



The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

January 2026

Vol. LVI No. 1

From the Pastor:

When this Pathway reaches all of you, I will be in the midst of packing and getting ready to see what the future brings with a move back to the Rochester area. As I have been preparing to leave, I've been bombarded with queries about whether I am excited about the church I am going to. I feel many of these are in the hopes that I'm not and they'll be able to encourage me to stay, but I have to respond with yes; I'm really looking forward to it. Your PNC did an excellent job of helping me learn about your church, the exciting things you are doing, and the things you would like to do, and I look forward to being a part of that journey. Hopefully, we can spend many years exploring where it is God is calling us in our ministry, seeing the possibilities and the good that we can be doing. Shortly after I arrive, will be the annual meeting, I know, the boring business stuff we have to do every year. A tradition I like to bring with me for the annual meeting is to end it with asking; What about your church brought you joy this year? What is it that made the church feel like family to you? It's the reminder that church is about worship first, yet it also needs to bring us fulfillment and a sense of belonging. I look forward to hearing what your answers are, being a part of the joys you'll name for 2026, and being a part of the Webster family.

See you soon.

Reverend Russ Roth

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

January

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January 11th

**Communion
Baptism of the Lord**

Church Office Hours

New Year's Week:

9:00 - noon on Tuesday 12/30
and Wednesday 12/31

Regular Office Hours:

9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
and Thursdays

Contact Us

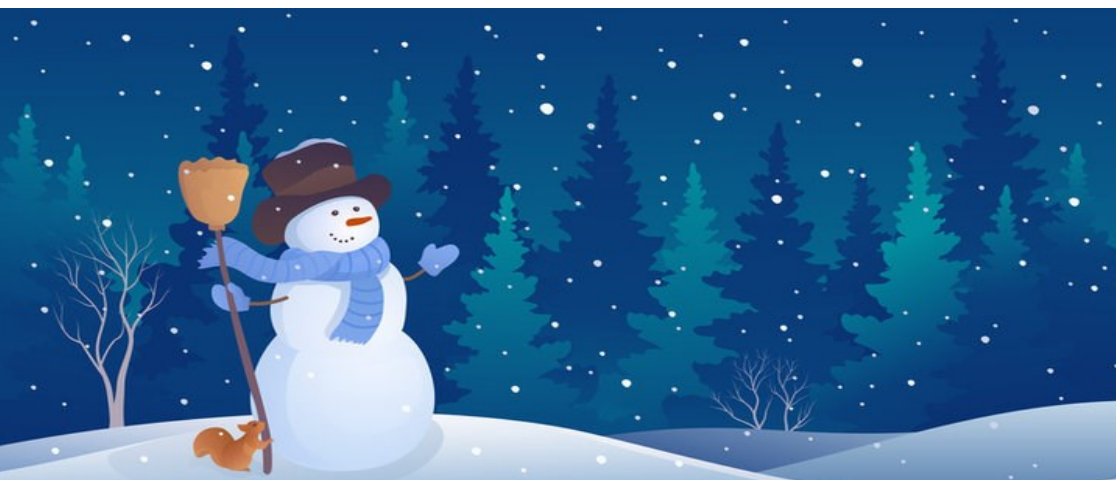
Office phone: 585-265-9700

Office email:

office@websterpres.org

Church website:

www.websterpres.org





Annual Meeting of the Congregation January 25, 2026

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 25th, immediately after the 9:30 service. We encourage everyone to attend to hear information on the church finances and committee updates from Mission, Trustees and the Deacons.

Annual Reports

Annual Reports from Committee Chairpersons and Treasurers are due in the church office no later than Sunday, January 4th. You can submit your information by email as a Word or Excel file, or bring a paper copy to the church office.

2026 Offering Envelopes

Envelopes are now available in the hallway outside of the Sanctuary for those who have indicated they would like them. You may pick them up at your convenience when the church is open; Sunday mornings, and from 9:00 am till 3:00 pm Tuesday through Thursday. If you do not find your box of envelopes and would like them, call the church office at 265-9700.



**The FEBRUARY Pathway
deadline is JANUARY 20th**

Email articles to
jchippero@websterpres.org **and**
ghubbard@websterpres.org

A Note from Session

Bonne année, Feliz Ano Nuevo, Felich Anno Nuevo, Frohes neues Jahr, Xin Nian kuaila, Akemashiteomedetogozaimasu, Novym Rokom, Happy New Year, everyone.

