

hands & feet

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

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesdays until Tuesday April 15
6:30pm (6pm dinner) Small Group

Saturday, April 12, 12-2
Brunch with the Bunny

Sunday, April 13
Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 17, 6pm
Maundy Thursday Passover Seder

Friday, April 18, 6pm
Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 20, EASTER
6:30am Sunrise Service at
Point Breeze
10am Easter Service

Sunday, April 27
after worship
Monthly brunch and
birthday celebration



EDITORIAL

Dear friends in Christ,

Easter is coming- S-W-E-E-T! Growing up, there was no such thing as hunting for eggs on Easter

Sunday. No! In France, the bells brought us chocolate eggs, chocolate chickens, chocolate fish, etc. Why bells, would you ask? Well, the tradition around the bells originates from the 7th century when the Church forbade the ringing of the bells in homage to the death of

Christ between Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. In France, legend has it that on Maundy Thursday, the bell's chimes flee to Rome, where the Pope blesses them. There, they collect the Easter eggs, which will be scattered in gardens and yards on their return journey. I can't remember ever going

outside to gather those. My favorite was the "Fritures de Pâques", small fish-shaped chocolates. The fish is the symbol of Christianity, and during the Roman era, it was a signal for persecuted Christians to distinguish friends from foes. The little Easter fish are called "fritures" (fried whitebait) because of their shape and are often packed into straw baskets or chocolate boxes to resemble a school of delicious little fish.



What about the Easter Bunny? Sorry to disappoint but no such thing! In France, we eat the bunnies, sorry but delicious!



(continued on page 2)

APRIL 2025 EDITION

"And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power." 1 Corinthians 6:14



EDITORIAL (conclusion)

In any case, the sugar high was intense! Ah those were glorious days. SWEET DAYS! Another part of our Easter tradition was to have a great Easter meal, usually a leg of lamb and spring veggies! Along with friends and family. Easter...SWEET! As a child I can't say that I fully understood what the day was all about. I knew it was a special day. I knew it was a great day. I knew it was a sweet day.

Many years and Easter celebrations have since come and gone and I am not sure that I have any better a grasp on Easter. It is still a sweet day. It is a great day. It is still the day that heaven and earth resound in the great thanksgiving of the victory of our Savior over sin and death and evil. But I have to confess that I still cannot comprehend the depths and heights and breadth and width of the Savior's work to defeat death and open heaven for me and this world. This I know only by faith. The faith I have built piece and piece, by the grace of God. Easter...it's still S-W-E-E-T! It is still filled with awe and amazement! The grave is still empty and death is still dead! Easter is the Holy Christian Church's greatest thanksgiving celebration. It is the first thanksgiving and from it flow all other days of thanksgiving!

Mark's Gospel account of that first Easter is always such an Easter reality check for me. The first words that greeted the morning sunrise on the faces of the followers who made their way to the tomb were,

"He is not here." The disciples received those words with fear and amazement. They heard the words as bad news. In Mark's Gospel there is no appearance of Jesus recorded. Just grave clothes, an empty tomb and the word of the angel. For fear and amazement Jesus' followers could not as yet grab hold of the words that were next proclaimed, "He is risen." In Mark's Gospel Jesus remained hidden. Jesus is nowhere to be found. It amazes me still today that the greatest event in human history, the greatest reason for thanksgiving remained hidden that first Easter. That is how the oldest account of Mark's Gospel ends. An empty tomb... A hidden Easter thanksgiving! Of course you know the rest of the story –it's HiStory and it's your story! The tomb is empty because Jesus is risen and death...your death is dead! Easter is coming ... S-W-E-E-T !

So how is it for you? Talk about it. That's what the first disciples did. That's what Jesus' followers do today. In what ways is Easter hidden today? In what ways is Easter the "great thanksgiving?" What are your family Easter traditions? Why are they important to you? In what ways will you offer to God your greatest thanksgiving this Easter? I pray that each and all of you would have a blessed Easter filled with Awe and Thanksgiving. (Oh Yeah, and at least a little SWEETNESS).

In Christ,

Pastor Sabina



Date	Scripture	Sermon
04/06	Isaiah 6:8-10	"Sensing God" Lent Sermon Series "Perceiving"
04/13 Palm Sunday	Luke 19:28-40	"Perfect Timing"
04/18 Good Friday	A Service of Shadows	
04/20 Easter		"No More Fear"
04/27	John 20:19-31	"We Are All Thomases"

Verse of the Month



In Him was
Life and the life
was the *Light*
of men.

