



The Webster Word

March 2022 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 22, Issue 3

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

March 2022

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

| 27 | 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|----|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scout Sunday, Birthday Sunday 10:30AM • Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace Place 10:30 AM (meal) • Bible Study 11:00 AM • Transiance Mtg. 7-9 PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Wednesday • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM | Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM | World Day of Prayer at Hopewell Methodist 12:00 PM | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communion, Installation of officers 10:30AM • Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM • Cub Scout 965 Parent Mtg 5PM | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11:00 AM • Official Board 7PM | Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM | Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM | | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Service 10:30 AM • Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM • Senior GS 5963 4-6 PM | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11:00 AM | Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM • Tiger Den 7 PM | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Service 10:30 AM • Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM | SCCW meeting 11:30 AM Linda Placezankis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11:00 AM | Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM | Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 |
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Bible Study notice:

Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 11 AM on Tuesdays, in March. 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**Let's All Go to the Movies with Pastor Jim**

In the documentary film "Mother Teresa," the one narrated by Sir Richard Attenborough, Mother Teresa says that the worst poverty she's seen in the world is here in the United States, because we don't share. This morning Mike and I cast our ballots for the Screen Actors Guild Awards, which will air on February 27th, before you read this article. Mike and I have been voting for the nominated actors and the ensembles in both television and film since these awards began 28 years ago. And as I cast my ballot, I realized that I've never shared the films we've viewed with my congregation of Webster Church. I've drawn from many films as a basis to preach a sermon over the past four years, and you may recall my using last year's Oscar winner "Nomadland," Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds" and "Rear Window," and even classics like "Harvey" and "Gaslight" as fodder for my sermons. This awards season we've watched more than twenty films in theaters and in our home, and at the risk of being totally "non-pastoral" and completely "non-Lenten" I thought I'd recommend the following four movies to you that as your Pastor I think are safe to recommend. And oddly enough, all four films are about the love of home and the love of family.

Being The Ricardos: All Lucille Ball ever wanted was "a home." So for six years she starred and lived in the perfect home... on television. The performances by Nicole Kidman and her cast members are amazing as they

take you on a journey through a creative week in the life of a sit-com and a hectic week in the lives of Desi Arnaz and America's favorite red-head. *Belfast*: Kenneth Branagh's autobiographical masterpiece takes place during 'the troubles' in Northern Ireland in 1969. In the midst of gun fire and bombs exploding on a barricaded street where neighbors are shut in, and in the midst of extortion and pressure from the people who claim to be fighting on their side, and in the midst of abusive government taxation and a lack of money for food and clothing, a family is determined to stay in Belfast because "there's no place like home."

CODA: Have you ever wondered what it was really like when James and John left their father Zebedee in the fishing boat to follow Jesus? *CODA* is an acronym for Child Of Deaf Adults. This movie is about a deaf family, actually played by three deaf actors, who own and operate a small fishing outfit in Maine, and what happens when their hearing daughter who is the glue to their communication with the outside world finds her own voice and discovers she can sing.

King Richard: How a white man who grew up at the all-white private Tatnall School in Wilmington, Delaware was able to write a Black Lives Matter screenplay is quite beyond me. But this film about the father and the driving force behind the magnificent tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams is astounding. Will Smith's portrayal of Richard Williams reminded me of the outrageous determination and drive of Momma Rose, the mother of Gypsy Rose Lee in the musical "Gypsy." And the image of this black family of seven from Compton, walking into all-white California Country Clubs to train and compete will stay with me forever.

As I write this the New York Times headline reads "WAR IN UKRAINE." And I'm very aware we need to pray for the people in the Ukraine and Russia without ceasing. And we can also write our elected officials, sign petitions, and protest in the streets. But if you find yourself with some free time during this penitent Lenten season, I suggest you do what Kenneth Branagh's family did in war-torn Belfast in 1969, go to the movies.

