The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

November 2026 Vol. LVI No. 9

November

A Note from the Pastor

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1

We are deep in the midst of the autumn; the leaves are changing and falling, the grocery stores are reminding you of Thanksgiving even as all other retail is trying to leapfrog it and get Christmas in your face; Lowe's is filled with Christmas displays. The weather seemingly does whatever I t feels like, and we seek to make plans in the midst of uncertainty. For me, autumn is one of the most beautiful seasons; it offers respite from the deep heat of summer without the bitter cold of winter, and the leaves take on their multi-hued array that makes driving the Finger Lakes so enjoyable and the drive down the local roads just a little less tedious and a lot more colorful. It is a season of change, and yet a reminder that things are still continuing on God's planned path, as it is a necessary step in the annual rotation.

Change is inevitable; we can no more stop change than stop the seasons, and we know that winter is coming. Yet through change we can always remember that God is in all of it; so many readings speak of God leading and bringing about change: "See, I am doing a new thing. Do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19 NIV) We can always take the time to look for the beauty of God's hand within the changes, see where new things are forming, and embrace the wonder of it. We can find where there are old familiarities within the new that we can lean on, even in this season, we are looking to the comfort of family at Thanksgiving and the start of Advent at the end of the month.

Let us look forward to the month ahead and see where God walks with us through the change and in the process take the time to enjoy each day as it comes.

- Reverend Russ

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

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Contact Us:

Church Office hours:
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Tues, Wed & Thurs

Rev. Russ' hours:
Mon 9:00 – noon,
Wed & Thurs 9:00 - 2:00

Office phone:
585-265-9700

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office@websterpres.org

Church website:
www.websterpres.org

Rev. Russ' contact info:
315-576-2010
rroth@websterpres.org

The Church Office will be open from 9:00 am - Noon on Tues, Nov 24th and Wed, Nov 25th.

November Memory Verse

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

Lectionary Readings

November 1

Old Testament	Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
New Testament	I Thessalonians 2:9-13
Gospel	Matthew 23:1-12

November 8

Old Testament	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm	Psalm 78:1-7
New Testament	I Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel	Matthew 25:1-13

November 15

Old Testament	Judges 4:1-7
Psalm	Psalm 123
New Testament	I Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel	Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 - *Christ the King Sunday*

Old Testament	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm	Psalm 100
New Testament	Ephesains 1:15-23
Gospel	Matthew 25:31-46

November 29

Old Testament	Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
New Testament	I Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel	Mark 13:24-37

The ***November Calendar*** is available on our website. Click the link below:

https://www.websterpres.org/hp_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/November-2026.pdf

A Note from Session

Ahh! November! I'm never quite sure how I feel about this month. It's definitely one of transition. Daylight Saving Time is finished until March 2027, and while I love having the sun rise before I get up on school days, I sure don't look forward to those early sunsets. The leaves are way past their peak color and are quickly covering the ground. (Ready, set, jump into those luscious deep piles.) Flowers have gone into hiding and will wait patiently for April. We are reminded that in many cultures, November 1st is called "The Day of the Dead". It is a day to honor those who have gone before us.

I think God created November to remind us that change is inevitable, that death is inevitable, but that with death comes life again in Jesus Christ our Lord. November is a time to contemplate. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow - all gifts in a life as temporary as the seasons and as eternal as the promise of rebirth in eternal life.

Here at WPC too, it is a time for renewal and looking forward. The most amazing Stewardship and Finance Committee folks are working to complete a workable and sustainable budget for the upcoming year. Other committees, with much prayer and hope, submit needs for next year's programs and projects and even wishes. You have heard from our Trustees; you have heard from our Mission Committee. You will hear other presentations throughout the rest of this year and into next year.

Soon, you will receive pledge cards asking for your continued support for our physical structure, for incredible staff, for our day-to-day needs, and especially to enable our family that is WPC, the ability to grow in our support of community and global needs in a world that is not just "unknown and over there" but is indeed more and more known and more and more in need.

