



The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

December 2023

Vol. LIII No. 10

Dear WPC Family,

It's almost hard to believe that December is here again. As we enter Advent and approach Christmas, the busyness of this season can sometimes feel overwhelming, whether it's the hustle and bustle of getting ready for Christmas – gift buying, card writing, cookie baking – or whether it's struggling with the sadness of facing your first Christmas without a loved one. Whatever it is you might be facing, you don't go through it alone. Your church family is here for you, I am here for you, and more than anything, God is here for you. We want to support you as best we can; please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything that the church or I can do to be there for you.

This year we will be exploring Dietrich Bonhoeffer's devotional, *God Is in the Manger*, and the 4 themes of the weeks of Advent - waiting, mystery, redemption, and incarnation. As we explore these themes together, my prayer is that as we wait, we would be overwhelmed by the mystery of redemption and incarnation. I hope that Bonhoeffer's words to us will be something by which we can both learn and be inspired.

Join us Christmas Eve morning for a service of lessons and carols. Come and sing your favorite carols as we share the story of Christ's arrival through scripture and song. And join us on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm for our family Christmas Eve service. There will be candles, carols, and a few surprises! It's sure to be a memorable and meaningful service to welcome the birth of Jesus.

Advent welcomes us in and as we wait for the coming Christ, may we know peace, hope, love, and joy.

Advent Blessings,

Pastor Nadia

**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. A Note from Session, Trustees' Corner, ONE in Christ
3. Deacons' Doings, Angel Tree, Poinsettia Sale, Spiritual Nurture, Pathway deadline
4. Worship and Music, December Dates, Handbell Concert
5. Mission Update, Women's Circles, Women's Bible Study
6. Learning for a Lifetime, Heart & Hand, Bell Choir
7. Shine Program, Lectionary, Church Family News, Memory Verse

December 24th Services

9:30 am

Worship Service

Lessons and Carols

4:00 pm

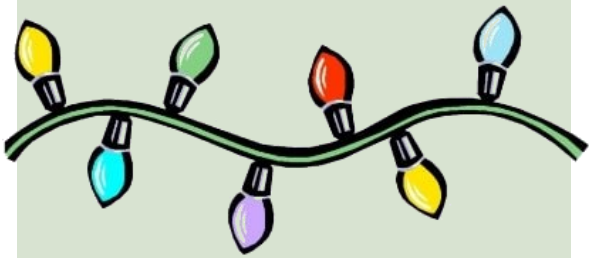
Christmas Eve Service

Communion will be served

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

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5-thYxua2HQSFP6P71wA>

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



Trustees' Corner

A Note from Session

At our worship service on November 12th, Pastor Nadia led us in a litany of thanks for the officers, committee chairs, and volunteers who do so much to help with the ministry at WPC. You can read about the many good ministries that depend on our volunteers in the many articles throughout this edition of the *Pathway*. We truly are grateful for the volunteers in our church.

On November 19th, we publicly welcomed new members John Kubinieć, Kate Waas, and Holly Grocki into the congregation. Please find these new members during our passing of the peace time on Sunday and welcome them to our church fellowship.

In November, Session approved two new requests for use of the church property. The Comfort Care Hospice Home will use the building for their Souper Bowl Activity in February to support the home. And one of the many scouting groups used the kitchen in November to bake pies to give to charities for Thanksgiving dinners. We are thankful to our sextant Herman Rolle and the trustees who do such a good job keeping the building and grounds well maintained for the church and the many organizations who use our building.

On December 17th after Advent Theatre, a staff recognition luncheon will be held in the Social Room. You will be receiving a letter with more information soon. Save the date!

Tony Hubbard, Clerk of Session



Trustees' Corner

Workday was a success! We completed everything that we had on our to-do list. We cleaned the gutters and filled socks with salt for keeping the kitchen gutter free of ice. The Scouts moved dirt to fill in the last portion of the curb along the driveway. The kitchen was cleaned and organized. The Sanctuary windows were re-caulked inside and out to keep the weather out. We worked hard to make the church ready for winter. Thank you to all who helped!

Speaking of winter, the winter rugs have been placed in the halls with non-slip pads under them to keep them in place. They seem to be working; however, if you find that they are still slipping, please reach out to a trustee.

The heating system is up and running for the season. We are working on improvements for the heating system in the Social Room. Our goal is to make it much more functional and intuitive to operate.

The office copier has provided copies for the past 12 years. But all good things must come to an end. Parts to repair our machine are no longer available. We are replacing it with a new machine with the same functions as the old machine and it will come with a maintenance contract.

We are also upgrading our phone system. We are replacing Spectrum with fiber optic from Frontier which will give us faster speeds. It will enhance our streaming of the church service, yet be a less expensive service than what we currently have in place. The changes will take place over the new few months.

