



The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

March 2023

Vol. LIII No. 3

A Note From Session

Session has started something we are calling the "Discovery Project." We are talking to other churches in our area to learn best practices that we and the churches we are talking to can consider to improve our ministries. Our topics of discussion include: styles and timing of worship services, staffing for pastors, administration, music, children's ed., adult ed., youth, music, and care of the building and grounds. We are also discussing stewardship and accounting practices, use of endowment funds, size of church boards, mission commitments, special community outreach, the challenges we face and what our churches do best. As we meet with these churches, we are finding that we have much to learn from each other. Our goal is to complete our discussions this spring and see what best practices we may want to consider for WPC. Those serving on the committee are: Connie Rice, Bob Smith, Bob Blakey, Kathy Barbehenn, Dawn Wiley and Tony Hubbard. Please talk to one of us if you would like to join the Discovery Project group or have suggestions you would like to make.

Thanks to the work of Alissa Mayer, Bob Blakey and Kathy Barbehenn, the church received a \$1,100 grant from the Presbytery of Genesee Valley to implement programs to make community connections. These funds were used to purchase chimes for the music program at the State Road Elementary School and we have also started a reading program for children at the school. Because of this initiative, additional donations from the congregation were received to help us find new ways to help the children at this school. Please talk to Kathy Barbehenn if you are interested in helping.

Tony Hubbard, Clerk of Session

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



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Remember to set your clocks
forward one hour on
MARCH 12th!



Daylight Saving Time
SPRING FORWARD

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/>

Trustees' Corner

Trustees need your help to reduce energy cost. All of us can help by turning off lights and setting thermostats back when leaving meetings and leaving the church for the day or evening.



Another area that needs attention is getting the church kitchen **cleaned and organized**. If you would like to volunteer to help with this effort please let the Trustees know. The



Trustees will be working with Herman to get the floor cleaned and maintained.

The leaks in the Narthex and Social Room roofs have been addressed and we hope that they are corrected. If anyone notices a leak, please point it out to a Trustee.

The organ repairs are complete and the organ has been tuned. Parsons added extra pipe supports to insure that the pipes will stay straight.

Spring workday will be May 20th.

Please mark your calendars for May 20th! Plan to help get the church and grounds to a proud and welcoming place to visit and worship.



The April Pathway deadline is MARCH 20th.

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

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 in-person in the Narthex on Sunday morning before or after the service on March 12th and 19th. Orders can also be placed by contacting Sue Wroblewski (545-4807 or sue.wroblewski@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 payable to Presbyterian Women and write "flowers" on the memo line.

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 Thursday, March 23rd.



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

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

Food Barrel

Thank you for all your donations in January and February! The local food pantries are very grateful! The current needs of the community are juice in plastic bottles, cooking oil, ketchup, tuna and coffee. Donations of soup, peanut butter, crackers, cereals, pasta and sauce, and more are always appreciated!



EAP Committee

An Emergency Action Plan Committee has been formed with our first meeting being held on February 15th. This team has 3 trustees (John Wilbert, Scott Hewlett and Karen Fargo), a session member (Kathy Barbehenn), and deacon member (Jennifer Wengender).

Our first initiative is to work on a Fire and Safety Plan. This initiative involves updating our evacuation plans, labeling of doors, and developing a public service announcement to be included in the Sunday morning worship. Look for more details as we formalize the plan.

Mission Update

One Great Hour of Sharing

On March 19th, we will begin our special collection for the PCUSA One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). This is an annual campaign that the denomination holds during Lent to support these three mission programs: (1) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), (2) Presbyterian Hunger Program, and (3) Self Development of People. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, these programs work together nationally and internationally to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING

Here is a posting from the PCUSA Website describing how PDA is helping with the Earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria: *Amid news of a devastating earthquake in Syria and Turkey, the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) has reached out to offer assistance to partners in the area, where thousands have died, and is asking Presbyterians to pray for those impacted by the quake and its aftershocks. Through a coordinated response by [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) and [World Mission](#), the PMA has contacted multiple long-term partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) including the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon; the Middle East Council of Churches; and the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue.*



Our support to the OGHS is in addition our 2023 budgeted mission giving of \$79,000 pledged for local, national, and international programs. Please consider a generous donation during Lent for this PCUSA special offering that brings hope to so many people. More information can be found at this website: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>.

