

# hands & feet



A monthly newsletter of the Webster United Church of Christ, Federated

## Mark Your Calendar

Tuesdays 6pm Small Group  
"Unwrapping Advent" Small Group

Saturday, December 6, 1-3pm  
Community Christmas Party

Thursday, December 18, 6:30pm  
Blue Christmas Service

Saturday, December 20, 12:30pm  
Yuletide Tea

Sunday, December 21 after worship  
Monthly brunch and  
birthday celebration

Wednesday, December 24  
Christmas Eve Services  
6pm and 11pm



## EDITORIAL



*Aspiring to a Simpler Advent*

Dear friends in Christ,

'Tis the season...of overwhelm?

Culturally, December is a smorgasbord of festivities: pumpkin spice lattes, freshly-strung Christmas lights, holiday parties, trips to the tree farm, and more! In our life together at UCC Federated too, there is much to do, like our Advent small group, our Giving Tree, Community Christmas Party, Yuletide Tea, Blue Christmas service, and, of course, our Christmas Eve services. Frankly, I love this season for all that is happening--and how fun much of it is! But, year after year, I have found I am pretty depleted by the time Christmas actually arrives. This year, I want to keep it simple.

The idea isn't to refrain from doing what you love; the aim is to invest your time and energy intentionally, into things that nourish and encourage you, so you wake up Christmas morning feeling renewed and fully present.

I'll share with you some of the goals I'm working toward this season:

1. **Seek God in a new way.** Our Advent small group (Unwrapping Advent) promises to be a great template for ongoing reflection on God's word this season--but there are other ways, too. Ready to start a new morning quiet

(continued on page 2)

## DECEMBER 2025 EDITION

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. Galatians 4:4-5



## EDITORIAL (conclusion)

time with scripture by candlelight? Want to start an evening walk with God, savoring the changing sky overhead? Feeling the nudge to find a prayer partner for accountability? Try it!

2. **When you say you don't have time to do something, pause and consider.** Sometimes, when I think, "Oh, I don't have time for this," I have neither time nor interest. I'm not feeling within it an invitation from God. Other times, though, I'm choosing doing over presence. When I'm walking out the door for work and my daughter wants to share something with me, for example, I hope I'll make time for what may be a powerful moment of connection.
3. **Consider alternative gifts this year.** Black Friday and Cyber Monday are geared to kick-off a season of consumption. Over the last few years, I've tried transitioning my family to fewer "things" and more experiences and impacts. I encourage my kids to give the gift of quality time--in whatever fun package they can think up!


4. **Choose a way to give back that feeds your soul.** I've aspired to give folks plenty of options for service through our church--and you have only to ask our volunteers and ministry leaders for a list of more ways to push up your sleeves and help!

In the midst of the busy-ness, hold fast to spiritual rhythms that keep you whole. "Spiritual rhythms" is a term of which I've grown rather fond--because it captures that complete set of spiritual disciplines and self-care rituals that keep us showing up as our full and healthy selves. These might include regular prayer, sabbath (relaxation time with God), and time in community. What does that look like for you? How can you safeguard it as things get busier?

I hope you give yourself permission to choose well how you spend yourself this season. Whatever you choose, may it give you life--and may you show up fully within it. These two things--life and presence--are vital pieces of "preparing the way" for love to be born, right here and now.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas!


Pastor Sabina



**PRAYER OF THE MONTH**

May there always be room in your heart for divinity to find a birthing place.  
May you be holy as the angels were,  
faithful as the shepherds were,  
humble as the cattle were,  
wise as the Wise Men were.  
May you have the compassion Mary had  
and the understanding Joseph had,  
and may the blessing of the Christ child be yours,  
not because of His birthnight long ago,  
but because His love is born in you today!


*"Advent creates people, new people."*  
*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, God is in the Manger:*  
*Reflections on Advent and Christmas*



**Verse of the Month**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-20-2001

**SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ... GOD HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT**



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## Come Home for Christmas

New sermon Series starting on  
November 30th.

