

The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York



December 2021

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COME
Worship
WITH US

The New Streaming System Has Arrived!

Many of you have shared wonderful comments about the greatly improved video and audio with the new streaming system through YouTube or Facebook. As a reminder, Zoom will not be available for streaming beginning December 5th. Please use YouTube and Facebook as the web-based locations to join our service virtually.

You will be able to access the Sunday service each week by going to our church website, www.websterpres.org, and in the worship tab, click on the Facebook link (then click on videos) or the YouTube link. If you miss a Sunday and want to go back and watch a recording of the service, you can find them here also.

You can also access YouTube directly:

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

We look forward to your comments as you experience the new streaming service.

Family Christmas Eve Service

Come one and all at **4:00 pm** on **December 24th** as we welcome the Christ Child once more! Children will be included in the service as well as the Chancel Choir, the bells, instrumental duets and solos. If young people learn two verses of "Away in a Manger," they can come forward to sing it, followed by a surprise! Bring your neighbors along to join in this night of worship and expectation. This will be our only Christmas Eve service.

First Sunday of Advent

November 28th
Communion

Christmas Eve

One Service Only
4:00 pm



From Pastor Phil

Dear Church Family,

The opening words of the 46th Psalm are, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in a time of trouble. Therefore we will not fear." I don't know what gave rise to writing this Psalm, but something was happening in the life of the faithful that they needed the reminder, "God is an ever present help in a time of trouble."

In these days, something is always going on that makes us wonder what will come of our lives, our loved ones, the nation and the world that we live in? Faced with the concerns of life, we think that we should do something. We see our challenges as a call to action. With these wonders and concerns, the Psalmist steps into our lives and reminds us of many things, two of which I want to highlight. The first reminder is that God is ever present and ready to help. Yet, even with God's presence, we seem to think that we must pursue one course of action or the other. The worldly advice is "take the bull by the horns." And this is where the second reminder comes in. At the 10th verse of the 46th Psalm, on behalf of God, the Psalm tells us "Be still, and know that I am God." God is not saying, be still and do nothing. God is saying be confident that "God is our refuge and our strength, an ever present help in a time of trouble." No matter what we are facing, our task is to remain confident that the eternal God is facing it with us.

That is our task.

Your Brother in Christ,
Reverend Phil

Worship and Music

Favorite Hymns and Praise Songs!

Have you been enjoying the hymn selections? I bet you have – and it's due to the list of Top 40 hymns and praise music that have been shared with Lee Ann. Share your favorite with Lee Ann by phone, email, or in person!

Comments?

The Worship and Music Team appreciates and needs your comments and suggestions. Please leave comments in the office, the offering plate, or call any of the Music and Worship Team – Jackie Anderson, Bob Blakey, Lee Ann Daigle, Todd Fargo, Alissa Mayer, Beth Petrino, Sally Turner.

Healing and Reconciliation

Pending Session approval, your Healing and Reconciliation Steering Committee (HRSC) is dissolved. With God's help, we have worked for a year to deal with the hurt, the anger, and the grief resulting from our trauma of 2020. We have presented numerous programs and workshops and we have personally reached out to our congregation. We have had the support and expertise of Rev. Anne Waasdorp, retired Presbyterian minister and recent former member of the Committee on Ministry (COM) of the Presbytery of the Genesee Valley. She also walked with the WPC Session during its 2020 deliberations. Thanks to Anne's recommendation, we engaged a professional coach, Rev. Dr. Janice Lee Fitzgerald, to assist us along the way. Janice recently commented: "I am so delighted at what the HRSC team has helped to bring about and believe firmly that it was because of the love of church family, dedication and Spirit-led inspiration that each of you brought to your tasks. It is a moment of important transition that you are no longer needed as a separate team but will continue to help lead the congregation back toward health from within the other roles you play in the congregation."

The time has come to move on to the next step of a congregational mission study which will result in a new mission statement for WPC. We will have the support of our current COM liaison, John DeHority. It requires the participation of the whole congregation, so please watch for the opportunities to define our church.

Thank you to the members of the HRSC Team for their dedication and commitment: Bob Blakey, Pastor Phil Davis, Gayl Galen, Barbara Hach, Karen Hunt, Alissa Mayer, Dick McNeary, Connie Rice, Karen Stoddard, Anne Waasdorp, Elaine Wilbert.

Memory Verse

Arise, shine for your light has
come, and the glory of the Lord
rises upon you.

