

The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church Webster, New York

March 2024

Vol. LIV No. 3

Dear WPC family,

Martin Luther, father of the Protestant Reformation, once wrote: "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." As springtime approaches (and for some of us, not soon enough!) we see how the world demonstrates resurrection. We watch as leafless trees begin to bud. We see crocuses pop up through the cold soil. We feel that ineffable change in the air as winter recedes and spring approaches. Easter's arrival is coupled with the arrival of spring. And the whole created order shows forth God's creative and renewing beauty.

The season of Lent is upon us, with a month standing between us and the joyful shouts of Easter. What do we do in the meantime? In these waning months of winter, as Lent marches onward, what do we do? It is the perfect time to practice some new spiritual disciplines, to give something new a try that might connect you with the Holy One. My spiritual director has been encouraging me in my own pursuit of spiritual practices that might be life bringing and spiritually fulfilling. So if you ever find me sitting in the Sanctuary in silence, or with my head bowed over a closed computer, know that I am also in pursuit of new (and sometimes old) spiritual practices that rejuvenate and connect me to God.

Later this month, we will encounter Holy Week. And there are many opportunities to observe that special week. The Labyrinth will be set up that week. Our weekly prayer time will feature a 30 minute time of silence on the Saturday before Easter. There will also be services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. There are many options available to you for ways in which you can observe Holy Week as we walk with Christ to the cross, through death, and to resurrection on Easter morning.

As the created world slowly begins to change and be renewed around us, may we remember the one who makes all things new, even us.

Peace,

Pastor Nadia

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

YouTube: <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5-thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA</u> Facebook: <u>http://facebook.com/Websterpres/</u>





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

Holy Week Services



MARCH 24TH **Palm Sunday** Communion 9:30 am in the Sanctuary and Livestream

MARCH 28TH **Maundy Thursday** Communion 7:00 pm in the Chapel and Livestream

MARCH 29TH Good Friday 7:00 pm in the Chapel and Livestream

MARCH 31ST Easter Sunday 9:30 am in the Sanctuary and Livestream

Other Spiritual Opportunities during Holy Week:

Walking the Labyrinth

The Labyrinth will be set up in the Social Room and available for walking in meditation and prayer from Maundy Thursday through Easter Sunday (March 28th –31st).

Prayer Time

Join in 30 minutes of Silent Prayer on Holy Saturday morning (March 30th) at 9:00 A.M. via ZOOM.

https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/8020641367? pwd=VnIXcDITWjZIS2d0NE96dmVFeVB4dz09&

<u>omn=88328754973</u>



A Note from Session

Have you met John Kubiniec, one of our newest members? John met with Session on February 12th and requested to come under care of our church as he pursues a path to becoming an ordained minister of the Word and Sacrament. In our denomination, the process begins with a period as an "Inquirer" which is a time of study and exploration to determine if the candidate meets the educational and spiritual requirements and has the commitment needed to become a minister. Session approved taking John under our care as he continues this process. John has worked in various positions in other churches and is currently serving as a chaplain at Strong Memorial Hospital. You will be hearing more about John's journey as we move forward. Meanwhile, meet John at worship and get to know him as we encourage his progress as an Inquirer.

On Saturday March 2nd the Presbytery of Genesee Valley will hold its annual Congregational Learning Day on Zoom. There are classes at 9:30 am and 11:30 am. This is an opportunity to meet members of our Presbytery and learn how other churches are leading their congregations and facing issues locally and internationally. More information and registration for the classes can be found at:

https://pbygenval.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2024/02/E-News-FEB-020824-rev.pdf.

Also, use this link to read a "Prayer Profile" featuring our church. Tony Hubbard, Clerk of Session

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 3rd and 10th. Or contact Sue Wrobleski (545-4807 or sue.wrobleski@icloud.com) or the church office to place your order.

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 (PWC) 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 14th.**

Food Barrel

Thank you for all your generous donations; the local food pantries are very grateful! Webster Hope has an immediate need for toilet paper as well as facial tissue (Kleenex).

As always, donations of cereals, crackers, pasta, sauce, albacore tuna, chunky canned soups, and peanut butter are appreciated.

Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Committee meets monthly on Zoom to explore ways to enhance meaningful worship. Our discussions often include music offerings and technology issues along with any other concerns that come to our attention from members of the congregation.

Holy Week Services



Join us for Palm Sunday on March 24th as we begin Holy Week. Communion will be served on Palm Sunday as well as on Maundy Thursday. This Lenten season will bring us back into the Chapel for our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Both of these services will begin at 7:00 pm and our hope is that they will be available for livestreaming. Special music has been planned by

Jackie and Lee Ann for these services with the Chancel Choir providing music on Thursday, and a bell ensemble on Friday. More special music will bring joy to Easter morning! A trumpet player will be joining us, and along with our Chancel and Bell choirs, we will celebrate the Risen Christ!

New Gathering Song

At our January meeting, we selected an opening song to replace Surely, the Presence of the Lord. We selected Be Still for the Presence of the Lord to be the piece to center our minds for worship.

Welcome and Thank You

We welcome Heather Hewlett as our new leader to serve for the next few years. **THANK YOU, Bob Blakey,** for your years of service in leading us.

Learning for a Lifetime

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

"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.

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	No Class – 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

Trustees' Corner

The Trustees elected to change internet and phone providers to Frontier. We installed new fiber optic lines the week of February 12th. This change allows us to have faster, more reliable internet access, more bandwidth for streaming, and all at a lower cost. Overall, it was a winning proposition for the church.

We repaired the circulating pump for the radiator office heating system.

Our old friend, the roof leak, returned to the Social Room. We are monitoring it closely but expect that we may need to make more significant repairs in the spring/early summer. We will keep the congregation posted on our decisions regarding this roof repair.

Speaking of the roof, during the mild weather of February, we were able to clean the flat roof surfaces and clear the gutters of debris. This process reduces the potential for ice formation and damming.

Please remember that winter is still not over!! Watch your step in the parking lot 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."

Lastly, we want to express our appreciation for Herman Rolle. He is responsible for keeping our church neat and clean. We have a very large building which is not easy to keep clean. He manages to keep it sparkling week after week. If you see him in the hall, please thank him for his hard work.



ONE in Christ

Our ONE (Our iNclusive Exploration) in Christ Committee was awarded a \$1000 grant from the Presbytery of Genesee Valley to explore the possibility of becoming a More Light Presbyterian Church. Their mission is to empower and equip congregations to live into their welcome for LGBTQIA+ people. Our goal was to make sure that we are living into Identity Statement: "We are our followers of Jesus Christ, living and sharing the love of God through faith and action, welcoming all." Throughout the year, we have offered Adult Ed programs to get a sense of where you, our congregation, stand in regard to this. We learned that some of you did not like the idea of our church being labeled "More Light." Others, especially newcomers, believe we already are open, affirming, and inclusive, while many of our members want to be known in that way.

For ONE in Christ, welcoming all, means all. We are not just talking about the LGBTQIA+ community, but also people of color, people with disabilities, health addictions, mental needs. illnesses.... We have designed a banner depicting the colors of the numerous groups that represent the "all" that we welcome. When the "way be clear," we will share it with you. Lindsay Gray, the Editorial Director of the Upper Room, wrote recently, "God calls us to love our neighbors and ourselves just as we are....When...we choose to see all people as God's children, we are building the kingdom of God."

The Grants Working Group of the Presbytery is asking us to submit a follow-up report a year later. If you have a story about your experience with what we have presented to you, where you might have seen God in it, and wish to share it with us and the Presbytery, please let us know. Thank you!

Sandi Blakey, Lee Ann Daigle, Barb Hach, Abbey Mayer, Alissa Mayer, Nadia Mullin



Spiritual Nurture

Spiritual practices have frequently been the subject of your Spiritual Nurture Committee's (SNC) Pathway articles and Adult Ed presentations. Pastor Nadia continues in that tradition with her Lenten sermon series based on Barbara Brown Taylor's book, An Altar in the World. My personal practice occurs in the morning. I turn on a votive candle, recite favorite memory verses with my first sips of coffee, and then I read the Upper Room's suggested scripture and entry for the day. Recently, on February 7th, the title was "Spiritual Growth," written by a Christian from Nigeria. They end their comments by saying, "... I must pray and meditate on God's word every day. Those who blossom spiritually do not get there by chance; they consistently work at it. This is the recipe for spiritual growth." We would love to know the ways that you nourish your spirituality, and perhaps even share them, with your permission, of course. You know who we are: Barb Hach, Bob Blakey and Nancy Duquette.

