



The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

April 2024

Vol. LIV No. 4

Dear WPC family,

It's spring! The season shifts once more and we find ourselves (hopefully) entering warmer days. One of my favorite hymns, *Hymn of Promise*, says this:

In the bulb, there is a flower
In a seed, an apple tree
In cocoons, a hidden promise
Butterflies will soon be free

In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

There is something yet to be revealed. Something that waits to be seen. Spring is a promise that the dark and cold of winter don't last forever (even though it might feel like it does). As we go through seasons of life, individually and together, we step out in faith, unsure of what is to come, but trusting that the God of the seasons is preparing something new for us.

As we celebrate Easter and all that it means to remember and trust in resurrection, we are once again reminded that the cold and snow of winter, that death, that seasons of loss and despair, do not last forever. There's a spring that waits to be... for each and every one of us.

Thanks be to God that God walks with us as we go through the highs and lows, the ups and downs, and all of the in-between. We are loved: radically, cosmically, wonderfully.

My prayers are with you as you navigate whatever paths you might be on. I know my path sometimes has bumps along the way, and I am encouraged and sustained by the love of God in Christ. I pray the same would be true for you as well.

As always, I am here if you ever want to talk about the paths God is leading you down or to pray with you.

Peace,
Pastor Nadia



April

what's inside

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**The MAY
Pathway deadline is
APRIL 20th.**

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

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

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5-thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA>

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

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





Trustees' Corner

The change to Frontier is complete! Water dripped into the control box which stopped it from working temporarily. The issue was corrected so that the system should run smoothly moving forward.

The high winds we experienced two weeks ago caused a tree to fall on the power lines coming into the church. God was watching over our church once again. We only had two problems: the Sanctuary main heater motor contactor and the Social Room heater motor contactor. Both were repaired and heat has been restored to both areas.

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

**Spring workday will be
May 11th from 9 am until noon.**

Please mark your calendars to help us get the Church and Grounds to a welcoming place to visit and worship.

Women's Bible Study

“Gratitude: Giving Thanks in Life’s Ups and Downs” will start on April 2nd in Room 9/10 at 9:00 am. All are welcome! We think of gratitude in November, but that “attitude of gratitude” is for every day. Is there a deficit of thankfulness in today’s world? Is it easy to have gratitude when life is not going well? The Old and New Testaments have much to tell us about gratitude. Join this inductive Bible study as we explore this topic and realize that every day God gives us reasons to be thankful.



A Note from Session

The Webster Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2025. We started out as the Presbyterian Church of North Penfield and Ontario. Webster was known as North Penfield at that time. The eleven original members met in homes and in a schoolhouse property at 62 North Avenue. The church did not start growing until 1829 when Richard Dunning became pastor and revivals were happening in this area. The first church building was erected in 1834 on South Avenue at a site approximately across the street from the Baptist Church. This information comes from a history of the first 150 years of WPC prepared by Florence Anson and the Historical Committee. I have an electronic copy of that 49 page report. If you would like a copy, please contact me at tghubbard@frontiernet.net. Session will be forming a committee to plan an event for 2025 to celebrate our 200th anniversary. I am looking for members of the congregation who would like to help us explore where we have been these last 200 years and plan how we can celebrate. This committee will consist of a couple of Session members and five or six at-large members. Please consider joining us by contacting me at church or at the email address above.

Tony Hubbard, Clerk of Session

Membership

We were blessed to have Pastor Nadia lead a New Member class on March 3rd. It was attended by Colby and Beth Carson, Bill and Nancy Martin, and Elissa Burke (Martins’ daughter). They have been attending regularly and had expressed an interest in becoming members of WPC. The Carsons have two sons, Grady and Nix, and one daughter, Lola. Elissa has two daughters, Heather and Maisie.

After discussion, new visitor cards have been placed in the chair racks in the Sanctuary. This is a more visible way for visitors to provide us with their contact information. The Membership Committee has been working to update the WPC membership list. This will be presented and reviewed by the Session and will continue to be addressed on an annual basis.

