

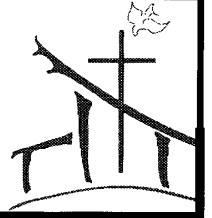
WHAT'S INSIDE

Page No.

2. Rev. Phil, Adopt-a-Highway, Habitat
3. Staff changes, Bells
4. Adult Ed., Lectionary, Bible Study, Memory Verse
5. Children, Youth
6. Mission, Heart & Hand
7. Family News
"Raindrops"

The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York



September 2020

Vol. L No. 7



LOOKING TO REGATHER IN THE FUTURE. .

Worship in the Sanctuary begins Sunday, September 20th.

A Regathering Team has met and worked to create a plan to begin regathering as a church community. We view this document as a guideline and not a calendar, in that we are not as concerned with

dates as we are markers that will establish when it's appropriate to move ahead. As we reopen the church, it is important to determine what processes will remain consistent and what needs to be restructured in an effort to keep everyone safe. Please use the link below or the attachment to review the Regathering Plan. We are consulting with staff and boards of the church to make sure all are ready to move forward. Any questions can be directed to any member of the Regathering Team:

Elaine Wilbert, Barb Hach, Alissa Mayer, Tina McNeary, Chris Downs,
Gayl Galen, LeeAnn Daigle, Bob Blakey, Rev. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan, and Anita Brocker

Reopening Plan

IN THE MEANTIME --

Please check your email regularly. Until the church reopens, this is the best way to stay updated with the latest news and opportunities that are available. If you don't have email, do not hesitate to call the church office during the hours below, or find a friend who does have email that you can check with regularly. Monthly *Pathways* and important letters from Session will be sent via postal mail directly to your homes.

Sunday Services continue to be live-streamed:

You can watch them **live** at 9:30 using:

ZOOM <https://zoom.us/j/200521841> Password - worship

or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Websterpres/>

Or you can watch it **later** at your leisure using:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Websterpres/>

or YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5-thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA>



The September Pathway deadline is Sunday, September 20th. We are hopeful that by then, or soon after, the church building will be reopened and more normal activities can resume.

New Church Office Hours - Beginning September 8th, the church office will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The office will be closed on Mondays and Fridays.

FROM PASTOR PHIL

To My Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

Church membership is easy. Discipleship is hard. If you only wear the hat of a church member you probably should stop reading this now. If, however, you aspire to be a disciple of the one who died on a Roman cross as an atonement for your sins, continue reading.



Discipleship is a call to a certain way of living. Discipleship is not for the faint of heart. The ethics or the way of life Christians are called to are hard. They sound great until a situation arises where you actually have to put them into practice.

When asked, "What is the greatest commandment?" Jesus responds, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ... Love your neighbor as yourself." In another place, Jesus calls on us to "Love them that hate you and pray for them the persecute you." Forget hate and persecution; a simple disagreement can make it appear that disciples never heard the commandment of the Lord to Love. Discipleship is hard.

Our call is to "Forgive seventy times seven times." People make mistakes and wound others without knowledge of what they've done or why they've done it. You probably will never learn the root cause of someone's behavior. Most of us don't know why we zig when we could have, should have zagged. I live confidently that God has forgiven me for zigging when I should have zagged. This same God has forgiven you and has called us to forgive those who zigged when we thought they should have zagged. You've been called to forgive seventy times seven times. Discipleship is hard.

For those still reading this, my prayer is for you to joyfully embrace the challenge of discipleship. My prayer is for the spirit to bless you with "The Strength To Love."

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Phil

**Look at life through the windshield,
not the rearview mirror.**

Fall Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up - October 3rd

As most of you know, WPC has been doing an adopt-a-highway clean-up of Route 250, past the church, each spring and fall for several years. The COVID pandemic forced a cancelation of this year's spring clean-up, but we are planning on conducting a fall clean-up.

The fall, adopt-a-highway clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. Given the absence of a spring clean-up, there is likely to be a bit more debris. Even so, with sufficient volunteers we should finish in much less than two hours. To volunteer, either as a "picker" or driver, please contact Mark Pipal at 787-4301 or pipalmw@yahoo.com. Facemasks will be worn wherever six-foot distancing is not possible.



Our Coalition Begins A Habitat House Build

As part of the Penfield Area Churches Supporting Flower City Habitat for Humanity, WPC will be part of the initial Blessing Ceremony at 77 Melville Street in Rochester. We will be co-sponsoring the rehab/rebuild of this house with ICE-CWA. Construction is now beginning and the home buyers, Issa and Nurta, will be working with us.