Isaiah 60:1



Opportunities to Give

Christmas Gift Cards for Grace House



From November 21st until December 14th we will be collecting \$10 gift cards for the men at Grace House. Again this year, due to the ongoing pandemic, we will only be collecting gift cards. Most of the men must use buses for transportation, so gift cards to places in the city are most convenient for them. \$10 gift cards for fast food places such as McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's, Taco Bell, Dunkin Donuts, and Tim Hortons and for stores such as Walmart, Target, Dollar Tree, and Dollar General are greatly appreciated. Please put your gift card donations in the offering plate up until December 12th, or give them to Georgia or Janet in the church office or to Brad Adams.

Christmas Joy Offering

From Sunday, December 12th, until Sunday, January 2nd, we will be collecting contributions for the Christmas Joy offering. Special envelopes will be in the chair racks. This special Presbyterian denominational offering is used to provide emergency financial assistance to active and retired pastors and church workers, and to provide scholarship and other aid to Presbyterian-related colleges that primarily serve students of color.



Angel Tree

The deadline for Angel Tree donations is fast approaching! Please bring your unwrapped items to church by **Sunday, December 5th**. Or, use this link to search for the "Williamson Come-Unity Center Angel Tree" list to have your gift shipped directly to us by designating "Laura Oliver's Gift Registry Address" in the shipping options: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/A24YBQ17000X?ref=wl_share

If you prefer us to pick up from you, please contact Amy Vallone at 766-0417 or aevallone@yahoo.com.

In this season of giving, and during a time that has been so difficult for so many, help us remember these families who depend on the Williamson Come-Unity Center with our gifts and prayers. *Thank you!*



Poinsettias for Christmas



The Deacons are now taking orders for Poinsettias. The flowers will be used to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. Orders can be placed in-person on both Sunday, December 5th and 12th by seeing Janet Chippero in the Narthex before or after the service. Or you can order by calling or emailing the church office or janetchippero@gmail.com.

Poinsettias are available in red and white and are \$15 each. Payment can be made when you place your order at church, dropped off or mailed to the church office, or on the church website by using the drop down option on the "give" button.

When purchasing your flower, you may include a dedication that will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Poinsettias may be brought home after the Christmas Eve service or the Sunday morning service on the 26th. You can also choose to have your poinsettia donated to be shared with our Friends at Home.

All orders must be placed by December 12th.

If ordering by phone or email, please include the following:

- Your choice of Red or White poinsettia
- Your dedication (optional)
- Your plans to take or donate to Friends at Home
- How you plan to pay

If paying by check please make check out to Presbyterian Women and write "poinsettia" on the memo line.



Green Tip of the Month

Don't pre-heat oven for more than 10 minutes or peek in oven. You lose about 25 degrees when you open the oven door.

A Note from Session

Session has called an in-person congregational meeting for **Sunday, December 12th** immediately following the worship service. If possible, please plan on attending in-person worship that morning so you will have the opportunity to vote on the three business items on the agenda. In 2020 there were times when we were not meeting in person and therefore voting was done electronically. Now that the church has opened for more normal activities, church business can be conducted in-person.

The three items of business to be considered are:

1. Amending the church by-laws by
 - a) dropping the reference to the Associate Pastor.
 - b) changing the size of the church boards as approved by Session. Session is recommending that each of the three church boards be reduced in size by three members.
2. Amending the church electronic meeting policy/electronic voting policy as approved by Session. The revised policy enables the church to conduct business electronically when in-person meetings are not possible.
3. Nominate and elect church officers. We thank the Nominating Committee and those who have agreed to serve on our boards in 2022. The slate of officers will be presented at the meeting on December 12th. If you have any questions about these business items, please contact me.

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

Trustee's Corner

As of the writing of this Trustee message, the church is closed with the water turned off due to a dysfunctional sewer system. Gary Maier and John Wilbert along with Chamberlain Septic and Sewer have investigated with the Town of Webster the cause of backup of the church sewer. It seems that our lines have been disconnected from the Town main line at Schlegel Road. The Town has contacted the contractor who worked on the line a couple years ago. We anticipate that excavating will start Monday morning, the 22nd of November.

Once again, we are thanking the Scouts for their hard work in support of this church. They spent a few hours on Saturday, November 6, weeding the playground, raking, and picking up some of the leaves, sticks, and branches around the north side of the property. They were a big help with our outside chores.

The Trustees did extensive weeding and trimming on the south side of the building. Once the leaves are all down, gutters will be cleaned in preparation for winter.

And, yes, winter is coming along with snow and ice. If you notice that the walks are slippery, please, tell a Trustee or feel free to sprinkle the area with a little salt from the bin near the door.



