

MARCH 2026



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)

Let us gather in worship as we journey through Holy Week together.

**Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday
celebration during worship, 10AM.**

**Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday
service, in the sanctuary, 7PM.**

**Sunday, April 5: We gather and rejoice
during Easter Sunday worship, 10AM.**

**Empty Tomb event for children &
youth, 10AM in Congregational Hall**

Egg Hunt at 10:45 AM on the lawn

**Easter Breakfast, 11:00 AM in
Fellowship Center**

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From the Pastor

When I was studying for my Masters of Divinity at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, I was required to intern and fulfill credits in a student pastor setting. This requirement was called “Supervised Practice of Ministry.” We often shortened this term to SPM.

Often, SPM students taking this requirement would facilitate check-ins or debriefings with each other. During one of these check-ins, I remember one particular story told by Randy, a man who gave up farming to pursue ordination in the Methodist denomination.

Randy told the story of a beloved woman in his church who had passed away, leaving behind a grieving family and church community, and a rich legacy that included, among many values and skills, a gift for quilting.

Her funeral was scheduled for a morning sometime in February, and the day turned out to be one of the coldest days that year. Further, when Randy arrived at the small, country church that morning, he discovered that the furnace quit working. He quickly let the family and church community know, informing them that the service would continue but that wearing their winter coats into the church and through the service would be necessary.

In response, each member of the deceased’s family and church community grabbed the quilt that she had lovingly made them. Each congregant was warmed and snuggled through the service by the love of their late loved one, whose love continued to warm them and embrace them in very real ways.

Throughout this snowy, cold, cloudy winter, I often think of this story, and remember the gifts of joy, memory, provision, and sustaining that can surprise us. With Spring just around the corner (thank goodness), the gifts and surprises of Winter still find ways to teach us and inspire us to share warmth, light, and comfort.

LUNCH BUNCH IS BACK MARCH 18th.



Please sign up in the narthex and bring a Potluck dish, or bread, or dessert to our gathering. We look forward to seeing you there.



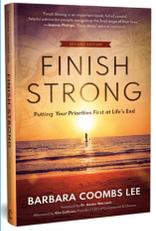
Wine & Cheese

March 24th at 6:30 pm

Come as you are.

Optional: bring a snack or drink to share

THURSDAY MORNING GROUP



The next Thursday morning resource will be "Finish Strong," by Barbara Coombs Lee. The author covers all the issues we must address to set priorities and make our end of life wishes stick. Beginning March 19th, 9:30-11:00 AM, Thursdays. By Zoom only. contact Joe Roth (585-671-8458)



Baber Hot Lunch

fourth Saturday at 550 Meigs.

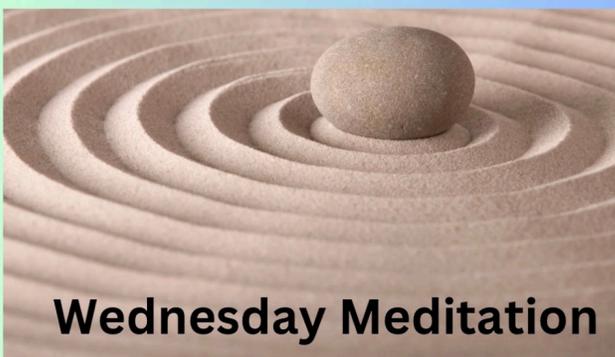


Woodside 70th
Birthday Bash
April 11
3:00-5:00



Hot Topics Discussion Group

The Hot Topics discussion group will be meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of March. Our first meeting, on March 3, will be a joint program with the church's Open and Affirming Committee, a "A Deep Dive into Queer Theology" workshop, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will have our second meeting on Tuesday, March 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary at which we will discuss the workshop. 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

March 8

Stuffed Shells, Tossed Salad,
Garlic Bread, ice cream sundaes

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

Carrying on Jesus' Mission of Love Peace & Justice



an inclusive space
where young
people can connect,
explore their faith,
and serve together

The Rebel Beat — Carrying On Jesus' Mission of Love, Peace, and Justice brings kids and youth from ages 3 to grade 12 together in a shared Sunday school experience. The Rebel Beat offers a rich and meaningful opportunity to build connection, deepen faith, and embody the mission of Jesus in powerful, age-bridging ways.