Blanket Sunday Offering

Our annual collection for the "Blanket Sunday" offering officially ended on Sunday, February 19th this year. This offering is organized by Church World Service and collected by many churches nationwide. It provides not only blankets (for about \$10 each!), but also other essentials such as food, seeds, farming tools, etc. to impoverished and hungry people around the world. Our donations this year have totaled \$1,600, and if anyone else wants to make a last minute contribution, it will still be accepted! Thank you for your generosity!



Meet Tabitha

We have received wonderful thank you notes from some of the students that we support through our gifts. We will be featuring these over the next few months. Please keep these children in your prayers as they work hard to gain a life-changing education.

Dear Sponsor,

Receive greetings from myself and family. i hope you are all doing fine. We are fine too. After along Christmas holiday we are now going back to school to join a new class of form 3.

i am very very happy for showing kindness in paying my school fees and may your pockets never lack

There has been no rain and this place is very dry. No food even grass for animals and no money. so i have not taken it for granted that you have given your money to see me through in school. The parents whould not have made it be Blessed.

Am so so happy,

Yours sincerely

Tabitha.

**Lent began
this week
on Ash
Wednesday,**



and as you read through this month's *Pathway*, you will find many ways to guide you as you travel along your Lenten journey. Offerings from Learning for a Lifetime, Women's Bible Study, the Worship and Music committee, and from our Spiritual Nurture committee provide various ways to enrich Lent through study, spiritual discipline, prayer, and song.

The observance of Lent began back in the 4th century as a way for Christians to prepare for the holiest day of the year. The 40 days are meant to mirror the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness. It can be a dark time, reflecting on this season of grief and all that Jesus bore for us. But as we so often find, there is a paradox. Life is so beautiful, yet it can be so hard. Lent can be a time of sadness, but also a time when you can experience great joy.

Often, we choose to give something up for Lent, like candy or social media. Or we add something new to our days, maybe with a daily devotion or trying a new form of prayer. These are great ways to practice discipline or to open a little time and space in your day for God. Try getting creative with something new this year. It may be just the thing to make the season more meaningful for you.

Whatever you choose to do, let it bring you joy and enrich your spirit.



Worship and Music

March – A Sacred Month

Whether you are fasting physically or spiritually during Lent please join your sisters and brothers each Sunday as a part of your walk to the cross and Easter resurrection. Joining together each week through the message, music, and fellowship will bring us all closer to our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Lenten Calendar and Daily Scriptures

Lent is the 40-day period where we draw closer to God in the lead up to Easter.

Lent began this past week with Ash Wednesday. We hope you are beginning to use the Lenten Calendar and Daily Scriptures to aid in your journey to Living and Loving like God during this season. If you want to receive the daily scripture via social media or want a printed version, please contact Alissa Mayer, Todd Fargo, or the office. Printed copies are available as you enter the Sanctuary.

A New Way to Pray; through Song

Have you sung the Lord's Prayer in the past? Did you feel spiritually lifted? In March we will be singing the prayer Jesus taught the Disciples and we believe it will be another blessing for us. Please come and share your beautiful voice in prayer to the Lord.

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

1 Peter 5:6-7

Spiritual Nurture

Lent is upon us. Rather than giving something up, like chocolate(!), what do you say to practicing one of the spiritual disciplines that we studied last year: Thankfulness, Fasting, Contemplative Prayer, Lectio Divina, Walking the Labyrinth? Our beloved techie angel, Alissa Mayer, has produced for us a handout that will be available during Lent. It pictures a hand labyrinth in the form of a cross, and there will be lectionary scripture passages included for you to look up and focus upon. The more we read scripture and pray on it, the more *available* we become to God; the more we can *sense God's presence—a sense of the divine, the holy*, the more we are *empowered* to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ; the more we can *sense God's guidance*, the surer we are to find the *peace* that comes from such spiritual practice.

