



The Webster Word

May 2022 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 22, Issue 5

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

May 2022

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

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----|----|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communion, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Blessing of the Bay 3PM | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace Place 10:30 AM (meal) • Bible Study 11:00 AM (Zoom) • Transliance Mtg. 7-9 PM | Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM | Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother's Day Service 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 | | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Senior GS 5963 4-6 PM | SCCW meeting 11:30 AM Webster Church | <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 | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service, Baptism, Coffee Talk 10:30AM | | <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 | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pentecost Sunday, Birthday, 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 | | |

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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 Mother’s Day Message from Pastor Jim

At the April meeting of the SCCW, Ann asked our Webster ladies to conjure up one or two of their cherished Easter memories. There were many fond memories of wearing new clothes, hats, and shoes, the smell of the kitchen as hair was being permed the night before, dyeing Easter eggs, and favorite Easter candy. So, I decided that even though Mike and I have no children of our own, I would conjure up a Mother’s Day memory for the May Webster Word. But every time I started to write something my mind would go completely blank. And that’s what working in a restaurant off and on for twenty years will do to you. I only have Mother’s Day nightmares! I always got the unhappy meal! Mother’s Day is decidedly the worst day of the year for restaurant workers, with Easter Sunday coming in a close second. Fortunately, space does not permit me to elaborate, but just know that anyone working on Mother’s Day has probably not achieved seniority status and a restaurant filled with diners who only eat out once a year are no match for them. So let me try to conjure up my earliest Mother’s Day memory.

Flint, Michigan had only two family restaurants that my Dad was willing to take his six kids to on any given Sunday after church. The first was the ballroom at the Albert Pick Durant Hotel which was my five siblings’ favorite. They loved the “all you can eat” buffet with the chef that carved your prime rib while you watched, and the old-fashioned stodgy atmosphere. And my parents loved the big round tables that were reasonably set far apart from one another. And I think they also liked the price. But I hated it! I preferred their second choice, the Howard Johnson’s on Dort Highway. Give me a bowl of New England Clam Chowder, a buttered clam roll, and a slice of coconut cake a la mode with coconut ice cream, and to this very day, I’m still in heaven!

When we were fortunate to eat out after church I was almost always out-voted by my siblings. And I would sit at the big round table and pick at my food at the Albert Pick wondering what all the fuss was about. But one Mother’s Day I somehow talked my Dad into taking us to Howard Johnson’s, which was a colossal mistake. The restaurant was swamped, the wait was long, the service was slow, and our waitress was totally “in the weeds.” It didn’t take us long to figure out that she was new, and this was probably her first day. That she had the “jitters” was an understatement. As she was bringing out our entrees she dropped the tray of food, and my

delicious Ipswich clams went flying across the dining room. And carved in my memory even now is the image of our poor waitress trying to scoop up the fallen green peas on the carpet with a teaspoon.

Little did I know that one day I too would be a restaurant server on too many a Mother's Day. I remember falling backwards in front of the kitchen door at the University Club of Flint with a tray of four salad dressing caddies each filled with French, Blue Cheese, and Russian dressing without anyone noticing. And I remember the maître'd wondering why the carpet in front of that kitchen door was so slick and treacherous. I remember asking my parents not to leave their table for another five minutes until I could get myself "out of the weeds." I remember spilling two glasses of red wine down the back of a lady's white blouse and the owner never finding out. And I remember taking Madonna's especially made cold antipasto to the wrong table while she dined with Randy Newman. To err is human. And to be human is to be misunderstood.

Martha, the sister of Mary and Lazarus knew a lot about "being in the weeds." And when she came to Jesus complaining that her sister was too preoccupied with his teaching and not helping her serve, he basically told her to "be more chill." Jesus said, "Mary had chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." And according to Luke, Jesus ate out a lot!

So this Mother's Day when you take Meme, and Grand Zizi, and Great Grand Gigi out to dinner please remember Jesus' wise words to Martha and "try not to be distracted by the service." Restaurant workers are human beings, and you will never know what's really going on in that kitchen. And remember that your waitress may be a mother herself, working on a day that was meant to celebrate her. May God bless our mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers this Mother's Day and may we have the courage to pick ourselves off the floor like my Howard Johnson's waitress did, during the times we also get the "Unhappy Meal."

MODERATOR

Spring has sprung and the grass is green! And, yes, the grass already needs mowed. This is one of the maintenance projects that now must be done at the Church as the season changes. Not a problem because our mower Tom is on the job.

