



# The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church  
Webster, New York



March 2026

Vol. LVI No. 3

## Looking at a Prayer

Reverend Russ Roth

As we enter the season of Lent, we are called to be mindful of our relationship with God and be prayerful. This created a conversation that I felt had to be shared with you on what it means to be prayerful in this season. Too often, people seem to feel that prayers should be long-winded and all-encompassing, with no idea of what words should be strung together. The result was the examination of Christ's own advice on how to pray. Which brought the conversation to the prayer that we all know so well and share on a weekly basis.

The words of the Lord's Prayer as we say them are:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

This created the question: what if these words were used as an individual prayer? Pondering this question, we know that Jesus provided the prayer, but what was the occasion? This required examining Matthew 6 and Luke 11, with a few comments in Mark 11.

Luke wrote that one day, after Jesus prayed, one of his disciples asked him to teach them to pray. Matthew states that Jesus also gave them some prayer instructions: they should not pray to be seen by others, but to go alone to a separate place. Many words are not needed, for "your Father knows what you need before you ask him." If you forgive others when they sin against you, then only will God forgive you your sins, was stressed.

When we, the congregation, say this Lord's Prayer together, we first address and show honor to God, and then request his sovereign reign and promise—or at least acknowledge—his will, not ours, be done. In asking for our daily bread, that seems to cover all that we may need for the very day, not the week or month. When asking for forgiveness of our debts (sins of things done and sins of things not done), it appears we are promising to forgive those who sin against us, knowing that it is a requirement. Next, we ask for help to keep from doing wrong and to be kept from evil. We end by acknowledging a supreme God.

But how would this relate to individual prayer?

My Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give me this day my daily bread;  
and forgive me my debts, as I forgive my debtors;  
and lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Upon further reflection, this prayer, if used with "me" and "my," seemed selfish. Whether we pray this prayer that Jesus gave us in unison with others or individually, it is important to pray for everyone. Instead of mindlessly reciting the words, pray with understanding and sincere belief, promising to forgive others and do God's will as we worship God. After all, God wants sincerity in our words and deeds, not just the actions, so when pondering what to pray, perhaps offer up the Lord's prayer in a new, heartfelt way. Not a recitation, but add into your thoughts—what is today's daily bread, who are you being forgiving of, what temptations are you avoiding, and just how sovereign God is in your life; and you will have found a correct prayer.



## A Note from Session

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**Don't Forget!**  
**Daylight Savings**  
**Time Begins On**  
**March 8<sup>th</sup>**



**SPRING FORWARD**  
Set your clock an hour ahead

Barely a week ago, February 18<sup>th</sup> to be exact, we entered the holiest season of our church year. We began with Ash Wednesday, a day marked with a symbol and a phrase that tells us quietly and reverently just who we are, where we came from, and where, at the end of life, we will return. **Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Remember that you are dust and unto dust thou shalt return.**

When I was little, that phrase was the stuff of nightmares. I didn't understand; no one ever put it into words that made any sense to all us little kids. Our teachers taught us about heaven and hell with some purgatory in the middle. God was not gentle except when we were very small. He wrote the Laws, He made the rules, and He punished those who did not follow. To pay for our sins in life, we burned in Purgatory until we were cleansed. Unbaptised people never go to heaven, never see God. Scary stuff!

Over the years, especially here at WPC, I learned the true meaning. Lent is a beautiful time, a time to remember the difference between our mortal body and our immortal soul. Lent is a time to reflect on the journey, on our journey from the innocence of our infancy, through the learning time of growing up in a troubled world, navigating our adulthood until we reach the end of our mortal life. The end of our Flesh and Blood body which does go back to dust in burial or cremation.

But our body is only the beginning, the start of the journey. Earthly death leads to a celestial joy, a new home, a place in the glorious sight of God. We need only to believe. If we believe, God, who let His Son die on a cross to show us that Heaven is real, takes us home. We get through the grief of Good Friday, we pray and wait on Saturday, and we rejoice in the rebirth of Jesus, Son of our Father who truly loves us, on Easter Sunday.

Lent is for thinking, contemplating, reawakening our faith, and redesigning our path if we've gotten a little lost. Remember, and pray.

