

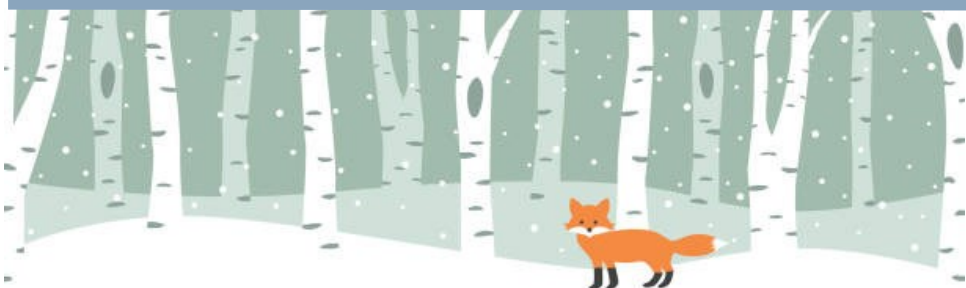


The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

February 2024

Vol. LIV No. 2



February

Dear WPC Family,

We have taken some time to consider Christ's call on our lives over the past several weeks. What does it mean to follow Jesus and to follow God's will for ourselves as individuals and as a community?

One thing that I have noticed about our congregation is our hopefulness and excitement. As we greet new visitors, worship together, and move forward together, I, too, am filled with hope and excitement. Perhaps one aspect of our call to follow Jesus is through the hope that we have in him and in the future of our church.

The month of February brings with it the start of Lent, Ash Wednesday, which happens to be the same day as Valentine's Day this year! That's an interesting conflation of holidays, isn't it? Ash Wednesday brings with it the reminder of our mortality and God's abiding presence with us in life and in death. Valentine's Day invites us to consider whom and how we love. Perhaps the two of these together can inform one another in some interesting ways!

Through Lent I will be utilizing Barbara Brown Taylor's book *An Altar in the World* to guide my sermons. We will be looking at different spiritual practices through new eyes in the hopes that we might be able to continue to or start new practices that bring us ever more into the presence of the divine. If you'd like a copy of the book, let the church office know.

Let us journey together into Lent, being ever guided by the hope we have in Christ and the excitement that propels us on into whatever future God might have for us. Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Pastor Nadia

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February 14th

Ash Wednesday
Worship Service

7:00 pm

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-thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA>

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

2024 Officers

The Session

Kathy Barbehenn	<i>New Beginnings, Nominating</i>
Lee Ann Daigle	<i>Children's Christian Ed</i>
Todd Fargo	<i>Personnel</i>
Barbara Hach	<i>Spiritual Nurture</i>
Heather Hewlett	<i>Worship & Music</i>
Tony Hubbard	<i>Clerk, Mission</i>
Connie Rice	<i>Stewardship & Finance</i>
Karen Stoddard	<i>Membership</i>

The Board of Deacons

Sarah Stein - Moderator
Doreen Clark - Vice Moderator
Rachel Dolan
Rose Fombe
Nikki George
Jean Maier
Arlene Sahmel
Jen Wengender
Leonor Woodworth
Sue Wroblewski

The Board of Trustees

John Wilbert - Moderator
Clark Chippero
Matt Clark
Karen Fargo
Scott Hewlett
Dan Marsh
Mark Pipal
Bob Smith



A Note from Session

At our Annual Meeting on January 21st, we received and reviewed the reports submitted by church boards and committees. The 2023 highlights for the boards are: (1) Session received the report from the Pastor Nominating Committee and the congregation called Nadia Mullin as our new pastor and head of staff; (2) Deacons continued their service to the congregation and community with many hospitality activities, preparations for the worship services, coordinating food barrel collections, and donations to various organizations; (3) Trustees completed three major capital projects in addition to their on-going maintenance and care for the building and grounds. Trustees do many projects that most of us are unaware of such as repair chairs and tables, clean gutters, paint areas of the church, clear snow from the sidewalks, update technology and lighting, improve safety, and many others.

We received reports from numerous committees, Bible study groups, circles, and information about the church budget and finances. The printed Annual Report can be picked up in the church office if you desire to learn more about our 2023 activities. We continue to be a very active church reaching out to people in our church fellowship and beyond. Thanks to all who are continuing to make good things happen at Webster Presbyterian Church.

Tony Hubbard, Clerk of Session

Trustees' Corner

It's been an exciting start to 2024. Our new copier arrived and is up and operational. We are awaiting some official training from the supplier; however, it is available for use.

We are moving forward with replacing Spectrum with Frontier as our internet and phone provider. Our installation date is tentatively scheduled for February 9th. This could change as our "ticket" is currently in engineering at Frontier. We are hoping to be up and running on the new lines by the end of February.

