

hands & feet



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

Mark Your Calendar

Every Tuesday during Advent
6:30pm (6pm dinner)
"Un Unlikely Advent"
Small Group Study

Saturday, December 7, 1-3
Community Christmas Party fea-
turing the Pulaski Brass Band

Thursday, December 12, 12pm
Council Meeting

Thursday, December 19, 6:30pm
Blue Christmas Service

Tuesday, December 24, 6pm
Christmas Eve Service

Pastor Sabina will be on vacation
in France from December 24
(after the Christmas Eve ser-
vice) through January 9.

EDITORIAL



Hello my friends in Christ,

Well, this newsletter has been a long time in the making but here it finally is, and timing is perfect because Christmas and the New Year are upon us!!

What a year it has been, and it is not even over yet! If you are like me at all, there are times we look back over this past year in wonder and amazement. It often leaves me shaking my head a bit and even saying out loud from time to time, "I never saw that coming"! Nevertheless, the year 2024 will soon be in our past, and it can't come a moment too soon.

There were some "God-moments", our Feed My Sheep weekly meal ministry kept expanding. We launched our new Threads of Hope clothing ministry with the help of a \$10,000 grant from the Malser Humanities Trust and another \$10,000 donation from the Fels family (I am happy to share that I just received a Christmas card from Marilyn Fels with another \$10,000 donation for our ministries!). The ribbon-cutting ceremony for Threads of Hope gave me the opportunity to meet State Senator Ryan Fattman and he pledged the State of Massachusetts will make our project of a community youth center in the gym "happen" in the new year.

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DECEMBER 2024 EDITION

*"For unto us, a child is born".
Isaiah 9:6*



EDITORIAL (conclusion)

What else? We hosted a Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving for 38 people!! We had a community Easter party and a Halloween party!

Although our beloved Director of Music, Stephanie Plante, left us to become a middle school Math Teacher (God bless her soul...), we have been able to move on with recorded music, incorporating more contemporary styles.

We also have grown and now have children in worship! We launched a new website and are live on Facebook! We have been offering a weekly Bible study, which has been welcoming people from the community! And of course, our existing ministries (Golden Bees, Giving Tree, Mother's Day teen mother baby drive and more) have continued.

How cannot I share my incredible gratitude to this congregation for volunteering with your time, money, donations, and talent! All of this would not happen without you! You have stepped up to the plate each time and all these ministries are now in place and led by the laity!!

However, I know this year has been months of difficulty on so many levels for so many people. I am so sensitive to the grief and loss that many of you are experiencing. There have been people missing at the table. Families suffering from addiction, broken relationships, poverty. People homebound feeling lonely and lost. And so much more.

Hopefully, these challenging times have also provided us with the opportunity to exercise our faith. We have witnessed acts of profound kindness and creative ingenuity that remind us of the better angels within us. We have helped and taken care of each other. We are watching our church prove itself to be incredibly adaptable, flexible, and resilient.

Here at UCC Fed, our staff and leaders have worked long hours and creatively to provide ministry to all our people and community.

Even then, I understand it is sometimes difficult to see the good when we feel so overwhelmed by despair; but Christmas reminds us of something critical to keep in our minds, "*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it*" (John 1:5).

My friends, there are many more reasons to be grateful and filled with hope because of our faith. God has and will continue to help us to see all of this through.

Therefore, I want to remind us that we are a Christmas people and that Jesus is incarnated in every act of love and kindness we extend to one another. God can reach us beyond all the barriers the world can create and revive us by giving us strength in times of great distress. So, we can do this, and we will overcome because we are the Church, the body of the risen Christ!

Now, I pray you may see what is ahead because there is a bright future awaiting. I believe, as many of you do, too, that God is leading us into a new season of life and ministry together. My only request is to ask you to not give up or go away. We can only do this if we stay together and true to one another. I am confident in the success of our church and that we will celebrate many more Christmas together.

As your pastor, along with our staff called to serve alongside you, we pledge to you that we will continue to draw on every resource available to us that will help you through this season.

With this, I invite you to stay connected and don't underestimate the value of your presence (online or in-person), service, prayers, witness, and giving/pledging. We need each other more than ever before.

Please reach out to each other and encourage one another, particularly as we may be tempted to give up hope. Ask for help if you need it.

I am privileged to be your pastor, and I feel incredibly blessed and honored to be with you. My prayers are with you always.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen.

Pastor Sabina





NEW SERMON SERIES

In a culture that makes Christmas a commercialized machine filled with material things and stress, we often forget what our true gift is. Please join us during worship (live on Facebook or in the church at 10am) to experience God's gift for us.

December 1:
A different kind of gift - Isaiah 7:14 and 42:1-4

December 8:
A different kind of peace - Micah 5:2-5

December 15:
A different kind of joy - Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 22:
A different kind of love - John 1:1-18

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Thanks to Andrew S.

12-21-2007

ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!



PRAYER OF THE MONTH

In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. This Christmas, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel, the Word made flesh. Forgive us for forgetting—that Your love never changes, never fades, and that You never abandon the purpose for which You came: to save us from our sinful condition, and to give us life eternal, the joy of relationship with a holy God. Your birth—and Your death—sealed Your promise to us forever.

Rebecca Barlow Jordan



Golden Bees 25th Anniversary Celebration

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Worship



Acolyte training



Children's message



Jameson's Baptism



Easter
Sunrise
Service
Point
Breeze



2024 Scholarship Award

Feed My Sheep Meal Ministry



Birthdays



Stephanie's Goodbyes

“We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we will take a little of each other everywhere.”

Tim McGraw



Community Easter Party



Webster Police Department Memorial Day Send-Off at Webster Lake



Community Halloween Party



Town Trunk or Treat





Clothing Closet Ministry

This ministry is an expression of the church's concern for people in need. It strives to provide adequate clothing for families, or any person with an identifiable need, whether unsheltered or in financial strife. Everything will be given free of charge to any individual or family.

Our closet is filled with socks, underwear, pants, shoes, blankets, tarps, tents, sleeping bag, handwarmers, hygiene products (men and women and children, including feminine hygiene), backpacks, etc.



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony



State Senator Ryan Fattman and State Representative Joseph McKenna attended, along with the New England Methodist Conference District Superintendent Megan Stowe

State Senator Ryan Fattman presented the church with an official citation from the State



Ministry leader Gayle Bannister (her mother Gloria could not attend) holding the citation, and Pastor Sabina shared a few words of appreciation.



Marilyn Fels (who did the ribbon-cutting!) and representatives of the Town Council).

Our AMAZING volunteers!!



Golden Bees sleeping bag displayed at the United Methodist Church Annual Conference in June



Mother's Day Teen Mom Baby Supplies Drive



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: Mondays 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