



The Webster Word

ber 2021 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 21, Issue 10

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

October 2021

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday Service/Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM (Zoom/in-person) Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study 11:00 AM (on Zoom) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think Group 5:30-6:30PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM 		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Communion, Soup & Bread Meal 10:30AM (Zoom/in-person) Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM Cub Scout 965 Parent Meeting 6 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grace Place 10:30 AM (dessert) Bible Study 11:00 AM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think Group 5:30-6:30PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM Tiger Den 7PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bay Pride, Concord Point Park 2-6 PM Cub Scout 965 Raingutter Regatta 2 PM
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday Service/Coffee Talk 10:30AM (Zoom/in-person) Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM Senior GS Troop 5963 4-6 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study 11:00 AM Official Board 7 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think Group 5:30-6:30PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM 		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessing of Animals, Coffee Talk, 10:30AM (Zoom/in-person) Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM Cub Scout Pack 965 new member meeting 5:30 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCCW at Carol Greimel 11:30 AM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study 11:00 AM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think Group 5:30-6:30PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM Tiger Den 7PM 		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30AM (Zoom/in-person) Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study 12 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think Group 5:30-6:30PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM 		
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birthday Sunday, Halloween Party 10:30AM (Zoom/in-person) Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study 11:00 AM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think Group 5:30-6:30PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, in October. 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

Some of you may remember last Sunday's scripture lesson when Jesus said, "For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another." You may even remember that I said, "Here Jesus is encouraging his disciples to find the resource they will need to do their ministry in themselves." Jesus said a mouthful. Just look at our upcoming Webster Church autumn schedule of events.

- Sunday, October 3, 10:30 AM World Communion Sunday, in person and on Zoom, with homemade soup and ethnic bread at Coffee Talk.
- Saturday, October 9, 2:00 PM-6:00 PM Bay Pride Celebration Day, in person at the Lighthouse in Historic Havre de Grace.
- Sunday, October 17, 10:30 AM The Blessing of the Animals, in person and on Zoom.
- Friday, November 5, 9:00 AM Pie Baking and Bazaar Set-Up, in person at Webster Church.
- Saturday, November 6, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM Webster Church Bazaar, in person at Webster Church. Come for the All You Can Eat Breakfast and stay all day.

- **Sunday, November 7, 10:30 AM All Saints Sunday, in person and on Zoom, when we will remember and celebrate our Webster Church family members who passed from this world since March 8, 2020.**
- **Tuesday, November 23, 9:00 AM Thanksgiving Pie Making, in person at Webster Church.**
- **Tuesday, November 23, 7:30 PM Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, in person and on Zoom, with a homemade Thanksgiving pie reception.**

You may also remember I said, "Folks, you are the salt of the earth! You are a precious commodity. You not only add flavor to Webster Church, you also actively preserve Webster Church. You are not only valued by your friends and family, but you are also valued by this congregation, and by me, and most importantly by God. And you have exactly the right amount, of resources in yourself to do whatever God calls you to do. And I assure you, God will call you." Just look at our upcoming Webster Church autumn schedule of events.

MODERATOR

"I recently used this Daily Devotional from the UCC at our Webster Board Meeting. It reminds me of our Church being rooted like a tree in this Community. During easy times and hard times, we have endured- never taking our purpose far from the teachings of Jesus. May it always be so."

Root System

by [Marilyn Pagán-Banks](#) | published on Sep 14, 2021

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. – Jeremiah 17:8 (NRSV)

I read these words and can't help but think of the literal trees still standing in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. La Ceiba stripped of her bark, yet standing firm, roots spread wide and long. Deep. So deep.

I re-read Jeremiah's affirmation and think of the people, four years after Maria, still living under blue tarp roofs yet boldly holding on to their roots, their culture, their business and their land as vulture capitalists, gentrifiers and greedy corporations ravage the island.

I feel the prophet's message and I reflect on my own roots:

Root System

deep, broad, wide
there before me
here, connecting, life-source
even when I don't acknowledge it
planted firmly
even when I feel alone

Root System

deep, broad, wide
doing its work
its part
grounding
nourishing
strengthening
harboring

Root System

deep, broad, wide
sprouting boldly from the earth
reaching fragrantly towards the sky
beautifully displaying a deep essence

Root System

deep, broad, wide
emitting grace and wisdom
granting me permission to, as Martha Graham said,
"respond to this world with queer divine dissatisfaction"
to present my truth unapologetically
to imagine with my Creator and my Ancestors
to declare with the earth, the sky, the sun and the water
the astounding possibility
of knowing love

Root System

deep, broad, wide
expansive
accessible
available
come—listen to what it has to say:

You are beloved.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for rooting us in your love. Amen.

