

hands & feet

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

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesdays 6pm Small Group
"Bible 101"

Sunday, January 18 after worship
Monthly brunch and
birthday celebration



EDITORIAL

Dear friends in Christ,

Happy New Year!

As we welcome the new year, we are reminded that 366 days ago, we embarked on a journey around the sun—a journey we called 2025. The close of one year and the start of another is a natural time to reflect.

What have we accomplished? What dreams have we pursued and brought to life? What new experiences have enriched our journey? Just as importantly, what have we left unfinished? What words went unspoken, and what dreams remain unrealized? How often did we allow distractions to claim the precious days God gave us?

The start of a new year is a time of hope—a chance to imagine fresh possibilities. In the 365 days ahead, we have countless opportunities to grow, create, and fulfill our God-given purpose. Each day contains 24 hours, each hour 60 minutes. That adds up to 525,600 minutes. If all goes well, your heart will beat about 42 million times this year, you'll take roughly 8 million breaths, and you'll be entrusted with 8,760 hours of life. Of those hours, you'll likely spend around 3,000 asleep.

How will you use the hours God gives you in 2025? I encourage you to set aside at least 52 of those 8,760 hours for worship—that's just 0.6% of your time, less than one percent. Make time to immerse yourself in scripture, allowing the Holy Spirit to draw you closer to the One who created you.

(continued on page 2)

NEW YEAR'S BLESSINGS

May the New Year start with fresh joys and a life filled with peace. May you experience warmth and togetherness and prosperity too. May the coming year be the most fruitful year of our lives. Happy New Year to all!

KEEP THE FAITH



JANUARY 2026 EDITION

"He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making all things new.' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'" Revelation 21:5



EDITORIAL (conclusion)

Above all, I hope you'll dedicate some of those 525,600 minutes to prayer. Imagine if each of us spent just two minutes a day in conversation with our Maker—that's about 730 minutes a year, or 0.14% of your time.

Isn't God worth at least 0.14% of your year?

Let's begin this new year with purpose, dedicating our days, hours, and minutes to the One who numbers them all.

One more thought after all this talk about numbers. 2025 was a difficult year for many. Perhaps we can

make 2026 a year of light. Light that overcomes darkness. Light that fills people with hope. Light that reveals truth and goodness.

Jesus calls us to "*let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven*" (Matthew 5:16).

Let me invite you to pray in the coming days – maybe all year long – for God's light to shine brightly in our world. Here are some ways to pray that 2026 will be a year of light:

Ask God to keep our church focused on the mission of sharing Jesus' love and message with the world. Jesus tells us to put our light on stand and let it shine for all to see. We reflect God's glorious light as we fellowship together, and love our neighbors.

Pray that we will remain a welcoming church, with door and hearts open to everyone God sends our way. God's light shines with compassion and warms with kindness. May we be ready to welcome and love people who need Jesus.

Seek God's blessing and peace for people around the world and in our country, especially those who have suffered through violence. Pray for an end to the war in Ukraine. Pray for the end of gun violence. Pray for peace to be restored in the Middle East. Pray that the light of Christ would shine from churches throughout the world, offering peace to people everywhere.

Blessings for a hopeful and joyful 2026!

Pastor Sabina

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

God of all time,
help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,
mindful that our steps make an impact
and our words carry power.
May we walk gently.
May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,
help us enter the New Year reverently,
aware that you have endowed
every creature and plant, every person and habitat
with beauty and purpose.
May we regard the world with tenderness.
May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls,
help us enter the New Year joyfully,
willing to laugh and dance and dream,
remembering our many gifts with thanks
and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.
May we cast off the small, vindictive god
our fears have made.
May the grace and peace of Christ bless us
now and in the days ahead.

