



The Webster Word

April 2025 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 25, Issue 4

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

April 2025

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

30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3 PM		 Grace Place 9:30 AM (dessert) No Bible Study 	 Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM 	 Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM Boy Scouts 7:15 PM 		Emmanuel Men's Breakfast 8-9:30 AM
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Communion, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3 PM		 Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom 	 Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM 	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		 Emmanuel Baptist Outreach 10:30 AM -12 PM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
 Palm Sunday, Cantata, Coffee Talk, Egg Hunt, at Hopewell 10:30 AM Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3 PM 		 Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom 	 Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM 	 Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM Maundy Thursday 6 PM 	 Way of the Cross at St. Johns 12 PM 	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
• Emmanuel Baptist 7:30 - 9 AM • Easter Sunday, 10:30 AM	SCCW meeting 11:30 AM at Ann Helton	 Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom 	 Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM 	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3 PM		 Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom 	 Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM 	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.

A Message from Pastor Jim

For the past seven years we have had a total of eight folks who regularly attend our Webster Bible Study on Tuesday mornings. And that is a welcome number considering the size of our congregation and that we meet on a weekday morning when many members of our congregation are at work. So, when the 100th Anniversary Committee decided to ask every household to choose their favorite biblical quote to put on the hand that represents their family on our 100th Anniversary Quilt, I wasn't sure what to expect. But if my memory serves me correctly, it was my idea and now I am pleasantly surprised with the results. Our Webster Congregation chose twenty-seven different scripture passages to be placed on our quilt, quotes from Joshua, the book that begins the history section of our Hebrew Bible to Revelation, the story which completes our New Testament.

So, I thought I would share with you the three passages that were the most popular. Coming in second place, and selected by two families, was:

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Tied for first place, and selected by four families, was a huge surprise:

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

And also tied for first place, and selected by four families, this passage was not a huge surprise:

Psalm 23:1-3 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake."

Now I'm neither a psychic, a psychiatrist nor a prophet, but do you know what this reaffirms for me? The impact and long-lasting influences of Sunday School and Church Choir. I would imagine that at one time the folks who selected these passages learned them for memory. And now they are in their DNA. So, when our children leave the sanctuary to go downstairs with Miss Heidi, please know that it's not all just playdough and glitter. Stories are being told, scripture is being memorized, prayers are being lifted up, and our church is making an indelible impression on our boys and girls. And when our choir goes to the front of our sanctuary to sing, know that scripture is being sung, love is being expressed, God is being glorified, and that lives are being changed.

Now I would not have had this profound awareness if it had not been for Gwen Stolzenbach who did the lion's share of creating our new quilt. I know that others helped but we all owe Gwen a huge debt of gratitude for making this anniversary quilt happen, especially while she was going through a major health challenge. Gwen put in a huge amount of time and effort and for that I am forever grateful.

Just think, twenty-five years from now people will look at the images on the 75th Anniversary Quilt and be able to connect those expressions with the meaningful scripture passages on our 100th Anniversary Quilt.

MODERATOR

Calling all members of Webster Church with a generous spirit of giving! Call all members who take seriously the season of Lent by giving to others who have a need! Our special project for this season is Grace Place. This program is one of the signature missions of our Church and has been for many years.

Grace place is a feeding program that has been serving the community for over 30 years. It is sponsored by the Susquehanna Ministerium and managed by a Board of Directors. Volunteers are made up of teams from various churches in the Havre de Grace area. The program is conducted on Tuesday mornings year-round. Before the Covid shut down all those with a food need were served a hot meal and then selected groceries to take home. We enjoyed fellowship with our guests and local Pastors were on site. Currently the program consists of only groceries with occasional gifts of warm winter clothing, infant supplies and women's personal care items. All events take place at St. John's Episcopal Church on Union Ave.

Webster Church members regularly volunteer on the first Tuesday of each month. Heidi Pensell provides up to 70 bag lunches every other month and desserts in between. We have been in a position to find out what food items are needed or are in short supply, so we are conducting a special drive during Lent to help meet the need. See article on page 8 in this Webster Word.

We give special thanks to Louise and Graham Silsby for their leadership to this mission as they work tirelessly to pick up donated food supplies, staff the events and help with the fundraising and organizational needs. Typically, our Church has about 6 volunteers on site on the first Tuesday, supplemented by our sister Presbyterian church. We enjoy having Pastor Jim with us and showing fellowship with our guests. We hope you will consider making Grace Place your example of loving your neighbor!

