

hands & feet

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

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesdays 6:30pm Small Group
"Bible 101"

Reconvenes on September 16!

September 14

Celebration to honor Edna Patri
uring worship, followed by a luncheon

October 4, 10am to 3pm

Dudley Grange's Apple Festival



EDITORIAL

Dear friends in Christ,

The Labor Day holiday marks a great transition in our society. Schools have begun their academic year. Summer comes to an end, while autumn lies ahead of us. Vacation activities have concluded. We begin to turn our heads toward Thanksgiving and Christmas. Time passes swiftly.

September is when the new church year begins, and now there's a fresh breeze filling our sails.

Every September I feel the same temptation: to do something fast, fresh, and famous which would draw more people to our church. To impress upon those who are new that this is a place going somewhere, with a really great pastor at its helm. After all, September is for finding a new church. And we want to put our best foot forward, don't we?

To the horror of many type-A, enthusiastic people like me, who prize efficiency and results, discipleship is a slow and often frustrating process. If you don't believe me, track the growth of Jesus' disciples in any of the gospels. While these men have sat under the best preaching ever and experienced God's power and presence in tremendous ways, they were still slow on the uptake. For example, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" The disciples respond: John the Baptist, Elijah, a prophet... Only one, Peter, gives the right answer. And still, Jesus is patient with them, even when they don't "get it".

(continued on page 2)



SEPTEMBER 2025 EDITION

"Have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?"

James 2:4



EDITORIAL (conclusion)

What should we make of Jesus' patient example? Surely, at minimum, it reminds us of our need to exemplify the kind of patience Jesus showed to others. But, perhaps more deeply, it guards us from turning to superficial tips-and-tricks in our outreach and ministries, just to get results.

In short, a "slow, not fast" approach to ministry addresses the complexity of people's hearts and the various ways in which God's Spirit transforms people. Included in this slow, may not as visible approach: Prayer.

Some of the most important work we can do this September (and every month) won't be on a stage for people to see, but will be done in hidden places. This September, let's commit ourselves to hidden prayer. This hidden prayer happens as we pray for ourselves. Asking God to heal our brokenness and to bring us closer. And it happens as we pray for others when we ask our God to pour out his justice, "for his elect, who cry to him day and night" (Luke 18:6).

As Paul E. Miller writes, "(hidden pray-ers) are the nuclear power plant that fuels so many of the good things we can easily think happened because of good planning or talent."

Now, why am I so focused on prayer right now? Because I am tired. And because I need wind in my sails.

Not only to prepare for our new church year and all the great stuff we are working on. But because of my own involvement in social justice.

That's not big news, I know. But it feels more and more needed and my spiritual gift of prophecy (not foretelling the future, talk to me for definition) is calling me more than ever to real action.

Should I list everything? No need. I work with people with mental illness, addictions, poverty, and homelessness everyday. I see them worrying about losing their health benefits, food stamps, not being able to access housing because rents are enormous and the inventory is incredibly low. Latino friends are afraid to go to public events for they fear to be picked up by masked individuals and put in an unmarked van, sent to who knows where without the due process guaranteed by the Habeas Corpus. LGBTQ+ friends are feeling the hate and discrimination more than ever. Women's rights are going backwards. Books are banned. An entire nation is being eradicated in the Middle East. The enormity of what has been going on sometimes overwhelms me but I refuse to remain silent. So yes, I pray, but I also stand and speak.

We gather. We worship. We pray. We do good works. We give love. We share love. We stand up for each other. It is what we do.

In Christ,

Pastor Sabina



"God Goes to the Movies: Sermon Series"

Pastor Sabina preaches on Star Wars, Jedi Knights, and the power of the "Force", aka the Holy Spirit!
May the Force be with you!

