



The Webster Word

December 2023

Webster Congregational Christian Church

Volume 23, Issue 12

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

December 2021

Webster Congregational Christian Church of the United Church of Christ
4100 Webster Road, Havre de Grace, MD 21078 * 410-939-1884

28	29	30	1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthday Sunday, 1st Sunday of Advent, Coffee Talk, Advent Workshop 10:30AM (Zoom/in-person) • Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM 		Bible Study 11 AM	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM • Tiger Den 7PM 	Decorate Church with Greens 11 AM	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communion, Hanging of the Greens, Coffee Talk 10:30AM • Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM • Cub Scout Parents Meeting 5 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graces Place 10:30 AM • Bible Study 11:00 AM 	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM 		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd Sunday of Advent, Christmas Cookie Coffee Talk 10:30AM • Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11:00 AM • Official Board 7PM 	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM • Tiger Den 7PM 		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cantata, SS Program, Birthday Party for Jesus 10:30AM (• Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM • Senior GS Troop 5963 4-6 PM • Cub Scout Christmas Party 4 PM 	SCCW meeting 2 PM at Lyttle's	Bible Study 11:00 AM	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM	Christmas Eve Service of lessons and Carols 4:30 PM	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM • Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM 			Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		

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Bible Study notice:

Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 11 AM on Tuesdays. Each week in Bible Study, we investigate and study the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Those who attend have commented that they gain greater insight into the sermon (which always focuses on the scripture reading) each week. Email or call Pastor Jim if you are interested in joining us so you can get the contact information.

An Advent Message from Pastor Jim

At this morning’s Bible Study, we learned that the first four spoken words in the Gospel of Luke are “Do not be afraid!” They are spoken to Zechariah by the Angel Gabriel because when Zechariah first saw him in the Temple of Jerusalem, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. The complete sentence is, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.” And that son will turn out to be none other than John the Baptist. Then in the very next story that same Angel Gabriel will visit a young virgin whose name is Mary. The Angel will say to her “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.”

Although it’s pretty cheeky of an Angel to tell two prospective parents what they are to name their first-born children, it’s even more cheeky when one is an old man and getting along in years, and the other is a virgin betrothed to a carpenter. But the real message is *not to be afraid*. And this is the underlying message throughout the Gospel of Luke. And both babies will grow up and will be living examples of that message. Do not be afraid!

I know that most of us are still grieving over the passing of our dear friend and brother and pillar of Webster Church, Art Helton. And that’s an honest and understandable place to be. And some of you might be asking yourselves, “What’s going to happen to us? What’s going to happen to Webster Church?” And that too is an honest and understandable place to be. But if I know Art Helton, he’d say, “Do not be afraid, Webster Church, for you have found favor with God. Do not be afraid Webster Church, for your prayers have been answered.” In a way, Art Helton was our very own Angel Gabriel. He always showed up with great conviction, authority, determination, and integrity. And he always knew exactly what we should do. So, let’s celebrate Art Helton this Advent season by not being afraid and remembering another quote the Angel Gabriel told the virgin Mary, “With God, nothing shall be called impossible.” We love you, Art Helton! And we mean it!

MODERATOR

I am happy to report we have contracted with a local company to replace the large double doors to the Webster Church Sanctuary. The replacement will also require additional carpentry, new hardware, and closers. The new doors will be wooden as are the originals. The side door to the lower level will also be replaced as it has suffered rain damage over the years.

The total cost of the project is \$18,000. Some portion of the cost is in our current operating budget, but we are short approximately \$8,000.

We are seeking donations to complete the project in time for our 100th Anniversary and to present a new and welcoming front to our church.

On a personal note, the door project has been honchoed by my husband Art over the past year and he spent many hours trying to find a bidder for the best price. The contractor was selected just before he became ill. His colleague Vince Culotta will manage the project on Art's behalf. We are both happy to see this work proceed now.

Ann Helton, Moderator

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER:

December 3 – Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Isaiah 64: 1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 10 – Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 17 – Psalm 126:1-6 or Luke 1:46b-55; Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24 – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; **Luke 1:26-38**;
Romans 16:25-27

December 31 – Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; **Luke 2:22-40**

Scripture Readers, Greeters and Ushers:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>	<u>USHER</u>
December 3	Gary Lyttle (Communion) Linda Placzankis Pat Mengel Heather Long	Liz Luethy	Hugh Nash
December 10	Gwen Stolzenbach	Jim Cook	Tony Dooley
December 17	Church service at Hopewell Methodist at 11 AM		
December 24	Lauren Dooley	Libby Copes	Linda Placzankis
December 24 eve	Pastor Jim	Gary Lyttle	Doris Lyttle
December 31	Doris Lyttle	Lauren Dooley	Carol Greimel

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

For some reason I have been thinking about memories of Christmas from my childhood. The scraggly small tree we could buy in the city of Wilmington just decorated with a few lights and some colorful decorations. The year I received the two-wheel red Schwinn bike. However, as I travel back to hearing the story of The Other Wise Man as told by the pastor of my teen years.

