



# The Webster Word

March 2024      Webster Congregational Christian Church      Volume 24, Issue 3

*A community of faith in Havre de Grace*

## March 2024

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

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		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
• Communion Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM		• Grace Place 10:30 AM (meal) • Bible Study 11:00 AM (Zoom)	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		• Rental of Lower level 10AM-12PM
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
• Sunday Service, Pancake Coffee Talk 10:30AM	• Clean Kitchen 10AM	• Bible Study 11:00 AM Zoom • Official Board Meeting 7PM	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
• Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30AM	• SCCW meeting 7PM at Webster Church	• Bible Study 11:00 AM Zoom	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
• Palm Sunday Coffee Talk, Easter Egg Hunt 10:30AM		• Bible Study 11:00 AM Zoom	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM • Maundy Thursday Meal & Service	• Way of the Cross 12PM in Havre de Grace	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Easter, Communion, Birthday Sunday 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.**

### Why We Bible Study by Pastor Jim

Not long ago my partner Mike came home after seeing Barry Manilow’s new Broadway musical “Harmony.” And although he wasn’t ecstatic about the production, he really liked a particular song Mr. Manilow composed for a wedding scene. He said he thought the lyrics sounded familiar and wondered if they were from the Bible. So, I asked him if they went like this:

“Do not urge me to leave you or to turn from following you.  
For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live;  
your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.  
Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried.  
May the LORD punish me, and ever so severely,  
if anything, but death separates you and me.”

He said, “yes, that’s it!” The bride and groom sang those words as their wedding vows. So, I asked if it would surprise him to know that those original words were spoken by a woman to another woman and the subject of marriage was really the back story? “No way,” he said, “It really sounded like a wedding vow between two people.”

So, I told him the story of the Book of Ruth, which many biblical scholars believe to be the greatest short story ever written. Before these words are spoken in the text both a mother-in-law named Naomi and her daughter-in-law named Ruth have lost their husbands. And now Naomi plans to travel back to Bethlehem, to her native land... alone. But Ruth insists on going with her. She insists on traveling with her mother-in-law to a country where she will not be welcomed and will be reviled as a foreigner. And her words are very persuasive. They are so powerful that Naomi finally gives in, and they arrive in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

This controversial short story was written to change hearts and minds. It was circulated after the Babylonian Exile when the male Jewish leaders also returned home to their native land only to

find that the men who had stayed behind had married foreign Assyrian women. So, they urged them to divorce their foreign wives and to abandon their foreign children. And many of them did. But many of them had heard the Story of Ruth and said “No!” to the leaders like Ezra. And that’s only part of the Good News that we can glean from the Book of Ruth.

And that’s why we study the Bible on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 AM. It’s not so we can brag about our biblical knowledge or to answer any Bible trivia question that comes our way. It’s to hear the Good News that we find throughout the Holy Bible. And right around Tuesday morning we can all use some good news! Come, join us!

## **MODERATOR**

While we all are still bundled up to fend off the cold, it is reassuring to know that our plans for Lent, Easter and beyond are all in the hands of the great planners of Webster Church. Our Pastor, Deacons and Music Director have worked to make the Liturgical Calendar come alive with the good news of Easter.

It is also good news that on April 21 we will welcome a new church to our building and once again share our spaces with the community. Emmanuel Baptist Church, a start-up church, will hold their regular Sunday service in the Sanctuary with a Sunday School and nursery going on concurrently on the lower level. Pastor Joe McConkey is their spiritual leader. As you may remember, Webster has a long history of sharing our building with other religious groups. The onset of Covid and the temporary closure of the church certainly interrupted these relationships. So, we are very happy to welcome Emmanuel and give them our extravagant Webster hospitality.

There is no new news on the status of the door replacement project, but the contractor should be on site as soon as the weather improves. This project is essentially funded so we want those new doors to be the welcome portal for the 100th Anniversary. Stay tuned.....

**Ann Helton, Moderator**

### NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

March is a month that growing up my father enjoyed most and instilled in us the great pride he took in being of Irish decent. My mother would cook one of his favorite meals and he would often tell stories of growing up in the Irish section of South Philadelphia. I have been very amused lately to hear my grands talk about how they are going to catch the Leprechaun who decorated their rooms last year. One has an idea about how to build a Leprechaun Catching Machine. Needless to say, I take great pride in being Irish and in them.