FIRST THEY CAME PASTOR MARTIN NIEMOLLER

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Scripture	Sermon
09/07/2025 Communion Sunday	James 2:1-13	Sermon Series: "God Goes to the Movies" "Stand for Faith and Justice"
09/14/2025	1 Timothy 1:12-17	"Amazing Grace"
09/21/2025	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1	"Is There No Balm in Gilead?"
09/28/2025	Luke 16:19-31	"Beyond the Grave"



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

On Sunday, September 14th, we will be honoring Edna Patri for her 28 years of faithful leadership in the Golden Bees sleeping bag ministry.

Edna's dedication has blessed countless lives, and we invite everyone to join us as we celebrate her service during the morning worship service, followed by a special luncheon in her honor. If you would like to contribute a dish for the luncheon, please see Carol Beauchesne. We hope you can be part of this joyful occasion!

I trust in the Lord with all my heart:
and lean not unto my own understanding.
In all my ways I acknowledge Him, and
He shall direct my paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6



SPECIAL WORSHIP and EVENT

During our Sunday worship on September 7, we will close our "God goes to the Movies" sermon series with a special event.

The New England Conference of the United Methodist

Church has been committing itself to the ongoing work of dismantling racism in our churches, communities, and systems.

As part of these efforts, our 9/7 sermon will be based on the movie "42", the life of baseball player Jackie Robinson. The service will be followed by a showing of the documentary "The History of Race in America". The presenter is speaking to a room of criminal defense attorneys and relies on historical documents to tell how our country became what it is today. Cindy Denson, organizer of this event, shared that, while watching this video, she was struck by how little she knew about the true history of our country.

Come, learn, be informed. A light lunch will be served.

"If one really wishes to know how justice is administered in a country, one does not question the policemen, the lawyers, the judges, or the protected members of the middle class. One goes to the unprotected — those, precisely, who need the law's protection most! — and listens to their testimony."

James Baldwin, *No Name on the Street*

Verse of the Month

Matthew 5:16

*Let your light shine
before men that they may
see your good deeds and
praise your Father
in heaven.*



PRAYER OF THE MONTH

O Divine Artist, we give you praise for the wonders of this summer that now draws to a close. We are thankful for such wonders as the sunshine, the rain, the song of birds, the garden produce, the family gatherings, for the cuttings of hay and the sweet smell of flowers.

Now a new season is coming, one that causes us to move indoors for school and that changes to green to red, brown and harvest gold. But change is difficult for your people. It makes us feel awkward and anxious.

Help us to learn from all of nature how life must change.

Bless this change that is occurring in the land around us. Bless the passages and the transitions that happen in our lives. And when these changes in life cause us pain and anguish, guide us to healing and deeper understanding.

May we let go with courage and allow you to lead us another step closer to your Promised Land. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



FEED MY SHEEP 4TH OF JULY BBQ



Ministries News



The Threads of Hope Closet continues to flourish! The word is definitely spreading, and it's been busier than ever.

Gayle got busy painting the new sorting room off of the gym at the beginning of July. It was her first time using a spray paint-

er, so despite a couple of drips, the room looks refreshed and terrific. Cindy Denson's brother, Al, has kindly volunteered to fix the old floor and lay a new one, then Threads volunteers will move the excess clothing that is now in the gym to the sorting room. One day at a time, one step at a time, but things are coming together.

We ask church members to continue spreading the word for us. It is much appreciated!



The Golden Bees: A Ministry of Warmth and Compassion

Each Monday morning, from 9:00 AM to noon, a faithful and spirited group of mostly senior citizens gathers at the Webster Federated Church to serve those in need through the Golden Bees Ministry.



Their mission is simple, yet deeply impactful: to provide warmth, dignity, and care to the homeless through handmade sleeping bags and personal care kits.

Using donated comforters, blankets, and sheets, the Golden Bees lovingly create sleeping bags that are distributed to homeless shelters, support organizations, and at times, directly to individuals in need. Alongside each sleeping bag, the ministry often includes health kits filled with essential personal care items—another small way to offer comfort and compassion.

The numbers speak volumes. In 2024, the Golden Bees distributed 515 sleeping bags and nearly as many health kits. And in just the first six months of 2025, they've already distributed

over 400 sleeping bags, putting them on track to exceed 800 by year's end. The need is great—and growing—but this dedicated group continues to meet it with grace and generosity.