During Holy Week, the SNC will offer a couple of opportunities to practice and grow your spirituality. One is walking the Labyrinth for meditation and prayer. It will be laid on the Social Room floor as it was for Ash Wednesday, from Maundy Thursday through Easter Sunday. Another is thirty minutes of Silent Prayer on Holy Saturday morning at 9:00 A.M. via ZOOM, during the regular Saturday Morning Prayer Time. The link will be posted in the bulletin and on the website. Please consider taking part in these spiritual practices. Have a blessed Easter.

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 in March at 9:00 AM in Rooms 9/10 or on Zoom. Please contact Sally Turner to receive the Zoom link.

Bell & Chime Choirs

March Rehearsal Schedules:

Glory Bells: Thursday Mornings 9:00 - 10:00 in the Sanctuary No Rehearsal on the 28th Alleluia Bells: Thursday Evenings 6:00 - 7:30 in the Sanctuary No Rehearsal on the 28th Family Ringers Chime Rehearsal: March 3rd 10:45 am in the Chime Room



Mission Update

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

The annual One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering is sponsored by our denomination (PCUSA) as well as by many other church denominations during Lent. This offering is distributed by PCUSA in the USA and to many other countries to benefit needy folks approximately equally in 3 different ways:



- 1. Disaster assistance for those impacted greatly by major disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and fires. One prime example in 2023 was for victims of the fires in Maui. These funds are administered by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).
- 2. Presbyterian Hunger Program provides emergency food and supplies to various under-served food areas and groups around the world.
- Self Development of People provides needy communities and groups with self-help resources to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression by providing seeds and seedlings for farming, farm animals, tools and other items to help them become more self-sufficient and independent.

We will be collecting for this important, special offering from March 3^{rd} until March 31^{st} (Easter Sunday) and OGHS envelopes will be in the chair racks in the Sanctuary during this time. Please pray about giving a generous contribution to OGHS. Thank you!



Visit to Bellas Bumbas

In January, several of our Mission Committee members visited the assembly location for Bellas Bumbas, which is located just a mile or so from our church!

Bellas makes mobility devices for young children who would otherwise be very mobility

challenged. We have supported them in our church budget

for a number of years. They have now built more than 2600 such devices and shipped them to 65 different countries, which is very inspiring! They are non-profit and only charge customers for shipping.



Blanket Sunday Special Offering

Our annual special offering to support Church World Service's Blanket Sunday officially ended on February 11th. We collected a total of \$1321 this year which will provide more than 130 warm blankets to needy folks worldwide! Thank you for your generous contributions!

Easter Grocery Baskets for Families in Need

Webster Presbyterian Church, in cooperation with Hope House, Webster Community Chest, and The Gathering Place from United Church of Christ is asking for your help to provide Easter Grocery Baskets for 100 families in the Webster area. This is outreach on a whole community level - neighbors helping each other to reduce hunger and provide a special meal for a special day.

We are asking for donations of:

- 50 boxes of spaghetti
- 50 jars of sauce
- 50 tubs of frosting

Boxes will be provided in the Narthex for your donations.

We need to complete our mission by March 20th for delivery to UCC by March 22nd. With God as our Father, we are family; let us walk with each other, now and eternally.



Women's Circles

King Circle will meet in the church Memorial Room on Thursday, March 14th at 10:00 am. Our program will be on quilts with Tina McNeary.

Naomi Circle will be going out for lunch on Wednesday, March 13th at 11:30 am at Flaherty's.

Rachel Circle TBD



Save the Date!



CHILDREN'S



Saturday, March 23rd 10:00 – 11:30 am

Crafts Games Easter Egg Hunt!

