



The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

December 2022

Vol. LII No. 10

Beloved,

Many years ago, a church embarked on a capital campaign. The purpose was to expand and improve the physical plant of the church. I, along with several others, were tasked with encouraging participation in the campaign.

When the engineering and architectural plans were presented, I recall it was said, "the sanctuary would not be touched." This church had a beautiful sanctuary with amazing stained glass windows and many wonderful architectural details.

I have always understood sanctuary in two ways. First, as a place where we worship God. And second, as a safe space. A place where the safety and well being of any occupant would not be violated. Even those who had committed crimes were safe from prosecution in a church sanctuary.

On the evening I was to speak, I used the theme, "More Space, More Grace." I spoke of "More Space, More Grace", attempting to re-enforce that our sanctuaries should be places where everyone is welcome and everyone feels safe.

About our sanctuary, it should be known in advance that ours is a "No Judgment Zone". Our sanctuary should be a place where it is known in advance that "Grace Abounds" for all who enter.

The prophet Isaiah speaks for God and declares

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."

My prayer is that we continue to enlarge our hearts and our understanding of sanctuary. My prayer is that as we enlarge our sense of sanctuary, we build a house of prayer for all people.

Your Brother In Christ,

Pastor Phil



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



December

what's inside

Page:

2. Deacons' Doings, Food Barrel, Heart & Hand
3. Dates to Remember, White Christmas Parade, Women's Circles, Bell Choir Schedule
4. Trustees' Corner, Session Update, Spiritual Nurturing
5. Mission Updates and Opportunities to Give
6. Women's Bible Study, Adult Ed. Calendar, Lectionary
7. Worship & Music, Advent Devotional Booklets, Memory Verse, January Pathway Deadline
8. Children's Christian Ed., Youth Fellowship, Church Family News



Holiday Service Times:

Christmas Eve

Communion

4:00 pm

Christmas Day

10:30 am

New Years Day

10:30 am



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-thYxua2HOSPF6P71wA>

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



Food Barrel

Thank you for your Food Barrel donations!



With the holiday season right around the corner, local food pantries need our help more than ever! Specific requests have been made for the following items: canned peas, corn, beans, flour, sugar, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, pasta - especially rotini, ziti, and penne, cooking oil, hearty chunky stews and soups, jarred spaghetti sauce, and more are very much appreciated.

Heart and Hand

Several delightful fleece hat and scarf sets were completed by our sewers for inclusion in Christmas baskets for 38 children at State Road School.



Heart & Hand does not meet in December, but we will have kits for additional fleece hats and scarves available for sewing on the table outside of the church office. These will be to help warm some Rochester homeless children.

On November 18th, we worked on jar lid grippers that will be given as love gifts in December. Our goal is to complete 60 for the congregation before Christmas.

We are so thankful! We have some new storage space in Room 5 of the old preschool area. This will keep our fabric clean and smelling fresh while waiting to be transformed into a special gift.

Deacons Doings

Poinsettia Sale

Deadline for ordering Poinsettias is Sunday, December 4th!



The Deacons are taking orders for Poinsettias that will be used to decorate the Sanctuary. Orders can be placed in person on Sunday, November 27th and December 4th by seeing Sue Wroblewski in the Narthex before or after the service. You can also order by calling or emailing the church office or Sue at 545-4807 or sue.wroblewski@icloud.com.

Poinsettias are \$15 each and are all red in color. Please make your payment when ordering at

church or by dropping off or mailing your payment to the church office. If paying by check, please make it out to Presbyterian Women and write "poinsettia" on the memo line. When purchasing your flower, you may include a dedication that will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service or donated to be delivered to our Friends at Home.

Angel Tree

Deadline for dropping off Angel Tree gifts is Sunday, December 11th!

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/A24YBQ17OOQX?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 your gift 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!



Dates to Remember!

