



# The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church  
Webster, New York

February 2025

Vol. LV No. 2

## A Note From Session

Well, it's February! When I wrote this back in January, the temperature was 15 degrees but felt like -2. That, my friends, is cold. The wind was blowing snow sideways even during the time it wasn't falling and accumulating. Driving was hazardous and I hope most of you were able to hunker down and stay warm. The amazing thing to me was that this occurred on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Inauguration Day. It was a national holiday. Many of us didn't have to drive barely plowed roads where we know people "forget" how to drive and accidents are bound to multiply. We didn't have to get our little ones bundled head to toe and wait outside for the school bus. We were graced with our teenagers home perhaps to do the shoveling at home and maybe for their neighbors. Our kids had a day to watch some history being made. So did we. While many of us called January 20 a wasted snow day, I'd call it just one more example of God taking care of us. If it had to be a morning blizzard, let it be on a day we already had off.

But January 20<sup>th</sup> was also a day to think and maybe pray a little extra for our global family too. Those living on the streets or in their cars or in empty and abandoned buildings - how can they survive? Fires in California, flood aftermath in the Carolinas, starvation in so many countries, diseases going untreated, war - what can we do? And not just on January 20<sup>th</sup>, but everyday. We pray, we contribute to our missions, we work within our community to help where we can, we stand up for our brothers and sisters wherever and wherever they are. This is our world and with God's help and love, we do our best to care for it.

Welcome to February! We have installed our new officers for Trustees, Deacons and Session; we have installed our new PNC. In both cases we have been blessed with long-time members returning to office as well as newer members accepting their first office within WPC. It shows we are alive and well and growing here at home in WPC. We are looking forward to getting to know our stated supply pastor; we look forward to extending a call to a full-time pastor. This transition is going well. While we still grieve at losing Pastor Nadia, we are successfully moving on. We are happy for her and we are happy for us. We are making it and I see the joy in our family.

February brings us Valentines Day and perhaps a special movie for our kids and their friends and families. February brings a continuation of mission work, of church growth and development, of people meeting people and worshipping together in prayer and song and friendships new and old. February brings steps forward toward our Bicentennial celebration in September. It also brings us hope because every day, every week and month begins with new hope; hope in God, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Kathy Barbehenn, Clerk of Session

# February



## What's Inside

Page:

2. Trustees' Corner, Deacons' Doings, 2025 Officers, Church Potluck Supper, Pathway Deadline
3. 200 Year Anniversary, Bell Choirs, Women's Circles, Women's Bible Study
4. Mission Update, Worship & Music
5. Learning for a Lifetime, Spiritual Nurture, One In Christ, Heart and Hand
6. SHINE, Youth Sunday School, VBS Save the Date, Church Family News, Lectionary, Memory Verse

## Contact Us

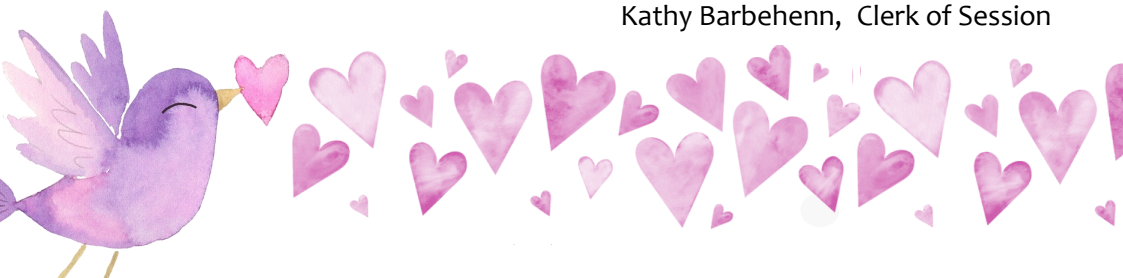
Regular office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from **9:00 am till 3:00 pm**.

Office phone: 585-265-9700

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office@websterpres.org

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www.websterpres.org

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





# Trustees' Corner

A new year brings new faces to the Board of Trustees. We want to welcome two new trustees to our committee, Colby Carson and Elissa Burke. And we welcome back Dick Dodd after taking a year off. Next, we need to thank Karen Fargo, Matt Clark, Bob Smith and John Wilbert for signing up for one more year.