The EAP Committee has been working diligently to put the final touches on our emergency response plan. Recently, they purchased reflective vests and flashlights. They placed them at the front and rear of the Sanctuary. They will be used by Deacons and Trustees in case of an emergency to help direct people out of the church safely.

They are also writing up procedures for fire drills and evacuations. Maps of the church are being installed at high traffic areas. They will indicate "you are here" with a red dot, to help guide people within our church.

ONE in Christ

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our ONE in Christ Session Subcommittee wishes you a blessed Christmas and New Year. As of this writing, our Adult Ed program, "What Does 'Welcoming All' Mean?" has not occurred. Thank you, in advance, for attending! We are planning and researching next steps in our inclusive exploration for 2024. We look forward to hearing from you, your thoughts and feelings. Please feel free to contact any of us just to talk or to share ideas for future programs.

Immanuel!

Sandi Blakey, Shirley Crane, Lee Ann Daigle, Barb Hach, Abbey Mayer, Alissa Mayer, Marj Shriver

Deacons' Doings

Angel Tree



The Angel Tree will be in the Narthex through December 10th to benefit the Williamson Come-Unity Center. Our contributions over the last several years have been greatly appreciated. If you have not yet picked up a gift idea, please do so soon, the gifts are due back **unwrapped by December 10th**.

If you prefer to do your shopping on line, we have an Amazon wish list available if this option is easier for you. When you proceed to the checkout, you may choose "Laura Olivers Gift Registry Address" in the shipping options to have it sent directly to Laura's home. (or you may ship it to your home and bring it into church). *Please be sure that your delivery arrival time on the order will be prior to December 10th*. Click here to view the Amazon list: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/A24YBQ1700QX?ref_=wl_share.

If you have any issues or questions or need a Deacon to pick up your donation from you, please contact Doreen Clark at 750-3904 or drc.doreenclark@gmail.com. **Again, gifts need to be returned unwrapped by Sunday, December 10th**. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this very worthwhile program!

Poinsettia Sale

Deadline for ordering Poinsettias is Wednesday, December 13th!

The Deacons are taking orders for Poinsettias that will be used to decorate the Sanctuary for our services on December 24th. Orders can be placed in person on Sunday, December 3rd and 10th by seeing Sue Wroblecki 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.wroblecki@icloud.com by December 13th.



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 4:00 Christmas Eve service or donated to be delivered to our Friends at Home.

Food Barrel

Thank you for ALL your Food Barrel donations! With the holidays right around the corner, holiday meal trimmings such as canned corn, gravy, instant mashed potatoes, and boxed cornbread are appreciated. Requests for pasta sauces & pasta, cereals, crackers, albacore tuna, and canned soups have also been made.

Communion at Home

Do you livestream the Sunday worship service? Would you like to participate in Communion at home? We have individually wrapped communion elements that we would be happy to deliver to your home. Just call or email the church office (265-9700 or jchippero@websterpres.org) and we will arrange for someone to drop them off to you.



Spiritual Nurture

Holiday time is when we often become overwhelmed with busy-ness. Frank X. Tuoti, author of *Why Not Be a Mystic: An irresistible invitation to experience the presence of God - here and now*, has this to say:

"The gift of contemplation is denied those whose lives are largely outward and external, lives eaten up with endless activity (religious as well as secular)... Without extended moments of quiet reflection and silence, we will never hear the Voice calling us from deep within. For this Voice to be heard, we must have "ears to hear" that are lodged in the heart. Our hearts cannot "hear" through the din and turmoil of a constantly busy exterior life... But once the call is heard, it must be answered with seriousness and generosity. It must be received with the certain knowledge that grace accompanies it, that grace will smooth the way, that God's grace will never fail us. We must rely on this truth..."

Your Spiritual Nurture Committee (SNC) wishes you a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Immanuel!

Bob Blakey, Nancy Duquette, Barb Hach



The JANUARY Pathway
deadline is
DECEMBER 20th.

Email articles to
jchippero@websterpres.org AND
g Hubbard@websterpres.org



Worship and Music

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 Morning Worship Service – 9:30 AM

On the morning of Christmas Eve, worship service will be at our regular time of 9:30 am. Join us for a service of lessons and carols. Sing your favorite carols as we share the story of Christ’s arrival through scripture and song.

Christmas Eve Service – 4:00 PM

Mark your calendars for 4:00 p.m. 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. Come and bring your friends, neighbors, and out of town guests. There is room in the Sanctuary for all!

*“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



December Dates to Remember!

