The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church Webster, New York

March 2022

From Pastor Phil

To my sisters and brothers of the Webster Presbyterian Church,

In a small book of writings on prayer, Henri Nouwen gives this prayer to us.

Dear God,

As you draw me ever deeper into your heart, I discover that my companions on the journey are women and men loved by you as fully and as intimately as I am. In your compassionate heart, there is place for all of them. No one is excluded. **Give me a share in your compassion**, dear God, so that your unlimited love may become visible in the way I love my brothers and sisters. Amen.

This prayer calls us to transformation. My hope for our future is for us to discern the specific ways in we are being called to transform.

Your Brother in Christ, Pastor Phil

Join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday Mornings!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

No reservations are needed. Masks are required.

Sunday service continues to be live-streamed.

Links are available at <u>www.websterpres.org</u>.

In the worship tab, click on the Facebook link, then click on videos, or click on the YouTube link. If you miss a Sunday and want to go back and watch the service, you can also access YouTube directly with this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA



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Ash Wednesday Service March 2nd 7:00 pm

Remember to set your clocks forward one hour on March 13th!

Note from Session

Approximately ninety people participated in eight small group meetings as we started our mission study which marks the beginning of our search for new pastoral leadership at Webster Presbyterian Church. Thank you to all who attended. Our consultant, Reverend Dr. Carson O. Mouser, will process the comments received and give us a summary for all of us to review.

Rev. Mouser is asking each person in the congregation to read *Discovering the Congregation's "Why" One Day Retreat.* This narrative, written by Rev. Mouser, is an interpretation of our congregation's history and three biblical narratives as preparation for the One Day Retreat on **Saturday, March 12th, from 9:30 am - 3:00 pm.** Rev. Mouser's narrative was sent out to everyone as an attachment in an email on February 23rd.

We hope as many members as possible will plan to attend the retreat. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex or contact me at tghubbard@frontiernet.net to let me know if you will be joining us so the Deacons can order box lunches for all who attend.

The second item I would like to bring to your attention is church COVID protocols. Session last reviewed COVID protocols in August of 2021. Our most important concern is to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all those who worship in and use our building. We know that government recommendations are changing, so we will discuss making changes to our policy at the March 7th Session meeting. If you have recommendations for Session to consider, please talk to any Session member or myself.

Tony Hubbard, Clerk of Session

Trustees' Corner

Lights, Lights, Lights!

The Trustees, led by Dick Dodd, have done an extensive job of replacing many fluorescent and incandescent lights throughout the church with LED fixtures and/or lights. In particular, notice the brightness of the new wing hall. Electric energy usage there alone will drop from 840 to 420 watts.

We appreciate you sharing any observations you make of areas that need attention. Following are the 2022 Trustee Committee contacts:

Moderator – John Wilbert

Vice Moderator – Karen Fargo

Secretary – Tina McNeary

Energy and HVAC – Gary Maier, Dick Dodd, Mark Pipal

- Internal Building John Wilbert, Gary Maier, Clark Chippero
- External Building –

Chris Downs, John Wilbert, Jaol Jamison

Grounds - Bob Kizer, Dick McNeary, Mark Pipal

Sexton & Cleaning – Chris Downs, Tina McNeary

A/V, Alarm, Phones –

Dick Dodd, Chris Downs, Clark Chippero Building Use Contracts – Mark Pipal, Karen Fargo Information Technology – Dick Dodd, Clark Chippero Stewardship & Finance – Karen Fargo, Mark Pipal Documentation and Labeling – Dick McNeary Insurance – Karen Fargo

This year, Lent begins on March 2nd. As you read through this month's Pathway, you will find many ways to enrich these 40 days. The Spiritual Nurture Committee, Women's Bible Study, Adult Ed, and the Worship and Music Committee are all offering paths for spiritual discipline, study, and prayer. Giving up something for Lent allows time and space in our life for God. Spiritual discipline allows us to practice living our Christ-like life. Think about creative ways that you can embrace Lent this year. Consider waking up a half hour earlier during Lent to allow time for contemplation and prayer. Perhaps you could give up your stop at the coffee shop and donate your savings to your favorite cause. Try writing letters (or emails or texts) of gratitude each day, or journal three things that you are thankful for. Be a good steward of the earth by swapping out plastic water bottles for reusable ones. Maybe donate three items each day or be kind to three strangers. Whatever you choose to do, let it bring you joy and enrich your spirit.

Deacons' Doings



Easter Flower Sale

The Deacons will soon be taking orders for Easter Flowers. These beautiful spring blooms will decorate the church on Easter morning.

Orders can be placed on Sunday mornings before or after the service on March 20th, 27th, and April 3rd. Orders can also be placed by contacting Sue Wrobleski (545-4807 or sue.wrobleski@icloud.com) or by calling or emailing the church office.

Choose from Lilies (\$18.00), Yellow Tulips (\$14.00), and Pink Azaleas (\$21.50). Payment can be made in person when you place your order or dropped off or mailed to the church office. If paying by check, please make your check out to PWC.

