



The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

September 2025

Vol. LV No. 7

Dear WPC family,

I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing summer - whether spent enjoying the weather, the outdoors, alone or with family and friends. No matter what, Summer allows for a break from the regular routine - and for the enjoyment of God's creation. I want to welcome everyone back as we start a new Fall season - Bells and Choir will return - Shine starts - Committees, Circles, Bible Study, and Youth and Adult Sunday School begin again. I look forward to seeing you all as you return!

Communion Part II: Christian Tradition

(*Information is taken from *Introducing the Reformed Faith* by Donald McKim, pages 141-152)

The Lord's Supper was central to the worshiping life of early Christian communities. Originally, the meal symbolized the unity of all believers in Jesus Christ. Eventually, the emphasis changed toward emphasizing the elements of bread and wine. Two important ways of understanding the nature of the Supper and the relation of Christ to the bread and wine emerged:

1. Realist Theory: The bread and the wine undergo a transformation after they are consecrated. When the Holy Spirit is invoked, the elements are changed and become the body and blood of Christ.
2. Symbolic View: This was an alternative view that interpreted Jesus' words about eating his flesh and drinking his blood in a spiritual sense; the "flesh" and "blood" are Jesus' teachings. The elements in the meal are not changed.

In the Middle Ages, these two streams of understanding became distinct and systematized. Transubstantiation became the official view of the Roman Catholic Church at the Fourth Lateran Council (1215) and reaffirmed at the Council of Lyons (1274). This view came from Peter Lombard, who argued that the "substance" (inner reality) of the wine and bread was changed, while the outward appearance remained the same. When the words "This is my body broken for you," and "This is my blood shed for you," were spoken, the bread and the wine were "transubstantiated by the divine power." The body and the blood of Christ are present in a different mode than as a physical object. There is a "real presence" of Jesus Christ - present both in heaven and in the bread and wine - a mystery. Martin Luther rejected the transubstantiation of the Roman Catholic Church; he thought this was a "monstrous idea." Luther did believe that the real presence of the Body of Christ was necessary in the Lord's Supper in order for salvation and the forgiveness of sins to occur.

Continued on pg. 2

**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.



September

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

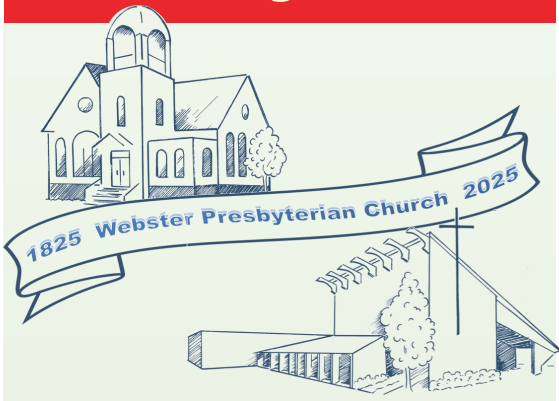


Regular Office Hours

resume on **September 2nd.**
The church office is open
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and
Thursdays from **9:00 am till
3:00 pm.**



Celebrating 200 Years



If you have been reading *The Pathway* this year, you know that we are officially celebrating the 200th anniversary of our congregation on September 21st at the 9:30 worship service. Over the last eight months, we have offered stories about our church in *The Pathway* and during worship services through what we called, "Reflecting on 200 Years." One of the many stories that hasn't been told yet is about the bell that is mounted in the tower at the south church entrance. That bell was gifted to the church by the estate of John Palmer. At one time, the bell was part of a Carillon at the University of Rochester. The tower was built especially for that bell and connected electronically to the pulpit so we can ring it as part of our worship service. There are so many more stories of the church that we have learned and could still be told. As we look forward to the beginning of the third century of WPC, we remember the past and we look to the future and the work of a long range planning committee that is being formed by Pastor Susan.

Following the service on September 21st you are invited to stay for a time to tour different areas of the church to learn what happens in those areas, and to view art work and gifts made to the church over the years. You will be able to see certain artifacts from the old church on Main Street. This will be followed by a luncheon at noon to continue the celebration. If you plan to attend the luncheon, we ask that you sign up in the Narthex or call the church office at 585-265-9700 by September 15th. We hope we will see you on September 21st!

A Letter from the Pastor continued

He taught that Christ is bodily present, yet the elements are untransformed. God dwells "in" and "under" the elements of the bread and wine, like the eternal God has become a human being in the man Jesus.

