

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.

Sunday October 18, 2026 10:00 AM

Reverend Michelle Sumption Stone

WEBSTER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 18, 2026

10:00 A.M.

Prelude

Oleksandra Yurchenko

Words of Welcome

Gathering Song

“Bring Many Names”

NCH #11

Bring many names, beautiful and good. Celebrate, in parable and story, holiness, in glory, living, loving God. Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day, planning all the wonders of creation, setting each equation, genius at play: Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child, feeling all the stirring of human living, caring and forgiving, till we're reconciled: Hail and Hosanna, warm, father God!

Great, living God, never fully known, joyful darkness far beyond our seeing, closer yet than breathing, everlasting home: Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!

An Offering of Prayer- Joys and Concerns

PLEASE LIFT YOUR HAND TO SHARE REQUEST

In response to each request, the minister will say “Loving God”

The congregation will respond, “**Hear our Prayer.**”

Pastoral Prayer, followed by The Lord's Prayer

Blessed One, Holy is your name. May your love be enacted in the world.

May your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Help us to forgive ourselves as we forgive one another. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For all that we do in your love, and all that your love brings to birth, and the fullness of love that will be are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sung Prayer Response “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” TFWS #2193

God, listen to your children praying. God, send your Spirit in this place. God, listen to your children praying. Send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Greeting One Another with God's Peace (*a wave, a nod, a sign of peace...*)
"May the Peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you."

Choral Anthem "Love Grows Here"- Don Besig Ron Milliman, Director

Offering

Invitation

Offertory

Prayer of Gratitude and Dedication

Oleksandra Yurchenko

Scripture Reading (NRSV, Updated Edition) Matthew 2:1-12

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: **6** 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " **7** Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." **9** When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. **11** On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Message "Our Finest Gifts We Bring" Pastor Michelle

Song of Response "Brightest and Best" NCH #156

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our midnight and lead us your aid. Star of the East the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Shall we not offer our costly devotion, fragrance of Edom and offerings divine, Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts we favor secure. Richer by far is the heart's adoration; dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Announcements

Benediction

Sung Congregational Benediction“Clap Your Hands” TFWS #2028
Clap your hands! Clap your hands! Sing a new song in celebration! Clap your hands! Clap your hands! Sing a new song in celebration! Clap your hands! Clap your hands! God is great we praise our God with song! God is great! We praise our God with song!

Postlude

Oleksandra Yurchenko

Flowers provided by Pat Milne and Jayme & Vanessa Stephens in memory of Nelson Milne

Serving you this morning:

Reader – Heather Himes
Greeter— Marcia Kendrick

Livestream – Ken Mihalyov

ANNOUNCEMENTS 10/18/26

SPOOKY SHENANIGANS- Our very own Rebel Beat youth kids & families will be haunting the woods again on Sunday October 18th 11:30-12:00. Fun for all ages! Invite your friends. If you would like to decorate your trunk for a little bit of trunk or treating, let Wendy Lesko know. wlesko88@gmail.com

WALL OF APPRECIATION- Have you ever stopped to think about the many ways our church changes lives? Every week, people walk through our doors to worship, learn, build friendships, find support, and discover opportunities to serve others. But the impact of our church reaches far beyond our walls. It's there in the donations collected for Webster Comfort Care, bringing comfort to people nearing the end of life's journey. It's in the Thanksgiving meal provided for a grandmother raising her grandchild, the school supplies given to a child in need, and the welcoming space we offer for free community dinners. And these are just a few examples. Take a moment to think about how our church has touched your life or made a difference in the lives of others. Perhaps you've found friendship, felt supported during a difficult time, experienced a meaningful moment in worship, or witnessed an act of kindness. **Share your thoughts on our Wall of Appreciation**, located in the hallway just off the Narthex. Add a note, share a memory, or simply express what our church means to you. We are part of an amazing church community, and we have so much to celebrate!

COCKTAIL CLASS: October 15, 6:30 pm. Just in time for spooky season, spend an evening with Joe Izzo and Ilse Passalacqua listening to stories about poisoners, purloiners, and pirates while sipping the cocktails they inspire. All are welcome (≥21 years of age). Please RSVP to joespub.xyz@gmail.com by October 11.

