



The Webster Word

December 2024

Webster Congregational Christian Church

Volume 24, Issue 12

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

December 2024

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, 1st Sunday of Advent, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3:15 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grace Place 9:30 AM (dessert) Bible Study 11:00 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 Boy Scout Troup 965 7:25 PM 	Decorate Church with Greens 10AM	Emmanuel Baptist 11 AM – 1 PM
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hanging of the Greens, Coffee Talk – 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3:15 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study 11:00 AM on Zoom Official Board Meeting 7 PM 	<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 		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd Sunday of Advent Service, Cantata, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3:15 PM 	SCCW meeting 11:30AM at Lyttle's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study 11:00 AM on Zoom Deacons Meeting 7PM 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 		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4th Sunday of Advent, SS Program, Birthday Party for Jesus 10:30 AM Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3:15 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Eve Service 4PM NO Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 965 Meeting 7:15 PM 		
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3:15 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM 		Court of Honor 3-5:30 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

MODERATOR

During 2024 Webster Church has been celebrating our 100th Anniversary and taking a deep look into our past. We have specifically stressed our service to the community. That form of service entails our various missions that reach out to those in need but should also include the ways in which our church buildings are utilized by many different groups and individuals. We have a process whereby people can use\rent the spacious facilities we maintain and insure. Maybe you haven't always recognized how extensive this process reaches out.

The current list includes Troop 965 and all related Boy and Girl Scout troops and dens

Two separate sobriety organizations who meet weekly

a scrapbook group

rentals of the Social Hall for special events i.e. birthdays, reunions, funerals

Emmanuel Baptist Church on Sundays and weekly meetings

a new tenant in the Parish House, retired from the Navy but working from home

Central Atlantic Conference and Susquehanna Ministerium meetings

Ecumenical Services

Suffice to say, some of these uses provide income to support our budget and help our financial stability. With many mainline churches closing across the country, we are very grateful to have the participation of these many groups and individuals who call us "home." We will continue to reach out and extend the hand of friendship and Christian love. We are after all a Community Church!

Ann Helton, Moderator

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER:

December 1 – Luke 21:25-36; Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

December 8 – Luke 3:1-6; Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11

December 15 – Luke 3:7-18; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7

December 22 – Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; **Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)**

December 29 – 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; **Luke 2:41-52**

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

As I am writing this article, I am thinking about the Thanksgiving menu and Christmas is just around the corner. These holidays come so close together and rush us far too much. I love both so much and I enjoy the planning and running a round but as I age, I become more frustrated with keeping up the pace. This being said. I would not change any of the hustle and bustle.

The deacons have planned the worship services to also be busy in preparation for **THE BIRTHDAY OF A KING**:

- 12/1 Communion/Coffee Talk (First Sunday in Advent)
- 12/8 Worship/Coffee Talk (Second Sunday in Advent (Hanging of the Greens))
- 12/15 Worship Cantata (at Webster) (Third Sunday in Advent)/Christmas Cookie Coffee Talk
- 12/22 Worship/Children's Program (Fourth Sunday in Advent) (Happy Birthday Jesus Cake and Punch Coffee Talk)
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4:00 PM
- 12/29 Worship/Coffee Talk

The deacons hope to see you all at worship in December. This simple poem by Catherine Pulsifier is a message for Christmas for all of us.

God's greatest gift was sent to all
He was born in a lowly manger stall
The gift of Jesus to those who believe
Is a gift of Love and Life for all.

Tony Dooley, Deacon

Scripture Readers, Greeters and Ushers:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>	<u>USHER</u>
December 1	Ann Helton, Lauren Dooley, Bonnie Burden, Hugh Nash (Communion)	Beth Jackson	Tony Dooley
December 8	Marge Joseph	Seiken Taylor	Lisa Taylor
December 15	Gwen Stolzenbach	Beth Jackson	Carol Greimel
December 22	Pat Mengel	Victoria DeVoe	Tony Dooley
December 24	TBA	Doris Lyttle	Gary Lyttle
December 29	Jessica Long	Beth Jackson	Linda Placzankis

Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)

The SCCW ladies and the men of Webster Church have been busy with the Bazaar and Craft Show. The white elephant room was stocked with lots of good items. 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 a la mode. 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.

