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February 2021

Vol. LI No. 2

February

As was reported in our last update, on January 18, 2021, your Healing and Reconciliation Steering Committee (HRSC) met with Rev. Dr. Janice Lee Fitzgerald, Professional Certified Coach and Interim Pastor of the Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church in Brighton, NY.



RECONCILIATION

As a Professional Certified Coach, Janice has an extensive resume and experience to bring to our congregation. She spoke of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center where she has received training and experience in mediation in church settings. She describes her role as that of one who, in her own words, "...comes alongside you, listens intently to what is being spoken, what might be being said between the lines and what seems to be being left unspoken, and asks questions about that...not because the coach needs to know the answer, but to help you look at something from different perspectives, remembering pertinent pieces of data that might have been pushed to the back of your minds or coming to a new awareness about the situation and the people in it."

During our meeting with her, Janice led us in a sharing of our experiences of the trauma that our church suffered last year. Ultimately, HRSC unanimously agreed to engage Janice to be our Coach. With the approval of Session, a Coaching Covenant has been signed by Tony Hubbard, Clerk of Session. At Janice's request, HRSC has scheduled a meeting on February 4th where we will be joined by the Session from last year and the Session of this year to conduct this sharing practice again. It is leading up to a Congregation Conversation for Adult Ed on Wednesday, February 10th at 7:00 P.M. via ZOOM. In this Congregation Conversation, questions and concerns arising from our trauma of last year will be invited to be shared to help us express our feelings and to listen to understand without rebuttal.



The hope is that the Congregation Conversations - and there may be more than one - lead to a plan for moving forward toward healing and reconciliation. They may identify the need for apologies and forgiveness; illuminate values that we share; promote the desire to seek a win/win solution; and lead to a covenant for how our church will handle conflict in the future. Until we have sufficiently healed, a PNC is not recommended to be formed.

Please plan to join us. This is major first step in our reflection and self-assessment leading to our healing and reconciliation and fulfilling our dream of becoming known, in Pastor Phil's words, "...as a church that is safe, welcomes those who seek healing through Jesus Christ, and a church committed to the message of reconciliation, where our doors and our hearts are open."



“Let Go and Let God”

The mother of a college friend became a confidant and friend to me as well. Her name was Mrs. Ursula Smith. From my late teens, through the birth of both my children, Mrs. Smith was a confidant who knew most of the details of my life. She knew my joys and she knew my concerns. Sometimes she would offer concrete and specific guidance.

I will never forget sharing a concern with her, wondering what to do. Her response was simply, “Let Go and Let God.” I suppose it was her way of sharing with me the Biblical wisdom of Solomon who wrote, “To every thing there is a season.” There are seasons when the best wisdom and the best practice is to “Let Go and Let God.”

The apostle Paul shared a concern with God of having a “thorn in his flesh.” Paul asks Gods to remove this thorn, but God responds to Paul with, “My grace is sufficient.” One way of viewing Gods response to Paul is God saying, “Let my grace handle this.”

We struggle individually and collectively in all sorts of life situations. The point I'm trying to get to is this - Sometimes we attempt to deal with life situations that God will deal with in God's proper time. I'm not suggesting that we become idle spectators as life happens. I'm asking and praying that we have a faith that knows that God's grace is sufficient. My prayer is for the blessing of wisdom that knows “To every thing there is a season.” My prayer is that we have a sturdy faith that can “Let Go and Let God.”

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Phil

Clerk’s Corner --



The table below shows our church officers for 2021. We thank the officers who completed their service in 2020.

Last year was a difficult year for all of us for many reasons. We have had to change the way we relate to people and our regular routines. One of the assignments you see in the chart below is Healing and Reconciliation.

This will be a major initiative early this year as we rebuild our fellowship. The officers of the church will be working to lead our rebuilding effort. I encourage every member of the church to choose how you can be involved. If you are not already serving as an officer or as a committee member for one of the Session committees shown next to our Elders’ names, I encourage you to choose to join a committee that matches your interest. All committees can use help whether, it is participating in monthly meetings, making telephone calls, contacting members, praying, or offering new ideas. Contact the committee chair directly to express your interest, or contact me and I will help you make the connection.