Jesus is calling... "Come home this Christmas..."

Date	Scripture	Sermon
11/30 1st Sunday of Advent	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Luke 21:25-36	"Time to Go Home"
12/07 2nd Sunday of Advent	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 3:1-6	"The Fear of Home"
12/14 3rd Sunday of Advent	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Luke 3:7-18	The Joy of Home
12/21 4th Sunday of Advent	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:39-45	The Blessing of Home



*"Some of us walk into Advent tethered to our unresolved yesterdays, the pain still stabbing; the hurt still throbbing. It's not that we don't know better; it's just that we can't stand up anymore by ourselves. On the way to Bethlehem, will you give us a hand?" Ann Weems*

**There are years when we hurt at Christmas time and cannot get into the festivities others seem to be able to do...**

In these times, we can make the space and take the time to acknowledge our pain and sadness. We can remind ourselves that we are not alone. We can experience the love and concern of God through the caring of others.

We invite you to come experience a Word of hope that **God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle, and that God's Word comes to shine light in our darkness.**

Experience the wonder and hope of Christmas with live music, prayer and candlelight.

**Thursday, December 18th,  
at 6:30pm**

## Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

**JOIN US DECEMBER 24 AT  
6PM OR 11PM**

# Ministries News



## Merry Christmas from the Threads of Hope Closet!

The Threads of Hope Closet is flourishing thanks to the many volunteers who dedicate their time every week. It takes many people to keep the Closet stocked, and a lot of work goes on behind the scenes. Bringing the donations into the gym, sorting the clothing, hanging it or folding it, then restocking the shelves and racks in the store takes time, but the volunteers bring their positive vibes, personal stories, and sometimes music to pass the time, and many hands make light work. Here is a picture of the volunteers from our recent dinner which celebrated the Threads Closet one year anniversary.

Standing (from left to right) Regina Kontoes, Debbie Bell, Rita Burns, Joyce Johnson, Gayle Bannister, RoseAnn Cushing  
 Seated (from left to right) Margaret Yurkevicius, Robert Kontoes, MaryAnn Richard, Margaret Lorenczykova, Karron Lacey  
 Sitting on Floor (left to right) Gloria Bannister, Nina Julian, Lina Lacey  
 Not pictured Meredith Hogan, Earlene Ray, Claire Lewis, Paula Burton, and Kwasi from Ghana



**FEED MY SHEEP**  
 Free Meal Ministry

## Celebrating Two Years of Feed My Sheep

On December 7th, we joyfully mark the second anniversary of our Feed My Sheep ministry.

Every Thursday, this outreach offers a warm, free meal to anyone in need, and **in 2025 alone more than 1,000 meals have been served.**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the faithful volunteers whose hard work keeps this ministry running—and to the generous donors whose gifts make each meal possible. Your kindness has strengthened our community and shared God's love in meaningful ways.

As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to another year of serving our neighbors with compassion and grace.

Thank you to Brian Perry for his \$1,000 donation to our food ministry.

Thank you to the community who gave over \$200 in donations during the Halloween Party!

Thank you to our amazing group of volunteers from the church and the community!



Thank you to the Lions' Club for their \$250 donation to our ministry! Pictured is Lions President Stephen Grover, & Lion Debbie Grover, along with our ministry leader, Carol Beauchesne!





# Ministries News



## Last instructions for the Giving Tree!!

If you have taken a tag, please plan to spend a minimum of about \$50 on that child. Please note: no gift cards. Please do not wrap the gifts; put them in a gift bag to make it easier for parents to bring them home.

Presents will need to be turned in to the Ladies' Parlor on Friday, December 12th, from 4-6pm or Sunday, December 14th, between 10am and noon, so that presents can be distributed to parents and guardians on Tuesday, December 16th, from 9-11am or Thursday, December 18th, from 4-7pm.

Questions? Please contact Gayle at [websterdudleygivingtree@yahoo.com](mailto:websterdudleygivingtree@yahoo.com) or phone her directly at 774.200.8988.



