

hands & feet

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

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesdays 6pm Small Group
"Bible 101"

Until May 10th
Community Baby Shower Drive for
Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10th
MOTHER'S DAY

May 11th through May 17th
Pastor Sabina on vacation

Monday, May 18, 6pm
Council Meeting

Sunday, May 24th
PENTECOST

Monday, May 25th, 6pm
Outreach Meeting

Sunday, May 31, after worship
Monthly Brunch and
Birthday Celebration



EDITORIAL

Dear friends in Christ,

What would it mean for followers of Jesus Christ to speak of God in languages the world could understand? That's what happened at Pentecost, right? The Disciples all started talking about the Good News to all the people gathered, in their own language. Imagine the noise...

I wonder if in this day and time we might want to do more listening than talking, at least at first and for a while. James Davison Hunter in his book, "To Change the World" writes: *"In public discourse, the challenge is not to stifle robust debate, but rather to make sure that it is real debate. The first obligation for Christians is to listen carefully to opponents and if they are not willing to do so, then Christians should simply be silent. **To engage in a war of words is to engage in symbolic violence that is fundamentally at odds with the gospel.**"* I love that! So, would a contemporary Pentecost in our context mean disciples, us, listening more than speaking? Getting together to seek a word from the Lord, rather than entering the sanctuary strongly convinced we know what God says? I wonder if being silent is a prerequisite for opening ourselves to the Holy Spirit, **or at least not obstructing the wind, flame and words given to us by God and about God.**

The war of words and battle of who is right and who is wrong rages daily in our culture. Maybe this Pentecost could be an opportunity to stop arguing with our own opinions and instead gather together in worship and wait for the Holy Spirit

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MAY 2026 EDITION

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." John 14:26



EDITORIAL (conclusion)

to speak in the form of ideas and sentiments not only following our own agenda and assumptions. Could it be possible that this Pentecost enables us to hear and understand languages that are not our own?

Perhaps the Holy Spirit yearns to expose us to experiences previously unknown to us, connecting us with people we assume have nothing in common with us.

A true Pentecost unsettles. Pentecost puts the word of the Lord in the mouth of those who have been silenced for a long time. Pentecost upends the tyranny of the possible and makes room for relationships and community unimaginable before.

What might such a Holy Spirit revolution look like where we live? Are you willing to give in to that vision or do you dismiss such radical new connections, all encompassing work of God and wild creativity as too confusing to handle?

I notice too often during conversations and meetings that our solutions to problems are limited or we spend too much time bringing up the cons and why these ideas won't work. Why? Because we think only within the constraints of what we currently accept as possible.


Pentecost obliterates the tyranny of the possible, or at least it should for Christians. Jesus' resurrection, coupled with the coming of the Holy Spirit should convince us that through Christ all things truly are possible, not the least of which is reconciliation with God and neighbor that is made manifest in boundary-breaking, true community made up of people from

every tribe and nation. If we don't think God is capable of this vision of community, then we should gather together, keep silent and wait for the Holy Spirit to give us first understanding and then words to express what God shows us.

Nowadays, it is difficult to speak or talk about these words in our cultural context of violence, fear and division. How to respond around our dinner table with family and friends with whom we disagree. How to be heard in the public square when other parts of the body of Christ seem to use a bullhorn to spout beliefs some of us think are opposite to the message of the gospel. We lament the perception among many that Christians are judgmental and exclusive. We want to know how to make their faith in Jesus Christ matter in a context increasingly dismissive of the institution of the church. I think we need Pentecost, an unmistakable breaking-in of the Holy Spirit. I think we— as disciples of Jesus Christ — should gather on Pentecost Sunday and be silent, eagerly, on-the-edge-of-our-seat anticipating the fire and wind, the word of the Lord that tell of God's deeds of power not just when Jesus walked the earth but right here and now. The body of Christ, our small branch of it, must be willing to silence in it any voice but God's, remembering that God's words are not ours and that God speaks in a multitude of languages and through the people we often least expect. We need to stop being prisoners of the tyranny of the possible, remember that through Christ all things are possible and trust that the Holy Spirit give us the words and the power and the courage to live that truth. What might that look like where you are? Can you begin to imagine it?

