

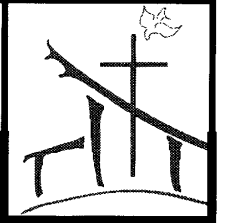
## WHAT'S INSIDE

Page No.

2. Parade of Lights  
Communion  
Pathway Deadline  
Annual Reports & Meeting
3. Sunday Worship,  
2021 Stewardship
4. Welcome Pastor Phil  
Healing and Reconciliation  
Thought for the New Year
5. Adult Education  
Bible Study, Memory Verse  
January Lectionary
6. Giving Opportunities  
Heart & Hand
7. Children's Christian Education  
Youth

# The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church  
Webster, New York



January 2021

Vol. LI No. 1



To my Sisters and Brothers in Christ

The journalist, Isabel Wilkerson, writes in her book, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*:

“What scientists have only recently discovered is that ... earthquakes, those that are easily measured while in progress and instantaneous in their destruction, are often preceded by longer, slow moving, catastrophic disruptions rumbling twenty miles or more beneath us, too deep to be felt and too quiet to be measured for most of human history ... unseen stirrings deep in the earth's core.”

The Webster Presbyterian Church has experienced an earthquake. This earthquake has been measured and reported on by committees. This earthquake has traumatized our sisters and brothers. This earthquake has fractured many relationships. Almost instantaneously the ground we stood on was changed.

Unacknowledged, however, are the long, deep and quiet rumblings in the life of our church family -- rumblings which are, essentially, decades of accommodation and acquiescence to longstanding cultural patterns, patterns which are *The Origins of Our Discontents*.

The lesson from earthquakes is, “when you build back, build back better.” To that end, the Session has put in place a Healing and Reconciliation Steering Committee tasked with exploring and sharing the resources needed for our church to rebuild and to heal. This is the peoples' work. All are welcome to be a part of this effort.

Some receiving this letter believe it best for them to part ways with the Webster Presbyterian Church. I understand the strong emotions (gases if you will) this earthquake has unleashed. It could not be any other way. You likely have found yourself asking, “How can I worship and relate to people who have felt such different experiences of pain than I?”

I believe another question is in order. “What does faith in Jesus Christ look like?” My Bible has taught me this -- *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.* Reconciliation is central to the work of God's earthly church. It is central to the living of our faith, and the Webster Presbyterian Church has embarked on a focused effort of Healing and Reconciliation.

During my tenure as Stated Supply Pastor, my intent is for the Webster Presbyterian Church to become known as a church that is safe, welcoming those who seek healing through Christ Jesus, and a church committed to the message of reconciliation. Our doors and our hearts are open.

Your Brother in Christ,  
Pastor Phil



**RECONCILIATION**



## **We Shared the Good News !!**

*And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." ~Mark 16:15*

...and that's just what we did! WPC was the only church represented at the Webster Holiday Parade of Lights - 2020 drive-thru version - along with 50 community businesses and organizations sharing waves and shouting, "Merry Christmas" through masks and Nativity themed costumes.

*Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained*

*angels unawares. ~Hebrews 13:1*

The Mayer and Coler families, along with their cousins, constructed a Nativity-themed stationary "float" in a week's time to participate in what was planned for a 4-hour event that turned into an 8-hour extravaganza with over 5,000 cars driving by to see the only structure representing the true meaning of Christmas.

*And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, to them that are called according to his purpose. ~Romans 8:28*

Thanks to the Fargo family, Wilbert family, McNeary family, Bocker family, Hubbard family, Galen family and Nungesser family for giving of their time and talents toward making this a success. Along with the beautiful display, 2,000 activity sheets from WPC were distributed to families attending the parade and we continue to enjoy the scene outside the church, sharing the great news of Jesus' birth with our community.

**"A merry heart does good like medicine." - Proverbs 17:22**

Here is an excerpt from a comment from a mom who attended, "I waited 3 hours in a car with a 3 year old... and those still out waving and smiling and showing off their amazing volunteer work they put in just to give some cheer in this dreadful year brought tears to my eyes...I was so touched by their dedication and effort, I know they didn't intend to still be standing outside in the snow at 9:30 p.m. and yet there they were!..It's amazing how we can transmit positivity, patience, hope and joy...or we can transmit negativity, rudeness, contempt and misery. Let's choose LOVE!"

