



The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

May 2025

Vol. LV No. 5

A Letter from the Pastor

Ephesians 1:18-19 "So that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power."

With the Resurrection of the Lord on April 20th, we have now entered the Season of Easter, which lasts until Pentecost on June 8th. The Season of Easter spans fifty days; it is intended to be a joyful time for celebrating the presence of the risen Christ. It often includes stories about the different disciples and their reactions upon the revelation that Jesus was alive - and how it affected their lives - stories about Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, Thomas, those who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus, and of course, about Paul. As we hear these stories, they are stories of changed lives.

In his book, *The Third Day*, Tom Berlin says, "Too often Easter is turned into a holiday that observes reminders of new life found in the cyclical patterns of nature and butterflies rather than the fitting celebration of the overwhelming love and power of God that overcame the finality of death." I was a little bit flabbergasted when I held a book study on Berlin's book in my last pastorate - most of the people attending told me that they had only associated the Resurrection with eternity. They had never considered it in terms of the here and now. I realized that we pastors are falling short - that we haven't made it clear just how important the Resurrection is for our lives in the present and how it affects our understanding and how we do ministry here and now while we are alive. It doesn't mean that eternal life isn't important, but Jesus is into changing lives now. Berlin makes a daring statement. He says that the resurrection of Christ changes everything. He states:

"The new life Christ offers can be personal in nature, but it is also cosmic in scope. This power is about personal salvation. It is also about social justice, relational healing, and the end of oppression to the vulnerable. The first disciples understood that through suffering, death, and resurrection, Jesus had overcome the power of sin and death that had always gone unabated. They understood that the Resurrection changed everything, and as a result, they had confidence to heal the sick, call the church to treat all persons equally, and speak to everyone of the liberating power Christ offered to human life."

Mary Magdalene was a woman who had been healed by Jesus. She lost hope when he died, but found hope again when she realized that his power could not be broken. Peter understood forgiveness and a renewed sense of purpose. Thomas understood faith in crisis, but God doesn't give up on us, just like Jesus didn't give up on Thomas. Those on the road to Emmaus found a renewed sense of the presence of Christ in the world - that God is still working. And, Paul's encounter changed his life and his name. May you find a renewed sense of hope and purpose as we traverse this Season of Easter, as we hear these stories, but with a fresh sense of enlightenment and purpose. As we consider the difference the Resurrection made to those who first experienced the risen Christ, may our lives experience the joy of new life as well.

In Christ's Name,

Susan



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





Trustees' Corner



Spring Work Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 17th from 9:00 am to 12 noon.

Please join us as we spruce up the building and grounds after the very long winter. Come for an hour or two or three! All are welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

The parts for the organ have been ordered. Once they arrive, we will schedule the repair work. We are planning to have the organ fully operational by late summer.

You may see some new "accessories" in our parking lot. We have agreed to let the Scouts use our parking facilities to store their trailers. They will be using the gravel lots on the south side of the building.

Think before you flush... the two toilets in the Chapel wing contain a power flush system. Both require very little pressure to do their job, and both have been disabled in the past few months due to excessive force. A little pressure is all that is needed.



Contact Us

Regular office hours are on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from **9:00 am till 3:00 pm.**

Office phone: 585-265-9700

Office email: office@websterpres.org

Pastor Susan's email: sfrost@websterpres.org

Church website: www.websterpres.org

A Note from Session

Happy Springtime, everyone. The daffodils are blooming, trees are budding, and birds are singing and building nests. Spring is an amazing time of rebirth and new beginnings. Let us all pray that it also brings peace, love, and understanding to all of us here and everywhere.

Here at our beloved Webster Presbyterian Church, our numbers are growing as new friends and neighbors join us in worship and in work. And the children - it is so good to see the children run to Stu's Corner for time with Pastor Susan before heading off to Shine and Youth classes. It's exciting to see their smiles.