Our sale of pies for Thanksgiving is becoming more popular. We took orders and baked over 125 pies, cobblers, and crisps the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Thank you to everyone who helped peel, bake, and bought pies.

The next SCCW meeting is our Christmas meeting on Monday, December 16th 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
Draiven Morse
Albert Raimondo**

CLERK'S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

Passing of Bessie Bowman on November 7, 2024

- 2024 is about to end and so is our 100th Anniversary year, but we will continue to move forward to the next 100 years.
- Celebrate Christmas Eve with us at our service at 4 PM on December 24th.
- Repair work was done on the parish house roof and chimney area.
- Official Board meeting - Tuesday, December 9th at 7 PM.

100th Anniversary Committee

This month we will share the thoughts of a family who began to worship at Webster Church this past year and have become an active part of the church – the DeVoe family.

Anniversary Reminiscences

Our family moved to Harford County in 2018. My husband, Mark, was transferred from his office in Colorado Springs in February, but our son, JJ was a senior in high school, so the kids and I stayed behind to see him graduate. We moved to Havre de Grace that summer. One of the very first people I met was Heidi Pensell. Her children were in the same schools as mine and participated in similar activities. Eliana & Ella were in the school play together. Sam was in the band, on the football team and was asked to participate in the school play, where we met Julie Pensell as Miss Baltimore Crabs! The reason I give you all this background is because our very first experience of Webster Church and the concept of your radical welcome was embodied in Heidi and her whole family. Eventually, Sam even got a job at the marina!

We tried a little Episcopal church in Perryville, but their very welcoming pastor was required to retire a few months after we got there. We tried several churches in the area over the next few years, and maybe due to the pandemic, or just the new culture we were faced with, everywhere seemed to have enough people.

Then last fall, Heidi said, "come try our church." That first day felt so different than anything we had experienced since moving here. We sat in the back. We stayed in our seats during the peace. And you all came to find us. You asked for phone numbers and emails and when we could volunteer!!! After 5 years of being ignored on the first day of church, we were overwhelmed and didn't come back for six months. We tried a church with a youth group. Then one day, Eliana said to me, "can we go back to Heidi's church?" She preferred being with people who were interested in her and excited to see her. Of course, I immediately said, "YES!!!"

Since May, we have volunteered at Grace Place, marched in the July 4th parade, peeled peaches, volunteered at the Pride Festival Booth and sung in the choir. People from Webster Church have attended Eliana's performances at Boordy Vineyards, in Baltimore and at her high school! When JJ, Eliana & I were in Fiddler on the Roof, Pastor Hugh even asked for our autographs.

Webster church is the most inclusive, welcoming, comforting environment we have experienced since moving here from Colorado. (It helps that some of you have lived there.) So, while our experience is limited to this wonderful 100th Anniversary year, we give you thanks for all our days at Webster Church!

Victoria, Mark, JJ, Sam & Eliana DeVoe

Did you Know:

The 25-piece Nativity set displayed each year in the sanctuary was a gift created and donated by Lita Gottlieb in 1969.

In the 1990's during the second Sunday of Advent service time was set aside for the "Hanging of the Greens" transforming the sanctuary by sights and sounds of the Christmas Season.

There is a wooden replica of Webster Church from the company Cats Meow that you can purchase for \$25. Contact Doris at dlyttle@comcast.net or at church to purchase.

Blessings in a Backpack

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. 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.

All gifts to Havre De Grace Elementary School for the remainder of 2024 will be matched up to \$2,000. That means double the impact! This matching gift is made possible by a gift from the Hankin Family Charitable Foundation.

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

Special Notes



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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DECEMBER