WPC Financial Update

We really appreciate that people have been giving regularly and keeping up with their pledges. This has helped our income be at or above budget for this year. Expenses are near budget with many planned projects at or near completion. (Worship Streaming, Office Software/Hardware Upgrade, Social Room Floor, South Exterior Doors Replacement, for example.) This says that we should end the year about on budget. As of this writing, however, the cost to WPC of remedying the sewer back-up is not known and could affect the year-end result.

The Session decided to take \$11,000 from the Endowment to give to Mission. Mission funding

was significantly reduced going into 2021 because of the lower overall church budget. With this money, the Mission Committee can help more of the groups they support.

Looking ahead to 2022, we thank the congregation for returning their pledge cards in a timely way which is so helpful as we prepare next year's Budget. The Stewardship and Finance Committee now has the church committees' requests for next year's funds and will work to build the budget.

Feel free to contact Connie Rice with any questions.
Connie56rice@gmail.com (585) 703-0618

Learning for a Lifetime

Note: All Adult Education sessions are scheduled for Sunday mornings at 10:45 am.

December 5

Social Room

Bible Project DVD study of "Hope" and "Peace" *led by Tony Hubbard*

In the season of Advent, we meditate on hope, peace, joy, and love. Today we invite you to reflect on the biblical meaning of Hope and Peace. What is your Christian hope? What brings you God's peace? Small group table conversations will follow the DVD.

December 12

Social Room

following the Special Congregational Meeting

"Light of the World: It's Personal" – DVD with Andy Stanley

Pastor Andy Stanley gives a new look at The Christmas Story in the DVD "It's Personal" from *Light of the World*. Why did Jesus come to the world? In his energetic, powerful style, Pastor Stanley delves into the Gospel of John as well as Luke and Matthew to make sure ALL of US understand the message of salvation. Move into the Social Room after the service for this moving, holy message.

December 19

Sanctuary and Live Stream

Advent Theater with WPC Players "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" and "Live from Bethlehem"

Advent Theater is back with "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" and "Live from Bethlehem," two short plays. Participants are needed: 4 women, 2 men, and a few carollers. Please volunteer and contact Sally Turner. Come to the Sanctuary to view our Presbyterian thespians, sing carols, and celebrate Advent in a different way.

December 26

No Class

Women's Bible Study

During the month of December, we will continue our Advent study of Handel's *Messiah*. Join the group on Tuesday mornings for carols in the Chapel at 9:30 followed by "The Messiah" at 9:50. Let our hearts "prepare Him room"! There will be no meeting on December 28th.



December Lectionary Readings

December 5 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Old Testament	Malachi 3:1-4
New Testament	Philippians 1:3-11
Gospel	Luke 1:68-79; 3:1-6

December 12 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Old Testament	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6
New Testament	Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel	Luke 3:7-18

December 19 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Old Testament	Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm	Psalm 80:1-7
New Testament	Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel	Luke 1:39-55

December 26

Old Testament	Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm	Psalm 98
New Testament	Hebrews 1:1-12
Gospel	John 1:1-14



Heart and Hand

We are sending a big thank you to Joyce Bradstreet for her very generous donation of a large portion of her quilting stash to Heart and Hand to help us out with many of our projects.

This month, we plan to deliver 20-30 fleece hat and scarf sets for homeless and/or refugees in the Rochester area. If you are interested in helping, kits should be available by Thanksgiving for sewing at home.

We are continuing to sew Children's Care Bags for children who are victims of fire and other emergencies in the Webster area. The three Women's Circles of WPC are helping with this project by donating items to fill the bags. If you want to participate, some suggested items are:

Books (about firemen, Winnie the Pooh, etc), small coloring books, note pads, crayons, pencils, activity books (dot-to-dot, mazes), children's card games, toothbrush, toothpaste, washclothes that expand when wet (available at the Dollar Store).

We are wishing all a blessed and healthy Christmas season.

Tina 413-7809	tmcneary@gmail.com
Jean 645-4991	maierj@gmail.com
Jen 329-1958	jwengender@clarkpatterson.com

Children's Christian Education

On Sunday, November 7th, the children in our SHINE Sunday School program set up a table in the Narthex next to a large wooden cross. People attending worship that day stopped at the SHINE table to write on a felt leaf something that they are thankful for. The kids attached the leaf to the "Cross of Blessings." Thank you to Domenico Sorrentino, Josie Dolan, and Zella Dolan for their help that day.