Ann Helton - Moderator

DIACONATE

"God is the source of all energy. Energy in the universe, atomic energy, electrical energy and spiritual energy. The Bible emphasizes this point: 'He giveth power to the faint' " Norman Vincent Peale

I recently read this quote and it reminded me of the busy time at Webster we are entering. Just look at the calendar that Doris provides for us each month. We are all going to try to rustle up all our energies to have a successful fall this year. At our meeting on Monday night we, the deacons, worked on the Sunday morning schedules and you can see that all our energies will be needed to accomplish Webster's challenging calendar.

Sunday Mornings look like this:

- 10/3 Worship/Worldwide Communion/Coffee Talk (soup and breads from around the world)
- 10/10 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 10/17 Worship (Blessing of the Animals) / Coffee Talk
- 10/24 Worship/ Coffee Talk
- 10/31 Worship/ Coffee Talk

We are looking forward on October 17th to seeing the family pets and the owners smiling proud faces. All dogs must be on a leash and cats in a carrier. Our members and friends on Zoom are encouraged to participate. Encourage other family members and friends to come and bring their pets.

The deacons make sure that at least one of us is in the sanctuary each Sunday morning so that if you need to share information or have questions about the calendar don't hesitate to talk to one of us.

Tony Dooley, Deacon

SCCW - Society of Congregational Christian Women

The SCCW is inviting all the women of Webster Church to attend our meetings on the third Monday of the month. The October meeting is on Oct 18th, at 11:30 AM, at the home of Carol Greimel.

We are preparing for the bazaar on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Due to the presence of Covid -19 still in Harford County, there will be a modified version of the Bazaar. It will feature an all-you-can-eat breakfast; white elephant; and crafters who are vaccinated. As you do your fall cleaning, collect good, clean, usable items for our white elephant room (No clothing please). The items can be brought to church starting Sunday, October 31st. Any questions about the white elephant room, see Tony Dooley, Jean Cook, or me. To provide more space for people to eat at a safe distance, there won't be a Silent Auction or Collectibles table.

All the ladies of Webster Church are invited to attend the SCCW meetings.
Doris Lyttle, President

Clerk's Report **Things Happening at Webster Church**

- Sunday services will be in-person and Zoom. Coffee Talk follows the service.
- Bible Study and meetings will continue on Zoom on Tuesdays in October.
- Blessings in a Backpack is continuing this year. In lieu of a present for a special day, you may suggest to family or friends to donate to Blessings in a Backpack in your name or donate in their name.
- Delegate Doris Lyttle Rev Elsie-Maroe Niller, Rev Paula Whitacre, Marge Joseph, and Rev. Jim Sterner will attended on Zoom the Chesapeake Association Meeting on October 2. Delegates Tony Dooley and Doris Lyttle and Rev Jim Sterner will attend the Central Atlantic Conference, on October 12th to 16th on Zoom.
- October Official Board meeting is October 12, 2019, at 7 PM on Zoom. All members are welcome to attend.

Scripture Readers

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READER</u>	
October 3	Paula Whitacre	Communion
October 10	Heidi Pensell	
October 17	Marge Joseph	
October 24	Lauren Dooley	
October 31	Linda Placzankis	

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER:

October 3 - Job 1:1, 2:1-10 and Psalm 26; Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8; **Mark 10:2-16**;
Hebrew 1:1-4, 2:5:12

October 10 - **Mark 10:17-31**; Job 23:1-9, 16-17 and Psalm 22:11-15 Amos 5:6-7. 10-15
and Psalm 90:12-17 Hebrews 4:12-16

October 17 - Job 38:1-7, (34-41) and Psalm 104:1-9,24,35c; Isaiah 53:4-12 and
Psalms 91:9-16, Hebrews 5:1-10: **Mark 10:35-45**

October 24 - Job 42:1-6, 10-17 and Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22), Hebrews 7:23-28.
Jeremiah 31:7-9 and Psalm 126; **Mark 10:46-52**

October 31 - **Ruth 1:1-18** and Psalms 146, Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and Psalm 119:1-8,
Hebrews 9:11-14, Mark 12:28-34

Those Celebrating September Birthdays are:

Lindsey Cohen
Paula Whitacre
Hunter Allen
Jonathan Zader
Julie Pensell
Alana Burde
Austin Barnes
Rachael Pederson
Troy Morse
Sarah Wasielewski Mason



From the Treasurer:

Hello, all. I am writing this to give everyone an idea of how our finances have fared over the last 18 months or so during the Covid 19 crisis, which is to say, not as bad as expected, but still in a bit of a mess.