## Golden Bees Sleeping Bag Ministry: Sharing Warmth, Hope, and God's Love

As the seasons turn colder, the work of our Golden Bees Sleeping Bag Ministry shines ever

brighter.

This year alone, our dedicated volunteers have made and distributed 685 sleeping bags, along with nearly as many carefully assembled health kits. Each sleeping bag and kit represents a personal touch of compassion for individuals in our community and beyond experiencing homelessness—reminders that they are seen, valued, and not forgotten.

The health kits include essential personal care items, and at this time of year we also try to add hand warmers to help provide extra comfort against the winter chill. Our supply shelves are currently in need of the following items:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hard candy      | <input type="checkbox"/> Band-aids                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-in-1 shampoo  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand warmers                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste      | <input type="checkbox"/> Small packets of tissues         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lotion          | <input type="checkbox"/> Mittens                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's socks     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheets, blankets, and comforters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paperback books |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand towels     |   |

Any donations of these items are greatly appreciated and make an immediate difference.

We also want to take a moment to recognize and thank the incredible volunteers who make this ministry possible. Every Monday morning, the Golden Bees gather—pinning, sewing, assembling, and preparing each sleeping bag with care.

Many volunteers also contribute from home, sewing or collecting materials throughout the week. Their dedication ensures that our ministry continues to serve those who need it most.

To all of our Golden Bees: thank you. Your hands, hearts, and faith bring warmth and dignity to so many in our community.

If you would like to donate or get involved, please contact Carol Beauchesne at 860-481-0233.

Donations can be dropped off at the church on Mondays from 9:00am to 12:00pm or at the church office on Tuesday through Friday from 9:30am to 1:00pm.

**Together, we can continue to spread God's love—one sleeping bag at a time.**



Thank you to the Foster Corporation who gave a \$498 donation to the Golden Bees!

# Spiritual Growth

On Tuesday, December 2, we will be taking a break from our “Bible 101” small group to start “Unwrapping Advent”, a 4-Week Devotional by Margaret Feinberg.

The weeks leading up to Christmas are all too often filled with lists and to-dos. Instead of living in wild expectation of Jesus’s birth, we find ourselves standing in lines at grocery stores, boutiques, and big box stores. Yet, Advent beckons us to prepare for the arrival of a tiny infant whose frame was so small you could cradle him in the palm of your hand.

The purpose of Advent is two-fold. The first is a celebration of the first arrival of Christ; the second is an anticipation of Christ’s return. Advent gently reminds us of the “now” and “not yet” that comes with being people of faith. Advent reminds us of the importance of waiting. Advent whispers our need for a Savior. Advent teaches us God’s timing is always better than ours. Whether you’re new to celebrating Advent or you’ve observed Advent for many years, we want to



encourage you to begin nurturing a sense of awe and anticipation in your life for Christ. From the events surrounding His miracle-studded arrival to His unforgettable life, death, and resurrection, those who encountered Jesus Christ were taken back with a profound sense of wonder.

Join us from December 2nd until December 23rd on an advent-ure as we unwrap the wonder of Christ’s birth.

## EVENTS

### *Yuletide Tea*

**Saturday,  
December 20th, 2025  
12:30pm—2:30pm**

*Join us for a magical Christmas experience including:*

**A variety of finger foods**  
(assorted sandwiches, homemade pastries...) and, of course, teas (and beverages)!

**Gift basket raffle**

Tickets are \$20  
(\$10 for children 12 and under,  
free for children 3 and under)  
(advance purchase only,  
raffle tickets not included).

All proceeds will benefit our

**Feed my Sheep**

free meal ministry on Thursdays at 5pm!

**United Church of Christ, Federated**  
4 Church Street, Webster, MA

Please contact Gayle Bannister at 774-200-8988  
or email [gaylebannister@yahoo.com](mailto:gaylebannister@yahoo.com)  
for information or to purchase tickets.





