



The Webster Word

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

September 2023

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

27	28	29	30	31	1	2
						• Funeral 10 AM-2PM
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
• Communion Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM	• Labor Day	• Grace Place 9:30 AM (meal) • Bible Study 11 AM (Zoom)	• Think Group 5:30- 6:30 PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		• Wedding Parking
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
• Rally Day Service, Pot Luck Coffee Talk 10:30 AM		• Bible Study 11 AM (Zoom) • Official Board 7 PM	• Think Group 5:30- 6:30 PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
• Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM	• SCCW 11:30 AM at church	• Bible Study 11 AM (Zoom) • Deacons Meeting 7 PM (Zoom)	• Think Group 5:30- 6:30 PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
• Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM		• Bible Study 11 AM (Zoom)	• Think Group 5:30- 6:30 PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		

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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.

A Reunion Message from Pastor Jim

“But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe---the best one---and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.” ---Luke 15:22-24

A couple of weeks ago a member of Webster Church asked me if I was losing weight. “Oh no!” I thought, “That’s a sure sign that I’ve gained weight!” And I had. I spent my entire summer vacation eating. No one killed a fatted calf for me but everywhere I went there were enormous amounts of food. You see, I spent my summer vacation attending reunion after reunion after reunion. I think the tradition of providing hospitality with large amounts of food dates all the way back to Genesis 18 when God in the form of three travelers reunited with Abram and Sari and promised to give them their first-born child.

My series of summer reunions started with a drive to Dublin, Ohio where Mike and I visited with Vilma Duffy, a long-time member of Webster Church, who now resides with her daughter there. Then we drove to Flint, Michigan where we spent four full days attending my fiftieth Flint Central High School reunion. After the reunion we drove to Oberlin, Ohio where we stayed at a bed and breakfast for four days. Then we visited Vilma again on our way back to Wilmington, where I dropped off Mike and met my biblical storytelling partner Danette at the Philadelphia airport. Danette and I rehearsed our two stories together for three days and then it was on to the Maritime Convention Center in Linthicum, Maryland for the four-day Festival Gathering of the Network of Biblical Storytellers. Then I was back at Webster Church where we successfully produced our annual Peach Festival and offered our annual Vacation Bible School at the home of Art and Ann Helton.

This is the part where I'm supposed to describe the abundance of food but I'm not going to. Because the real treat wasn't the pizza or the prime rib, the ice cream, or the peach pie. The real treat was reconnecting with folks like Danette and Vilma who I hadn't seen in person for over two years and telling stories to our boys and girls and with the members of the Network, some whom I hadn't seen in over a year, and reconnecting with my classmates, many whom I have known since I first attended kindergarten.

Here's just one highlight. Mike and I were sitting in one of the restaurants that was part of our Friday evening high school reunion dine-around with some of my close friends when a woman came up to our table and asked, "Do any of you know who I am?" I really wanted to answer, "Well, if you don't know who you are how do you expect us to know who you are?" And although I hadn't seen her since the tenth grade, I recognized her immediately. I answered, "You're Annie Shupak, and we've known each other since we were in afternoon kindergarten together at Pierce School." And she was floored. But most of my classmates grew up looking a lot like their parents so she was easy to recognize.

Ultimately, there's never enough time to spend with everyone you want to. But I had the joy of registering people at both my high school reunion and at the Festival Gathering. And there is nothing like the spontaneous joy I experience when I am reunited with a long-lost friend. My immediate response is to spring up from my chair and give them a big hug. There's also nothing like meeting our neighbors from Webster Village for the first time and connecting with them in person at the Peach Festival. "Let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" Thank God for reunions!

MODERATOR

At my age I am grateful to have most of my hearing intact. My husband might say otherwise but that is another story! I have been hearing all the delightful sounds of summer and many of them are directly related to Webster Church activities. I can hear Gary firing up the convection oven so we can churn out close to 150 peach pies and cobblers. I enjoy the banter I hear from Heidi, Doris, and Libby as they toil in that hot kitchen. And all the peelers in the Social Hall are chattering away and trying to make their task lighter. It is particularly sweet to hear all the sounds of the community at the Peach Festival as they enjoy breakfast and pick up their pies. So many different voices!

And recently I loved to hear all the children in our swimming pool at the Church picnic and Vacation Bible School. They are singing with Angie in the lead and grow pretty silent as Pastor Jim animates the Bible lesson. It gives me great joy to have all this activity in my yard as it is quite quiet around here most of the time. Just Art and I and the tree frogs, crickets, and birds. I am thankful we can still enjoy these hot summer days with our Church. It is a blessing to us. Thank you!

