



The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

January 2024

Vol. LIV No. 1

Dear WPC Family,

Happy New Year! Another year has come and gone. As with every new year, I am always struck at how fast, and at the same time, how slowly a year can go by. A year ago I had no idea that I would be serving as your pastor, and now here we are. It's amazing the difference a year can make.

Are you a New Year's resolution type of person? I find myself in a reflective place with the passing of the new year, but find that I am less and less inclined to make a resolution. I like to think back to where I was a year ago. What was I doing? What was occupying my thoughts? What's different now? What's the same? Where has God been along the way? These questions serve as a kind of personal examination that helps me figure out the direction I'm going—where I am headed and if I need to course correct. If you are a New Year's resolution sort of person, what resolutions will you be setting this year? And how will those resolutions bring you into alignment with the person you want to be and who God is calling you to be?

This January, we will be starting our year off with a focus on Epiphany—the arrival of the magi to Jesus. For three weeks, we will be focusing on what it means to follow God—be it following a star, following Jesus as a disciple, or following God's will. On January 7th, we will also be doing something called “Star Words,” not to be confused with Star Wars. In the Narthex, there will be a bulletin board set up to allow all of us to dream a little bit about what it means to follow Jesus as a church. Where do we see Jesus leading us this new year?

As always, if you would like to speak with me or have me come and visit, please don't hesitate to reach out. I have been greatly enjoying the time I have been spending visiting with you all and learning your stories.

My best wishes for a happy and healthy new year! Let's see where the Spirit leads us in 2024!

Peace,

Pastor Nadia



JANUARY

what's inside

Page:

2. A Note from Session, Trustees' Corner, Mission
3. Deacons' Doings, Annual Meeting, Annual Reports, 2024 Offering Envelopes, Pathway deadline
4. Learning for a Lifetime, ONE in Christ, Tax Prep Help, Green Tip of the Month
5. Worship & Music, Spiritual Nurture, Women's Circles, Heart & Hand
6. Shine Program, Bell & Chime Choirs
7. Getting to Know You, Church Family News, Memory Verse, January Lectionary

January 7th

Communion

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Epiphany



*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.**

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

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



A Note from Session

The Year in Review

2023 has been a year of change for Webster Presbyterian Church. The Pastoral Nominating Committee completed its search and brought us Reverend Nadia Mullin as our new pastor and head of staff. We said good-bye and thanks to Pastor Phil Davis for his service as we made our transition to new pastoral leadership.

We continued a strong mission program with over \$9,000 collected to assist two groups that support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine.

Bible studies and book clubs continued.

The Trustees completed major projects including the new parking lot, two new boilers, and a new office copier using member donations and investment funds.

The New Beginnings Program, which had been on hold since pre-COVID, started a reading program at State Road School and promises that more activities will start in 2024.

Sadly, we decided to suspend the Youth Fellowship program because there were too few youth participating in the good programs offered by Youth Director Wanda Nungesser. More children are coming to the SHINE program on Sunday mornings. Hopefully these children can become the future of a new youth Sunday School and fellowship program.

We are seeing more visitors coming to worship with us since Pastor Nadia has started her ministry at WPC. So, in 2023 we have much to be thankful for and we look forward to 2024 with hope that we can expand our ministry in Webster and beyond.

Tony Hubbard, Clerk of Session

Trustees' Corner

As the end of 2023 comes to a close, we have been blessed. God has blessed us with talented people in the congregation to provide invaluable work on our building, and he has blessed us with the financial wherewithal to complete some rather large projects. Please accept our sincerest appreciation for the support you have provided.

As we enter the winter season, PLEASE BE CAREFUL!!!! Our new parking lot is now smooth and could be slippery. The ruts and cracks no longer break up the ice. We ask that you be extra vigilant as we break in the new parking lot.



We have purchased a new copier for the office. Our old copier has served us well for many years – too many years. It could no longer be repaired. The new copier should be in place by the first of 2024.

Over the next year, we will be upgrading our internet to Frontier's new fiber-optic system. This will greatly increase our bandwidth to allow faster streaming. It will also take the place of our existing phone system. The best part: it will cut our telecommunications bill substantially. We are working with Frontier to get the service up and running – stay tuned for updates.

We continue to do small repair jobs around the church including replacement of missing shingles, minor roof leaks, and minor plumbing repairs. If you see an issue that needs attention, please reach out to one of the Trustees.