The New Year has begun, and from Session we pray for joy and love and peace. We pray for friendship and forgiveness. We pray for stamina and understanding and patience. We pray for our faith family here at WPC and around the world, and we pray for our nuclear and extended families, too.

There is much to look forward to in 2026. This new year is a beginning: we welcome our new pastor and his family and offer our prayers and support while we all get to know each other. Please introduce yourselves and wear those cool name tags. Be patient, we are all learning together. We pray that we can once again all accept change. Change is inevitable and can be hard, but God has our back.

We welcome new Elders and returning Elders, Deacons and returning Deacons. (They are the keepers and the doers of our communion table, our lunches and brunches, flowers, communion services, coffee, goodies, coffee, decorations, transport of donations to Hope Ministries and Come-Unity, contacts and care of members at home, and coffee...did I mention coffee?! Deacons do coffee.

We recognize and cherish our Trustees, both current voting members and our Trustees emeritus. When our building is feeling a bit off, it's the Trustees to the rescue. They repair little things and big things, commit their time and expertise to research to keep us up and running. And they keep smiling. They even rebuilt old chandeliers and leaded glass windows.

2026 is a beginning, but it's also a continuation.

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

We are Webster Presbyterian Church and we welcome the New Year. We are growing in size and in faith and in our love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Barbehenn, Clerk of Session

Note: languages in order of appearance are French, Spanish, Italian, German, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, and English.

**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

Angel Tree - The Deacons would like to thank everyone for their generosity in the Angel Tree Program. We collected and displayed 265 items and delivered them to the Williamson Come-Unity Center on Tuesday, December 9th. In addition to this collection, a person from our congregation reached out to their workplace for donations, and we received an additional 111 items, for a total of 376 items donated to Williamson from our church family. The Deacons are very grateful for everyone's generosity in support of this program.

Poinsettia Sale - The Deacons are thankful to all those who purchased Poinsettias to make our Sanctuary look extra special for Christmastime.

Food Barrel - As we move through this season of gratitude, our church family would like to extend a sincere *thank you* to everyone who has donated food in recent weeks. Your kindness has already made a meaningful difference for local families, and we are truly grateful for your willingness to share God's love in such a practical way.

As the holidays approach, the need in our community continues to grow. Currently, Webster Hope is requesting: coffee, tea, crackers, flour, sugar, cooking oil, cake and brownie mixes, canned vegetables or fruits, apple sauce in jars, condiments, toiletries, and diapers in sizes 6-7.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ. Together, we can continue to help our community this holiday season and beyond.

thank
you!

Trustees' Corner

The Trustees have been very busy since our last Pathway. We have replaced the metal plate that protects the organ's wiring to make it easier to move the organ. That being said, please do not move the organ without consulting a Trustee first. It is a fragile instrument and needs to be handled with extra care.

We also replaced one of the boiler pumps with a brand new, maintenance-free pump. In addition, we have balanced the water in both boilers, so we should be nice and toasty for the rest of the season.

We are in the process of securing bids for the replacement of the Sanctuary roof. As is our practice, we are seeking three independent bids from local commercial roofing contractors. We will also investigate options for roof coverings, including a metal roof. We hope to have estimates back to us by early next year.

Lastly, we will close with our monthly reminder to take care when walking in winter conditions. We strive to keep the parking lot and sidewalks clean; however, slippery conditions can happen quickly. Please take your time and watch your step when in the parking lot. If you see icy conditions, please alert a Trustee or feel free to salt the area of concern. We have large salt buckets at the main entrances for just that situation.



Wishing you all God's blessings for the New Year!!

Worship and Music

Many thanks go out to those who helped make our participation in the Webster Parade of Lights possible. Our presence in this parade not only spreads the joy of Christmas, but lets the community know that we are here and extend a warm welcome to them.



And another heartfelt thank you goes to the families who brought the Christmas story to life during our Worship service on December 14th. Our children truly shone as they presented this year's



pageant, 'New Star.' We know a production like this only shines because of the incredible dedication of our parents and young performers -

thank you for sharing your light with us.