Ann Helton, Moderator

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR September:

September 3 – Exodus 3:1-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b or Jeremiah 15:15-21 and Psalm 26:1-8;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

September 10 – **Exodus 12:1-14** and Psalm 149 or Ezekiel 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40;
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 17 – **Exodus 14:19-31** and Psalm 114 or *Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21* or Genesis 50:15-21 and Psalm
103:(1-7), 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 24 – **Exodus 16:2-15** and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-6

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

Unless there is an emergency for the deacons to deal with, they do not meet during the months of July and August. This does not mean that we don't engage in some planning of worship during the summer especially through talking together at Coffee Talk time, by phone, by texting and by email. Here are the September worship services:

- 9/3 Communion/Worship/Coffee Talk
- 9/10 Rally Day/Worship/Potluck Dinner
- 9/17 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 9/24 Birthday Sunday/Worship/Coffee Talk

The deacons hope all our members have returned from the long hot summer and vacationing. We look forward to seeing you at worship!!

A THOUGHT ON BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

As a member of Webster, I have always enjoyed Birthday Sundays for many reasons. The most important is the fact that the money collected is sent to a charity selected by the students in Sunday school, a real positive on sharing with others that the children will remember. As a child and a teen, I attended Brandywine Methodist Church in Wilmington Delaware. In college I attended Bloomsburg Methodist Church (On Monday evenings they served the college students a wonderful home cooked meal!!). We attended St Mark's United Church of Christ in Cressona Pennsylvania before moving to Maryland. None of the aforementioned Churches celebrated birthdays in any way, and this idea impressed me greatly. Lately I have tried to remember family members during the months of their birthdays. Please remember your loved ones and share this special Sunday every month.

Tony Dooley, Deacon

Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)

The SCCW ladies were busy this summer. On Thursday afternoon August 6th, 5 people came to set up the social hall and prepare the pie boxes. On Friday, August 12th ladies and men peeled peaches and baked pies, cobblers, and crisps. Many hands helped at the breakfast and other activities on Saturday for the very successful Peach Festival. Sloppy Joes were back on the lunch menu and enjoyed by many. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the event a success.

The ladies made their delicious side dishes to serve at the church picnic at the Helton home on August 19th. The weather was pleasant, and everyone enjoyed the fellowship, food, and some went swimming. Thank you to our chef Andy Dooley and his helper, Seiken Taylor for cooking the hot dogs, hamburgers, and sausage. A big thank you to Art and Ann for opening their home for this event.

The SCCW is inviting all the women from Webster Church to attend our meetings on the third Monday of the month. The September meeting is on Monday, Sept. 18th at 11:30 AM. In the church social hall. There will be a lunch, a program, and we will begin preparing for our bazaar which will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023. As you do your fall cleaning, collect good, clean, usable items for our white elephant room, items for our Silent Auction or Collectables Table. Please, NO clothing. Items may be brought to church starting on Sunday, October 29, 2023. If you have any questions, see Doris Lyttle.

Doris Lyttle, President



Those celebrating September birthdays are:

**Saddie Burkentine Sofia
Rebecca Zader
Angie Jones
Terry Haverstick**

**Haveallen Doctor
Seiken Taylor
Connor Jennings**

CLERK'S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

Baptism

Liam Brooks Fisher

- The Peach Festival was a success. Thank you to everyone who helped.
- Donations to Webster Church can be made electronically. There is a QR code on the wall in the sanctuary where people sign in on Sunday mornings. Please see the flyer on the last page of the newsletter for the code.
- Rally Day and Potluck is Sunday, September 10th.
- Official Board meeting - Tuesday, September 12th at 7 PM.

Scripture Readers:

DATE

September 3
September 10
September 17
September 24

READER

Jessica Long
Pat Mengel
Gary Lyttle
Beth Jackson

Communion

FEED A CHILD FOR A YEAR

THANK YOU! THANK YOU to everyone who supplied items and bought items at the Blessings table at the Peach Festival in August. We raised \$150 for our Blessings in a Backpack outreach mission at Havre de Grace Elementary School. It is September and the children are back in school. Webster Church is continuing to support Blessings in a Backpack by providing food for children at Havre de Grace Elementary School over the weekends. The generous donations of our parishioners, people in the community, the SCCW, the scouts, and fundraisers, we can feed 75 students each week. A special thank you to the Hope Center of Maryland who donated over \$5,000 worth of food for the backpacks.

The cost of the supplies for the backpacks has increased and it costs at least \$8,000 a year to feed 75 students out of 200 eligible children for the program. Any support you can give will be greatly appreciated. \$125 feeds a child for a school year, but we are accepting donations in any amount in the hope of providing more food to more children.

Address for Blessings in a Backpack

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

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

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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SEPTEMBER