Sign-up is needed to help with our planning.

RSVP to Gayl Galen at ggalen@websterpres.org by March 10th.

We would like at least one parent or grandparent to attend with your child.

Your children are welcome to bring a friend!

SHINE Children's Christian Education



"Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live,

even though he dies''' John 11:25

School age children begin learning about respect. As they grow and gain life experience, they're

better able to understand how easily feelings can be hurt or strengthened. Our lessons this month will help kids understand that Jesus is the only God and he deserves our love and respect. Our Easter lesson will emphasize to kids Jesus' complete victory over death. A cause for celebration.

March 3:	Chimes with Mrs. Anderson Communion Family Ringers rehearsal after worship
March 10:	Jesus Explains Why God Sent Him – John 3:12-21
March 17:	Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving – <i>Mark 12:41-44</i> We will be making dog treats as a mission outreach project.
March 24:	Palm Sunday Lesson – People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem We will pass out the dog treats to our church families.
March 31:	Easter Sunday Lesson – Jesus is Alive! – Mark 16:1-8

Vacation Bible School 2024!

July 15, 16, 18 and 19

9:00 – Noon

There will be no session on Wednesday, the 17th

Classes for PreK-5th Grade

Children must have been 4 years old by February 1, 2024.

Registration forms will be mailed to SHINE families June 1st.

The APRIL Pathway deadline is MARCH 20th.

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





Heart and Hand

Many, many "thank-yous" to each of the several volunteers who stitched the NICU incubator covers for RGH. Twenty-five covers will be delivered by the time you receive this *Pathway*. If you still have one at home,

you may return it whether completed or not. We understand that life sometimes interferes with best intentions.

This month's project is spring placemats for 35 recipients of Webster Meals on Wheels. If you would like to participate, there are kits for stitching them on the table in the church offices hallway.

It seems that the weather has been challenging on Heart and Hand Fridays this year. We are hopeful that people who have expressed an interest will be able to join us soon.

If you would like to receive announcements of the monthly Heart and Hand gatherings, please send your email address to Tina McNeary <u>tmcneary@gmail.com</u>.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all.

Library News

On display this month in our library is a selection of Lent and Easter books for your devotions and spiritual study. Also, there are three books on Labyrinths that go along with the Labyrinth we have. Peruse the shelves and check them out.

We recently added several new items to our collection.

- The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage, New Edition with Study Guide: An Evangelical's Change of Heart, by Mark Achtemeier
- Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening, by Diana Butler Bass

Learning to Walk in the Dark, by Barbara Brown Taylor



Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do About It, by Brian McLaren

UnClobber, by Colby Martin

Fisherman's Apprentice: The Making of a Fisher of Men, by Dan Floen

It all goes back in the Box, by John Ortberg

Church Family News

During February we prayed for:

The Mullin family, Randy Thompson, the family of Warren Hubbard, and the Thomas family.

We offered praise for:

The birth of James Williams, great-grandson of Bob Smith.

We are saddened by the passing of:

Long-time member, Mary Grace Thomas, on Saturday, February 24th.

March Lectionary Readings

March 3 - Third Sunday in LentOld TestamentExodus 20:1-17PsalmPsalm 19New TestamentI Corinthians 1:18-25GospelJohn 2:13-22

March 10 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Old Testament	Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm	Psalm 107:1-3,17-22
New Testament	I Ephesians 2:1-10
Gospel	John 3:14-21

March 17 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Old Testament	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm	Psalm 51:1-12
New Testament	Hebrews 5:5-10
Gospel	John 12 : 20-33

March 24 - Palm/Passion Sunday

Palms:
Psalm
Gospel
Passion:
Old Testament
Psalm
New Testament
Gospel

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11

Gospel Mark 14:1-15:47 March 28 - Maundy Thursday

Old Testament Psalm New Testament Gospel Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 I Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 29 - Good Friday

Old Testament	Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm	Psalm 22
New Testament	Hebrews 10:16-25
Gospel	John 18:1-19:42

March 31 - Easter Sunday

Old Testament	Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
New Testament	Acts 10:34-43
Gospel	Mark 16 : 1-8