Our PNC has completed its initial phase of submitting a Pastor Discernment Profile to the CLC group from Presbytery. The CLC will be looking over this form, which lets them know what WPC considers the important characteristics and styles of available ministers. CLC will look at and provide PNC with as many potential matches as possible. PNC members will read, study, analyze, and pray. Meanwhile, Pastor Susan is here doing what she does so beautifully. We are so privileged to have her and to have an amazing group of people we call the PNC. But please, no fair asking for inside info. They won't tell you - not until a "call" goes out and is accepted.

We are delighted to tell you that John Kubiniek continues his journey to ordination. With approval from Session and with God's grace, John is progressing from Inquirer to Candidate. Please keep him in your prayers and wish him well when you see him.

New Sanctuary chairs have been ordered and will soon be here. Thanks to a recommendation from our One in Christ Committee and research by Trustee Scott Hewlett and financial advice from the Stewardship and Finance Committee, several larger chairs with arms, along with six standard chairs with arms, will be placed around the Sanctuary to help our brothers and sisters who need that extra support during Services. I know I can't wait to try them. Getting up after sitting awhile is harder than it used to be! And have you seen the new cooler in the kitchen? We received a memorial gift with the request to "replace the old fridge." The Trustees researched it, facilitated the purchase, and installed it.

Organ repairs will begin shortly after Music Sunday. Although it is an aging instrument, it remains vibrant, and the repairs are expensive. If you would like to contribute to the repair fund, donations will be gladly accepted. Payments can be made to the church office. Please be sure to designate that your gift is for organ repairs. There will not be a capital campaign; any contributions towards repairs are strictly voluntary.

Session has been discussing what will happen down the road, as our congregation ages, when the economy doesn't provide returns, when our aging building needs more and more repair. Do we make cuts? Where do we cut? Ours is a Mission Church - how do we continue providing if and when the funding isn't enough anymore? Session is planning to facilitate the formation of a long-range committee to study the current and future needs of WPC in a rapidly changing environment. We are looking for members across the face of the Church with representatives from current committees. Music and Worship, Stewardship and Finance, Mission, Session, Trustees, Deacons, Children and Youth education, Adult Ed, Spiritual Nurture, and ONE in Christ and Members at Large. **WE NEED YOU** for discussions on priorities, outreach sustainability, building use, building maintenance, and repair. WPC is not alone with these questions. And it's almost past time to think about and look to our future. Please consider how you can contribute!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Barbehenn, Clerk of Session

Deacons' Doings

Friends at Home

On behalf of our Friends at Home, the Deacons would like to encourage the congregation to remember them always, but especially on their birthdays. To that end, you will find a basket of birthday cards in the Narthex/Library area along with a list of our Friends and their addresses. Each month, the Pathway will list the upcoming birthdays. Please take a moment, pick up a card, write a note if you are so moved, put it in the mail and know that you've just sent a moment of joy to someone. There's nothing better than receiving actual mail these days so thank you for helping us spread God's love to those who may need a smile and to know they have not been forgotten.

Upcoming Birthdays: Bob Rollog May 25
Judy Kloosterman June 3

The Deacons thank you for helping us remember our members!



June 8th Church Picnic

Mark your calendars for June 8th! The Deacons will be hosting a picnic following the All-Music Sunday Worship Service. Join us for Food, Fun, and Fellowship! We will be grilling up hot dogs and will provide chips, assorted salads, watermelon, desserts, and beverages. Signups begin May 18th.

Weather permitting, we will be outdoors, so bring your lawn chair! Play a round of Bocce or join a game of Corn Hole. There will be fun for the whole family! Sign up by June 1st in the Narthex or by calling the church office at 265-9700. If the weather does not cooperate, we will bring the fun indoors.



Food Barrel

Webster HOPE is still in need of size 6 diapers and baby wipes. The various food cupboards in the Webster area are extremely grateful for our congregation's donations that help serve neighbors in our own community. Please consider donating canned goods (chicken, vegetables, gravy, tuna, red beans), instant rice, and mac and cheese. Non-food items are shampoo, soaps/bodywash, toothpaste, laundry/dish soaps. Thank you for your generosity!



