

# Celebration of Worship

July 27, 2025

9:30 A.M.

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

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### Prelude

### Words of Welcome and Announcements

### Reflection

Carter Heyward

"We must be patient, persevering, and tender with one another and ourselves. It will take years, decades, a long time, to learn, with one another, that our power to love is stronger than the fear that festers in our alienation."

### Ringling of the Bell

### Gathering Song

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.  
I can feel God's mighty power and His grace.  
I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face.  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

### Call to Worship

Leader: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; God's glory will dwell in our land.

**People: Let us hear what God will speak!**

Leader: Righteousness and peace will kiss each other; faithfulness will spring up from the ground.

**People: Let us hear what God will speak!**

Leader: God will speak peace to God's people, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

**People: Let us hear what God will speak!**

### Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Merciful God, who are we but dust and ashes to pray on behalf of our hurting world and our wounded souls? And yet you answer on the day we call. Today we search and knock. We pray for deliverance for all those suffering under the wrath of war and violence, all those experiencing illness and famine, and all those who oppress and are oppressed. Teach us to pray, that we may know of your steadfast love and be assured of your faithfulness, for we know you will fulfill your purpose for the whole creation. Amen.**

### Hymn

*Let Us Build a House*

Insert

### Call to Confession

Leader: In confession, we tell the truth about ourselves and our broken world and the God of all Truth, who knows our limitations and loves our imperfections, has already forgiven us, and will always forgive us. Trusting in God's infinite mercy, let us dare to tell the truth in prayer together.

### Prayer of Confession

**All: God of Grace, we have harmed your children whom you love. Because we do not understand them, we segregate them, we reject them, we demonize them, and we hurt them. Forgive us, in your infinite love, and teach us to welcome all of your children until our hospitality is as wide as your mercy. Help us to understand others as we wish to be understood. Guide us to love one another as you love us.**

### Moment of Silent Reflection and Confession

### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: This is the truth: You are not the labels others place on you. You are more than the boxes you check. You are not the side of the aisle on which you stand, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. You belong to Christ, and Christ alone. Believe the good news of the gospel.

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

### Sung Response

*We Are Forgiven*

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.  
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

### Passing of the Peace

One: With thanksgiving, we rejoice in the reconciliation found in the forgiveness and love of Jesus Christ. Let us therefore be reconciled with our neighbors and share signs of Christ's peace. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

### THE WORD

### Children's Time

Stu's Corner

*"The Story of AND - the Little Word that Changed the World"*

by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

### Prayer of Illumination

Leader: Holy, Holy, Holy One, your words feed us, the Word frees us, and the Spirit gives us life. Grant our ears an appetite for hearing and our spirits strength for loving you.

**All: Amen.**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading

*Nehemiah 13:23-27*

### Special Music

*"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"*

Kathy Barbehenn, soloist

Martin & Gabriel

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading**      *Galatians 3:23-29*

**Sermon**      *"Living as One"*      Rev. Susan Frost  
*"For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith."*  
*Galatians 3:26*

**RESPONDING IN LOVE**

**Hymn**      *You Walk Along Our Shoreline*      Insert

**Sharing Joys and Concerns and Lighting of Prayer Candles**

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**Invitation to the Offering**

Leader: As we wait for the coming of God's good reign, we answer the invitation to take part in God's work, bringing our tithes and offerings with joyful gratitude.

**Sung Response**      *Give Thanks*

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;  
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, the Son.  
And now let the weak say, "We are strong";  
Let the poor say, "We are rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us!"  
Give thanks. Give thanks.

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

**All:**      **Lord, you are the giver of every good gift. Accept these offerings, we pray, that through them we may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our Sovereign and our God. Amen.**

**MOVING IN GOD'S WAY**

**Hymn**      *In Christ There Is No East or West*      # 439

**Charge**

Leader: Go in peace to care for those who cross your path, to give voice to those who need your help, to notice what is beautiful and what is amiss, to counter injustice and guard what is good, and to rest and work, mindful of God's desire for your health and faith.

