



# The Webster Word

February 2024 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 24, Issue 2

*A community of faith in Havre de Grace*

## February 2024

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

28	29	30	31	1	2	3
• Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM		• Bible Study 11:00 AM Zoom	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
• Communion Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM		• Grace Place 10:30 AM (Dessert) • No Bible Study	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
• Scout Football Extravaganza, Coffee Talk 10:30AM		• NO Bible Study • Official Board Meeting 7PM	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
• Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30AM	• SCCW meeting 7PM at Webster Church	• Bible Study 11:00 AM Zoom • Deacons Meeting 7PM	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
• Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM		• Bible Study 11:00 AM Zoom	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. 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 of Thanks from Pastor Jim**

Let’s face it. In our hurry up go-go lives we spend little time reading the Bible. Even those of us who attend worship regularly only hear a small portion of God’s Holy Word. And those of us who regularly attend Bible Study never have the luxury of reading an entire Gospel together. But this Lenten Season, we have an amazing opportunity to change that without even opening our Bibles.

On Sunday, February 25, at 1:30, we will be taking a field trip to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware to experience the Gospel of Mark being told by acclaimed biblical storyteller, Dr. Tracy Radosevic. Tracy is a gifted storyteller and is the Dean of the Academy for Biblical Storytelling. You may remember Tracy telling the Gospel Lesson at my installation here at Webster Church. On February 25, Tracy is going to tell the entire book of Mark! I promise that you will hear the Bible in a way you’ve never heard it before.

In Mark’s Gospel, Mark doesn’t just *tell* us Jesus’ teaching by what Jesus said, he *shows* us Jesus’ teaching by what he did. So please join me to hear the stories being *shown* in a fresh new way filled with the enthusiasm, passion, drama, humor, compassion, and inspiration that these stories embody.

Maybe it’s just my imagination, but since I have been the pastor here at Webster Church, I cannot remember the last time our congregation has gathered outside Harford County for an event. So maybe it’s time to veer from our normal Sunday routines and celebrate this Lenten Season differently. Let’s load up our cars and travel forty minutes north, hear the Bible like we’ve never heard it before, and then have dinner afterwards. I promise you won’t be disappointed.

## MODERATOR

Well, the Annual Meeting for 2024 is over and I can't believe I am beginning my 14th year as Moderator! I am still looking for my successor because I don't want this to be a job for life! Thank you for your confidence in me and all the support you give to the work at hand. I hope you will allow me to use this space as a matter of personal privilege so I can reflect on the past few months.

In October, when Art became ill and during the 7 weeks that lead up to his death, I have had the incredible support and love of the Webster Church family. Your cards, visits, donations and help with his celebration of life service gave me great solace and peace. My close family members noticed this support also and felt I was in good hands as the sad days overcame me. Pastor Jim was a stalwart spiritual friend and Art felt his presence at his bedside.

Last evening, I was treated to a wonderful seafood dinner by Carol Greimel and her son Mike. It was just what I needed and especially catered to my love of raw oysters! This gesture of friendship is only one example of how Webster members are the angels-on-the-ground. Thank you, Carol, for knowing what I need!

This will be a special year as we celebrate our 100th Anniversary and I await all the special attention we will give to our history. I already know our Church has been populated by "all the Saints who from their labors rest." And I see there are many contemporary saints in our presence. I love you all!

**Ann Helton, Moderator**

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### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY:

**February 4** – Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; **Mark 1:29-39**

**February 11** – 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; **Mark 9:2-9**

**February 18** – Genesis 9:8-17; **Psalm 25:1-10**; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

**February 25** – Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; **Psalm 22:23-31**; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

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## NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

This is the first time I needed to type 2024, and, in a few days, it will be February. Time is passing far too fast unless you are ready for winter to end. I am now at the age when I look out at the snow and don't yearn to be out in it or to drive in it. The only negative is that spending time at home can get a little lonely.

One thing I do look forward to year-round is Bible Study on Tuesday at 11am. Pastor Jim is always ready to present a scripture lesson that is filled with insight into scripture and trust me it is always interesting. If you are free on a Tuesday tune in on Zoom and you won't be disappointed. (Pastor Jim will send you the link to tune in, just let him know).

Please join your Webster Family on Sunday Mornings in February as listed below:

- 02/04 Communion/Worship/Coffee Talk
- 02/11 Worship/Scout Sunday/Coffee Talk
- 02/14 Ash Wednesday (no services/just a reminder)
- 02/18 Worship/Coffee Talk (First Sunday in Lent)
- 02/25 Worship/Coffee Talk (Second Sunday in Lent)

The Deacons hope we will see you at all the February services, reminder, all services are on Zoom and the Link is always in the email sent to you each week with a copy of the service as it is in the bulletin. Spring is coming and everyone looks forward to green grass and blooms everywhere.