Reformed theologians didn't always agree with Martin Luther nor with each other about the presence of Christ in the Supper. Another theologian, Zwingli of Zurich, believed that Faith was the essential thing in the Supper. He didn't believe that God's Spirit could be tied down to any particular rituals or ceremonies, or sacraments. As a result, the bread and the wine are symbolic - they point beyond themselves to a higher, salvation-giving reality. The elements themselves could never be bearers of the divine salvation. When Jesus said, "This is my body," it was to be taken as a metaphor. The Supper is an act of thanksgiving for the gospel; it does not offer the gospel itself. So, for Luther, it was "This is my body." For Zwingli, it was "Do this in remembrance of me."

John Calvin didn't believe in transubstantiation, but he didn't agree with Zwingli or Luther either. He believed that Jesus Christ was genuinely present in the Lord's Supper, but he is not physically or substantially present in the elements themselves. For Calvin, the Supper is a means through which the benefits of Christ's death are imparted to those who receive the Supper in faith. The sacrament is given "for us." "This is my body which is given for you." "This is my blood, which is shed for you." Thus, for Calvin, not only do the elements in the Supper "represent" Christ's death for us, they also "present" it to us so that by eating and drinking in faith, we gain the benefits of the salvation Christ has accomplished. It becomes both a "sign" and a "seal." Thus, it is a "badge of faith" or sign for the world and it is a seal in that it communicates the benefits of Jesus Christ of which the bread and the wine are symbols. By truly partaking of Christ, his life passes into us and is made ours, like the elements impart vigor into our body. Christ is present to the believer through faith, through the work of the Holy Spirit in the sacramental experience, and through the Word of God that is proclaimed in preaching.

Currently, Protestants are not permitted to share in the Supper (Eucharist) in a Roman Catholic service. Some Protestant churches "fence the table." Only persons of that denomination are invited to the table. All agree that "faith" is necessary for the right participation in the sacrament. Yet, disagreements continue about the nature of faith; does this mean believing certain doctrines? Is it trust? Is faith possible for children? All these ongoing issues still divide churches. In many places, the traditional atmosphere of somberness and sobriety has shifted to more joy and celebration. There is a renewed emphasis on the future dimension of the Supper, with worshipers invited to the table with the words:

"Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God." (151)

McKim ends by emphasizing that the Lord's Supper is God's gracious provision through the Holy Spirit for Jesus' followers to receive the benefits of his death, to be nourished by Christ's presence now, and to anticipate the coming fullness of the reign of God. Our perceptions of what happens at this "spiritual banquet" are important - but ultimately, what occurs is a mystery.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Susan

A Note from Session



Are you ready? Okay! One, two three, go! It's September already and a new Church year has begun. Once again, a "new beginning".

We are followers of Jesus Christ, and our doors are open wide while we await new adventures in our church and community. We are children of Jesus Christ, and we welcome all. We welcome our nuclear families and our extended families, and our families related by the love of His son who died for us. We welcome old members and new members and visitors who might become members or at least become siblings in Christ.

We welcome the children. Shine is back for our PreK - 5 kiddos. We welcome our youth. Their Sunday school teachers have been planning classes to challenge and encourage their growth as loving, sharing children of a benevolent Father.

We welcome Abby, our new organist. Recommended by Kat and approved by the Worship and Music Committee, Abby is terrific. A new friend, she is now family too.

So much to think about...it's all about the love and the hope and the prayers. It's all about recognizing who we are and where we are going and how we are going to get there. It is about sustainability. We have a new Long-range Planning Committee to investigate just these questions. If you think this is for you, please contact Pastor Frost.

Our PNC is busily meeting and interviewing and searching for our next installed pastor. Pray for them; it's not an easy job.

State Road kids still need new and gently used books. Many of those we have supplied have been given new homes with children who proudly read the books they really own. There is a box in the Narthex for your contributions. Think of shopping at Savers or the Library to find gently-used books at a good price.

Hope House continues to serve the Webster Community and WPC continues to support with food, used clothing and toiletries. Please help where you can.

The "all church" Nominating Committee is ready to get to work. Trustees, Deacons and Session all need your help. We are friends and neighbors working together to create a vibrant, growing and welcoming house of God. Please prayerfully consider where you can best help.