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

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5-thYxua2HQP6P71wA>

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

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Yellow Rose Sunday



Yellow Rose Sunday is a time to honor or remember those who have influenced our lives as Christians. It is a wonderful way to highlight their lives.

Contributions go to the WPC Endowment Fund, which is invested, with the earnings used for special projects and missions of the church. It has helped pay for the parking lot, choir robes, and New Beginnings, just to name a few.

Yellow Rose Sunday will be May 18th. We encourage you to donate between now and then. You can use the Yellow Rose envelopes in the pew racks or mail in a check, noting that it is for Yellow Rose. Honor someone who has meant a lot to you and help our church at the same time.

Contact Connie Rice or Georgia Hubbard with any questions.



**The JUNE Pathway
deadline is MAY 20th**

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

*thank
you*

We have a new cooler in the kitchen!

A generous donation was made towards this purchase in memory of Nancy Perryman on her 100th birthday. Nancy knew that good food brings people together!

Many Thanks!



Reflecting on **200** Years

SHARING WORK CAMP MEMORIES

During the past fifty years, WPC has had many outreach programs that enabled youth and adults to visit communities nationally and internationally to complete service projects. This month, we are celebrating our domestic youth and adult workcamps. Here are some memories prepared by members of the congregation who have participated in these programs:

WPC participated in adult work camps in natural disaster areas from 2005 until 2017. We teamed up with others through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Agency, as well as a Methodist Church Disaster Relief agency. The workcamps began soon after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, and almost all of these trips were associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, or storms with serious flooding to assist needy folks. We always stayed at a local church and, hopefully, provided some spiritual and emotional uplifting for the congregation and community in addition to doing some repairs. We went to Gautier and Pascagoula, Mississippi, a total of 8 or 9 times after Katrina; Cedar Rapids, Iowa (near where Howard and Judy Chapman live); West Virginia, the Binghamton/Endicott/Johnson City area of NY, and New Jersey near the coast. WPC went on more than 20 such trips.

- Brad Adams

I was able to serve as an adult chaperone for youth workcamps in Michigan, West Virginia, and Maine in the 1970s and 80s. It was a wonderful experience to see how the youth pitched in to help others and learned new skills; carpentry, electrical wiring, roofing, and more. I was also able to join adult workcamps in the 2000s. These were very memorable experiences helping people who had lost everything. In every case, the people appreciated our time and concern for their loss as much as our help in restoring their properties.

- Tony Hubbard

Youth work camp at WPC was one of the most influential experiences of my life, but I don't think I really understood the extent that this statement is true until well after my last trip. Speaking with peers outside of the church who did not have these opportunities opened my eyes to just how lucky I am to have lived these experiences. On my last youth workcamp trip, we spent a week in the Appalachian Mountains in West Virginia, where we worked on a house that belonged to a retired coal miner and his wife. Coal mining is hard on the body, and he had accumulated a host of medical conditions that would one day leave him dependent on a wheelchair. To make the inevitable transition easier, we built them a deck with a ramp. We also helped to build a retaining wall to hold back the side of the mountain that had at one point slid into the back of their house. The homeowners had very little money, yet every day they made us an amazing meal, and we sat, and we talked, and we laughed together until it was time to get back to work. It was a gesture that weighed heavily on all of us; they had so little and likely often went hungry themselves, yet they insisted on sharing what little they had with us to show their appreciation. It reinforced in my mind that generosity has nothing to do with wealth, and that people who may appear to be the most in need are often the most eager to share. My memories of this trip, and all the others, are full of lessons like these, lessons that I am lucky to have learned and reflect on frequently. It would be remiss of me if I did not also mention the lifelong friendships that we forged on these trips; friendships that still stand strong today despite us all going our own ways in life. No matter how far from home we stray, we always come back to each other, to our love of Christ and to our church family who loves unconditionally, and for that I am forever grateful.