We on Session, our siblings in Deacons, and our Trustees are working overtime to make this Lenten Season very special. Please spend some time reading all that is going on here at WPC in this holy month. Take some time every day to read from the **2026 Lenten Devotional** downloaded on your devices. Live Lent!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Barbehenn, Clerk of Session, and no longer afraid.

**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



### Easter Flower Sale

The Deacons will be taking orders for Easter flowers that will be used to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter morning. A single Lily (\$18.00), Tulips (\$14.00), and Azaleas (\$21.50) will be available to order. Orders may be placed by signing up in the Narthex on **March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>** or by calling the church office. Payment can be cash or check payable to PWC (Presbyterian Women) with "flowers" on the memo line.

Flowers can be brought home after the Easter service or donated to our Friends at Home. When ordering, you may include a dedication in memory or honor of a loved one that will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin. All orders must be placed by March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Food Barrel

As the cold months continue, our community thanks you for your generous contributions to the local food pantries. Please donate any non-perishable food to our Food Barrel bins located to the left of the doors at the upper entrance. This month, Webster Hope reports needing canned pineapple, canned beets, flour, sugar, and cooking oil. If you're able to add one or two of these items to your grocery cart this week, your generosity will make a meaningful difference.



## Trustees' Corner

The cold is still here; the wind continues to blow; and the snow continues to fall. Winter plans to stick around for a while. Please continue to use caution when walking in the parking lot.

While we deal with winter, the Trustees are looking ahead to spring. Our Spring Workday will be Saturday, **May 9<sup>th</sup>** (rain day May 16<sup>th</sup>). As in years past, we will be busy raking, mulching, planting, straightening, cleaning - there will be much to do. Please join us to lend a hand. Workday will start at 9:00 am and end at 12:00 pm; however, you are welcome to stay only a short time. Coffee, juices and breakfast treats will be provided.



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

## Palm Sunday Brunch

The ladies of Rachel Circle invite you to a Palm Sunday Brunch on **March 29<sup>th</sup>** following the worship service.

Beverages, place settings, and hot breakfast casseroles will be provided. If you would like to help contribute additional items, please check the sign-up sheet. *This is optional.*

Join us for a morning of celebration and fellowship. Sign up in the Narthex or by calling the church office beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## March Bell Schedule

### Glory Bells

Rehearsals are on all Thursday mornings in March at 9:00.

### Alleluia Bells

Rehearsals are on all Thursday evenings in March at 6:00.

## Contact Us

Regular office hours:

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

### Office phone:

585-265-9700

### Office email:

[office@websterpres.org](mailto:office@websterpres.org)

### Church website:

[www.websterpres.org](http://www.websterpres.org)

### Rev. Russ' phone:

315-576-2012

### Rev. Russ' email:

[rroth@websterpres.org](mailto:rroth@websterpres.org)

**The APRIL Pathway deadline is**

**MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>**

Email articles to

[jchippero@websterpres.org](mailto:jchippero@websterpres.org) **and**

[gghubbard@websterpres.org](mailto:gghubbard@websterpres.org)

## Holy Week Services



MARCH 29

### Palm Sunday

9:30 am in the Sanctuary  
and Livestream

APRIL 2

### Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm in the Chapel  
and Livestream

APRIL 3

### Good Friday

7:00 pm in the Chapel  
and Livestream

APRIL 5

### Easter Sunday

9:30 am in the Sanctuary  
and Livestream



## Heart and Hand

Heart and Hand has nearly completed 20 wheelchair bags for men at The Edna Tina Wilson Living Center. John Kubiniec, who is the Chaplain there, will be able to deliver them in early March.

On **March 20<sup>th</sup>**, we plan to begin making spring placemats to bring a bit of cheer into the homes of some of our Webster Meals on Wheels recipients. This is always an enjoyable project for us to sew. We would love to have you join us at 10 am in Room 4 of the old Sunday School wing.



