



The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

November 2022

Vol. LII No. 9



To my brothers and sisters of the Webster Presbyterian Church,

The Presbyterian Church, USA streams a podcast called: "A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast." On a recent episode, Akilah Hyrams, a Presbyterian fourth year medical student and preacher's kid, was interviewed by podcast hosts Simon Doong and the Rev. Lee Catoe. She was asked two questions.

"What's it like working in the medical and health field as a person of faith?" and,

"How does your faith inform the work you do and your perspective on the nation's health care system?"

I found her answers refreshing and I share them with you.

To the question, "How does your faith inform the work you do?" Akilah responds in part,

"You're working with God's creations. You're entrusted with their health and well-being. It's super humbling and a privilege to be called into the health field," because "it's God working through you to help people and heal people. To be honest, that's kind of rough. You are there for people's worst days as well as their best days. They can ask you super hard questions ..."

She continues,

As an adherent to the Golden Rule, Hyrams said she treats every patient she's seen during her medical training with respect, kindness and dignity, "... I try to take care of not just the body, but the mind and the spirit too."

She shares her perspective on the current state of the medical system saying,

"A lot of us aren't satisfied with the current system, me included. The current system values money over human life, and I'm not OK with that."

It is refreshing to hear a future medical doctor say,

"You're working with God's creations." and

"I try to take care of not just the body, but the mind and the spirit too."

My prayer is for all of us to see one another as "God's Creations" with concern for the "minds and spirits" of others.

I pray God will bless Akilah Hyrams to be a model for all medical professionals.

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Phil

PS. "A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast." and other podcasts of the Presbyterian Church USA can be found at: <https://amatteroffaith.buzzsprout.com/>

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*We are followers
of Jesus Christ,
living and sharing
the love of God
through faith
and action,
welcoming all.*

Join us Sunday Mornings at 9:30 in the Sanctuary or on Livestream. ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/Websterpres/>



DON'T FORGET!

Fall Back 1 Hour on

**Sunday
November 6th!**



A Note from Session

It has been almost three years since our church lost our co-pastors and lived through the worst of the COVID challenges. I ask the question, "Are we getting back to normal times?" Well, maybe. I am thankful that Pastor Phil Davis has been with us to lead worship and serve as a faithful teaching elder during this time. I am thankful that many of the elders who served in 2020 extended their terms of office to help us heal. I am thankful that many members have chosen to stay engaged to keep programs in the church going: Adult Ed, Mission, Christian Education, Youth Fellowship, Music and Worship, Personnel hiring new staff members, Stewardship and Finance managing financial resources, Trustees caring for the property, Deacons caring for members and fellowship, Heart and Hand, Bible Studies, and others not listed here. The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) has started the search process for new pastoral leadership and has completed our Mission Identity Statement, the next step in the search process. We are seeking to live out our new identity statement:

*We are followers of Jesus Christ, living
and sharing the love of God through
faith and action, welcoming all.*

So, where do we go from here? The Nominating Committee is beginning to meet and seek officers to fill leadership positions for those whose term will expire in January. If you are contacted, please prayerfully consider how you can help WPC continue moving us toward normal and better times, continuing to do God's will in this community, as best we can.

Tony Hubbard, Clerk of Session

Stewardship and Finance

2023 Budget Update

At WPC, the budget for the coming year is put together in three steps. In the fall, the church committees are asked how much money they desire in the coming year. Then, after the Stewardship Campaign, the amount pledged is totaled. In the third step, the amount the committees will get is adjusted so that the total equals the amount pledged. This is finalized by year-end and results in the budget for the following year.

For 2023, the committees have reported how much they desire. The total is \$420K which is 3% higher than the 2022 budget. This is driven mainly by increased Personnel and Facilities expenses.

The Stewardship Campaign is underway for the 93 pledging units that we have.

We will report at the Annual Meeting at the end of January what the final 2023 budget is. We continue to appreciate the generosity of our congregation.

