



The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

October 2025

Vol. LV No. 8

News from the Stated Supply Pastor:

In his book, *Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding*—1001 Worshipping Communities, Roger Dermody says, "...the day is past when the church could build programs and buildings, and the people would come. To make disciples for Jesus Christ today, we need a new approach to evangelism." **One thing I appreciate about the Presbyterian Church (USA) is its statement, "The church reformed, always to be reformed according to the Word of God in the power of the Spirit."** For almost two centuries, Presbyterians have responded to the call of God through mission work. We have built new faith communities and helped those communities respond to the needs of those around them. Presbyterians have provided educational ministry and medical service to people around the world. Our Presbyterian way of life overflows with a sense of responsibility to reach beyond church walls to serve the broadening community in faithful and practical ways. But new times and contexts call for new ideas and new approaches.

Dermody goes on to say, "Today's average church is burdened with financial and institutional demands. Churches focus much of their time, energy, and financial resources on building and property maintenance, and in creating and maintaining programs. The church leaders assume...people will be drawn to the congregation."

Dermody stresses that there must be a shift from an inward-focused, membership-maintenance model of church to an outward, creative, and disciple-making model. He states that fewer people are asking, "How do we do church better?" and more are asking, "How can we be church in a new way?"

Isaiah 43:18-19 says, "Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Even Isaiah, a prophet from the Old Testament, affirms that God is a God of "new things." God does not remain stagnant, and we shouldn't either. So, how would you answer the question, "How can we be church in a new way?"

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October

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

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News from the Pastor continued

As you consider this question, please keep in mind the following:

- The mission of the church includes reaching people who are disconnected from Christ and his church.
- The primary task of the church is to make disciples; Matthew 28:19 says, “go and make disciples...”
- Making disciples is not the same as making members of a church.
- Jesus calls us to more than maintain and fill church buildings.

Dermoddy references a book by George Hunter called *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West...Again*. In the book, Hunter explains how Celtic Christians lived and worked among the “unchurched” people. They lived optimistic lives in the midst of a violent and disease-ridden civilization. It was their optimism toward the goodness of God and God’s creation that was infectious. Hunter claims that contemporary Christians can learn from the Celts. They believed that belonging preceded believing. Belonging doesn’t mean joining an institution or subscribing to its beliefs. Hunter says, “It means personal knowing - living in a community that knows it is ‘on the way’, serving Christ within the indigenous patterns of life of the host culture.”

Hunter believes that this kind of community can provide today’s spiritual but not religious people with an introduction to the gospel of Christ, who came not to establish an institution, but to embrace the world in saving love. He also believes that trusted, authentic relationships shape how young adults believe. He says that today’s spiritually hungry people make heart commitments more readily than head commitments. Young adults want to experience God, not another obligation to an institution.

So, how would you answer the question, “How can Webster Presbyterian Church be church in a new way?”

In Christ, Susan



A Note from Session

*“People, people who need people,
are the luckiest people in the world....”*

I’m probably showing my age here, but when I sat down to compose this month’s note from Session, this line from Barbara Streisand’s iconic song “People” started playing in my head. Now you have to understand, Barbara Streisand was never one of my favorite vocalists, but that song, that line, just seemed to resonate.

Our beautiful Webster Presbyterian Church spent the month of September renewing friendships that rested over the summer, coming again in larger numbers to worship God and to continue and begin plans for another new church year. Our **people**, our **family**, celebrated a milestone 200 years in the making. Imagine, 200 years as a church that began with just 11 people praying together. 200 years later, we are still a congregation of people working and praying together. It was indeed a beautiful celebration of a journey of people needing people, and we of Webster Presbyterian Church are some of the luckiest people in the world.

This October, WPC will continue to work and pray together. Our PNC continues its search for a fully installed pastor. They are a small group, but they are not alone. They need our prayers and our support for the job they have accepted. Circles support each other and share their thoughts and time. Heart and Hand uses their skills and love to create beautiful things. They need each other and all of us, and they share such joy. Mission, One in Christ, Adult Ed, Children’s and Youth Ed, Stewardship and Finance, Outreach programs, Music and Worship, Membership...people working together in small groups that define us and make us whole. Read their notes; see what they are doing together.

Trustees, Deacons, and Session... small groups elected by all of us to work together to serve, organize, and protect this family in Christ. People needing people to continue, to create, to listen, to support, to pray, to support our committees, and to build. The Nominating Committee will begin its work again this month. Please look deeply into your hearts. Please consider saying “yes” if you possibly can. We are all people needing people, and we are the “luckiest people in the world.”

