



The Webster Word

May 2024 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 24, Issue 5

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

May 2024

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

28	29	30	1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM 		<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		Italian Church Dinner 6 PM
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communion Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3:15 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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		Emmanuel Baptist 12PM-4PM
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother's Day Service, Coffee Talk 10:30AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3:15 PM 		<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		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pentecost Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3:15 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCCW meeting 7PM at Webster Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study 11:00 AM Zoom • Deacons Meeting 7PM 	Think Group 5:30-6:30PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM		
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		

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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.

MODERATOR

Such a flurry of activity! In the midst of our 100th Anniversary, we can't sit still and just bask in our history. We have two distinct kinds of activity going on that require our labors, our treasury, and our hearts and minds. I hope all of you will feel a sense of celebration and rededication in this special year. This is your Church, and you make it special!!

Special events: Our Italian Dinner will be held this Saturday; May 4 and we are NOT doing the cooking! Just an evening of fellowship and good food- two things that hold this church together

We join with other faiths on May 5 for Blessings by the Bay at the Lighthouse. Special music and messages from Pastor Jim, Rev. Hugh Nash, and others.

On September 28 we will have a special Anniversary Service and Dinner and the community will gather to give praise for our history.

Renovations: We have been conducting a serious campaign to renovate parts of the church building for our Anniversary. Of course, we are attentive to the costs and abilities to fit these jobs into our budget. Some projects have been completed: repaved parking lot, new sound system, repaired organ. Some projects remained to be completed: new front doors and lower-level door, repainting the Social Hall, repairing the roof and ceiling damage, new carpet in the Social Hall.

In the midst of all this, we have welcomed Emmanuel Baptist Church to share our building and we are in the process of accommodating them and making them feel welcome.

I will stop here from my listing and tell you I am exhausted! But I am also grateful and thankful.!

Ann Helton, Moderator

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

The first time I ever saw a May Pole Ceremony was in 1963 as a freshman in college. At the time it was very well done and beautiful to watch. I was impressed at how the young freshman girls first made a large circle around the pole on the field of the College Stadium. Each girl had a different color ribbon in their hands which was attached to the top of the pole. As music started playing, the girls began traveling around the pole in two directions, quickly covering the pole in many colors. When they finished, somehow the end of the ribbons attached to the pole. As they walked away there was about a yard of each ribbon left to wave in the breeze. It really was a beautiful sight to see at the top of the highest point of the college campus. Obviously, to create such a beautiful experience there was much work that went on before and behind the scenes to create this successful May Pole Ceremony.

Our deacons spend time with Pastor Jim in the planning the worship services at Webster Church. We hope you will be able to attend the services this month of May and know that there was much preparation and planning for you to have a meaningful worship experience. The services for May are:

- May 5 Communion/ Worship/Coffee Talk
- May 12 Mother's Day Worship/Coffee Talk
- May 19 PENTECOST/Worship/Coffee Talk (don't forget to WEAR RED!!)
- May 26 Worship/Coffee Talk

We hope to see you at all these services.

Tony Dooley, Deacon

Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)

The April meeting was held at 7 PM at Webster Church. Heather Volk told us about one of our community outreach programs, Harford Family House in Aberdeen, Maryland. Mothers and children or some families have apartments and receive help from a counsellor as they prepare to find a permanent place to live and work. Part of the SCCW celebration of Mother's Day is to provide each mother at Harford Family House a bag of toiletries and a special candy treat. If you would like to provide funds for this endeavor, please give donations to the SCCW treasurer, Linda Placzankis.

An Italian Church Dinner is being planned for 6 PM on Saturday, May 4th at Webster Church. Food will be ordered from Olive Tree and there will be a fee of \$17 for adults, \$8 for children 4-12, and children younger than 4 are free. The whole family and their friends are welcome. If you would like to join us, let Doris Lyttle know by May 1st.

The May SCCW meeting will be Monday, May 20th at 7 PM Webster Church. All ladies are welcome.

Doris Lyttle, President

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL:

May 5 – Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; **John 15:9-17**

May 12 – Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; **John 17:6-19**

May 19 – Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 or **Acts 2:1-21**;
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 26 – Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; **John 3:1-17**



Those celebrating May birthdays are:

**William Mitchell
Lauren Sedler
Gwen Stolzenbach**

**Scott Walker
Liz Leuthy
Lisa Taylor**

CLERK’S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

- Emmanuel Baptist Church began to have Sunday Services at Webster Church after our service on Sunday, April 21st.
- The Social Hall has been painted.
- Blessings of the Bay is Sunday, May 5th at 3 PM at the Concord Park in Havre de Grace.
- If you want to join the Bible Study group, contact Pastor Jim and he will send you the Zoom connection.
- The May Official Board meeting is Tuesday, May 14th at 7 PM.

Service Attendants:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>	<u>USHER</u>
May 5	Angie Jones Communion	Beth Jackson	Hugh Nash
May 12	Hugh Nash	Libby Copes	Tony Dooley
May 19	Lonna Smith	Jim Cook	Beth Jackson
May 26	Bonnie Buden	Libby Copes	Carol Greimel

100th Anniversary Committee

In May a new church polo shirt will be available for adults and children to order. It has been decided to make a red polo/golf type shirt with a black embroidered logo on the top left side of the front of the shirt. With the help of Gwen Stolzenbach, the 100th Anniversary quilt has been given to the quilter to be quilted. On May 4th is an Italian Church Dinner to gather with family and friends.