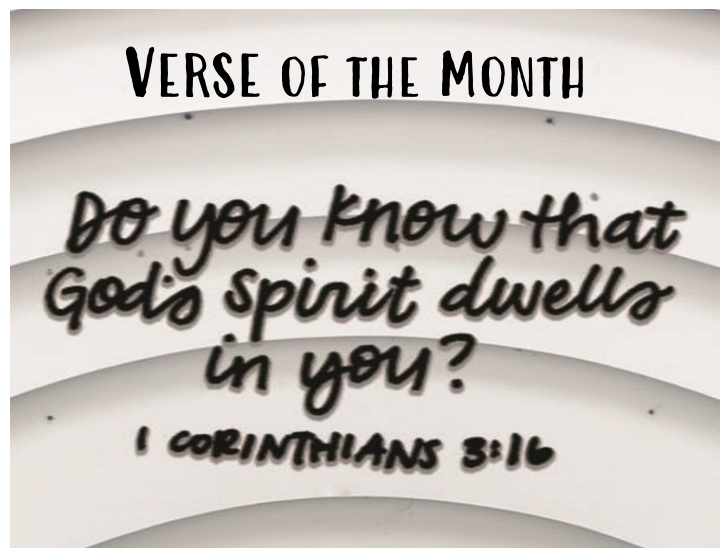
Happy Pentecost, the day the world caught on fire!

Pastor Sabina



**PRAYER
OF THE MONTH**

Come Holy Spirit we need you. Just as you fell on the early church with wind and fire fall afresh on me today... Ignite in me a fresh passion for Jesus. Empower my witness. Transform my character.



VERSE OF THE MONTH

Do you know that
God's spirit dwells
in you?

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

Worship News

Date	Scripture	Sermon
05/05	Acts 7:55-60	“WWJD, the Story of Stephen”
05/10 Mother’s Day	Proverbs 31:10-31	“M is for the Many Things”
05/17	Pastor Sabina on vacation	
05/24 Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	“The Day the World Caught on Fire”
05/31 Recovery Sunday	Romans 8:31-39	Adult & Teen Challenge Presentation & Testimonies



controlling issues through Christ-centered solutions. This means that they are concerned with the body, mind, and spirit of those who come to the addiction recovery centers. They endeavor to help people become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well, and spiritually alive.

The curriculum and community of our addiction recovery centers are

based on God’s Word—the Bible. Addiction recovery centers that offer practical, appropriate, and accessible Bible-based courses facilitate the transition from alcoholism and substance abuse to a life of freedom in Christ.

Adult and Teen Challenge offers a chance to start over, become a new person, live a godly life, and find freedom through a restored purpose and an eternal hope. They do this through classes, individual study, personal mentoring, work ethics training, and involvement in the Christian community.

Recovery Sunday is a dedicated church service focusing on healing, hope, and freedom from addictions—such as drugs and alcohol—and other "hurts, habits, or hang-ups" through Christ-centered recovery. It provides a space for worship and testimonies. The service highlights God’s grace in transforming lives and breaking the bonds of addictive diseases, emphasizing that addiction is a treatable illness rather than a moral failing.

Testimonies: Individuals often share personal recovery stories, highlighting how Christ helped them overcome

We will welcome a group from the Adult & Teen Challenge of Worcester. Their mission is to provide teens & adults freedom from addiction and other life-



Ministries News



Threads of Hope

Threads of Hope Closet continues to flourish. So many donations. So much sorting. So many shoppers!

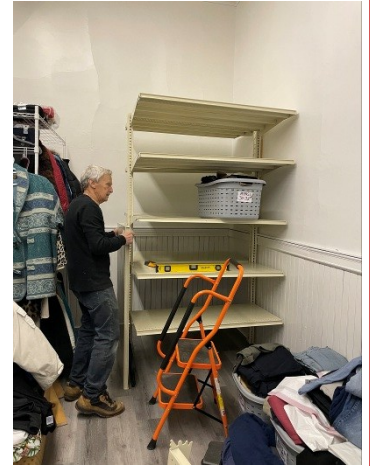
I recently put an ad on Facebook describing what the Threads Closet offers, and since then, we've had many new shoppers. Often people respond to the ad in disbelief. "Are the clothes really free?" They think the post is just another scam! How happy they are to find out that we do exist, and yes, the clothes are truly free!

I have started to make deliveries to a homeless shelter in Worcester with some of the excess clothing. They are very thankful! One of our volunteers, Karron Lacey, has also made two deliveries to a men's shelter

in Southbridge, as well as a couple of deliveries of slightly worn out towels to the Second Chance Animal Shelter.

Here is a picture of Cindy Denson's brother, Alan, installing shelving for us in our sorting room. A big thank you to him and to everyone who keeps the Threads Closet running smoothly.

Submitted by Gayle Bannister



The Golden Bees Ministry continues to be a busy and blessed part of our church community.

Each Monday from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. dedicated volunteers gather to create sleeping bags and assemble health using generous donations from our congregation and wider community. This past year alone, hundreds of sleeping bags were distributed to those in need through various local organizations.

