

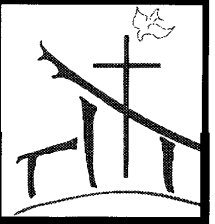
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The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York



November 2020



Vol. L No. 8

Stewardship & Finance

There is no doubt about it – 2020 has been a difficult year for our church. But amid all the turmoil and pain, there are also many signs of recovery and a willingness to move forward. Pastor Phil has served us faithfully and well for most of the year. We are making progress on a Stated Supply Pastor Search for 2021. We have a committed group of members working hard every week to provide virtual worship services, and recently we have been able to open the building for in-person worship. Read the rest of this month's *Pathway* and you'll see many more signs of recovery and regrowth in our church.



We are still struggling with our budget. Pledge income this year is about \$(87,500) below the amount pledged year to date. This is significant, and we've made the necessary reductions in all areas of our spending – personnel and office hours, facilities and maintenance, mission and programs. We will get through 2020 financially, but with a much lower cash balance than normal and virtually no operating reserves for major or unplanned expenses.



We recently sent you the Stewardship letter and pledge card for 2021, as well as the statements for 2020 giving through September. We watched together a lesson from Adam Hamilton's [The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life](#). We learned that stewardship – the faithful sharing of what we have with others – is an essential practice of our faith journey. We learned that it is important to be individually generous and giving, but that it is also important to be generous and giving as a community in support of the church as well.

Please prayerfully consider your ability and willingness to support the mission and ministry of the church with your pledges and gifts – both by honoring your 2020 pledge and by pledging your support for 2021. 2020 gifts can be sent through the web-site or by US mail; 2021 pledges can be sent to the church office by US mail, email or phone.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 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 4:8-10

Time Change

Remember to move your clock
BACK one hour
for Daylight Savings time
on November 1st.



The December Pathway Deadline

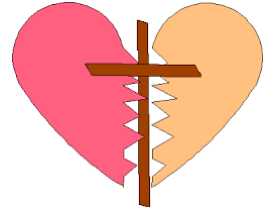
is Wednesday, November 18th
(early due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.)



FROM PASTOR PHIL

To my Sisters and Brothers of the Webster Presbyterian Church,

Essential to any discussion about Grace is the concept of "Reconciliation." A dictionary definition of Reconciliation is, "the restoration of friendly relations." In Christian theology, reconciliation "is the end of the estrangement, ...between God and humanity."



In his 2nd letter to the Church at Corinth, the Apostle Paul wrote, "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." In my words, 1) God is bringing us all together; 2) is not holding a grudge against us; and 3) is calling us to participate in the restoration of friendly relations.

This begs the question, "If God is not holding a grudge against us, how can we hold grudges against one another?" I know the call to Grace and the call to Reconciliation collides with many of our egos. Much of humanity lives with the fear that if we do not protect our egos, the world we have fashioned will fall apart. The truth is, failing at Grace and failing at Reconciliation will indeed make the world fall apart.

My prayer is for us to grow the spiritual muscles needed for Reconciliation so we can have the strength needed to "end the estrangement" among our fellowship. My prayer is for the powerful movement of Holy Spirit on each of our hearts.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Phil

Your Brother In Christ



IN-PERSON WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

It is requested that you make a reservation to attend the Sunday morning worship services by calling the church office and speaking with Georgia, or leaving a message on the answering machine by noon the Saturday before each Sunday.

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>

Please continue to check your email regularly. 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.

Church Office Hours - The office is now open Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The office is closed on Mondays and Fridays. The office will also be closed Thursday, November 26th, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

LIVESTREAM
WORSHIP



WE SAY “GOOD-BYE” TO REV. EILEEN

In September, Rev. Eileen wrote to the congregation and requested the dissolution of her call to WPC. At her request, and with the consent of the congregation, the Presbytery Committee on Ministry approved the Dissolution of Call and will report it at the October 31, 2020 Presbytery meeting. Elders Anita Brocker and Don George will report the Congregation’s consent and speak to Rev. Eileen’s ministry at Webster Presbyterian Church – you can read the full statement here:

(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10s529SZ9TahhjPAvg0GVgUHczL8Y3Bpd/view?usp=sharing>)

Rev. Eileen has been a good pastor, a good teacher, a leader in our church, and a good friend to many of us. She will be greatly missed. Her final words to us were:

“I recognize and accept the completion of my ministry with expectation and thanks, trusting the God of the universe who also loves us all, and works everything for good. And so we separate believing in the God of hope and new beginnings.”

Thank you, Rev. Eileen, for this final benediction, and we also pray with hope for new beginnings for you as you continue your ministry.