Thank you, again, for your continued support.

Mission Update

Blanket Sunday Special Offering

Our annual special offering to support Church World Service's Blanket Sunday offering will be from Sunday, January 21st until Sunday, February 11th. Special envelopes will be in the chair racks during this time. Blankets still cost only \$10 each and are distributed in the USA and around the world to poverty-stricken folks who need extra warmth in the winter. Please pray and consider giving a generous donation to this special cause.



Christmas Gift Cards for Men at Grace House

Thank you to everyone who contributed a \$10 gift card(s) for the men at Grace House. Our donations totaled 79 cards, which is approximate 3 for each resident! Other churches and organizations are also making donations so that these men, who would otherwise likely be homeless or in inferior housing, will have a brighter and more joyful Christmas. In addition, we contributed much of the leftover food from our December 17th luncheon to them. And finally, Mark Pipal and Tony Hubbard represented us at the Grace House Christmas celebration!

Deacons' Doings

Angel Tree

thank
you!

On behalf of the Deacons, **thank you** for your donations to the Angel Tree! Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and a couple of outside groups, 327 gifts were donated to the Williamson Come-Unity Center for their Santa's Workshop Event. The Center was able to provide toys, books, warm socks, gloves and hats along with many other items to over 300 people in need in the Williamson area. We were thrilled to once again continue this long-standing Christmas mission.

Do You Need a Ride? Can You Provide a Ride?

The Deacons' Congregational Care Committee works to coordinate rides for members. Occasional rides are needed to pick up non-driving members who would like to worship in-person on Sunday morning. Drivers are also needed from time to time to take non-drivers to appointments. If you are in need of a ride, or are able to provide a ride, please contact Nikki George at 671-1103.



Food Barrel

Thank you for your Food Barrel donations! With the increased cost of food, there is also an increased need for food in the Webster community! Recent requests are as follows: sugar, flour, coffee, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, and canned beets. Donations of cereals, crackers, pasta, sauce, albacore tuna, hearty canned soups, and more are always appreciated.



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.



"Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body.

As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die."

-St. Peter Chrysologus



Annual Meeting of the Congregation

January 21, 2024

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 21st, immediately after the 9:30 service. We encourage everyone to attend to hear information on the church finances and committee updates from Mission, Trustees and the Deacons.

Annual Reports

Annual Reports from Committee Chairpersons and Treasurers are due in the church office no later than Sunday, January 7th. You can submit your information by email as a Word or Excel file, or bring a paper copy to the church office.

2024 Offering Envelopes

Envelopes are now available in the hallway outside of the Sanctuary for those who have indicated they would like them. You may pick them up at your convenience when the church is open; Sunday mornings, and from 9:00 am till 3:00 pm Tuesday through Thursday. If you do not find your box of envelopes and would like them, call the church office at 265-9700.



**The FEBRUARY
Pathway deadline is
JANUARY 20th.**

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



Do You Need Help Preparing Your Taxes?



AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides tax preparation assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income.

Locally, this service is available only by reservation at the Webster Library. **To acquire a reservation, call 585-484-7060 starting Tuesday, January 2nd.** While the filing deadline is still a few months away, *please note that reservations fill up quickly!* Membership in AARP is not required. If you have questions or would like to better understand this service, you can talk with Dan Marsh or Bob Anderson.



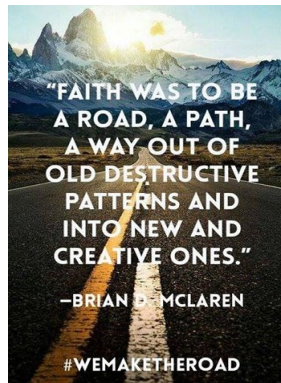
Green Tip of the Month

Did you get new electronics for Christmas? Are you wondering what to do with the outdated ones? Recycling electronics keeps toxic waste out of landfills and reduces the resources needed to produce new electronics. Visit sunnking.com to find local electronics recycling events. Go to sellyourtech.com to sell your recyclable electronics, or consider donating your gently used electronics to a worthy cause. Help make the new year a green one!



Learning for a Lifetime

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



Join us on January 7th, 14th, and 28th as we return to our study of *We Make The Road By Walking*, by Brian McLaren. We will be discussing Part II, *Alive in the Adventure of Jesus*, chapters 19-26. Brian McLaren tells us, "Our exploration will lead us to this life-changing choice: will we identify ourselves as honest and sincere followers of Jesus today?"