John 1:4



PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Prayer for Holy Week

Lord, let everything I do during Holy Week be inspired by You.
Help me to remember that nothing is important in my life unless it glorifies You in some way.
It's so easy to get caught up in the day to day of my life. Help me to enter fully into your Passion through my Lenten promises and always be reminded that You went to the desert, the garden and the cross for me.

Amen

Taken from DSHA Prayer Book, Vol. II



Bible Study Group

04/22: 1 and 2 Kings

04/29: 1 and 2 Chronicles

Please drop by any Tuesday! 6pm dinner, 6:30pm, conversation.

A Note from Pastor Sabina

It has come to my attention that some of you may not know I am a bivocational pastor. What does it mean? It means I work part-time as your pastor but I also have another part-time job. Let's say that being a single Mom means I need more money to pay the bills! I am very fortunate to work at Open Sky Community Services as a Peer Counselor. Open Sky offers a wide variety of services for individuals experiencing different conditions and issues such as autism & intellectual/developmental disabilities, behavioral and mental

health problems, housing and homelessness issues, and addictions. A peer counselor is someone in recovery, usually from addiction or mental illness, who is trained to support and counsel others in similar situations, using their own experiences and training to provide encouragement and resources. I am incredibly grateful as I see this work as an extension of my ministry to people in need.

Want to know more? Don't hesitate to ask!

Pastor Sabina



Dear Christian Family at United Church of Christ Federated,

My name is Cindy Denson. In September 2023, I transferred my membership from Oxford United Methodist Church to UCCF. As of our February Annual Meeting, I am now replacing Regina Kontoes as the church Moderator/

Council Chair.

Let me introduce myself. Foremost, I am a Christian woman with a strong belief in the power of prayer. I am also mission oriented and try to follow Christ's teaching as found in Matthew 25:35-36a: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me..."

I am married to Bruce Denson, and we have three sons, two daughters-in-law, one grandson (married) and two granddaughters ages 13 and 11. Bruce and I moved to Webster in August 2025. I am the youngest of nine children. Four of my six brothers are still alive. One lives in Florida and three live in the Webster-Dudley area. Both of my sisters are gone. I love to sing, sew, cook and work in the yard. I had a large garden in Oxford and I am hoping to start a small garden here in Webster.

Regina, who resigned as Moderator, has a very strong voice. My voice cannot compete with Regina's, but I will do my best to make myself heard and conduct meetings efficiently.

Yours in Christ,

Cindy Denson

Bunny Brunch

FREE COMMUNITY FAMILY EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

12PM TO 2PM

Photo Op with the Easter Bunny
Easter Egg Hunt, Treat Bags for All
Prize Wheel, Cookie Decorating and Crafts



"Here is my servant! I have made him strong. He is my chosen one; I am pleased with him. I have given him my Spirit, and he will bring justice to the nations. He won't shout or yell or call out in the streets. He won't break off a bent reed or put out a dying flame, but he will make sure that justice is done. He won't quit or give up until he brings justice everywhere on earth, and people in foreign nations long for his teaching."

HOLY WEEK



**Palm
Sunday**
April 13

Service
10am

**Maundy
Thursday**
April 17

Passover Seder
6:30pm

**Good
Friday**
April 18

Service
6pm

**Holy
Saturday**
April 19

Prayer Vigil
6pm

**Easter
Sunday**
April 20

Sunrise Service:
7am Webster Lake
Service: 10am



“If man had his way, the plan of redemption would be an endless and bloody conflict. In reality, salvation was bought not by Jesus' fist, but by His nail-pierced hands; not by muscle but by love; not by vengeance but by forgiveness; not by force but by sacrifice. Jesus Christ our Lord surrendered in order that He might win; He destroyed His enemies by dying for them and conquered death by allowing death to conquer Him.”

A.W. Tozer, “Preparing for Jesus' Return:
Daily Live the Blessed Hope”

THE PROOF OF LOVE IS
IN THE WORKS. WHERE
LOVE EXISTS, IT
WORKS GREAT THINGS.
BUT WHEN IT CEASES
TO ACT, IT CEASES TO
EXIST. - POPE ST.
GREGORY THE GREAT



**Need a ride to church?
No problem!**

Call Pastor Sabina at the
office or email
pastor@uccfedwebster.org
and we will come pick you up to bring you to our meals,
Bible Study or worship service!



EASTER REBIRTH AT THE CHURCH!

Spring and Easter are the season of rebirth and new things! As announced in our annual report, we have been working on reorganizing our leadership, bringing in new blood while keeping the experience of others!

