

Small Groups & Ministries



Updated Fall 2015

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry began in Feb. 2005 and has given over 600 shawls to those experiencing life's ups and downs. The number 3 is symbolic in the shawl and represents the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; or yesterday, today, and tomorrow; or birth, life, and death. Shawls are blessed before being given. The shawl pattern is simple - cast on 57 stitches, knit 3 and purl 3 every row until length is 57" - 60". Fringe is added to the short ends. Each shawl uses almost 3 skeins of Lion Brand Homespun yarn and size 13 needles. Like a smaller project? The group also collects hand knit or crocheted scarves, hats, and mittens for those in need of winter warmth. The group gathers in the lounge on the 3rd Wed. of the month Sept. - May from 6:45pm - 8:00pm. All are welcome to stop in as their time allows.

For help or more info contact Linda Ims at 671-1101 or dims@rochester.rr.com.

School Kits for Church World Service

School Kits for Church World Service has been a longtime project of this church. A project of the Mission Team, school supplies are donated by the congregation. Those willing to sew bags to hold the supplies are always needed. It is a simple project that uses 1/2 yd. quilting cotton weight fabric. Instructions and answers to questions available from Linda Ims at 671-1101 or dims@rochester.rr.com - even fabric:-) Instructions also available in the tall stand in the narthex.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday morning group has been called Bible study, book study or just the BS group. We have studied a variety of resources from books to DVDs to YouTube videos to audio CDs to promote discussion and personal faith journeys. We select each resource by a democratic vote. This September we will be reading "Reimagining God: The Faith Journey of a Modern Heretic," by Lloyd Geeing. The author, an ordained minister, pulls together many of the 21st Century questions regarding religion. Book cost: about \$20. The group meets in the lounge Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00. The group contact is Joe Roth, 671-8458.

Webster Council of Churches

The purpose of the Webster Council of Churches is to express through fellowship, cooperation and service the essential oneness of the Christian Churches of Webster in Jesus Christ as their divine Savior. The interdenominational council cooperates in worship and service, sponsoring the Festival of Choirs and CROP walk . For more information, contact Sue Murray 671-7218 jrmurray65@rochester.rr.com

Hill Haven Worship Team

Worship for the residents at Hill Haven Nursing Home. First Tuesday of the month.
For more information contact Sue Murray jrmurray65@rochester.rr.com
or Sandy Lerner snlerner12@rochester.rr.com

Building and Grounds Team (aka Trustees)

This team keeps our facility in good working order. Interested in learning more about this vital ministry? Contact Joe Ditucci joeditucci@aol.com
or Bob Daly rdaly4@rochester.rr.com

Digital Team (a.k.a DIG Team)

Members assist during Sunday worship services by assembling and projecting images and text (prayers, songs, scripture). Preparing for a service takes 30-45 minutes and can be done at home on a computer. We use a program called Easy Worship, which is *very* user friendly. Anyone can learn it in 15 minutes. Big plus: The team does not meet; we communicate electronically. For more information contact

Sue Mitchell smitch@rochester.rr.com

Mike Gerard GerardUCC@gmail.com

Baber Hot Lunch

This group provides a hearty lunch to people in need in Rochester on the fourth Saturday of each month. The meals are prepared and served at Baber AME Church at 550 Meigs Street in Rochester.

For more information or to get involved, contact Norma Fitzpatrick fitzpatricknorma@yahoo.com 872-2599

Salem Nutrition Center

Salem Nutrition Center at Salem United Church of Christ serves a hot lunch on Mondays and Tuesdays to people in need in the city of Rochester. Volunteers from Webster UCC participate in this ministry on Mondays throughout the year. They set up the dining room and help prepare and serve the meal. In addition, volunteers pick up food donations from Hegedorns on Monday morning to be used at the Nutrition Center. If you are interested in being a part of the Hegedorns pick-up rotation, please contact John Rider jrider10@rochester.rr.com

Good Shepherds

Good Shepherds is a group that provides receptions after Memorial Services. People are recruited as needed for each service. No official meetings. Contact Jane

Vavrick janevav@rochester.rr.com for more information.

Mission Team

The Mission Team plans and works on numerous mission projects throughout the year. Some of the current projects are:

Collecting clothing for refugees at Mary's Place

Making dresses for girls in 3rd world countries

Baber Hot Lunch program

Collecting food for the Webster Food Cupboard

Making & filling Church World Service school bags

We also plan the Mission budget for the year. We meet in the church lounge on Monday or Tuesday evening a few times a year as needed. New members are always welcome! For information, contact Lowell Edwards edwards629@juno.com 585-872-1982

Mission Awareness Project

The Mission Awareness Project is in the 2nd year of a 3 year plan where 1% of the endowment fund is used for special Mission Awareness Projects. We search out projects and inform our congregation about them. The group meets in the church lounge on Monday or Tuesday evening a few times a year as needed. New members are always welcome! For information, contact Lowell Edwards edwards629@juno.com 585-872-1982