And are you ready? Are you set? Then...GOOOO!! Webster Presbyterian Church is 200 years old. September 21st is the day we will honor this occasion with prayer, music, and celebration. Special guests will join us to reminisce, reconnect and just have fun. A catered meal is planned with good food and fellowship while we all give thanks and pray for a future filled with the absolute glory and love of the Triune God. See you there!

Kathy Barbehenn

Clerk of Session

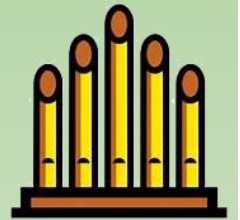
Trustees' Corner

Welcome back! The Trustees are glad to see everyone after a long, hot summer.



We were busy with two large projects over the summer months. The new parking lots received their first sealing and line painting. We also started the

organ project. John Wilbert and Bob Smith headed to Ohio to pick up the parts during the last week in August. The parts are scheduled to be installed in the first week of September. We hope to have the organ back in good working order by the second Sunday in September.



While we are enjoying the last bits of summer, it's time for us to start thinking about the seasons ahead. Soon, we will start planning for our Fall Workday. There will be leaves to rake, windows to clean, and corners to dust. Please look for more details in the bulletin announcements and in next month's *Pathway*.

**The OCTOBER
Pathway deadline for articles
is SEPTEMBER 20th.**

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



Spiritual Nurture

This is Bob Blakey, a member of your Spiritual Nurture Committee (SNC). Spiritual growth is a lifelong journey that is at the heart of our relationship with God through his son, Jesus the Christ. Our church helps us with this journey, but ultimately it is very personal. The Spiritual Nurture Committee is focused on helping all of us find the special ways God wants to grow in relationship with us.

This past year, we have shared weekly prayers (Prayer of the Week), suggested scripture to memorize, and offered multiple approaches to contemplation, including walking the labyrinth. We will continue sharing methods that we believe will help your personal faith journey.

Many, perhaps most of us, find challenges on our journey. It might be our stage of life, the world situation, or personal matters that separate us from acknowledging the many blessings God shares with us.

Here are a couple of thoughts that I have found to be helpful. The first is the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr, which you probably know. It reminds me of the realities of life, the call to action, and reliance on God's wisdom.

God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

- Reinhold Niebuhr, 1943 (Considered by his daughter to be his finest version)

The second suggestion is looking at new resources to enhance personal faith growth. I have been reading the daily devotion and accessing the support materials available through the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) with Richard Rohr for several years. The CAC site has been very helpful for me as well as other members of our congregation. It is free and can be accessed online at <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/>.

I think you will be encouraged and challenged by the devotions. In addition, the support materials found at the bottom of the devotion provide guided contemplation examples, new ways to experience spiritual growth, and tools to help see the world through Jesus' eyes.

Throughout the year, SNC will share other resources to grow our relationship with God.

Deacons' Doings

Friends at Home: Thank you to those who have picked up the addresses for our Friends at Home. Our friends so appreciate a note from their WPC friends. Ruth Fischer and Ruth Huboi have birthdays in September. Pick up a card and let them know you are thinking of them.

Food Barrel: Our congregation is truly amazing. You've kept us busy emptying the Food Barrel bins. Thank you!

With your donations, the Deacons have been able to make several donations at the Webster Library and Hope House. Please, no perishable treats at this time.

This month, Hope House could use some toothpaste and toothbrushes. We are still collecting diaper wipes and size 6 diapers. Our focus will continue to be at the Webster Library Food cupboard (located just outside its doors) and Phillips Village. All non-food items will go to Hope House.

Thank you for generously giving to our community.



ONE in Christ

I was at my Silver Sneakers Yoga class at the YMCA last week, and, as part of her welcome, the instructor began by stating that the Y is a welcoming, inclusive community space. It reminded me of the purpose of our ONE in Christ Committee:

"...to support our LGBTQIA+ siblings as we continue to foster an inclusive and compassionate community, rooted in faith, through education and advocacy."

It also reminded me of our Webster Presbyterian Church Identity Statement:

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

The Presbyterian Church USA is showing its affirmation by hosting the 2025 National Queer Presbyterian Gathering: Abiding in Truth and Love, at the Presbyterian (U.S.A.) Center in Louisville, KY, November 18-20, 2025. It will consist of three days of interactive workshops, strategizing, and community building. (<https://pcusa.org/nqpg>) In "my day," the word "queer" was a derogatory term. According to ChatGPT, in the 1980s and 1990s, it began to be reclaimed and embraced as a symbol of pride and resistance. Today, it serves as an inclusive, umbrella term for diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Its acceptance varies by individual and context due to its historical use as a slur.