Kathy Barbehenn, Clerk of Session

**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.

Deacons' Doings

The Deacons are saddened by the passing of one of our members, Chuck Durand. His smile and positive attitude will be missed very much by his fellow Deacons.

We kicked off fall with our meeting on September 16th. The Deacons were excited to be able to help with the 200th birthday celebration of the church. Stay tuned for upcoming information on the Angel Tree and Christmas Poinsettia Sale.

As always, we appreciate the congregation's continued support of our Friends at Home. There are cards and birthday lists in the Narthex for your use.

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, The Hope House is in need of the following items:

Ground coffee, tea, hot chocolate, flour, sugar, cooking oil, canned peas/beets/pineapple, boxed white pasta, pasta sauce, and canned chili/beef stew/hearty varieties of soups.

Thank you for your continued support of families in need within the Webster community!

Learning for a Lifetime

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

October 5 **Mission Committee – Heritage Christian Services**

Please join the Mission Committee when we host an Adult Ed class on Sunday, October 5th, in Room 9/10. We will welcome a representative from Heritage Christian Services, who will speak about the work they do and the program they have here at WPC.

October 12 **Stewardship and Budget Presentation**

Stay in the Sanctuary following worship as we look at “200 Years of Service to God - Where will we go from here?” We will be looking at the proposed 2026 WPC budget. The presentation will also be streamed on YouTube and Facebook.

October 19 and 26

Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White: Thoughts on Religion, Morality, and Politics, a 5-week DVD series, begins October 19th. We all know America, and much of the world, is polarized! There are two sides to every issue, and each side thinks it is right and unwilling to listen to the other. We long for change. “What is at the center of people’s lives and what appeals to their most basic moral concerns and values?” Can we create a new spiritual and political language that focuses on the moral issues we face today? Come to hear Hamilton’s “radical center” concept. Can we individually and as a church start to build bridges?

Trustees' Corner

It is with great pleasure that the Trustees announce: the organ is fixed! Special thanks to John Wilbert and Bob Smith for driving to Ohio to retrieve the parts that were manufactured specifically for our organ. The parts fit, the organ tuned, and we can enjoy the melodic sounds once again. With the repair comes a word of caution: should you need to move the organ, please find a trustee or someone very familiar with its operation. The power cord is very fragile and one improper move could damage it.

Our new cooler decided to put us through our paces. It stopped working properly during the summer. Several calls later, it is fixed and working properly.

Our annual fall clean-up has been scheduled for Saturday, October 25th, with a rain date on

November 1st. As always, we welcome extra hands. There will be leaves to be raked, windows to be washed, socks to be “salted,” and if you have never salted a sock before, stop into the church on the 25th and we’ll show you how. The Trustees will provide the fuel for the morning – bagels & coffee – what more could we need? YOU; we need you to be there.

Lastly, we want to express our gratitude and appreciation to Dick Dodd. If you haven’t noticed the beautiful light fixture in the Narthex, please come see it. Dick lovingly restored the chandelier from the Main Street Church. He dedicated many hours to recreating this piece of our history to enhance our 200th anniversary celebration. Thank you, Dick!!

**The Trustees
Need YOU!
FALL WORK DAY
10/25 at 9:00**



Celebrating 200 Years

On September 21st, at the 9:30 worship service, we officially recognized and celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Webster Presbyterian Church. Pastor Susan prepared a special service for the occasion, featuring liturgies that recognized those who, over the years, have contributed to our fellowship. A new banner commemorating our anniversary, prepared by the Heart and Hand group, was displayed on the chancel. After worship, there was a “tour of the church,” giving people an opportunity to visit various areas of the church and discover some of our history shown in artwork, artifacts from the old church building on Main Street, and other memorabilia. A shopping bag with the 200th Anniversary logo and scripture, as well as a booklet with church memories, was given to those attending the luncheon. If you missed the luncheon and would like a shopping bag and memories booklet, you may find them in the church Narthex for several weeks after worship in late September and early October, or you may contact the church office. We thank all who helped make this celebration possible, including Pastor Susan, Session, the Board of Trustee, the Board of Deacons, at least two women’s circles, Heart and Hand members, the office staff, and Committee Members Tony Hubbard, Joyce Bradstreet, Fred Denson, Dick Dodd, Elaine Wilbert, Sally Jamison, Gayl Galen, and Christine Schaller.

