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# The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church  
Webster, New York



April 2020

**SPECIAL EDITION**

Vol. L No. 4

HE IS  
**ALIVE**

We have been so blessed by the ministry of our Interim Pastor, Rev. Phil Davis, who has stepped into the gap during this season of great challenges. Rev. Davis holds an undergraduate degree from Hunter College of the City University of New York and a graduate degree from Union Theological Seminary of New York City. Since 2003 he has served Presbyterian Churches USA and American Baptist Churches USA in the Rochester, NY area.

### A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Greetings Church Family,

The professor of Psychiatry and Religion at Union Seminary in New York City, Dr. Ann Ulanov, instructed future church leaders that we will be in situations that are difficult to fathom. Situations to which words like “quagmire” and “morass” apply. Her instruction for those times was to turn the situation over to God. The learned professor of Psychiatry and Religion at a leading American Seminary instructed her students to invite the Holy into those situations. The Doctor said, “Pray.”

We now find ourselves in a situation unsettling at both the local level and a global level. I now offer the following prayer for our church and our world.

*Eternal God, we pray to you through Christ the Healer for our church where relationships are strained and for our world now challenged by a virus. We trust at this time, that you are the same God of reconciliation and the same God with the power to heal hearts, minds and bodies. We know you as an omnipresent God. And we know you are present to heal and comfort. The Psalmist instructs: “Be still, and know that you are God.” We now ask to know your peace that passes all understanding and to be reminded of “How Great Thou Art.” It is in Jesus’ name and for his sake we all pray. Amen.*

Won't you join me with this prayer. Let's turn our situation over to our Creator and our Sustainer.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Phil

### APRIL MEMORY VERSE

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.  
1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

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## **PATHWAY SPECIAL EDITION: STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW RIGHT NOW**

In light of the challenges that we are facing with the COVID-19 virus, this is a special edition of the *Pathway*, bringing you the information you need to know while church services and activities are temporarily suspended and many of us are sequestered at home. We are sending out the *Pathway* digitally and mailing it to members who we know do not have email. Even if you do have email, if you need a printed version, just call or email the office and we'll drop one in the mail.

**The Church Office** will be staffed on a limited basis to receive emails (preferred) and return your phone messages: (585-265-9700 and [office@websterpres.org](mailto:office@websterpres.org) and [kboard@websterpres.org](mailto:kboard@websterpres.org)). We will also be emailing special announcements and prayer requests, so be sure to check your email frequently.

**Once services and church activities resume** we will send out another edition of *The Pathway* that will include the usual announcements about all the opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and service that take place at Webster Presbyterian Church, and when and where they will take place.

**Congregational Care Check-in Groups:** The congregation has been divided into Check-in Groups. Each group has been assigned an Elder or a Deacon who will be in touch by phone with the people in their groups. The purpose is to care for one another in our church family during the pandemic through sharing, prayer, and identifying specific needs. When Jesus was asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:28, 30-31 NIV.

**Services are being livestreamed at our Facebook site** (<https://www.facebook.com/Websterpres/>) and can be viewed in real time, or later at your leisure. We are also livestreaming on Zoom for those who do not have a Facebook account. Additionally, we are emailing the Sunday bulletin so you can follow along with the service.

### **WPC Sunday Virtual Service on Zoom (for those who don't have Facebook):**

Time: This is a **recurring meeting** for every Sunday service.

Join Zoom Meeting - click on the link below or copy/paste it into a chrome browser.

<https://zoom.us/j/200521841>

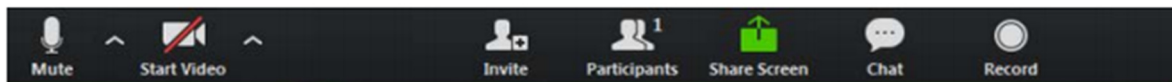
Once the program has downloaded, please **make sure your microphone is muted** when you enter (or everybody will be able to hear you): look in the bottom left corner of your screen, click on the microphone and select "mute." Please do not choose "share screen" – **only the host is to use that function.**

**Meeting ID: 200 521 841**

**Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)**

Here is a really good zoom tutorial: <https://assets.zoom.us/docs/user-guides/zoom-rooms>

**Participant controls in the lower left corner of the Zoom screen:**



**Virtual Narthex:** We held several open Zoom meetings for people to check in for some fellowship & conversation this week. Sunday was pretty well attended - about 12 people. Monday and Tuesday much less so, so we've decided to make this a **weekly** instead of nightly offering. Every Sunday evening at 7:00 pm there will be an open Zoom meeting available <https://zoom.us/j/690945403>. This will be the same link each week. No program and no agenda - we'll start with a short devotional, but the rest of the time will be free time to talk about whatever is on your minds.