The CARE 5000 Project– Phase 2

As part of this year's theme, SHELTER, the youth will collect items for baby/child care kits to be distributed to shelters and transitional housing for women and children during Mission Week 2016. Our goal is to collect enough supplies to fill 1000 kits by July 2016. Kits will be assembled for babies and children of all ages. So the kits will not all be the same. Please donate whatever items you can throughout the year! A collection basket is in the narthex. The following items are needed:

Packages of baby wipes, washcloths, toothbrushes (child size), toothpaste, liquid soap suitable for a baby or young child, shampoo suitable for a baby or young child, diapers of all sizes, pacifiers, teething toys

THANK YOU for your continued support during phase 2 of the CARE 5000 project !!! Contact Wendy for more information. wlesko@rochester.rr.com

Peer Ministry

Peer Ministry training equips our youth to live out their faith, be welcoming, embrace diversity, develop their listening skills, and respond effectively to their neighbors' needs. At Webster UCC we have a Peer Ministry Training Team. This team is comprised of 6 adults and 1 youth who are "trained to be trainers". Essentially, this team trains the youth to be Peer Ministers.

The training team holds Peer Ministry training for the *youth* of our congregation once or twice a year. The youth attend 9 hours of interactive lessons involving Bible study, discussions and role playing. The 9 hours are usually spread out over 2 or three Sunday afternoons. If you are interested in becoming a trainer, please contact Wendy . wlesko@rochester.rr.com.

Spiritual Nurturing Team

The **Spiritual Nurturing Team** supports the children's and youth ministries. Throughout the year, these two ministries host special events or programs. Adults in the congregation may be needed to assist at these events. For example, at the Fall Festival for Mary's Place, the youth run the activities but it would be helpful to have adult supervision at the campfire or games station or on the haunted nature path. At VBS, the youth lead the activity stations but having an adult walking around the church campus is a valuable safety precaution. Perhaps the youth need adult drivers during mission week or help flipping pancakes at a pancake breakfast. Also, when congregational hall is used for a large event, a team of adults is needed to help take down and then reassemble the Sunday school rooms. The team leader, Sarah Norton, works with Wendy Lesko to make the various needs known to the congregation throughout the year. Keep your eyes and ears open for an opportunity to support our children's and youth ministry, once or twice or on a regular basis. The team does not hold formal meetings. However, Sarah would like to put together an email list of potential volunteers. For more information, contact Sarah Norton jnorton2@rochester.rr.com

Music Ministry

The choir rehearsals are Wednesday evenings:
Celebration Singers (10:45 on Sunday) – 6:30pm – 7:30pm rehearsal on Wednesdays
Chancel Choir (9:00 on Sunday) – 7:30pm – 9:00pm rehearsal on Wednesdays
Anyone who likes to sing is welcome! For more information, contact ron.milliman@gmail.com

Congregational Vitality Team

This group explores ways to keep all areas of our church life thriving. We meet a couple times a year and primarily share ideas via email. For more information, contact Mike Gerard GerardUCC@gmail.com or Wendy Lesko wlesko@rochester.rr.com

WUCC Cooking Team

This group cooks up a storm for special church events all year long. Some events include Oktoberfest, Nonna's Dinner, Dinner and a Show, and the Caring Community Concerts! Everyone, regardless of culinary talent, is welcome to join. Contact Carl if you are interested or have questions.

Worship Team

The worship team oversees the logistics involved with worship services. Skip Erb maintains a list of volunteers who assist with these responsibilities. If you have questions or would like to be a volunteer for this team please contact Skip at lounskip@yahoo.com

Responsibilities include: make sure the sanctuary is prepared for Services, Provide for Communion Elements and Serving Team, Liturgists, Digital Team, Ushers for Worship, Ushers for Memorial Services, Welcome Counter, Sign Language Interpreter, Any other thing the Pastor asks for Special Services.

Friends of Seniors Visitation Team

Purpose of Group is to make contact with those members and friends of our church who are primarily restricted to home or a health related residence center either by visit, telephone call or note. The Team meets on the first Wednesday morning of each month at 9:30 in the church lounge to share what contacts they have made and to receive updates on the status of church members and friends. The Team also acts as a resource for the Minister of Pastoral Care.

For more information please contact Roger Reed 671-3757
rural_rev_rjr@hotmail.com

Lunch Bunch Steering Team

Purpose of this group is to plan for the monthly (October thru June) gatherings of the Lunch Bunch (which meets the third Wednesday at noon in Fellowship Center for lunch and fellowship). The Steering Team meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at 11 AM in the Narthex. The Team oversees all aspects of the Lunch Bunch; this includes publicity, programs, room set up and food. Some members of the Steering Team also voluntarily serve as a planning team for adult education venues of particular interest to the senior adult and those who relate or care for them.

For more information please contact Roger Reed 671-3757
rural_rev_rjr@hotmail.com

Rockers

Gather for breakfast and fellowship. First and third Thursday of each month at 8:30 at the Nutcracker.