Tony Hubbard, Clerk of Session, 265-1224, tghubbard@frontiernet.net



2021 OFFICERS

<u>Elders</u>			<u>Deacons</u>			<u>Trustees</u>	
Bob Blakey	Worship & Music		Laura Blair		Dick Dodd		
Kathy Barbehenn	New Beginnings		Joyce Bradstreet		Chris Downs		
Anita Bocker	Children’s Christian Ed.		Janet Chippero		Mark Herden		
Barb Hach	Healing & Reconciliation		Nikki George		Bob Kizer		
Sarah Honebrink	Technology		Nancy Granger		Gary Maier		
Tony Hubbard	Clerk & Mission		Karen Hunt		Tina McNeary		
Carina Phillips	Worship & Music		Laura Oliver		Eric Phillips		
Connie Rice	Stewardship & Finance		Steve Oliver - Moderator		Dan Vespone - Moderator		
Bob Smith	Personnel		Amy Vallone		John Wilbert		
Carol Walck	Adult Education		Jennifer Wengender				
Elaine Wilbert	Membership		Dawn Wiley				



Worship Service
February 17
7:00 p.m.
In the Sanctuary
and on Zoom

February Memory Verse
*There is neither Jew nor Greek,
slave nor free, male nor female,
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*
Galatians 3:28



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.

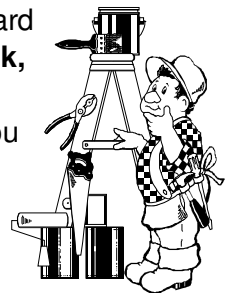
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Websterpres/>

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, 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.

TRUSTEE NEWS

- We welcomed 3 new trustees, **Gary Maier, Eric Phillips, and John Wilbert**, to the Board at our January meeting. And, hand in hand with that, we thanked **Dave Honebrink, Russ Kirschbaum, and Meg Marsh** as they retired, for their years of service.
- Please notice the much improved lighting at the north entrance to the church. Thank you to **Dick Dodd and John Wilbert**.
- Any questions or suggestions for our Trustees? Please contact a current Trustee Board member. Who are they? **Dick Dodd, Chris Downs, Mark Herden, Bob Kizer, Gary Maier, Tina McNeary, Eric Phillips, Dan Vespone, and John Wilbert.**



Learning for a Lifetime

NOTE: All February Adult Ed sessions will be on **Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. totally on Zoom** Unless otherwise indicated, the link for all of the sessions is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5123370883?pwd=amEybzBPczhQbkx4c1N5TW9uVzF1Zz09>

February 3rd - Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action Group

Join a conference with Jim Tappon who will be telling us about renewable energy options that are being promoted for churches and individuals by the Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action (RAICA) group. RAICA's mission as stated on their Web site is: *The Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action is a group of individuals and organizations of faith in the Rochester metropolitan area seeking to create a meaningful response to Climate Change. In doing so we acknowledge our common conviction to care for the earth and its people. Working together we seek to share resources, leverage our strengths and magnify our positive impact.*



You can find more information about RAICA at their Web site: <https://www.raica.net/>.

February 10th - Congregation Conversation

The Healing & Reconciliation Steering Committee has unanimously agreed to engage Rev. Dr. Janice Lee Fitzgerald, a trained coach in church setting mediation, to help us move forward.

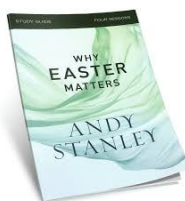


She will be meeting with our past and present Session members in early February, and then will join members of the congregation on Zoom for a time of listening on February 10th. Additional details for this effort can be found on page 1 of this *Pathway* issue.

February 17th - Ash Wednesday Service - No Study.