The Coalition continues using church donations, clothing shed earnings, Public Market booth sales, Pie Sales, and other fund raisers to generate its funds. You are a part of this mission. Please call Shirley and Irv Crane (585-223-3644) to see how you can help.

PASTOR LARRY DE VUYST SAYS “GOOD-BYE”

On July 19, 2020 the Webster Presbyterian Church congregation consented to Pastor Larry De Vuyst's request for the Dissolution of his Call to our church. In his written request to his Sisters and Brothers in Christ at WPC, Pastor Larry stated that, “after much prayer and discussion, Kim and I believe that our departure is in the best interest of the Webster Congregation at this time. My family and I have been blessed with so many opportunities for service through worship, teaching, singing in choir, numerous work camps and youth retreats, fellowship gatherings and our New Beginnings.”

At Pastor Larry's request and with the consent of the congregation, the Presbytery Committee on Ministry approved the Dissolution of Call, and reported it at the July 28, 2020 Presbytery meeting. Bob Blakey and Connie Rice reported the Congregation's consent and spoke to Pastor Larry's ministry at Webster Presbyterian Church.

Thank you, Pastor Larry and Kim, for your faithful and loving service of Ministry to our congregation for 27 years. May God bless you on your journey ahead together.

STAFF CHANGE

After serving WPC for over 4 years, our Sexton, **Chris Downs**, submitted his resignation effective August 1st. Chris has been a hard working, friendly, and helpful Sexton during his tenure. He has always gone out of his way to make all members and visitors of our Church complex feel welcome and valued. Best wishes to Chris as he pursues new work opportunities that are a better fit for his personal and family needs. Chris will continue his faithful Church membership and remain an active Trustee board member. Thanks Chris !

New Sexton

Please welcome our new sexton, Miltona (Tina) Brown! Tina brings over 10 years of hands-on hotel housekeeping and housekeeping supervision experience to the WPC sexton position. Her official start date will be August 31st. We look forward to working closely with her as we move to reopen WPC for worship, Bible study groups, and other limited activities this fall !



BELL PROGRAM STARTUP INFORMATION

Starting up bell programs for this school year will be interesting and challenging.

For the fall there will be one bell choir that will prepare for worship. If I find there is enough interest, I will add another one as we go along. Information will be sent to all ringers from last year. Anyone else interested in ringing bells, contact me. I am always happy to train or add new ringers.

The bell choir set up will be on the Chancel. This is to leave as much space as possible on the floor for people attending worship following COVID guidelines. I have arranged tables so that we can have a bell choir rehearse and play for worship. Masks will be worn during rehearsals and worship. Ringers will not share bells. Ringers will be 4 feet apart except for family members. That will remain the protocol for the time being. For the fall bells will be ringing in worship on the fourth Sunday.

Glory Bells will not be starting up yet. This choir plays at nursing homes, and we know that the homes will not be having outside groups for a while.

Jackie Anderson, Director of WPC Bell Programs

(585) 265-9054

jktanderson42@gmail.com



Learning for a Lifetime

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Did you do any gardening this summer? If so, you watched plants and flowers grow and mature. Growing and maturing in the faith is what Adult Christian Education hopes to provide for the congregation – growing in our knowledge of the Godhead, the Bible, the world God has created, its people, its problems. Join in presentations and discussions beginning Wednesday, September 16th. The first two meetings will continue with “Living in the Light” from *101 Stand-Alone Bible Studies*. On the 30th there will be a presentation by Tina Verna Stevens on Waste Recycling in Monroe County. We are all stewards of creation, but as we know, our planet needs help sustaining itself.

Sept. 16 - “Simplicity”

Sept. 23 - “Compassion”

Sept. 30 - Waste Recycling in Monroe County

All offerings will be at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom until it is safe to gather. A link will be sent out via email to connect to the session.

SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

September 6

Old Testament *Exodus 12:1-14*
Psalm *Psalms 149*
New Testament: *Romans 13:8-14*
Gospel *Matthew 18:15-20*

September 13

Old Testament *Exodus 14:19-31*
Psalm *Psalms 114*
New Testament *Romans 14:1-12*
Gospel *Matthew 18:21-35*

September 20

Old Testament *Exodus 16:2-15*
Psalm *Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45*
New Testament *Philippians 1:21-30*
Gospel *Matthew 20:1-16*

September 27

Old Testament *Exodus 17:1-7*
Psalm *Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16*
New Testament *Philippians 2:1-13*
Gospel *Matthew 21:23-32*

What's New in Waste and Recycling in Rochester?