Disrupted How Jesus Changed Everything A Lenten Journey with the Rebel Beat Youth & Kids

Sundays at 10:00
2/22-3/29
Interactive dramas
real talk
community service

Jesus didn't fit neatly into systems.
He challenged power.
He crossed lines.
He loved people others ignored.
That kind of love disrupts
fear, injustice, and hopelessness.

- 2/22 The Current  Water Walking
- 3/1  Mud & Spit
- 3/8  Jesus Calms the Storm
- 3/15  Love Crosses the Road- Good Samaritan
- 3/22 The Current  Last Supper
- 3/29  Discover Jesus- Palm Sunday Event
- 4/5  Easter-Empty Tomb Event & Egg Hunt

the Current

youth led worship experience

faith in motion  **love in action**

The next Current is **Sunday March 22 at 10:00** in the green community room. Everyone is welcome.



**The Last Supper
WHOSE SITTING AT YOUR TABLE?**

This month, the Rebel Beat youth aren't retelling the Last Supper... They're dragging us right into the upper room. Into the questions. Into the tension. Into the love that changed everything. Join us as youth & kids lead us through a raw, interactive, worship experience where we ask: **Who's sitting at our table — and who isn't? And what does Jesus do with friends who are messy, scared, imperfect... and still chosen?** Expect bold voices. Real talk. Holy trouble-making. It's The Current — so you know it's gonna hit different.



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.



**youth & kids
chime choir**

**practice Sunday
mornings
at 10:00**

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.

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL at Webster UCC



Children preschool through grade 3 as of 9/1/2026 register as campers \$50

Kids in grade 4 as of 9/1/2026 register as campers/counselors-in-training. They do all the fun camper things while learning how to be camp counselor. \$50

Youth grades 5 and up as of 9/1/2026 register as camp counselor \$20

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

TREK WITH US THROUGH THE
ULTIMATE RAINFOREST
ADVENTURE
JUNE 29- JULY 3
9:00-12:00



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.

Webster UCC
570 Klem Rd
Webster NY 14580
questions? email
wlesko88@gmail.com

SHINE

mini camp

at Webster UCC

Small acts. Big heart. We shine together.

August 3-5
9:00-12:00

United Church of Christ
570 Klem Road
Webster NY 14580



ages 4 to grade 3
(as of 9/1/26) register as
Sparks (campers) \$30

grade 4 and up
(as of 9/1/26) register as
Shine Guides
(counselors) \$15

Shine Camp nurtures friendship, kindness, and simple acts of service. Through creative projects, reflection circles, and meaningful hands-on service, kids discover that their unique light matters—and that when we shine together, we brighten our whole community.

We shine God's love by showing up, helping others, and doing small things with great heart—together.

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questions? contact
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WUCC MISSION



Rochester Advocates For Children Lenten Outreach



Easter groceries



Easter Baskets for grandchildren

Groceries and basket fillers collected
February 8- March 15

It's time for our annual Lenten Outreach for Rochester Advocates for Children. We are collecting groceries and Easter basket stuffers. You can follow the link to the google doc to sign-up or use the sheet in the narthex (or see Wendy Lesko) Everything due to church by March 15



Eat chili. Cast your vote.
Build community.
Donations support the meal bag project for Family Promise.

sponsored by the
Rebel Beat youth & kids & families

The youth & kids fill 2,000 Easter eggs every year for our ginormous Easter Sunday Egg hunt. Donations of candy and or plastic eggs are VERY MUCH appreciated !