We need volunteers to be “Welcomers” on Sunday mornings in the Narthex. If interested, please reach out to Karen Stoddard or call the church office. It is exciting to see new people and families attending as we look forward to new beginnings and welcoming all.

Women's Circles

Naomi Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 10th at 1:00 pm at Joyce Bradstreet’s home for a discussion of *The Widows of Malabar Hill*.

King Circle will be gathering on Thursday, April 11th at 10:00 am in the Memorial Room. Following the meeting, Pastor Nadia will be giving a program on her mission trips.

Rachel Circle will meet on Monday, April 29th at 6:30 pm for a Spring Craft.



Worship and Music

We continue celebrating Easter as we move into April, praising our risen Lord. A wonderful lineup of music is being prepared by the Chancel Choir and Alleluia Bell Choir, along with beautiful hymns we will sing together.

The Worship and Music Committee meets monthly on Zoom to explore ways to enhance our worship experience. Discussions often include special features for service, musical offerings, and any other topics or suggestions from the congregation. If you have thoughts on how we can enhance your worship and music experience, please reach out!



Organ Recital

April 21st at 4:00 pm

You are invited to come listen to some very talented Eastman School of Music students perform on the organ in our Sanctuary. Our very own Kat Jolliff will be performing selections from her Spring Recital joined by a few of her fellow students. You will not want to miss this opportunity to see some very talented organists! Bring your friends and neighbors! *The concert is free and open to the public.*

Learning for a Lifetime

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

April 7 - If you missed "Prayer for Resting" by Dr. Timothy Keller last month, join us as we will repeat this powerful message from Psalm 91. How can we find "rest" in this chaotic, stressful, challenging world? Psalm 91 has answers!

April 14 and 21 - What does it mean to be part of an uprising of fellowship, worship, partnership, stewardship, and hardship? Brian McLaren's *We Make the Road by Walking* returns to Adult Ed with chapters 33-36 and 37-39. Join the discussion as we see how the early church came "alive" and how that impacts us.

April 7, 14, & 21 will meet in Room 9/10. Use the link below to Zoom.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82938906726?pwd=NUlkaHpTY3hYR2pFZjZhaN1UONFE1Zz09>

April 28 - The Mission Committee will be hosting representatives from the Miracle Field/Challenger organization. Please join us to hear updates and learn more about this local program that we support. **We will be meeting in the Sanctuary. This session will be live-streamed.**

Bell Choirs

April Rehearsal Schedules:

Glory Bells: Thursday Mornings
9:00 - 10:00 in the Sanctuary No Rehearsal on the 4th

Alleluia Bells: Thursday Evenings
6:00 - 7:30 in the Sanctuary No Rehearsal on the 4th



Calling all Men!

Let's sing a joyful song together on All Music Sunday, June 9th. An all-men's choir will be joining with the Alleluia Bells to perform the beautiful song "You Raise Me Up."

Lee Ann will have short rehearsals after worship on May 19th and June 2nd. In addition, there will be one evening rehearsal with the bells on Thursday on June 6th.

This is a special opportunity to come together with a special offering to God!

Please contact Bob Blakey, Todd Fargo, Bob Kiser, Bob Smith, Lee Ann Daigle, or Jackie Anderson to sign up.

Food Barrel

Thank you for your continued support for Webster Hope. Your donations directly help members of our community who are in need. Ongoing needs include: toddler boys and girls clothes, socks for men/women/children, coffee, sugar, flour, canned beets, canned pineapple, cooking oil, condiments (such as mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup), diapers (size 6), baby wipes, toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.), laundry detergent, and dish soap. Our community thanks you!

