# hands & feet

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



#### Mark Your Calendar

Tuesdays 6:30pm Small Group "Bible 101"

Saturday, November 8, 11:30-1pm Veterans Day Luncheon

> Sunday, November 9 Stewardship Sunday

Sunday, November 16, after worship Monthly breakfast and birthday celebration

Thursday, November 27, 3pm Community Thanksgiving Dinner

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





# **EDITORIAL**

Dear friends in Christ,

As I sit here staring at a blank document on my computer wondering, "what am I going to write about for the November newsletter?", I

thought, since no new and original idea was coming to mind, I should go back and look at some of my previous articles over the years. I came across one I wrote several years ago about being thankful and even though I was trying to avoid using the ever popular "be thankful" theme, something slightly different came to mind which I think is still applicable to all of us today. So, here we go.

November is a month where people tend to list out the things we're thankful for, (it's probably because of that one holiday called "Thanksgiving"). Some will even list something every day on their social media pages. Not a big fan. Many times the things listed after family and friends are all material things which eventually break, get lost, or simply need to be replaced.

But don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to be the Scrooge or Grinch of Thanksgiving, it is good to be thankful. The Bible even tells us that. First Thessalonians says, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Wait, look closely, did you notice what it says? "Give thanks in all circumstances...".

(continued on page 2)

#### NOVEMBER 2025 EDITION

"I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1



# **EDITORIAL (conclusion)**

So, does this mean we're supposed to give thanks in those times when life isn't going like we've planned or when something bad happens? Well, I hate to be the bearer of bad news but, yes, that's exactly what it means.

We all know that bad things are going to happen. People will get sick, things will break or be stolen, feelings will be hurt by those we call our friends, and relationships are going to go through tough times and may even come to an end. It may be hard to see these as times to give thanks, but they are. And here's why...

Notice the word that comes before "all." What is it? It's the word in. We're told to give thanks in all circumstances, not for all circumstances. The evil, the bad things of life don't come from God, those are a result of sin being in the world. This is why we're not thankful for all circumstances. We're thankful in all circumstances because no matter what we're facing in life, God is still in control and God's presence is still with us. This means that his love, mercy, compassion, and all the other wonderful things God is and does are still with us. They are with us because we are his beloved children. And to prove that, God sent Jesus, His only Son, so that anyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

So in this month of reflection on what it is that we're thankful for...the thing I'm most thankful for is this—the precious gift of Jesus and his victorious resurrection! Because through this we are claimed as God's children. And I'm thankful that God continues to go with us wherever it is that we go. It's my constant prayer that no matter what any of us experience in our lives, that we remember that he's always there with us and we can lean on him all the time. May you have a blessed and thankful Thanksgiving!

I'll include here a Thanksgiving prayer by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, United Methodist pastor, spiritual writer, and poet. Perhaps it's one you might consider using at your Thanksgiving table this year. Giving Thanks

You who are the Mystery at the heart of all things, Source of all that is, to you we give thanks.

For the gift of Creation, and the wonder of this world, we thank you.

For every creature and the web of all living things to which we belong, we thank you.

For the gift of life, and the miracle that we are here today, we thank you.

For gifts of sight and hearing, the gift of movement and touch, and for all the wonders that we behold, we thank you.

For all the people who have blessed us, we thank you.

For all our loved ones, for any who have taught us, helped us, loved us, accompanied us or prayed for us, we thank you.

For the food we eat, and all those around the world who provide it, we thank you.

May our gratitude overflow to others, especially those who do not have what we do; may our thanks take form in giving and in working for the world you intend for us.

O God, fountain of our souls and earth of our lives, we thank you, and pray that we may always live in humility, gratitude and joy.

Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Sabina



WORSHIP SCHEDULE		
Date	Scripture	Sermon
11/02/2025 Communion Sunday Stewardship Campaign	Proverbs 28:18-27	"Steward Living"
11/09/2025 Stewardship Sunday	Luke 18:9-14	"A Life of Stewardship"
11/16/2025	Isaiah 65:17-25	"A New Hope"
11/23/2025 Christ the King Sunday		Guest Preacher
11/30/2025 First Sunday of Advent Sermon series: "Come Home for Christmas"	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Luke 21:25-36	"Time to Go Home"



#### STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 9!

But there is always time to pledge your treasures to God to continue our ministries at the Webster Federated Church! Help us feed and clothe people, give hope to the hopeless, give joy to the children, and share the Gospel with a nation in need.

Please cut and complete the card below and mail it to the church.

# STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE ---

You can also complete your pledge card online on our website on the home page at uccfedwebster.org.

Not ready to commit to a pledge yet? You can still contribute to the work of our church by donating via check or online. Please contact Pastor Sabina for more information.

2026 PLEDGE CARD		
Please return to the church by November 5, 2025		
Stewardship is		
Love in Truth and Action		

MY/OUR COMMI	TMENT TO THE CHURCH
In grateful recognition that all ou I/we gladly join with others in the	r time, treasures and abilities come from God e support of Christ's Church.
Name(s):	
Address:	
Town:	State: Zip:
Email:	Phone:
I plan to give \$	weekly 🗆 monthly 🗆 annually
beginning (date and year):	for an annual total of
\$	
I would like pledge envelopes	Jyes □ no
I understand that this commitme to the church treasurer.	ent can be changed at any time by giving notice
Si	

#### Verse of the Month

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17









To pray is to regain a sense of the mystery that animates all beings,

the divine margin in all attainments.