See photos to the right and on page 5.



From left to right:
the choir sings during our special worship service,
anniversary banner created by Heart and Hand,
gift to our congregation from our Presbytery Representative, Christine Hines

Spiritual Nurture

Thanks so much to all of you who responded to the Spiritual Nurture Committee’s (SNC) question: “What brings you closer to God?” And a special thank you to Pastor Susan for allowing time during worship to write your answers on the 3x5 cards!

- Overall, the greatest response was in the area of *personal devotions*: silent prayer, quiet reflection, meditation, and praise.
- Next came *fellowship*, being in community with other followers, learning and growing together, building relationships with our church family.
- Being in *nature* was high on the list, along with *music* of all kinds, art, dance, and movies with a message.
- *Corporate worship*, Bible study, reading and interpreting scripture, book studies, and group discussions about faith were frequent mentions.
- *Watching children and grandchildren grow and learn* how to be a good friend, learning about the teachings of Christ, working together, and what it means to belong to a community; hearing children’s *laughter*; a new baby.
- Using God-given talents in *service to others*, *belief* in God’s love and forgiveness, and the comfort it brings, *feeling God’s presence* in everyday experiences were expressed.
- *Sharing the word of God*, sorrow in the loss of a loved one, following Christmas and Easter *traditions* with familiar hymns.
- *Standing up for morality, ethics, and justice* in public life; promoting justice, love, and acceptance; welcoming others in a non-judgmental way.
- Hearing stories about how God has touched the lives of others.
- *Mission trips, WWJD, Small Groups.*

Your SNC (Bob Blakey, Nancy Duquette, and Barb Hach) hopes to use these responses to bring you resources via the Pathway and Adult Ed programs to enhance and enrich your spiritual experience, bringing you closer to God.



The bell choir joins the chancel choir for a hymn during worship. Many enjoyed the food, fellowship and memories shared during the luncheon.

Worship and Music

Organ Repairs and Recital Series

We're excited that the organ repairs are complete! Our thanks and gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this happen. Now we can really enjoy the musical gifts Abby has to share with us on our beautiful instrument, and it is ready for the first concert of our church's Organ Recital Series:

Save the Date and Invite your Friends!
Sunday, October 19th at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Featuring our own organist, Abby Crafton

We are pleased to invite the Webster community to hear our talented, young organist present music that is not usually heard on Sunday mornings.

Join Us!



As we settle back into routine, and perhaps look for new routines, we'd like to share a reminder on some ways you can participate in worship and music. We'd love for your voice to be heard, however you're called to share it! Our choir and bell choirs are always looking for new members. Come give it a try; you don't need to read music or even sing well. If speaking is more your style, sign up to be a liturgist and help lead the service. You can also join our committee (we meet monthly on Zoom), or just share your feedback and help shape meaningful services. Reach out to Heather Hewlett at 329-6366 or heather.hewlett@yahoo.com if you'd like to talk more.



thank you

A BIG, ENORMOUS thank you to the committee who planned the church's 200th celebration! And also, to many who participated in tours, the kitchen, clean-up, etc. What a nostalgic, celebratory event it was!

"We Are the Church."

Handbell Choirs



Family Bell Choir is for Middle School students and adults. If you have rung bells and aren't ready for the more advanced choir, this is the place for you. If

you have NEVER rung bells and want to learn, this is also the choir for you. We welcome all!!

Rehearsals will begin on October 5th and are held after church in the Sanctuary from 10:45 to 11:30. We will meet on all Sundays in October except the 12th.

Glory Bells meets on Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 in the Sanctuary. Rehearsals will be held every Thursday in October.

Alleluia Bells meets on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:15 in the Sanctuary. Rehearsals will be held every Thursday evening in October.

Alleluia Bells is still looking for another ringer. Previous ringing is not necessary, but fairly proficient music reading is. If this choir would be a fit for you, contact Jackie Anderson for more information.

Cell phone: 585-703-2381

E-mail: jktanderson42@gmail.com



Stewardship

Join us for the Stewardship presentation on Sunday, October 12th, in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service. It will also be streamed on YouTube and Facebook. We will be looking at “200 Years of Service to God – Where will we go from here?” We will also look at the proposed 2026 WPC Budget.

You will receive your Stewardship packet with your pledge card around mid-October. We encourage you to attend this presentation and pray about what God would have you give to our church in 2026.



