



The Webster Word

December 2025

Webster Congregational Christian Church

Volume 25, Issue 12

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

December 2025

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

30	1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Sunday of Advent, Birthday Sunday, Hanging of the Green, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grace Place 9:30 AM (dessert) 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"> Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emmanuel Baptist 10 AM - 2 PM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd Sunday of Advent, Communion, Christmas Coffee Talk 10:30 AM Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM -3 PM 		<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"> BIPOC Cabaret Practice 5-9PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emmanuel Baptist Outreach 10:30 AM -12 PM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd Sunday of Advent, Sunday School Program, Birthday Party for Jesus, Cookie Share Coffee Talk, 10:30 AM Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCCW meeting 11:30AM at Lytle's 	<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"> Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIPOC Cabaret Practice 5-9PM 	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4th Sunday of Advent, Cantata at Hopewell Methodist 10:30 AM Deacons Meeting Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Eve Service 4 PM 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"> BIPOC Cabaret Practice 5-9PM 	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birthday Sunday Service, Coffee Talk, 10:30 AM Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3 PM 		<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIPOC Cabaret Practice 5-9PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIPOC Cabaret Show 5-9PM

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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 Christmas Message from Pastor Jim

Miss Heidi played Christmas music while she and Miss Doris baked eighty-four pies this past Tuesday before Thanksgiving. And the songs must have had a positive effect because every pie looked perfect and the two, I tasted on Thanksgiving Day were delicious! And after you apple peelers were finished, I joined Heidi and Doris in the kitchen to wash the dishes, and the music had an energetic appeal. But I remember telling Heidi, “This is the only Christmas song I don’t like,” before the Grinch in me ended up with a list of a few more. There’s the one sung by Andy Williams that they used to play every hour on WJR, the radio station my parents listened to in their kitchen from dawn to dusk. Then there’s the one that instructs small children to “Hang their stockings and say their prayers ‘cause Santa Claus comes tonight.” I guess praying for Santa to come on Christmas Eve rubs me the wrong way. Then there’s the one where a man laments that “Last Christmas I gave you my heart and the very next day you tore it apart.” Why is that *even* a Christmas song? He might as well be singing “Last Halloween” or “Last Valentine’s Day.”

And at the risk of sounding like Ebenezer Scrooge, some of our Christmas Carols fare no better in my book than the pop songs on the radio. “We Three Kings of Orient Are” imagines only three kings at Jesus’ stable. But Matthew, the gospel writer never mentions the number of magi who bowed down to Jesus, he only mentions the three types of gifts they brought. Then there’s “The cattle are lowing the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.” Really Anonymous writer, really? I think God’s special Son wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a cow trough deserves to shed a few cathartic tears. And then there’s “Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? The sleeping child you’re holding is the great ‘I Am.’” Well, of course she knew! Nine months earlier she sang “The Magnificat!” She said, “My soul magnifies the LORD, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” And yet, in the carol’s defense, throughout the rest of the four gospels Mary seems more than a little dazed and confused.

And yet I absolutely love these three Christmas Carols! It wouldn't be Christmas without them. And maybe their writers understood something that is somewhat lost on me. They created the settings, the pathos, the mood, the joy, and the unforgettable lyrics so that each hymn can also be a teaching moment for our siblings who have never read the Bible. So, like the Bible, I don't take each Christmas Carol literally, but I do take them seriously. My brother David, who's been a devout Buddhist for over forty years, says he still loves hearing all of those Christmas Carols at Christmas. To quote Andy Williams, "Happy Holidays!"

MODERATOR

I am writing this article for the Webster Word on Thanksgiving Day and I am reflecting on all the blessings I have in my life, particularly in my Church family and my personal family. A relative of mine recently told me she wakes up every day feeling grateful for all she has in her life. She doesn't feel entitled, just grateful. I wish we could all be imbued with this thought!

My appreciation for my church family is certainly on my mind this day and throughout the year. Webster Church is filled with many talented, loving and generous people even though we are a small congregation. I find these traits in all the work that is done to keep us together and make our church a functioning place of worship. We are blessed with an energetic and caring Pastor who fully embraces us as a flock in his care. We are lucky to have so many talented members who share their talents with us. They sing to us, they organize us, they fix things, they volunteer every time we need them, and they give from their personal treasury as they are able. There are no egos or sense of entitlement at play here! Just unselfish, caring acts of kindness.

I just wanted you to know how much I appreciate all of you and how grateful I am to have you in my life. I have been the Moderator for many years, so I have seen all these selfless acts over and over. Grateful isn't a big enough word but thank you all.