November

- 27 **Advent Begins**
Pick up your Advent Devotional Booklet in the Narthex

December

- 1 **Glory Bells Holiday Concert in the Sanctuary** 10:00 am
 3 **White Christmas Parade in the Village**
 Participants 5:00 pm
 Parade begins 6:30 pm
 4 **Last day to order Poinsettias**
 Sign up in the Narthex or call the office
 11 **Deadline to drop off Angel Tree gifts**
 11 **Advent Theater in the Sanctuary** 10:45 am
 24 **Christmas Eve Service** 4:00 pm
 25 **Christmas Day Service** 10:30 am

January

- 1 **New Years Day Service** 10:30 am

White Christmas Parade

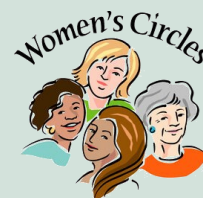
In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Once again, WPC is participating in the Webster Parade of Lights! We first participated in 2020 as a drive through event with 8 church members involved. We were the only church involved and reached 2000 people. In 2021, we walked in the parade with 15 WPC members ringing bells and chimes. We reached 1000 people. Please join us in WPC's 3rd year participating in this event on Saturday December

3rd, from 5:00-7:00 pm. This year we hope to have a bigger float with a flatbed and would like to have 25 WPC members handing out candy canes and welcoming all to join us!

If you have any lights or nativity decorations please drop them off before November 27th. If you would like to participate, meet at the church near the garage to set up the float and get your costume at 3:30 pm on November 27th. Contact Kathy Barbehenn or Alissa Mayer with any questions.



King Circle will meet on **Thursday, December 8th at 10:00 am** at Barbara Coleman's home. Following our meeting, we will have our Christmas Luncheon provided by Barbara.

Rachel Circle will meet on **Monday, December 12th at 6:30 pm** for their annual Christmas Party hosted by Gwen Hoffman at her home, 795 Tallow Run. Please bring an appetizer to share.

Naomi Circle will meet on **December 14th at 1:00 pm** at Elaine Wilbert's home for their Christmas program.

Bell Choir Schedule

Glory Bells:

December 1st
 Rehearsal at 9:00
 Concert at 10:00

December 8th
 Off-site
 performance at Atria
 Senior Living Community

December 15th
 Off-site performance at
 Cherry Ridge

No rehearsal December 22 and 29.

Alleluia Bells:

Rehearsals at 6:00 pm
 December 1st, 8th, 15th
 Christmas Eve Ringers -
 December 22nd



Trustees' Corner

The Trustees have been working hard to ensure that the church is nice and warm for all of us this winter. Even though the small boiler has repeatedly required special work and new parts to do its job, we believe that it is now set for the task!



With the arrival of our first snowfall, we issue the standard warning:

Be careful of any icy spots on the walks or in the parking lots.

Please be sure to let any Trustee know if you encounter any areas that have not been appropriately salted.

A Note from Session

Before our meeting on November 7th, Session met to have a time of sharing thoughts about our new identity statement, *We are followers of Jesus Christ, living and sharing the love of God through faith and action, welcoming all*, and what this means for us, especially as it applies to the LGBTQ+ community. For many of us, our understanding and acceptance of people of faith who live a lifestyle other than the heterosexual lifestyle has evolved over time as we get to know friends and relatives who identify as LGBTQ+. As we shared our personal journeys, we decided that all members of the church should have the opportunity to share their feelings about and understanding of the phrase *welcoming all* that is part of our identity statement. Therefore, Session will plan a time in 2023 for members to participate in small group discussions with the title "Welcoming All", as Session did on November 7th. There will be an Adult Ed program on the topic first, followed by in-person and Zoom meetings for all members to share their thoughts.

Tony Hubbard, Clerk of Session

Spiritual Nurturing

Advent is upon us! It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, falling on November 27th for 2022. Advent is a time of expectant waiting, hopeful anticipation and joyful preparation for Christ entering our world. It is a season of hope represented by the colors purple and rose, thus the Advent candles that we light each Sunday. To enhance our joy in waiting, we might consider daily simple acts such as sharing hope with those you know who are suffering, speaking kindly to strangers, being more patient with our families, spending extra time in prayer, faithfully reading devotional booklets like The Upper Room or Our Daily Bread, and the list goes on! To that end, your Spiritual Nurture Committee has adapted the Advent Calendar concept to suggest daily simple, Christlike acts paired with scripture to help keep focus on the meaning of Advent. Thanks to the expertise of Elder Alissa Mayer and our Techie Intern, Abbey Mayer, it will be posted on WPC's FaceBook and Twitter accounts. A link to it will be made available through an All Church email and a few "hard" copies will be printed for the taking on the first Advent Sunday. However, our Advent Calendar will begin on December 1st. We pray that you have a joyful Advent and a blessed Christmas!