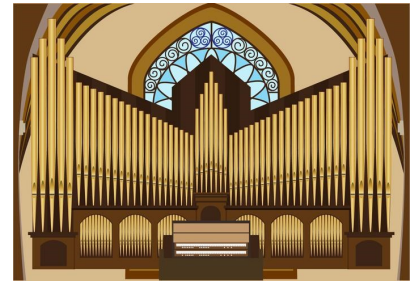
## Worship and Music

### Holy Week Services

From the 'Hosannas' of Palm Sunday to the 'Alleluias' of Easter, come experience the story that changed the world. See the schedule in the left hand column for our upcoming Holy Week and Easter services.

### Organ Recital

Mark your calendars for **March 22<sup>nd</sup>** for the second in our Organ Recital Series! The Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) will once again come with four talented Eastman organ majors, including our own Abby Crafton. EROI has made Rochester a "center for organ performance, research, building, and preservation of new and historic organs." Outreach and education are central to its mission and include community concerts in area churches. We are so fortunate to have our Schanz organ to offer this recital to the Webster community. Plan to attend on Sunday, **March 22, at 3:00**, and bring your friends to support these students and marvel at the music.



## Spiritual Nurture

This is Bob Blakey with a question: Have you looked at and read some or all of the Lenten devotion series so far? *Disciples in a Divided Age* arrived in your email inbox on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to find and download it. And then please treat yourself to a few refreshing minutes in your fast-paced life and challenging time. Be reminded that the challenges of today may seem unique, but are as old as the Bible. Walking with Christ today, just as Matthew did 2000 years ago, did end in triumph then and will forever.

Pastor Russ has shared with us that this is not a season of giving up things that we think are important so much as a time of change for the better. One opportunity we have is to start a new grace and love-filled habit by saying "YES". Yes, each day to share a special kindness, an expression of caring, and of love. Following is a beginning list of YESes for your consideration:



- Encourage someone
- Take a walk and thank God for His gifts.
- Hold the door open for someone
- Send an encouraging note
- Fast from criticisms for a day
- Let someone merge in traffic
- Choose a kinder tone
- Write your own list of "yeses"

Your SNC team, Barb Hach, Nancy Duquette, and I wish you a very special journey this Lenten season. Open your heart and say yes to God's presence in your life through His grace and love each day.

## Mission Update

### Our Kenyan Mission Commitment

#### Where it all began

In the 1990s, Webster Presbyterian members Spence and Gayle Radnich dedicated several years to full-time mission work in Kenya. They served first at a hospital in Kikuyu, a suburb of Nairobi, and later at Daystar University in Athi River. Their passion inspired Eleanor Scott to lead mission work teams to the region - a commitment that resulted in at least six group trips between 2000 and 2016. Driven by the Radnichs' legacy and the firsthand experiences and inspirations of our mission work teams, our congregation's interest in Kenya has continued to grow.

#### The 2026 Mission Budget includes the following 3 Kenya line items:

**Thogoto School, Kenya Lunches:** This school in Kikuyu is for extremely poor Kenyan students from 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The Church of the Torch in Kikuyu and our church are the primary sponsors for this school. We supply lunches for the children every school day, as most of these students can't afford to bring a lunch to school. We have also financed improvements to the school kitchen and worked there, painting and doing other repairs on the building. Our dear friend Grace Kaigai has been our connection with this school. She took us there to visit, work, and contribute uniforms, books, shoes and other clothing to all of the students. As part of our 2025 Summer Mission project, we contributed over \$5,000 in memory of Eleanor Scott to purchase computers and sewing machines for the school to train students.

**Education of Maasai Girls, Kenya (John Sankok):** The Maasai are an important tribe in some of Kenya's more remote areas. These tribes do not treat females, especially young ones, as well as they do males. John Sankok, another dear Kenyan friend, is a Maasai who is now a devout Christian living in a city. He has been a major contact of ours for many years. He works with Maasai tribes to convince their male elders to allow and select 8th-grade girls to attend high school each year. We sponsor at least 2 Maasai girls each school year for high school! Other churches and organizations also help sponsor this project. In addition, John Sankok also manages more than a dozen medical clinics in the remote Maasai Mara region of Kenya!

