



The Webster Word

July 2022 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 22, Issue 7

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

July 2022

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

26	27	28	29	30	1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11:00 AM (Zoom) 	Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM	Bakeless Bake Sale – July	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communion, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Havre de Grace 4th of July Parade 2 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace Place 10:30 AM (meal) • Bible Study 11:00 AM (Zoom) • Translance Mtg. 7-9 PM 	Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • VBS 5-8 PM 	VBS 5-8 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11:00 AM (Zoom) • VBS 5-8 PM 	Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM	Church Picnic 6-8 PM	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11:00 AM (Zoom) • Official Board 7PM 	Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11:00 AM (Zoom) 	Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace Place 10:30 AM(dessert) • Upper Chesapeake Translance Mtg. 7-9 PM 	Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 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 contact information.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JIM

Many of you have heard me say that to really appreciate the glory of Easter Sunday we need to journey through the agony and defeat of Holy Week. Through the crucifixion of Jesus, we experience the bottom fall out and just how bad things can get before we experience the love and life of his resurrection. As I write this message, I have to confess that I feel like the bottom has fallen out and I am heartbroken. Last week the highest court in the land handed down not one but two major decisions that to me feel like the beginning of the end of civilization as we know it. It now feels like an assault rifle has more rights than a woman’s reproductive system.

First, I cannot help thinking of two women I dearly love who chose to terminate an early pregnancy more than once when they were single young women and not emotionally or mentally ready to give birth to a child, much less raise it as their own. One eventually married and gave birth to two healthy children, and one is still single to this very day. The Bible does not condemn abortion, it calls on us to love and support one another. And our country was built on the promise of religious freedom. Not everyone in the United States believes that life begins at conception. And it is anti-American to force that religious belief on every woman in America. And I have to wonder if last Friday’s decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade isn’t a slippery-slope toward the end of the sale of contraceptives, the end of marriage equality, and the ultimate ban on same-sex relationships. Because one Supreme Court Justice said that for him it is.

Second, I can’t help thinking of the sixty or more school groups I have led through Times Square with their adult chaperones who came directly to New York City on busses from states with concealed carry gun laws. How will they react in the future when a person of color or a psychotic person unexpectedly approaches them on their way to the theatre? I also cannot help but remember that my brother Mark had his first psychotic episode here in Central Park. What might have happened if a passerby with a concealed gun had started shooting at him before the police came and took care of him? The decision handed down by the Supreme Court last week shows a reckless disregard for the sanctity of human life. Across the country active shooters

have used their weapons of war to mercilessly murder children and teachers, parents and grandparents, and partygoers and church worshipers. Entire communities have been shattered by these acts of hatred. And no place--- no grocery store, no school, no nightclub, no house of worship or movie theater---is safe. Our Bible calls on us to love and protect one another and we should be doing everything in our power to turn our swords into ploughshares. How the highest court in our land can make it ever easier for people to secure murderous weapons is quite beyond me. How many of our friends and neighbors have to die before our leaders step up to the plate and decide to protect their constituents from gun violence?

As a firm believer of the separation of church and state I know our Webster Word wasn't created for me to vent my political beliefs and cultural frustrations. And I know there are some in our Webster Church family who may have wanted to go out and dance in the street and throw confetti when both Supreme Court decisions were handed down this past week. And that's one of the things I love about Webster Church and the United Church of Christ. We can agree to disagree. But what kind of pastor would I be if I didn't tell you that I am beginning this summer with a feeling of great loss, and am filled with great uncertainty and writing with a heavy heart?

So, I return to Holy Week for a ray of hope. When the bottom fell out for the twelve disciples and the followers of Jesus and things got as bad as they could ever get, they waited for God to do a new thing. Sometimes we have to start at the bottom to experience real change. And Holy Week reminds us that after the shame and degradation of a tortuous crucifixion, there was a glorious and triumphant resurrection. The world was turned upside down. And that gives me hope. That gives me a ray of hope.

MODERATOR

As I prepare for our annual vacation at the beach and look forward to family and friends joining us, it might seem like I am in for a nice, long respite. Just another summer lolling around the pool? But summer is really busy for those of us who volunteer our time and talents for the benefit of Webster Church. Behind the scenes and in between vacations and cook-outs, many preparations are being made by many of our members. Putting a face on these events is accompanied by a request from me to solicit your help and participation.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) There will be three sessions of VBS for the children and their parents. Pastor Jim, Heidi Pensell and Scott Jones will organize these sessions at our pool, and you can count on seeing their creativity. Dates July 10, 11, and 12th

CHURCH PICNIC Capping off VBS will be the annual church picnic at our pool. Details and date TBA.

PEACH FESTIVAL The Peach Festival will be held on August 13. We foresee baking our usual 100 pies and cobblers. A new wrinkle this year is that the Festival will include a church-sponsored Yard Sale to benefit Blessings in a Backpack. I hope you will start cleaning out your

attics, sheds, and basements to identify saleable items. We will let you know when we are receiving at the church.

I hope you are looking forward to your usual summer activities and you will include the church in your plans. We work hard together, and we really have FUN together!

Ann Helton, Moderator

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

I am sharing with you today this article from the UCC Daily Devotional. I could not write this as well as Anthony Robinson, but I enjoy his writhing. Good guide for all of us.

June 10, 2022

Very Good/Not Perfect
Anthony Robinson

God saw everything that [God] had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. - Genesis 1:31 (NRSV)

Did you ever notice what God says when God is all done creating the heavens and earth, the perch and porcupines, the golden retrievers and evening grosbeaks, and after God has blown the breath of life into a clay figure made in God's own image? God says, "Very good."