Please listen, hear, pray, and pray again. Please do your best. November is an endpoint and an opportunity to continue. God bless - it's what HE does.

Respectfully submitted

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

Angel Tree Christmas Event

The Angel Tree will be set up in the Narthex **by Sunday, November 1st** with suggestions for donations to benefit the Williamson Come-Unity Center. You can bring donations to the church through **Sunday, December 6th**. We are already aware that they have a particular need for items for teens. Please bring **new items unwrapped** to the Narthex by Sunday, December 6th. Thank you for keeping our Angel Tree in mind this holiday season!

Poinsettia Sale

The Deacons will once again be taking orders for the purchase of Poinsettias that will decorate our Sanctuary for Christmastime. More details will be available in upcoming bulletin announcements and in the December *Pathway*.

Food Barrel

Small acts of kindness make a big difference! As we continue supporting our neighbors in need, we invite you to join us by donating to our food pantry with essential items this November. Every donation helps provide comfort, nourishment, and a little extra support to local families. Specific wishes from Webster Hope: cleaning supplies, pasta, cereal, canned fruit, canned vegetables, cooking oil, and shampoo and conditioner.

Trustees' Corner

The Trustees wish to thank everyone who helped with Workday. Because of the many hands present, many of our seasonal chores were completed. We appreciate everyone's time and effort. The church is ready for the winter ahead.

One of our new projects for the upcoming year is to investigate alternative energy sources for the church. We have seen our utility costs increase dramatically over the past few years and all indications point to further rate increases well into the future.

As stewards of this church property, we feel that it is imperative that we investigate alternative energy sources. We will be forming a sub-committee to study the viability of solar and wind projects. The committee will be charged with researching the products that are available, costs/financing options, zoning restrictions and potential environmental issues.

We are still in the preliminary stages of planning and not quite ready to ask for volunteers. Please stay tuned for more information.

Learning for a Lifetime

Groups, individuals and committees who would like to present a topic or study during Second Hour should contact Sandi Blakey at sgblakey@gmail.com for additional information and to schedule your program.

The scheduled programs will be promoted through weekly bulletin announcements and here in *The Pathway* each month. There is also a bulletin board in the Narthex that has the month's schedule on it.

Second Hour Offerings for November

November 1	No Class
November 8	Festival of Choirs. *Please see the Worship & Music article on page 4 for details.*
November 15	Jeanette Adams-Price will share her experience with Ride for Pride, as well as her work as a Senior Consultant at Our Local History. Join us in Room 9/10. *Please refer to the One Committee article on page 7 in this month's Pathway.*
November 22	Open
November 29	Thanksgiving Weekend

Organ Recital
November 15th at 3:00 pm

Our Organ series continues with a concert featuring Andrew Johnson. You will not want to miss this! The Schantz pipe organ at Webster Presbyterian is one of the top organs in the area and we are so fortunate to have distinguished organists excited to perform on it. Mark your calendars for the 15th and be sure to invite your friends and family!

Meet Andrew Johnson

Named one of *The Diapason*'s "20 Under 30," Andrew Johnson is a Director of Music, organist, and doctoral candidate at the Eastman School of Music. A native of Bloomington, Illinois, he holds degrees from the Peabody Conservatory and Illinois Wesleyan University, and serves as Director of Music and Organist at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Pittsford, New York.

An active leader in the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity, Andrew holds multiple AGO certifications and has received the S. Lewis Elmer Award. His writing has appeared in *The American Organist* and *The Tracker*, his composition *Fantasy on FINLANDIA* won the 2025 Historic Pipe Organ Composition Competition, and he recently placed second in the 2026 AGO National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance.

Handbell Choir Rehearsals

The **Alleluia Bell Choir** will be rehearsing on November 5th, 12th, and 19th. Rehearsals are at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Worship and Music

Get Ready for Advent at Webster Presbyterian Church!