THURSDAY MORNING RESOURCE: "If the Church Were Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus," by Philip Gulley. The author provides "a profound picture of what the church could look like if it refocused on the priorities of Jesus." Beginning October 29th, 9:30-11:00 AM, Thursdays. By Zoom. For information contact Joe Roth (585-671-8458) or

THE NEIGHBORS TABLE PROJECT: The Rebel Beat youth & kids established this project so they can fill ready-to-make meal bags throughout the year for families in need. For the month of October, we will collect cans of Chili with NO Beans. Thank you so much for your help gathering these simple ingredients that will become meaningful meals because ***everyone deserves a place at the table.*** A collection basket is in the narthex. Questions? Wlesko88@gmail.com

MOVE-IN-KITS: The Rebel Beat youth & kids are collecting items to fill Move-In Kits for apartments after shelter.

follow the link or sign-up in narthex: (items due October 18)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IiYF3ZKd0bNtr3b35Mup_4s3U09RkKBFq6hLlpVQ57o/edit?usp=drivesdk

FAMILY PROMISE OF GREATER ROCHESTER. fpgroc.org. Keeping families together. Getting families home for good.

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH: The Rebel Beat youth & kids will host a Christmas breakfast after worship on December 6. All proceeds support youth outreach projects.

FREE COMMUNITY SUNDAY SUPPER- November 8th, 4:30-5:30. Everyone is welcome. The menu is Breakfast for Dinner! Contact Wendy if you'd like to volunteer wlesko88@gmail.com

COMFORT & JOY COOKIE SALE: December 13th. Save the date. more info soon

MISSION TEAMS NEWS: third of four special offerings, Neighbors in Need, will be received during October. Donations support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US.

CLEAN YOUR CLOSETS: Just a reminder... we collect winter coats for the guests at Baber with the goal of distributing them in October and November. A basket is in the narthex. Questions wlesko88@gmail.com

DISH CLOTHS: Reminder to keep crocheting/knitting dish clothes for the Thanksgiving grocery bags for Rochester Advocates for Children and Move-in kits for families at Family Promise of Greater Rochester. Questions? Wlesko88@gmail.com

ONGOING

FRIENDS AND FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS- Open to all! The next luncheon is Thursday, 10/22 at 1pm at Eastridge Restaurant. Please let Lynne know if you are coming so she reserves the correct size table StillLynnePA@gmail.com

HOT TOPICS: The Hot Topics discussion group will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of October - October 6 and October 20 - at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will be discussing the upcoming November elections - Who are the candidates? What are the issues? How might the election be manipulated? And anything else pertaining to the elections that is on your mind. For more information, or to be added to the e-mail list, contact richard_kendrick@verizon.net.

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP- Please use the following link to sign up to volunteer during our Sunday services: <https://uccwebster.org/worship-volunteer-opportunities/>

MEDITATION GROUP- Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the back of the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

The Nurture Team: is a group of caring individuals who express the love of God through their Ministry of Care. They hope to walk with those in need of company or pray. They liaison with the pastor if a pastoral visit is desired. If you have a concern or need of prayer or if you know someone who does, please put a note in the offering plate.

PRAYER SHAWL: This group does not formally meet. It's for anyone who wants to knit or crochet prayer shawls to be given to people in need of comfort and/or dish cloths for outreach grocery bags given to people in need. contact Wendy wlesko88@gmail.com

INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER should be directed to Wendy Lesko wlesko88@gmail.com by the 25th of the month

ANNOUNCEMENTS EMAIL LIST If you'd like to receive email notifications from church, you can join our email list. There's a link on the church website under "Connect with Us".

<https://uccwebster.org/connect-with-us/> Enter your email address and hit "subscribe."

NAME TAGS – If you need a nametag, please email Carole Kohler at carolekohler1192@gmail.com with the first and last names of your family members or sign up in the narthex.

FLOWERS We invite anyone who would like to contribute to the beauty of our worship service to bring flowers on Sunday for the communion table. Whether from your garden, a roadside bouquet, or a florist, your gift will create a beautiful expression of gratitude and praise.

