



The Webster Word

March 2026 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 26, Issue 3

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

March 2026

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communion, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM -3 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace Place 9:30 AM (Meal) • NO BIBLE STUDY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Day of Prayer at Hopewell 12PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rod Davis Court of Honor 2PM
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM -3 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed the Homeless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO BIBLE STUDY • Official Board Meeting 7PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmanuel Baptist Outreach 10:30 AM -12 PM • Placzankis Baby Shower
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Service, Coffee Talk, 10:30 AM • Deacons Meeting • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCCW meeting 11:30AM at Webster Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO BIBLE STUDY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM 		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Service, Coffee Talk, 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmanuel Baptist 10AM to 2PM
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm and Birthday Sunday Cantiata, Coffee Talk, Egg Hunt 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM • Maundy Thursday 6PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Way of the Cross 12PM 	

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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 from Pastor Jim

**“Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this sun of York.”**

These familiar words that open William Shakespear’s *The Tragedy of King Richard the Third* could easily describe both the current political situation in Washington DC, and the relentless severe winter we are experiencing. There is no guarantee that we will have Sunday worship or if a blizzard will leave your pastor in the wrong place at the wrong time. And then there’s the leadership of our federal government. I think Charles Dickens summed up our President’s State of the Union Address quite clearly in his *Tale of Two Cities* when he wrote:

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way.”

So, I have some good news and some bad news. First, the good news. I predict that as we follow Jesus to the cross during this Season of Lent, the snow will slowly fade away by Easter Sunday. As for the bad news, the situation in Washington DC is completely unpredictable. So, what can we do in the meantime? In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says:

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

Jesus describes his disciple’s mission into the world by illustrating the contrast between two clashing metaphors: *light* and *a city on a hill*. The light metaphor presents the disciples as an illumination for the world. The primary function of light is not to be seen, but to let things be seen as they are. In a provoking contrast, the metaphor of the city on a hill presents the disciples as followers of Jesus who won’t be able to avoid being seen.

When Jesus says ‘you are’ the light he’s addressing the entire community. But he’s not challenging them to *try harder* to become light, he’s telling them that as his followers they already *are* the light of the world. And with these two metaphors of light and city, Jesus strikes a death blow to any religion that is personal and private. Just as the Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the disciples, it’s also addressed to the crowds. And it’s addressed to us.

Today, we don’t worship sheltered together by hiding in an inner room. Webster Church is not a secret society shielding itself from the world. And we must aspire to be like a city on a hill whose authentic light cannot be concealed.

So, what do we do when we are more certain of the impending storm than the behavior of our elected officials, we elected to represent us? Well, Jesus challenges and encourages Webster Church to *be* Webster Church. And he begins with those eight beatitudes that open his Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus tells us not to forget that part of our mission is to disrupt the status quo by valuing those who are disposed, by caring for those who have suffered loss, by seeking to do justice, by showing mercy, by having integrity, by being peacemakers, and by courageously standing up for what we believe. Because if we don’t do the work that humanizes life on earth we too will become like that lamp that’s been put under a bushel basket. So let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven!

MODERATOR

Praise be to God! During these frigid days of winter, we can safely say our Congregation has been safe and warm! That's not to say we haven't had our share of minor illnesses and stuffy noses. But unlike some of our less fortunate we have been blessed with food, heat, medical care and loving care. We are a caring church so some of our volunteer hours have been spent reaching out to our neighbors in need. Thanks to the ladies of the SCCW we have provided 75 meals to the Winter Homeless program. The families who benefit from this are housed during the winter months at a motel in Aberdeen. We are part of a consortium of churches who organize and produce hot meals over a period of four months. Additionally, Webster Church continues its participation in Grace Place once a month to operate a food pantry at St. John's Episcopal Church in Havre de Grace. The need is great and we typically serve about 60 people during our time there. The elderly, disabled, and families with children are the population we see there.