Memory Verse

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26



Getting to Know You

A peek into the lives of our Friends at Home

Faith has been her foundation for all of her 99 years. Ruth Jodar Huboi was born in 1924 to a German mother and a father from the region of Europe known as Alsace-Lorraine. Interestingly, her maiden name, Jodar, is Spanish in origin! Her parents grew up in Wisconsin where, oddly enough, her grandfather was a cheese broker! When her father got a job in Moline, Illinois, the family moved and Ruth and her two siblings grew up near the Mississippi River. According to Ruth, her mom and dad spoke German in the house "to keep the kids from knowing what was going on!" (pretty smart if you ask me!) Her older brother joined the Air Force during WW II and trained as both a meteorologist and a navigator. Sadly, his aircraft crashed in England returning from a mission and he was killed. Her younger sister suffered from severe rheumatoid arthritis and also passed away.

Ruth received her degree in physics from the University of Wisconsin and upon graduation was recruited by Kodak. Unbeknownst to her, a year later her future husband, Robert, having earned his degree in Chemical Engineering (courtesy of the Air Force), would also graduate from the University of Wisconsin and be recruited by Kodak. The recruiters mentioned that another Wisconsin alum had recently joined the company and it wasn't very long before Ruth and Bob connected through the Outing Club sponsored by the YWCA/YMCA. Soon after that there was a wedding back in Wisconsin. Bob and Ruth drove off in Bob's brother's car (they didn't have one yet as cars were in very short supply after the war) to enjoy their honeymoon at a family cottage on nearby Crystal Lake.

The Hubois had four children – Firstborn is Teresa who lives in Hawaii and has two children living in the States. Teresa vowed she was not going to Carnegie Mellon to find a husband; she was going to study art! However, she met Jim the first week she was there and that was Sadly, after many great years together, Jim that! passed away just last year. Next came Peter who lives with his wife Patty in California with Patty's two daughters. Sally came third and has daughters Becky and Hilary. Becky and her husband Eric have given Ruth 6 great-grandchildren!! Hilary, her husband Fred and their two children live in Texas. Last came Julie – a bit of a surprise according to Ruth since she was 44, but a grand addition nevertheless. Julie and her husband, Andrew, have two children and live in Arlington, Virginia. Julie works for the government on "secret stuff"!

In addition to family visits and keeping up with the grand and great-grandchildren, Ruth and Bob loved camping. They traveled out West three different times and their equipment improved each time. Trip one was a car and a pup tent! Trip two was a car and tent trailer. For trip three, they graduated to a motorhome which Ruth remembers as pure luxury!! Her absolute favorite pastime, however, is downhill skiing! Reluctantly, she had to give it up when she turned 93!!!

Ruth has lived with and overcome a particularly challenging health condition due to the removal of two of the five lobes in her lungs. She basically had to learn how to breathe a different way but it never kept her from skiing, traveling or, amazingly enough, singing!! Her presence in the WPC choir was steadfast and I know my husband always enjoyed getting a rise out of her. Ruth particularly wanted me to mention how much her WPC Small Group has meant to her and how much she values their friendships and support over all these years – it has been a sustaining, faithful force in her life. You know who you are. Unfortunately, a fall on the stairs at WPC many years ago has left her with persistent spinal pain – "my walker and my pain pills are my constant companions." She does take heart, though, in that her accident prompted the church to install both the elevator and better handrails on the stairs.

Ruth has never wished to live anywhere else – she loves our seasons and the moderate range of temperatures (I couldn't agree more!) and currently she is particularly grateful for the services of Home Instead which allow her to stay in her apartment at Baywinde. Her daughter, Sally, lives just 10 minutes away and faithfully visits Mom to help with her medications and such – "She is my guardian angel," says Ruth.

As for a bucket list??? Ruth would still like to jump out of an airplane!! So, if anyone can help her out with this – let's hear from you.

Ruth turns 100 on September 15th this year – perhaps you'd like to make a note and send her a card. She does love getting snail mail!!

"Getting to Know You" is written by Dawn Wiley and will appear periodically featuring our "Friends at Home".