"The major determinant of prayer...is our fidelity to seeking God in everyday behavior. It is no good being fervent in reading if we are slacking in living."

Michael Casey,
Sacred Reading



Learning for a Lifetime



“Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the 10 Commandments Today” continues in Rooms 9 & 10 and on Zoom with the DVD Lenten Series from Adam Hamilton. Come as we look at these ancient Commandments of God in a new way and discover how important they still are to Christians in 2023.

March 5

“I Swear to God” & Rediscovering the Joy of Sabbath

March 12

*A Question of Honor &
The Tragedy of Violence, the Beauty of Mercy*

March 19

Faithfulness in an Age of Porn & We’re All Thieves

March 26

*Sticks, Stones and the Power of Words &
Keeping Up with the Joneses*

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

Click the link below to join us on Zoom!

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82938906726?pwd=NULkaHpTY3hYR2pFZFhaN1UONFE1Zz09>

Stewardship and Finance

Boiler Fund

As you may know, two of the church’s three boilers failed in December of 2022. (Those who were at church on Christmas Eve know it was cold!) Because the boilers were near the end of their useful life, we replaced all three with two new boilers costing \$63K. Because much money had been put aside for the parking lot, we needed to go into our cash reserves to pay for the boilers. Now we are looking to replenish those cash reserves. We will be looking for sources of money in 2023, but also are making the Boiler Fund available for those who would like to contribute. (\$17K has been given to date.) Please note ‘Boiler Fund’ on your gift.

IRA Giving

Did you know that if you are 72 or older you can make a contribution from your IRA directly to the church which will count towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)? (RMD is the minimum amount that you must withdraw from your IRA each year after you reach 72 years of age.) A contribution made in this manner is not taxable. If you choose to do this, your financial advisor can help you make this contribution.

Women’s Bible Study

During March, Women’s Bible Study will continue the DVD Lenten study, *A Journey Through Lent: Reflecting on Christ’s Sacrifice for Us*.

March 7 *Prayer of Seeking*

March 14 *Prayer of Thirst*

March 21 *Prayer of Rest*

March 28 *Prayer for the World*

We meet at 9:00 on Tuesday mornings in Room 9/10.



Each week stands alone, so do join us when you can as you journey through the Lenten season.

Palm Sunday Brunch

The members of Rachel Circle invite you to a Palm Sunday Brunch after worship on Sunday, April 2nd at 11:00 am. Food and Beverages will be provided.

Please join us for a special fellowship time as a church family joining together to celebrate and welcome the season.

Sign-up in the Narthex beginning March 12th or call the church office at 265-9700 to RSVP.





Heart and Hand

At the February 17th gathering of Heart & Hand, the group began sewing incubator blanket covers for Rochester General Hospital's Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit. The blankets are used to darken the baby's space during the night to train them to sleep at normal times. Several kits have been prepared for other volunteers to assemble. The kits will be available on a table in the hall outside the Church Office, Tuesday thru Thursdays, 9am-3pm each day.

Our next meeting will be March 17th at 10am in the Memorial Room. All are welcome whether you sew or not. We have plenty of jobs to help complete any project.



Bell Choir Rehearsals

Glory Bells:

Rehearsing all Thursdays in March
9:00—10:15 am in the Sanctuary.

Alleluia Bells:

Rehearsing Thursdays, March 2, 9, 16, 30
6:00 pm in the Sanctuary.
March 23rd rehearsal is Quartet only.

March Lectionary Readings

March 5 2nd Sunday in Lent

Old Testament	Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm	Psalm 121
New Testament	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
Gospel	John 3:1-17

March 12 3rd Sunday in Lent

Old Testament	Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm	Psalm 95
New Testament	Romans 5:1-11
Gospel	John 4:5-42

March 19 4th Sunday in Lent

Old Testament	I Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm	Psalm 23
New Testament	Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel	John 9:1-41

March 26 5th Sunday in Lent

Old Testament	Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm	Psalm 130
New Testament	Romans 8:6-11
Gospel	John 11:1-45

Memory Verse

*So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous
right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10



Children's Christian Education

God takes care of us...so we care for others

During this month we will hear the story of Moses. We will talk about all the ways that God takes care of us. Around the world, and even in our neighborhoods, there are people who need support. God invites us to courageously care for people. God takes care of us, so we can care for others.