- Ethan Fargo

The WPC Youth Workcamps I attended were truly formative experiences. Looking back on them now, which to this day I still do, I realize how much of an impact they have had in shaping the trajectory of my life. These were the first times I learned what it really meant to serve others. One trip I will always remember is West Virginia. We worked on a house that belonged to the sweetest couple, and the wife made us the most delicious homemade meals for lunch each day! They had so little but were still so willing to give to us.

- Lindsay Oliver

I was a part of WPC workcamps for 4 years. I looked forward to these every year and had a great time with other workcamp participants and adults. It was a good opportunity to travel and help other people in need, while learning new skills that I would use throughout my life. It was always a week of fellowship, faith, and fun. Red Bird was definitely a favorite!

- Tim Oliver



Mission Update

Clothing Collection for Cameron Community Ministries

The Mission Committee's annual collection of **Spring and Summer** gently used and new clothing for Cameron began on April 27th. Blue collection bins are now in the Narthex and upper hallway until May 26th. So please "invade" your closets soon to look for contributions of men's, women's, and children's clothing as all are needed! Another good option is to shop at local stores such as Goodwill, Savers, TJMaxx, etc., to purchase donations. Please don't donate winter clothing at this time, as Cameron has little storage room for off-season clothing. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

Summer Mission Project Preview

The Mission Committee feels that it has been blessed to find two very special projects for this summer, and both have already been approved by Session! They are as follows:

Webster Community Chest – for food or other urgently needed items **in memory of Joyce Tompkins**, who was not only a long-time member of our church and Mission Committee, but also a long-time member of the Community Chest, including being its leader.

Thogoto School in Kenya – for computers, sewing machines, and other much-needed items for this extremely poor school **in memory of Eleanor Scott**, who was also a long-time church and Mission Committee member, and led several Mission Work Teams of our members to Kenya from 2000 to 2016. The 2010 and 2016 Mission Teams spent significant time at this school with the children and providing much-needed building repairs.

Summer Mission will begin on June 1st. Special envelopes for your donations will be in the Sanctuary chair racks until the end of August. The goal is to collect \$8,000 or more this summer. **Mark your calendar for Adult Ed on Sunday, June 1st, to hear more about these worthwhile projects!**

Visit from Grace Kaigai of Kenya

From April 23rd until May 1st, Grace Kaigai from Kenya was visiting us, including attending the Memorial Service for Eleanor Scott on April 26th and talking to us at Adult Ed on Sunday the 27th. She and Eleanor were close friends, and Grace has worked closely with and greatly helped our Kenya Mission teams to plan their visits and to guide them during their visit to Kenya. She has remained our contact in Kenya for receiving monies that we send from our Mission Budget for school lunches at Thogoto School and to select a student(s) each year from this school for funding that we provide to allow them to get a high school education.

Adult Ed with Jed Koball

The Mission Committee invites you to stay in the Sanctuary after worship on May 18th to join in a Zoom conference with PCUSA missionary co-worker Jed Koball, from Lima, Peru. Jed and his wife, Jenny, have dedicated their lives to helping improve the lives of people in Peru and to sharing the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ. Jed served as our denominational representative at a recent climate change conference in the Mideast. Jenny leads the Young Adult Volunteer Program for youth from Peru and the USA. On May 18th, Jed will be telling us about the changes he sees on the world scene, how it affects the people in Peru and us, and how we can continue to offer assistance to their ministry.



Adopt-a-Highway Spring Clean-Up

On Saturday, April 26th, 12 of us successfully completed another Adopt-a-Highway clean-up of Route 250 by the church. Despite a dreary forecast, the weather did decide to cooperate! A big **thank you** to all who helped with this ministry to our neighborhood.

Please consider joining in the fall clean-up, when we do this again in October.

One Great Hour of Sharing Giving to Date

Our giving to this special offering as of Palm Sunday (prior to Easter weekend) was \$3125. **Thank you** to all who have contributed. We do expect more donations will be made by Easter or shortly after, and we will report the final total in the June Pathway.