Advent begins on November 29th, and the Worship and Music Committee is excited to share a preview of the season ahead. We have been working hard to prepare worship services that are joyful, meaningful, and full of anticipation.

Worship Services

Each Sunday of Advent, we'll light the Advent wreath and hear scripture readings that guide us on our journey to Christmas. On the Third Sunday of Advent, **December 13th**, the children of WPC will share a pageant they have been preparing. It's sure to be a highlight of the season, and we can't wait to celebrate with them!

Christmas Eve plans are also taking shape. We expect to offer multiple services so that everyone can find a time and style of worship that feels just right. Stay tuned for details in the coming weeks.

Join In the Fun

Liturgists help bring our services to life, and we're always delighted to welcome new volunteers! Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, or contact Heather with any questions. While you're at the sign-up sheet, consider adding your name to the list for our brand-new bell choir, led by Sarah Casper. No prior experience is needed, so it's a wonderful chance to try something new!

Community Music

Musical events this November will help us warm up for the season:

- **Bell Concert to Celebrate Jackie Anderson, November 1, 3:00 pm, Webster Presbyterian Church.** Four bell choirs will perform in a concert to celebrate the career and ongoing dedication of Jackie to spreading the joy of handbell ringing.
- **Festival of Choirs, Sunday, November 8, 4:00 pm, Holy Trinity Church.** Our WPC Choir will sing *Built on a Rock*, then join the combined choirs for *A Clare Benediction* and *The Wonder of Creation*. Come cheer on our singers and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music!
- **Organ Recital, Sunday, November 15, 3:00 pm, Webster Presbyterian Church.** We're thrilled to welcome Andrew Johnson, a doctoral student at the Eastman School of Music, to our Sanctuary for a special performance. See the article in the left column to find out more about Andrew!

Save the Date: Webster Parade of Lights!

Join us on **Saturday, December 5**, as WPC takes part in the Webster Parade of Lights once again! We'll meet in the parade lineup around 5:30 pm for hot chocolate, fellowship, and getting settled on the float. The parade begins at 6:30 pm on East Main Street and travels west along Main Street to Fireman's Field. Stay tuned for more information on float building and ways you can get involved. Bundle up, bring your family and friends, and come celebrate the season with us in this fun community event!

Mission Update

Winter Clothing for Cameron Community Ministries

We are collecting good, used and new winter clothing for Cameron Community Ministries for men, women, and children until **Monday, November 16th**. In addition to searching your closets for donations, please consider shopping at local discount stores for gently used and new items to purchase and donate. Cameron is located in the Lyell Ave., Child St. area of Rochester, and their clients are all either very needy or homeless. Blue plastic tubs for your donations are located in the church Narthex and upper hallway. We are off to a good start with some early donations during this "campaign" – thank you, and let's keep it up!

Donations for Kenya High School Students Fund

We continue to support four very needy students in Kenya, who are 8th grade graduates from the Thogoto Primary School, for their grades 9 through 12 high school education. High school education in Kenya costs more money than very poor families can afford, and so most children from the Thogoto School finish their schooling at 8th grade and are not very employable. Although voluntary donations to this fund can be made to the church office anytime during the year, we emphasize the importance of doing so in the fall each year. There were special small brown envelopes in the chair racks for much of September and October this year, and we thank those who generously contributed.

Gift Cards for the Men at Grace House

This is just an early heads-up that in late November we will once again be collecting $10 gift cards to be distributed to these needy men at their annual Christmas Party. Please look for more details in bulletins later in November and in the December *Pathway*.

Discretionary Fund Donation

Each year, a small portion of the Mission Committee budget is placed in a discretionary fund to deal with non-budgeted mission needs that arise throughout the year. At the September Mission Committee meeting $1000 of these funds were donated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) for Nepal disaster relief. This is another example of how our pledge dollars are at work in the world.