Ann Helton, Moderator

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

My very favorite season of the year is the Christmas Season. The deacons along with Pastor Jim have prepared Advent worship services filled with all the blessings of the season. We hope you will attend all services that you are able:

- 12/7 Communion/Coffee Talk
- 12/14 Church School Program/Coffee Talk/Cookie Share/Happy Birthday Cake for Jesus
- 12/21 Cantata at Hopewell Church
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
- 12/28 Worship Carol Sing/Birthday Sunday/Coffee Talk

Here is a wish for you and yours this Christmas from the Deacons:

*May the gift of LOVE,
 Of JOY, of PEACE
 May all of these and
 More be yours this
 CHRISTMAS*

Tony Dooley, Deacon

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER:

December 7 – **Isaiah 11:1-10**; Psalm 72:1-7 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; 2 Matthew 3:1-12

December 14 – Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or **Luke 1:46b-55**; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 21 – Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; **Matthew 1:18-25**

December 28 – Isaiah 63:7-9; **Psalm 148**; Hebrew 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Service Attendants:

DATE	READER	GREETER	USHER
December 7	Ann Helton Communion	Lonna Smith	Linda Placzankis
December 14	Scott Jones	Beth Jackson	Carol Greimel
December 21	Cantata at Hopewell Methodist		
December 28	Pat Mengel	Gary Lyttle	Doris Lyttle

Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)

November was a very busy month for the congregation. On November 1st was the Bazaar and Craft Show. The white elephant room was stocked with lots of good items, and over \$500 was raised for Blessings in a Backpack. 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 hot dogs, sloppy joes, and slices of homemade pies and pie alamode. 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 bake table, made the delicious chicken corn soup, worked at the event; cleaned up after the event; and came and supported us. Thank you to the crafters and vendors who participated. Money was raised to support Blessings in a Backpack and our other benevolences.

Thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedule to help peel, bake, and bought pies for the Thanksgiving pie sale. We took orders and baked 84 pies and crisps the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. This year at both events we announced that we were taking orders for cherry pies. This proved to be a very popular item.

The next SCCW meeting is our Christmas meeting on Monday, December 15th at 11:30 AM, at the Lyttle home. Instead of exchanging gifts with each other, we decided to take a collection of the amount we would have spent for a gift and donate the money to Blessings in a Backpack.

Doris Lyttle, President



Those celebrating December birthdays are:

James Stolzenbach
Tom Barnes
Draiven Morse
Albert Raimondo

CLERK'S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

- A new tenant will be moving into the Parish House this month.
- Check out the flyer later in the Webster Word about collecting for Grace Place. Recently the number of people coming has increased to over 100 people each Tuesday.
- The December Official Board meeting is Tuesday, December 9th at 7 PM.
- The Annual Meeting is January 11, 2026, after the church service. There will be a pot luck dinner before the meeting. Put this on your new calendar.

Blessings in a Backpack – Support a Child

Giving Tuesday

Every year the Tuesday after Thanksgiving is set aside for **GIVING TUESDAY**, which is a time to remember and donate to your favorite charity. This year it is Tuesday, December 2nd. One of Webster Church's major charities is Blessing in a Backpack. To continue to feed 75 students each weekend during the school year, funds need to be raised. Hopefully, you will be able to donate to this worthwhile cause. This can be done by mailing a check to the address below or through Give Gab using the email below or the QR code on the next page.

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.

Or donate at

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

Did you know that as little as \$175/year will feed one child on the weekends for one school year in Havre de Grace, Maryland? Your support will help keep hunger pangs at bay until children return to school on Monday morning. But the impact goes beyond that.

Kids who have enough to eat do better in school and feel cared for by their community. And the need grows every day.



Who will feed the kids this weekend?
We hope you will!

Scan the QR code below to donate to the Blessings in a Backpack program at Havre de Grace Elementary.



You can also visit our giving page at:
giving.blessingsinabackpack.org/organizations/havre-de-grace-elementary-md

Please join us in a reverse Advent calendar. Add one item to a grocery bag each day. We appreciate any non-expired non-perishable you can donate, and you can use this list as a guide of what we offer.

ramen with chicken	chicken noodle soup
ramen with beef	spam
ramen with shrimp	vienna sausages
corned beef hash	potted meat
macaroni & cheese	canned corn
chili with beans	canned green beans
chili without beans	canned peas
canned tuna	canned mixed vegetables
canned chicken	canned spinach
baked beans	fruit cups
canned pasta in sauce	pudding cups
tomato soup	granola bars

Each day, add an item to a bag. Advent bags can be dropped off at Webster church on December 28th or January 4th 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.

*Thank you and
Merry Christmas!*

Special Notes



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DECEMBER