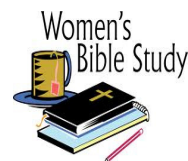
February 24th - "Why Easter Matters: The High Cost of Following Christ"

This is the first in a four week DVD Lenten series led by dynamic Pastor Andy Stanley. During this study, we will look at three people whose lives intersected Jesus' life in the days leading up to his crucifixion. Each of them had an agenda that put them at odds with God and with Jesus. And we'll see that there is a little bit of them in all of us. Join in on Zoom to discover why Easter matters to you as a follower of Jesus Christ.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The first part of February Women's Bible Study will continue the study of *Grace* with DVD's by Max Lucado, followed by discussion and prayer. Hearing Pastor Lucado in his own words truly enriches our understanding of God's amazing grace.



The "Great I AM'S from the Gospel of John will be the Lenten Study beginning February 23rd. For many Christians the Gospel of John is the most precious book in the New Testament. We will examine the seven claims Jesus makes that tell us of his Godhead. What do they mean for us in our Christian walk? If you have never experienced a group Bible study, please join in on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 on Zoom as we work to deepen our relationship to Jesus the Christ.

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY READINGS

February 7

Old Testament *Isaiah 40:21-31*
Psalm *Psalms 147:1-11, 20c*
New Testament *I Corinthians 9:16-23*
Gospel *Mark 1:29-39*

February 14

Old Testament *II Kings 2:12*
Psalm *Psalms 50:1-6*
New Testament *II Corinthians 4:3-6*
Gospel *Mark 9:2-9*



February 17 - Ash Wednesday

Old Testament *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12*
Psalm *Psalms 51:1-17*
New Testament *II Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10*
Gospel *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

February 21

Old Testament *Genesis 9:8-17*
Psalm *Psalms 25:1-10*
New Testament *I Peter 3:18-22*
Gospel *Mark 19:9-15*

February 28

Old Testament *Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16*
Psalm *Psalms 22:23-31*
New Testament *Romans 4:13-25*
Gospel *Mark 8:31-38*

MISSION

BLANKET SUNDAY A Tradition at Webster Presbyterian Church!



January 24 was the “kick-off” for the annual special offering opportunity called Blankets+. Once again, we are joining with congregations and groups across the U.S. to offer this same collection so that Church World Service can reach out to people in need throughout the United States and internationally. Our church has participated since 1992 and given approximately \$34,000. The Blankets+ program provides emergency resources and long-term assistance to help families around the world recover from disasters and build viable, sustainable lives and communities. Blankets, as well as various kits (school, hygiene and emergency cleanup), are provided to keep our vulnerable neighbors safe and healthy.

To find out more information about what and where the items are sent, visit the website <https://cwsblankets.org/> and choose "Stories and reports" at the top.

You can donate by mailing a check made out to WPC to the church, or choosing the Give button on the church website. <https://www.websterpres.org/>; Click on the arrow next to the fund to choose the Blanket Offering.



“Moment for Mission”

At Pastor Phil’s suggestion, on January 24th, we began doing a “Moment for Mission” announcement during about one worship service per month. This will be similar to what we formerly called “Minute for Mission” (M4M). Its purposes will be to make the congregation more aware of mission projects that we support financially or in other ways, and to make everyone more aware of current or upcoming opportunities to participate in mission projects or giving.



Christmas Joy Offering

We are pleased to report that \$905 was collected for the Christmas Joy Offering in late November and December. Thank you for your generosity!



HEART AND HAND



Next Meeting - Friday, February 19 at 9:30 a.m.

*We will be making fleece hat and scarf sets for
The House of Mercy*



Once again, we will be working on our project at home. This project has scarves for non-sewers to complete and hats to keep the sewers busy. Packets will be available in the church offices/ Sanctuary hall starting February 9th.

How did we do with the NICU incubator covers?

We are happy to report that we will be able to deliver 16 lovely soft flannel quilt covers to The Neonatal ICU at Rochester General Hospital.

Thanks to All who participated.

**The
March Pathway
Deadline
Saturday,
February 20th**



Great-grandsons were welcomed by:
Wilma Brucker & parents Arthur & Kate
Donald Arthur Scholz born on January 16th
and
Alta Harter and parents Shaun & Jennifer
Grant James Clair born on January 19th



CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN ED.