The Webster Presbyterian Church is seeking a Stated Supply Pastor for a period of 1-2 years who will:

1. Preach and lead the worship life of the church.
2. Lead and facilitate pastoral care with the help of the congregation.
3. Assist, encourage, and facilitate new membership including young people and families, and lead new member classes.
4. Participate in church functions as practicable, especially those related to the reconciliation of the church.
5. Actively assist, facilitate, and participate in all efforts directed to the reconciliation of the church and its congregation. This includes coordinating with, cooperating with, and actively aiding Session’s efforts towards reconciliation, and with outside agents retained to address reconciliation.
6. Officiate ceremonies (i.e. communion, funerals, baptisms, and weddings) as requested.
7. Attend Presbytery meetings and moderate Session. Attend other committee meetings as appropriate.

In order to allow the Pastor to focus on the spiritual needs and reconciliation of the church; the Session, with members of the congregation, will assist with traditional pastoral duties. The Session, not the Pastor, will be responsible for:

1. Supervising, hiring, or firing church staff. The Pastor will provide input and assist as requested.
2. The organization of the church service. Members of the church will assist as requested with the format, music, electronic presentations, and other aspects of the service to allow the Pastor to focus on the sermon and message.
3. Supervising the adult or youth Christian education programs of the church. The Pastor will be asked for input and guidance to address the spiritual needs of the church and the reconciliation of the church.

Learning for a Lifetime

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m., following the 9:30 worship service

In-person or on Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/200521841>, password 'worship')

November 1st & 8th – Sermon on the Mount



Found in *Matthew 5-7*, the Sermon on the Mount has been called The Magna Charta of the Kingdom and the Ordination Address to the Twelve. It contains such well-known teachings as The Lord's Prayer and The Golden Rule. You are encouraged to read *Matthew 5-7* before each Sunday as, led by Tony Hubbard, we seek to discover what this teaching tells us about being a follower of Jesus.

November 15th – Conversation

Join us for a Congregational Conversation. Check for details in the upcoming bulletins for details.

November 22nd - 2021 Budget

CHURCH FAMILY BUDGET MEETING

Join us as we look at the year-end financial projection for 2020, and then look ahead to 2021 and the challenges we face in a continuing Covid year.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



How well do you *know* Jesus? Women's Bible Study will continue and conclude the study "Knowing Jesus Again."

Nov. 3 – "Is He Living or Did He Die?"

Nov. 10 – "Is He Past or Is He Present?"

Nov. 17 – "Is He King of the Jews or King of Kings?"

Nov. 24 – Let's Celebrate Thanksgiving!

Each week stands on its own, so attend via Zoom whenever you can on Tuesdays at 10:00.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82074090899?pwd=UkZtS0tuMlh1TnFOeGtjclJVTGV0dz09>

*Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
and a Light unto my path.*

November 29th - Diving into 'Grace'

Pastor Phil is particularly fond of Max Lucado's book *Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine*, and feels that it is an important book for our church to discuss now. He will be leading a 4-week Adult Ed series based on it during Advent. At each session we will focus on a part of the book followed by in-depth discussion of what Grace means to each of us in our walk with God, and what Grace means to disciples of Jesus. The series will start on Sunday, November 29th, at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom and in the Sanctuary, and continue for the next 3 Sundays.

Everyone is encouraged to read the book which will be available at church starting in late October for \$8, or can be ordered online.



NOVEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

November 1

Old Testament *Joshua 3:7-17*
Psalm *Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37*
New Testament: *I Thessalonians 2:9-13*
Gospel *Matthew 23:10-12*

November 8

Old Testament *Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25*
Psalm *Psalms 78:1-7*
New Testament *I Thessalonians 4:13-18*
Gospel *Matthew 25:1-13*

November 15

Old Testament *Judges 4:1-7*
Psalm *Psalms 123*
New Testament *I Thessalonians 5:1-11*
Gospel *Matthew 25:14-30*

November 22

Old Testament *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24*
Psalm *Psalms 100*
New Testament *Ephesians 1:15-23*
Gospel *Matthew 25:31-46*

November 29

Old Testament *Isaiah 64:1-9*
Psalm *Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19*
New Testament *I Corinthians 1:3-9*
Gospel *Mark 13:24-37*

ALL ABOUT MISSION

Collecting Winter Clothing for Cameron Community Ministries

We are again collecting gently used or new winter clothing for men, women and children for Cameron Community Ministries from October 18 until November 16. Cameron is located in one of the poorest areas of Rochester where 98% of the families live below poverty. Their Clothing House (which we helped upgrade a few years ago with our Summer Mission project) provides clothing to the needy in their neighborhood. Please look through your closets, and if you don't have anything to donate, please consider going to a local discount or thrift store to purchase something. Collection boxes are outside the north door and in the narthex and upper hallway at church. Thank you!