As always, your ONE in Christ Committee seeks to strengthen our church's commitment to affirm and to welcome all of God's children.

I'm Barb Hach. Thank you for your kind attention.





Women's Circles

Naomi Circle - Let's Celebrate WPC Women !

Presbyterian Women, you are invited to a Women's Association and Circle Memory Gathering. In honor of Webster Presbyterian Church's 200th Anniversary, we will have brief histories of WPC Women's Association, Naomi Circle, King Circle and Rachel Circle. There will be displays from past Women Association events, and feel free to bring mementos that you have! If you have a memory to share we will have time to do that! Come and join in Fellowship with your faithful Presbyterian friends. We will gather in the Social Room at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, September 10th. Cookies and punch will be served. All are welcome! The more the merrier!

King Circle will meet on Thursday, September 11th, at 10:00 am in the Memorial Room. Shirley Crane will be giving a program on "Noticing ways the Lord may have been in our lives over the Summer".

Rachel Circle will meet on Monday, September 29th at 6:00 pm in the Memorial Room for a Pot-Luck Supper.



Heart and Hand

Heart and Hand will begin its new season on September 19th at 10 am with a favorite project: making pillowcases for both our church's college freshmen and for "Ryan's Case for Smiles," a national organization that provides pillowcases to children with cancer. In Rochester, these donations go directly to Golisano Children's Hospital at Strong. All are welcome to join Heart and Hand members in Room 5 of Webster Presbyterian Church for what promises to be a meaningful and enjoyable project.

Our group gathers on the third Friday morning of each month during the school year. Each meeting begins with a devotion and a time to share joys or concerns before we start sewing. There are tasks for every skill level, and all tools and supplies are provided. We warmly invite anyone interested to attend.

If you wish to receive announcements about our monthly meetings, please email Tina McNeary at tmcneary@gmail.com.



Women's Bible Study



"POWER" is the one-week topic for study on September 9th. The invitation to participate is for all

women of the church, visitors, and friends. This fall, we will begin a lengthy study of the Book of Isaiah, the most prominent of the major prophets. What were his messages from God to the people of Judah? What was happening in Jerusalem and the surrounding nations? Why did God summon Isaiah? Join us in Room 9/10 starting September 9th at 9:00! Bring a Bible and a beverage as we learn and discuss together, whether you are a beginner or a longtime member.

Library News

Fall is fast approaching. As we all get back to our normal schedules and cooler days arrive, think about finding a good read from the church library.



There are Bible studies, fiction novels, devotionals, small group materials, and many books for spiritual growth.

On the display shelf you may find a devotional such as:

Walking with Jesus. Devotions for Autumn by Guide Posts - A faith-based story for each day in Autumn will guide you as you think about gratitude and Thanksgiving.

Or if you like poetry you might find:

New and Selected Poems by Mary Oliver - 30 poems that will show you the extraordinary in daily life. She writes of the bonds between all living things.

Come browse our shelves.

Missing DVD Series

Does anyone have the DVD series "The Seven Churches of Revelation" by Pastor David Jeremiah? Sally Turner thinks she let someone borrow it but cannot remember who. Please contact her or the church office if you find it.



Handbell Choirs

There are three handbell choirs here at Webster Presbyterian Church. Their information and rehearsal schedule follows:

The Family Bell Choir: This is a beginner's choir. It is made up of anyone in the WPC family who would like to learn about ringing. Rehearsals are after worship on Sundays. Generally **we rehearse from 10:45 to 11:30 in the Sanctuary** (when it is available). **Rehearsals begin on October 5th. See contact information below.**

Glory Bells: This choir rings level 2+ and Level 3 music. The choir is made up of ringers from different churches, including our own. It does not play in worship, but instead does outreach to nursing homes and senior living spaces. We play 3 concerts at Christmas and 3 concerts in the spring. **Rehearsals are Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00. Rehearsals begin on September 25th.**