2023 Budget Information

The committees of the church have submitted their requests for funds which creates the 2023 Budget. The table below compares the 2022 and 2023 Budget amounts. (Numbers are in dollars.)

| | 2022 | 2023 | Delta | % Change |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Personnel | 190,342 | 197,161 | 6,819 | 4% |
| Mission | 75,000 | 85,000 | 10,000 | 13% |
| Facility total | 94,800 | 87,000 | (7,800) | -8%* |
| All Other | 48,708 | 50,900 | 2,192 | 1% |
| Total | 408,850 | 420,061 | 11,211 | 3% |

*Facilities are down for 2023 because extra funding was put into the 2022 Budget for the parking lot.

Once the 2023 pledges are totaled, adjustments will be made to the 2023 Budget to match the amount pledged. In 2022 there were 93 Pledging Units.

Please direct any questions or comments to Connie Rice at 585-703-0618 or connie56rice@gmail.com.

Parking Lot Funding

We had reported before that most of the funding for repaving the parking lot was coming from endowments (\$183K) and from money budgeted in 2022 (\$35K). The congregation was asked if they could close the \$34K gap to make the \$252K project total. Donations of \$24K were received and \$16K was pledged! Any funds left over after the parking lot is done will be put toward future capital projects. We are so grateful for the continuing generosity of our congregation.

Mission Updates and Opportunities to Give

John Sankok from Kenya

Adult Ed Presentation, October 30th

On Sunday, October 30th, we will have the great pleasure of having John Sankok of Kenya visit our church and talk about his mission projects in Kenya during Adult Ed. Our mission teams to Kenya have visited John and his medical clinics at least 4 times, and we have supported his high school education project for Masai girls for many years in our church budget. These girls are otherwise “sold” to much older men in marriage at about age 12 if they don’t go to high school. There will also be a **pot luck lunch** with John following the presentation – please call the church office if you haven’t already signed up for that and want to attend.

A voluntary donation opportunity is available for anyone who wishes is to give an extra donation for John’s girls education project. **Please send or give your donation to Georgia, payable to Webster Presbyterian Church, and mark it as being for John Sankok by November 15th.**

Winter Clothing Collection for Cameron

We are collecting gently used winter clothing for men, women and children until November 15th. Gently used and new winter clothing for men (especially needed), women and children can be placed in designated bins in the Narthex. If you don't have anything to donate from your closets, please consider going to Savers (Tuesdays - discount for anyone over 50), to Goodwill (Wednesdays - discount for anyone over 55), or to any other store of your choice to buy men's clothing items.



Contributions for Hurricane Ian Relief

In November, the Mission Committee will be sending a donation to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help with Hurricane Ian relief in Florida. If you would like to voluntarily contribute to this recovery, please make a donation to Webster Presbyterian Church by no later than November 15th and designate it for “Hurricane Ian relief”.

Highway Clean-up was Successful!

During the morning of Saturday, October 15th, an energetic group, including several new participants, picked up trash along Route 250 from Klem Road to Lake Road! Thank you to all who participated in this important semi-annual cleaning! Our next event will likely be in April after the snow is gone.



Kenya High School Students Fund

During September and October your donations to this fund totaled \$1830! You may make voluntary donations to this fund anytime during the year that you wish – be sure to designate them for “Kenya High School Students”. Thank you so much to all of you who have already donated either this year or last year! We are currently sponsoring 5 high school students in Kenya and will now be able to add two more for the 2023/2024 school year!

Sponsoring a High School Student in Ethiopia!

Recently we became aware of a needy girl in Ethiopia via Amanuel, a man who had been a key contact for our Peacemaking Committee a few years ago to help them find appropriate African ministry students to receive funding from the Ngcokovane Scholarship Fund. Meti is a girl, a junior in high school, whose father was recently killed, and she had no money to continue in school. Praise the Lord the Mission Committee received a special gift for mission from an anonymous member during the summer and we were able to use part of that to pay for Meti’s expenses to attend a boarding school for this school year!