Speaking of The Upper Room, October 29th's selection especially touched me. The author was commenting, *"Just as the bushes in my yard need care and attention, so does my spiritual life. If I do not prioritize my spiritual growth, my spirit will suffer."* The Thought for the Day was this: *"Today I will give attention to my spiritual growth by studying God's word."* And the Prayer Focus was this: *"Someone I can encourage in the faith."* These words basically constitute the purpose of the Spiritual Nurture Committee for our church. If you are so moved to join us in our ministry, just say the word!

And remember that all are welcome to join us each week for Saturday Morning Prayer Time at 9:00 am on ZOOM. We review the Prayer Chain, offer additional prayer requests, read the Scripture for the next day's service, and pray together. Just call the office to be included on the email link: 585-265-9700.

As a committee, we hope to use as a theme for 2023 Pastor Phil's words from a past sermon: "...a sense of the divine." As we seek to flesh out this phrase, we pray that it will grow your faith as well as ours. Thank you for being with us in 2022.

Immanuel! Bob Blakey, Nancy Duquette, Connie Rice, Barb Spitzer Hach

The Upper Room, Our Daily Bread, and a choice of three Advent Devotional Booklets are all available in the Narthex for you to take home with you to use to enhance this Advent Season.

Mission Updates and Opportunities to Give

Christmas Joy Offering

The annual Presbyterian denomination-wide Christmas Joy offering will again be collected from Sunday, December 4th, until Sunday, January 1st. Envelopes will be in the chair racks. Half of these voluntary donations are used to assist current and retired church workers and pastors with critical financial issues, and half are used for scholarships for students of color at Presbyterian-related colleges. Please consider making a generous donation to this worthy offering.

Gift Cards for Christmas for Grace House



From November 27th to December 18th, 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. As always, gift cards will be appreciated for basic items such as food, fast food places, and for stores like Target and Walmart. Let's help make Christmas a little brighter for these men and their families! Please leave your donation in an offering plate on a Sunday or mail or drop off in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 9:00 and 3:00.

Winter Clothing Collection for Cameron Community Ministries

In mid-November we completed another successful collection of winter clothing for Cameron. We delivered two large van loads of clothing to them thanks to your generosity! A bonus was that John Sankok of Kenya helped to deliver the first load and was given a short tour of Cameron's Clothing House!

Kenyan John Sankok's Visit to WPC

Last month we had the pleasure of hosting John Sankok. He gave a presentation during Adult Ed. and shared a pot luck lunch with us. John is the medical director of four large clinics in the Massa Mara area of Kenya. John spoke about his mission to remove young girls from their home to a boarding school to prevent their fathers from selling them for cattle. Currently he has 20 girls in high school and 3 in college. We support 3+ girls from our church mission budget. He also gave an update on his four large clinics, the Covid situation, and how he is teaching against the Massi practice of female mutilation.

A highlight of his visit was a tour of RGH's Radiology Department arranged by Dr. Eric Spitzer. John was so impressed with the Ultrasound machine and all of the other high tech equipment he saw. Other highlights included a drive to Ganondagan to see a Long House, a museum visit, and a ride on the Colonial Belle on the Erie Canal including going through a lock. Also on the agenda was Schutt's cider mill where he ate his first ever "donut". The last thing on his schedule was to go to Cameron Community to deliver donated clothes and to learn about their ministry to the children in the Lyell—Otis neighborhood.

John left here for Richmond, VA and will spend three more weeks visiting churches and organizations that support his clinics. We are sending with him 100 baby blankets made by Heart and Hand and 101 items of baby clothes for their maternity units.

A Letter of Thanks

Dear Members of Webster Presbyterian Church,

I am so sorry for not sending you Meti's photo in timely manner. The safety and security issues remain unsolved in our regions. Many killings and shooting. Fighting, civil war and we our selves are in a very critical and serious condition. No electric power, no internet for the couple of weeks. I hope you understand me.