There is so much going on this Advent season! Opportunities to worship, study, give, and celebrate will fill the season with joy! Throughout Advent, Pastor Nadia’s sermon series will be based on the Advent devotional book, *God Is in the Manger*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Two Adult Ed sessions will discuss this book and the sermons. The Spiritual Nurture team will be providing an Advent Calendar with daily scripture and suggestions to enhance the season. Here’s a list of what is happening and when:

December

2nd	White Christmas Parade in the Village	Participants	5:00 pm
		Parade begins	6:30 pm
3rd	Advent Begins		
	Adult Ed discussion on <i>God Is in the Manger</i>		10:45 am
8th	Holiday Handbell Concert in the Sanctuary		7:00 pm
10th	Deadline to drop off Angel Tree gifts		
	Christmas Joy Offering Campaign begins		
	Adult Ed discussion on <i>God Is in the Manger</i>		10:45 am
13th	Last day to order Poinsettias		
17th	Deadline for \$10 gift card donations for Grace House		
	Advent Theatre “Clueless at Christmas”		
	a comedy/drama in the Sanctuary		10:45 am
	Staff Recognition Luncheon in the Social Room		11:30 am
24th	Worship Service Lessons & Carols		9:30 am
	Christmas Eve Service		4:00 pm

A Holiday Handbell Concert

*Oh
what
fun*

Friday Evening
December 8th at 7:00

The Webster Presbyterian
Church Sanctuary
will be filled with holiday music!

Come hear the ROC City Ringers in a joint
concert with our very own Alleluia Bells.

You won’t want to miss this!

Bring your friends and family.

Concert is free of charge.



Come hear us Jingle those Bells!

Mission Update

Williamson Come-Unity Center

On Wednesday November 1st, four members of the Mission Committee visited the Williamson Come-Unity Center for a tour. Director Alvin Brewer led us around the property and talked about the outreach that the Center has to needy persons in Wayne County. We saw the food boxes being loaded in the lower floor, a meal being served, and the clothing store offering low-priced clothing and household goods for those in need. You may remember that WPC provided about 30 backpacks for their back-to-school program in August, and now the Deacons are giving us the opportunity to help the Center with Christmas gifts through their Angel Tree located in the Narthex. You can read more about the Angel Tree in the "Deacons' Doings" section of the *Pathway*.



program in August, and now the Deacons are giving us the opportunity to help the Center with Christmas gifts through their Angel Tree located in the Narthex. You can read more about the Angel Tree in the "Deacons' Doings" section of the *Pathway*.

Cameron Clothing Drive

A big thank you to the congregation for the response to the recently completed winter clothing drive for Cameron Community Ministries. Once again, the congregation has been extremely generous. Over two full mini vans of clothing were donated. The delivery of the donations was delayed somewhat due to the clothing center being temporarily shut down as they moved to larger facilities to better meet the community needs. Our donations will go a long way towards stocking the new space.

Christmas Gift Cards for Men at Grace House

Once again, the Mission Committee is collecting \$10 gift cards for Christmas for the approximately 25 men who are currently residing at Grace House in Rochester as part of their transition back to a normal life. These men have all been very challenged in one or more ways – homeless, on parole, abused, etc. They are referred to Grace House by Monroe County, the Parole Board, and various other agencies. The \$10 gift cards should be for places that can be easily accessed in the city by public transportation or walking – such as Walmart, Target, McDonald's, Wendy's and Dunkin Donuts. An envelope or box will be available in the Narthex beginning Sunday November 26th for your \$10 gift card donations. The final collection day will be Sunday, December 17th. Thank you for considering this very worthy extra donation opportunity!

Christmas Joy Offering

We will again be collecting contributions for this Presbyterian Denomination-wide special offering from Sunday December 10th until Sunday December 31st. Special envelopes will be in the chair racks during that time. Donations for Christmas Joy are used to financially support students of color at Presbyterian sponsored colleges, and also for emergency funds for Presbyterian pastors. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this annual offering.

Women's Circles

King Circle King Circle will be gathering at 10:00 AM on Thursday, December 14th at Barbara Coleman's home. Following our meeting we will have a delicious Christmas luncheon in celebration of our Lord's birth!

Rachel Circle will meet on Monday, December 18th at 6:30 for the Annual Christmas party at the home of Gwen Hoffman.



Women's Bible Study



Advent in Plain Sight, a booklet by Pastor Jill Duffield, will be the basis for Women's Bible Study during December.

"At Christmas, God came into our ordinary world in the form of a child and still today, God is at work through the ordinary stuff of life, if we train our eyes to see."

December 5 – TEARS

December 12 – BELTS

December 19 – TREES

ALL women of the church are invited to this 3-week Advent study to prepare their hearts for the arrival of Immanuel! We meet in Room 9/10 at 9:30 am.