## 2025 Officers

### The Session

- Kathy Barbehenn
- Bob Blakey
- Lee Ann Daigle
- Todd Fargo
- Heather Hewlett
- Bill Martin
- Karen Stoddard

### The Board of Deacons

- Beth Carson
- Doreen Clark - Moderator
- Rachel Dolan
- Chuck Durand
- Holly Grocki
- Jean Maier
- Nancy Martin
- Arlene Sahlmeier
- Sarah Stein
- Leonor Woodworth

### The Board of Trustees

- Elissa Burke
- Colby Carson
- Matt Clark
- Dick Dodd
- Karen Fargo
- Scott Hewlett
- Dan Marsh
- Bob Smith
- John Wilbert - Moderator

Bob Smith has been working with Parsons and Shantz on future organ repairs. While no immediate action is needed at this point, Bob is researching options with Parsons, the company that services the organ, and Shantz, the company that built the organ. Initial indications from Parsons came it at \$55,000; Bob has been able to secure alternatives that came in under \$30,000. Please stay “tuned” as we continue our due diligence. Fortunately, we have time to investigate the best option for the congregation.

With the new year comes new taxes and fees. As of January 2025, the Town of Webster is imposing a new tax for drainage runoff water on all commercial properties. Our portion of the new tax is \$800. Unfortunately, our status as a tax-exempt religious organization does not preclude us from this charge. Fortunately, the Town provided adequate advance notice, so we were able to budget for the additional cost.



Lastly, winter is upon us and that means a few things. The plowing of the parking lot has commenced. Despite excellent plow coverage, the parking lot can still be slippery. Please remember to watch your step. Also, if you notice that the sidewalks need extra salt, please reach out to your nearest Trustee. We will rectify the situation. We keep salt bins at both the north and south entrances just in case extra treatments are needed.

# Deacons' Doings

As we head into the new year, the Deacons welcome four new board members. We are happy to have Beth Carson, Chuck Durand, Holly Grocki and Nancy Martin join us. We said goodbye and thank you to Jen Wengender, Rose Fombe and Nikki George. Nikki will still be helping out the Deacons with her role in Congregational Care. We currently have 10 members and are looking forward to 2025.

## Food Barrel



Thank you for your generous donations to help provide food for our neighbors in need, especially during these cold months. Currently, Webster Hope is in need of the following items: ground coffee, cooking oil, Albacore tuna, sugar, brownie mix, ketchup, mayonnaise, salad dressing, canned corn, jarred spaghetti sauce, laundry detergent, dish soap, and toiletries: shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste.



**Save the Date**  
for a  
**Church Potluck Supper!**

**Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 pm.**

**The MARCH Pathway deadline is FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup>**

Email articles to  
jchippero@websterpres.org **and**  
ghubbard@websterpres.org

# Reflecting on 200 Years

At the worship service on January 19<sup>th</sup>, the congregation heard the first installment which began our reflection on the life of the Webster Presbyterian Church during its first 200 years. A planning committee was formed in October 2024 leading up to a celebration planned for September 21, 2025. Committee members are Tony Hubbard, Gayl Galen, Sally and Joel Jamison, Joyce Bradstreet, Fred Denson, Dick Dodd, Elaine Wilbert and Chris Schaller. Each month, we plan to share something of interest from our history with the congregation.

Here is a story from the 175<sup>th</sup> history of WPC:

*The Reverend Chester Holcomb (1854-1857) was the first pastor in the new building, (see the pictures of the 1853 church). A revival was held, and 24 members were added upon confession. Two of Rev. Holcomb's sons were in the ministry; one a missionary in China, and the other a Congregational minister in California.*



We would like to hear stories from current members. If you have a short story about your life in the church that we can share with the congregation, please let one of the committee

members know or send your story to the office, attention: 200<sup>th</sup> Committee.

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

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

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

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**



## Bell Choir Rehearsals February Schedule

### Glory Bells:

Thursdays at 9:00 am in  
the Sanctuary  
February 6, 13, 27  
no rehearsal on the 20<sup>th</sup>

### Alleluia Bells:

Thursdays at 6:00 pm in  
the Sanctuary  
February 6, 13, 27  
no rehearsal on the 20<sup>th</sup>

### Family Bell Choir:

February 9 and 16  
10:45 am in the Sanctuary



## Women's Circles

**Naomi Circle** will meet on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at Jean Maier's home for an afternoon of games.