Alleluia Bells: This is the main bell choir for Webster Presbyterian. We play on 5 octaves of bells and chimes, with chimes extending 2 octaves below the 5 octave set. There is an opening in this choir. Ability to read music helps. The choir plays in church once a month and at other special times throughout the year including Christmas Eve and Easter. **Our rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:15 in the Sanctuary. Rehearsals begin on August 28th.**

Contact information:

Jackie Anderson - cell: (585) 703-2381
home: (585) 265-9054
email: jktanderson42@gmail.com

September Bell Choir Rehearsals

Glory Bells: Thursdays in the Sanctuary
9:00 am - Sept. 25

Alleluia Bells: Thursdays in the Sanctuary 6:00 pm -
Sept. 4, 11, 18, and 25



Worship and Music

Welcome to Our New Organist

The Music and Worship Committee is excited to welcome Abby Crafton to our music staff at WPC! Abby is a second year organ student at the Eastman School of Music. She has studied piano since the age of three and singing since the age of four. Abby began organ lessons when she was 10 years old and never looked back! She has been a frequent winner in American Guild of Organists and Young Artist competitions. Earlier this year Abby had the exciting honor of performing with the Canadian Brass. She is an enthusiastic recitalist and served as the Organ Scholar at the Cathedral at Basilica of St. John the Baptist in Savannah, Georgia before moving to Rochester. Abby comes from a large family of eight musicians and a spoiled Maltese dog named Gio. In her spare time, she enjoys walking, running, hiking, video games, the beach, and coffee with friends. We anticipate that Abby's first Sunday with us will be August 31st. Please make sure you introduce yourself or join her for a cup of coffee in the Narthex!

Webster Festival of Choirs Returns

In other joyful music news... the Webster Festival of Choirs is returning! After a long hiatus, our local choir directors met and are eagerly planning a musical worship service for our community. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 2nd at 4:00 pm. The service and festival will be held at Webster Methodist Church, 169 East Main.

Join the Choir

Do you have a friend who sings in our choir? Would you like to? We would LOVE to get to know you better! Please consider joining our friendly group and helping to praise our loving God through music. The choir meets on Sunday mornings at 8:15 in the Sanctuary. We are a warm and welcoming bunch who come from a variety of musical backgrounds. No choir experience is required! We would love to have you. You can call Lee Ann Daigle at 585-899-0120 or email ladaigle65@gmail.com with questions...or speak to any of our choir members! Our Sunday rehearsals will begin on September 7th.

Learning for a Lifetime

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

It's September and time to go back to school, and time for Adult Christian Education after worship. Topics will include: discussion of Scripture, current events, justice issues, books, DVDs and more. Please join the group in Room 9/10 at 10:45.

September 14 The Nicene Creed, the 1700th Anniversary

September 21 WPC 200th Anniversary Celebration

September 28 Into the Mess by Debie Thomas book discussion

"Abide" p. 144 & "The Bothersome Widow", p. 147

Mission Update

Summer Mission Giving

In the spring, the Mission Committee, with approval from Session, selected two projects for our church family's Summer Mission giving. The Thogoto School in Kenya was selected to honor long time WPC and Mission Committee member Eleanor Scott. The money raised will help to fulfill their wish list of providing computers and sewing machines for the students. The Webster Community Chest was chosen in memory of Joyce Thompkins who was also a long-time member of WPC as well as the Mission Committee. Joyce spent many years working with the Webster Food Cupboard. The money raised will help support the food needs of the residents here in Webster. We are well on our way to achieving our goal of \$10,000! The last day of our Summer Mission Campaign is August 31, 2025. Thank you to all who have so generously contributed.

School Supplies

The Mission Committee is happy to share that 180 backpacks as well as numerous other school supplies were collected this summer. The supplies were distributed to Williamson Come-Unity Center and Eastern Service Workers. Thank you for all the contributions. What a blessing, knowing we are helping students get a strong start to the new school year!

Kenya Students Fund Contributions

As you know, one-half of this year's Summer Mission project will be donated to the Thogoto School in Kenya, directed by Grace Kaigai. These funds will provide equipment to help the students develop skills that can be utilized after they finish their 8th grade education.

In addition to this support, our church has sponsored the most deserving student from each graduating class to continue with a four-year high school education. This is made possible through donations from the congregation throughout the year. Please keep in mind this is a separate need from the recent Summer Mission appeal. Please specify that the donation is for the Kenya Students Fund if you wish to contribute. The Mission Committee, Grace Kaigai, and the Thogoto School thank you for your generous support of both ministries.