Ann Helton, Moderator

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

What a wonderful season of the Church Year, Easter. We start out on Ash Wednesday in a somber mood and triumphantly celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

I thought I would share with you a true story related to spring that actually is true as I experienced it in the spring of 1967. My wife and I had recently settled into our first apartment in the small town of Cressona, Pennsylvania. There was a man living on Schuylkill Street who lived literally on a vacant lot in the ground with only the entrance, a piece of plywood, visible. We would see him often around town; many called him the Bum of Cressona. He was dirty and poorly dressed, and the young children avoided him when he appeared in town. I saw him often in the local small grocery store on Front Street. He was a legend in the town and the locals all had a story to tell about him and I think many embellished the stories as they told them over and over again. As I said it was the spring of 1967, and I was driving past his mostly barren lot and found myself in some very slow traffic. When I got home, I relayed the story to my wife and she said take me for a ride and we will go past his lot again. As we came close to his lot she had me turn and go by his lot in the back alley and gave me a quick direction to drive slowly. What I saw was amazing; the lot was covered in spring flowers, mostly the spring flowers that grew from bulbs. It was a beautiful array of flowers just planted in no special or planned way from bulbs I think he had gathered as he walked around town or as he frequented the local cemetery flower dump. A beautiful gift from the Bum of Cressona; by the way his name was Joe. I will never forget that experience or the special gift Joe gave to his community,

We hope to see you in April at the following services:

- 4/6 Communion/Coffee Talk
- 4/13 Cantata/At Hopewell
- 4/17 Maundy Thursday
- 4/20 EASTER COMMUNION
- 4/27 Worship\Coffee Talk

Tony Dooley, Deacon

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL:

<u>April 6</u> – Isaiah 43:16-21 and Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; Isaiah 43:15-21; John 12:1-8
 <u>April 13</u> – Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
 <u>April 20</u> – John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12; Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 and Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43
 <u>April 27</u> – Acts 5:27-32 and Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-18; John 20:19-31

Service Attendants:

DATE	READER	GREETER	<u>USHER</u>
April 6	Doris Lyttle Communion	Hugh Nash	Carol Greimel
April 13	Cantata at Hopewell		
April 20	Gary Lyttle Communion	Victoria Devoe	Libby Copes
April 27	Libby Copes	Jim Cook	Jean Cook

Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)

The ladies met at the Lyttle home on March 17th for the SCCW meeting. Doris Lyttle explained about the duties of the Clerk at Webster Church. Pastor Jim installed the following 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.

On Monday, March 3rd meals were prepared and taken to a group of homeless people with temporary housing at a motel in Aberdeen.

The April meeting will be on Monday, April 21st, at 11:30 AM at the home of Ann Helton.

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

Webster Word

Those celebrating April birthdays are:

Megan Greimel James Sterner Graham Silsby Jean Cook

Ann Helton Lindsay Weber Mac Placzankis Jim Cook



CLERK'S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

- The Webster Congregation will again welcome local artists to display their art in our sanctuary. The first artist, Ellie Ryan, will visit us on Sunday, April 27th to tell us about her work and visit with the congregation.
- The Safe Church Policy will be updated and new adult congregants who work with children will be added.
- Procedures are being implemented to update the Webster Church website.
- Work will begin in the Parish House to update the furnace and bring everything up to code.
- There will be an Italian Church Dinner on Saturday, May 3rd for the Webster congregation, their family, and their friends.

<u>Italian Church Dinner</u>

When – Saturday, May 3 at 6 PM

Where – Webster Church Social Hall

Menu- Chicken Marsala, Baked Rigatoni, Vegetable Penne (Vegan and Gluten Free), salad, bread sticks, cake, brownies, and drinks

Cost – adults \$20, children \$10 (4-12), under 4 free

Attendance is by reservation Reserve your spot by contacting Doris at <u>dlyttle@comcast.net</u> or 420-937-9054 by Tuesday, April 29, 2025

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 things, 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



SEASON OF GIVING March 5 - April 20, 2025

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EBSTER CH

Please fill a grocery bag with these items that are in need of resupply at Grace Place:

- * canned tuna, chicken, spam, and vienna sausages
- * canned spinach, green beans, and corn
- * chicken noodle soup
- * cereal of any kind
- * fruit cups

PLEASE - NO GLASS JARS OR OUTDATED FOOD IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO MAKE A MONETARY DONATION, YOU MAY SEND A CHECK WRITTEN TO: GRACE PLACE, PO BOX 371, HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078

BAGS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT WEBSTER CHURCH, 4100 WEBSTER RD, 21078 ON APRIL 20 OR APRIL 27 FROM 10 AM TO NOON. PLEASE PLACE INSIDE BASEMENT DOOR. THANK YOU!! Webster Word



Special Notes



Webster Congregational Christian Church of the United Church of Christ 4100 Webster Road Havre de Grace, MD 21078 410-939-1884 <u>websterucc@comcast.net</u> <u>www.websterucc.org</u>