We hope to raise \$240 to fill 30 meal bags ...
10 each of the following meals
chicken casserole
6 bean chili
tacos



SAVE THE DATE for this year's outreach event sponsored by our confirmation class ...May 17!



yummies for monies

A Delicious Way to Do Good

Sunday May 17
11:00-12:00
at Webster UCC
570 Klem Rd



what to expect:

- taste yummy dishes
- enjoy tasty activities
- build community



donations benefit the Free Hot Lunch program
at Cameron Community



A joyful, community-powered tasting event where we gather together, sample amazing foods, celebrate creativity in the kitchen, and raise money to help feed our hungry neighbors.



sponsored by the confirmation class
questions wlesko88@gmail.com

From the WISE Team

Reclaiming the "Third Place": Why Community Matters for Our Mental Health

In a recent Psychology Today article, sociologist Alicia M. Walker highlights a concern that resonates with our mission: we are losing the spaces that foster friendship. While we often treat loneliness as a personal struggle, Walker suggests the problem is environmental. We have dismantled the "third places" in our lives.

What is a Third Place?

Sociologists define our "first place" as home and our "second place" as work. A "third place" is an informal gathering spot—like a park, hobby group, or church—where people interact regularly without the pressures of home or the transactions of business.

The Mental Health Connection

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared loneliness a public health crisis, linking isolation to depression and anxiety. Close friendships rarely form through willpower alone; they grow through "repeated, low-stakes contact." When we lose spaces where we naturally bump into the same people, we lose the foundation of trust that protects our mental well-being.

The Church as a Vital Space

As the WISE team, we recognize our faith community as one of the few remaining "third places," offering an environment where adults encounter one another around shared values. By showing up for coffee hour, joining the choir, or volunteering for a community meal, we aren't just "doing an activity"—we are rebuilding the social infrastructure that keeps us mentally healthy. We are creating a space where connection is inevitable.

Let's continue to make our church a place where people are seen, known, and supported. Your presence matters for the health of every person in the room.

Reference: Walker, A. M. (2026). We've Lost the Spaces That Foster Friendship. Psychology Today. Available at: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/hidden-desires/202602/weve-lost-the-spaces-that-foster-friendship>



VIRTUAL DRAG QUEEN BIBLE STUDY
W/ REV. MARGE ERIN SPREAD

MARCH 3, 2026
7PM-8:30PM ET

Lesson:
Spilling Tea at the Well (John 4:1-30)

A DEEP DIVE INTO QUEER THEOLOGY

- Historical context behind the text
- Queer interpretations in plain language
- Space for your questions & reflections
- A brave, affirming space

REGISTRATION STARTS AT \$15 FOR INDIVIDUALS
AND \$75 FOR SMALL CHURCHES.

God is Love

Register online at OpenAndAffirming.org

The poster features a vibrant image of Rev. Marge Erin Spread, a drag queen with pink and purple hair, wearing a colorful, patterned jacket. The background is dark blue with white and yellow text. There is a QR code in the top right corner and a small logo for the Open and Affirming Coalition in the top left corner. At the bottom, there is an image of an open Bible and a cup of coffee.

Join the ONA team
Tuesday, March 3 from 7 -
8:30 in the sanctuary.

No registration required.

**Save the date for this special event
sponsored by the
Meditation Group and WISE**

Open Labyrinth Event Theme: Walk for Peace

**at Webster UCC
570 Klem Rd, Webster
May 2 9:00-2:00**

**In celebration of World Labyrinth Day,
you are invited to visit the
WUCC labyrinth.**

walk, ponder, meditate, linger, pray



questions? Contact

**Colleen cmaykunz@yahoo.com
Wendy wlesko88@gmail.com**

FROM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The church's Leadership Council met on Thursday, February 27, and we had a packed agenda. The following topics were discussed.

- A proposal for how we will respond if ICE agents come to our church
- Numbering the interior and exterior doors to help first responders
- Our icicle\heat loss problems
- How to keep our building entrances and exits free of snow and ice
- Prioritization of items to purchase with some of our capital reserve money
- Building Use Agreements and Event Request Forms
- What platform we want to use for virtual group meetings
- An update on utility cost increases
- How the church can make our programs known during the summer concerts
- Update on the search for a new church database management program
- Staff policies and procedures as well as the transition to Michelle as staff supervisor
- Work toward making sure that we are compliant with the licensing rules for streaming services
- Updates regarding Woodside

If you would like to know more about any of these discussions, please reach out to a member of the Leadership Council. Our work is not “secret”, and anyone is welcome to attend our bi-monthly meetings.



