

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 25, 2026 10:00 AM

Reverend Michelle Sumption Stone

WEBSTER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 25, 2026

10:00 A.M.

Prelude

Oleksandra Yurchenko

Words of Welcome

Ilse Passalacqua

Gathering Song “For the Beauty of the Earth”

NCH #28

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies. For the love which from our birth over and around us lies. God of all to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night. Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light. God of all to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, sibling, partner, parent, child; friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild. God of all to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude. For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed. God of all to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

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

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Sung Prayer Response “In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

TFWS #2195

In my God I’ll be ever thankful, in my God I will rejoice! Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices, our God is near, lift up your voices, our God is near.

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 "All That Lasts"- Joseph Martin, David Angerman

Ron Milliman, Director

Offering

Invitation

Offertory

Oleksandra Yurchenko

Prayer of Gratitude and Dedication

Sacred Text Reading Excerpt from *Tao Te Ching* by Lao Tzu, Book Two, Part XLIX, 110-112

The sage has no mind of his own. He takes as his own the mind of the people. Those who are good I treat as good. Those who are not good I also treat as good. In so doing I gain in goodness. Those who are of good faith I have faith in. Those who are lacking in good faith I also have faith in. In so doing I gain in good faith.

The sage in his attempt to distract the mind of the empire seeks urgently to muddle it. The people all have something to occupy their eyes and ears, and the sage treats them all like children.

Scripture Reading (The Inclusive Bible)

Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?" Jesus answered:

"'You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.' That is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: 'You must love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments the whole Law is based- and the Prophets as well."

Message

"Way Over Yonder"

Pastor Michelle

Song of Response "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

NCH #43

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven on earth be found. Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown. Jesus, you are all compassion: pure, unbounded love impart. Visit us with your agape, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast. Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest. Teach us how to love our neighbor. Alpha and Omega be: end of faith as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Church Chat

Announcements

Benediction

Sung Congregational Benediction“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve” TFWS #2241

The Spirit sends us forth to serve, we go in Jesus’ name to bring glad tidings to the poor, God’s favor to proclaim.

We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free; where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.

Postlude

Oleksandra Yurchenko

Serving you this morning:

Reader – Heather Himes
Greeter— Ruth Peck

Livestream – Ken Mihalyov

ANNOUNCEMENTS 10/25/26

Dear Friends,

I will be among you on November 1 as worship leader. We will celebrate Communion together AND we will also celebrate All Saints Day. Please be ready with the name or names of deceased loved ones. There will be some pieces of paper available for you to write those precious names down. During the worship service, as you come forward for Communion, I will be holding a basket for you to place these names. (For those of you who remain seated, your names will be collected and given to me.) AND the worship service will consist of honoring our sacred hymns. What is YOUR favorite hymn? There will be an opportunity for you to “name that tune.” I look forward to worshipping with you on November 1.

*Blessings,
Pastor Deborah*

THANKSGIVING GROCERIES: For Rochester Advocates for Children are due November 15th. The signup is in the narthex or online at this link

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KOuLAIzFLSSKVerN86jqYG7EISjaxgm-r2-2tsAv-dE/edit?usp=drivesdk> Questions? see Wendy 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!

ONA EVENT: Drag Bingo with Aggy Dune Join us for a night of laughter, celebration and community at Comedy at the Carlson on November 12 @ 7pm. A portion of the proceeds for the evening will support the Human Rights Campaign. Tickets: \$30.00 and include five bingo games and a dauber. Purchase tickets at www.carlsoncomedy.com.

If you plan to join us, please let us know so we can meet at the venue and be seated together. For more information, contact Jeff Peck at jefferypeck@gmail.com.

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 jaro462@gmail.com

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 Sunday)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1liYF3ZKd0bNtr3b35Mup_4s3U09RkKBFq6hLlpVQ57o/edit?usp=drivesdk

FAMILY PROMISE OF GREATER ROCHESTER. fpgroc.org. Keeping families together. Getting families home for good. Question? wlesko88@gmail.com

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

Please join us as Ilse shares all that Lifespan has to offer to senior citizens, and their caregivers. Join us after worship in Fellowship Center this Sunday, October 25.



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 be meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of November - November 3 and Nov 17 - at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our topic on November 3 will be understanding student unrest in Europe. On November 17 we will talk about outcomes of the mid-term elections. All are welcome to join us. 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 girls.

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.