Meti is a school choir member and she loves God and serves in the choir. She is more than happy and able to get enough food for her body.

From left to right she is the 1st one. I hope you can realize it. When normal internet restores back, I am sure she will open an account and write to you.



Thank you very much for helping this needy girl. It means a lot to us. It is also a privilege to give out. It is a blessing to help. Thank you again for sharing your blessing to us.

Your brother in Christ,
Amanuel

Thank you



Women's Bible Study

"Preparing for Christ One Gospel at a Time" is the Advent Study starting on November 29th. Each Gospel takes us on the Advent journey as we prepare once again for the coming of the Christ Child. Each of the Gospels has a different angle on the birth narrative, some familiar and some we might not have thought of. Advent is a time of waiting and captures the tension between the past and the future. Let's try to see afresh the wonder now as we allow the past and the future to amaze us once again. Join in on Tuesday mornings for Christmas carols at 9:30 in the chapel followed by study and discussion in

Room 9/10 as we all anticipate the Word Made Flesh!



Adult Education Committee

is seeking to welcome a few new members in the new year to strengthen our ranks and bring vitality with fresh ideas and voices. We strive to offer a variety of programs which the congregation will find enriching, nurturing, or thought provoking on our journey to grow as followers of Jesus Christ.

Please contact any member of the committee to talk about it or ask questions: Sandra Blakey, Carol Saylor, Sally Turner, Carol Walck.

Join Us



Adult Ed December Calendar

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

December 4

Room 9/10 & Livestream

"Birth of a King"

from *The Day After Christmas, Part 1*

Pastor Andy Stanley

When a king is born, you have to choose. Andy Stanley presents a question Christians should wrestle with every day, when we rise in the morning, as we decide what our lives are going to look like and the decisions we're about to make, how we're about to spend our time and our money, and how we are going to prioritize: **"Is Jesus my king?"** Especially at this time of year, each of us is reminded to answer honestly to ourselves and decide.

Come explore the possibilities and implications of your choices as we explore this sermon video.

December 11

Sanctuary & Livestream

Advent Theater

"O, Come On Emmanuel"

"Traveling with Reservations"

"The Night Before Pageant"

Participating in Advent Theater is fun! And it is easier if there are some volunteer thespians! Three short plays will require no memorization, no costumes, and one rehearsal. Contact Sally Turner at 671-9045 to be part of this annual tradition.

All are invited to enjoy the WPC Players in the Sanctuary after the service.

December 18

Sanctuary & Livestream

Lessons and Carols

A Christmas Tradition

Join us for this sacred Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols whose theme is "the development of the loving purpose of God...seen through the windows and words of the Bible."

December 25

Merry Christmas!!

No Class

December Lectionary Readings

December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent

Old Testament

Psalm

New Testament

Gospel

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent

Old Testament

Psalm

New Testament

Gospel

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

December 18

4th Sunday of Advent

Old Testament

Psalm

New Testament

Gospel

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

December 25

Christmas Day

Old Testament

Psalm

New Testament

Gospel

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-12

John 1:1-14

Worship and Music

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Let Us Join Together for the Advent Adventure!

"In this day, this season, miracles will grow within, unfurl, bear fruit. And the heart that makes time and space for Him to come will be a glorious place. A place of sheer, radiant defiance in the face of a world careening mad and stressed. Because each day of Advent, we will actively wait. We will wait knowing that the remaking of everything has already begun." - Ann Voskamp, The Greatest Gift

Christmas Eve Service - 4:00 pm

Mark your calendars for 4:00 pm on December 24th! There will be a family friendly service with music, Scripture, Communion, and candle lighting as we gather to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Bring your friends, neighbors, and out-of-town guests. There is room in the Sanctuary for all!

Christmas Sunday Service – 10:30 am

The Christmas Sunday worship service will be at 10:30 am to make it easier to attend.

New Year's Day Service—10:30 am

We will also worship at 10:30 am on New Year's Day.

