



The Webster Word

June 2024

Webster Congregational Christian Church

Volume 24, Issue 6

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

June 2024

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	31	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3:15 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11:00 AM Zoom 	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communion Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3:15 PM • Boy Scout Eagle Award 4PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace Place 9:30 AM (Dessert) • Bible Study 11:00 AM Zoom 	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		Emmanuel Baptist 10AM-12PM
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Service, Cake & Punch 10:30AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3:15 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCCW meeting 7PM Webster Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11:00 AM Zoom • Official Board Meeting 7PM 	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father's Day/Graduation Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3:15 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11:00 AM Zoom 	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		Emmanuel Baptist All Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3:15 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 67th Anniversary of the UCC • Bible Study 11:00 AM Zoom • Deacons Meeting 7PM 	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
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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 Tale of Redemption from Pastor Jim

This past Sunday the scripture lesson from the Gospel of John was about Nicodemus, a leader of the Pharisees who came to Jesus by night so his peers wouldn't find out. But as soon as Nicodemus greets him, Jesus goes into a discourse starting with a word which has a double meaning in Greek which confuses Nicodemus, and then a few verses later Nicodemus completely disappears from the story. But there is redemption in Nicodemus's future! He will stand up for Jesus before his arrest, asking the Sanhedrin to let Jesus tell his side of the story, and then after his death Nicodemus will bring a mixture of myrrh and aloes to anoint Jesus' body in the tomb. So, he's with Jesus at the beginning, the middle and the end of his story. And isn't that what true discipleship is all about?

I thought a lot about the redemption of Nicodemus the previous week when I happened to notice a full-page obituary in the *New York Times* for a man who wasn't known as a saint but as a sinner. He was Ivan F. Boesky, the brash financier who was arrested for insider trading and who became the symbol of Wall Street greed in the 1980's. He was the man Michael Douglas quotes in the movie *Wall Street* when his character exclaims, "Greed is good!" And when his picture appeared on the cover of every newspaper in September of 1986, I suddenly realized that I had a connection to this man.

Six years earlier I waited on a woman named Helen five days a week, in a wealthy suburb of Detroit. Helen was what you might call "a pill," or "a piece of work," or "very high maintenance." She demanded all of my attention even when I had six other tables, and she always insisted on sitting in a booth "where she could see and be seen." But Helen and I became good friends, and we had something in common that connected us: we both loved New York City! I planned to save up enough money to move there, and she visited NYC twice a year because her son lived there. "He's a millionaire," she would say, "and he does something called arbitrage." "I call him 'Ivan the Terrible!'" I wondered what kind of mother would call her son 'Ivan the Terrible,' but according to his obituary everyone who knew him called him that. Apparently, he inherited his mother's fussy eating habits because he was known for going into fancy restaurants and ordering every dish on the menu, tasting them, and then nibbling on one dish while ignoring the rest.

So, when Ivan Boesky's picture was plastered in every newspaper six years later it hit me like a ton of bricks. Helen Boesky was Ivan Boesky's mother! It all made total sense. They even looked alike! All those crazy stories she told me about Ivan driving an ice cream truck without a driver's license at the age of thirteen, and his dropping out of three colleges, and his becoming the half owner of the Beverly Hills Hotel through his marriage. And I waited on his mother for three years!

After he was arrested, Ivan Boesky pleaded guilty to insider trading charges in November 1986, and in December 1987 was sentenced to a three-year prison term. But while he was in prison, he studied the Talmud, the body of Jewish civil and ceremonial law and legend which includes the Mishnah and the Gemara. He was 53 years old when he emerged from prison in 1990, and a year later his wife of 30 years divorced him. In a settlement, he was given \$20 million of her \$100 million fortune. For many years, Ivan Boesky lived quietly in La Jolla, where he remarried and became a father again.

So, kind of like Nicodemus in John's Gospel, Ivan F. Boesky found redemption. He lived another thirty-five years, was never in the news, and found happiness. If there's hope for Nicodemus and Ivan F. Boesky, there's hope for all of us!