Heart and Hand

By the time you receive this Pathway there will be kits for volunteer sewers to aid Heart & Hand in making children's pillowcases, on a table in the main office hallway. Each kit includes directions and precut fabric for sewing one pillowcase. The pillowcases will go to “Ryan's Case for Smiles” to help children cope with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

On October 17th, the members of Heart and Hand will gather to begin to make placemats for people in Webster who regularly receive “Meals on Wheels”.

All Webster Presbyterian Church members and friends are welcome to join us. Contact Tina McNeary for more information at tmcneary@gmail.com.

The NOVEMBER Pathway deadline for articles is OCTOBER 20th.

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



Mission Update

Kenya Students Fund Contributions

For several years, we have supported one or more 8th-grade graduates from the Thogoto School for very poor children in Kenya for their 4 years of high school, which is too costly in Kenya for poor families. Each school year (which begins in January there), we add one (sometimes more than one) recent 8th-grade graduate to support, and we bid farewell to one or more who have graduated from high school. Although this fund is open and receives contributions year-round, we like to remind and highlight giving to it in September/early October. So please consider giving a little extra to this ongoing special need if you haven't already. Checks can be made out to WPC with “Kenya Students” written on the memo line.

Special Mission Contributions in September

At our September 15th meeting, we authorized extra donations from our Special Gifts to Mission to Open Door Mission, where we had a tour on September 15th, to ROCMaidan, where we will have a tour on October 2nd, and to Heritage Christian for the talk they will give us at Adult Ed on October 5th. We once again 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!

Winter Clothing for Cameron Community Ministries

From Sunday, October 12th, until Sunday, November 16th, we will once again be collecting gently used and new **winter clothing** for Cameron Community Ministries. Please start searching your closets and local used clothing stores and discount stores for items to donate. Cameron's Clothing House distributes these to residents in the poor section of the city where they are located. Blue collection bins will be in the Narthex and upper hallway beginning on October 12th.

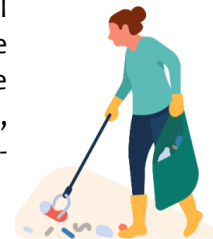
Summer Mission Giving

The Mission Committee is excited to share that we surpassed the goal of \$10,000 for the 2025 Summer Mission! The monies will be divided between The Thogoto School in Kenya, in memory of Eleanor Scott, and The Webster Community Chest, in memory of Joyce Thompkins. Thank you to all who have so generously contributed!

Adopt-a-Highway Fall Clean-Up

As the leaves turn and autumn settles in, it's time to join in WPC's semi-annual clean-up of Rt. 250 by the church! This is a fantastic opportunity to give back to our environment, beautify our roads, and enjoy some fresh air with fellow volunteers. We will meet in the north parking lot by the garage at 10:00 am on Saturday, October 18th. Join us as a “picker” or a driver. All supplies are provided, and we will complete the task in under 2 hours. Look for the sign-up table in the Narthex beginning Sunday, September 28th or contact Clark Chippero at 585-329-1839 or clarkchippero@gmail.com.

We Need YOU!
ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
CLEAN-UP
10/18 at 10:00



ONE in Christ

Building Inclusive Faith through the Work of the ONE in Christ Committee

Throughout my journey of faith and community, I have encountered many opportunities to serve, to learn, and to grow. Among the various committees in which I have participated, the ONE in Christ Committee has left an indelible mark on my spirit. Its mission - to support our LGBTQIA+ siblings as we continue to foster an inclusive and compassionate community, rooted in faith, through education and advocacy - strikes at the very core of what I believe it means to follow Christ and to build authentic community. The ONE Committee is not simply a group within the church; it is a living expression of grace, honesty, and radical hospitality.

Serving with the ONE Committee has not only been about changing policies or organizing events; it has been about changing hearts, including my own. The work of education and advocacy has opened my eyes to the lived realities of LGBTQIA+ individuals - realities often shaped by misunderstanding, marginalization, and pain. Listening to these stories has challenged me to confront my own assumptions and biases, to become a better ally, and to use my voice for those whose voices have been ignored or silenced.

Advocacy can be uncomfortable. It demands honesty about the ways our beliefs and traditions have been used to harm, and it requires the courage to stand in the gap for those who are vulnerable. Yet, I have found that this journey, though at times challenging, is also profoundly liberating. In advocating for open tables and for the full inclusion of all God's children, I have discovered deeper joy, greater empathy, and a more expansive vision of community.