Cameron Community Ministries

On Sunday, October 2nd, two staff members and two kids who attend the after-school program at Cameron Community Center in the northwest part of the city talked to us about their various ministries during Adult Ed. Their long time projects include the after school program for elementary school children, a daily lunch program, a food cupboard and a clothing house for their neighborhood. They also told us about some exciting newer projects such as an after-school program for high school students and a new computer/technology center for all ages.

Gift Cards for Christmas for Grace House

Starting in later November, we will again be collecting \$10 gift cards for Christmas for the men living at Grace House, which now includes homeless men in addition to parolees. There will be more details in the December Pathway and in the bulletins in late November. But as always, gift cards will be appreciated for basic items such as food, fast food, and stores like Target and Walmart.



Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee has been meeting regularly and is happy to share that the first steps are complete. Our Ministry Information Form has been approved by WPC Session and the next step is obtaining Presbytery approval. We hope to start receiving information on potential candidates in the coming weeks. Please keep us in prayer as we continue this journey.

Faithfully,

Nancy Granger, Heather Hewlett,
Amy Vallone, Gayl Galen, Matt Clark, Eric Phillips, Rachel Dolan

Trustees' Corner

**Thank You, Thank You,
Thank You!**

Thank you to all who donated their time and labor to prepare our Church for the coming winter. You did a terrific job at the October 22nd Workday and the Trustees really appreciated all of your help. How soon will we need the snowblower?



A Special Request

A member of the congregation is asking for a used TV to replace a broken one. If you have one to donate, contact Tony Hubbard at 265-1224.

**The December Pathway
deadline is
NOVEMBER 17th.**

*Please note that this is early due
to the Thanksgiving Holiday*

Email articles to
jchippero@websterpres.org AND
ghubbard@websterpres.org

New Beginnings

New Beginnings continues to move forward. October 28th is our first family movie night. I'm sure the children and adults will have a wonderful evening. Our children are bringing friends so laughs and giggles will be plentiful. We hope to do this again soon; perhaps for Christmas.



We are beginning a chime class at Cherry Ridge for assisted living residents. Music is such a joy to share.

We are in need of mittens and gloves for our State Road children to go with the beautiful hats and scarves made by Heart and Hand. Look for more information on that in upcoming bulletins.



Thank you for all the wonderful donations for Webster Hope House. I've delivered 6 large bags with more waiting for delivery. A new list of needs will be out soon and we will post it as soon as we get it. What we give to our neighbors is a blessing and a joy.

Meanwhile, have a blessed Thanksgiving and so many thanks for all you do.

White Christmas Parade

In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Christmas PARADE

The Webster Village White Christmas Parade will be back this year on **Saturday, December 3rd**. This will be WPC's 3rd year spreading the good news of Christmas Joy with our community. We will need lots and lots of lights to decorate our truck, trailer and display, as well as volunteers to walk or play instruments during the parade. Please reach out to Alissa Mayer, Kathy Barbehenn or Jackie Anderson to let them know how you are willing to help share God's light with our community!

Ring in the Christmas Season

with a concert from the Glory Bells

December 1st 10:00 am

in the Sanctuary

*Join us as we kick off the Holiday Season with some festive bell music!
Bring a friend! Concert is free of charge.*



Opportunities to Give for the Holiday Season

Operation Christmas Child

In 1996, Webster Presbyterian Church joined churches from across the country in collecting Shoe Boxes filled with small gifts for children in need around the world. In 1997, we became an official drop-off location. We collected thousands of shoe boxes from churches in Webster, Rochester, and even as far away as Oswego and Watertown. After many years we passed on the "collection center" to The Webster Assembly of God congregation in Webster. We have continued to collect shoe box gifts within our own congregation every year and we look forward to once again providing an opportunity for WPC families and friends to reach out to children in need by filling a simple shoebox with small gifts.

Plastic shoe boxes are available for purchase at Hobby Lobby stores as well as the Dollar Store. Cardboard shoe boxes are accepted as well.