Special Mission Contributions in August

At our August meeting, the Mission Committee was blessed to be able to make two additional contributions for special needs from the extra gifts we have received from members:

- 1) To Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - \$1500 for relief for victims of the severe flooding in the hill country of Texas that occurred in early July (the congregation is also being given the opportunity to individually donate to this urgent need).
- 2) To Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Rochester - \$500 to help support the 3 free community breakfasts that they serve each month.

We Praise the Lord for inspiring those members who give extra contributions to the Mission Committee so that we can make extra contributions like the above!

Giving Opportunity for Hands Along the Nile

For several years, through the Mission Committee, WPC has been providing support to Hands Along the Nile. This organization provides micro-loans to individuals (mostly women) in Egypt to help them start or expand small businesses to help support their families. In July, the Mission Committee became aware of a one-day electronic giving opportunity to Hands Along the Nile that would be matched. We are pleased to report that \$500 was given from special gift funds the Mission Committee has received to take advantage of this opportunity. This was especially appreciated by Hands Along the Nile as they have lost \$60,000 in funding from the recent USAID funding cutbacks.

A Thank You Note from Grace Kaigai

Receive greetings from this side of the Horizon. It is so nice to hear from you too and was great meeting you all. Praise God. I came back safe and there has been a lot going on in the country. Lots of demonstrations and deaths of innocent people. Continue keeping our country in prayer. But despite all that we are continuing on well and continue looking upon our good Lord, our perfecter of our faith. Thank you so much for your good thoughts upon us. That will keep us going and I really appreciate the Mission Committee and those other members who have extended a kind hand to us.

Be blessed so, so much and pass our love to all,

Grace





Memory Verse

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13



Lectionary Readings

September 7

Old Testament	Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalms	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
New Testament	Philemon 1:1-21
Gospel	Luke 14:25-33

September 14

Old Testament	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalms	Psalms 14
New Testament	I Timothy 1:12-17
Gospel	Luke 15:1-10

September 21

Old Testament	Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1
Psalms	Psalms 79:1-9
New Testament	I Timothy 2:1-7
Gospel	Luke 16:1-13

September 28

Old Testament	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalms	Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16
New Testament	I Timothy 6:6-19
Gospel	Luke 16:19-31



Church Family News

Over the summer, we prayed for:

Abby Anderson, Pastor Larry DeVuyt, Caroline, John Bocker, Grace Kaigai, John Sankok, Nancy Granger, and the family of Chuck Durand.

We were saddened by the passing of:

Dean Echevarria on July 13th and Chuck Durand on August 19th.



Contact Us

Office phone: 585-265-9700

Office email: office@websterpres.org

Pastor Susan's email:

sfrost@websterpres.org

Church website: www.websterpres.org



SHINE - Church School Update



Our new church school year will begin on Sunday, September 7th. Children begin in worship with their family and will be dismissed to SHINE after the children's message. The SHINE class is for children PreK - 5th grade. We meet every week in Room 2 where we begin with music and prayer, followed by class time in Room 3 led by Gayl Galen and Anita Bocker.

We are made in God's image. God created us to be like him so that we can have a relationship with him. After that relationship was damaged by sin, God sent his Son, Jesus, to repair our relationship with God. That's how important we are!

September 7

Welcome Back!!

September 14

God Creates the World

September 21

Adam and Eve are tempted.

God gives us choices.

September 28

The story of Cain and Abel.

God helps us when we are angry.

Church School Stewardship

We will continue to support Maxinne Amigo in the Philippines, as well as Crackerbox Palace Animal Rescue in Alton, New York. Please help us continue our support of these outreach programs. Offering envelopes/banks are available on the table across from the CCE office. Parents, please help your children take part.

Bells and Chimes

We will continue our handbells and chimes program, led by Jackie Anderson. This will be the first Sunday of each month. Children will take part in learning the colored handbells as well as the chimes in preparation for sharing their music in worship.



Youth Christian Ed

Youth Christian Ed will begin for all youth in 6th grade and up. A schedule will be posted soon!