Prayer is our humble answer to the inconceivable surprise of living.

It is all we can offer in return.

Who is worthy to be present at the constant unfolding of time?

Here we are amidst the meditation of the land, the songs of the water, the humility of the flowers, flowers wiser than all alphabets -

Suddenly we feel embarrassed,

ashamed of our complaints and clashes in the face of tacit glory.

How strange we are in the world!

Only one response can maintain us:

gratefulness for the gift of our unearned chance to serve, to wonder, to love life and each other.

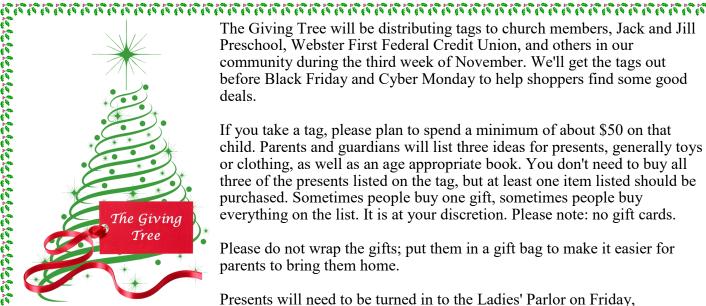
It is gratefulness which makes our small souls great.

by Abraham Joshua Heschel, the rabbi, scholar, and philosopher



You are a child of God, you are wonderfully made, dearly loved and precious in his sight. -Psalm 139

#### **Ministries News**



The Giving Tree will be distributing tags to church members, Jack and Jill Preschool, Webster First Federal Credit Union, and others in our community during the third week of November. We'll get the tags out before Black Friday and Cyber Monday to help shoppers find some good deals.

If you take a tag, please plan to spend a minimum of about \$50 on that child. Parents and guardians will list three ideas for presents, generally toys or clothing, as well as an age appropriate book. You don't need to buy all three of the presents listed on the tag, but at least one item listed should be purchased. Sometimes people buy one gift, sometimes people buy everything on the list. It is at your discretion. 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 or phone her directly at 774.200.8988.



#### Golden Bees Update Items Needed:

The Golden Bees have been hard at work this year, spreading warmth and care throughout our community. Their dedicated hands have assembled 585 sleeping bags and nearly as many health kits —

all lovingly distributed to those in need.

These gifts of comfort have reached churches, homeless shelters, food pantries, and other local organizations. Many have also been given directly to individuals who come to the church seeking help. Each sleeping bag and kit is a small act of compassion that brings hope to someone facing difficult circumstances.

As the need continues to grow, the Golden Bees are asking for your support. Donations are needed to keep this ministry thriving.

- Sheets
- Blankets
- Throw blankets
- Winter hats, mittens, and scarves
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo (preferably shampoo and conditioner combination)
- Lotion
- Hard candies
- Band-aids
- Hand warmers
- Small packages of tissues
- Hand towels and wash cloths
- Other toiletry items also accepted

Please bring donations to the church on Mondays from 9:00am - 12:00pm or during church office hours, Tuesday through Friday 9:30am - 1:00pm.

If you have any questions or want to be involved, please call Carol Beauchesne at 860-481-0233 or the church office at 800-943-0061.

### **Ministries News**



# Feed My Sheep Update

The Feed My Sheep ministry continues to go strong, serving our community with compassion and care.

Each Thursday from

5:00pm to 6:00pm, a hearty meal of soup, sandwiches, salad, dessert, and beverages is lovingly prepared and served to all who come.

Behind every meal is a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers — including church members, members of the community, and enthusiastic students from Dudley Middle School — who work together to ensure that everyone feels welcome and nourished.

So far this year, nearly 1,500 meals have been served. Each one represents not only food on a plate but also kindness, fellowship, and a reminder that no one in our community eats alone.

We are deeply grateful for everyone who gives their time, energy, and love to this important ministry. Together, we truly are feeding both body and spirit.

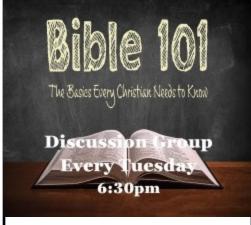


Happy November from ministry leaders Gayle and Gloria, and the Threads of Hope Closet, and Happy Thanksgiving!

We try our best to practice gratitude daily, but November is the ultimate month to be grateful for how lucky we are and to be thankful for our church and community for their generosity.

Thank you to everyone for the last year of support! We are thankful to all our volunteers and our newest helpers, the National Junior Honor Society from Dudley Middle School headed by their teacher, Christina LaPorte.

# **Spiritual Growth**



11/4: Psalms11/11: Proverbs11/18: Ecclesiastes11/25: Song of Solomon



#### **EVENTS**











Please join us for THANKSGIVING DINNER

NOVEMBER 27TH - 3PM

This is a FREE MEAL AND ALL ARE INVITED!

Turkey and all the trimmings!

#### United Church of Christ, Federated

"Come as you are, we mean it!"

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Pastor Sabina Terrades
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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

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