Vinita Hampton Wright

January Verse of the Month

In him was life,
and the life was the light of men.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
(John 1:4–5, ESV)

*"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future
to a known God."*

Corrie ten Boom

Worship News



New Sermon series

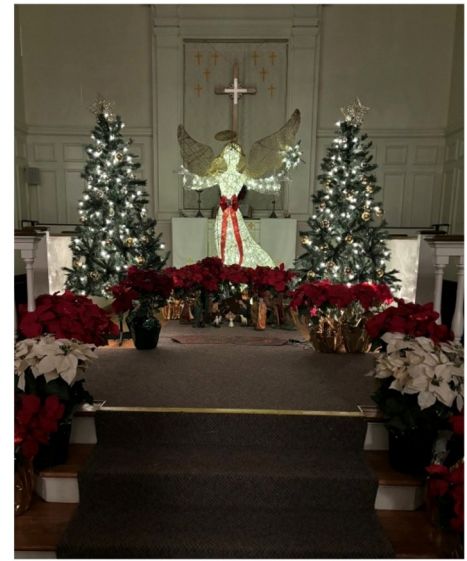
Resolutions are on everyone's minds as we enter the new year. Statistics show that 3 in 10 Americans made a resolution in 2024. 62% of those making resolutions feel pressured to do so. 79% of New Year's goals involve improving health.

Recent research has shown that **just 9% of Americans actually keep their resolutions throughout the year.** But "God's resolutions" are different. They refer to his unwavering commitment and promises to humanity.

Join us for this 6-week sermon series to discover God's resolutions, not for the New Year, but for eternity

Date	Scripture	Sermon
01/04 Epiphany and Communion Sunday	Matthew 2:1-12	"Why did They Come"
01/11 God's Resolutions	Hebrews 13:5-6	"I Will Never Leave You"
01/18 God's Resolutions	John 14:25-27	"I Will Shelter You from the Storm"
01/25 God's Resolutions	John 14:25-27	"I Will Fill You with Peace"
02/01 God's Resolutions Communion Sunday	Romans 5:20-21	"I Will Grant You Peace when You Fall"
02/08 God's Resolutions	Jeremiah 29:11	"I Will Give You a Future"
02/15 God's Resolutions	Matthew 11:28-30	"I Will Give You Rest"
02/22	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	"A Girl, a Boy, and a Tree"

ADVENT 2025



Christmas Eve



"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you."

-Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Blue Christmas Service

Ministries News



Happy New Year from the Threads of Hope Closet!

The Threads of Hope Closet would like to thank all of the UCC congregation members who helped make 2025 even better than we thought it could be! Thank you for spreading the word and thank you if you donated clothing and shoes.

If interested in volunteering to sort clothes, we meet every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm in the gym. Some people come for an hour and some people stay the whole time.

Any help is appreciated. Contact Gayle Bannister at 774.200.8988 or gaylebannister@yahoo.com.

Our best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2026!



FEED MY SHEEP
Free Meal Ministry

Happy New Year from Feed My Sheep!

In 2025, the Feed My Sheep ministry was blessed by generous financial donations and faithful volunteers, **making it possible to serve over 1,200 meals to those in need.**

Through God's provision and the hands and hearts of our church family, lives were touched and hope was shared—thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ this year.

We also would like to thank Stasia and Bruce Beach for their generous \$400 donation, as well as all people who participated in the Yuletide Tea fundraiser by purchasing tickets or buying raffle tickets, and in particular Marilyn Fels and Ronald Bannister for their amazing contributions!



The Webster Dudley Giving Tree has had another successful year distributing Christmas gifts to local children 12 and younger. **This year we had 245 children sign up**, which is higher than normal, mostly due to our new partnership with Park Ave Elementary in Webster and Dudley Elementary School. In addition to UCC members, some of the organizations who went shopping for the children were Sts. Helen and Constantine Church, Church of the Reconciliation, St Anthony of Padua, Jack and Jill Preschool, PT Pet Supply, the Ultimate Touch Salon, and the Webster First Federal Credit Union. We thank all of you who pitched in to make this Christmas special for 245 children!