Church School Activity Bags

Church school activity bags will be delivered to the homes of our WPC families this week. The bags will include 9 Bible lessons, 2 Valentine Day crafts, Bible activity puzzles and word searches, coloring papers, an outreach project, a stewardship bank and a treat bag!



Parents are encouraged to help their children with their weekly Bible lessons. Each student paper will include a scripture, Bible story and discussion questions. The material for the younger kids will also include stickers to be used on the activity page. Plans are also underway for our new Sunday morning CCE program that will begin as soon as we all return in person.

Church School Stewardship Continues!



Even though we are not yet gathering together on Sunday mornings, our commitment to Little Children of the World and our sponsor child Maxinne, continues. In the church school activity bag this month children were given two banks. One is a "color your own" bank and the other is a printed **Gift Of Gratitude Bank**. Children can create their own bank to collect coins for Maxinne.

Once we are back together again on Sunday mornings, children can transfer their offering collection to the Gratitude Bank and bring it to class. They can keep their colored bank at home to use again. When banks are filled they can be dropped off at the main office. (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 9:00-3:00) Extra Gratitude Banks are available. If we all work together we can continue to support Maxinne.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



We aren't taking our chances for snow on the park hillside this month. Instead on **February 7th** we will travel to **Greystone Snow tubing** in Walworth. We will meet at 1400 Atlantic Ave at 1:50 pm, snow tube from **3-5 pm** allowing for any football fans to be home in time for the Super bowl kickoff. We will need to order tickets 10 days in advance. I will begin ordering tickets on 1/29 for those that respond as long as they are available. Tickets are limited and do sell out so please R.S.V.P. in advance. All participants need to sign the wavier online in advance of the event at <https://www.greystonetubing.com/info/waiver> .

Sunday, February 14th we will celebrate **Valentine's Day** with a party with themed party games and delicious food from **4-6 pm** in the **Social Room**.

February 21st - On the eve of going back to school we will gather together to relax in our comfy clothes and enjoy a movie in the Youth Room from **4-6 pm**. There will be room to spread out on bean bag chairs and couches. Concession snacks and drinks will be provided and w will have a selection of inspirational movies to choose from. Youth are welcome to recommend a movie to view.



On **February, 28th** we will strap on skates at the MLK Park Ice Rink from **4:00 – 5:00 pm**. Parent drop off and pick up will be at the rink at 3:45 pm. Skaters can rent or bring their own skates.

All youth grades 6th through 12th are welcome and are always encouraged to bring friends to youth fellowship. Whether we are indoors or outdoors please know your safety is our priority. We ask everyone to wear masks, wash or sanitize your hands, and socially distance from each other while we are gathered together. We welcome everyone to join us in person, but understand those that prefer to stay at home. We would welcome you to join us virtually. Just let me know and I will set up a computer to share our fellowship event with you while at home.

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 to the first event you attend. 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,

Wanda Nungesser, Director of Youth Ministries

youth@websterpres.org 585-414-1337



TIPS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Check your furnace filter monthly and change it when it's dirty. You'll get better heating in the winter and air conditioning in summer. You'll save on your utility bills and extend the life of your furnace too.

Overuse of salt on icy roadways and sidewalks ends up in our waterways, such as the Irondequoit Bay, causing death to plant and animal life. Use sand or gravel instead when possible. Ask your town, city, county, workplace, and businesses you visit to switch to sand and/or to keep salt use to a minimum.

Is there child labor in your chocolate? Over 2 million children work in dangerous conditions to bring us cocoa. Check out this chocolate scorecard at greenamerica.org/end-child-labor-cocoa/chocolate-scorecard.

Retailers are still taking for recycling most clean plastic bags and wrap, including bags from newspapers, dry cleaning, bread, produce. You can return plastic wrap from toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, snack and drink cases, diapers, and air pillows. Take off strings, rigid handles, closing mechanisms; no soil bags or bubble wrap. And since your newspaper carrier has to buy those newspaper bags, return them to your paper delivery person at the holidays or anytime, so he/she can reuse them.