We have a new sump pump in the Chapel wing. Unfortunately, the prior pump failed leaving us in a stinky situation (literally). The pump was replaced, and the new pump is working properly.

As of January 1st, the Presbytery has a new insurance program for our property and general liability coverages. The program is now being written by a company called Insurance Board (www.insuranceboard.org). This is a not-for-profit insurance company specializing in religious institutions. The change was needed due to unfavorable pricing and coverage terms from our previous carrier.

In closing, please remember to watch your step in the parking lot now that winter has found us. As we mentioned last month, the new surface is more slippery than the old, bumpy lot. Please use caution and remember the wise words of Danny Wegman: Walk like a penguin.



Mission Update

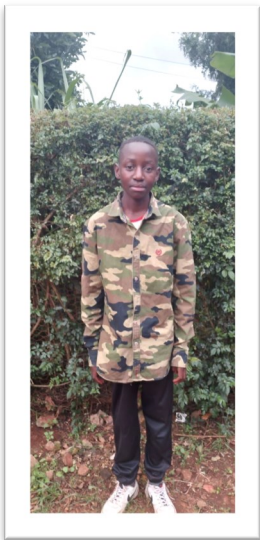
Blanket Sunday Special Offering

Our annual special offering to support Church World Service's Blanket Sunday began on Sunday January 21st and will continue through Sunday February 11th. Special envelopes are in the chair racks. Warm 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.



Kenya High School Students Update

The 2024 school year in Kenya began in early January. This year, we are supporting seven very poor students from the Nairobi area for all of their high school expenses! This is only possible because of your generous donations to our Kenya High School Fund! You may recall that in the fall of 2023 we collected an additional \$7100 for this project!



For the 2024 school year, we have added incoming Freshman, Gad Njenga (pictured here) as our 7th student. He, like all the others, is a graduate of the Thogoto School in Kiyuyu, Kenya which has only students from very poor families.

In addition, in the Maasai Mara area of Kenya, we are also supporting three girls for their high schooling via our good friend, John Sankok.

And finally, in Ethiopia, we are supporting a young lady named Meti for her senior year of high school.

For 2024 we are supporting a total of eleven students in Africa for their high school education expenses!

Stewardship and Finance

We praise God that 2023 was a very good year! People kept up their pledges, which we very much appreciated. We received additional gifts from the congregation to help pay for capital projects and other needs.

We paid for four major capital projects during the year which totaled nearly \$300K – 2 boilers, an organ repair, paving the parking lots, and a new copier. These were funded through using endowment funds (some given specifically for capital), gifts from the congregation and others, and accumulated cash.

Pledges for 2024 were down 8% (\$48K) mainly because some generous donors passed away during 2023. We balanced the budget by reducing capital and making some other adjustments.

Deacons' Doings

As we headed into the new year, the Deacons welcomed three new board members. We are happy to have Rachel Dolan, Jean Maier, and Leonor Woodworth join us. We said goodbye and thank you to Bob Anderson, Janet Chippero, and Karen Hunt this year.

Hat, Glove, and Mitten Drive

The Williamson Come-Unity Center has run out of winter hats, mittens, and gloves for the families they support. The Deacons are sponsoring a hat and mitten/glove drive for them through February 11th. We know that the stores will quickly be out of these seasonal items, so if you notice a supply and are able to donate, it would be appreciated.

Please place new items in the box in the Narthex through February 11th. They need them for both kids and adults. Thank you so much! If you have any questions, please contact Doreen Clark.



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.





ONE in Christ

Your ONE in Christ Committee is in the process of exploring banner signs for our website, as well as other uses, to help draw attention to our “open and inclusive” focus. We are committed to clearly identifying ourselves on social media so that those searching for a church understand us.

Immanuel!



Heart and Hand

On January 19th, seven women gathered to sew and talk in Room 5. While one seamstress hand-stitched a binding on a “Love Quilt”, most began to assemble NICU incubator covers for Rochester Regional Health.

We have all the necessary flannel to make 20-25 covers for the infants. Now we just need additional friends to help us sew. **Kits for sewing the covers are now available on a table in the church office hallway.** Thank you!

If you are interested in receiving announcements of the monthly Heart and Hand gatherings, please send your email address to Tina McNeary. tmcneary@gmail.com

Likewise, if you missed getting a little **quilted prayer pocket** and you would like to have one, we would be happy to make one for you. Contact us at the above email address.

Happy Valentine’s Day to all!

Learning for a Lifetime

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

The Spiritual Nurture Committee will host programs on February 4th and 11th. Videos of speakers recorded at the “Cultivating Spiritual Renewal” conference in 2022 will be shared with discussion to follow. See details in the SNC article on page 5.