November Mission Highlight: Little Children of the Philippines/World

Little Children is headquartered near Atlanta and primarily supports very needy children and young adults in the Philippines with basic needs such as clothing, food, health, and their education. For many years, we have supported an elementary school lunch program for about 35 deserving students in Canday-Ong, Philippines. In addition, some of our church members and Children's Sunday School help support individual children with monthly, quarterly, or annual donations to help with their basic needs.

Leaf Raking

The Youth of WPC are offering leaf raking on **Saturday, November 7th** for those who need help with leaf removal. We are a small group, so we won't have many slots. If anyone is interested, call the church office at 265-9700 to put your name on the list. We are also accepting helping hands from the adults in the congregation. Contact Todd Fargo at tfargo@gmail.com if you can help.

Heart and Hand

We are into sewing fleece hats and neck warmers for some of our Webster primary school children who do not have those winter necessities. We have made up kits for extra volunteers to sew. Anyone may participate in this project by picking up one or two of the kits and directions. They are on a table in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the offices. The fleece is already cut out for you. Please follow the seam width directions carefully so that the hats end up the correct size. There are separate kits for two different hat styles. Each kit also contains parts for a neck warmer. The finished hats, or unfinished kits, should be returned to the church office by **November 15th.**

There are a few people who have expressed an interest in joining us at Heart and Hand but have not been able to attend. If the reason may be that you are not receiving our meeting announcements in your email, please contact me with that information at: tmcneary@gmail.com.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

A Special Opportunity for Spiritual Growth

Discover the deeper meaning of Christmas through the eyes of one of Christianity's most beloved authors!

As we enter the Advent season, our Spiritual Nurture Team invites you to enjoy a special theatrical experience, **Christmas with C.S. Lewis, on Friday, December 4th.**

This inspiring and entertaining play explores the remarkable spiritual journey of C.S. Lewis, from atheism to a profound Christian faith. Through his friendship with fellow author J.R.R. Tolkien, Lewis came to see the birth of Christ in an entirely new light, forever transforming his understanding of Christmas.

Set in Lewis's home near Oxford on Christmas Eve, the performance combines warmth, humor, personal reflections, and touching moments that invite us to consider our own faith journeys and rediscover the wonder and true meaning of Christ's birth.

What a wonderful opportunity to enrich our spiritual lives as we prepare to celebrate Christmas! We encourage you to attend, invite a friend, and enjoy an evening that promises both entertainment and inspiration.

Performance Details

The Theater at Innovation Square
131 Chestnut St., Rochester, NY
Phone: 585-281-4893
Friday, December 4th at 7:30 pm
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Tickets: Standard $44.55
Premium $54.84 *fees included*
Additional information and box office: https://www.theaterais.com/boxoffice

Spiritual Nurture

This is Bob Blakey, writing on behalf of the Spiritual Nurture Team. We have decided to discontinue the Prayer of the Week, the Monthly Memory Verse, and the monthly Pathway article. In the coming year, our focus will shift to offering periodic spiritual practices that complement the many opportunities for growth and nurture already provided through worship services and the work of WPC's committees.

Spiritual growth is a deeply personal journey. Our goal is to offer occasional experiences that you can explore and determine whether they support your own spiritual development. For example, we hope to offer another Mindful Nature Walk in the spring, building on the positive response it received this year. We also see opportunities to explore new ways of engaging with the Labyrinth. Other possibilities may include experiences centered on art, music, or theater.

As one example, we encourage you to read the separate article in the left hand column about the upcoming performance of *Christmas with C.S. Lewis* on **December 4th** at Innovation Theater. Could this become part of a meaningful Christmas season and an opportunity for spiritual reflection and growth?

Thank you for allowing Nancy, Barb, and me to share these practices and experiences for nurturing and deepening our spirituality together.