For all of us we take great pride in March this year as we celebrate Easter just as the month comes to an end. The Deacons along with Pastor Jim have planned the following worship services for March:

- 3/3 Worship/Communion/Coffee Talk
- 3/10 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 3/17 Worship/ Coffee Talk
- 3/24 Palm Sunday Worship/Cantata combined choir Webster and Hopewell (at Webster)/Special Coffee Talk/ Easter Egg Hunt
- 3/28 MAUNDY THURSDAY AGAPE MEAL
- 3/31 EASTER Worship/Birthday Sunday

We hope to see you at all of these services. Please remember that the deacons are always available to you for any questions or concerns you may have.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day

**Tony Dooley, Deacon**

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### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH:

**March 3** – Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

**March 10**– Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

**March 17** – Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

**March 24** – (Liturgy of the Psalms) Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16  
(Liturgy of the Passion) Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; **Mark 14:1-15:47**  
or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

**March 31**- Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24; I Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43;  
John 20:1-18 or **Mark 16:1-8**

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## Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)

The ladies of Webster Church are enjoying a break from baking pies. The main event besides our meeting is to clean the kitchen on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. We would appreciate any help you can provide.

We have changed our meetings to 7 PM on the third Monday of the month, at the church so the ladies who work can attend. There is a devotion, a program, a business meeting, and a dessert provided by one of the ladies. This year our programs will be about the different outreach programs we support at Webster Church. The March SCCW meeting is on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM, at the church. We will learn about Grace Place. All ladies are welcome. All the ladies of Webster Church are welcome.

One of our members, Bessie Bowman, will celebrate her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. She is confined to her home, and I know she would enjoy hearing from you.

**Doris Lyttle, President**



**Those celebrating March birthdays are:**

**Hugh Nash  
Bessie Bowman  
Bonnie Burden  
Tucker Barnes  
Heidi Pensell**

**Marge Joseph  
Susan Roeder  
Henry Pensell  
Kyla Placzankis**

# CLERK’S REPORT

## Things Happening at Webster Church

- Remember to turn your clocks ahead an hour on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner at Level Firehall, on March 9<sup>th</sup>, from 4-7 PM.
- The church kitchen will be cleaned on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. Let Doris know If you can help.
- Official Board meeting is Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

### Scripture Readers:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>USHER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>
March 3	Gary Lyttle Communion	Lonna Smith	Beth Jackson
March 10	Pat Mengel Lauren Dooley (Psalm Reader)	Beth Jackson	Ann Helton
March 17	Heather Long Doris Lyttle (Psalm Reader)	Tony Dooley	Lauren Dooley
March 24	Gwen Stolzenbach	Jean Cook	Jim Cook
March 31	Pastor Jim	Doris Lyttle	Gary Lyttle

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has been busy. We have planned activities for each month of this year. For the month of March, the activities are centered around the Lenten season and Easter. Final decisions are being made for a church polo shirt that will be for sale for adults and children. Each month the Webster Word will include information about the church in the Did you Know section, and there will be thoughts or memories about Webster Church from past and present members. This month Gwen Stolzenbach’s memories are featured. If you would like to share your thoughts or memories, email them to Doris Lyttle at [dlyttle@comcast.net](mailto:dlyttle@comcast.net).

### Did you Know:

In the 1950’s, Webster Village was established and after the war there was an influx of new families. Improvements were made to the church building: Acoustical tiles added to the sanctuary ceiling, interior and exterior painting, drapes added to the windows, and a new Baldwin electronic organ replaced the Moeller pipe organ. The parsonage was also renovated and painted.

## **Anniversary Reminiscences**

Gwen Stolzenbach

1980 – present

Gwen has served as choir member, choir director, music director, stewardship committee, and 2 terms as deacon.

One of my favorite memories from our church years at Webster was the Easter Sunrise Service at Webster Lake when the Sunday school reenacted discovering the empty tomb and Mary's conversation with and recognition of the risen Jesus. For my daughter it awakened a lifelong interest in theater and acting.

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

Each Friday 75 students at Havre de Grace Elementary School receive backpacks of nonperishable food for the weekend. For some of the children this may be the only food they have for the weekend. This program is possible through Blessings in a Backpack, one of the outreach programs at Webster Congregational Christian Church.

We are continuing to raise funds for this very important program because students who are well nourished function better academically and socially. \$125 will supply food for a year per child. Around 200 students are eligible for the backpacks, but our funds don't allow us to feed that many students. A special thank you to those you contribute to this outreach program.

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

**<https://giving.blessingsinabackpack.org/organizations/havre-de-grace-elementary-md>**



## Special Notes

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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# March