### **GOOD NEWS! The new website is ready to launch!**

Go to [websterpres.org](http://websterpres.org) to check it out (in about a week).

In April, our new website will go live! Many thanks go to the members of the technology committee who has spent hours (and hours and hours☺) working on getting the new site ready. Please go online and check it out when it goes live. One of the big benefits of this new site is the availability of **online giving**. See the article on the next page!

## **STEWARDSHIP: WHAT ABOUT MY PLEDGE WHEN THE CHURCH IS CLOSED?**

We are in the early stages of a national health emergency. Although this is not primarily a financial emergency, people will experience financial hardships as the economic dislocations continue. It will be important to continue to meet our mission obligations as the organizations we support figure out how to continue their missions. In addition, most of our own costs will continue even when the building is closed. In other words, your financial pledge is as important now as it is when the church is open.

If you are experiencing short term financial hardships during the emergency, the church has some capability to help in some situations – please contact the office or Reverend Davis as necessary.

### **But if you are able to continue your pledge, how do you give when the church is closed?**

#### **Option 1 – US Mail**

Some of us still remember things like envelopes and stamps (ask your parents) – you can always mail a check to the church office. Although the office is operating on irregular hours, we are checking mail, email and telephone messages regularly.

#### **Option 2 – Online bill pay through your bank**

Most banks offer some form of online bill payment. If you use this feature, you should be able to set up the church as a Payee, and make payments that way. You can make individual payments, regular weekly payments, or regular monthly payments for no fee to you, the donor, or to the church. See your bank website for details.

#### **Option 3 – Online giving through the web site**

Our new church website will be live in April, at **WebsterPres.org**. Once the new site is available, you will be able to make online payments to the church for a small fee to the church. Details are at the end of this article.

#### **Option 4 – QCDs through your investment institution\***

**Are you over 70 ½ years old, and do you have a traditional IRA?** Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) transfers are even more advantageous after the 2018 tax law changes increased standard deductions and fewer people are itemizing. Persons 70 ½ and older can distribute up to \$100K/year to charities from a Traditional IRA by filling out a QCD withdrawal form with their IRA provider.

QCD distributions are not taxable income, yet count toward one's annual RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) required of IRA investors after they reach 70 ½. (Of course, you can't "double dip" by including the QCD amount if you itemize deductions.)

QCD checks are made payable to the church and, depending on the practices of your financial institution, may be sent directly to the church.

See IRS Form 390-B for more information.

#### **Option 5 – Stock gifts through your investment institution\***

**Do you have appreciated stock that you wish to donate?** (Timing may be bad for this one, but it might still apply in some cases.) Gifts of Appreciated Stock can be made via a signed form from one's broker, and may provide tax advantages to the giver. Please check with your financial institution and the church office for step by step instructions. Make sure to advise WPC secretary Georgia Hubbard so she won't have to guess the donor identity. If the stock value has depreciated, it may be advantageous to sell it, write a check to WPC for the proceeds, and take a tax loss to off-set gains from other transactions.

Stock transfers will typically be made directly from your institution to the church's account.

See IRS Form 8283 Noncash Charitable Contributions, Part I for more information.

**\*We are not offering and do not offer tax or financial advice – please consult your tax advisor as necessary.**

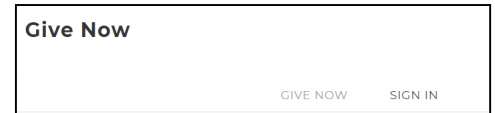
## How to make online payments through the web site

1. Our new church website will be live in April, at **WebsterPres.org**. Once the new site is available, you will be able to make online payments to the church.

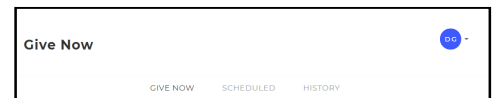
2. At the top right-hand corner of every page are two options. The lines are a drop-down navigation menu that can help you find specific pages you are looking for. The “Give” button will take you to the online giving section.



3. The page that opens up has two options - “Give Now” or “Sign In”. The “Sign In” option gives you an option to create a new account (or use an existing account) – this will make future giving a bit quicker and easier. If you use other on-line services you are familiar with this process.



4. If you have an account and are signed in, the “Give now” page will include an icon in the upper right-hand corner to indicate this. If you choose not to set up an account, you can “Give Now” instead without an account.