For more on this event, go to:

[https://websterontheweb.com/2020/12/06/parade-of-lights-recap-photos-to-come/?fbclid=IwAR1VTjZ4xWa8jXxpm4gClbf7LRi9fi8OZvA9\\_VvwvaavyYoWeqqgR9DHz0g](https://websterontheweb.com/2020/12/06/parade-of-lights-recap-photos-to-come/?fbclid=IwAR1VTjZ4xWa8jXxpm4gClbf7LRi9fi8OZvA9_VvwvaavyYoWeqqgR9DHz0g)

<https://www.whec.com/rochester-new-york-news/webster-parade-goes-from-canceled-to-covid-friendly-success/5943200/>



### **Winter Communion**

will be celebrated on

**January 10<sup>th</sup>**

during the 9:30 worship service.

**The  
February Pathway  
Deadline**

**is Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**



### **ANNUAL REPORTS**

Are due in the church office  
by **Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**.

Articles may be submitted  
via a printed copy or  
e-mail attachment to [office@websterpres.org](mailto:office@websterpres.org).

\* \* \* \* \*

### **ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION**

Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

Time TBD



## 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.

## LOOKING A HEAD TO 2021



Our budget planning is now complete for 2021. We've received pledges from 90 members or families with a total pledge of approximately \$332,000.

A big thank you to everyone who has pledged to support the mission and ministry of our church next year.

Session has approved the following budget for 2021. The reduced pledges will, of course, require a corresponding reduction in our spending. Some of the key decisions made include:

- We are only funding a single minister;
- We will be operating with a smaller staff and fewer hours;
- Mission spending will need to be significantly reduced;
- We have minimal operating reserves, and major project spending will be "pay-as-you-go;"
- Program and general operating spending will be kept under a tight control.

At the same time, we identified two incremental investments that we feel are critical to ongoing operations: funding programs for healing and reconciliation, and an upgrade of the office IT infrastructure.

We presented additional details in the Adult Ed. program on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Since then, year-end contributions and additional pledges for 2021 have made it possible to adjust some of the figures presented at that time. Session will consider budget changes recommended by the Stewardship & Finance Committee at their January meeting. The final budget will be presented to the congregation at the January 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

If you have questions or comments, or would like more information, you can contact any member of the S&F committee or email Session at [WPCSession1@gmail.com](mailto:WPCSession1@gmail.com).

### 2021 Offering Envelopes

are available in the hallway outside the church office.

You may pick them up at your convenience when the church is open Sunday mornings or Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

If you do not find envelopes and would like them, please call Georgia in the church office 265-9700



We are very pleased that Pastor Phil Davis is becoming our Stated Supply Pastor as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. This is a 1-2 year transitional position designed to help our church heal and prepare us to call a permanent minister. (Before this, Pastor Phil was our part-time Temporary Supply Pastor serving month to month.)



Pastor Phil comes to us with considerable experience in interim ministry.

Over the last 15 years, he has pastored both Presbyterian and Baptist churches in the Rochester area, several of which were going through transitions. His work in these churches was highly regarded.

Christian ministry came as a second career for Pastor Phil. He started out working in information technology after graduating from Hunter College in NYC. Along the way, he felt a strong call to ministry and obtained his Master's degree from Union Theological Seminary in NYC to pursue that call.

He has been associated with both the American Baptist and Presbyterian denominations. Because of an agreement between these denominations, he is welcome to serve in both types of churches.

Pastor Phil is a single father of two college aged sons. He has been quite involved in their lives and activities as they have grown up.

We appreciate Pastor Phil's deep faith and welcome him (again)!



At the behest of Pastor Phil, a Healing and Reconciliation Steering Committee has been formed by the Spiritual Nurture Committee. Its purpose is to focus on ways to promote the healing and reconciliation of our congregation after the trauma that we have experienced this past year. It will have access to the \$1500 in the budget specifically earmarked for that purpose.

Pastor Phil has said, "Everyone needs to locate themselves in the trauma," believing that it could help congregants to think about their responses to the trauma, thereby getting to know themselves better. Rev. Jim Evinger, in his Adult Ed presentation on November 15, 2020, remarked that you can't put a time constraint on healing and reconciliation. It is the work of everyone in the congregation and its leadership. So it will take us as long as we need.

The Healing and Reconciliation Steering Committee (HRSC) is open to everyone who wishes to take part in its work of exploring resources and implementing programs that will help our church to heal and rebuild. Our membership thus far consists of Bob Rice, Connie Rice, Bob Blakey, Alissa Mayer, Barb Hach and Pastor Phil. Please reach out to us if you wish to join us. The HRSC will meet on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom. The first meeting will be January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



Pastor Phil writes, "Everyone is free to say, and encouraged to say, that this body of Christ," the Webster Presbyterian Church, "is about God's work of Healing and Reconciling." Amen.

### THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR ...

Write it on your heart  
that every day is the best day in the year.  
[One] is rich who owns the day, and no one owns the day  
who allows it to be invaded with fret and anxiety.  
Finish every day and be done with it.  
You have done what you could.  
Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in.  
Forget them as soon as you can, tomorrow is a new day;  
begin it well and serenely, with too high a spirit  
to be cumbered with your old nonsense.  
This new day is too dear,  
with its hopes and invitations,  
to waste a moment on the yesterdays.



Ralph Waldo Emerson  
WORLD PRAYERS  
[www.worldprayers.org](http://www.worldprayers.org)



# Learning for a Lifetime

NOTE: Beginning in January, Adult Ed sessions will be held on **Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. totally on Zoom** unless otherwise indicated. The link for all of the sessions is:

<https://zoom.us/j/8020641367?pwd=VnIXcDITWjZlS2d0NE96dmVFeVB4dz09>

**January 6 - Grace** - Pastor Phil will lead this 5th (and last) session in the series focusing on Max Lucado's book *Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine*. Because this will be entirely on Zoom, discussion should be easier than it was in December (when some were in the Sanctuary and some on Zoom).

**January 13 - MLK** - Over the years, our image of Martin Luther King Jr. and what he spoke about has become fairly set and two-dimensional. In this session, Pastor Phil will help us understand more of who Dr. King really was.

**January 20 - Healing and Reconciliation: After the Earthquake** presented by the Healing and Reconciliation Steering Committee.

**January 27 - Jed Koball**, his wife Jennifer and son Thiago, our missionaries from Lima, Peru, will join us to tell about their work. To read about the events of their lives in advance, you



can read their December newsletter by clicking:

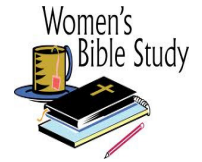
[https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/the-darkness-has-not-overcomethelightoflifeinPeru/?utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=Read+the+latest+from+Jed+and+Jenny+Koball++Presbyterian+Mission+Agency&utm\\_campaign=Jed+and+Jenny+Koball+RSS](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/the-darkness-has-not-overcomethelightoflifeinPeru/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Read+the+latest+from+Jed+and+Jenny+Koball++Presbyterian+Mission+Agency&utm_campaign=Jed+and+Jenny+Koball+RSS)

*January Memory Verse*  
*Be strong in the Lord*  
*and in his mighty power.*

*Ephesians 6:10*

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

GRACE! Why is Grace so amazing? Pastor Phil has led us through Max Lucado's book *GRACE, More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine*, but there is so much more to discuss. Starting Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, Women's Bible Study will watch DVD's that accompany the book and delve into the questions. Hopefully we can all grow in our appreciation for God's great gift of grace and our appropriating it in our lives. Whether you have read the book or not, you are welcome to join in via Zoom.



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

## JANUARY LECTIONARY READINGS

### January 3

Old Testament *Jeremiah 31:7-14*  
Psalm *Psalms 147:12-20*  
New Testament *Ephesians 1:3-14*  
Gospel *John 1:1-18*

### January 10

Old Testament *Genesis 1:1-5*  
Psalm *Psalms 29*  
New Testament *Acts 19:1-7*  
Gospel *Mark 1:4-11*



### January 17

Old Testament *I Samuel 3:1-20*  
Psalm *Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18*  
New Testament *I Corinthians 6:12-20*  
Gospel *John 1:43-51*

### January 24

Old Testament *Jonah 3:1-5, 10*  
Psalm *Psalms 62:5-12*  
New Testament *I Corinthians 7:29-31*  
Gospel *Mark 1:14-20*

### January 31

Old Testament *Deuteronomy 18:15-20*  
Psalm *Psalms 111*  
New Testament *I Corinthians 8:1-13*  
Gospel *Mark 1:21-28*

# We are a Giving Church

## BLANKET SUNDAY



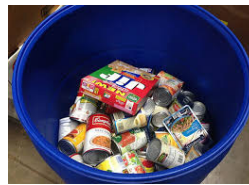
This is a heads up that the Blanket Sunday annual offering will begin on Sunday January 24<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins and the February *Pathway*.