Heart and Hand

On the morning of November 17th, our members nearly completed sewing winter hats and cutting scarf fringes to make matching fleece sets for 52 disadvantaged children who live in Webster. These sets will become part of Christmas gift bags from a Webster elementary school. We very much appreciate the additional church volunteers who are also using their hands to help bring this project to completion by December 1st.



Thank you all.

Bell Choirs

December Schedules:

Glory Bells:

- 12/7 Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
9:00-10:00 am
- 12/14 10:30 am - Off-site performance
at Heathwood Assisted Living
- 12/21 10:30 am - Off-site performance
at Atria Senior Living
- 12/28 No Rehearsal
- 1/4 10:30 am - Off-site performance
at Cherry Ridge

Alleluia Bells:

Rehearsals in the Sanctuary:

6:00-7:15 pm on December 7th, 14th, and 21st. No rehearsal on December 28th.

- 12/8 7:00 pm - Concert with the
ROC City Ringers in the
Sanctuary



Learning for a Lifetime

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

December 3rd

What are you waiting for as you move towards Christmas? Join us in Room 9/10 as we explore our Advent book, *God Is in the Manger*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Pastor Nadia will be basing her sermon on the topic of waiting as it affects our experience of Advent. We will continue to discuss who and what we are waiting for and what we need from Jesus as we wait. Whether you are reading the book or not, you are welcome and encouraged to participate.

December 10th

This week we will share and explore the mystery of God's love for the world. We will be referencing the devotions from Week 2 of *God Is in the Manger*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, as well as reflecting on Pastor Nadia's sermon on this topic. Please join us in Rooms 9/10.

December 17th

Traditional Advent Theatre returns December 17th with "Clueless at Christmas", a comedy/mystery! Plan to be in the Sanctuary after worship to watch the WPC Thespians unravel a strange kidnapping in a seasonal way. No admission required; just applause at the end!



An Excerpt from *God Is in the Manger*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Jesus stands at the door knocking (Rev. 3:20). In total reality, he comes in the form of the beggar, of the dissolute human child in ragged clothes, asking for help. He confronts you in every person that you meet. As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you. That is the great seriousness and great blessedness of the Advent message. Christ is standing at the door; he lives in the form of a human being among us. Do you want to close the door or open it?"

It may strike us as strange to see Christ in such a near face, but he said it, and those who withdraw from the serious reality of the Advent message cannot talk of the coming of Christ in their heart, either..."

We will be exploring Bonhoeffer's reflections on Advent and Christmas this season both through Pastor Nadia's sermon series and Adult Ed offerings. If you did not order a book and would like one, they are available from Amazon or call the church office and one can be ordered for you.

SHINE Children's Christian Education



School age children are still developing the skills and qualities God has given them. As they grow older they become able to explore more areas of interest. Through the lesson of Esther, the kids in SHINE will discover what they like and what they are good at, and will learn that they can put those things to use by following God's word.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”

Ephesians 2:10

- December 3** Chimes with Mrs. Anderson
Communion
**** Chime Rehearsal with Parents after SHINE**
- December 10** The Story of Esther – Mrs. Galen
**** Parents/Kids play Chimes in worship**
- December 17** The Christmas Story – Angel craft – Mrs. Galen
- December 24** The Wisemen follow the star
**** Kids play chimes at the 4:00 Christmas Eve Worship**
- December 31** Craft and Mission Project

The kids in SHINE are receiving an Advent Calendar as well as an Advent Devotional. There will be extras on the Welcome Table in the Narthex.

Church Family News

We welcome new members:

Holly Grocki, John Kubiniac, and Kate Waas were welcomed into the congregation on November 19th.

We are pleased that Leonor Woodworth has been restored to the active rolls.

We celebrated Gayl Galen and Nancy Granger who have been church members for 50 years!

During November we prayed for:

Judy Addabbo, the Vallone family, and Mary Grace Thomas.

We are saddened by the passing of:

Mary Graham on Friday, November 10th and Janet McCandless on November 27th.

Holiday Week Office Hours

The Church Office will be open from 9:00 am until noon on December 26th, 27th, and 28th.

Merry Christmas



December Lectionary Readings

December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

Old Testament	Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
New Testament	I Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel	Mark 13:24-37

December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

Old Testament	Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
New Testament	II Peter 3:8-15a
Gospel	Mark 1:1-8

December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

Old Testament	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm	Psalm 126
New Testament	I Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel	John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Old Testament	II Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
New Testament	Romans 16:25-27
Gospel	Luke 1:26-38

December 31

Old Testament	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm	Psalm 148
New Testament	Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel	Luke 2:22-40



Memory Verse

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11