Snow removal help needed!

Looking for people to help clear the sidewalks/entrances to church. Can you sign up for a week or a few days and/or be a back up shoveler? Your help is appreciated as we navigate these last snowy days (we hope) of winter!

Please contact: Pete Sollame 585-749-3849 petesollame@gmail.com

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

February 2026

	Income	Expense
Monthly	\$30,833	\$18,360
Year To Date	\$43,702	\$36,054
	February 28 Balance	% change for year
*Endowment	\$864,624	2.7%
Other Funds	\$75,529	
Total	\$940,153	

* % change excludes 142k transfer in January 2026

From the Mission Team

The first of four special offerings that lead us to become a Strive for 5 church will be received March 15 through April 5. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a special mission offering of the UCC. It provides disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the world. If writing a check or donating online, please indicate it is for OGHS. Blanket Sunday donations totaled \$1146. Thanks to your generosity, blankets will be provided around the world to those in need of warmth and comfort.

March Birthdays

Susan Mitchell 03/02

Tony LaDuca 03/03

Donna Fonda 03/05

Margaret Tsai 03/05

Emily Duga 03/06

Tim Kendrick 03/06

David Gregory 03/07

Joelle Boland 03/09

Thomas Hopkins 03/10

Marian Payne 03/10

Ruth Peck 03/10

Trey Breedy 03/13

Wendy Lesko 03/13

John Norton 03/13

Carole Roth 03/14

Eve McDowell 03/15

Julie Mihalyov 03/21

Alison Reindel 03/23

Jayme Stephens 03/23

Lynne Battaglia-Triggs 03/26

Becky Sollame 03/26

Michael Green 03/29

Joseph Gerard 03/31

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen situations that require cancellation of Sunday Worship or other activities during the week, the closure will be announced via:

- UCC-announce email
- Church Facebook page (United Church of Christ, Congregational)
- Church website (uccwebster.org)
- if Webster school activities are canceled, the church, including the office, will also be closed.

Channel 13/WHAM no longer announces church closures on air. **If you do not have internet access and would like to be added to a phone tree, please let the office know.**

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1 REBEL BE Worship S confirmat	2	3 Piano Tun ONA event Girl Scout HOT TOPIC	4 Wednesda scouts in C	5 Rockers at Thursday Drop-in Co	6 communit	7 Purse Filli
8 REBEL BE Worship S Free Com	9 Webelos in Mission Te	10	11 Wednesda scouts in C	12 Classroom Thursday Drop-in Co girl scout	13 communit	14 bag lunch set up chi
15 REBEL BE Worship S Chili Cool	16 scout pac	17 lunch bun Girl Scout HOT TOPIC	18 Lunch Bur Wednesda scouts in C	19 Rockers at Classroom Thursday Drop-in Co Scout den	20	21 Dawn Pete
22 REBEL BE THE CUR Worship S	23	24 GS Troop C wine & che	25 Wednesda scouts in C	26 Classroom Thursday Drop-in Co	27	28 Baber Hot
29 REBEL BE Worship S	30	31	1 Lounge Re Wednesda scouts in C	2 Rockers at Thursday Drop-in Co empty ton	3 empty ton	4 Set Up for

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Sunday Schedule

10:00 am

Worship Service

(also live stream on Facebook & YouTube)
Rebel Beat
(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. Michelle Sumption Stone
Senior Pastor

Beth Royer, Office Manager

Wendy Lesko, Director of Family
Programming & Community Outreach

Ronald Milliman, Music Director

Oleksandra Yurchenko, Accompanist

Chris Hendrickson, Custodian

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

Judy Short, Finance

Marcia Kendrick, Memorials & Special Gifts