## ANGEL TREE

Thank you for your generous donations to the Williamson Come-Unity Center Angel Tree! Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, 118 gifts and 14 gift cards were delivered on December 9<sup>th</sup> to the Williamson Come-Unity Center this holiday season. This was a combination of gifts ordered from Amazon, gifts brought to church, as well as gifts picked up. We even had out of town folks send gifts through the Amazon list. We were thrilled to be able to continue this long-standing and much appreciated Christmas mission during these uncertain times. We plan to keep the Amazon list as an option in future years since so many found it easy and convenient.



## FOOD BARREL DONATIONS



Thanks you also for the generous food donations which will help families in need in Webster. The donated food was used to restock the Little Food Pantries on Bay Road, Klem Road and Main Street. In addition, a few boxes of donated food were delivered to the Hope House. We look forward to continuing to provide food to families in Webster in need in the upcoming winter months. Peanut butter, canned meats, canned fruits and veggies, canned soups, granola bars, cleaning supplies, hygiene products and more non-perishable staples are always desired.

## CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS for the Men at Grace House



From mid-November until mid-December we collected gift cards as Christmas gifts for the men at Grace House and for their children. Thanks to your generosity we were able to deliver \$740 of gift cards to them in December and they were very much appreciated! Several other churches participated as well to make this Christmas more special for these men.



## HEART AND HAND



Next Meeting - January 15, 2021

Due to the proximity to Christmas and the current significant surge of Covid-19 cases in Monroe County, we decided **not to meet in December**.

As a substitute, the leaders will make up packets of precut fabric for NICU incubator covers or fleece hats and scarves that you can sew at home in January. They will be available outside the church office, starting Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup>.

### How did we do with the placemats for Meals on Wheels?

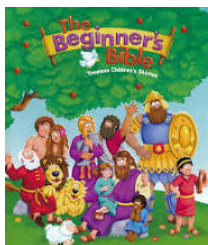
Due to the generosity of many volunteers of their time, talents, and even extra fabric, we were able to donate 45 beautiful placemats to Meals on Wheels clients. They have brought a little cheer to some people who are even more homebound than we are. And, in addition, we have a good start on our next donation of placemats!

### Thank You All

**Blessings to All.** We hope you are able to virtually join us to share in the fun of sewing and the gift of giving to some of our neighbors.

Questions? Call: Jean 645-4991 - or email - [jmaier@frontiernet.net](mailto:jmaier@frontiernet.net)  
Tina 413-7809 [tmcneary@gmail.com](mailto:tmcneary@gmail.com)

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN ED.



Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, Gayl Galen and Anita Brocker delivered Bibles to children in our church family. Kindergarten Bibles were presented to Jack Nifong, Makayla Smith and Pierce Carpino. Third grade Bibles were presented to Domenico Sorrentino and Lily Frenzel. Lily is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade this year, but was unable to receive her Bible last year.

On December 6<sup>th</sup> Anita Brocker, Mary Vick and Gayl Galen delivered 23 Christmas activity bags to children in our church school classes. Beginning in February, monthly activity packets will be available for parents to pick up outside the church doors. The packets will include 4 Bible lessons, activity pages and a craft activity.

A parent newsletter called "Footprints" is created each month and is mailed to keep CCE parents encouraged, uplifted and up-to-date on future plans for church school classes.



## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

**January 10** we will put our creativity to good work making **cards and a special treat** for our members confined to their homes especially during COVID. Gather in the **Social Room from 4-6 pm** to help us spread cheer while we fellowship together.



Sunday, **January 17**, we will hope for snow to cover the slope at **Webster Park**. We will plan to **sled** on the hill near the Parkview lodge from **2-4 pm**. Pick-up and drop-off will be at the park. We will also build snowpersons in the park to add cheer to those passing by. We will have hot chocolate and a snack. If the snow doesn't fly we will play games in the Youth Room.

At **4 pm** on **January 24** we will play "**Family Feud**" **WPC edition!** We polled a hundred members of WPC for this edition of Family Feud. Bring your friends and your good answers to play in the **Social Room**. The winning team will compete in a fast money round.



**January, 31** we will test your power of observation with a **macro photography scavenger hunt** around the church. Teams will be given extreme close-up photos with every small crevice and bit of texture magnified. The teams will search to match the photo with an item in the church, trying to be the team with the most right answers. Meet from **4-6 pm** in the **Social Room**.

All youth grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 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 & Service,

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