Feb 4 Speaker: Barbara Brown Taylor

Feb 11 Speaker: John Chu

“A Journey Through Lent: Reflecting on Christ’s Sacrifice for Us” is a DVD sermon series by the late Timothy Keller. C. S. Lewis described Lent as “a season as a kind of happiness and wonder that makes you serious”. Dr. Keller deepens our understanding of a psalm each week with a reference to a New Testament text. His sermons are long (we will START ON TIME, 10:45) and leave us speechless with a sense of wonder.

Feb. 18 Prayer of Confession – Psalm 32

Feb. 25 Prayer of Thirst – Psalm 42-43

March 3 Prayer of Rest - Psalm 91

March 10 Prayer for the World – Psalm 98

March 17 Prayer for the King – Psalm 110

March 24 Prayer for Security – Psalm 16

March 31 EASTER – Celebrate the Risen Lord!

Please read the corresponding Psalm for each week as you prepare for the joy of Easter. Each week will be available on Zoom.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82938906726?pwd=NULkaHpTY3hYR2pFZFhaN1U0NFE1Zz09>

Women’s Bible Study

A few years back, the Women’s Bible Study focused on the Christmas portions of George Frederick Handel’s oratorio “The Messiah”. During Lent this year, the group will read the Scriptures and listen to arias and choruses from parts 2 & 3, the Easter portions. The chosen Bible passages are poignant; the music, first rate Handel. From its first performance in 1742 to the present day, “The Messiah” is loved and venerated. Let’s follow Jesus, the Messiah, through Passion Week, the crucifixion, to the glorious



Easter message in a new and different way. Join us on Tuesday mornings starting Feb. 20th at 9:00 AM in Rooms 9/10 or on Zoom. Please contact Sally Turner to receive the Zoom link.

Spiritual Nurture

Immanuel! from your Spiritual Nurture Committee (Bob Blakey, Nancy Duquette and Barb Hach).

Lent is nearly upon us and we will again offer the use of our floor Labyrinth in the Social Room on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, before and after worship. It will reappear beginning Maundy Thursday for the Easter weekend. Many of you found that walking the Labyrinth is conducive to reflection, meditation, prayer, or just emptying your mind. If you need to use a walker or a cane, that is perfectly fine. Please come!

SNC wondered how Pastor Nadia sees spiritual nurture and growth. She kindly responded to us with the following, with her permission:

“I think it involves three things:

1. **Growth of knowledge** - scripture, oneself, theology, Holy Spirit (this isn't just a head sense of knowledge, but also a heart and spiritual knowledge)
2. **Growth of love** - towards God, oneself and neighbor
3. **Growth of action** - how we act towards our neighbor and God, and an increasing sense of what Jesus meant by the kingdom of God and how we are working to enact it right now

I think these three all work together to lead us towards growth in the spiritual sense.”

Thank you, Pastor Nadia!

SNC will host Adult Ed programs on February 4th and February 11th. Both are based on a resource called Evolving Faith (evolvingfaith.com). The title of the recorded 2022 conference from which they come is “Cultivating Spiritual Renewal.” Its purpose was to reach out and encourage supportive strategies to foster personal practices of spirituality and contemplation.

We will hear two speakers. The first, on February 4th, is Barbara Brown Taylor (BBT), author of *An Altar in the World*, the book from which Pastor Nadia will preach her Lenten sermon series. BBT is a best-selling author, teacher and Episcopal priest. *Leaving Church* was her award winning first memoir. *Always a Guest* is her latest book. (barbarabrowntaylor.com)

On February 11th, we will hear from John Chu, a longtime journalist and author of *Does Jesus Really Love Me?: A Gay Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America*, and co-author, with the late Rachel Held Evans, of the New York Times best-selling *Wholehearted Faith*. (byjeffchu.com)

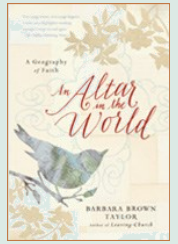
We will watch the videos and follow up with discussion.

Please join us!



Lenten Sermon Series Book

Pastor Nadia will be basing her Lenten Sermon Series on the book, *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. If you would like a copy of this book, it is available through both Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites. If you would like the office to order you a copy, please call the office at 265-9700 or email jchippero@websterpres.org.



Women's Circles

King Circle will meet at church in the Memorial Room at 10:00 AM on February 8th. After our meeting, our program will be “Bible Games” with Eleanor Scott.

Naomi Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 14th at 1:00 PM at Carol Walck's home for a program of games.

Rachel Circle will be going out to dinner on Monday, February 26th. Time and place TBD.

The MARCH Pathway deadline is FEBRUARY 20th.

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



Bell & Chime Choirs

February Rehearsal Schedules:

Glory Bells:

Thursday Mornings 9:00 - 10:00
in the Sanctuary

Alleluia Bells:

Thursday Evenings 6:00 - 7:30
in the Sanctuary

No Rehearsal on the 22nd

Family Ringers Chime Rehearsal:

February 4th
10:45 am in the Chime Room

Church Family News

During January we prayed for:

Herman Rolle, and the Oliver family.