Whether you have read the book or not, please feel free to join us in Room 9/10 for this discussion. All are welcome!

January 7 – Chapters 19, 20, 21

January 14 – Chapters 22, 23, 24

January 21 – Annual Meeting

January 28 – Chapters 25 and 26

ONE in Christ

Happy New Year from ONE in Christ! May 2024 bring glory to God as well as peace, justice and mercy.

"Polite inclusion is the gateway drug to mercy." So says Anne Lamott in her book, *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy*.

The large attendance and your positive comments at our November 2023 Adult Ed program: "What Does 'Welcoming All' mean?" were very encouraging. We were exploring the phrase that ends our Identity Statement: "We are followers of Jesus Christ, living and sharing the love of God through faith and action, *welcoming all*." Here at WPC, we have shown that we welcome the handicapped (we are handicapped accessible with our ramp leading to the Chancel, and the lift from the Narthex to the upper level); we welcome the developmentally disabled (our church is used every weekday by Heritage Christian Services.) It doesn't even occur to us to discriminate on the basis of race or color! Our inclusive Exploration in Christ Committee is focusing on ways to also welcome our LGBTQIA+ siblings. To that end, we will be exploring options for our website, making our church more visible in the community, having more congregation conversations. Perhaps one day we will live in a world where we won't have to define people by groups! Please keep us in your prayers and share your thoughts and ideas with us, if you wish. Thank you.

Worship and Music

Join Us in Fellowship for a New Year Filled with Hope!

Please join us in person or streamed and share in the love of Christ through the Webster Presbyterian Church worship service each Sunday. Each week we are being blessed with new faces, more children, and visitors who want to be where “all are welcome”. Come – and see what God has planned for WPC!

December 31 - New Year's Eve Morning Worship Service – 9:30 AM

A wonderful service is planned that will include a hymn-sing to usher in the new year. Three members of our congregation will share with us their faith walk. Join us for this special time and experience the hope we hold for 2024!

January 7 - Communion and Remembrance Service

January 7th is Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Communion will be served to celebrate this day. We will also have a special time during this service to remember members who have passed in 2023.

New and Old Hymns

Lee Ann will continue introducing us to new hymns in the new year. It has been a wonderful experience learning a new hymn before the start of worship – and then singing it during the service. We hope you have enjoyed the additional hymns that praise God.

Hymn Suggestions

The Worship and Music team welcomes your music suggestions. If there are hymns you would like to hear please let Lee Ann or any member of the team know. Our ears are tuned to your suggestions!

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

Isaiah 43:18-19

Spiritual Nurture

Happy New Year from your Spiritual Nurture Committee! We pray that you are feeling rested and renewed and looking forward to another year of spiritual growth and living your faith in Jesus Christ.

Easter will be upon us soon; on March 31st! We will again make it possible to walk our 24 foot cloth Labyrinth in the Social Room during Lent. You may be interested to know that our Labyrinth has been out on loan for months to the Parma Greece UCC, under the care of Associate Moderator, Mike Zebulske. They use it quite often and invite the community to come in and walk it. If you would like to see it in another venue and learn more, visit their website at:

<https://parmagreeceucc.wixsite.com/pgucc/labyrinth>

“God does not see as man sees. Man sees only appearances, but God looks into the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7



Women's Circles

King Circle will gather at church in the Memorial Room at 10:00 AM on Thursday, January 11th. We will be deciding the distribution of our November Talent Auction proceeds after the meeting!

Naomi Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 10th at 12 noon in the Memorial Room for a soup and salad lunch and program planning for 2024.

Rachel Circle will meet on Monday, January 29th. We will enjoy fellowship as we gather for dinner at Flaherty's at 6:00 pm.



Heart and Hand

Have you chosen one of the “Quilted Prayer Pockets” that the members of Heart and Hand have made for the congregation? The gifts are little quilted pockets with a cross or angel attachment for people to carry with them to remind themselves to pray for others or for guidance for themselves. The Pockets are currently available in the Narthex of the church.

In January we will begin making incubator covers for the Rochester Regional NICU babies. All are welcome to join us on January 19th or pick up a sew-at-home kit in the office hallway following that meeting.

Sending you all wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.



Bell & Chime Choirs

January Schedules:

Glory Bells:

1/4 10:30 am - Off-site performance at Cherry Ridge.