# EVENTS



## FREE COMMUNITY Christmas Party

DECEMBER

SATURDAY

6

1-3PM

Crafts, Cookie Decorating, Games with prizes for all, Face Painting, Scavenger Hunt, Christmas Pinatas, and refreshments! SANTA CLAUS WILL BE THERE!!  
Each child will receive a gift from Santa!

a Christmas of  
**PEACE**

Glory to God  
in the highest,  
And on earth  
peace, goodwill  
toward men!

Luke 2:14

### What is Christmas?

Christmas is not getting things, because Christmas is not things at all. Christmas is a wonder. And it is *for* wonder.

**Christmas is believing.**  
**Christmas is hoping.**  
**Christmas is dreaming.**

It is a holiday holy to humanity's dreams and hopes. That is why Christmas is, first of all, the Christmas story. Christmas is the birth of Christ.

The birth of Christ is the birth of humanity's best dream and highest hope. It is the birth of God in humanity. Take time this Christmas to read the story

again.

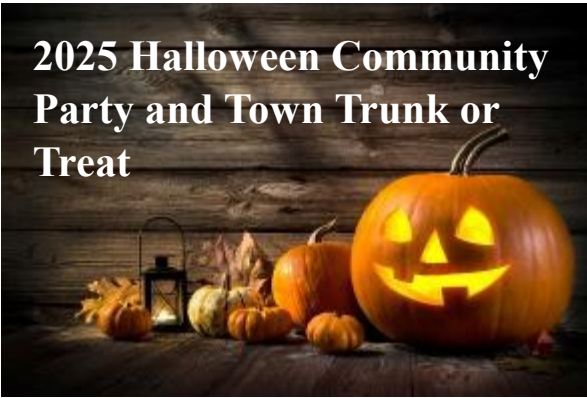
Because there was no room at the inn, God was born in a stable, in a manger. Angels sang in the skies. Is my mind not a stable? Is my heart not a manger? They, too, can hold the wonder of which the angels sang.

The Christmas story holds hope for us all. For in the story—remember!—both the shepherds and the Wise Men found their newborn Lord. God reveals Himself alike to shepherds and to Wise Men, to all who come looking for Him. So if you have a wise man's mind or if you have a shepherd's heart, come take a look at Christmas, and be filled with the wonder of God.



# PAST EVENTS

## 2025 Halloween Community Party and Town Trunk or Treat



### Town Trunk or Treat

Thank you volunteers!

Regina,  
Linda,  
Julie,  
Margaret,  
and Doris



### Community Halloween Party





# PAST EVENTS





# PAST EVENTS



The Missing Man Table



The Pulaski Brass Band



**"THE WILLINGNESS OF AMERICA'S VETERANS TO SACRIFICE FOR OUR COUNTRY  
HAS EARNED THEM OUR LASTING GRATITUDE" - JEFF MILLER**



# PAST EVENTS



# United Church of Christ, Federated

*"Come as you are, we mean it!"*

4 Church Street  
Webster, MA 01571  
508-943-0061  
[uccfedwebster.org](http://uccfedwebster.org)  
[office@uccfedwebster.org](mailto:office@uccfedwebster.org)  
Pastor Sabina Terrades  
[pastor@uccfedwebster.org](mailto:pastor@uccfedwebster.org)



## hands & feet



A monthly newsletter of the Webster United Church of Christ Federated

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday through Friday, 9:30-1, or by appointment

WORSHIP: Sundays at 10, in person and live on Facebook

BIBLE STUDY / SMALL GROUPS: Tuesdays at 6pm

THREADS OF HOPE (free clothing, hygiene products,...): Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-11, Thursdays 4-7

FEED MY SHEEP FREE MEAL MINISTRY: Thursdays, 5

GOLDEN BEES SLEEPING BAG MINISTRY: Mondays, 9-12

KNIT PRAY LOVE MINISTRY: Mondays, 10-12, Ladies' Parlor

OUTDOOR FOOD PANTRY: Ongoing