**Kenya Water Projects (Outreach Foundation, Stu Ross):** Drinkable water is in short supply in many rural areas of Kenya. Many women and children spend a few hours every day walking to obtain and carry fresh water back to their tribe for all to use. Our contact is Stu Ross, who is an American working full-time for the Outreach Foundation. Our contributions to this foundation help Stu oversee the installation of rainwater collection systems, water purifiers, and wells.

#### The following project is funded mostly by voluntary contributions:

**Kenya High School Students Fund:** High school is not free in Kenya, and therefore, most Thogoto School students must end their education at 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We sponsor one student each year for their 4 years of high school, including their tuition and other fees, books, and uniforms. Occasionally, a member or couple from our congregation has sponsored an additional student. Once again, Grace Kaigai is our main link for selecting the Thogoto School students that we will sponsor. Webster Presbyterian members can contribute to this fund at any time throughout the year.

### Extra Donations in February:

We are blessed to have *Discretionary Mission* monies in our budget. This money, along with *Extra Gifts to Mission* that we receive from church members, allows us to make extra donations.

February's extra donations include:

**Camp Joy:** \$500 from our *Extra Gifts to Mission* for this very special one-week Summer Camp that is led by member Elissa Burke and her family each year, and as a thank you for leading Adult Ed on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Coldwater House:** \$500 from our *Extra Gifts to Mission* for this house in Gates that is part of Open Door Mission. It provides temporary housing and training for homeless women and their children, enabling them to live on their own again after about 3 months.

**Home Start Hope:** \$500 from the *Discretionary Mission* line item in our budget. This is our first time contributing to this organization that ministers to women with children who are ready to move into regular housing by providing many furnishings and supplies for their new home. We learned about them from a letter they sent us and from some excellent follow-up investigation by Doug Perryman!

**Open Door Mission:** \$550 from our *Extra Gifts to Mission* to help Open Door with their heavy financial burden for housing and feeding homeless folks during the Code Blue, very cold winter weather this year. (We were able to do this by Electronic Motion in early February to allow us to make this timely donation long before our February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.)

**Mission Update continues on page 6 with an article for One Great Hour of Sharing.**

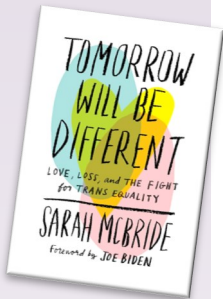


## One in Christ

**ONE in Christ Purpose:** To support our LGBTQIA+ siblings as we continue to foster an inclusive and compassionate community, rooted in faith, through education and advocacy.

Your ONE in Christ committee has previewed a book for you to read and for us to discuss together during two Adult Ed sessions. It is titled *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality* by Sarah McBride, the first transgender state senator in U.S. history. It is her "... intimate story of fighting for social justice in the midst of heartbreak..." It will become available this month, March, at no cost to you. We will let you know when they arrive. Please join us in Adult Ed on **April 26<sup>th</sup>** and **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** to discuss this powerful memoir.

Shalom! Barb Hach



## One Great Hour of Sharing

**One Great HOUR OF SHARING**

OGHS has been helping neighbors fight injustice around the world for over 75 years.

It is the largest way Presbyterians connect with one another all over the world. When we connect, we grow!

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to OGHS helps improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The offering collected by congregations around the world provides a way to share God's love with neighbors in need. Our OGHS offerings will take place from **March 15<sup>th</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup>**.

Giving envelopes will be in the chair racks in the Sanctuary. You may also send donations to the Church Office. If you make a contribution directly to the office by cash or check, please be sure to designate it for the OGHS offering.

**If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.**

## Learning for a Lifetime

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

**March 1 - 22** We will continue *The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels* by Matt Rawle. Matt is the lead pastor at Asbury United Methodist Church in Bossier City, Louisiana. Through the DVD, Scriptures, & discussion questions, we will try to see Jesus anew as each Gospel tells the story of his Passion from different perspectives. If you have an NRSV translation of the Bible, please bring it with you. Join after worship in Room 9/10 as we journey together through Lent and to the climax of the Christian year – EASTER!

**March 29** No Class - Palm Sunday Brunch

## Library News



On display in the library are a number of new books. Scan the list below and find the one that is right for you. You will also find a few Lenten books displayed.