We quit meeting at the church in March of 2020 and have just now begun to worship in the church again, although with the recent uptick in cases, we may be forced to go virtual again. Giving, either by mail to my home address or to that of the church, has not sagged too badly, and a number of congregants increased their giving over and above their pledges recognizing that our giving would drop when we could not meet in person. Sadly, a number of our members and friends passed away over a short time. This resulted in a large amount of one-of memorial giving that temporarily plussed-up our checking account balance, but, of course, ended. Pastor Jim accepted a reduction to his half-time salary and benefits package due to not being required to travel to the church from New York each weekend, which has now reverted to the original amount.

Several significant hits on our income occurred. We lost the rent from the Living Water Apostolic Church a few months after we closed, and the rent from the parsonage when Joan Nutting passed away in November 2020 and her husband could no longer stay in the parsonage. These income streams are essential to keeping our church open. We spent about \$10,000 to refurbish the parsonage, replacing floor coverings, patching and painting walls and re-doing the bathrooms, and replacing a number of outdated or dead appliances. This total also included costs for repairs of the slate roof, (in conjunction with work on the church), which is necessary every several years to undo the normal ravages of time. Included in this total cost are the cost of fuel oil, gas, and electricity that we paid that are normally paid by the tenant until we got a new one in mid-March.

We no longer have a secretary or cleaning person on salary but continue to pay Angie Jones as a contractor for our music and for setting up our Zoom presence. Several other musicians fill in as contractors on Sundays when Angie is unavailable. I have always enjoyed our music and our music continues to be top of the line. Having the church empty reduced our billing for gas and electricity, and we no longer paid a premium for exceeding the contracted number of black

and white and color copies on a month on our rented copier. Most of our other expenses continue, but now are increased by about 10% due to inflation. Efforts to recruit another church to rent the sanctuary and other places in the church building have been, so far, unsuccessful. If you read the monthly Treasurer's report, you should be aware that we pay our approximately \$8,000 insurance bills in late July, a big hit to our finances which take months to recapture. (If you do not get a Treasurer's report but want to, let me know and I will add you to my mailing list.) We normally maintain a checking account balance of \$50,000 to about \$55,000 but over time this is slowly eroding. Hopefully, we will be able to engage a congregation to rent the sanctuary and other parts of the church to be able to return to our pre-Covid finances.

In addition, we face a large cost to redo the paving of the church parking lot, perhaps \$35,000 to \$45,000. Asphalt paving will last about seven years due to evaporation of volatile components. When actively driven over, the material is kneaded by the weight of the wheels of the vehicles, keeping it a bit more flexible. In areas such as the apron on a bridge, or our parking lot, essentially untraveled, the life is about 5 years. I cannot remember when our parking lot was paved, but it was well in excess of this, as evidenced by the failure of the paving into little individual pieces. Directly paving over this will result in the cracks propagating through the new material in a short number of years.

In addition, it would be wise to connect the three down-spout leaders on the north side of the Social Hall, (now emptying into the parking lot, and causing ice in the winter), to a new gravity drain across the service lane on the east side of the church to the adjacent drop-off of the soil. At the same time, the drain box at the base of the ramp down into the basement has only a stub drainpipe going into the soil to its north, not very absorbent, so that in a heavy rain, water backs up on to the bottom of the basement door, comes in, and floods the basement. Connecting this stub drain to a gravity drain to the drop-off of the grade across the access lane would eliminate this. A French drain along the east wheel-track down the east service lane (sloping down to the north) would keep the soil dryer and less likely to deform under the weight of the truck that empties the dumpster and hence reduce the damage to the pavement there. We are pursuing grants to offset as much of this cost as possible.

Graham Silsby
Treasurer

Support a Child for a Year

Webster Church is making plans to supply backpacks on weekends for the 2021 - 2022 school year. We plan on packing backpacks for 75 students at Havre de Grace Elementary School. To supply these backpacks, we will need to raise approximately \$5,000 to meet our commitment for the year. This program is important for these students because it may be the main source of food they have over the weekends. You can help support a child for next school term with a contribution of \$115, but we will accept any amount you can give.

Good Shepard Lutheran Church in Bel Air has been collecting items and money during the month of July to help us with the backpacks. They collected a total value of over \$700. This will feed 7 students for a school year. Thank you to Good Shepard Lutheran Church for your generosity.

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.



Special Notes

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Webster Congregational Christian Church
of the United Church of Christ
4100 Webster Road
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
410-939-1884
websterucc@comcast.net
www.websterucc.org

OCTOBER