MODERATOR

It is so exciting to be a part of the 100th Anniversary of Webster Church! There is a flurry of activity, some of which are apparent and some that are yet to be revealed. The Anniversary Committee can be seen at various times meeting in the Social Hall and boring-down on the next events and the planning for supplies and materials that support those events. Maybe, you would be interested in some of the behind-the-scenes people and their contributions:

Scott Jones and others are working on the displays and decor for our appearance in the Havre de Grace Fourth of July parade. There will be a truck, displays, and people from the Congregation walking along. You gotta be there!

Gwen Stolzenbach has completed the Anniversary quilt assembly, and it is now in the hands of an experienced quilter. We hope to display this commemorative piece in the Sanctuary.

The painting of the Social Hall and the new carpeting are now complete. We are anxiously awaiting the new doors so we can display our commitment to the future use of our community church.

The Anniversary Service and Banquet are being carefully planned because we want to invite in the community-at-large and have the active involvement of our members. Save the date of September 28! Special music, special guests and a delicious dinner prepared by Larrapin Grill will be on tap.

Can't wait for you to see the newly designed Webster polo shirts that we will be wearing in the parade. I hope you will purchase one and wear out in the community to show the name of your favorite church.

Stay tuned! Don't go anywhere! More to come!

Ann Helton, Moderator

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

I hope when you are reading this, we are not having rain. Spring has been so filled with rain and the lawn care companies, I noticed recently, are now also cutting on Sundays.

It has been a busy time at Webster Church as we celebrate our 100th anniversary with activities from snow cones to Italian cuisine. Please remember we will have a float in the Fourth of July parade in Havre de Grace on July 6th. Also mark your calendars for September 28th for a Special Worship Service and Celebration Dinner.

You can now add these worship service dates in June to your calendar:

- 6/2 Communion/ Worship/Coffee Talk
- 6/9 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 6/16 Worship/Coffee Talk (Celebrating Grads and Dads)
- 6/23 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 6/ 30 Worship/Birthday Sunday/Coffee Talk

As we enter this summer season, we know that vacations and family occasions may conflict with your ability to attend worship, please travel safely.

Tony Dooley, Deacon

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE:

June 2 – 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) and Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 or Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and Psalm 81:1-10; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; **Mark 2:23-3:6**

June 9 – 1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15) and Psalm 138 or Genesis 3:8-15 and Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; **Mark 3:20-35**

June 16 – 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 and Psalm 20 or Ezekial 17:22-24 and Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Corinthian 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17; **Mark 4:26-34**

June 23– 1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11,19-23), 32-49 and Psalm 9:9-20 or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5,18:10-16 and Psalm 133 or Job 38:1-11 and Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthian 6:1-13; **Mark 4:35-41**

June 30 -2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 and Psalm 130 or Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 or Lamentations 3:22-33 and Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; **Mark 5:21-43**

Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)

The May meeting was held at 7 PM at Webster Church. Doris Lyttle updated us about one of our community outreach programs, Blessings in a Backpack. It has been 10 years ago in April that we started feeding children on the weekends and holidays at Havre de Grace Elementary School. In the beginning, 20 students were fed. Now 75 students are fed each weekend. Up to 250 students are eligible for the food on the weekends, but there aren't enough funds to feed that many.

The June SCCW meeting will be Monday, June 10th at 7 PM Webster Church. All ladies are welcome. The SCCW doesn't meet in July and August. The weekend of August 9th and 10th we will be busy with the Peach Festival.

Doris Lyttle, President



Those celebrating June birthdays are:

**James Norrie
Judith Haverstick
Susan Cohen
Gretchen Roeder
Vilma Duffy**

**Jocelyn Greimel
Beth Jackson
Linda Placzankis
Carol Greimel**

Service Attendants:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>	<u>USHER</u>
June 2	Linda Placzankis Communion	Heather Long	Jessica Long
June 9	Doris Lyttle	Jim Cook	Lisa Taylor
June 16	Lonna Smith	Hugh Nash	Barbara Nash
June 23	Carol Greimel	Lauren Dooley	Tony Dooley
June 30	Heidi Pensell	Beth Jackson	Libby Copes

CLERK'S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

New Member
Barbara Nigrin-Nash

- The new carpet has been installed in Social Hall and the roof is repaired.
- The PRC Committee will meet on Monday, June 10 at 6 PM.
- If you have someone who is graduating, give the information to Doris Lyttle by June 12th at dlyttle@comcast.net.
- The June Official Board meeting is Tuesday, June 11th at 7 PM.