We will dedicate all of our boxes on **Sunday, November 20th, during the morning worship service.** You are welcome to drop off your shoeboxes during the week as well. They will be moved to the Sanctuary for the dedication. A collection table will be available in the Narthex.

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Drop off Schedule: | Sunday | November 13 | 8:30—11:00 |
| | Tuesday | November 15 | 9:00—3:00 |
| | Wednesday | November 16 | 9:00—3:00 |
| | Thursday | November 17 | 9:00—3:00 |
| | Sunday | November 20 | 8:30—11:00 |



If you have any questions about the program, contact Gayl Galen at 872-5154.

Angel Tree

The Deacons are sponsoring the Angel Tree again this year to benefit the Williamson Come-Unity Center. Our contributions over the last several years have been greatly appreciated. In addition to the tags you can take from the tree in the Narthex, we again have a wish list set up on Amazon. When you proceed to check out, be sure to choose "Laura Oliver's Gift Registry Address" in the shipping options to have it sent directly to Laura Oliver's home.



Click to view the list: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/A24YBQ17OOOX?ref=wl_share

If you choose to have the gift shipped to your home, or if you purchase a gift elsewhere, please bring your unwrapped items to church by Sunday, December 11th. 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, help us remember these families with our gifts and prayers. Thank you!

Food Barrel

Thank you for your Food Barrel donations!



As a result of the increased cost of many household expenses, gas, and food, the local food pantries are seeing more and more people that need help feeding their families. Donations of juice, ramen noodles, soup, tuna and other canned meats, canned vegetables and fruits, condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo), peanut butter, cereals, crackers, and more are very much appreciated.

Heart and Hand



A big thank you to all of the individuals who filled our Baby Clothing for Kenya basket to overflowing in October. The contributions were practical and so delightful. Our WPC Mission Committee purchased many gently used footed sleepers and Heart & Hand sewed a few night gowns in addition to 100 fleece baby blankets. All together we were able to vacuum pack 108 baby items to ship with the blankets. Sandi and Bob Blakey drove the full 50# duffle bag to Indianapolis where John Sankok will pick it up at the end of his U.S.A. visit to fly home to Masai Mara, Kenya.

We have started on our next project which is also made from fleece fabric. We have been asked by New Beginnings to join them in a special Webster project to add fleece hats and scarves to Christmas bags for children. Looks like we will need the hats soon!





Women's Bible Study



"Why Worship?" is the topic for November.

Knowing the God You Worship, by Pastor David Jeremiah, will give us comprehensive reasons to celebrate our Lord. "The God you worship is beyond anything you could ever dream of or hope for." Come, worship and praise Him in the Chapel at 9:30 followed by study, discussion and prayer on Tuesday mornings with the Women's Bible Study.

Women's Circles

Naomi Circle will meet on **Wednesday, November 9th** at **1:00 pm** at Kelly Goodman's home for a program of sharing.

King Circle will meet on **Thursday, November 10th** at **10:00 am** at church in Room 9/10. The program will be our annual auction and fund raiser with Eleanor Scott as our auctioneer.

Rachel Circle will meet on **Thursday, November 17th** at **6:00 pm** for holiday shopping at LaLa's in the village of Webster followed by dinner at Applebee's at 7:15 **AND on Sunday, November 20th** at **10:45 am** after the worship service to decorate the church for Christmas.



Bell Choir Schedule

November Rehearsals:

Glory Bells and Alleluia Bells will rehearse in the Sanctuary on all Thursdays in November except for Thanksgiving.

Glory Bells: 9:00 — 10:00 am

Alleluia Bells: 6:00 — 7:15 pm

Adult Ed November Calendar

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

"101 Stand Alone Bible Studies"

This study has a section on the Church Calendar Year.

On November 6th & 13th, we will look at Ordinary Time through Scriptures and discussion.

November 6

Room 9/10 & Livestream

Daily Life will help us learn how to live the abundant life Jesus offers with words from Paul and Peter.