Christmas Gifts for Grace House



We are working on the final details but expect to collect gift cards for the men at Grace House and their children from about Thanksgiving until mid-December. They don't want wrapped or unwrapped gifts this year due to COVID-19. Watch for more details in the bulletin announcements starting in mid to late November and in the December *Pathway*.

Operation Christmas Child 2020

Shoebox gift boxes can be dropped off at church during the following times:

Sunday, November 15 during our 9:30 morning worship hour.

Tuesday, November 17, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Wednesday, November 18, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Thursday, November 19, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

A collection table will be set up in the Narthex. If you have any questions please call Gayl Galen at 872-5154.

A Blessed Event – Habitat For Humanity

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

On September 12, members of the Penfield Coalition of Churches Supporting Flower City Habitat for Humanity participated in a house blessing to kick off a renovation project on a house at 77 Melville Street in the city's Beechwood neighborhood. The house, previously utilized as a two family residence, has fallen into decay as a "zombie" house. Flower City Habitat has undertaken a project to completely gut the interior and remodel the house into a comfortable single family unit. Completion is scheduled for next spring at which time a family of three will move into their new home.



Penfield Coalition of Churches is contributing \$65,000 toward the cost of the project, which would not be possible without the contributions of our churches and their individual members. This is another of our continuing milestones toward improving neighborhoods in the City of Rochester by providing affordable housing to responsible residents. If you would like to represent WPC at our monthly Coalition meetings, please call Shirley & Irv Crane at 223-3644.

Additional information on Flower City Habitat is available at www.rochesterhabitat.org

New Addresses:

Brad & Kathy Adams
238 Maryview Drive
Webster, NY 14580

Thelma Leonhard
830 Holy Road
Bldg. 830 Apt. 112
Webster, NY 14580

NOVEMBER MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

After six weeks of outdoor fellowship we are headed inside from the cold for a couple of events. We will stay socially distance, sanitize the area and please always come wearing your mask.

November 1, put on your comfy clothes and come on down to the Youth Room for **Movie Night** from **4-6 pm**. We will watch “**Spare Parts**”, based on an inspirational true story about four Hispanic students from an impoverished Arizona high school that form a robotics team to enter an underwater robotics contest. We will be able to social distance on couches and bean bag chairs.



Come out for Fellowship **from 4-6 pm** on **November 8**. **Jumbo sized games** will be huge fun to play with friends. We will spread around the Social Room to play Chinese checkers and other jumbo games at the participants' choosing.



Sunday, **November 15**, Youth will be raking leaves for those in need of assistance. We are looking for adults to join us in raking yards. The more hands, the more yards we will complete before dark. Please contact me if you have a yard that needs raking or if you can help us rake. We will gather at W.P.C. at 1:00 pm. Please dress for the weather; wear gloves, bring rakes, leaf blowers and tarps.

We will wrap up the month on **November 22nd** from **4-6 pm** in the **Social Room** to find “the joy in painting” with our own Bob Ross, Todd Fargo. “No pressure. Just relax and watch it happen.” He will lead you through how to paint so there will be “no mistakes, only happy accidents.” Mr. Fargo is open to suggestions of suitable subjects. So let him know in advance if you have any ideas.



All youth grades 6th through 12th are welcome and are always encouraged to bring friends to youth fellowship. Youth Fellowship permission forms are available outside the Youth Room or from Wanda <http://websterpres.org/files/Youth/YouthPermForm 2016-17.pdf>. Please bring the completed form.

Be sure to contact Wanda if you need to be added to the email distribution list and to join our Facebook group Webster Presbyterian Church Youth Fellowship.

Together in Fellowship & Service,

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

FROM THE TRUSTEES And Suddenly Its Autumn !!

We're glad that we're back in the Sanctuary and that groups are meeting in the church. (Check with the office if your group would like to resume meeting at church). The Trustees continue to monitor and maintain the building and grounds.

Due to the continuing need for physical distancing, this Fall the Trustees are again asking for your help with the Fall upkeep chores of the church. They could be completed choosing your own date and time. If you are willing and able to take care of one or more of the following chores, please contact:

Bob Kizer (585) 967-5389 or Tina McNeary (585) 413-7809

1. Leaf raking around the church.
2. Tree trimming around the south parking lot.
3. Filling holes in the parking lots.
4. Cutting back weeds on the northwest corner of the yard, near Route 250.
5. Light weeding the south gardens, and edging of periwinkle.

Other chores are being shared by the Trustees.

As the weather gets colder there will be salt at each entrance. Please help all of us by spreading it if you think it is necessary.

We are always ready to answer questions or speak to your concerns.