Our Fruit of the Spirit word for December is



On Sunday, December 5th, we will be making Christmas cards for some of our

WPC members who are unable to worship in-person with us. We are learning to SHINE for JESUS by doing thoughtful things for others.



CCE Mission Statement

To equip and nurture the children of God with Biblical knowledge and spiritual development in order to begin their faith journey and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Women's Circles News

King Circle will meet on **December 9th at 10:00 am** at Barb Coleman's house. Following the meeting they will have their Christmas luncheon in celebration of our Lord's birth.

Naomi Circle will meet Wednesday, **December 8th at 1:00 pm** in the Memorial Room. The program is Christmas party and sock exchange.

Rachel Circle will be meeting at a local restaurant (tbd) on **Sunday, December 5th**, to celebrate the Christmas season. There will be no gift exchange this year. Instead, we will enjoy some fellowship while we dine. Details will be released in a separate email.

Youth Fellowship

Want to be part of Guinness World Records Day but not sure if you've got a special skill? The good news is that you don't need to be an Olympic athlete to take part. Sunday, **December 5th** from **4 - 6 pm** in the **Social Room**, we will try our hands at breaking some Guinness World Records.



Sunday, December 12th we will play our own version of games seen on TV like "Box of Lies," "The Whisper Challenge," "Will it float?" and more fun and interesting games from **4 - 6 pm**.

The **Youth Fellowship Christmas Party** will be on



December 19th from **4 - 6 pm** in the **Social Room**. We will play holiday-themed games and eat holiday-themed food!

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. Please bring the completed form to the first event.

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



Bell Choir Update



Glory Bells will not rehearse in-church on Thursday mornings in December. They will be off-site performing their Christmas Program.

Alleluia Bells rehearses on Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 7:15. Rehearsals for December will be on the 2nd, 16th, and 23rd with no rehearsal on December 9th or 30th.

Church Family News

Wecome Nancy! We are happy to welcome a new member. Nancy Duquette officially joined the congregation on Sunday, November 7th. She joins us from the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Joy in Pennsylvania.

In November we prayed for:

Ruth and John Fischer, Dick Tompkins, Camryn Zeitvogel, John and Anita Bocker, Mary Grace Thomas, the Burton family and the Phillips family.

We are saddened by the passing of Pastor Tom Phillips, Eric Phillips' father.

New Addresses:

Laureen Anthony Palmer
83 Stone Trace Court
Alvaton, KY 42122
(mid December)

New Email Address

Janet Chippero's church office email is now:
jchippero@websterpres.org.

Join us in the Sanctuary!

More and more people are worshipping in person on Sunday mornings (with required masking for safety purposes).

ALL ARE WELCOME

No reservations are needed.

The *January Pathway* deadline is

DECEMBER 20th.

email articles to

jchippero@websterpres.org

AND

[ghubbard@websterpres.org](mailto:g Hubbard@websterpres.org)

Many Thanks!

King, Rachel, and Naomi Circles would like to thank everyone who donated cleaning supplies for the Afghanistan refugees. A special thanks to Matt Clark for delivering our donations to Catholic Family Center in Rochester.

The Mission Committee just wrapped up their warm fall and winter clothing drive for the Cameron Community Ministries. With such great need for winter clothing in the city, Cameron was very grateful for the two large loads that we donated to them! Thank you to everyone who contributed!



Advent Devotional Booklets are now available! Look for them in the Narthex or pick one up from the bench outside the north entrance. This season we are offering *The Fullness of Time* by Henri Nouwen, and families with young children can enjoy *Season's Greetings: Welcoming Christ Through the Traditions of Christmas*. Read the devotion for the first Sunday in Advent below.

Worth Waiting For

...he has made known to us the mystery of his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 1:9-10

"We must listen with our whole being, trusting that the Word that created us will also heal us. God wants to become present to us and thus radically transform our fearful hearts."

Henri J. M. Nouwen, *With Burning Hearts*.

Advent is a time of waiting. We are waiting for someone to arrive. But why must we wait? These words from Ephesians and Henri Nouwen burst with possibility: making mysteries known, gathering up all things, listening, trusting, transforming. These wonderful, sacred things take time. In a world that is accustomed to "instant," it is easy to forget how long it takes to truly make a mystery known, or gather up all things, or radically transform hearts.

The coming of our Savior takes time because salvation takes time. God does not snap his fingers or push a button in order to save us. He sends his Son to be with us and love us. Salvation is a relationship. This takes time. This is worth waiting for.

from *The Fullness of Time, Advent Devotions*

* * * * *

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ. A very Merry Christmas to all!