*And every bird and every tree,
And every opening flower,
Proclaim His glorious victory,
His resurrection power.*

*The Lord Has Risen
by John S. B. Monsell*





ONE in Christ

It was one year ago this month that the ONE in Christ committee was formed with the blessing of Session. Its purpose was to explore the possibility of becoming a More Light Church. Our hope is to become open and affirming and inclusive of the LGBTQIA+ community, as we are to other marginalized groups at WPC. Our ultimate goal is to live into our Identity Statement: “We are followers of Jesus Christ, living and sharing the love of God through faith and action, **welcoming all.**”

ONE in Christ applied for and was awarded the 2023 Congregational Vitality Grant of \$1000 from the Presbytery of the Genesee Valley. We purchased the book *Unclobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* by Colby Martin to be given to interested congregants at no charge. In the end, 36 books were taken and we held two Adult Ed panel discussions in reference to it. We also held an Adult Ed program exploring, with those who attended, what it means to “welcome all.”

ONE in Christ was required to submit a report of our work and findings throughout the year. That has been done. Now we would like to report to you, our congregation. We will host another Adult Ed program in the near future to do just that. Stay tuned!

Our iNclusive Exploration in Christ



Spiritual Nurture

Pastor Nadia has been identifying spiritual practices in her sermons based on Barbara Brown Taylor’s book, *An Altar in the World*. In a recent article in the latest *Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide*, an author from South Africa writes, “If we keep spiritually strong by reading the Bible, praying, *engaging in spiritual practices*, and worshiping with fellow believers in Christ, we can recover from adverse circumstances more easily.” Following is a description of the spiritual practices of one of our own congregants:

“I have personal devotions in the morning before breakfast. I begin with some memorized scriptures and a prayer for understanding and application of what I am about to read. During Lent and Advent, I read four different devotions. The rest of the year, it’s three. After reading and reviewing what I’ve read, I pray using a couple more favorite scriptures.

In the evening, I write in two prayer journals because writing them helps me focus and stay awake. The first journal is a list of at least five things I’m grateful for from this day. The second is intercessory prayer.”

Your Spiritual Nurture Committee would love to know about your spiritual practices and, with your permission, share them in the *Pathway*. We hope and pray that you experienced closeness with God by participating in the spiritual practices that we offered during Holy Week: walking the labyrinth, silent contemplative prayer via ZOOM on Holy Saturday morning, and a pilgrimage through the Stations of the Cross.

To be in touch, please reach out to Bob Blakey, Nancy Duquette or Barb Hach.



Heart and Hand

Thirty-six placemats were completed and delivered to Webster “Meals on Wheels” to be included in the food baskets for Easter. Thanks to all of you who very generously donated your time and talents to help us complete this project.

Children’s surgical caps for Golisano Children’s Hospital are on the agenda this month. If you would like to participate, there are kits for stitching them on the table in the church offices hallway.

In addition, we will be making more prayer pockets for Pastor Nadia to carry as gifts on her various visits.

If you have a previous project packet at home you may return it, completed or not. They will become part of the next delivery of that particular project.

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

Sending you a blessed joyful Easter, Hosanna!

Mission Update

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

We are continuing to collect for the annual One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering that is sponsored by our denomination (PCUSA) as well as by many other Protestant denominations. There are special envelopes in the chair racks. This offering is distributed by PCUSA in the US and to many other countries to benefit needy folks as follows:

**One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING**

1. Disaster assistance for those impacted greatly by major disasters. These funds are administered by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).
2. Presbyterian Hunger Program – provides emergency food and supplies to hungry and starving peoples around the world.
3. Self-Development of People – provides needy folks with self-help resources by providing seeds and seedlings for gardening or farming, farm animals, tools, etc., to help them become more self-sufficient and independent.

If you haven't already done so, please prayerfully consider donating to OGHS by Easter Sunday or shortly thereafter. Thank you!

Kenya High School Students Fund

The Mission Committee has decided not to have a special collection time (previously in September) for this ongoing project this year. Instead, we will rely on those of you who feel led to voluntarily contribute to it to do so anytime during the year.

We are currently supporting 7 very poor students in Kikuyu, Kenya (near Nairobi) for their 4 years of high school. Without our support they would be forced to end their schooling in 8th grade. Three students will graduate this year and we will add one new freshman for next year, so we will be sponsoring 5 in 2025.

We hope to continue this worthy project for many more years. So again, please consider contributing anytime that you wish during the remainder of 2024.

