickets at carlsoncomedy.com. Show starts at 7:30 but feel free to meet there for a drink at 6:30.



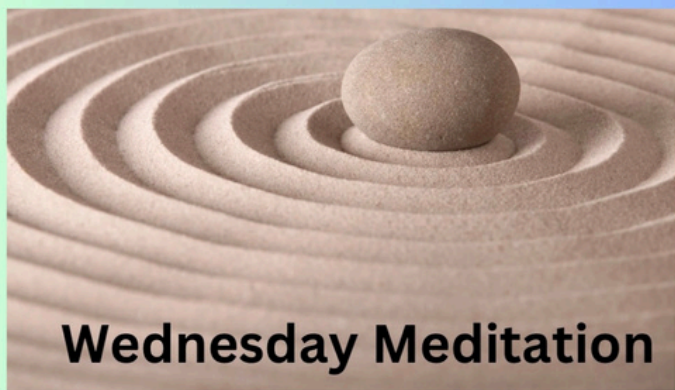
Bobby Jo Valentine

Saturday Oct. 25
7 pm in the sanctuary



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).

Please RSVP to joespub.xyz@gmail.com by August 10th.



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



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

FROM THE SEARCH TEAM

The Search Team is continuing to meet. We have received profiles and have done some interviewing. We continue to move forward positively in full hope that we are on the right track! We thank you for your continued trust and we look forward to finding our new settled Pastor!

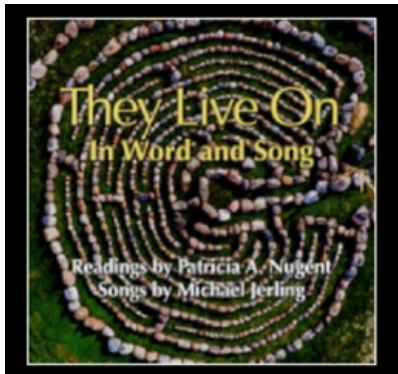
SINCERELY,

The Search Team

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

CENTER EVENTS

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



Sunday **September 21st** : An afternoon with Michael Jerling and WUCC's own Pat Nugent. Singer-songwriter Michael Jerling lends his poignant lyrics and melodies to author Pat's memoir. More information and tickets available at: <https://uccwebster.org/they-live-on/>



Saturday **October 25th** , 7 pm: Bobby Jo Valentine is back! Save the date for a fall evening of heartfelt stories and music in the sanctuary ! To ensure adequate seating, tickets will be required. More information and ticket link is at <https://uccwebster.org/bobby-jo-valentine/>



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

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.
Returning **September 20th**



Words from W.I.S.E.

At the 2025 General Synod, the UCC passed a resolution encouraging more thoughtful and inclusive language when speaking about mental health. In a recent discussion, ten of us gathered to reflect on the importance of this resolution and explore how its guidance can shape compassionate, respectful conversations within our church and community. The conversation was thoughtful and heartfelt, and everyone went away having learned something.

A few notable examples of terms to be aware of include:

| Common or stigmatizing term | Inclusive alternative |
|--|--|
| Committed suicide | Died by suicide, took their own life |
| Addict, junkie | Person in recovery Person who uses substances |
| He's [condition] - e.g. "He's bipolar", | He has bipolar disorder |
| "I'm so [condition]", used in casual language, not with respect to a diagnosis - e.g. "I'm so OCD" if you like things tidy or "I'm so ADHD" if you are distracted or "I have PTSD" if something has upset you. | Only use these terms in the context of a clinical diagnosis, and use person-centered language: "I <i>have</i> OCD", not "I'm OCD". |

We reviewed some of our WISE materials and determined that they are generally consistent with inclusive language, but we identified some minor tweaks that we will be making in the coming weeks. The bigger challenge is to all of us to remember the importance of inclusive language every day.



OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMMUNITY WALK

The WISE group is forming a team to participate in the annual **Out of the Darkness Walk** as part of suicide prevention.

The walk is October 4, 2025 at Veterans Memorial Park in Penfield. Contact Sharon Mathiason (sharon.mathiason@gmail.com) for further information.

FROM THE MISSION TEAM

As a Strive for Five church, we donate to OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) via the church budget and have four special offerings each year. The second offering was for Strengthen the Church and was collected during June. Your contributions totaled \$790. Thank you for your generous support!!!

August/September is the time to collect supplies for the Church World Service Kids Kits. Though delivery is in the spring, school supplies are on sale now. A labeled bin is in the narthex to collect donated supplies. Monetary donations are always welcome and may be sent to the church marked for Kids Kits school supplies. The kits are sent worldwide as need arises. Thank you for helping with this mission project!!!

Kids Kit Supplies

12 colored pencils

Two-pocket folder

Glue stick

Blunt-tip scissors

Box of 24 crayons

70-page wide spiral-bound notebook

30-cm/12" ruler

Hand-held pencil sharpener

Large eraser

Six new unsharpened pencils

Many thanks to those who sew school bags. Each one uses a half yard of quilting cotton weight fabric in kid friendly print or solid color. No logos please. Instructions available from Linda Ims - lindaims63@gmail.com.