Finally, we look forward to the new year and all that it brings. We extend a warm welcome to Reverend Russ Roth! The Worship and Music committee looks forward to collaborating with Rev. Roth to make worship and music meaningful and spirit-filled for our beloved church family.

**Join us for worship
on January 18th
at 9:30 am when we
welcome our new
pastor, Reverend
Russ Roth.**



One in Christ

Flowing into the New Year with You

We're all together welcoming the changes and possibilities of the new year.

Where will God guide us in service to our church family, our community, our nation, and our world? How will our lives be stretched and opened to become more fully the hands and feet of our loving God?

To quote Sandi Blakey's article in the November Pathway:

"The ONE Committee's mission is to disrupt [the] narrative, to create a community where LGBTQIA+ individuals are not merely tolerated but cherished as beloved members of the body of Christ.

In the end, the ONE in Christ Committee is not just a committee. It is a movement toward the church we most deeply need - a church with open tables, honest conversations, and boundless compassion. It is a place where faith is lived, not just professed; where love is practiced, not just preached."

This coming year, your One in Christ Committee will continue offering discussions and speakers to help all of us further the ways we include and enjoy the diverse communities and individuals around us. We welcome your ideas and participation in the committee.

Shirley Crane



Spiritual Nurture

We of the Spiritual Nurture Committee, Bob Blakey, Nancy Duquette, and Barb Hach, are excited to begin the New Year working with our new pastor, Russ Roth. He will be busy getting to know all of us, so we will try not to overwhelm him!

Perhaps you are wondering what we did with the cards on which you all so graciously and sincerely wrote your answers to our question, "What brings you closer to God?" We have compiled the results and created the chart you see below. Our hope is to offer ways to expand upon your answers. For example, many of you commented that being in nature brings you closer to God. What if we organized a nature walk as a second-hour activity, right along our own backyard path?

Our committee is very small. We would welcome new members! Please reach out to any of us to join! Until next time, I am Barb Hach for Bob and Nancy. Shalom!

Your Responses to "What Brings You Closer to God?"

	# of responses
1 Worship service (including attending church, traditional Prayers, and creeds)	11
2 Bible study/Reading scripture	10
3 Fellowship/Friendships	12
4 Testimonials	1
5 Seeing God in everyday life	2
6 Finding ways to be examples of Christ in action	1
7 Watching children/grandchildren	2
8 Nature (gardens, walks, whole world, sun, breeze, changing weather and seasons)	16
9 Prayer and Reflection Devotions/Meditations Contemplation	17
10 Music	9
11 Volunteering (congregational needs, helping staff)	8
12 Mission trips/Work camps	1
13 Small groups	2
14 Group discussions (Adult Ed, book studies, church-wide programs)	4
15 Focusing on "What Would Jesus Do?"	1
16 Faith, Trusting God, Sensing God's presence	3
17 Family relationships, New babies	3
18 Art, Dance, Movies with messages	3
19 Times of sorrow, loss of friends and loved ones	1
20 Social Justice	2
21 Being Alive/Waking up each morning	1
22 Assurance of God's love and forgiveness	1
23 Evangelizing	1
Total Cards Received	121
	61



Learning for a Lifetime

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

- January 4** A Practice for the New Year: Join us in this contemplative practice as we examine and prepare our hearts for the new year.
- January 11** Into the Mess: We revisit Debi Thomas' book to discuss "The Woman at the Well," p. 36, "Only One Thing," p. 48, and "The Widowed Prophet," p. 53. Please join us even if you have not read the book. There are lots of opportunities for discussion!
- January 18** Mission: Donna Gipner, founder and leader of the morning breakfast program at Trinity Emmanuel, will be sharing information about the program.
- January 25** No Class - the Annual Meeting will follow the Worship Service.

Mission Update

Adult Ed Mission Presentation

Please join the Mission Committee when we host an Adult Ed class on Sunday, January 18th, in Room 9/10. We will welcome Donna Gipner from Trinity Emmanuel, who will speak about their Saturday Morning Community Breakfasts and Person Care ministries. We hope to see you there!

Grace House Gift Cards

The Mission Committee is pleased to share that we collected just under 100 gift cards for Grace House! Thank you to all who have so generously contributed!