**King Circle** will meet at 10:00 am on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> in the Memorial Room. We will be discussing how we will distribute the funds raised from our January talent auction to various missions.

**Rachel Circle** will meet on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm for a Noah's Ark Bible Study led by Gwen Hoffman.



## Women's Bible Study

Our study of the Book of Second Corinthians continues throughout February. This letter tells us much about the Apostle Paul, his life, and his heart. It's not too late to join in this study! We meet on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 in Room 9/10. All are welcome.

## Mission Update

### Letters from Our Kenya High School Students

We have received heartwarming thank you notes from the students that we support with our gifts to the Kenya High School Student Fund. Please keep these children in your prayers as they work hard to gain a life-changing education.

Dear Sponsor,

I would like to thank the Almighty God for the gracious time He has given me. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude unto you for the financial support you give me. Thank you for you have been a shoulder to lean on in times of need.

I acknowledge your love, generosity, kindness and the sacrifice you have made to ensure I progress with my education. Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,  
Esther

Dear Sponsor,

Receive greetings from myself and family. We are very grateful for making it possible for me to be in School. If it was not for you I would be at home either looking after other people's cows or digging their gardens. Thank you so so much for loving me and giving me education.

God bless you,  
Gad

Dear Sponsor,

Thank you for your support with school fees. It is very hard for people to give these days, but you showed mercy and decided to assist me. May God bless you in all the things you do. I have completed form four and am currently waiting for the results. May the peace of Christ keep you today and for evermore. Amen.

Arnold



### Blanket Sunday Special Offering



Donations for this special annual offering sponsored by Church World Service are being collected until Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. During that time, special envelopes will be in the chair racks for your donation or you can contribute by sending a check made out to Webster Presbyterian Church directly to the office. The money collected will be forwarded to Church World Service. This offering is used to purchase warm blankets for extremely needy folks around the world including here in the USA. Please prayerfully consider donating to it generously – every \$10 donated provides one blanket!

### Christmas Joy Offering

This important annual denomination-wide (PCUSA) offering which provides emergency financial aid to current and former pastors, church workers and their families and to students of color at Presbyterian sponsored colleges ended on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. This year we collected \$1735, which included \$500 from the Parker Family in memory of Dave and Jane. In other recent years our donations have been roughly \$800, so this is a wonderful increase! Thank you to everyone who contributed!



## Worship and Music

*Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.*

*Psalms 100*

Sunday morning worship has had some rich variety with supply ministers, and now we are getting close to hiring an interim pastor. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rev. Boak will return, and on February 9<sup>th</sup>, John Kubiniec will be in the pulpit.

Have you noticed that the Chancel Choir is expanding with new members? There is always room for more, so if you sound great singing in the shower, contact Lee Ann Daigle!

Family Bell Choir is thriving and fun for all. Carina Phillips is directing this bell choir this spring as she is doing her practice student teaching in music education. Thank you, Jackie, for your bell ministries!

When we are in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings, we offer our worship as a gift to God, to delight in him, and to show our love to him.

*Ascribe to the Lord, the glory due his name;  
worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.*

*Psalms 29*

## Learning for a Lifetime

Adult Ed classes begin at 10:45 am and are in Room 9/10 unless otherwise indicated.

Adult Christian Education continues with *Into the Mess* by Debie Thomas during February. There are still books available in the office if you would like to participate. Looking into the “Jesus Stories”, the author helps us see truths and situations differently with a new perspective that is refreshing. Join in discussions that are invigorating and enlightening with epiphanies.

Date	Chapter	Page
February 2	Tempted	18
February 9	But What Do You Think?	66
February 16	Be Opened	94
February 23	When Daughters Go in Peace	97

## Spiritual Nurture

The Center for Action and Contemplation ([meditations@cac.org](mailto:meditations@cac.org)) has chosen “Salt and Light” as their theme for 2025. There are several contributing authors, including Brian McLaren, CAC Dean of Faculty. If you wish to follow along, you can subscribe for free.

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:13-16 NIV

Here are a few excerpts from the meditations of the first week in January 2025:

“To be blessed, to be salt, to be followers of Jesus, is to take seriously what our identity signifies.”