Blanket Sunday

The final results are now in from the Blanket Sunday appeal conducted earlier this year, and a big **thank you** to the congregation is in order. A total of \$1650 was donated. This represents a significant increase over last year's appeal. Through our generous donations, warm blankets and other necessities are being provided to extremely needy people throughout the world. Our congregation has been blessed with our resources, and the response to appeals such as this shows our appreciation for this blessedness.

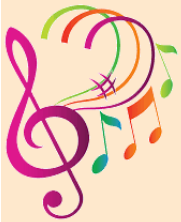


Worship and Music

All-Music Sunday

Summer is on the horizon! Please plan to worship with us on Sunday, June 8th, for All-Music Sunday. We are looking forward to hearing from our Chancel Choir, Alleluia Bells, Family Bells and the Shine Kids! It is always a special day in the life of our church family. Your Worship and Music Committee hopes you can be with us.

Summer Music



Calling all musicians for summer worship: After June 8th, the Chancel Choir and Alleluia Bells will be on their summer hiatus. Please consider offering special music during worship this summer. Singers and instrumentalists are welcome. Please contact Lee Ann Daigle at 899-0120 or ladaigle65@gmail.com.

May Bell Choir Rehearsals

Alleluia Bells:

Thursdays in the Sanctuary at 6:00 pm,
May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Glory Bells:

No May rehearsals

Spring Performance Schedule:

May 1 - Grand Vie

May 8 - Chapel Oaks

May 15 - Kirkhaven



Family Bells:

Sundays in the Sanctuary at 10:45 am,
May 4, 11, and 25

In 2006, PC(USA) churches were invited to practice five simple disciplines.

- Set the font in full view of the congregation
- Open the font and fill it with water every Lord's Day
- Set the cup and plate on the Lord's table every Lord's Day
- Lead appropriate parts of the weekly worship from the font and from the table
- Increase the number of Sundays on which the Lord's Supper is celebrated

The font is where baptisms occur; when I pour water into the font each Sunday, it reminds the congregation of your baptism, of God's forgiveness, and of the ongoing experience of new life in Christ. It's a visual and symbolic act that underscores the church's understanding of baptism as a foundational element of Christian faith. I pour the water into the font each week during the Assurance of Pardon; it is a visual reminder that the water washes away your sin and you are forgiven. This is an ongoing growth process because none of us is perfect (unless there is something I don't know about you!) It is meant to "equip and strengthen you" for the challenges in your own faith and life and to prepare you for what comes next - the Passing of the Peace to each other; as we have been forgiven at the font, we are to forgive others.

The cup and plate on the Communion Table each Sunday is yet another visual aid which reminds us of what the Lord's Supper symbolizes - that of giving thanks to God the Father; remembering what Jesus Christ has done for us; invoking the Holy Spirit's continued help and guidance in our own lives and the life of the Church; and communing with the body of Christ as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit commune or abide in each other. It serves to remind us of the BIG picture - the ultimate HOPE that we glimpse in the ministry of Jesus Christ, in his cross and the resurrection, and serves to chase away the ever-present temptation to despair.

You'll notice that we now have a "Christ Candle" on the Communion Table. You have seen the "Christ Candle" before. It is the large, white candle placed in the center of your Advent wreath during Advent and lit on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day. It symbolizes Jesus Christ as the light of the world. I have enjoyed the tradition of having the "Christ Candle" year-round - as a weekly reminder of Christ's light and the work of the Holy Spirit in and amongst us in the church and in the world. You may have noticed how, at the end of the service, the wick is being relit from the Christ Candle as a symbolic act of carrying the light of Christ out with you into the world. The Deacon and/or children light the wick, then put out the Christ candle and the other two candles while still keeping the wick lit, and then carry the flame to the back of the Sanctuary as a symbolic act before putting it out.

May each of you be refreshed in your own faith and life in Christ.

On behalf of the Worship and Music committee,
Pastor Susan



Learning for a Lifetime

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

As we wind down for the year, we would like to thank you for your participation in our programs. We will resume the use of the book, *Into the Mess*, by Debi Thomas, when we reconvene in September.

