

Celebration of Worship

First Sunday in Advent

November 23, 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

Words of Welcome, Announcements

Reflection

A.W. Tozer

"Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer, but richer for having made it."

Ring of the Bell

Call to Worship

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: God provides every blessing in abundance.

People: Thanks be to God for the gift of grace.

All: Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray

All: Loving God, Your love and mercies are not limited to one time or to one people. You continue to heal and to save. For such love, it is our right, duty, and joy to offer you all our thanks and praise forevermore. Amen.

Hymn

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

551

Call to Confession

Leader: God's giving knows no ending. We wander and stray, ignore and deny, but God keeps offering mercy and grace. Together, let us seek God's forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

All: Generous God, you give beyond measure, bringing forth abundance day by day. We confess our failure to acknowledge your goodness. We confuse our efforts with your providence. We conflate our deeds with your gifts. Forgive our sins. Grow in us thankful hearts, ready to praise your faithfulness. Form in us grateful spirits, quick to trust in your gracious care; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Moment of Silent Reflection and Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: In Christ we are forgiven and set free to live in praise and thanksgiving!

All: Thanks be to God!

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: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: Holy God, allow the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to receive your Word.

All: Amen.

1st Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Paraphrase

Children's Time

Stu's Corner
"Thanks-living"

Anthem

"We Bring Our Thanks"

Ruth Elaine Schram

Chancel Choir

We are Your children, Lord. We bring our thanks to you.

For every blessing, Lord, for every gift from You,
For sun and rain, for fields of grain,
In humble gratitude, we bring our thanks to You.

We are Your children, Lord. We bring our thanks to you.

For every blessing, Lord, for every gift from You,
For budding flower, for gentle shower,
In humble gratitude, we bring our thanks to You.

For every good and perfect gift is from above,
Sent to the earth from the Father with love.

He freely gives of his wealth, gives us life, gives us health.
In humble gratitude, we bring our thanks to You.

We are Your children, Lord. We bring our thanks to You.

And in Your presence, Lord, here in this holy room,
In joyful praise, our hearts we raise.

In humble gratitude, we bring our thanks to You.

We are Your children, Lord. We bring our thanks to You.

2nd Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:4-9

Sermon

"Gratitude Is an Attitude"

Rev. Susan Frost

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice."

Philippians 4:4

RESPONDING IN LOVE

New Member Service

Insert

Hymn

God, Your Blessings Overflow

Insert

Sharing Joys and Concerns and Lighting of Prayer Candles

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (Debts/debtors)

Invitation to the Offering

Leader: With gratitude, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Please place your offering in the plates at the exit doors,
mail your gifts to the church, or click the WPC website "Give" button. Thank you!

Sung Response

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;

Give thanks because we're 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

All: Like the shepherds in Bethlehem's field, like the leper healed who returned to Jesus, like the Jews and Gentiles of the early church, we praise and glorify your name, O God. You have given us more than we could have imagined! For tidings of joy, for wholeness received, for the gift of belonging, we thank you. Make of us, as well as these gifts, offerings of good news to the poor, hope to the hopeless, and signs of your power to reconcile and redeem. We ask all things in the name of Christ. Amen.

MOVING IN GOD'S WAY

Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

555

Charge

Leader: Practice the faith by practicing gratitude to God every day in all circumstances, for God is bringing us from death to life.

Sung Response *May the God of Hope Go with Us*

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

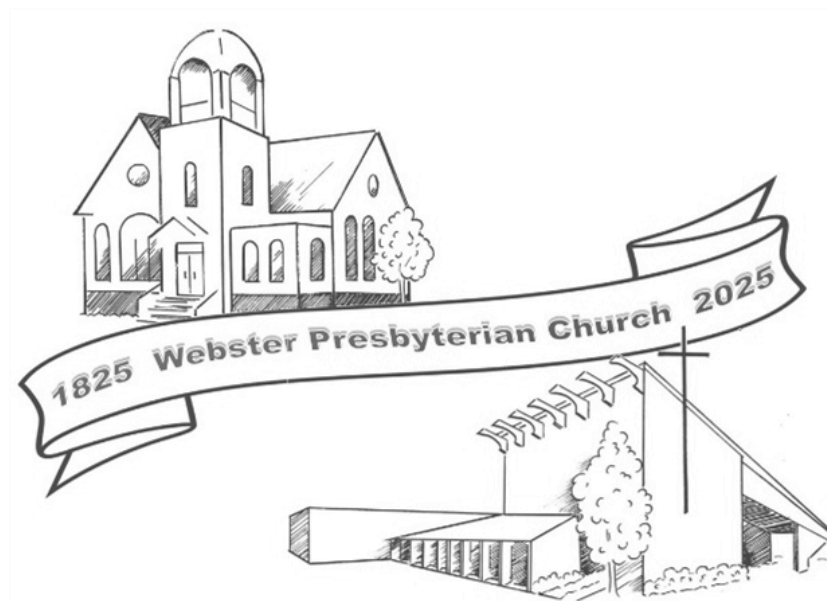
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Benediction

Leader: May God keep watch over us and all nations; may Christ restore us, body and soul; and may the Holy Spirit help us to remain faithful, giving thanks to God our whole life long.

All: Amen.

Celebrating 200 Years



200 Years  Still Building

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

550 Webster Road

Webster, New York

585-265-9700 www.websterpres.org

Stated Supply Pastor – Rev. Susan Frost

New Member Service

Presentation:

Kathy Barbehenn, Clerk of Session

On behalf of the Session of Webster Presbyterian Church, I present **Doug Williams** to be received into the membership of this congregation by his public Profession of Faith.

