



# The Webster Word

February 2025 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 25, Issue 2

*A community of faith in Havre de Grace*

## February 2025

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

<b>26</b> • Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3 PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> • Bible Study 11:00 AM on Zoom	<b>29</b> • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	<b>30</b> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> • Emmanuel Men's Breakfast 8-9:30 AM
<b>2</b> • Communion, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3 PM	<b>3</b> Feed the Homeless	<b>4</b> • Grace Place 9:30 AM (dessert) • NO Bible Study • PRC 1 PM	<b>5</b> • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	<b>6</b> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> • Emmanuel Baptist Outreach 10:30 – 12 PM
<b>9</b> • Scout Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3 PM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> • NO Bible Study Pastor Jim's Vacation 02/11-02/28	<b>12</b> • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	<b>13</b> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> • Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Deacons Meeting • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3 PM	<b>17</b> SCCW meeting 11:30 AM at Lytle's	<b>18</b> • NO Bible Study	<b>19</b> • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	<b>20</b> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM	<b>21</b> • Trekkers Visit	<b>22</b> • Trekkers Visit
<b>23</b> • Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3 PM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> • NO Bible Study	<b>26</b> • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	<b>27</b> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b> • Emmanuel Men's Breakfast 8-9:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist Outreach 10:30 – 12 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 Message of Thanks from Pastor Jim

**Just a few weeks ago at the Congregational Meeting I mentioned that even though our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year is over, God will find something new for us to do. And because Webster Church is an open and affirming congregation and because we are known for our extravagant welcome, people are reaching out to us, and we have said “yes!”**

**On Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> we hosted a cabaret entitled “Here We Are,” which was presented by BIPOC of Harford County. BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and this group of local artists came together to create a two-hour show where they could perform showtunes that “made them feel joy, liberated and more.” And our Webster congregation became the recipients of that joy and liberation. The singers were polished and talented and were ready to go to New York to audition for a Broadway show. We heard amazing solos and duets from “American Idiot,” “The Notebook,” “Hamilton,” “Ragtime,” “Wicked,” and more. And not only did the performers have beautiful voices, but they were also great actors. And it was amazing to hear how excellent some of our favorite showtunes are when they stand alone from their musical’s entire score. So, kudos to JJ DeVoe for making this event happen at Webster Church and kudos to our Official Board for welcoming these gifted performers into our church home. In these troubling times BIPOC will continue to be welcomed here, and we mean it.**

**Next, on February 21st, we will welcome 24 students and adults from Maine who will stay overnight in our building. They are members of a youth-mentoring program called Trekkers, who will be learning more about Boston, Philadelphia and Washington DC as they travel to those cities and are hosted by churches and community centers. “Trekkers is a youth-mentoring program that helps students build resilience, create community, and develop aspirations for the future.” I imagine they reached out to us because they concluded from our website that Webster UCC is an open and affirming congregation. We are so open to welcoming the stranger and offering hospitality that once again we said “yes!”**

So, before we get so depressed by the latest current events that we can't even get out of bed, let's remember that God is working God's purpose out and that God has a plan for Webster Church. And sometimes all we must do to carry out God's plan is to say "yes!"

## MODERATOR

"A snow day literally and figuratively falls from the sky, unbidden, and seems like a thing of wonder" Susan Orlean

You may not be as enamored with the snow as this poet, but we have had a taste of it, nonetheless. Just one service canceled so far but with the magic of Zoom we gathered around our screens and worshipped anyhow. Winter has its challenges, but it does nothing to our faith in the coming of Spring.

I want to thank those members who managed to attend church and the Annual Meeting and help insure your approval of the 2025 Budget and Leadership. We are after all a Congregational Church and your vote gives us the authority to conduct our business side and assure worship services. We are so fortunate to have your participation in these matters. I look forward to serving as the Moderator, working with a devoted Board, and keeping our Church intact. What a pleasure it is! And more importantly, we give thanks for our hard-working Pastor Jim, who gives us the messages of the Bible and how to live in this turbulent world. God is still speaking! Listen up!