Here is our schedule for the remainder of the year:

- May 4** "A Day in the Life of a Hospital Chaplain." John Kubiniec will share his experiences.
- May 11** Mother's Day – No class
- May 18** Mission Committee - Jed Koball, a PCUSA Missionary in Peru, will be presenting via Zoom. *This session will take place in the Sanctuary.*
- May 25** Memorial Day Weekend – No class
- June 1** Summer Mission Presentation by the Mission Committee. *This session will take place in the Sanctuary.*
- June 8** All-Music Sunday Worship Service with the Church Picnic to follow.

Spiritual Nurture



"When Jesus prayed, he was conscious that, in his prayer, he met the Presence, and this consciousness was far more important and significant than the answering of his prayer. It is for this reason primarily that God was for Jesus the answer to all the issues and problems of life. When I, with all my mind and heart, truly seek God and give myself in prayer, I, too, meet His presence and then I know for myself that Jesus was right."

Howard Thurman, from *Deep Is the Hunger*



Heart and Hand

In April, the members of Heart & Hand began stitching pediatric surgical caps for the Golisano Children's Hospital. We have a total of 60 to complete, so we will be working on them again on May 16th. At this point in these children's lives, there are not many things that they can control, so we are happy to give them something cheery and fun that they are able to select for themselves.

In addition, we have been giving Dick Dodd a little help with the assembling of a few parts of the old church chandelier that he is in the process of recreating for the 200th Church Anniversary Celebration.

We are delighted that the sunny new Easter banner, that John Kubiniec originally designed, was completed and hung in the Sanctuary for the Easter morning services!



ONE in Christ

The spring season is upon us, and Holy Week gave Webster Presbyterian a unique opportunity to reflect on our spiritual journey via a labyrinth that was set up in the Social Hall. A labyrinth is a maze-like structure with a seemingly singular path that historically symbolized a spiritual journey. Often, when people see this structure, they may be filled with confusion. Regarding spirituality, there are several planes, realms, and dimensions we explore in our lifetime, not always feeling like a singular path. As Christians, we must learn to pass through these planes, realms, and dimensions as we journey towards spiritual effectiveness to give and receive God's love. Traveling through a labyrinth reminds us to be patient as we journey in the spiritual realm. God's love reminds us to be stable even when things don't seem clear in the initial process. We all confront fundamental human quandaries about our lives and seek and need sources of meaning, hope, purpose, and connection. Failure to find these may contribute to anxiety and despair. As we navigate through the labyrinths in our lives, reflect on Psalm 16:8, "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my hand, I will not be shaken." We of the ONE in Christ Committee welcome ideas and topics to explore with regard to our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Please contact one of us with something of interest to you: Sandi Blakey, Shirley Crane, Lee Ann Daigle, Barb Hach, John Kubiniec, Abbey Mayer, Alissa Mayer.





Women's Circles

King Circle will meet in the Memorial Room at 10:00 am on Thursday, May 8th. The program will be a Bible Study titled "Growing in Christ" by Connie Rice.

Naomi Circle is meeting on Wednesday, May 14th at 1:00 pm in the Memorial Room for a book share.

Rachel Circle will not meet in May.



Women's Bible Study

Put on your "walking shoes" as during the month of May, the Women's Bible Study will follow four studies on *Walking*. They are the beginning of a series of small group Bible Studies by Rick Gillespie-Mobley, pastor of Roxbury Presbyterian Church (ECO) in Boston, MA. Each lesson is "designed for transformation as well as for biblical knowledge".

- 5/6 "Walking by Faith"
- 5/13 "Walking by the Spirit"
- 5/20 "Walking Worthy"
- 5/27 "Walking in Love"

The annual brunch will be held on June 3rd at 9:30 am in the Memorial Room. Anyone who has participated this year is very welcome to come as we finish the year together.



Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday School will meet on May 11th and 18th.