Profession of Faith

Pastor Susan

Siblings in Christ, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin, and of our being grafted in Christ. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism we were made citizens of God's kingdom and freed from the bondage of sin. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism. I ask you, therefore, once again to reject sin, and to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church in which we were baptized.

Renunciations:

We rejoice that you now desire to join with this congregation in the worship and mission of the church.

- Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**
- Who is your Lord and Savior? **Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**
- Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love? **I will, with God's help.**

Profession: (Stand as you are able)

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Pastor Susan:

Doug, you have publicly professed your faith. Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and mission through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Let us pray:

All: Holy God, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people, and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for choosing to add to our number a sibling in faith. Together, may we live in your Spirit, and so love one another that we may have the mind of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we give honor and glory forever. Amen.

Blessing

O Lord, uphold Doug by your Holy Spirit. Daily increase in him your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Ever-living God, guard Doug with your protecting hand, and let your Holy Spirit be with him forever. Lead him to know and obey your Word that he may serve you in this life and dwell with you forever in the life to come; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Welcome:

Karen Stoddard, Elder

Let us welcome Doug Williams as he joins with us in the worship and mission of the church.

All: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.

Welcome to this ministry that we share in Jesus Christ.

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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. THE CHURCH OFFICE will have abbreviated hours this Thanksgiving week. The office will be open 9 am to Noon this Tuesday and Wednesday, November 25th and 26th.
3. "WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO AMERICA?" is the final session of the Adam Hamilton's series "Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White". Join the Adult Ed. time after worship in Room 9/10. All are welcome.
4. THE ANGEL TREE to benefit Williamson Come-Unity Center is up and ready for you to start your shopping! Gifts are due back, unwrapped, by December 7th and can be placed in the designated bins in the Narthex. To purchase gifts on-line, see the directions and a QR code to scan on the Angel Tree table in the Narthex. Gifts should ship no later than December 1st so that they get here on time. Speak with Doreen Clark or Laura Oliver if you need help. There was an error with the QR code, so if you are planning to use, it please stop by the Angel Tree to pick up a new flyer or email Laura at loliver421@gmail.com to get the new code.
5. \$10 GIFT CARDS FOR MEN AT GRACE HOUSE - We are collecting these from today until December 14th in the box in the Narthex on Sunday mornings and at the office at other times. The men appreciate cards for places that are easily accessible in the city such as Walmart, Target, McDonalds, Wendy's, Burger King and Chick- fil-A.
6. WPC WILL AGAIN PARTICIPATE in the Webster Parade of Lights! Mark your calendars for December 6th at 6:30 pm and walk (or ride) with us. Warm blankets, hot chocolate, caroling, and transportation will be provided. In the meantime, we're looking for volunteers to help build our float this Saturday, November 29th, and supplies to borrow including a small trailer, straw bales, lights, and other decorations. Please reach out to Heather Hewlett or Elissa Burke for more information.
7. ADVENT DEVOTIONALS will come to you by way of a digital download this coming Saturday. Entitled "Draw Near: Lighting the Advent Path with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love," and written by Teri McDowell Ott, editor and publisher at Presbyterian Outlook, it includes daily reflections, Scripture, prayers and children's artwork. If you need a hard copy, please email or call the office (265-9700) to make your request.
8. POINSETTIAS to be displayed December 21st may be ordered in the Narthex the next few Sundays. Red, white, pink or red-white plants are \$15 each with cash or checks made out to PWC, payable when you place your order.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, November 23

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-Streamed
- 9:45 A.M. SHINE Program for Children in PreK – 5th Grade in Room 3 Youth Christian Ed. In the Youth Room
- 10:45 A.M. Adult Ed. DVD "What Would Jesus Say to America?" Rm 9/10 Decorate the Church for Christmas
- 12:00 P.M. Pie-making Event in the Kitchen and Social Room

Monday, November 24

- 5:30 P.M. Girl Scout Troop 510 in the Memorial Room
- 6:00 P.M. Rachel Circle to Flaherty's Restaurant
- 6:45 P.M. Boy Scout Troop 262 in the Social Room

Tuesday, November 25

- 9:00 A.M. Women's Bible Study in Room 9/10
- 5:00 P.M. TOPS in Room 9/10

Wednesday, November 26

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

Thursday, November 27 - Happy Thanksgiving !!

Saturday, November 29

- 9:00 A.M. Prayer Time on Zoom
- 3:00 P.M. Boy Scout Eagle Ceremony in the Sanctuary & Social Rm

Sunday, November 30

- 9:30 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Live-Streamed
- 9:45 A.M. SHINE Program for Children in PreK – 5th Grade in Room 3
- 10:45 A.M. Adult Ed. "Preparing for Advent" study in Room 9/10
- 2:00 P.M. Cub Den in the Social Room

Memory Verse

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

Lectionary Passages

	<u>November 23rd</u>	<u>November 30th</u>
Old Testament	<i>Jeremiah 23:1-6</i>	<i>Isaiah 2:1-5</i>
Psalms	<i>Psalms 46</i>	<i>Psalms 12</i>
New Testament	<i>Colossians 1:11-20</i>	<i>Romans 13:11-14</i>
Gospel	<i>Luke 23:33-43</i>	<i>Matthew 24:36-44</i>