**Sung Response**      *We Are Marching in the Light of God*

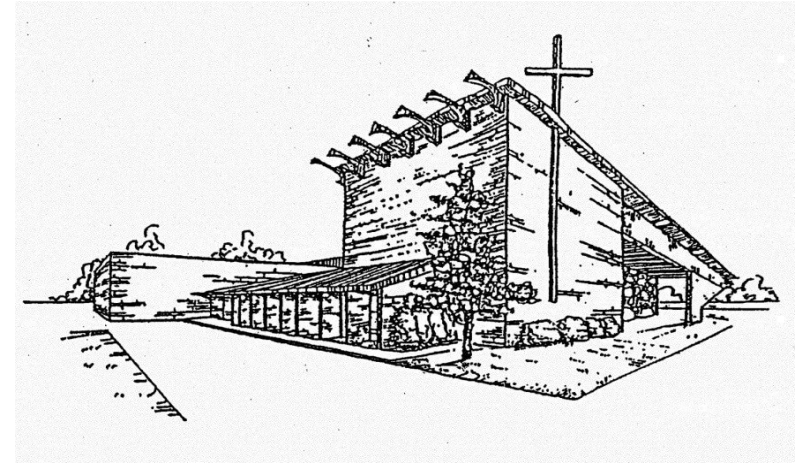
We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, marching, we are marching, oo,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, marching, we are marching, oo,  
we are marching in the light of God.

**Benediction**

Leader: May the grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, and the Holy Spirit keep you this day and forevermore.

**People: Amen.**

**WEBSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



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

Webster Presbyterian Church  
550 Webster Road  
Webster, NY 14580  
585-265-9700      [www.websterpres.org](http://www.websterpres.org)  
Stated Supply Pastor - Rev. Susan Frost

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. WELCOME to Webster Presbyterian Church! We are pleased that you are worshipping with us, whether in person or by live-streaming. You can live-stream at 9:30 or later at your leisure using:  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/Websterpres/> or  
**YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA>
2. CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS containing coloring/puzzle pages, crayons, pencils, and storybooks are available at the back of the Sanctuary for use during worship in the summer months. Please replace the tote bags when leaving so they can be replenished for the next week.
3. SCHOOL SUPPLIES for needy children served by the Williamson Come-Unity Center in Wayne County, and by Eastern Service Workers in Rochester are being collected through August 17<sup>th</sup>. Pencils, crayons, markers, glue sticks, pocket folders, scissors, rulers, index cards, wide-ruled spiral notebooks, all in small, individual sizes or containers, computer earbuds/headphones, and especially backpacks are needed. Look for the school bus in the Narthex to place your donations!
4. THE 2025 SUMMER MISSION PROJECT is underway now until the end of August. Monies collected will be divided between the Thogoto School in Kenya in memory of Eleanor Scott, and the Webster Community Chest in memory of Joyce Tompkins. We praise and thank all who have so far contributed \$7570, which puts us three-quarters of the way toward this year's goal of \$10,000.
5. A LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE is being formed to look at the current and future needs of WPC in a rapidly changing environment. Members representing all ages and interests in the church are needed. If you are interested in being part of this group, please see Pastor Susan or call the church office.
6. THE MISSION COMMITTEE recently made a contribution from our extra gifts to Hands Along the Nile to help women in Egypt who need training to learn a craft or another basic job to help their family earn a living. Our contribution of \$500 was matched by another organization!
7. FRIENDS AT HOME - The Deacons are reminding you to keep our Friends at Home in your thoughts and prayers. We would especially like to remember these church members on their birthdays. There is a basket of cards available for your use in the Narthex. It has been moved to the large welcome desk by the north entrance. Feel free to choose a card from the basket to remember these important members of our church. Addresses and birthdays for these folks can also be found in the basket. There are non-birthday cards too, if you would just like to send a note. We thank you for your help with this project.

## This Week's Calendar

### Sunday, July 27

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 10:45 A.M. Sermon Discussion in the Sanctuary

### Tuesday, July 29

- 4:00 P.M. Memorial Service for Dean Echevarria in the Sanctuary
- 5:00 P.M. TOPS in Room 9/10
- 6:00 P.M. Webster Theater Guild in the Social Room

### Wednesday, July 30

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Breakfast/Bible Study at Golden Boys Restaurant
- 5:30 P.M. Nar-Anon in Room 9/10

### Thursday, July 31

- 7:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study on Zoom
- 6:00 P.M. Webster Theater Guild in the Social Room

### Saturday, August 2

- 9:00 A.M. Prayer Time on Zoom
- 10:00 A.M. Church of God by Faith in the Social Room & Kitchen

### Sunday, August 3

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-streamed
- 5:00 A.M. Webster Theater Guild in the Social Room

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## Lectionary Passages

	<u>July 27<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>August 3<sup>rd</sup></u>
Old Testament	<i>Hosea 1:2-10</i>	<i>Hosea 11:1-11</i>
Psalms	<i>Psalms 85</i>	<i>Psalms 107:1-9, 43</i>
New Testament	<i>Colossians 2:6-15</i>	<i>Colossians 3:1-11</i>
Gospel	<i>Luke 11:1-13</i>	<i>Luke 12:13-21</i>