Ann Helton, Moderator

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## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY:

**February 2** – Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; **Luke 4:21-30**

**February 9** – Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) and Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

**February 16** – Luke 6:17-26; Jeremiah 17:5-10 and Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**February 23** – Genesis 45:3-11, 15 and Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; **Luke 6:27-38**

## **NOTES FROM THE DEACONS**

**The month of Presidents' Day and Valentines' Day is here already. The older we get the holidays seem to come faster and leave faster!! I guess I should be glad that the February holidays seem to remind us that soon Spring will be here. The ice and snow will melt away and the temperatures will be warmer.**

**The Deacons hope you will be able to attend the Sunday Services planned in February and listed below:**

- 2/2 Communion/Coffee Talk**
- 2/9 Worship/Coffee Talk(Scout Sunday)(Super Bowl)**
- 2/16 Worship/Coffee Talk**
- 2/23 Worship/Coffee Talk**

**Please remember the Deacons are ready and able to hear your concerns and suggestions as we plan the services each month.**

**Suggestion: Send a Valentine to someone not expecting one from you!!**

**Tony Dooley, Deacon**

## **Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)**

**Due to the weather the SCCW didn't meet in January. At the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting the annual Burning of the Greens ceremony will be observed. The officers: President - Doris Lyttle, Vice President of Devotions – Judith Haverstick, Vice President of Programs – Ann Helton, Treasurer – Linda Placzankis, Secretary – Libby Copes, Hospitality/Flower Chairperson, Jean Cook, and Official Board Rep – Carol Greimel will be installed.**

**The ladies of Webster Church are invited to attend the SCCW meetings. The SCCW meets at 11:30 AM on the third Monday of the month. There is a lunch followed by devotions, a program, and a business meeting. The dues are \$12 for the year.**

**The February meeting will be on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 AM at the Lyttle home.**

**Doris Lyttle, President**



Those celebrating February birthdays are:

Samantha Taylor  
Curtis Cohen  
Ethen Cohen  
Anthony Dooley  
Jacob Zader  
Michael Brennan  
Ella Pensell  
Linda Raimondo

Elizabeth Zader  
Elianna DeVoe  
Andrew Dooley  
Fhaleane Doctor  
Anara Dooley  
Michael Dooley  
Doris Lyttle  
Brian Placzankis

## CLERK'S REPORT

### Things Happening at Webster Church

- Webster Church Annual Meeting was held on January 12, 2025. The congregation voted to accept the slate of officers and approved the budget for 2025.
- Copies of the Annual Report are available in the church office or see Doris Lyttle.
- Scout Sunday is February 9, 2025.
- If anyone has dates for activities and meetings in 2025, contact Doris Lyttle so they can be put on the 2025 calendar posted in the hall downstairs.
- **Snow policy.** In most cases a decision as to whether to cancel in-person Sunday services will be decided on Saturday evening. The congregation will be notified by email or phone call if services are cancelled or on Zoom only. Please check your emails Saturday night or Sunday morning. People without emails will be contacted by phone.

### Service Attendants:

#### DATE

February 2  
February 9  
February 16  
February 23

#### READER

Heidi Pensell Communion  
Pat Mengel  
Gwen Stolzenbach  
Jim Cook

#### GREETER

Lonna Smith  
Scout  
Hugh Nash  
Beth Jackson

#### USHER

Avery Ashby  
Scout  
Lisa Taylor  
Linda Placzankis

## **Blessings in a Backpack – Support a Child**

**A New Year is starting numerically, but the 2024-2025 school year continues. Webster Congregational Christian Church continues to pack backpacks of nonperishable food to deliver to students at Havre de Grace Elementary School each week for 75 students.**

**Webster Church has a special account at Sysco through the National Headquarters of Blessings in a Backpack which is used to purchase three rotating menu packs for the backpacks. Extra items are packed for the long weekends and winter and spring breaks. Doris and Gary Lyttle order the food and deliver the backpacks to the school. A special thank you to those who help pack the backpacks for each weekend.**

**The children are very grateful for these items as for some, this may be the only food they have for the weekend. \$175 will supply food for a year per child.**

**If you would like to contribute to the Blessings in a Backpack Webster Church fund, send your contribution 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.**

**Or donate at**

**<https://giving.blessingsinabackpack.org/organizations/havre-de-grace-elementary-md>**





## Special Notes



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# February