If you'd like to learn more about the ministry, see how the work is done, or get involved, please stop by on a Monday morning or contact Carol Beauchesne at carolbeauchesne@charter.net or 860-481-0233. Your interest, donations, or helping hands are always welcome.

Together, through faith and love, the Golden Bees are making a real difference—one sleeping bag at a time.



Ministries News



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry, "Knit, Pray, Love" now have 14 prayer shawls in varied colors and sizes and 3 lap robes available. If you know of anyone that would

The team has agreed to schedule Mondays, Sept. 15th and 29th to meet again, 10:00am to 12:00pm. Our team members are Gloria Bannister, Cathy Haringa, Regina Kontoes and yours truly. Please contact me with any interest in joining this ministry, I am available to teach you how to knit or crochet.

benefit from some comfort and prayers, please contact Pastor Sabina. Thank you, Linda Kruzewski

Summer of Kindness

Our summer generosity drive will continue throughout the fall!! What an opportunity to continue supporting our ministries whenever we come to church! Our ministries could use some help with donations. Please see the list below. There will be couple of baskets in the hallway facing the sanctuary doors. Feel free to bring items whenever you come by. This outreach will continue throughout the summer!

Threads of Hope

- Shampoo/conditioner
- Body wash (men, women)
- 3-in-1 shampoo/body wash/conditioner
- Deodorant (men, women)
- Toothpaste

Knit Pray Love

- Yarn

Golden Bees

- Washcloth/hand towels
- Soap
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Shampoo & conditioner (all-in-one)
- Hand lotion
- Tissues (small packages)
- Comb
- Bottled water
- Hard candy
- Paperback books
- Socks

- Band-aids

Little Free Pantry (Outdoor Pantry)

- Pull-top lid cans of soups, already made pasta (Chef Boyardi...), stews, meat...
- Single serve (to-go) containers of mac & cheese, rice, noodles, etc.
- Milk and juice (small single serve) or powdered milk
- Single serve cereal and oatmeal
- Tuna, salmon in pouches
- Single serve applesauce of fruit salad
- Snack bars
- Trail mixes
- Small jars of peanut butter
- Fresh fruits (bananas, oranges, apples, grapes)
- Small packs of cheese
- Small packs of crackers and pretzels
- Small bags of chips
- Pudding and jelly cups
- Fruits snacks
- Instant coffee packets
- Bottled water

EVENTS

Dudley Grange's Annual Apple Festival

**Our church will have an
information booth with games
for the kids!
We need volunteers!
Talk to Pastor Sabina.**

**2025 Apple Festival
Saturday, October 4th, 2025
10 AM - 3 PM**

139 Center Rd.
Dudley, MA



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

**Our church will be participating in the Faith & Blue
Weekend happens on October 11, 2025.**


**NATIONAL
FAITH & BLUE
WEEKEND
2025**
OCTOBER 10-13

Learn more:
WWW.FAITHANDBLUE.ORG



It is a wonderful national church initiative that is aimed at fostering safer and stronger communities, bringing together local law enforcement and residents through the powerful connections of faith-based organizations. Faith & Blue Weekend is a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogues, build trust, and work together on initiatives that promote unity, safety, and mutual respect. It's a chance to strengthen the bond between law enforcement and the community, showing that together, we can create safer and more connected neighborhoods.

Churches have organized many different types of events. We decided to "keep it simple" and offer a "Coffee with a Cop". More details to follow! In the interim, you can check out faithandblue.org for more details.

United Church of Christ, Federated

"Come as you are, we mean it!"

4 Church Street
Webster, MA 01571
508-943-0061
uccfedwebster.org
office@uccfedwebster.org
Pastor Sabina Terrades
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 6:30 (free dinner at 6)

THREADS OF HOPE (free clothing, hygiene products,...): Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-11,
Thursdays 4-7, 1st Sunday of the month, 12-3

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