Babies require a lot of love and care because they can't really do much on their own. They are vulnerable. Born into an Israelite family, Moses was even more at risk. Imagine the level of desperation that would inspire a mom to place her baby in a basket and drop it along a riverbank, hoping someone gracious would pull him out.

Along with desperation, such an act requires trust in a God who cares, a God who has a bigger plan in which we are invited to play a part. God takes care of us. He invites us to participate in his plans to care for people who desperately need love, assistance and care.

The story of Moses will help kids discover ways they can be a help to others.

March 5 Bells/Chimes with Mrs. Anderson

March 12 The story of Moses with Mrs. Galen

March 19 Craft – we will begin making our own basket.

March 26 The story of Moses and the burning bush with Mrs. Bocker
We will pass out crosses in the Narthex.



*God never gave up on Moses.
God won't give up on us. God takes care of us.*

Needed: Prom Dresses and Accessories

Pam Booth, from the Church of God by Faith that meets in our Chapel, is collecting donations of gowns/cocktail dresses and accessories for high school girls who may not be able to afford to buy a new dress for Prom this year. All sizes are needed!

Check your closets to see what you might have that will help make Prom special for these girls. There will be a collection bin in the upper Narthex throughout the month of March.

Any questions feel free to contact Pam at booth5us@yahoo.com.

Youth Fellowship

Sunday, March 5th, we plan to play **Jumbo games from 4-6 pm in the Youth Room**. We have jumbo sized Ker-Plunk, Chinese Checkers, Jenga, Connect Four, Dominoes, Guess Who, Bananagrams and tic-tac-toe. We are planning a Jumbo sized snack so please RSVP by **March 4th**.

March 12th, invite a friend and join us in the **Youth Room from 4-6 pm**. Everyone will write down their own best guess to a fun question. Then, decide if you are feeling confident to pick your own answer; if you think others know better, then pick their answer; if you have no idea, then take any guess and hope you get lucky! You don't need to know the right answers to have a good time or to win this game!

Sunday, March 19th, we experience the sweet taste of Maple Weekend. The plan will be to hop to as many sugar shacks as we desire from about **12-3 pm**. We will begin at **Packard Valley Farm, 438 Macedon Center Rd at noon**. They have horse-drawn wagon rides, sugar shack tours, a petting zoo, and pony rides. We will grab a



tasty treat of a maple donut, maple cream or maple sugar along the way. Youth can bring money for any additional purchases they might want to make. Please RSVP so I can plan rides between locations.



Come out to fellowship on **March 26th from 4-6 pm** to paint a "Let your Light Shine" art project. You will be instructed how to paint your own project on a canvas to hang at home or give as a gift. Please RSVP by March 22nd so the correct amount of art supplies can be purchased.



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

Together in Fellowship and Service,

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



Women's Circles

Naomi Circle will meet on **Wednesday, March 8th**, at **1:00 pm** at **Marj Shriver's home** for reviewing and sharing books.

King Circle will meet on **Thursday, March 9th**, at **10:00 am** in the **Memorial Room**. Our program will be presented by Polly Sadler on Body Healing and Wellness.

Rachel Circle will meet on **Monday, March 27th**, at **6:30 pm** in the **Youth Room**. We will be creating centerpieces for the Palm Sunday brunch.

Church Family News

During February we prayed for:

The family of Kathy Towle (Jackie Anderson's half-sister), the Parker family, the family of Robert Anderson (Barb Hackett's brother), the Lyman (Hewlett) family, John Bocker, Joyce (Nikki George's cousin), and John (Thelma Leonard's brother).

We are saddened by the passing of:

Long-time member, Jane Parker, on February 8th.

We are happy to welcome new members:

Melanie Williams and Carolyn Schwind.