This month we will share Graham Silsby's memories. If you would like to share your thoughts or memories, email them to Doris Lyttle at dlyttle@comcast.net.

Anniversary Reminiscences

Graham Silsby

My Five-Minute History 1970's - present

Born in 1943, I first became aware of the United Church of Christ in 1964 when I began dating Patricia Shields, soon to be my first wife, when she was in her Junior year of college. Her family lived in Alexandria, Virginia. They were very faithful members of the UCC and were going to church in DC, there being no UCC church in Northern Virginia. To meet that need, the Northern Virginia faithful founded Hope Church in Alexandria. I liked everything about the UCC, and soon I was an active member of the small congregation. The Vietnam War was cooking up and key members kept being called up for military duty. My first stint as a church officer was to be the fourth treasurer in one year. I was promptly drafted and ended up at Edgewood Arsenal in an enlisted technical support position at the Nuclear Defense Laboratory (NDL).

We sought out a nearby UCC church and found Webster in the phone book. Everyone at Webster UCC was very welcoming. There was a lot more music than the size of the congregation would suggest. We liked Pastor Jerry Foltz and his wife, Alice. We liked the simple sanctuary and large windows. The land to the west, where Barry Richards now lives, at that time was a very small wheat field, and I remember during one Fall Sunday service, a tiny combine showed up and cut the wheat.

I wouldn't be here now, except that the business equipment company in Northern Virginia that I had worked for out of college was showing all the signs of impending bankruptcy, so I stayed on at NDL as a civilian support engineer. When the NDL was closed, I was transferred to the Army's Ballistic Research Laboratory at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Many members of Webster worked at the Ballistic Research Laboratory (BRL) or elsewhere at the Aberdeen Proving Ground. Irving Chidsey was a mathematician at BRL. His wife Carol played the organ, and he sang in the choir, so their boy Martin sat with us in the pews. The two red maple trees out front are memorials to his brother, who died of lung cancer, as he called it, "suicide by cigarette." Dr. D.C. Jackson, Jr., an electrical engineer whose father was a notable academic figure at MIT, ran the Ballistic Institute at BRL, handling all the academic training. He and his wife were very involved in the life of the church. He was quite a character, with an opinion about everything. When they were together, she never said a word, but when by herself, she was a very interesting conversationalist. They had built a small house in 1954 when their children moved out. He built it facing away from the street and had signs on the end of the garage directing people to the "front" door around back.

My first wife and I broke up after 11 years of marriage. I met my current wife, Louise Cianelli at the BRL. A Havre de Grace Native, she is a member of Saint Patrick Church, so now she helps out at Webster Church, and I help out at St. Pats.

Interestingly, two years after the Jackson's died, Louise and I were in the market for a house and were very pleased to be able to buy their house from the estate, as it was very well built. He had put in a 200-amp electrical service at the time most houses had a 60 amp service. We've enlarged the house over the years. The Jacksons wouldn't recognize it. Only two of the six rooms keep the original footprint, and we added a breakfast nook and split foyer entrance, providing a front door on the street side!

Webster Church has had its ups and downs over the years, and when there was no one to fill a particular office, I would step in, except on the Diaconate and in the choir. When I first joined, there were many families with many children and a large and popular Sunday School. As that cohort grew up and the children moved on, many of the parents stopped attending church, an unfortunate reality. I was the director of Sunday School for a number of years that more or less had one child in each age group. Asked what I was doing to increase the Sunday School attendance, I had to direct the parishioners to have more children. We have gone through several such demographic swings, and I am pleased to see a large number of children in the church again.

I have been active in the Association and Conference, and I was even on the UCC's Board for Homeland Ministries for a term. At a meeting in St. Louis, two of us Board members were dispatched to the largest UCC church in the denomination to attend Sunday worship. The pastor announced that we were there and that we would be available to discuss the work of the Board after church. We stood in the back with our name badges prominently displayed as the service drew to a close and were nearly trampled to death as every single parishioner raced for

the exits to beat the rest out of the parking lot. Not a single person even slowed down. I had always believed that Webster was a friendly church, but this certainly cemented that belief. Over the years, I have decided that my forte is seeing to the physical upkeep of the church, and have mostly served on the Board of Trustees. In spite of tight finances, we have managed to keep the buildings in repair and make periodic improvements, the most significant of which were paving the parking lot, installing vinyl siding, and air-conditioning the building.

Finally, I'd like to share with you my two favorite inspirational signs. The first is "Normal day, let me be aware of the treasure you are." The second one also addresses the normal state of affairs, but more directly: "Praise the Lord anyway."

Did you Know:

Did you know that Webster Church was sold?

August 9, 1937 – The church was "put up" for auction in Bel air, but it was not sold.

October 17, 1937 - The last service was held in the building for about a year.

Rev. Luce of Dublin bought the church and its properties.

October and November 1938 – Theodore Tucker, a student minister reopened services at the church.

November 11, 1938 – Ida Green preached her first sermon.

March 24, 1939 - The Middle Atlantic Conference purchased the church from Rev. Luce.

July 31, 1939 – Rev. Green purchased the parsonage.

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 donate at

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



Special Notes



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April