MODERATOR

I have been so busy that I almost forgot to send in this message for the Webster Word!

One of my activities has been planning and executing the Webster Church participation in the winter homeless program by providing two dinners for 45 people, including adults and children. We were blessed with many volunteers so all went smoothly and our mission was fulfilled. My thanks to Graham and Louise Silsby, Tony Dooley, Doris Lytle, Jean Cook, Hugh Nash, Judy Dulin, and Carol Greimel for all their help and generosity of spirit. Jean Cook's daughter Becky O'Connell prepared a large amount of pulled pork and macaroni and cheese at her home for the second dinner and it was utterly delicious! We hope our guests at the shelter liked having a real home-cooked meal!

Some of our members have also made dollar donations to the homeless program so that needs other than food might be met- like medical transports, formula and diapers and medicine. We are invested in this program because we have so much more than we need, and Jesus was so plain about what our duty is to the poor. And we do this without judgement and with generosity in our hearts. Thank you all for responding to the call. Your love is recognized and open to us all.

Now that Webster Church is open again for in-person worship we are reconnecting with each other and planning for the Lenten and Easter season. Some of our special activities will be observed albeit maybe in a modified form, Masks are still required in the Church building for your own protection but the positivity rate for Harford County has much improved and the local hospitals are no longer under Code Blue. Let us give thanks for our health and all the professionals who help treat the sick and keep us safe.

Ann Helton - Moderator

DIACONATE

"Do not live in fear, little flock, it has pleased your Creator to give you the kingdom" Luke 12:32 is the biblical phrase on the 2022 UCC desk calendar (The New Revised Standard Version uses these words, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom".)The first thing that came to my head, after reading this verse, was what timely words for our time. Covid still being on our minds, masks being on our faces, thinking twice about going anywhere and I could go on and on. This month will hopefully help us turn to more positive thoughts as we will see the first signs of spring: flowers emerging ever so slowly; buds on the trees appearing; perhaps seeing the first Robin of the year; sunshine increasing; and even a little more time outdoors.

What a wonderful month we enter!

Reentering our Webster Sanctuary on February 13th, for me was, to use a song lyric, "it might as well be spring". The deacons look forward to planning services this spring that will help all of us feel excited about the Kingdom Our Creator has created for us.

Please mark your calendar for these services in March:

- March 6 First Sunday in Lent/Communion/ Instillation of Officers
- March 13 Second Sunday in Lent/Worship
- March 20 Third Sunday in Lent/Worship
- March 27 Fourth Sunday in Lent/Worship

You will see that Coffee Talk is not listed. We will be wearing masks at least until Palm Sunday when we are planning a Pot Luck Dinner after worship. If this situation changes, we will let everyone know. We will take a few minutes and greet each other after worship in the sanctuary, masked of course.

Tony Dooley, Deacon

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR March:

March 6 - Luke 4:1-13; Deuteronomy: 26:1-11, (9-13); Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13

March 13 - Luke 13:31-35; Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1

March 20 - Isaiah 55: 1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 27 - Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32, Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians. 5:16-21

In this issue of the Webster Word, we are including the Shepherds List for all the members to see which Deacon is their Shepherd. Just as a reminder and for the new members who might be seeing for the first time, your deacon may be calling you from time to time to check in on you and your family. They should call you if we have not seen you or heard from you for two weeks just to make sure you are doing well. You should feel free to call your deacon to share concerns/suggestions, family illnesses, or just to say hi.