Following Jesus, “... is a way of being in the world that will always feel like compassion, mercy, and spaciousness...”

“Any faith that does not manifest itself in works is not faith; it is complacency and self-satisfaction. It is not salt, because it contributes nothing to the earth. It is not light, since its shining is only for self-reflection. Disciples are to glorify God by being their true selves: salt and light; existing for others rather than for only themselves.”

“Salt is what gives zing and taste to food and Jesus is calling us to be people who give purpose, meaning, and desire to life.”



## ONE in Christ

### Celebrating Diversity

Almighty God, through your Holy Spirit you created unity in the midst of diversity; we acknowledge that human diversity is an expression of your manifold love for your creation.

We confess that in our brokenness as human beings we turn our diversity into a source of alienation, injustice, oppression, and wounding.

Empower us to recognize and celebrate differences as your great gift to the human family.

Enable us to be the architects of understanding, of respect and love.

Through the Lord, the ground of all unity, we pray. Amen.

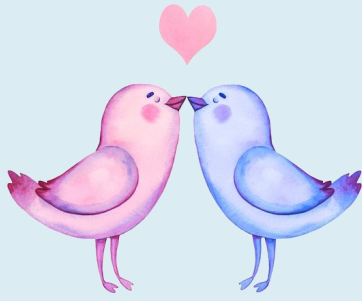
Author Unknown [jesuitresource.org](http://jesuitresource.org)



## Heart and Hand

This January, Heart and Hand has been making flannel incubator covers for the Neonatal ICU at Rochester General Hospital. They are always delightful to stitch, so much so that we already have nearly completed the number that the unit nurses requested. So there will be no kits available for our additional volunteers who usually sew for us!

February's project is yet to be decided. We are investigating a couple of possibilities and would love to look into any suggestions that anyone might have seen that would be of help to a particular group of people. Contact Tina McNearly at [tmcnearly@gmail.com](mailto:tmcnearly@gmail.com).



## Church Family News

### In January we prayed for:

Jacob Thomas (Gayl Galen's nephew).

### We are saddened by the loss of:

Long time members Eleanor Scott and Kay Wahl both on January 3rd.



## February Lectionary Readings

### February 2

Old Testament Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm Psalm 71:1-6  
New Testament I Corinthians 13: 1-13  
Gospel Luke 4:21-30

### February 9

Old Testament Isaiah 6:1-13  
Psalm Psalm 138  
New Testament I Corinthians 15:1-11  
Gospel Luke 5:1-11

### February 16

Old Testament Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm Psalm 1  
New Testament I Corinthians 15:12-20  
Gospel Luke 6:17-26

### February 23

Old Testament Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Psalm Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
New Testament I Corinthians 15:35-38,  
42-50  
Gospel Luke 6:27-38



## Memory Verse

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love,  
he will exult over you with loud  
singing as on a day of festival.

Zephaniah 3:17

## SHINE Church School News



We began our 2025 lessons with learning how Jesus cares for the world. We used to think that all children are innocent and untouched by the negativity of society. Children around the world have been touched by the effects of terrorism, war, violence in schools, epidemics, disease and natural disasters. It's a tough time to be a child.

Through our February lessons we will focus on how Jesus cares for the hungry, poor, sick and those left out. God is working in this world to bring about his kingdom. He is in charge and he knows all about it. He loves us all. We can make a difference by reaching out to those in need.

**February 2:** Valentine Crafts/Games with Mrs. Galen  
We will return to worship for Communion.

**February 9:** Bells and Chimes with Mrs. Anderson

**February 16:** Bible Lesson – Jesus cares about the sick.  
Jesus raises Jairus' daughter (Mark 5: 21-24)

**February 23:** Bible Lesson – Jesus cares about children.  
The story of the Lost Sheep (Matthew 18: 1-6)



## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth in grades 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> can attend Sunday School on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. (February 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>)

Join us in the Youth Room following the Children's message during the worship service.



## Mark Your Calendars!



## True North

Trusting Jesus  
in a Wild World.

A Northern Lights theme

## Vacation Bible School 2025

Webster Presbyterian Church

**July 21, 22, 24, 25**

**9:00 - Noon**

There will be no session on  
Wednesday the 23rd.

Classes for PreK - 5th Grade

Children must have been 4 years old  
by February 1st, 2025

Watch for more information in the  
upcoming months!