We are saddened by the passing of:

Long-time members,
Dave Parker on January 7th,
Wanda Williams on January 8th,
Joyce Tompkins on January 21st
and Jean DeBrine on January 22nd.

New Address:

Thelma Leonard
2006 Five Mile Line Rd.
Room 223
Penfield, NY 14526
Phone: 585-267-7420



SHINE

Children's Christian Education

Most children have played house at one time or another. They've played the role of mom or dad and may have used a younger sibling or doll as the child. Children love to mimic the care given to them. As you're helping children discover how Jesus cares for them, remember that they are carrying with them the concepts of care that their parents have instilled in them. But if they're not, contrast those negative experiences with the perfect love and caring we receive from Jesus. Through our upcoming lessons we will help the kids understand and believe that Jesus cares for them and will take care of them.



*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest”*

Matthew 11:28

- February 4: Chimes with Mrs. Anderson
Communion
Family Chime Practice after worship
- February 11: Video with Mrs. Vick – *Simon the Lamb*
Chimes with Mrs. Anderson
- February 18: Jesus Heals, Prays and Preaches – Mark 1:29-39
- February 25: Jesus Calms a Storm – Mark 4:35-41
- March 3: Chimes with
Mrs. Anderson
Communion
Family Chime Practice after worship



Family Chime Choir

Thank you to all who took part in our Family Chime Choir performance during worship. What a wonderful show of support! We would like to continue this choir with additional opportunities to share your talents in worship. We received many wonderful responses from the congregation to how special it was.

There will be rehearsals on February 4th and March 3rd after worship in the Shine Room. The choir will prepare an anthem for Mother's Day (May 12th) and/or All Music Sunday (June 9th).

Contacts are:

Jackie Anderson 585-703-2381 jktanderson42@gmail.com

Gayl Galen 585-265-9700 ggalen@websterpres.org

Worship and Music

John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'

John 1:26-27

February – A Very Special Month

Lent begins early this year with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. Check Pastor Nadia's message, the weekly Bulletin, the Adult Ed offerings, and the Spiritual Nurture article for the activities that we hope will make your Lenten season very special. Carefully selected music for Lent will add to the spirituality of the season.

New Gathering Song - Come and Sing!

We will be singing a wonderful new Gathering Song, *Be Still for the Presence of God*, starting in February. This familiar song has beautiful words coupled with a wonderful melody. Please attend in person, if you are able, and add your voice as we gather for worship. Please let us know what you think.

Scout Sunday – February 11

On February 11th, we will be joined by members of the scouting units we support. WPC has chartered Scouts BSA units for over 50 years and has provided rooms for Girl Scouts for many years. Currently, the church has chartered three Scouts BSA units, Boy Troop 262, Girl Troop 425, and Cub Scout Pack 262. They have done many major (Eagle) projects for the church and continue to make major contributions on church workdays (29 scouts participated last spring). They will participate in the service, including an opening ceremony.

Favorite Hymns?

Lee Ann has been adding wonderful new hymns for us to sing and praise the Lord. If you have other favorite traditional, praise, or contemporary hymns that you would like to sing, please share them with Lee Ann or any of the Worship and Music Team. We are always looking for input on music or any element of the service.

Jazz Vespers at Two Saints Episcopal Church – February 2

If you are looking for another way to grow closer to the Lord in this Lenten season, Two Saints Church, 17 Fitzhugh St. offers a Jazz Vespers Service at 5:15 pm on the first Friday of the month.

This is a special opportunity to share in a unique and casual worship experience through the beauty of jazz and poetic contemporary liturgy. The Rector Keith Patterson, a jazz lover, prepares a beautiful and relatable liturgy interspersed with live jazz music.

Please contact Bob Blakey (317-7523) if you would like further information.

Keep Up to Date During Lent

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and check in on the website (websterpres.org) for all that is happening throughout Lent including times of our Ash Wednesday and Holy Week worship services.



February Lectionary Readings

February 4

Old Testament	Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
New Testament	I Corinthians 9:16-23
Gospel	Mark 1:29-39

February 11 - Transfiguration of the Lord

Old Testament	II Kings 2:1-12
Psalm	Psalm 50:1-6
New Testament	II Corinthians 4:3-6
Gospel	Mark 9:2-9

February 18 - First Sunday in Lent

Old Testament	Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm	Psalm 25:1-10
New Testament	I Peter 3:18-22
Gospel	Mark 1:9-15

February 25 - Second Sunday in Lent

Old Testament	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm	Psalm 22:23-31
New Testament	Romans 4:13-25
Gospel	Mark 8:31-38

Memory Verse

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

There is no law against such things.

Galatians 5:22