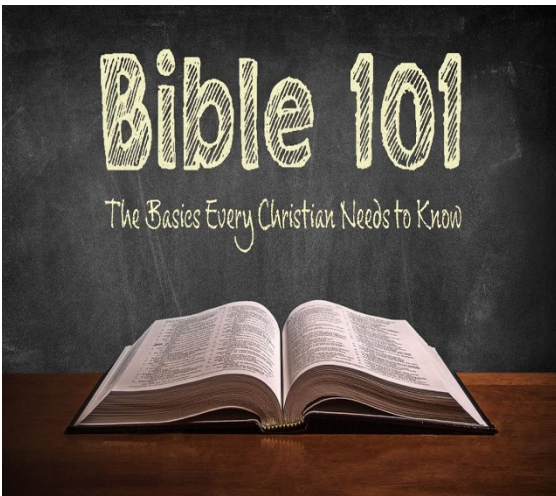
Golden Bees Sleeping Bag Ministry: Sharing Warmth, Hope, and God's Love



As we wrap up 2025, the Golden Bees Sleeping Bag Ministry celebrates a year of compassion and impact.

Through God's grace and the dedication of our church family, **712 sleeping bags were distributed**—both to local organizations serving the homeless and directly from our church to those in need. A special highlight of the year was a joyful celebration honoring Edna Patri's 28 years of faithful service to this ministry. Her love, perseverance, and commitment continue to inspire us all as we serve our community with warmth and care.

Spiritual Growth



After a 4-week hiatus during Advent, Bible 101 will return on January 6. We closed 2025 with a brief taste of the Psalms and also learned how to write a psalm of our own!

We will move forward with the same model: One book a week with a handout showing the main highlights of the book (who wrote it, when, why, summary, application to our lives), some Bible reading, and a video to simplify all of that! And of course, conversation, conversation, conversation!!

01/06	Proverbs
01/13	Ecclesiastes
01/20	Isaiah
01/27	Jeremiah

MISCELLANEOUS

Quick Devotional for the New Year



Join us on Sunday, February 8, 2026 at the end of our worship service for our Annual Meeting, a gathering for members to conduct official business, review the past year, and plan for the future. It is also a time to celebrate our church!

2026 has well and truly begun. It's easy to be excited at a new year starting; there is a sense of anticipation the coming year will be better than the year before. Regardless of whether we make resolutions or not, by now we all know that a new year doesn't bring any guarantees other than a new date to try and remember!

Remember God. Our God is unchanging. Hebrews 13:8 states, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." He is the same yesterday, today and forever more. The same God that created the world is the same God that goes before us today and tomorrow and every day after that. The God who loved you to the point of death loves you just as much now as He did when he sent Jesus to the cross. God doesn't change. Seasons change. Our circumstances change. People around us change. We change. But God doesn't change. He never has and never will because He is honor and integrity and faithfulness.

As we all go about our lives in 2026, let's remember that our God is a good, faithful, and unchanging God. May we be expectant that Jesus will restore, redeem, and renew any lost hope. And may we always remember that He will do immeasurably more than we can possibly imagine or hope for (Eph 3:20).

Reflection Questions

1. Can you recall the times you saw God's hand in situations or circumstances in 2025?
2. What are you expectant for God to do in 2026?



"OUR TOP STORY TONIGHT: FINALLY, SOME GOOD NEWS OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST!"

EVENTS

Community Christmas Party



EVENTS

Yuletide Tea



The Yuletide Tea, held in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 20th, was a smashing success! About 80 people filled into the hall to enjoy finger sandwiches, sweets, and scones with jam and clotted cream. All foods were home-made, and we'd like to thank everyone who took the time to prepare delicious goodies for this event. We raffled off 22 baskets, which contained

gift cards from Park n'Shop, Ocean State Job Lot, Price Chopper, Big Y, Honey Dew Donuts, and donations from Webster Lake Gift Shop, church members, and the Threads of Hope Closet.



Over \$3,500 was raised for the Feed My Sheep Ministry through ticket sales, a basket raffle, food to go, and generous donations. Special thanks to Marilyn Fels and Ronald Bannister for each donating \$1,000, and thank you to Carol, Cindy, Al, Joe, MaryAnn, Linda P, Karron and her granddaughter, Donna, Addy, Kieya, Margie, Claire, Sabina, Linda K, Regina, Doris, Lynn, Christina LaPorte and the Dudley Middle School Honor Society students, Jane, my husband Arvid, and of course, my mom, Gloria, for all the work you did before, during, and after the tea.



United Church of Christ, Federated

"Come as you are, we mean it!"

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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