Technology Intern Update

Abbey Mayer continues helping us move in the right direction, engaging with social media and enhancing our presence in the community. Here's a few of her accomplishments to date:

- Compiled numerous photos of WPC activities and events
- Created a playlist of sacred Christmas music compiled by the Worship & Music Committee that can be shared on our website and social media to expand the wonder of Advent.

Abbey will continue to seek community followers on Twitter and Facebook including our Mission partners, is considering establishment of an Instagram account to attract youth, young adults, and families of young children, and has 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!

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

Streamed Service – Please Share Your Feedback

Our streamed service continues to improve. Please help us to continue this by sharing comments and suggestions with any members of the Worship and Music team and the Tech Team. If you have any problem viewing the streamed service, please contact Alissa Mayer or Todd Fargo.

Advent Devotional Booklets

Pastor Phil has chosen three different Devotional Booklets for our congregation for this Advent season. "This Will Be a Sign for You" contains inspirations from Henri Nouwen. "How Do They Celebrate Christmas?" contains daily Advent traditions from around the world for families with young children. And "A Season of Peace" is a large print booklet that contains Advent devotions especially for Seniors. These booklets are now available in the Narthex to pick up.



Memory Verse

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government
will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6



**The January Pathway
deadline is
DECEMBER 20TH.**

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



Children's Christian Education



We will begin our month with lessons leading us through the story of Jesus' birth, talking about all the great things that God has done for us and how much he loves ALL of us each and every day, taking care of us like the shepherds took care of the sheep the night that Jesus was born. Sheep were treasured in Bible times. The Israelites needed sheep for milk, wool, and meat. For families who lived in the countryside, it was common for a son or daughter to watch over the flock. City folks were able to hire shepherds to watch over their sheep outside the village.

Even if it's not Christmastime, the story of the shepherds caring for the sheep and hearing the news about Jesus is a wonderful example of Jesus' love for everyone, any time of the year.



December 4

Chimes with Mrs. Anderson

December 11

Kids play chimes in worship
"Away in the Manger"

Chime rehearsal for Christmas Eve
Christmas Lesson with Mrs. Brocker —
The Story of the Shepherds

December 18

Christmas Lesson with Mrs. Galen and a
Christmas Craft

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve

The SHINE kids will play bells during the worship service at **4:00 pm**. We would like them to be at church by **3:30**.

December 25 No Class *Merry Christmas!!*

Church Family News

In November we prayed for:

The Neal family, Joyce Tompkins, Viv Guerette, Mark Coleman, Melissa Galen Koepke, Joal Jamison, Scott Rathbun, and John Brocker.

We are happy to announce the birth of Dawson Jack, son of Erik and Melissa (Galen) Koepke and grandson of Gayl Galen on November 6th.

We are saddened by the passing of Gordon Neal on November 1st and Linda Haynes on the 2nd.

Youth Fellowship



We have tickets for the **December 4th** Geva Theatre production of **"A Christmas Carol"** at noon. Rides have been arranged for those who requested a ticket.

Grab all your gum drops and peppermint sticks; we will have gingerbread and frosting to make them stick. On **Sunday, December 11th, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm in the Social Room**, we will be constructing gingerbread houses and decorating them in a theme of your choosing. We will have the gingerbread house kits. We encourage everyone to be creative and bring candies to decorate the gingerbread house and landscape in a theme of your own design. Use your creativity to decorate the basic gingerbread house with the theme of your favorite movie, hobby, video game, famous landmark—the options are endless. We will play games and eat treats to round out the event. Everyone is welcome, but if you can, please R.S.V.P. to help me to purchase the right amount of supplies.



We will switch our schedule to **Saturday, December 17th from 7:00 - 9:30 pm at the**



Strasensburgh Planetarium. We will climb 60 steps to the top of the tower at the back of the Planetarium to view planets and the moon through the telescope. Please R.S.V.P. to Wanda to discuss transportation options.

There will not be any fellowship on Sunday, December 25th or January 1st.

December 28th from 1:00 - 4:00 pm is a **Winter Fun day** for youth Presbytery-wide. The event will include a private tour of Artisan works. There is a \$20 charge with scholarships available. Register at www.campwhitman.org/events

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

May you all have a Blessed Christmas!

Together in Fellowship,

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