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



SHINE - Church School News



The early Christians are, in a sense, God's early children. The New Testament records their adventures, struggles, and victories. Children in class will meet and learn from several of these examples. Philip will teach them to follow where God leads, and Peter will teach them that God loves all people.

- May 4** Crafts and Games with Mrs. Galen
- May 11** Bells and Chimes with Mrs. Anderson
- May 18** Bible Lesson: It's good to follow where God leads us. Acts 8: 26-40
- May 25** Bible Lesson: God loves all people the same. Acts 10:1-48

So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless
1 Corinthians 15:58

The Bible tells us that God sent Jesus to tell us about God, and Jesus is sending us now to tell others about God. Our lesson this month will teach children that a disciple is somebody who loves Jesus and follows him. God wants us to tell people about Jesus and make them disciples so they can love and follow Jesus too. Missionaries are sent all over the world to tell of God's love. We can be missionaries too.

- June 1** Bible Lesson: Tell of God's Love – Missionaries tell others about God's love. How can we be Missionaries?
- June 8** Music Sunday – **No SHINE class.**
- June 15** Last Class: **Pancake Party!**



Life is better with **PANCAKES**

Mark Your Calendars for VBS!



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!

Getting to Know You

A Peek into the Life of Fred Denson

Many of you know him as the “church attorney” or WPC’s representative to the august larger Presbyterian Church bureaucratic bodies known as the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Synod of the Northeast, and General Assembly of the PCUSA, but did you also know he was a local television celebrity for 9 years?! Neither did I! Hosting a weekly half-hour show, “Black Dimensions”, Fred highlighted accomplishments and success stories of the black community both in and out of Rochester, a natural corollary to the path of Fred Denson’s life.

Growing up in Western Pennsylvania – New Brighton, one of many steel towns at that time - Fred attended the Wayman Chapel A.M.E. church where his mother was organist, choir director, and youth choir director. As fate would have it, his future wife, Kathy, attended the same church and was promptly “recruited” by Mom! Kathy was a native Georgian but had followed her brothers North when they came to look for work in the steel mills. Fred and Kathy met Easter Sunday in 1956 and developed their relationship while Fred attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, New York. Between his exploits on the football field as a running back and on the track as a sprinter, he found time to study Chemical Engineering. He also joined ROTC, so when he graduated in 1959, he was not only an engineer but a commissioned officer in the US Army. In his last semester at RPI, recruiters, including Kodak, came to interview upcoming graduates. Here, Fred experienced the reality of the color barrier firmly in place in the early 60’s. The Kodak recruiter told him Kodak “could” hire him, but there were few black professionals at Kodak at that time, and that his social life would probably be very limited. Ultimately, it was the Navy that put Fred to work developing a solid rocket fuel for the Polaris missile for use on submarines. When he married Kathy in 1960, he relocated to Fort Knox and served as an officer for a unit of several tanks.

Upon fulfilling his obligation to the Navy, they moved to Washington, where Fred attended Georgetown University Law School. Fred became a patent attorney, which was probably the most in-demand type of attorney at that time. When he graduated in 1966, Kodak came calling again, along with DuPont, Corning Glass, Ralston Purina, and others. This time, Kodak had a better atmosphere at the company, along with the best offer.

He and Kathy initially moved to an apartment in the City of Rochester, but in 1968, they bought their home on John Glenn Blvd., where Fred lives to this day. They attended an A.M.E. church in the city, but when their Boy Scout son, Terry, participated in a Scout Sunday celebration at Webster Presbyterian Church, Mom and Dad were there to support Terry and the troop. They started attending WPC more and more regularly after that. Kathy joined the choir, and Fred, never one to shirk from leadership, knowledge, or responsibility, started as an Elder on Session. His prodigious church-service career only mushroomed from there. He became Chair of the Presbytery and Synod Personnel Committees, WPC’s Presbytery representative, followed by Moderator of Presbytery.