- **Look Again: Recognize Your Worth. Renew Your Hope. Run with Confidence.** by Tim Tebow - through powerful personal stories, Tebow explains " Everything changes when we learn to see the image of God in every human; ourselves, our neighbors, and even our enemies."
- **A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story** by Diana Butler Bass - an overview of people who have tried to follow Christ over 2000 years.
- **A Beautiful Year: 52 Meditations on Faith, Wisdom, and Perseverance** by Diana Butler Bass
- **Returning to Eden: A Field Guide for the Spiritual Journey** by Heather Hamilton - reimagining Bible stories for spiritual growth.
- **My Beloved: A Mitford Novel** by Jan Karon - a new Mitford novel.
- **On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity, and Getting Old** by Parker Palmer - "Old," he writes, "is just another word for nothing left to lose, a time to dive deep into life, not withdraw to the shallows."
- **Trust God, Love People: Stories of My Openhanded Faith** by Jenny Mars – an inspirational memoir by the HGTV star.
- **The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage** by Richard Rohr – using stories of lesser prophets to find a path in today's world.
- **How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith** by Mariann Budde – Bishop Budde explores how God's children can stand up for the principles of His kingdom in a frail and fallen world.



## SHINE - Church School Update

Earthquakes. Riots. Imprisonment. Shipwrecks. The account of Paul's journeys in the book of Acts reads like the script of a modern action movie. Like any good action hero, Paul never let people or circumstances stand in the way of his mission to spread the good news about Jesus Christ.

As we travel with Paul on his adventures, kids will learn that they, too, can tell others about Jesus and that God will care for them just as he cared for Paul.

- March 1** Paul is called by God
  - 8** Craft/Games
  - 15** Paul is shipwrecked
  - 22** SHINE Mission Project
  - 29** Palm Sunday
  - April 5** Easter Sunday
- No class - children stay in church*



### Vacation Bible School 2026

Mark your calendars!

The dates are set for VBS 2026!

**July 20-23 9:00 am – Noon**

Classes for PreK - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Children must be 4 years old by February 1, 2026

Registration forms will be mailed out to all WPC families on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The sign-up deadline will be July 6<sup>th</sup>.**

### Women's Circles

**Naomi Circle** will meet for lunch at noon on Wednesday, **March 11<sup>th</sup>** at Flaherty's.

**King Circle** will meet on Thursday, **March 12<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 am in Room 4 for a program on quilting with Tina McNeary. All are welcome.

**Rachel Circle** will host a Palm Sunday Brunch after worship on Sunday, **March 29<sup>th</sup>**. See details in the article on page 3. On Monday, **March 30<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a Bible Study on angels at 6:00 pm at the home of Gwen Hoffman.

### Women's Bible Study

During March, Women's Bible Study is looking at "Jesus' Final Days" using the four Gospels, but with the days in chronological order. What was Jesus' last week on earth like? What did he do? What was he feeling? Join in this inductive



Bible study to understand our Savior more fully as we look forward to his glorious Easter resurrection.

## Church Family News

**During February we prayed for:**

The Burton family, Reta Truwell, and the Gilliland family.

**We are saddened by the passing of:**

Joseph Burton on January 29<sup>th</sup> and Keith Gilliland on February 8<sup>th</sup>.



### Memory Verse

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so no one may boast.*

Ephesians 2:8-9



### Lectionary Readings

**March 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Old Testament	Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm	Psalm 121
New Testament	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
Gospel	John 3:1-17 Matthew 17:1-9

**March 8 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Old Testament	Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm	Psalm 95
New Testament	Romans 5:1-11
Gospel	John 4:5-42

**March 15 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Old Testament	I Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm	Psalm 23
New Testament	Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel	John 9:1-41

**March 22 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Old Testament	Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm	Psalm 130
New Testament	Romans 8:6-11
Gospel	John 11:1-45

**March 29 – Palm Sunday**

**Palms:**

Psalm	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Gospel	Matthew 21:1-11

**Passion:**

Old Testament	Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm	Psalm 31:9-16
New Testament	Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel	Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