For more information please contact Roger Reed 671-3757
rural_rev_rjr@hotmail.com

Rebel Beat Youth Ministry

During Sunday morning lessons from September 2014 to June 2015 the youth explored Jesus' mission. We studied Jesus' techniques and strategies. We looked closely at *the way Jesus challenged the norms of society and reached out to the outcasts and the unloved*. Jesus made his love and care available to *all* people. Jesus urged the disciples to put others first and themselves last and to truly and unconditionally love their neighbor.

Jesus taught the *disciples* to extend God's love to all people by serving with sincere love and care. As Jesus' disciples, the youth have found ways to apply what they learned about Jesus' revolutionary mission to their lives through acts of service. The service extends throughout the year culminating in the week of intense service, the Rochester Summer Mission Week. Our work as rebels is not done. The youth will continue to reflect on *how* we as disciples of Jesus can in small ways and big ways carry on Jesus' revolutionary mission of love, peace and justice. Since that will always be the foundation of our youth ministry, we have adopted the name **REBEL BEAT Youth Ministry**. It's sort of a brand or reminder to each of us and to anyone in the congregation and community that as a group, we will seek to carry on Jesus' revolutionary mission. For more information, please contact Wendy wlesko@rochester.rr.com.

Kids' Quest Children's Ministry

Kids' Quest Sunday school lessons are based on a weekly Bible point. Lessons meet the needs and preferred learning style of all kinds of learners. Lessons are designed to help children discover the relevance of the Bible lesson in their own lives and how they can live what they learned. Lessons include a gathering component where the teachers welcome the children and engage them in a warm greeting & prayer. The teachers then activate the children's background knowledge about the lesson. The children work together to find the focus scripture/story in the Bible. Older children read while the younger follow along. The teachers engage the children in discussion, connecting the story to the children's lives. Lessons also include drama/skits, crafts or science experiments that reinforce the Bible point. Through the "Kids Caring for Kids" program, the children participate in numerous outreach projects benefiting children both locally and globally. The third and fourth graders, TEAM 34, exercise leadership skills as they plan and lead 2 outreach projects each year. For more information contact Wendy wlesko@rochester.rr.com.

Women's Wine and Cheese Group

The name of this fellowship group kind of speaks for itself! This group of women from the 10:45 service gather together for fellowship and friendship. We try to meet monthly in each other's homes. We usually find ourselves sitting around someone's kitchen table chatting and laughing. Of course wine and other beverages and an assortment of munchies enhance our time together. For more information contact Carolyn Montanaro cam01@rochester.rr.com 265-6618 or 370-7080

Men's Group

The Men's group is an informal social group that meets several times a year. The goal is to get together and socialize. Past meetings have been to watch sporting events, talk about the beer making process, or just to socialize. We will meet at a member's house or at UCC. If you would like to participate or have an idea for a meeting contact Mike Gerard at GerardUCC@gmail.com or call him at [585 202 3966](tel:5852023966).

Meal and a Mission Team

This group will plan monthly gatherings to happen after second service involving a simple meal (for example pizza or potluck) with a mission component. These gatherings will offer opportunities for fellowship and connecting through a common desire to reach out to our neighbors and make a difference in our community.

For more information, contact Wendy Lesko wlesko@rochester.rr.com

Congregational Life Team

This team supports and plans fellowship events and gatherings. Heidi and Polly maintain a list of volunteers who help make these events happen. If you would like to add your name to the list or have questions or ideas, please contact Heidi Zastowny or Polly Ellstrom heidizastowny@gmail.com p.ellstrom@childcarecouncil.com

4TWG (4th Thursday Women's Group)

This group meets monthly, usually on the fourth Thursday, for fun and fellowship. We strive for a variety of activities and try to include all aspects of small groups: learning, caring, and serving. We often meet in each other's homes: one woman hosts the group, another leads devotions, and a third brings dessert for our social time. At other times, we gather at a destination location for fellowship. In July, for example, we met at the Genesee Brewery for a tour and supper. That night we invited our significant others and the pastors. In 2015 we also met with other WUCC women and made prayer beads. We read and discussed some of Ann Weems' Lenten poems, we sewed book bags, and we toured the Eastman House gardens.

On the fourth Thursday in September, Barb Boehly will help us with Tai Chi. Come October 22, we will be making snowmen gifts as an outreach project. Then in November (third Thursday), we will have a time and talent auction to add money to our treasury so we can turn around and give it away. Early in December we will have our holiday gathering, inviting significant others to join us. Next January 28 we will have a potluck supper and plan our meetings/outings for 2016.

For more information, contact Sue Mitchell, at 872-5264 or at smitch4@rochester.rr.com

WUCC RAIHN Team

The WUCC RAIHN Team is a group of volunteers who support St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Rochester, a host church for RAIHN (Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network). Members of the WUCC RAIHN Team sign up to work a 2 or 3 hour shift at St. Paul's approximately 3 times a year. Your duties may include serving dinner, cleaning up after dinner, chatting with the guests, playing with children etc. The team also usually provides one dinner for the guests. You might consider providing groceries or cooking a portion of the meal. For more information please contact Wendy Lesko wlesko@rochester.rr.com or Colleen Kunz cmaykunz@yahoo.com