We have a new Outreach Team, which will lead many community and congregational events and ministries, existing and new, from the Christmas Giving Tree to the revival of the Daffodil Tea rebranded as “Spring Tea”! We planned one event per month! Stay tuned!!

We are also revamping our building committee by creating a “Building & Grounds Team”. Al Beauchesne will step down as Chair, after many years of amazing,

dedicated service, but will remain on the team. One of our new members, Helen Boyle, will take over as Chair. The Building & Grounds Team will have “sub-teams”, including:

- Maintenance
- Grounds Beautification (chaired by Cindy Denison)
- Kitchen Team (chaired by Carol Beauchesne)

Next is the addition of a Care Team. It will include:

- Card ministry (Sandy Beavan)
- At-home visitations and communion
- Hearts and Hands (prayer shawl ministry) chaired by Linda Kruzewski.
- Comfort Ministry (funerals, collations...)

If you feel this is of interest to you, please contact Pastor Sabina.

Kitchen Ministry

Introducing Our New Kitchen Committee Volunteers Needed!

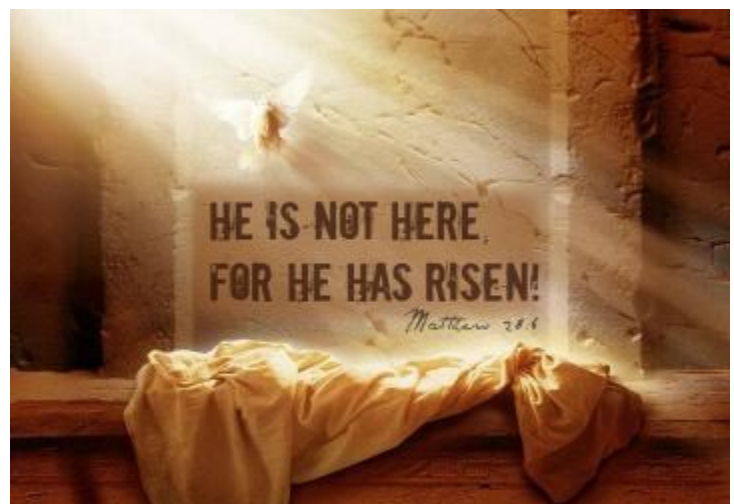
We are excited to announce the formation of our new Church Kitchen Committee! This dedicated team will ensure our kitchen remains clean, organized, and fully stocked to support our church’s meals, fellowship events, and ministries.

To make this effort a success, we need volunteers! Whether you can help with cleaning, organizing supplies, assisting with meal prep (for Feed My Sheep and/or other events), or ensuring everything runs smoothly for church events, there is a place for you on the team.

If you have a heart for hospitality and service, we’d love for you to join us. To volunteer or learn more, please contact me, Carol Beauchesne, at 860-481-0233 or carolbeauchesne@charter.net, or just talk to me at church.

Let’s work together to make our kitchen a welcoming and well-maintained space for all!

Carol





Messianic Passover Seder

During Holy Week, on Thursday, April 17, also known as Maundy Thursday, we will host a traditional Passover Seder at 6:30pm.

The Last Supper with Yeshua/Jesus and his disciples was a Passover Seder. It was also the initial institution of what we now consider Holy Communion in churches today around the world. Concerning the Passover, our Master, and Messiah Yeshua-Jesus said, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." (Luke 22:15). Jesus lived and died as an observant Jew who sought to fulfill God's promises to the Jewish people, bring salvation to Israel, and the Nations. By celebrating Passover, we honor, remember and re-enact what He did with His disciples.

We also connect to the Jewish roots of faith, and the people of Israel. This celebration allows us to gain a much deeper understanding of the person and work of the Messiah.

The festival involves a symbolic meal with specific foods and traditions to remember the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.

The Passover meal is known as a seder, which means "order." The Seder has a set "order" comprised of 15 steps. A book called the Haggadah takes the guests through each and every step.

The Passover seder is probably the most celebrated and beloved of Jewish home rituals. Many Jews have cherished memories of past family times spent at a seder. Pastor Sabina will share memories of seders she spent with her grandparents and will bring traditional items to share with all guests.



We will also share a full traditional meal of lamb (turkey for the "lambophobes), and Sabina's grandmother's matzo ball soup!

We will then remember that last evening with Jesus, with foot/hand washing and Communion.

Join us for this unique, joyful and yet sad experience. Please contact the office or Pastor Sabina (pastor@uccfedwebster.org) to RSVP as space will be limited.



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 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

OUTDOOR FOOD PANTRY: Ongoing