Another transition going on now is the re-leasing of the Parish House because our current tenant has bought a house and will be moving on to a whole new phase of her family life. She has been a model tenant and we wish her well. A new tenant is expected about May 15 and was selected after a hectic three-week period of advertising the property. Rental properties are in high demand these days, so I wasn't surprised to have over 185 inquiries about the house.

As we move into Spring, we are also actively pursuing funding to repave and improve our Church parking lot. No one can remember when this was last done, but we know there have been many patchings and repairs over the last ten years. Our insurance company has also been urging us to keep it in safe condition. At this time, we are seeking bid proposals because we are

convinced some earlier bids do not reflect the current cost of materials. So far, we have raised \$15,000 through grant programs and a foundation of the UCC. This is probably not even half of the expected costs. All funding resources are being pursued.

All this is to say that while you are busy with all your own home projects, we are busy taking care of your church property. We want to be here and serve this community for a VERY long time!

Ann Helton – Moderator

DIACONATE

Here we are in May and 2022 is flying by. If you are watching TV these days, the situation in Ukraine seems to have replaced Covid. How sad for the people of the Ukraine. They deserve to continue to develop their country with the government they elected without interference from any other country.

To provide help to the Ukrainians:

- go to the UCC web site to give money, all of the money will go to help the Ukrainian people
- Online you can find many ways to help
- Pray that this conflict soon ends

Before moving to Maryland from Pennsylvania there were many Ukrainian Churches in the surrounding areas and they are finding many creative ways to help. The churches are mostly having ethnic meals to earn money. The local newspaper is allotting space for free advertising for each church's activity. The churches are even coordinating so they are not in competition for customers.

HELP IF YOU CAN

Our Worship services for May are as follows:

- 5/1 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 5/8 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 5/15 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 5/22 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 5/29 Worship/Coffee Talk

We look forward to seeing you at these services. We know it is travel time so remember you can join us on Zoom and we wish you safe journeys.

Tony Dooley, Deacon

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY:**May 1** – Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelations 5:11-14; John 21:1-19**May 8** – Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelations 7:9-17; John 10:22-30**May 15** – Revelations 21:1-6; Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; John 13:31-35**May 22** – Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelations. 21:10, 22-22:5**May 29** – Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelations 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26**SCCW – Society of Congregational Christian Women**

The April SCCW meeting was on Monday, April 11th, at the home of Bessie Bowman. Thank you, Bessie and Mitzi. We shared memories of Easter traditions and happenings in our families.

The SCCW ladies decided to help other mothers rather than doing something for ourselves. The Mother's Day outreach project will be to provide a bag of personal care items for the mothers at Harford Family House in Aberdeen. Funds will be collected to purchase items such as deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, etc. If you would like to help us with this project, cash or checks made out to SCCW can be given to our treasurer, Linda Placzankis.

The May SCCW meeting will be Monday, May 16th at 11:30. We will meet at Webster Church for a lunch consisting of a bag lunch and a business meeting. Then we will carpool to the Consolidated Colored School Museum in Havre de Grace for a tour. Please let Ann know if you plan to attend so we can let our tour guide know how many to expect.

All ladies are welcome.

Doris Lyttle, President



Those celebrating May birthdays are:

**Genevieve Snodgrass
William Mitchell
Marilyn MacAskill
Lauren Sedler
Gwen Stolzenbach**

**Don Greimel
Scott Walker
Garrett MacAskill
Liz Leuthy
Lisa Taylor**

CLERK'S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

- During the month of May, the tenant in the Parish House will be moving to a new home and the new tenant will be moving into the house.
- Preparations for repaving the church parking lot are being made.
- Your generosity supplied enough money to feed six plus students at Havre de Grace Elementary School on the weekends for a school year.
- Join us for Coffee Talk after the Sunday service.

Scripture Readers:

DATE

May 1

May 8

May 15

May 22

May 29

READER

Gwen Stolzenbach

Lonna Smith

Heidi Pensell

Carol Greimel

Gary Lyttle

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Thank you!! Thank you!! Thank you to the congregation of Webster Church for your generous support during this Lenten season by supporting Blessings in a Backpack with a special campaign – Feed a Child. During Lent you put your loose change in a special bank, The funds that were collected will go towards feeding at least 6 children at Havre de Grace Elementary School on the weekends.

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 sending a check 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.

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.

A Special Invitation From the Dooley Family

During the service on Sunday, May 22, we are pleased and proud that Pastor Jim will baptize **Michael Anthony Isaiah Dooley** into God's and our Webster Church Family. The Dooley Family will cater food and beverages for Coffee Talk immediately following the service. We hope that you will join us in celebrating this joyful occasion. All are welcome.





Special Notes

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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May