In our faith community, efforts toward inclusion are sometimes met with resistance. I have seen it in conversations and heard it in discussions - a reluctance to disrupt the status quo or to risk discomfort for the sake of justice. But the ONE Committee has taught me that resistance is not a reason to withdraw, but an invitation to deeper engagement.

The phrase, "Then just maybe, it's not worth all the resistance you exhibit," serves as a gentle rebuke and a reminder that if our beliefs do not lead us toward greater love, perhaps they are not the beliefs we most need to hold. Through the work of the committee, hopefully, I am learning to meet resistance not with defensiveness, but with patient listening, open-hearted dialogue, and an unwavering commitment to the truth that all belong at God's table.

The work of the ONE in Christ Committee is far from finished. There are still hearts to be reached, policies to be changed, and wounds to be healed. Yet, we move forward with hope - not because the work is easy or the way is clear, but because we have seen firsthand the difference that compassion, honesty, and advocacy can make. Each small victory, each barrier overcome, is a testament to the power of faith in action. In a world where exclusion too often masquerades as virtue, the work of inclusion is a sacred call.

Sandi Blakey

Women's Bible Study



In October, we continue our 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 on Tuesday mornings in Room 9/10 at 9:00. Bring a Bible and a beverage as we learn and discuss together, whether you are a beginner or a longtime member.

Women's Circles

Naomi Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 8th, at 1:00 pm at Elaine Wilbert's home for their "Everything Sells Auction". Proceeds will be donated to charities in November. Elaine's address is 4800 County Line Rd.

King Circle will meet on Thursday, October 9th at 10:00 am in the Memorial Room for "Brain and Body Exercises for Seniors" presented by Polly Sadler.

Rachel Circle will meet on Monday, October 27th, at 6:30 pm in the Memorial Room for their Holiday Wreath Craft.

Church Family News

In September, we prayed for:

Sally Jamison and Marissa Echevarria

We celebrate the birth of:

Genevieve Jean Audet, daughter of Kelsey (Chippero) and Zach Audet, granddaughter of Clark and Janet Chippero, born on September 1st.





Youth Christian Ed

meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month in the Youth Room. The youth begin worship with their families and are then excused to class.



Memory Verse

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:8



Lectionary Readings

October 5 - World Communion Sunday

Old Testament	Lamentations 1:1-6
Psalms	Psalms 137
New Testament	II Timothy 1:1-14
Gospel	Luke 17:5-10

October 12

Old Testament	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalms	Psalms 66:1-12
New Testament	II Timothy 2:8-15
Gospel	Luke 17:11-19

October 19

Old Testament	Jeremiah 31:27-34
Psalms	Psalms 119:97-104
New Testament	II Timothy 3:14 - 4:5
Gospel	Luke 18:1-8

October 26

Old Testament	Joel 2:23-32
Psalms	Psalms 65
New Testament	II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Gospel	Luke 18:9-14



SHINE - Church School Update



When God called Abraham to a life of faith, Abraham obediently followed. He trusted in God's plan and purpose for his life.

Although he is often held up as a great example of faithfulness, Abraham's faith journey led him through the same high and low points that kids face today. Many kids worry about their futures, their mistakes, and their fears. Many are afraid of much more than the dark.

This month, our bible lessons from Abraham's life will lead the kids on faith adventures that will comfort their fears and lead them to trust in God.

October 5: Bells and Chimes with Mrs. Anderson

The kids will return to worship for communion

October 12: Noah – **We are called to take care of God's world.**

We will walk to the parking lot to measure out the actual size of the ark.

October 19: Abraham travels to an unknown land – **God is in control.**

October 26: Abraham – **God forgives us.**



Founding of Paddling Venture Crew 462

The session approved that WPC would "charter" Scouting America Venture Crew 462 Scouting unit which will be focused on paddling (canoe and kayak). They are completing required adult training and are planning for a start this fall. This will provide the structure to coordinate use of the many existing canoes and trailers already owned by scout troops in Webster.

Like our other units, it would be fully liability indemnified by Scouting America. Since the boats belong to the other Webster troops, we would not need to store them. This unit will not need regular room use or storage space. However, it needed a charter from us to exist and will need occasional meeting space.

SCOUTING AMERICA OPEN HOUSE

For All Families with Girls and Boys from ages 5 - 20

Saturday October 18

Noon - 5 pm

Webster Presbyterian Church

Activities Include: Bottle Rockets, Rope Bridge, Pinewood Derby, First-Aid Training, Archery and much more!

FREE PIZZA FREE RAFFLES

Contact Dan Marsh at 585-760-9241 for more information.