CLOTHING & SMALL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS Please place the items in the 2 bins located in the hall near the West Entrance. Items are distributed to Cameron Community, Matthew's Closet, or Saints Place. Thank You!

THE ROCKERS This is a group of the mature men from our congregation that meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month at 8:30am at The Nutcracker Restaurant

COFFEE HOUR Volunteers are needed to sign up to coordinate a week (make the coffee, provide a treat). If you are interested, please contact Heidi Zastowny

heidizastowny@gmail.com (585) 314-0678) or Diane Cannarozzo dcannaro@gmail.com

IN THE COMMUNITY

ARTS & CRAFTS SALE The Webster Seniors Association of Program Supporters (WASPS) will be holding their fundraising Arts and Crafts Sale on November 7th from 10-3. It is being held at the Webster Parks and Recreation Center.

PET FOOD NEEDED: The pet food pantry needs donations of dry and canned cat food and dog food. A collection basket is in the narthex. Thank you

Support for Stephanie and Her Family

As many of you know, Wendy Lesko's daughter, Stephanie, is living with terminal stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. She recently moved herself and her daughters into an apartment—a courageous step towards building a safe, peaceful home where her girls can thrive. A friend of Steph's has set up a GoFundMe to provide financial support for her: <https://gofund.me/7313e0c0b>

For those who prefer not to give online, the church will accept donations through **Nov. 15**. You can write a check to Webster UCC with **"Stephanie"** in the memo line; gifts will be combined into a single donation to the GoFundMe. Please also keep Stephanie, Wendy, and the entire family in your prayers.



Help Steph Create Unforgettable Memories With Her Family

Steph is living with terminal stage 4 metastatic breast cancer that has spread throughout her bones, liver, and brain. There is no cure. Her treatments focus on slowing progression to give her as much time as possible with the people she loves.

At 37, Steph is facing a reality no young mom should ever imagine: her time with her daughters, Autumn (7) and Mae (3), is limited. She lives with constant pain, profound fatigue, and severe physical limitations. Yet her greatest wish is to be present for her girls and build the most beautiful final years together that she can. We want to give her the freedom to say yes to the moments and little joys that make life meaningful.

Steph's Story

Steph was first diagnosed in 2020 at age 29. After a double mastectomy, chemotherapy, and radiation, she was told her cancer was gone. Less than two years later, she was blessed with baby Mae—a bright light after so many dark times.

In 2024, seven months after having Mae, Steph developed persistent hip pain. After months of wrong diagnoses, proper scanning confirmed her worst nightmare: the cancer had returned and metastasized throughout her skeleton, leaving her with over 10 compression fractures along her spine.

The cancer has since spread to her brain. When new tumors appear, she undergoes brain radiation alongside regular infusions every three weeks. The exhaustion and pain are severe—she can no longer run, hike, or drive, and even standing to cook dinner is difficult. Metastatic breast cancer is terminal, but Steph pushes through every day for her girlies.

Making Every Moment Count

Steph isn't asking for miracles. This isn't about more time—it's about making the time she has count. Our goal is to take away one big worry: the financial burden of living these last years in the most fulfilling way possible.

Together, we can help Steph:

- **Have memory-filled days** with Autumn and Mae.
- **Take special trips and adventures** with her girls.
- **Focus completely on her family** without financial worry.
- **Enjoy peaceful hobbies at home**, like crafts and drawing, as physical limitations grow.

How You Can Help

This fund was created by her closest friends so Steph can focus on being present as a mom—fully engaged, fully alive, and surrounded by love. We cannot change Steph's diagnosis, but we can change what the time ahead looks like.

- **Donate online or through the church.** Every dollar goes directly to Steph to use within her limitations.
- **Share her story** to help reach others who can contribute.

Thank you for surrounding Stephanie and her family with love, support, and peace.

Spots Available at Woodside Nursery School



AM and PM Tiny Tots



**AM and PM
Busy Bees**



**Wednesday and
Friday Pre-K**



Busy Bees STEM



Pre-K STEM



Explorers