



The Webster Word

December 2021 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 21, Issue 12

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

December 2021

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

28	29	30	1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birthday Sunday, 1st Sunday of Advent, Coffee Talk, Advent Workshop 10:30AM (Zoom/in-person) Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM 		Bible Study 11 AM	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM Tiger Den 7PM 	Decorate Church with Greens 11 AM	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communion, Hanging of the Greens, Coffee Talk 10:30AM Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM Cub Scout Parents Meeting 5 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graces Place 10:30 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM 	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd Sunday of Advent, Christmas Cookie Coffee Talk 10:30AM Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study 11:00 AM Official Board 7PM 	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM Tiger Den 7PM 		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cantata, SS Program, Birthday Party for Jesus 10:30AM (Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM Senior GS Troop 5963 4-6 PM Cub Scout Christmas Party 4 PM 	SCCW meeting 2 PM at Lyttle's	Bible Study 11:00 AM	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM	Christmas Eve Service of lessons and Carols 4:30 PM	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM 			Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	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, in December. *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.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Advent: A Message from Paster Jim

Every year I always remember where I was when I heard my first Christmas song of the season. If you don't believe me, this year I was with Mike and Shelley at the Charcoal Pit on Rt. 202 in Wilmington. It was Saturday, November 13, at 6:30 and the song was "Jingle Bell Rock." Two years ago, I would have said that was too early to play Christmas music, but after everything we have been through and are still going through with this unending health crisis, I say, "If Christmas music be the food of love, play on! Give me excess of it."

And I am beginning to feel that way about Advent music in worship. I come from a long hard line somber tradition where not a note of a Christmas Carol was to be heard in the sanctuary until Christmas Eve. So, the two-and-a-half-hour Christmas Concert on the third Sunday of Advent was usually a program consisting of two Bach Cantata's sung entirely in German. And Christmas Carols were only sung on Christmas Eve and the Sunday after Christmas. Meanwhile, the secular Christmas crowd got to enjoy all kinds of Christmas music while they celebrated the season while we church goers felt like we were in time out during our Advent worship.

And it's partly because of our church pastors. In her book, "Breathing Space," Lutheran pastor, Heidi Neumark, who writes about this holy season amid her ministry in the roughest part of the Bronx writes, "Probably the reason I love Advent so much is that it reflects how I feel most of the time. I might not feel sorry during Lent, when the liturgical calendar begs repentance. I might not feel victorious, even though it is Easter morning. I might not feel full of the Spirit, even though it is Pentecost, and the liturgy spins out fiery gusts of ecstasy. But during Advent, I am always in sync with the season.

Advent unfailingly embraces and comprehends my reality. And what is that? I think of the Spanish word *anhelo*, or longing. Advent is when the church can no longer contain its unfulfilled desire and the cry of *anhelo* bursts forth: *Marantha! Come Lord Jesus! O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!*" But after twenty-one months of this pandemic, I think we all are feeling that longing, that sense of an unfulfilled desire to have Covid finally gone. And yet it lingers. But I don't think pastors should take it out on our congregations in worship. To get a better perspective, let's go to the Webster Hymnal. There are twenty-seven Advent Hymns in our Webster Hymnal, and most of them are not familiar. But there are fifty-five Christmas Carols in our Webster Hymnal, and all are remarkably familiar. So how do we fit them all into worship? When do we get to sing these beautiful and familiar Christmas Carols?

Advent is already such a somber, penitent season. And it's a little hard to wrap our heads around. We look for a baby to be born while we know that the baby has already been born and is still being born in us---this Emmanuel who came and is coming and is among us right now. But the Revised Common Lectionary will continue to do its job to help us understand this theological concept through scripture and keep us longing for the birth of the Christ child and the joy he will bring on Christmas Eve. But we have waited long enough. We need a little Christmas right this very minute.

MODERATOR

I think it is time to chronicle the herculean effort that goes into the Fall Bazaar. Because I am always overwhelmed by the effort this event takes, I wish all of you reading this and even the community-at-large could recognize and realize how it comes together.

The first and most important thing to know is that about twenty members of our Church volunteer to bring it off. the elements of their work include-

- * Publicizing the event and accepting pre-sales
- *Ordering and picking up the apples (only Winesaps!)
- *Buying all the cooking supplies over a period of months so that the best prices can be realized, i.e. On sale
- *Assembling the White Elephant sale items that are donated, pricing these items
- *Setting up the Social Hall for eating and display
- *Assembling the pie boxes
- *Peeling, coring, and peeling 4 bushels of apples
- *Assembling and baking about 100 pies, crisps and cobblers
- *Baking over a period of 4-5 hours
- *Arranging for outside vendors/crafters to create sales space
- *Preparing a large Covid-safe breakfast buffet for over 80 people
- *Preparing cash boxes for event day sales
- *Boxing all pre-sales pies for easy pickup
- *Preparing over 40 quarts of chicken corn soup, jarring for refrigeration.
This means cooking chickens, removing the meat and broth, freezing local corn and assembling the day before the event
- *Cleaning up the myriad of cooking utensils, baking trays, and Social Hall after baking day and the event
- *Preparing a final report of costs and revenue,

For volunteers who help make the Bazaar possible, they have to want to serve their Church and make our fund-raising succeed. They also must be inspired to help assure we are a continuing place of worship. We are inspired by the leadership of Gary and Doris Lyttle who really led this effort. No one can fully appreciate how hard they work and what strong organizational skills they bring to the table. Thank them when you have a chance.