Flowers can be brought home after the Easter service or donated to our Friends at Home. When ordering, you may include a dedication in memory or honor of a loved one that will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

All orders must be placed by Monday, April 4th.

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

- Your choice of flower
- Your dedication (optional)
- Your plans to take or donate the flower
- How you plan to make your payment

Food Barrel

Thank you for all of the Food Barrel donations. The food is benefitting Webster residents in need! Continued donations of peanut butter, cereals, chunky soups, canned

veggies/fruit, pasta and sauce, and more are always appreciated.



Mission Updates

One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 70 years the Presbyterian Church has participated in this annual interdenominational offering and WPC has been a part of this for many, many years. This year's offering appeal will commence on March 27th, running through Easter Sunday, April 17th. The offering is used in many countries around the world for disaster assistance, hunger relief and self-development, and our congregation has always responded generously to Please prayerfully this appeal. consider contributing again this year. More information will be coming as the appeal gets underway.

Blanket Sunday

Thank you to everyone who make a contribution toward blankets for Church World Service. As of February 23rd, we have collected \$990.

Spiritual Nurturing

In addition to offering our Prayer of the Week, our Memory Verse of the Month, and our Saturday morning Prayer Time at 9:00 via Zoom, your Spiritual Nurture Committee (SNC) is proposing a self-led study for Lent. As our resource, we are using the book, Joy Together: Spiritual Practices for Your Congregation, by Lynne M. Baab. A spiritual practice could also be called a spiritual discipline. Both terms refer to ways that help us to experience God's presence, guidance, and call in our lives. Ms. Baab lists six spiritual disciplines that your SNC is respectfully suggesting that you study on your own during the Lenten season, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 2nd and ending on Holy Saturday, April 16th, the day before Easter Sunday. The practices (or disciplines) are Thankfulness (Colossians 3:15-17); Fasting (Joel 2:12-13); Contemplative Prayer (Isaiah 30:15); Contemplative

Approaches to Scripture (Psalm 1:1-3); Hospitality (Hebrews 13:2; I Peter 4:9) and Sabbath Keeping (Exodus 31:13). The Scripture references are the author's. We humbly hope and pray you will find this a faith-building and fulfilling adventure with our Lord, however you may choose to take it on.

On Holy Saturday, April 16th, your SNC will be hosting a 30-minute Silent Prayer Time on Zoom. This will be an experiment! We hope you will consider joining us – more to come in the April *Pathway*.

Your SNC members are Bob Blakey, Nancy Duquette, Barb Hach and Connie Rice. We welcome new members if the Spirit moves you. We meet the third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm via Zoom. If you wish to join Saturday morning Prayer Time, please contact any of us and we will add your email address to the list. *Immanuel*!

Worship and Music

Special Lenten Prayer Opportunity

During Lent, the Committee is offering a new opportunity during Prayers of the People. In addition to verbalized prayers from the congregation, there will be candles on a table near

Redeemed and restored, love returns us to the promise of everlasting life. When we love we can let our hearts speak. the Chancel for members to come forward to light for their unspoken prayers, joys, and concerns. We are offering candle lighting to enhance this holy season of Lent and the spiritual discipline of prayer.

-Gloria Jean Watkins Better known by her pen name, "bell hooks"

Organ Repairs

Some of you may have noticed a sound from the organ that wasn't

supposed to be there during a hymn. We had a minor problem that Kat Jolliff, our gifted organist, identified that needed to be repaired. In particular, we needed to get the repair done and the organ tuned in time for the wonderful live performance by Kat on Sunday, February 20th. Thanks to Gary Maier and Dick Dodd, the repairs and tuning were completed on schedule.

Visiting Minister

Pastor Phil will be away on Sunday, March 20th enjoying some time away and hopefully recharging as well. We will be blessed with a visiting minister, Jarmani Dozier, who Pastor Phil brought to our attention. We are always blessed by new voices that open our hearts to the word of God.

What's on Your Mind and Hearts?

We also invite you to let your hearts speak about the worship and music program. Please share any reflections, questions and ideas for change to the Worship and Music Committee.

Green Tip of the Month

For those occasions when handkerchiefs and cloth rags won't cut it, you can now buy facial tissue, paper towels, and toilet paper all made out of bamboo, likely at your regular local store. Bamboo is a grass, and grows much faster than trees.

Learning for a Lifetime

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

Join us for the six-week DVD Lenten series, **"Final Words From the Cross,"** narrated by Adam Hamilton, followed by group discussion in Room 9/10. Hamilton examines Christ's dying hours and his final words as seen and heard by those who stood near the cross. We will explore how these powerful words continue to speak to us and guide how we live today.

March 6 "Father, Forgive Them ... "

- 13 "Today You Will Be With Me in Paradise"
- 20 "Behold Your Son... Behold Your Mother"
- 27 "My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

...to be continued on April 3rd and 10th.