Extra Contributions for Cameron Community Ministries

As Pastor Nadia said during a recent Offertory, and has been reported by our local news, Cameron Community Ministries did not receive \$93,000 this year that had been promised to them by another organization. This has caused significant stress and extra effort for them. They had expanded their mission with new projects which were to be initially funded by these monies.

Cameron and others such as our Presbytery put out a special appeal for extra contributions. We are pleased to say that thanks to your very generous contributions to our church, we have been able to provide Cameron with an extra \$1500 toward this shortfall. This is in addition to our regular budget contribution to them - \$500 from our Budget and \$1000 from the Special Gifts fund that was given to us by an anonymous member! As of this writing, Cameron has received about 2/3 of this shortfall, but are still working hard to fill the remainder.



Adopt-a-Highway

Spring will soon be in its full glory, and with spring comes our semi-annual Adopt-a-Highway clean-up of Rt. 250 by the church. This year's spring clean-up will be Saturday, April 27th, beginning at 10:00 AM. The commitment is less than two hours, with everyone finishing well before noon. Please consider volunteering for this effort. It is a chance to enjoy the outdoors with church friends and to perform a worthwhile service to the neighborhood. New participants are always welcome, with no special skills required. Besides "pickers", we also need two drivers to get those collecting the debris to or from their section of the roadway.

If you have any questions or to sign-up, please contact Mark Pival at 787-4301 or pipalmw@yahoo.com. Look for the sign-up table in the Narthex after Easter.

We're Hosting Adult Ed on April 28th

The Mission Committee will be hosting representatives from the Miracle Field/Challenger organization following the Worship Service on April 28th. Grab your coffee and return to the Sanctuary for updates and to learn more about their program. This will also be available through our live-stream.

*Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.*

*All Things Bright and Beautiful
Cecil Frances Alexander*

April Lectionary Readings

April 7

Old Testament Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm Psalm 3
New Testament I John 1:1 - 2:2
Gospel John 20:19-31

April 14

Old Testament Isaiah 6:1-9a
Psalm Psalm 40:1-5
New Testament I John 3:1-7
Gospel Luke 24:36b-48

April 21

Old Testament Zechariah 10:1-12
Psalm Psalm 80:1-7
New Testament I John 3:16-24
Gospel John 10:11-18

April 28

Old Testament Exodus 19:1-6
Psalm Psalm 22:25-31
New Testament I John 4:7-21
Gospel John 15:1-8



Memory Verse

*I sought the Lord,
and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.*

Psalm 34:4



Church Family News

During March we prayed for:

Mary Johnson and Lindsey Oliver.

We welcome new members:

Colby and Beth Carson (children: Grady, Nix and Lola), Bill and Nancy Martin, and Elissa Burke (children: Heather and Maisie). **Welcome!**



SHINE

Children's Christian Education

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see"

Hebrews 11:1

Young children seem to have a natural faith in God. They accept that there is a loving God who made and cares for them, even though they may not understand the particulars of the Bible yet.



April 7: Chimes with Mrs. Anderson

April 14: Bible Lesson: Jesus Appears to His Disciples – John 20: 19-31

Bible Point: **Believe in Jesus.**

SHINE Choir rehearsal with Mrs. Daigle

April 21: Bible Lesson: Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts – 1 Corinthians 12:4-27

Bible Point: **God gives us gifts to serve him.**

SHINE Choir rehearsal with Mrs. Daigle

April 28: Bible Lesson: Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus – Acts 4:5-14

Bible Point: **Trusting God makes us brave.**

May 5: Chimes with Mrs. Anderson



Mark Your Calendars!

The SHINE Choir will be singing in church on All Music Sunday, June 9th at 9:30.

Volunteers Needed

We have a wonderful group of children attending our SHINE program on Sunday mornings. Additional adult volunteers are needed on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday each month to be an extra adult in the classroom. Gayl Galen will be planning and presenting the lesson each week. Volunteers are needed to assist with "crowd control". If you are available to help, please speak to Gayl.