November 13

Room 9/10 & Livestream

A Certain Hope tells us where to put our hope as we travel through this weary and often despairing world. Join the group to listen and participate.

November 20

Room 9/10 & Livestream

Why Thanksgiving: Then and Now?

Join us on a journey of discovery of Thanksgiving history and tradition from Biblical times to earliest settlers and Native Americans to the observances of today.

We all delight in gathering with family to enjoy turkey and pumpkin pie. But beyond that, what is our Christian response to Thanksgiving? How do we develop habits of gratitude for God's goodness and provision?

November 27

Room 9/10 & Livestream

Christmas: What's the Purpose

With Pastor Andy Stanley

We all look for meaning in even the most random events - especially the negative ones. The Christmas story is a reminder that sometimes God interrupts people's stories for a clear purpose.

We invite you to join us as we watch this Andy Stanley sermon and discover the purpose Christmas has in our lives here and now.

November Lectionary Readings

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| November 6 | Old Testament | Haggai 1:15b-29 |
| | Psalm | Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 |
| | New Testament | II Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 |
| November 13 | Gospel | Luke 20:27-38 |
| | Old Testament | Isaiah 65:17-25 |
| | Psalm | Psalm 98 |
| November 20 | New Testament | II Thessalonians 3:6-13 |
| | Gospel | Luke 21:5-19 |
| | Old Testament | Jeremiah 23:1-6 |
| November 27 | Psalm | Psalm 46 |
| | New Testament | Colossians 1:11-20 |
| | Gospel | Luke 23:33-43 |
| November 27 | Old Testament | Isaiah 2:1-5 |
| | Psalm | Psalm 122 |
| | New Testament | Romans 13:11-14 |
| 1st Sunday of Advent | Gospel | Matthew 24:36-44 |

Worship and Music

Come Worship the Lord in Person!

Now is the time for us to gather in person and virtually to worship and praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Guest Pastor on November 27th

We are blessed to welcome back Rev. Betsy Crumity to lead our worship service and share another thought-provoking message as she did in the spring of 2021. We wish Pastor Phil a wonderful time away.

Join Us on Social Media!

Abbey Mayer, a senior at Geneseo, completed a summer internship with WPC to develop and support our growth into the virtual reality. Recently, Abbey shared an update of the work she completed, and Session approved an extension of her work through December to keep us moving in the right direction engaging with social media and enhancing our presence in the community. Here are a few of her accomplishments to date:

- *Compiled close to 50 photos of WPC activities and events, and praise tunes that were shared with the Worship/Music committee that can be shared on our website and social media to highlight our great work - look for this to be shown sometime in the Sanctuary before worship!*
- *Established a WPC Twitter account, @websterpres to which we currently have few followers, but our posts reach around 60 accounts in the community. Please create a Twitter account on your smartphone (through the AppStore) or your computer browser*
 - 1) Go to twitter.com/signup
 - 2) Click the sign-up button
 - 3) Enter your email address
 - 4) Search @websterpres
 - 5) Follow@websterpres
- *Analyzed our social media presence and found that the posts on Twitter and Facebook with the highest number of impressions are those that focused on personal stories within our church (VBS and Welcome Back to John Brocker).*



Abbey will continue to seek community followers on Twitter and Facebook including our Mission partners and is considering creating an Instagram account to attract youth, young adults, and families of young children. She also created clips of sermons and messages to highlight them on our social media pages.

Please contact Abbey, abbeymayer9@gmail.com with any photos, community connections, and ideas to continue to build and enhance our technology footprint!

Streamed Service – Better and Better

We continue to receive great feedback about the high quality of the streamed serve and hope you are noticing the continued improvements. **If you have a problem viewing the service, contact Alissa Mayer (694-4667) or Todd Fargo (670-9177).**

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Philippians 4:8

Library News



Are you looking for a program for your small group? Don't forget to check out the many DVD's and books in our church library. We have several shelves of material especially for small groups. Recently we've had a few donations that may interest you. (Small group material does not need to be signed out. Just return it when you are finished.)