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## Memory Verse

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.  
Psalm 100:1-2*

## Sermon Study Questions July 27<sup>th</sup>

1. Contradictions: Two weeks ago, we read *Isaiah* 56:1-8 about God's envisioned inclusion of "foreigners" and "eunuchs." At the time, I suggested that I wasn't sure this was actually implemented. Today, we read from *Nehemiah*.
  - A. How did you feel after hearing this text read?
  - B. Nehemiah seems pleased with himself...he asked God to remember him for good. What do you think about Nehemiah's actions?
  - C. Flip the story around. If you had been one of the Jews who had "intermarried," how would you feel at having to be "cleansed?" How about the son of Jehoiada who was "chased" away?
  - D. Can you see "two sides" to this story? Explain why it is important to consider the perspective of a writer and how their writing "colors" our perceptions. Can you name other times this happens in the Bible? In life?
2. Apologetics is the reasoned defense and explanation of a particular belief, often in a religious context, to those who hold different views or have questions about it. It involves systematically presenting arguments and evidence to support a particular position, address criticisms, and clarify misunderstandings. The term originates from the Greek word "apologia," meaning a verbal defense or justification.

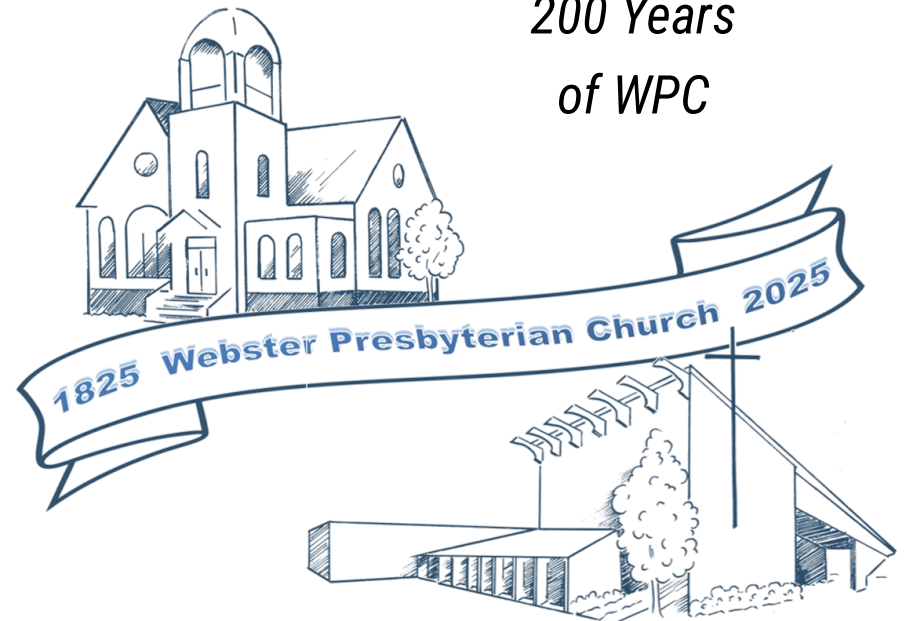
In his book *Transforming*, Austen Hartke makes the point that those from the LGBTQI2A community end up spending much of their time doing apologetics and defending themselves. Almost every book has a chapter that explains why the story of Sodom and Gomorrah is not about same gender relationships or why God's creation of Adam and Eve doesn't mandate the existence of only two sexes. He asks the questions, "But if we spend all our time focusing on what's wrong, how do we do what's right? When do we get to see the Bible as a life-giving fount of grace for all people? When do we get to hear God speaking into our lives if we're focused on proof-texting our arguments?"

Austen makes the argument that time, resources and talents are being wasted over apologetics, rather than simply being genuinely welcoming. What specific things has WPC done to make itself a more "affirming" community for LGBTQI2A?

3. What do you think about the statement, "Too often the church is a stumbling block that catches the feet of LGBTQI2A people on the road to God, rather than the sanctuary that houses the fountain of living water." What more could WPC be doing to be a "sanctuary that houses the fountain of living water?"
4. Are you prepared to counter transphobic lies and misconceptions that you may encounter in conversation or on social media? What reliable resources can you lean on if you have questions, or need to understand the arguments better?

# It's a Celebration!

## 200 Years of WPC



How many years has it been for you?

What can you share?

What brought you here?

What makes us dear to you?

We would like to include comments/stories from you in our 200th Anniversary Booklet!

Send us your stories by email to the Anniversary Committee at [elainew@rochester.rr.com](mailto:elainew@rochester.rr.com) or to the church office.

Please submit your comments/stories by August 15th.

200 Years  Still Building

On this rock I will build my church Matthew 16:18b