Rochester Advocates For Children Fall Outreach Preview



back to
school
backpacks



Thanksgiving
groceries
collected
Oct 1- Nov 9
packed
on Nov 16



Christmas
Angel tree
available on
Nov 23
Gifts due
Dec 14

questions ? Contact wlesko88@gmail.com



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

**CARE
5000**



The youth & kids set a goal during lent to serve 5000 people !

As of July 16th their goal was reached!!

**pizza party celebration
in September !**

the Current

youth led worship experience

faith in motion ~ love in action

The next Current is Sunday September 28th
at 10:00 in the big green community room.
Everyone is welcome.



Topic:

FOUR FRIENDS

Faith Through the Roof

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 !

The campers and youth counselors at Community Service Camp July 14-16 made 12 lasagnas to feed 59 people in 8 families through Lasagna Love !!!
So much love !
So much hope !

On **September 20th**, Gathering Place will host a lasagna making party for Lasagna Love. Stay tuned for details!

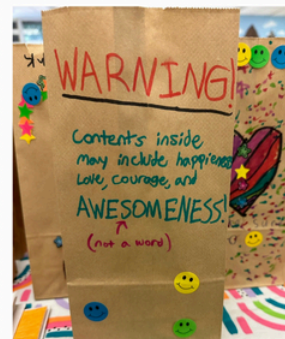


Campers & counselors filled 200
LET'S CLEAN bags
for Webster families
in need !



**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...
4,719
lunches !!**

Next
Bag Lunch
Outreach is
Saturday
August 9th
at 10:00

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

| | Income | Expense |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| July | \$9,181 | \$18,779 |
| Year To Date | \$129,978 | \$127,797 |
| | | |
| Investments | Balance | % change from 1/1/2025 |
| Endowment | \$654,472 | 7.7% |
| *Other Funds | \$197,383 | 1.0% |
| Total | \$851,855 | 6.0% |

* Cell phone proceeds, 2025 transfers and stock gifts



August Birthdays

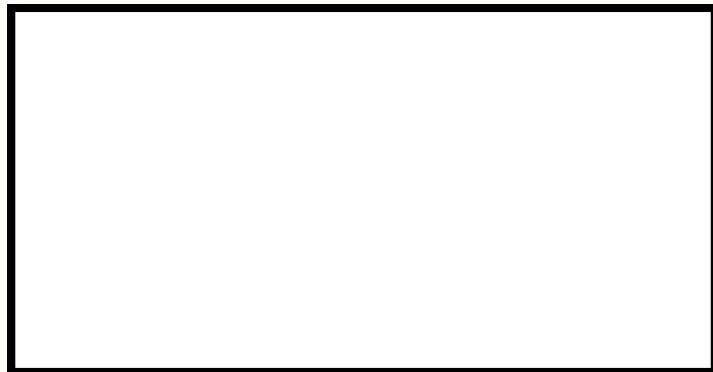
Diana Newman 08/02
 Andrew Painton 08/02
 Andrea Oestreich 08/03
 Heidi Hall 08/08
 Aaron Tsai 08/10
 Diane Cannarozzo 08/11
 Richard Schmitt 08/12
 Mindy Spencer 08/1
 Sharon Pratt 08/14
 Diane Daly 08/21

Denielle Newman 08/21
 Jennifer Hermetet 08/23
 Ken Mihalyov 08/23
 Jeffery Peck 08/23
 Mae Case 08/24
 Margaret Hall 08/24
 Julianne Daly 08/27
 Candace Heidorn 08/27
 Pamela Killaby 08/27
 Hillary Lesko 08/28

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|---|-------------------------------|---|--|---|------------------|----------------|
| 27 Change A Worship S | 28 Lounge Re | 29 Lounge Re | 30 Lounge Re Wednesda Caring Co | 31 Thursday | 1 | 2 |
| 3 REBEL BE Worship S | 4 Lounge Re | 5 Lounge Re | 6 Lounge Re Wednesda Caring Co | 7 Rockers at Thursday Drop-in Co | 8 | 9 bag lunch |
| 10 REBEL BE Worship S Free Com | 11 Lounge Re | 12 Lounge Re Susan | 13 Lounge Re Wednesda | 14 Thursday Drop-in Co | 15 | 16 communit |
| 17 REBEL BE Worship S | 18 Izzo's eve Lounge Re | 19 Izzo event Lounge Re Joe Izzo E | 20 Lounge Re Wednesda | 21 UofR even Rockers at Thursday Drop-in Co | 22 Uof R stud | 23 |
| 24 REBEL BE Worship S | 25 Lounge Re | 26 Lounge Re | 27 Lounge Re Wednesda Leadershi | 28 Thursday Drop-in Co | 29 | 30 |
| 31 REBEL BE Worship S | 1 Lounge Re | 2 Lounge Re | 3 Lounge Re Wednesda | 4 Rockers at Thursday Drop-in Co | 5 | 6 |

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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

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