Reformative Overview -

DVD's that look at the players in the Protestant Reformation

Fully Alive— Ken Davis

Comedy concert—watch, laugh and start your journey to life, fully alive

It's Enough to Make a Grown Man Cry -

Ken Davis —why Jesus wept

Guardrails series by Andy Stanley - avoiding regret in your life

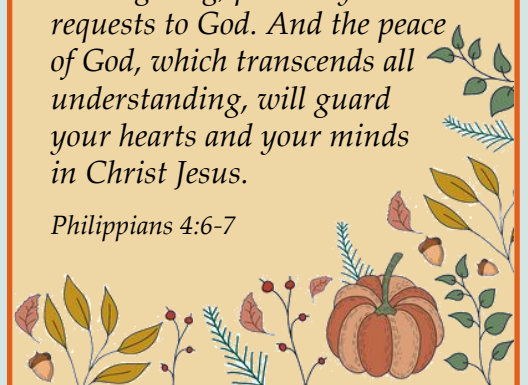
Advent Begins on Sunday, November 27th

Pastor Phil has chosen *This Will Be a Sign* from Henri Nouwen for our Advent Devotional. Booklets will be available to pick up in the Church Narthex in a couple of weeks.

Memory Verse

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7



Children's Christian Education



We begin our November lessons with the story of Abram. The children will discover that we can trust God. Elementary kids are developing critical thinking skills. They ask questions so they can understand and they become frustrated when they just don't get it. Perhaps that's how Abram felt. God gave him an answer: "You'll get land plus a big, blessed family." But Abram wondered how that was going to happen. Despite wondering and some wandering too, Abram believed. He trusted God.

Our month will end with the story of Isaac. God had promised Abraham and Sarah that they would not have just one son, but also countless descendants (*Genesis 17:2*). We will talk about promises. When God makes a promise, he always keeps it. God doesn't always give us what we want when we want it, but he does promise that he'll guide us when we trust him with all our heart.

*"For the word of the Lord holds true,
And we can trust everything he does."*

Psalms 33:4

November 6 Family Worship—No SHINE Class

November 13 Bells with Mrs. Anderson:

We are practicing a song to play at Christmas.



At the end of worship, we will be at a table in the Narthex with felt leaves for people to write something they are thankful for. We will then tape them to the large wooden cross for display.

November 20 Bible Lesson:

The Story of Abram—Trust

November 27 Bible Lesson:

The Story of Isaac—Promises

Church Family News

In October we prayed for:

Evan Phillips, John Fischer, Gerry Prunier and Herman Rolle.

And we shared joy with:

Marge Crumb as she celebrated her 99th birthday!

Youth Fellowship

November 6th, gather at North Ponds Park for Fleece, Friends and Frisbee golf from 4:00—6:00 pm. The weather has gotten cooler but we will dress in fleece and layers to stay warm. So invite a friend and bring your favorite Frisbee. We will try our hand at throwing discs at targets to score! I will bring Frisbees and discs to use if you don't have your own. Whether you are a Frisbee aficionado or a novice, come to fellowship with friends. If you are interested in keeping score on an app, download UDisc for free before arriving. I will also have paper score sheets.



In honor of **Guinness World Records** day we will put our abilities to the test to attempt breaking some records on Sunday, **November 13th** from 4:00—6:00 pm in the **Social Room**. We will try our hands at challenges with tea bags, clothes pins, apples and more that others have taken to extremes to enter the record book.

Sunday, **November 20th**, Youth will be **raking leaves** for a few members in need of assistance. We are looking for adults and alumni to join us in raking yards. The more hands, the more yards we will complete before dark. Please contact me if you can help us rake. Let me know if you would be interested in a **lunch at 12:00 pm**. We will leave WPC at **1:00 pm for yards**. Please dress for the weather, wear gloves, bring rakes, leaf blowers and tarps.



There will be no youth fellowship on **November 27th**.

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,

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