Our pastor's name was Rev. Kirby Krams, and he would read a version of The Other Wise Man every year sometime during the Christmas season. He had a very deep bass voice, and it was very dramatic. Along with this he worked with our organist, and they developed a musical background to go with the script. Since then, I have often looked for the version of this story which he read but looked in vain. I have come to the conclusion he took the basic story and created the version he read. I hope this little bit of writing has helped you to think of memorable Christmases of your childhood. Make memories with your children, grandchildren, and extended family this Christmas and attend our Webster Family Advent and Christmas services, we promise good memories.

Our Advent and Christmas Services are:

- 12/3 First Sunday in Advent/Communion/ Coffee Talk/Hanging of the Greens
- 12/10 Worship/Second Sunday in Advent/Christmas Cookie Coffee Talk
- 12/17 Third Sunday in Advent/ Cantata at Hopewell (11:00 AM)
- 12/24 Fourth Sunday in Advent/ Children's Program/Coffee Talk Happy Birthday Jesus (cake and punch)
- 12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 PM Lessons and Carols

The deacons send to all of the Webster Family blessings for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!

Tony Dooley, Deacon



Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)

The SCCW ladies and the men of Webster Church have been busy with the Bazaar and Craft Show. The white elephant room was stocked with lots of good items. Delicious apple, cherry, and pumpkin pies and apple crisps and apple cobblers were baked. Webster's famous chicken corn soup was sold by the quart and by the dish. The all-you-can-eat breakfast was delicious thanks to Gary and his crew. They were also busy selling the delicious chicken corn soup, hot dogs, sloppy joes, and slices of homemade pies and pie a la mode. A big thank you goes out to everyone who made this event successful. Thank you to those who peeled apples, prepared, and baked the pies; made goodies for the different tables and in the kitchen; brought Silent Auction and Collectable items; worked at the event; cleaned up after the event; and came and supported us. Money was raised to support Blessings in a Backpack and our other benevolences.

Our sale of pies for Thanksgiving is becoming more popular. We took orders and baked over 100 pies the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Thank you to everyone who helped peel, bake, and bought pies. We have been asked if we are baking pies for Christmas, but we are going to take a break.

At 11:30 AM, on Monday, December 18th, we will have our annual Christmas get-together at the Lyttle's home. There will be a luncheon and a short business meeting followed by fellowship and gift giving. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a \$10-\$15 wrapped gift for a lady. If you would like to contribute to the luncheon, contact Doris. All the women of the church are welcome to attend. If you need directions, let Doris know. If you need a ride, let Ann know. Hope to see you there.

At our January meeting, we participate in a burning of the green's ceremony, and we will be planning for 2024.

Doris Lyttle, President



Those celebrating December birthdays are:

**James Stolzenbach
Draiven Morse**

**Art Helton
Albert Raimondo**

CLERK'S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

- Plans are moving forward to replace the front doors and the basement door.
- Celebration of Art Helton's life is Saturday, December 9th. Visitation at 10 AM, service at 11 AM, and luncheon at noon.
- Plans are moving forward for the 100th Anniversary celebrations in 2024. Put Saturday, September 28, 2024, on your calendar for the church service and dinner.
- Official Board meeting - Tuesday, December 12th at 7 PM.

A Holiday Gift to Help a Child

As the holidays draw closer, we begin to make a list of people we give Christmas gifts. People give gifts to their family members and friends. Sometimes people give gifts to organizations or to those in need. Some people suggest giving a gift to others rather than asking for a gift for themselves. Webster Church supports Blessing in a Backpack which provides food to feed elementary children at Havre de Grace Elementary School on the weekends. This additional nourishment, though small, helps the children be more successful in school.

\$130 feeds a child in the program for an entire school year. Presently Webster Church helps 75 children, but there are many more children who could benefit from this program. As you are preparing to do your Christmas shopping, you may be inclined to help a child by sending money, no matter what amount, to

Blessings in a Backpack Bank Lockbox
P.O. Box 950291
Louisville, KY 40295

Remember to write Havre de Grace Elementary on the memo line.

Breaking News:

Now you can contribute to the Havre de Grace Elementary account at Blessings in a Backpack online. Use the following site:

<https://giving.blessingsinabackpack.org/organizations/havre-de-grace-elementary-153b76bc-313a-4599-8b44-a20cb2aa7736>



WEBSTER UCC

Advent

CALENDAR OF GIVING

The SCCW and Sunday School invite you to participate in a reverse Advent calendar. Use this list as a guide to fill a bag with these needed items to share with the guests at Grace Place.



ramen with chicken
ramen with beef
ramen with shrimp
corned beef hash
macaroni & cheese
chili with beans
chili without beans
canned tuna
canned chicken
baked beans
canned pasta in sauce
tomato soup

chicken noodle soup
spam
vienna sausages
potted meat
canned corn
canned green beans
canned peas
canned mixed vegetables
canned spinach
fruit cups
pudding cups
granola bars

**Each day, add an item to a bag.
Filled Advent bags can be dropped
off at Webster church on January
7th from 10 am to 12 pm.**

4100 Webster Road, Havre de Grace, MD 21078

**Check donations can be made directly to:
Grace Place Susquehanna Ministerium, PO
BOX 567, Havre de Grace, MD 21078.**

Digital Offering

Thank you for supporting the work of Webster Church!



Hold your camera over this qr code and click the link to give your offering through PayPal.

Special Notes



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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DECEMBER