Church School Update

This month our lessons will center on **"David: Shepherd and King".** Although he was chosen by God to lead Israel, David's life was far from easy. This shepherd-turned-king experienced many challenges and trials – some of his own making.

Whether he was tending to flocks or to matters of state, David felt God's presence and love through good times and bad. Kids often think of David only as the brave hero who went up against the mighty giant Goliath. He struggled with many issues that kids in today's world still face: respecting leaders, handling conflicts, showing gratitude, and showing kindness. Through the challenges of David, we hope the children in SHINE will learn about how God wants them to live too.

People judge by outward appearance,
but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 16

November 1: Crafts/Games
We will return to worship for Communion.

November 8: Samuel anoints David.
God doesn't judge us by the way we look.

November 15: David shows kindness.
God wants us to be kind to others.

November 22: David spares King Saul's life.
God doesn't want us to seek revenge.

November 29: Mission Project.
We will be making homemade dog biscuits to share with pet owners in our congregation and neighborhoods.

ONE in Christ

You may remember your ONE in Christ Committee sharing information about the Ride4Pride, a fundraiser for the Center for Youth LGBTQIA+ programs, including the Big Queer Prom, LGBTQIA+ youth and support groups, and Arnett House, a residence dedicated to providing housing and supportive services to LGBTQIA+ and trafficked homeless youth. We asked you to write notes of encouragement to our friend Jeanette Adams-Price, who participated in the Ride4Pride. Our ONE committee sponsored her with a donation to the Center for Youth.

Jeanette will be with us on **Sunday, November 14th,** following worship in Room 9/10 to tell us about her experience in the Ride4Pride, as well as her work as a Senior Consultant at Our Local History, whose purpose is "to share the local stories of our past to work toward a more just future." Jeanette's professional focal points include Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), culturally responsive curriculum and assessment, Safe Zone training, and LGBTQIA+ education, inclusion, and allyship. For more on Jeanette's impressive professional achievements, her complete bio can be found at ourlocalhistory.com. Jeanette hails from the south shore of Long Island and started her career as an elementary classroom teacher. She lives in the Rochester area with her wife.

Please plan to join us on November 14th after worship in Room 9/10. If you have already thought of questions to ask Jeanette, please submit them to members of the ONE in Christ Committee: Alissa Mayer, Abbey Mayer, Shirley Crane, Sandi Blakey, Lee Ann Daigle, Barb Hach, or John Kubiniec.

For Families with Youth

Join us for Youth Sunday School! We will be continuing our conversation this month on "Would Jesus Recycle" and begin a new series, "What is Idolatry?"

Grades 6-12 are invited to join us during the service in the Youth Room downstairs on **November 8, 15, and 22.**

The DECEMBER Pathway deadline for articles is NOVEMBER 18th.

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

Women's Bible Study

We will finish *A Place for Everything, and Everything in its Place* on November 3rd.

Our studies for the 10th and 17th are TBA. There will be no meeting on the 24th.

All are welcome to join on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 in Room 9/10.

Women's Circles

Naomi Circle will be getting crafty in the Memorial Room at **1:00 pm on Wednesday, November 11th.**

King Circle will hold their annual auction to support their mission giving on **Thursday, November 12th, at 10:00 am** in the Memorial Room. All are invited to share the time together.

Rachel Circle will be decorating WPC for Christmas on **Monday, November 23rd at 10:00 am**, followed by lunch at Panera.

Church Family News

In October:

We prayed for Matt Clark, Elaine Wilbert, and Evelyn Zuhlke.

We celebrated Marge Crumb's 103rd birthday.

New Addresses:

Brad and Kathy Adams
837 Cordial Court
Webster, NY 14580

Ruth Huboi
Sage Harbor at Baywinde
100 Kidd Castle Way, Room 53
Webster, NY 14580

Cora Massecar
Elderwood Village at Fairport
7 Chardonnay Drive, Room 52
Fairport, NY 14450