As we look ahead, we are hoping to expand our reach. The Golden Bees are currently seeking organizations, shelters, churches, or outreach programs that would be interested in receiving sleeping bags for distribution to individuals experiencing homelessness. We have already connected with St. John and All Saints in Worcester.

If you are aware of a group that could benefit from this ministry, or if your organization would like to partner with us, we would love to connect.

Please reach out through the church office or call Carol Beauchesne at 860-481-0233 for more information.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us share warmth, comfort, and compassion with those in need.



FEED MY SHEEP
Free Meal Ministry

As spring brings renewal and hope, the Feed My Sheep free meal ministry continues to serve our community with care and compassion. Each week dedicated volunteers prepare and serve up to 62 meals, offering nourishment and fellowship to those in need.

Through the generosity of our church and community along with many volunteers, this ministry remains a meaningful way we share God's love.

Thank you to all who support Feed My Sheep through your time, donations, and prayers.



Knit
Pray
Love

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry provides a way to literally wrap people in prayer. Prayer shawls are made by members of the parish and then given anyone in need of our prayers.

We meet every other Monday from 10am to 12pm in the Ladies' Parlor. New members are always welcome! If you knit, crochet or would like to learn, please contact Linda Kruzewski (rlkruz70@verizon.net) or 508-943-8984 .

Donations of yarn are also always welcome!

In need of a blanket? Contact Pastor Sabina.

EVENTS



The Daffodil Tea was held on Saturday, April 18th, at 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall. The hall looked beautiful with white tablecloths, pink runners, and daffodil centerpieces. Attendees enjoyed finger sandwiches, homemade desserts, and English scones with clotted cream and jam. Thirty baskets were raffled off and two lucky attendees won the "best hat" contest. Regina Kontoes was happy to report that overall, the entry fee and basket raffle raised \$2,500 for the Feed My Sheep Ministry.



It takes so many volunteers and donators to make an event like this successful. Thank you to everyone!

Linda Pschichholtz, Doris Bemis, Collen Canty, Karen Dion, Pete's Tire and Oil, Ultimate Touch Salon, Booklovers' Gourmet, Dippin Donuts, Honey Dew Donuts, AAA Webster, Whistlestop Cafe, Ocean State Job Lot, Big Belly Cafe, Divine Nails, Christine Lavoie, Carol Beauchesne, Cindy Denson, Roland Malboeuf, Donna Santerre, Tammie Darling, Jane Bannister, Marilyn Fels, Diane Fowler, Christina LaPorte and Members of the Dudley Middle School National Junior Honor Society, Threads of Hope volunteers (MaryAnn, Karron, Claire, Debbie, Jennifer, Jaime, Bruce, Regina, Marie, and Gloria), UCC Church Members, including Lynn Sackman and Pastor Sabina Terrades, and the many individuals who donated Baskets and Baked Treats!



EVENTS



DAFFODIL TEA



MISCELLANEOUS

In Memoriam



Beverly Dery Gauthier
September 29, 1936 — April 10, 2026

Music

*Music, when soft voices die,
Vibrates in the memory—
Odours, when sweet violets sicken,
Live within the sense they quicken.
Rose leaves, when the rose is dead,
Are heaped for the beloved's bed;
And so thy thoughts, when thou art gone,
Love itself shall slumber on.*

Percy Bysshe Shelley

EVENTS

Webster United Church of Christ



Until May 10

Mother's Day Community Baby Shower Donation Drive

To support the Visitation House
(helping women keep their pregnancies)

Wish list (all new please):

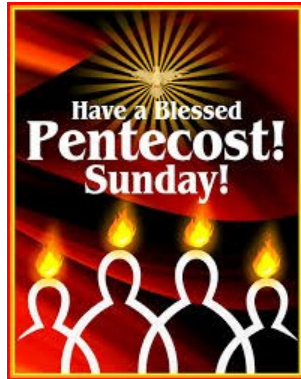
Crib sheets (all colors), diapers (all sizes), clothes (newborn to 12 months) including sets, baby bassinets, baby security blankets, unscented baby wipes, baby grooming kits, Dreft detergent, feeding (formula: unopened, non-expired, bottles, nipples, bibs, and burp cloths), Hygiene (diaper rash cream, baby wash, lotion, and shampoo), Mom Care Packages (nursing pads, nipple cream, toiletries [shampoo, conditioner, lip balm], and body lotion).

**Drop off at the church office between April 12 and May 10,
Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30am to 1pm
4 Church street, Webster, MA - 508-943-0061 - uccfedwebster.org**

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 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