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Church Family News

In March we prayed for:

Jim Pearson

New Address:

Barb Hall
900 Cherry Ridge Blvd.
MC 5
Webster, NY 14580

Lectionary Readings

May 4

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Old Testament | Isaiah 61:1-3 |
| Psalm | Psalm 30 |
| New Testament | Acts 9:1-20 |
| Gospel | John 21:1-19 |

May 11

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Old Testament | Isaiah 53:1-6 |
| Psalm | Psalm 23 |
| New Testament | Acts 9:36-43 |
| Gospel | John 10:22-30 |

May 18

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Old Testament | Leviticus 19:9-18 |
| Psalm | Psalm 24:1-6 |
| New Testament | Acts 11:1-18 |
| Gospel | John 13:31-35 |

May 25

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Old Testament | Deuteronomy 34:1-12 |
| Psalm | Psalm 67 |
| New Testament | Acts 16:9-15 |
| Gospel | John 5:1-9 |

Memory Verse

*It is the Lord who goes before you.
He will be with you; he will not fail
you or forsake you.*

Do not fear or be dismayed.

Deuteronomy 31:8



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At the General Assembly level, he was recruited to serve on the General Assembly Council (GAC), serving for 6 years, including one year as Chair. While a member of GAC, he traveled extensively to various parts of the country (28 states in total) as well as mission visits to South Korea, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. He followed that up by serving for 7 years as a member of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission, the highest court in the denomination's judicial system. He was elected as Moderator (i.e., Chief Justice!) and also served on several of the denomination's church-related boards, including the Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Publishing Company (imprint for Westminster/John Knox Press), Presbyterian Outlook magazine, and San Francisco Theological Seminary Board of Trustees.

At some juncture, he re-upped on WPC Session. As an elder and as church attorney, he was actively involved in the construction of the Chapel annex as well as the acquisition of the new church organ.

Oh, and by the way, during all of his other activities, he managed to find time to establish a healthy, lively law practice in Webster and together with Kathy, have three active children (Kendra, Kelly and Terry) whom he supported and mentored as they grew into robust, productive members of society!

BUT, let's not forget the television celebrity part! Fred's journey from Pennsylvania to Troy to Fort Knox to Georgetown and ultimately to Rochester never stopped presenting him with the reality of discrimination, which came in many forms. He was most interested and committed to working on improving the situation. To that end, Fred joined several civil rights community-based organizations. He was given a leave of absence from his position as a Kodak patent attorney to serve as the Interim President of the Urban League of Rochester while its Board conducted a search for a new President. Our local news Channel 13, at the time, was running a series on community leaders and came to interview Fred

as an Urban League President and member of various organizations. When he was asked for his opinion of the state of affairs, he bluntly told them there was too much negative reporting on the Black community – all you saw was the criminal element, the bad things that happened, and he felt strongly that someone needed to show and emphasize the other side of the coin.

Well, Fred turned out to be that someone! The TV station constructed a special set for his Black Dimensions program, and for more than 400 shows, at 1:00 p.m. on Sundays, he interviewed black celebrities, artists, community leaders, government officials, school board members, and not just people from the Rochester area. His very first guest was Garth Fagan, the local dance guru, but he also interviewed Dizzy Gillespie, Count Basie, Isaiah Jackson – Assistant Director of the RPO, as well as the first black pilot and stewardess (which is what they were called back then!) that worked for American Airlines. His producer was Al White, who, for those of us old enough to remember, was the very intense investigative reporter for Channel 13 and who brought to light many issues of discrimination and just plain injustice. Fred's tenure with Channel 13 helped to enlighten many folks about the good things that happen in our community every day.

On a lighter note, and to finish this profile, Fred tells me his favorite vacation trips were when the family traveled to Hilton Head and if he could live anywhere in the world, he would choose Alaska or New Zealand (which happen to be two of my favorite locations as well – can I come too, Fred?)

Next time you see Fred, you probably ought to shake his hand and say "Thanks for everything".

"Getting to Know You" is written by Dawn Wiley and will periodically appear in *The Pathway*.