5. In either case, click the dropdown box titled “Choose a Fund” and pick where the money should go within the church. Your annual pledge should go to “General Budget” (which is currently the only one set up). Throughout the year, different funds will be available such as One Great Hour of Sharing, Blanket Sunday, and Summer Mission. Enter a dollar amount, and check the box for “recurring gift” if you want to. Then click on “Submit”.

6. If you want the gift to repeat in the future, click the “Make This Gift Recurring” box. The system will then ask you to Register for an Account. If you do not want the gift to repeat, simply skip that box and continue down the page.

7. There are 2 options, again – you can give by credit card or directly from your bank account. In either case, fill in the information requested and again hit “Submit.”

8. You're done! You'll get an on-screen confirmation and an email confirmation.

Our web site is set up with all of the appropriate security and encryption protocols – this is a safe, convenient and effective way to give.

If you experience any difficulties, please contact Linnaea Nifong ([lvnifong@gmail.com](mailto:lvnifong@gmail.com)) Don George ([dgeorge14580@gmail.com](mailto:dgeorge14580@gmail.com)) or call/email the Church Office (585-265-9700 or [office@websterpres.org](mailto:office@websterpres.org)).



### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

Due to the current emergency health situation, the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be delayed until later this year. Please stay tuned for an announcement and when we will receive and dedicate the offering.



## SPIRITUAL NURTURE

Dear WPC Family,

So now what shall we do with all this time? May I suggest that that you check out the Bible Gateway site at <https://www.biblegateway.com/>. I have used it for years. But my new discovery, just this week, was to listen to the Bible. They have an audio selection that is easily found, so that you can listen to the Bible, any chapter, any verse.

Start with your favorites, perhaps Genesis 1, the creation story. Then perhaps move to the 23 Psalm....finally the big stretch, listen to Psalm 119. Although this is the longest chapter in the Bible, you will soon desire to hear more.

Give it a try and you may just come out of this with a wonderful new gift.

God Bless, Jim Hoffman, Spiritual Nurture Committee






### ADULT ED COMING SOON!

We will be continuing our study of Adam Hamilton's, *The Walk: 5 Essential Practices of the Christian Life* via Zoom in the weeks to come, watch for an email with the Zoom link to be coming soon and please join us! You do not have to have a copy of the book to join us in this "walk."

### FAMILY NEWS

#### Deaths which saddened us included

-  Joan Gourley, March 8
-  Shirley Fischer, March 9
-  Matthew Vandergrift, March 9

### APRIL LECTIONARY PASSAGES

#### April 5, Palm/Passion Sunday (Holy Week begins)

##### Palms

New Testament: *Matthew 21:1-11*  
Psalm: *Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29*

##### Passion

Old Testament: *Isaiah 50:4-9a*  
Psalm: *Psalms 31:9-16*  
New Testament: *Philippians 2:5-11*  
Gospel: *Matthew 26:14 – 27:66*

#### April 12, Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Old Testament: *Jeremiah 31:1-6*  
Psalm: *Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24*  
New Testament: *Acts 10:34-43*  
Gospel: *John 20:1-18*

##### Easter Evening

Old Testament: *Isaiah 25:6-9*  
Psalm: *Psalms 114*  
New Testament: *1 Corinthians 5:6b-8*  
Gospel: *Luke 24:13-49*

#### April 19, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Psalm: *Psalms 16*  
New Testament: *Acts 2:14a, 22-32*  
*1 Peter 1:3-9*  
Gospel: *John 20:19-31*

#### April 26, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Psalm: *Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19*  
New Testament: *Acts 2:14a, 36-41*  
*1 Peter 1:17-23*  
Gospel: *Luke 24:13-35*

### HOPE MINISTRY

HOPE Ministry is still scheduled to hold the Foodlink mobile pantry distribution on Friday, April 3. They will be giving away boxes containing about 45 lbs. of non-perishables per family. Easter hams will also be distributed. Specific details have not been determined, but if you are interested in volunteering, contact Lauren: [lanthonypalmer08@gmail.com](mailto:lanthonypalmer08@gmail.com)

### EASTERN SERVICE WORKERS

ESWA is looking for help to handle the crisis relief effort. ESWA needs non-perishable food items, paper supplies, disinfecting wipes, and hand sanitizer to distribute to their members. An outside collection bin will be available at our church at the north entrance next to the bench from Friday 3/27-3/29. Wanda Nungesser will take the collection on Monday 3/30.

### MEMORIAL RECEPTION COORDINATOR NEEDED

Barbara Coleman is in her tenth year as coordinator of receptions held for families at WPC following a memorial service. She will continue to the end of this (2020) year. Anyone interested in taking the position and shadowing Barbara for this year can reach her at 585-406-2768.