"Very good." Not "perfect."

For which we can be grateful. Perfect would have been like, "Don't touch a thing." "It's perfect, don't mess it up." It's complete, finished ... perfect.

But "very good" is like, "This is cool, this is great, but not all done or finished." Which is a way of saying that there's a place for you and me and something for us to contribute here. "Very good," but not finished.

And another thing, did you notice how a day works in the Bible? A day is not from morning to evening. In the Bible it is from evening to evening, night and day make "a day." The day doesn't start when I get out of bed in the morning (this came as a blow to my ego). The day has been in progress for a long time (without me). While I was dead to the world, God was busy. Morning light invites me to join a work-in-progress.

When I got used to it, this evening-to-evening day was a big relief. God was in charge. Not me, not you. It doesn't all depend on us. But then, "very good" says, "You do have a part to play, a contribution to make. We need you."

Go easy into this day—it doesn't all depend on you. But go into it with joy—you have a part to play and a contribution to make, and without you it won't be the same.

Prayer

Thanks, God, for being such a wise and good God and creating a very good world with a place for each and every one of us to make a contribution. Amen.

The worship Calendar for the month:

- 7/4 Communion/ Worship/ Coffee Talk/Webster and Zoom
- 7/11 Worship and Coffee Talk/Webster and Zoom
- 7/18 Worship and Coffee Talk/Webster and Zoom
- 7/25 Worship and Coffee Talk/Webster and Zoom

Hope to see you in worship and if you are traveling enjoy your time away and come home safely.

Sadly, Deacon Wendy and her family will be traveling to live in Knoxville, TN. We will miss Wendy, Kimberly and Meghan (our faithful photographer) and we wish them every happiness in their new home.

Tony Dooley, Deacon

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JULY:

July 3 – **2 Kings 5:1-14** and Psalm 30; Isaiah 66:10-14 and Psalm 66:1-9; Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16;
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10 – Amos 7:7-17 and Psalm 82; Deuteronomy 30:9-14 and Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14;
Luke 10:25-37

July 17 – Amos 8:1-12 and Psalm 52; Genesis 18:1-10a and Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; **Luke 10:38-42**

July 24 – Hosea 1:2-10 and Psalm 85; Genesis 18:20-32 and Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19);
Luke 11:1-13

July 31 – Hosea 11:1-11 and Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 and Psalm 49:1-12;
Colossians 3:1-11; **Luke 12:13-21**

SCCW – Society of Congregational Christian Women

Did you know that in 2024 Webster Church will celebrate its 100th Anniversary? When the SCCW met at Libby's home, on June 13th, Ann told us about the early beginnings of Webster Church.

We won't meet in July and August, but we will still be busy. The ladies are looking forward to the picnic and swim party, and they will be peeling peaches and baking pies for the Peach

Festival in August and participating in the Bakeless Bake Sale in July. The next SCCW meeting will be in September.

The Church Picnic and Swim Party is Friday, July 15, from 6-8 PM, at the Helton's for the congregation and their families. The meat and paper items are supplied and those attending contribute the sides and desserts. Please let Ann know if you plan to attend and what you plan to contribute, so we can plan accordingly.

This month you will receive an invitation to the Bakeless Bake Sale. Instead of heating the oven to bake something, we ask for a monetary donation which we will use towards the benevolences the SCCW supports.

Doris Lyttle, President



Those celebrating July birthdays are:

**Alexandra Pedersen
Ceionie Doctor
Adam Pedersen
Elsie-Marie Niiler**

CLERK'S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

Baptism of Lucas Mathew Fisher

- **VBS is July 10, 11, and 12 from 5 to 8 PM at the Helton's**
- **The church picnic is July 15th at 6 PM at the Helton's. See the SCCW article for additional information.**
- **Join us for Coffee Talk after the Sunday service.**
- **July Official Board meeting is July 19 at 7 PM.**

Scripture Readers:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READER</u>	
July 3	Pat Mengel	Communion
July 10	Ann Helton	
July 17	Marge Joseph	
July 24	Graham Silsby	
July 31	Gwen Stolzenbach	

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Thank you!! Thank you!! Thank you to the congregation of Webster Church for your generous support during the World Hunger Campaign for Blessings in a Backpack. Your contribution and the contributions of your family and friends will make it possible to continue to feed at least 75 students on the weekends at Havre de Grace Elementary School in the 2022-2023 school year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the children we serve.

To contribute to the Blessings in a Backpack Havre de Grace Elementary fund, send your contribution to.

Blessing 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 1½ % of your sale. Thank you for helping feed the children on weekends.

Congratulations 2022 Graduates

Jocelyn and Kent Greimel's daughter, Meghan, is graduating from Havre de Grace Middle School and will attend Havre de Grace High School this fall.

Leah Krotee, daughter of a former pastor Rev Dale Krotee, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. She will be moving to Boston, MA. to work for Dana Farber Cancer Institute as a research technician for their Lab for the next two years, with hopes for pursuing either a PHD or MD degree.

Alexandria (Alex) Pedersen, daughter of Monica and Rachel Pedersen graduated 8th grade at Aberdeen Middle School and will attend Aberdeen High School in the fall.

Henry Pensell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Pensell, is graduating from Havre de Grace High School and in the fall is starting the Physics program at Colorado University Boulder.

Saddie Sofia graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina, in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science program. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science with honors and is planning on starting in the Neonatal ICU in a local children's hospital in South Carolina. Saddie (formerly Burkentine) attended Webster Church as a teenager.



Special Notes

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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

websterucc@comcast.net

www.websterucc.org

July