March Lectionary Readings

March 6 1st S	Sunday in Lent
Old Testamer	
Psalm	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
New Testame	ent Romans 10:8b-13
Gospel	Luke 4:1-13

day in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philemon 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

- March 203rd Sunday in LentOld TestamentIsaiah 55:1-9PsalmPsalm 63:1-8New TestamentI Corinthians 10:1-13GospelLuke 13:1-9
- March 274th Sunday in LentOld TestamentJoshua 5:9-12PsalmPsalm 32New TestamentII Corinthians 5:16-21GospelLuke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Women's Bible Study



Lent in Plain Sight, a book by Jill Duffield, will be the basis for

Women's Bible Study for the Lenten season. Do we see "God everywhere, in all things, all creation? Each week will highlight an object, something we encounter in our daily living that might awaken us that God is present, speaking, seeking to be in relationship" with us. Please join us in person or on Zoom at 9:30 on Tuesday mornings as we prepare for the joy of Easter that comes after the 40 days of Lent as we reach for the abundant life Jesus offers us.

3/1 – Dust 3/8 – Bread 3/15 – Cross 3/22 – Coins 3/29 – Shoes 4/5 – Oil 4/12 – Coats, Towels, Thorns, Stones



Bell Choir Rehearsals

Glory Bells meet on Thursday mornings from 9:00 – 10:00 in the Sanctuary.

Alleluia Bells rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 7:15.

Memory Verse

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to



separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Heart and Hand

Because of the generous involvement

of several volunteers, we were able to complete 28 incubator covers in February. Twelve were delivered to the NICU at Rochester General Hospital early in February. Sixteen more will follow soon. The staff and parents there are always most appreciative.



On a recent cold and snowy day, we drove 37 sets of fleece hats and scarves to House of Mercy in the city of Rochester. The staff was delighted to receive the much needed additional warmth.

The current kits on the Heart and

Hand table in the hallway are for placemats that we hope to give to the people who receive Meals on

Wheels in Webster. We welcome you to join us in completing one or two to send a bit of Spring cheer to our neighbors.



Women's Circles News



King Circle will meet at the church in Room 9-10 on Thursday, March 10th at 10:00 am. Tina McNeary will be giving a program on "Quilts".

Naomi Circle will meet on March 9th at 1:00 pm in the Memorial Room for game time.



Rachel Circle will meet on Monday, March 28th at 6:30 pm in the Youth



Room for a fun night of fellowship. Please bring an appetizer to share.



Children's Christian Education

Our Fruit of the Spirit word for March is Self-Control

To be self-controlled means to have power over one's outward reaction, emotions and thoughts. Our lessons this month will help kids realize that God wants each of us to practice self-control at home, at school and with our friends. They will

hear the story of Simon Peter who was known for making all sorts of crazy and foolish decisions. His relationship with Jesus helped him understand and gain selfcontrol.



- March 6: Bible lesson with Mrs. Brocker Communion
- March 13: Bells and Chimes with Mrs. Anderson
- March 20: Bible lesson with Mrs. Brocker
- March 27: Crafts Project-Painting a wooden cross to take home.



Church Family News

In February we prayed for: Dave McCandless and John Fisher



The April Pathway deadline is MARCH 20th. email articles to jchippero@websterpres.org AND ghubbard@websterpres.org

Youth Fellowship

March 6th we will get an early peek at spring at the George Eastman Museum's annual Dutch Connection floral display. A welcome treat in the midst of winter, the show features thousands of colorful tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, amaryllis, and spring annuals filling areas of George Eastman's historic mansion. We will **leave WPC at 1:40 pm** to arrive at the museum for the 2 pm tour. Students are asked to bring their school IDs so we can get the student rate. Please **RSVP by March 3rd** so I can purchase tickets. I will purchase tickets as long as they are available.

March 13th is the start of Daylight Savings Time. As we spring forward, we will try to beat the clock in a selection of challenges to complete in a minute. Show up with your friends from **4:00 – 6:00 pm** in the WPC Social Room. With 60 seconds on the clock to complete each challenge, do you think you have what it takes? You've got a "Minute to Win It".

March 20th we will head out for a First Day of Spring scavenger hunt. Bring your friends to join you in your search in finding the items on the list for points to earn prizes. We will begin at **4:00 pm** and end at **6:00 pm** from the WPC Narthex.

In 2019 our Youth Group was challenged to enter the Greater Rochester PEEP show and won a pizza party. We are again being challenged to participate in this event that benefits the Webster Community Chest. Who is interested in using your talent to make a diorama? We will collect ideas from March 6th - 20th when we will choose our design. Check out the website for past entries and categories for ribbons awarded for certain themed categories like Best Movie, TV Show, Animal, Literary, Sci-Fi,

Music, Sports, Comedy, Adventure, Horror, Fantasy, Famous Person, Nature, and Holiday, to name a few. Then on **March 27th** we will gather to construct our entry from **4:00 – 6:00 pm** in the WPC Social Room.



All youth grades 6th through 12th are welcome and you're always encouraged to bring friends.

Together in Fellowship,

Wanda Nungesser Director of Youth Ministries <u>youth@websterpres.org</u> 585-414-1337