Christmas Joy Offering

During December, we once again collected donations for the PCUSA's important annual offering that provides financial assistance to needy, retired, and current Presbyterian pastors and church workers. It also provides aid to financially needy students at Presbyterian-supported colleges throughout the US. Special envelopes will be in the chair racks until January 4th for donations, or you can send a payment to the church office indicating that it is for Christmas Joy. As of mid-December, we have collected \$550. Thank you for your recent or near-future support of this special offering!

Blanket Sunday Offering

As you have probably noticed, winter has had a strong start in Webster this year! Church World Service sponsors an annual offering, which we have supported for many years, to allow CWS to provide free warm blankets that they purchase at a low cost for homeless and very poor folks not only across the USA but in many other countries as well! Envelopes for this special offering will be in the chair racks from January 11th until February 15th, or you can send a check to the church office indicating that it is for "Blankets". Thank you for considering supporting this special need!



Heart and Hand



Here we are at the beginning of a new year in our new location in Room 4. This feels like our home already, though our fabric is not yet totally organized. Will it ever be? We are planning on a few projects for this spring, including placemats for Meals on Wheels and walker bags for the Edna Tina Wilson Living Center, where Mary Crockett currently lives. We are waiting for confirmation from John Sankok of Kenya regarding a possible visit to Webster in February before we resume work on baby blankets for their maternity wards. We hope to welcome more of you to sew with us in Room 4 in 2026.

In December, with the help of additional volunteers, we completed 43 sets of fleece hats and neck warmers for some children's Christmas backpacks at State Road School. Thank you to all volunteers who were involved in this project, especially at this busy time of year. Our next meeting is January 16th.

Happy New Year, Everyone!

January Bell Schedules

Glory Bells – Rehearsals resume on January 15th. Rehearsals are on Thursday mornings at 9:00.

Alleluia Bells – Rehearsals resume on January 8th. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 6:00.

Ringer Needed

Alleluia Bells is looking for an additional ringer. If interested, contact Jackie Anderson at 585-703-2381 or jktanderson42@gmail.com.



Memory Verse

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.

Isaiah 43:19



Lectionary Readings

January 4

Old Testament Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm Psalm 147:12-20
New Testament Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel John 1:1-18

January 6 - Epiphany of the Lord

Old Testament Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm Psalm 72:1-7,10-14
New Testament Ephesians 3:1-12
Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

January 11 - Baptism of the Lord

Old Testament Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm Psalm 29
New Testament Acts 10:34-43
Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

January 18

Old Testament Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm Psalm 40:1-11
New Testament I Corinthians 1:1-9
Gospel John 1:29-42

January 25

Old Testament Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm Psalm 27:1, 4-9
New Testament I Corinthians 1:10-18
Gospel Matthew 4:12-23



HAPPY NEW YEAR

SHINE - Church School Update

Children's Christian Education Mission Statement

To equip and nurture the children of God with Biblical knowledge
and spiritual development in order to begin their faith journey
and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Nothing captures kids' attention like the supernatural. TV shows and video games are filled with superheroes. Our next lessons will focus on who has the real power...Jesus. The God who created the universe, who lived and died as a man and rose again, loves us and watches over us.

Jesus has more power than any superhero. His power is at work in our lives. Jesus didn't perform miracles because he wanted to show off. Jesus performed miracles because he cared about people and wanted to help them understand and believe in God's love for them. Jesus wants everyone to believe in God and have eternal life in heaven. That's why he came!



January 4: Jesus asks questions in the Temple. God wants us to learn and grow.

January 11: Jesus performs miracles so people would believe in God.
We will return to worship for communion.

January 18: Jesus heals a paralyzed man. Jesus cares for our hurts.

January 25: Jesus' power comes from God.



Women's Circles

Naomi Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 14th at noon in the Memorial Room for a Soup and Salad planning meeting.

King Circle will meet on Thursday, January 8th at 10:00 am in the Memorial Room. The program will be the annual distribution of funds from the Talent Auction for mission choices. Circle Treasurer, Tina McNeary, will be in charge of this program.

Rachel Circle will meet on Monday, January 26th at 6:00 pm at the home of Gwen Hoffman. Gwen will lead a bible study on Angels.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 in Room 9/10. We would love for you to join us as we continue our study of the book of Isaiah.

Church Family News

In December, we prayed for:

Aaron Frederick
(Pastor Susan's son),
David Stoddard, the family
of Emily, Edie Bass' sister,
and Bob Rollog.