1/25 Thursday morning rehearsals resume at 9:00 in the Sanctuary.

Alleluia Bells:

Rehearsals in the Sanctuary at 6:00 pm on January 11, 18 and 25.

Family Ringers Chime Rehearsal:

1/28 10:45 am in the Chime Room



The Family Ringers made their debut on December 10th playing "The Echo Carol" as the Introit during Worship Service.



SHINE Children's Christian Education



Children's Christian Education Mission Statement

To equip and nurture the children of God with Biblical knowledge and spiritual development in order to begin their faith journey and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

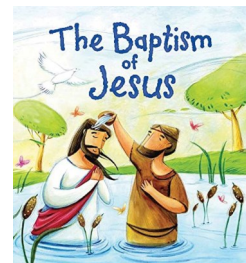
Children have discovered that they can't please everyone all the time. As a result, some have decided that it's not worth trying to please anyone. Still, in their hearts most children long to please others. Our lessons this month will help them understand that God loves each of us unconditionally.

January 7: Bells/Chimes with Mrs. Anderson
We will be handing out homemade dog treats after worship.

January 14: Bible Lesson: John baptizes Jesus – Mrs. Galen

January 21: Bible Lesson: Jesus surprises Nathanael – Mrs. Galen

January 28: Bible Lesson: Disciples follow Jesus – Mrs. Brocker



"Let us celebrate Epiphany and the holiness of Jesus Christ." -Anonymous



Getting To Know You

“Getting to Know You” is written by Dawn Wiley and appears periodically featuring our “Friends at Home”. Dawn was in the process of putting together an article on Bob Abbott when he sadly passed away on November 26th.

In Memory of Bob Abbott

“Fantastic!” – a predictable answer to the question “How are you today?” for Bob Abbott, no matter what was actually happening in his life – he meant it! This man owned a happy, enthusiastic spirit and a true zest for life. He is sorely missed by his family, but also by a world that cries out for more of that joyful spirit.

Bob did not have to travel very far to end up in Webster. He called Tully, New York home (a town a bit south of Syracuse). His training as an electrical engineer secured him a job with Xerox and moving to Webster was the logical thing to do. I’m not sure that the “line” he used to meet his bride-to-be would work today – in fact it might have the opposite effect! The story goes, he met Sandy at a gas station in Morrisville, NY and asked her if “she’d like to go for a ride?”! Happily, Sandy decided he was worth the risk and the rest is history.

Bob and Sandy had two children – Stephen and Debra who went on to give them seven grandchildren and ten great grandchildren! Bob enjoyed flying model airplanes, woodcarving, bowling with his buddies, camping with the family, the Jaycees, Boy Scouts, Nascar and traveling. I know my husband Robert had just the best time singing with Bob in the WPC Chancel Choir – there were always a lot of smiles and laughter going on up front – sometimes to the director’s frustration! Boys will be boys!

As for favorite food – that was a real easy one – Mac and Cheese!

Bob’s last few years were pretty difficult, but he still had a bucket list to his credit. He wanted to own a Corvette Stingray (the coolest car!) and to travel to Australia. I’m pretty sure the Land Down Under would never have been the same!

We should all take a lesson from Bob and greet the world every day as he did - How are you? FANTASTIC!

Memory Verse

May the God of hope fill you with
all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Church Family News

During December we prayed for:

The Abbott family, the family of Pastor Phil Davis, Jack and Mary Grace Thomas, Bo and Hannah, Laurie, Carolyn, and Warren.

We are saddened by the passing of:

Long-time member, Bob Abbott, on November 26th.

We are pleased to announce:

The birth of Lilah and Kiley Dodd, granddaughters of Dick and Doreen Dodd.

New Address:

Bud and Carol Saylor
900 Cherry Ridge Blvd.
Apt. A-207
Webster, NY 14580
Phone: 585-347-2048



January Lectionary Readings

January 7 - Baptism of the Lord

Old Testament	Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm	Psalm 29
New Testament	Acts 19:1-7
Gospel	Mark 1:4-11

January 14

Old Testament	I Samuel 3:1-20
Psalm	Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
New Testament	I Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel	John 1:43-51

January 21

Old Testament	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm	Psalm 62:5-12
New Testament	I Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel	Mark 1:14-20

January 28

Old Testament	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm	Psalm 111
New Testament	I Corinthians 8:1-13
Gospel	Mark 1:21-28



Intentionally blank page