WE HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL BAZAAR!

Ann Helton - Moderator

DIACONATE NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of Peace on Earth good will to men!
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Soon Webster church will be decorated for the Christmas Season, the season when thoughts of Peace grow stronger in each of our hearts. We have planned each Sunday in Advent to bring a portion of this Peace to our church family members in many meaningful ways. The deacons hope that you will put these opportunities of Sunday morning worship on your calendar and join us in sharing this Peace:

- 11/28 First Sunday in Advent/Worship/ Coffee Talk
- 12/5 Second Sunday in Advent/Communion/ Coffee Talk/Hanging of the Greens
- 12/12 Third Sunday in Advent/ Worship/ Christmas Cookie Coffee Talk (bring your favorite Christmas Cookies to share)
- 12/19 Fourth Sunday in Advent/Cantata and Children's Program/Birthday Party for Jesus (Birthday Cake and Church Ladies Punch)
- 12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 PM/Lessons and Carols
- 12/26 Worship/ Coffee Talk

The deacons want to wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.
Tony Dooley, Deacon

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER:

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

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

December 19- Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10: **Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)**

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

SCCW – Society of Congregational Christian Women

The SCCW ladies have been busy with the Bazaar and Craft Show. The white elephant room was stocked with lots of good items. We baked delicious apple, cherry, and pumpkin pies and apple cobblers and crisps for the bake table. The all-you-can-eat breakfast was delicious thanks to Gary and his crew. They were also busy selling the delicious chicken corn soup, slices of homemade pies, and pie ala 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; worked at the event, especially in the kitchen for the breakfast; cleaned up after the event; and came and supported us. Money was raised to support Blessings in a Backpack and our other benevolences. The Blessings in a Backpack Raffle and table raised \$133, and the raffle was won by Pennie Weir.

Our sale of pies for Thanksgiving is becoming more popular. We took orders and baked 120 pies Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Thank you to everyone who helped peel, bake, and bought pies.

At 11:30 AM, on Monday, December 20th, we will have our annual Christmas get-together at the Lyttle's home. The event will begin with lunch followed by a short business meeting followed by fellowship and gift giving. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a \$10-\$15 wrapped gift for a lady. All the women of the church are welcome to attend. If you need directions, let Doris Lyttle know. If you need a ride, let Ann know. Hope to see you there.

Doris Lyttle, President

CLERK'S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

New members

Libby Copes

James Norrie

- Sunday services will be in-person and Zoom. Coffee Talk follows the service.
- Bible Study and meetings will continue on Zoom on Tuesdays in December.
- Blessings in a Backpack is continuing this year. In lieu of a present for a special day, you may suggest to family or friends to donate to Blessings in a Backpack in your name or donate in their name.
- Webster Church is participating in collecting for Grace Place during Advent (see page 9 of the Webster Word for information.)
- November Official Board meeting is December 14, 2021, at 7 PM. All members are welcome to attend.

Those Celebrating December Birthdays are:

James Stolzenbach

Tom Barnes

Draven Schaffner

Art Helton

Albert Raimondo



Scripture Readers

DATE

December 5

December 12

December 19

December 24

December 26

READER

Marge Joseph

Lauren Dooley

Linda Placzankis

Paula Whitacre

Doris Lyttle

Communion

Christmas Eve

A Holiday Gift to Help a Child

It is the holiday season, and we have a list of people we give Christmas gifts. People give gifts to their family members and friends. Sometimes people give gifts to organizations or to those in need. Some people suggest giving a gift to others rather than asking for a gift for themselves. Webster Church supports Blessing in a Backpack which provides food to feed elementary children at Havre de Grace Elementary School on the weekends. This additional nourishment, though small, helps the children be more successful in school.

\$115 feeds a child in the program for an entire school year. Presently Webster Church helps 75 children, but there are many more children who could benefit from this program. As you are preparing to do your Christmas shopping, you may be inclined to help a child by sending money, no matter what amount, 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.

Amazon Smiles

Whenever you order from Amazon, you can help Blessings in a Backpack. When you place an order from Amazon, sign into Amazon Smiles. Select Blessings in a Backpack and then select Louisville, Kentucky branch. Then place your order. Blessing in a backpack will receive $1\frac{1}{2}$ % of your sale. Thank you for helping feed the children on weekends.

WEBSTER UCC

Advent

CALENDAR OF GIVING

The SCCW and Sunday School invite you to participate in a reverse Advent calendar. Use this list as a guide to fill a bag with these needed items to share with the guests at Grace Place.

ramen with chicken

ramen with beef

ramen with shrimp

corned beef hash

macaroni & cheese

chili with beans

chili without beans

canned tuna

canned chicken

baked beans

canned pasta in sauce

tomato soup

chicken noodle soup

spam

vienna sausages

potted meat

canned corn

canned green beans

canned peas

canned mixed vegetables

canned spinach

fruit cups

pudding cups

granola bars

Each day, add an item to a bag. Drop filled bag off at church on January 2nd by 1 pm. Bags will be delivered to Grace Place on Tuesday, January 4th.



Special Notes

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Webster Congregational Christian Church
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Havre de Grace, MD 21078
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DECEMBER