What happens to our waste and recycling once it leaves our houses? How about some new ideas that can make us better stewards of the earth's resources? Tina Stevens from the Monroe County Dept. of Environmental Services will be talking with us about the current state of recycling and waste management, what the trends and issues are, and how we can be wiser about our use of resources. There will be time for questions. Don't miss this!

Wednesday September 30th at 7 p.m.

Here is the link. Password is **worship**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3983403172?pwd=Y1I0TXIzYkp2UHhlOXIiIam9uL0FsZz09>

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY resumes Tuesday, September 15th via Zoom. As we cannot have our “praise time,” we will start at 10:00 a.m. (change of time). It is always exciting to study and discuss God's Word, and any woman of WPC (her friend or neighbor) is welcome to participate. Consider yourself invited!

“Soul Food” is the topic for the 15th. How is your appetite? How about your Spiritual appetite? Are you on solid foods yet, or still on milk? Whichever, the Bible has suggestions and promises for us to “taste and see that the Lord is good.” The rest of the autumn will focus on our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, referring to the book *The Jesus You May Not Know* by David Jeremiah. We will discover Jesus in the Old & New Testaments Jesus as teacher, as a prayer warrior, his ministry, his Kingship. The more we know Jesus, the deeper our relationship with Him can be. Each meeting will end with a time of prayer. Watch for the Zoom link and get your Bible in hand.

SEPTEMBER MEMORY VERSE

The Lord [says], “I have loved you with an everlasting love, I have drawn you with loving kindness.”
Jeremiah 31:3



CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are all anxious to get back to worshipping with our church family and back to Sunday School for our children. When it is time to begin gathering again in the Sanctuary, Sunday School will not be returning immediately to start. All children, including our youngest ones, will remain in worship. Worship bags will be provided each week, as in the summer, and these will be yours to take home since they can not be reused for health reasons. We encourage families to think about packing their own tote bag for their child. Activity bags will also be available for pick-up at the north entrance of the church if a family chooses to not attend the in-person worship.

Once it is determined it is safe to restart Sunday School for children, families can look forward to a new SHINE Sunday School program as well as family events and activities. There will be communion and Bible lessons, chimes and bells, science and outreach activities, and crafts.

For now, PRAY, be HOPEFUL, and have FAITH that we will all be together again soon.

YOUTH

I pray that you and your family have had a relaxing summer of good health and family time. At the submission of this article we haven't been cleared to have youth fellowship inside the church building, so I have planned outdoor activities that we can enjoy social distanced from one another. I hope you will be settled into your new school year routine and ready to fellowship with each other.



Sunday, September 20th, at 3:00 p.m. we will bury our time capsule for a future youth group to discover. We will identify a location, measure and draw a map, and dig and bury the time capsule. Individuals are welcome to bring an item to enclose in the time capsule. When we opened the 1989 Time Capsule, we wondered why they put certain items into it, so we created a submission form to accompany the item in our time capsule. Those of you who already submitted items last fall had some great insight as to why you chose your item, so please submit a completed form to be included in the capsule explaining the significance of your item. I will be laminating all the forms and paper items before they are enclosed just in case our capsule is compromised with water. Someone may even have an idea for including the COVID-19 and the self-isolation we are undergoing. Come out with a shovel, work gloves, a water bottle, mask and a snack for yourself.



Sunday, September 27th, at 3:00 p.m. we are inviting families to join us on a road rally around the town of Webster. Teams will be given clues that consist of riddles which lead you to where to drive and challenges along the way until the team reaches the final destination to claim your reward. To maintain social distancing, each family will be their own team in their own vehicle. We are hoping families will happily join us for this event, but if there is a youth who wants to participate and his or her parents can't attend, please contact me. We don't want to leave anyone out. Come out with a water bottle, mask and a snack for your family.

Continue to stay safe, make a difference for someone, and find gratitude in each day.

Together in Fellowship & Service,

Wanda Nungesser
Director of Youth Ministries
youth@websterpres.org
585-414-1337



MISSION NEWS

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You !