Webster Shepherds List- March 2022

Deacon Tony Dooley

Jim & Jean Cook, Silsby Family, Art & Ann Helton, Pensell Family, Haverstick Family, Scott Holden, James Norrie

Deacon Lisa Taylor

Carol & Don Greimel, Megan & Wendy Witmer, Rev. Jim Sterner, Marilyn MacAskill, Greimel Family

Deacon Jean Cook

Tony Dooley, Jennings Family, Zader Family, Donna Brinegar, Pat Mengel, Morse Family, Dooley Family

Deacon Linda Placzankis

Barnes Family, Bonnie Burden, Libby Copes, Curtis Cohen Family, Gwen Stolzenback, Doctor Family, Linda & Albert Raimondo

Deacon Carol Greimel

Liz Luethy, Judith Dulin, Placzankis Family, Hugh Nash, Lyttle Family, Genevieve Snodgrass, Jones Family, Taylor Family

Deacon Wendy Witmer

Bessie Bowman, Vilma Duffy, Paula Whitacre & Marge Joseph, Lonna Smith, Pedersen Family, Long Family

SCCW - Society of Congregational Christian Women

The SCCW officers: President - Doris Lyttle, Vice President of Devotions - Judith Haverstick, Vice President of Programs - Ann Helton, Treasurer - Linda Placzankis, Secretary - Jean Cook, Hospitality/Flower Chairperson and Official Board Rep - Carol Greimel, were installed and the Burning of the Greens ceremony was observed at our February meeting.

During the month of March, the SCCW hands out the March Calendar of Blessings which helps to raise money given to our benevolences and the church fund. Find a jar and designate it as my March Calendar Change. Each day in March read the little direction, do the math, and put the corresponding change in the jar. It is more fun to do it daily, but if your schedule is such that you are unable to add this to your busy day, then any donation will be greatly received. No need to count your change. We can do that for you. Just turn in your coin donation or check made out to SCCW at the end of the month to Lois Dooley. Thank you for your participation. Calendars will be available in the church narthex, or I can mail you one.

The March SCCW meeting is on Monday, March 21st, at 11:30, at the home of Linda Placzankis. All ladies are welcome.

Doris Lyttle, President



Those celebrating March birthdays are:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Hugh Nash | Marge Joseph |
| Bessie Bowman | Susan Roeder |
| Bonnie Burden | Henry Pensell |
| Tucker Barnes | Kyla Placzankis |
| Heidi Pensell | |

CLERK'S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

- Webster Church received a \$10,000 grant towards the repaving of the parking lot from First Congregational Church of Madden.
- The carpet in the Social Hall and the kitchen floor have been professionally cleaned.
- Coffee Talk has been discontinued in the Social Hall until Palm Sunday on April 10th when a Potluck dinner will be observed. In the meantime, gather in the Sanctuary after the service for fellowship.
- Remember to turn your clocks ahead on Saturday, March 12th.
- Read the Blessings in a Backpack article for information about our Lenten Coins of Blessings.
- If anyone has dates for activities and meetings in 2022, contact Doris Lyttle so they can be put on the 2022 calendar.

Scripture Readers:

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>READER</u> |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| March 6 | Graham Silsby Communion |
| March 13 | Gwen Stolzenbach |
| March 20 | Elizabeth Zader |
| March 27 | Paula Whitacre |

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.

COINS FOR CHILDREN - FEED A CHILD

Webster Church has several Outreach programs that are supported throughout the year. During this Lenten season, Webster Church will be supporting Blessings in a Backpack with a special campaign - Feed a Child.

Children at Havre de Grace Elementary School receive food during the school day, but many may have little or no food on the weekends. In April 2014, Webster Church provided food on weekends for 20 students out of a possible 250 students through Blessings in a Backpack. Students who participate in the Blessings in a Backpack Program have better test scores, improved reading skills, positive behavior, improved health, and increased attendance all attribute to the success of this program. Food is an essential building block, and in this case truly is a blessing, especially to a hungry child.

Now Webster Church feeds 75 students each weekend. To continue feeding these children, \$8,000 needs to be raised for the 2022-2023 school year. You can help by putting your change in a special bank that will be handed out at church on Sunday, March 6, 2022. The banks are to be returned to church on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. No need to count the change, we will do that.

Funds can also be sent to:

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.

Special Notes



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March