**Tony Dooley, Deacon**

### **Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)**

The SCCW met in January and observed the annual Burning of the Greens ceremony. The 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 were installed.

The ladies of Webster Church are invited to attend the SCCW meetings. The SCCW meeting has been changed to 7 PM on the third Monday of the month. There are devotions, a program, and a business meeting. The dues are \$12 for the year.

The February meeting will be on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM at Webster Church.

**Doris Lyttle, President**



**Those celebrating February birthdays are:**

**Samantha Taylor  
 Curtis Cohen  
 Ethen Cohen  
 Anthony Dooley  
 Jacob Zader  
 Michael Brennan  
 Ella Pensell  
 Linda Raimondo**

**Elizabeth Zader  
 Andrew Dooley  
 Fhaleane Doctor  
 Anara Dooley  
 Michael Dooley  
 Doris Lyttle  
 Brian Placzankis**

**CLERK’S REPORT**

**Things Happening at Webster Church**

- Webster Church Annual Meeting was held on January 14, 2024. The congregation voted to accept the slate of officers and approved the budget for 2024.
- Copies of the Annual Report are available in the church office or see Doris Lyttle.
- Scout Sunday is February 11, 2024.
- A Lenten Calendar of Giving will be observed during Lent.
- If anyone has dates for activities and meetings in 2024, contact Doris Lyttle so they can be put on the 2024 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.

**Service Attendants:**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>	<u>USHER</u>
February 4	Libby Copes    Communion	Lisa Taylor	Tony Dooley
February 11	Ann Helton	Ann Helton	Pat Mengel
February 18	Marge Joseph Bonnie Burden (Psalm Reader)	Gary Lyttle	Doris Lyttle
February 25	Graham Silsby Carol Greimel (Psalm Reader)	Jessica Long	Heather Long

## **Blessings in a Backpack – Support a Child**

**A special thank you to everyone who participated in the Pampered Chef fundraiser to support Blessings in a Backpack. The money we received from Pampered Chef will supply meals for several children during the school year. Thank you again and enjoy your products. As you use them remember the children.**

**A New Year is starting numerically, but the 2023-2024 school year continues. 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.**

**Webster Church has a special account at Sysco through the National Headquarters of Blessings in a Backpack which is used to purchase three rotating menu packs for the backpacks. The Hope Center and the Scouts had food drives which supply many extra items for the long weekends and winter and spring breaks. Doris and Gary Lyttle order the food and deliver the backpacks to the school. A special thank you to those who help pack the backpacks for each weekend.**

**The children are very grateful for these items as for some, this may be the only food they have for the weekend. \$150 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.**

### **Did you Know:**

We are spoiled. When you partake of Coffee Talk, plates, napkins, and utensils are provided, but in the 80's, 90's and beginning of the 2000's when a meal or eats were being served at church everyone brought their plate, utensils, and drink. I remember the first time Gary and I attended a meal we were not aware of this practice. Luckily there were some china dishes and metal utensils in the kitchen. We used them, but we were expected to wash them and return them to their rightful place. Oh how times have changed.

Scout Sundays have been observed since at least the 1960's.

## Anniversary Reminiscences

Mary Muir attended Webster Church from age 3 to her death in 2018. She wrote this for our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ten years ago. She lived across the street from the church.

If you could fix or help someone, decide who would need your help? Who did you pick - a person or a group?

Of course, with a family, I always think of their needs. But this time, let's go in another direction – “Our church” at Webster. It is rather small in number, yet big in its size!

I would love to be able to fix some of the needed things and have a few things to the Church that would really help others who have trouble getting in and out of church.

First, I would love to put a nice “Ladies Bathroom” and a “Men’s Room” both on the upstairs, not in the basement. This would mean making a building upstairs on the building on the side. This would be great for those who cannot use the steps. It sure would help some people who now come to church and use bathroom if needed. It is something that is really needed. We would all see these people there and hope it brings more people here from this and they would be so happy.

The church kitchen would be next. If I had the money, I would ask a group of ladies who work a lot in the kitchen to give some ideas about what we need there. After it is well talked about with the group, we would tell all the others and the men. This all sounds like I need a large amount of money that I will never see, but you can always “Dream”.

My reason for doing this for the church – I’ve been coming to Webster Church since I was three years old. If I could help during my lifetime, I would be so happy to know that Webster Church people are still here going to church. I love it.





## Special Notes



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# February