As you might suspect we have had many additional expenses related to the harsh weather, Just like your personal budgets! that includes snow removal, water pipe replacement and heating repairs. Some of these costs relate to our aging infrastructure in both the Church building and the Parish House but harsh weather brings on the repairs that can no longer be ignored. We have experienced delays in some outside work because of the weather. Specifically repairing the siding on the front of the church spire and repairing the garage

roof. But the outrageous expense of the winter has to be our gas and electricity costs. Our bill for January totaled \$2,000! We have never experienced this kind of bill in our history. I know all of you have seen the same quantum leap in your household use. We are helpless to make this go away so the piper must be paid. All I can say is thank you for your generous tithing that helps address our budget.

So, I hope we will not need any more service cancellations or bad Zoom connections and can return to normalcy. We are already in the Lenten season and making plans for the Easter Cantata on Palm Sunday with Hopewell church and the Deacons are at work planning the Maundy Thursday supper. Pastor Jim is leading us through Lent with the messages from the Cross. All is good with our Soul!

Ann Helton, Moderator

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

March contains my favorite holiday St. Patrick's Day, and I always get my grandchildren excited about the visit by the Leprechaun. Luckily, Lois and I visited Ireland for a week in October of 2013 and loved every moment of the visit. Ask me about the trip sometime and I will give you our experience in Ireland (in a very brief form).

Now, on to what is happening in the form of worship at Webster Church this month:

- 3/1 Communion/Coffee Talk
- 3/8 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 3/15 Worship/Coffee talk
- 3/22 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 3/29 Palm Sunday/Cantata (at Webster with the Hopewell Choir)/Special Coffee Talk
- 4/ 2 Maundy Thursday /Agape Dinner at 6PM

Our choir, along with the Hopewell's choir, has been busy preparing for the Easter Cantata entitled "*IT IS FINISHED*". Please make sure you come and enjoy this cantata on Palm Sunday.

Please take note I have included our annual Agape Dinner on Maundy Thursday at 6 PM.

Tony Dooley, Deacon

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH:

March 1 – Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; **John 3:17** or Matthew 17:1-9

March 8 – **John 4:5-42**; Exodus 17:1-17; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11

March 15 – **John 9:1-41** 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14

March 22 – Ezekial 37:1-14; Psalm 130; 1 Romans 8:6-11; **John 11:1-45**

March 29 – Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; 2 Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;
Matthew 26:14-27:66; or Matthew 27:11-54

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Service Attendants:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>	<u>USHER</u>
March 1	Marge Joseph Communion	Linda Placzankis	Jean Cook
March 8	Victoria DeVoe	Barbara Nash	Hugh Nash
March 15	Lisa Taylor	Gary Lyttle	Carol Greimel
March 22	Mark DeVoe	Mark DeVoe	Victoria DeVoe
March 29	Gwen Stolzenbach	Lisa Taylor	Seiken Taylor

Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)

The ladies met on February 16th. Ann Helton informed us about what the Land Trust is and what and how they preserve farm lands in Harford County.

On January 23rd and 30th meals were prepared and taken to a group of homeless people with temporary housing at a motel in Aberdeen. On Monday, March 9th members of Webster Church will again feed the group of homeless people.

The March meeting will be on Monday, March 16th, at 11:30 AM at the Webster Church.

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.

Doris Lyttle, President

Those celebrating March birthdays are:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Hugh Nash | Sam DeVoe |
| Bonnie Burden | Marge Joseph |
| Tucker Barnes | Susan Roeder |
| Heidi Pensell | Henry Pensell |
| Scott Jones | Kyla Placzankis |
| Anna Jones | |



CLERK'S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

- Copies of the Annual Report are available in the church office or see Doris Lyttle.
- If anyone has dates for activities and meetings in 2026, contact Doris Lyttle so they can be put on the 2026 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. Let's hope we don't need to miss any more Sundays.

Blessings in a Backpack – Support a Child

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. Once or twice a month a group of people braved the cold scout room this winter to pack several weeks' worth of backpacks. They are very important to the success of the program, and it is a time of fun and fellowship and exercise.

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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March