Getting to Know You

A Peek into the Life of Ruth Fischer

In a small town in the Midwest, Ruth Burke was born into a Scottish/Irish/English Protestant family. Her mother grew up in Aurora, Illinois. Her Dad was raised in Champaign-Urbana. Dad became a pharmacist and first taught at the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy before moving to Aurora to work in a retail pharmacy. Ruth's parents were introduced by relatives of both who thought they would hit it off, and indeed they did! The newlyweds settled down in Plainfield, Illinois where they owned and operated a Rexall Pharmacy. Shortly after Ruth was born, Dad suffered double-detached retinas and was blind for the rest of his life. Undaunted by his circumstance, and providing the ultimate example of perseverance to his children, he continued to do everything in life but drive. In order to keep the store open, Mom obtained her Pharmacy Apprentice license to help Dad run the pharmacy and Ruth's grandmother came to live with the Burkes to help raise Ruth and her older brother, Ed.

Graduating from Plainfield High School (class size 88), Ruth went on to the University of Iowa and studied food/nutrition. (Her brother became a pharmacist just like Dad!) One of Ruth's first jobs was as a "food technologist" (did you know there was such a job?, I didn't!) for Wilson Meatpackers in Chicago. Working in Chicago during the Vietnam war, she helped develop troop-friendly freeze-dried foods and TV dinner-type products. Quite frighteningly, she was also a witness to the Chicago riots, where there were tanks on every corner and soldiers with arms at the ready. She stepped away from Chicago when she accepted a job with R.T. French – working in the "mustard lab" – and moved to Rochester, NY. She lived in an apartment in Brighton, but found her way to the Young Adult Fellowship at Third Presbyterian Church where this gentleman from Massachusetts caught her eye. John Fischer attended Northeastern University and then began a PhD program at the University of Illinois, but left after completing his Masters to accept a research position at Kodak.

Ruth and John were married in 1972. They honeymooned in the Virgin Islands where John had an experience that lives on today! (keep reading!) Their daughter, Karen, was born shortly thereafter. For many years, Ruth's career path helped to fulfill her innate desire to interact with and help people. After R.T. French, she worked for the Dairy Council of Rochester whose mission was to make nutrition easy and fun. In Ruth's own words, her career to this point could be summed up with the words – Meat, Mustard, and Milk! During her tenure with the Dairy Council, she also served as President of the NYS Home Economics Association. Did you know the term "Home Economics" was first coined in Lake Placid in 1899?

During Ruth's presidency, the Association celebrated its 75th anniversary at a convention in Lake Placid. Her next step was to St. Ann's home where she supervised food service training. During this time, she managed to sandwich in a Master's degree in Adult Learning from the University of Rochester. Moving ever forward, she next applied her energies to starting her own business! With her friend/partner Celia Topping, NutriSmart, Inc. provided community-wide opportunities for nutrition education. She trained dieticians to do supermarket tours at Wegmans, and Celia wrote nutrition articles for the D&C. Her love and concern for her fellow man inspired her to teach a course at MCC about grief and loss. That concern continued during her time working for Catholic Family Center shelters in their Homeless and Housing division. During her time at CFC, she was able to successfully counsel a man to **not** violate his parole – an accomplishment she found particularly gratifying.

But for Ruth, the most meaningful part of her life probably began in the 1990's when the Fischer family took in the Abdukadir refugee family from Ethiopia. The Fischers embraced this family with their whole, loving hearts and, to this day, celebrate the accomplishments of each member. Ruth is so very proud of the children in particular, having all gone on to achieve college educations and professional success beyond. Recently she was able to travel out to Minneapolis to see the first of the next generation of Abdukadir kids graduate from High School (and receive the handknit afghan Ruth has made for every member of the family!)

Today, Ruth spends her time reading, knitting those afghans, watching ANY kind of sport on TV (she's especially fond of Women's basketball star Caitlin Clark - fellow University of Iowa grad!) and dealing with the difficulties of osteoarthritis and lipedema. She is unable to get out of the house as much as she'd like, but very thankful she is able to participate in physical therapy twice a week and remains relatively mobile. She does miss singing in the WPC choir, however, of which she was a faithful member for many, many years.

One of her favorite vacations was a family rental on Keuka Lake, but the topper, and you have to visit Ruth to actually experience it, was watching John catch a marlin on their honeymoon. Its more than 5-foot-long stuffed carcass hangs above the fireplace in the family room where it is impossible to miss!! It is quite impressive!!

"Life is a journey that you need to be accepting of and prepare for – celebrate the joys and work hard to not allow the dark side to overcome." - Ruth Burke Fischer

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