TRUSTEES NOTE:

"Nothing is on the level at Level, and it's not very plumb or square, either!" (George Stout, former member.) Thanks to the suggestion of a parishioner, I set out to cut a piece of wire screen to fit below the heavy grates at the drain box at the bottom of the ramp down into the basement to screen out larger debris and make it easier to clean out the drain box. The box now communicates with a drainpipe running across the driveway and out at the surface of the bank to the east. (It was just a stub into the clay soil before!) However, when getting started, I found the grates jammed in place and had to use a crowbar to pry them out. As with everything else at Webster Church, the drain box and grates had been a custom job and the box or grates or both were not square. Lacking a way to grind off a lot of metal from the grates (the preferred solution), I tried various orientations and found one where the two grate panels dropped in without jamming. If you endeavor to clean out the drain box, note the orientation of the two grates so that you can replace them as is, making it easier to remove them the next time.

Thanks,
Graham Silsby, Trustee

100th Anniversary Committee

A new church polo shirt is available for adults and children to order. It is a red polo/golf type shirt with a black embroidered logo on the top left side of the front of the shirt. The prices are \$32 for adult sizes, \$30 for youth sizes

Extended sizes available for additional charge (2X \$34, 3X \$36)

Notify Lisa Taylor for orders at Email: lisfra29@yahoo.com, Text/call: 631-816-3925

Please make checks payable to Webster UCC or pay by PayPal to lisfra29@yahoo.com

The first order will be placed on Monday, June 3rd. Hopefully they will be available for the July 4th parade on Saturday, July 6th.

This month we will share Shelia Helgerson's memories. Shelia is the Executive Director at Earl's Place -Cornerstone Community Housing which helps men experiencing homelessness rebuild their lives. The men work with a Case Manager to develop goals and a plan for their future, locate resources, and a plan for their future, locate resources, and ultimately obtain permanent housing.

If you would like to share your thoughts or memories, email them to Doris Lyttle at dlyttle@comcast.net.

Anniversary Reminiscences

I have many fond memories of Webster Church from visiting for worship and being welcomed with open arms to receiving donations of cookies for our annual Resolution Run.

But my favorite memory will always be the evening that Larry and I visited with the SCCW women's ministry.

Larry had recently moved into Earl's Place and when I asked for someone to go with me, he eagerly volunteered. Larry was quite quiet and stuttered when he spoke. He made it clear to me that although he would accompany me, he did not want to talk.

Well, in true Webster fashion we were welcomed into Anne's home. I talked about Earl's Place for a while and then Larry said, "You have talked enough, I want to talk now." That was the beginning of Larry's transformation.

He learned that his life was important, that people cared about him, and that stutter or not, he had things to say. I remember hugs all around as we left, but most heartwarming to me was the fact that you did not forget Larry. Notes arrived in the mail – Larry would proudly tell me when you had written. He moved on some time ago, but he continues to do well.

Larry is just one of the many stories of new beginnings and transformation that I am privileged to witness.

On behalf of everyone here, thank you, you are helping us change lives and making the community a better place.

Did you Know:

Did you know that just as Webster Church is experiencing a face lift for the 100th Anniversary, there were updates occurring in the 1950s?

1955 – Acoustical tiles were added to the sanctuary ceiling, the interior walls painted, and new drapes were added to the windows.

1956 – A new heating system was installed with the financial help of Conference.

1958 – Painting and renovation of the parsonage occurred.

1959 – The exterior of the church was painted. A new Baldwin electronic organ replaced the Moeller pipe organ.

Blessings in a Backpack – Support a Child

There are approximately two weeks of school left in this school year and Webster Congregational Christian Church continues to pack backpacks of nonperishable food to deliver to 75 students at Havre de Grace Elementary School each week. Even though this school year is ending, it is never too early to raise funds for the 2024-2025 school year. At least \$10,000 is needed to feed 75 students for a school year. \$130 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>

**Blessings in a
Backpack[®]
Feeding The Future Of America**



Special Notes

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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JUNE