The Mission Committee is very thankful for the overwhelming generosity of this congregation for the many school supplies collected for Williamson Come-Unity Center and Eastern Service Workers.

It is such a Blessing that we are able to help equip so many children with the proper tools to start school.

Bella's Bumbas Donation



The Mission Committee recently approved and sent a donation (from a gift from a member designated for special mission projects) to help with the shipping of 2 Bella's Bumbas kits to Indonesia and Malaysia. Volunteers in those areas will receive the parts needed to assemble 3 or 4 of the toddler-sized wheelchairs for children in their communities with mobility needs. Everyone who is affected is



extremely grateful to the members of our church. Check out the Bella's Bumbas Facebook page to see photos and videos!

<https://www.facebook.com/bellasbumbas>

Disaster Relief For Lebanon:

The recent massive explosion at the docks in Beirut, Lebanon has created a huge humanitarian crisis. If you haven't yet contributed to this relief effort and would like to do so, please respond by September 6th by sending a check to our church made out to WPC with the memo "Lebanon Disaster Relief," or donating online via the church website. Monies collected will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance who will distribute it to their first responder partners in Lebanon for food, water, medical supplies, temporary housing, and other basic needs.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Webster Presbyterian Church has participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering for many years, usually in the spring. This year the Mission Committee is offering you the opportunity to do so from September 13th through October 4th. The funds are used worldwide to help alleviate hunger, provide aid during disasters, and invest in communities by responding to experiences of racism oppression, poverty and injustice.

To contribute, please send a check to WPC with OGHS written in the memo, or go to the church website and contribute on the Sharefaith link.

(Note: PDA was a first responder in the Beirut, Lebanon catastrophe.)



HEART AND HAND



The Heart and Hand planning team has met and is excited to report that we all agreed to resume our group meetings on **September 18th**. Whether the meeting will be at church or virtual in our homes is yet to be determined.

Given that it appears we will be living with Covid-19 for a while, the September project will, again, be facemasks. You will receive more detailed plans as we get closer to the meeting date. As in the past, we hope to be able to include everyone's talents in producing the masks.

Change: The third Friday morning of each month looks like it will work better for our meetings this year.



New Addresses

Rick & Stephanie Lux
21 Kettle Point Avenue
East Providence, RI 02914
482-4912

Gordon & Dorothy Neil
1371 Oakmonte Blvd.
Webster, NY 14580

The Zeitvogel Family
4764 Stockbridge Drive
Medina, OH 44256

Family News

We're happy to announce the births of:

Madeline Jane, born June 19th
to parents Eric & Melissa Galen Koepke
and grandparents Jack & MaryGrace Thomas

Aiden Marsh, born June 30th
to parents Joe & Amanda Marsh O'Rourke
brother Mychael
and grandparents Dan & Meg Marsh

We said sad "Goodbyes" to those who died:

Bob Clark, on July 30th

Sharon Landon on August 14th

Betty Anderson on August 22nd

Naomi Circle is meeting on Wednesday, September 9th, outside, 6:00 p.m., at Diane Cole's house. Program is Catch Up Time!



Raindrops

I found this in a book I've been reading about how to read the Bible in the context of Hebrew language, culture and history:

Just as rain water comes down in drops and forms rivers, so with the Scriptures: one studies a bit today and some more tomorrow, until in time the understanding becomes like a flowing stream.

— Song of Songs Midrash Rabbah 2:8

Tverberg, Lois. Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus (p. 15). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

Understanding scripture comes not from a whirlwind "read the Bible in a year" program or a particular special event, seminar or class. It's a lifetime of reading, listening to sermons, participating in small group studies, and so on. It's the drops of rain along the way, not the river at the end.

Niagara Falls is nothing more than the overflow from Lake Erie. And the lake is nothing more than the accumulation of water from rainfall and springs all throughout its drainage basin.

And that made me think of another river, from Amos:

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! (Amos 5:24)

Which matters because

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.

(Psalm 89:14)

Justice and righteousness don't just spring up overnight out of nothing. They come from the everyday acts of integrity, kindness, honesty, fairness, and respect that don't seem like much individually, but that eventually make a river of righteousness.

And finally, reconciliation and healing are the same - we aren't going to get healthy overnight and progress will only come from the small and seemingly insignificant acts of grace and mercy that we share with each other. Someday in the future we will be able to look back at how far we've come, but it won't seem that way as we move forward raindrop by raindrop.

In Christ, Don George