



The Webster Word

October 2022 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 22, Issue 10

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

October 2022

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	30	1
• Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM		• Bible Study 11:00 AM (Zoom)	Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
• World Communion, Soup & Bread meal 10:30 AM		• Grace Place 10:30 AM (dessert) • Bible Study 11:00 AM (Zoom)	Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		Bay Pride Festival 2-6 PM
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
• Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM	• SCCW 11:30 AM at the Heltons'	• Bible Study 11:00 AM (Zoom) • Official Board 7 PM	Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM	Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
• Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM		• Bible Study 11:00 AM (Zoom)	Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
• Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM		• Bible Study 11:00 AM (Zoom)	Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM		Halloween, Karaoke, Soup Party 6-8 PM
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
• Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM		• Bible Study 11:00 AM (Zoom)	Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM	• Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM	Bazaar & Craft Show Pie making & Set up 8 AM	Bazaar & Craft Show 9 AM – 2 PM

INDEX

Pastor’s Message.....2
Moderator.....3
Diaconate.....4
Lectionary Readings5
SCCW5
Birthdays5
Clerk’s Report.....6
Scripture Readers.....6
Outreach7

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 MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JIM

On Saturday October 8th, many of us from Webster Church will welcome the hundreds of people who visit our booth by the Lighthouse in Tydings Park, for Bay Pride. We will welcome our brothers and sisters from the LGBTQ community and their families and show our support for them with an extravagant welcome.

So why will we do this? Is it because our pastor is openly gay, and we want to affirm his sexual orientation? No! Is it because he has a gay agenda and wants to turn Webster Church into a LGBTQ congregation? No! Is it because Webster Church is so desperate for new members that we will do whatever it takes to find them? Emphatically no! Chances are your next pastor will not identify as LGBTQ. And chances are Webster’s future congregation will continue to be as diverse as it currently is. And judging from the results of the past two Bay Pride Festivals, not one person who comes to our booth will ever join us in Sunday worship. But that’s not the point.

Since the Apostle Paul first wrote his scathing words about sexual immorality in his letters to the First Century Churches, the church has been openly hostile and unwelcoming and unforgiving to all people whose sexual orientation is not the norm, and whose lifestyle is different than theirs. While I was growing up homosexuality was “the love that dare not speak its name.” As I was coming of age it was perfectly okay for a gay man to sing tenor in the church choir or play the organ on Sunday mornings. But their personal lives were always something unspoken. After Thursday night’s choir practice the only way a person from the LGBTQ community could find community was to travel to a larger city and enter a dark and smoke-filled bar and pray, they didn’t run into anyone who knew them on the outside. I honestly never thought I’d see marriage equality in my lifetime. I honestly never thought I’d see major celebrities coming out in my lifetime. And I honestly never thought I’d see a teenager openly identify as LGBTQ in my lifetime. The best I could possibly hope for was “Don’t ask, don’t tell.”

But a lot has changed in the last fifty years! And the United Church of Christ has played a big role in that change. We were the first Protestant Denomination to ordain an openly gay pastor. And we did it as early as June 25, 1972! We now have many open and affirming congregations throughout the United States and Canada and we proudly wave our LGBTQ flags in our sanctuaries.

So, Saturday October 8th, is a HUGE day for us. It's our way of reaffirming and celebrating the LGBTQ community and the LGBTQ lifestyle. It's our way of taking a stand for the LGBTQ community and telling them that we also are proud of them. It's our way of telling them that there is a place for them in the church community and we are truly sorry for what the church has said and done to them these past two thousand years. But most importantly it's our way of saying God loves you and we love you. So please consider this your engraved invitation to join me in celebrating Bay Pride with your pastor and church community on Saturday October 8th, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

MODERATOR

"Preserving God's creation is perhaps the greatest theological mandate of our time," said the Reverend Jim Antal, President and Conference Minister, Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ (2017). "As climate change worsens- as creation offers chaos in place of continuity-injustice in all its forms is multiplied. Together with our interfaith partners- as people of faith-as the church- this is our calling. It is neither partisan nor political. Our responsibility is at the center of our covenant with God."

Rev. Antal's remarks are particularly relevant in light of recent Federal legislation to make serious inroads to help reverse the dramatic effects of climate change. We have been called by our denomination for many years to adopt "green church" practices- leading by example. We have made changes to our church operations to help conserve natural resources. Maybe you are not aware of some of our practices:

- * several years ago we converted all our incandescent bulbs to LED lighting (except in the Sanctuary). LED lighting is touted to use as much as 75% less energy and the bulbs last 25% longer than incandescent. At the time of our installation we availed ourselves of Federal tax credits to reduce the cost of the change-over.
- * recycle bins are available throughout the church building and paper, glass and metal are regularly collected. We insist that visiting groups who use our building also participate in recycling. The bins are emptied by various church members and deposited into recycling pick-up systems.

- *We do not keep gas pilot lights lit on our kitchen appliances until we are ready to use the appliance.
- * the thermostat setting on our hot water heater is set lower than recommended as we do not use a dishwasher.
- * thermostats in the Sanctuary and Social Hall are carefully monitored in order to conserve on our utility bills

These small steps are more than symbolic.. They say we are aware of our world as a creation of God. We welcome any and all suggestions as to how we can do more!

Ann Helton, Moderator

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

The deacons hope everyone has had a fun and productive summer and we are ready to hit the ground running as Webster Church is heading into a fall filled with a very busy schedule. Sunday mornings will include the following worship schedule:

- October 2 Worldwide Communion/Soup and Sandwich Luncheon
- October 9 Worship/Coffee Talk
- October 16 Worship/Coffee Talk
- October 23 Worship/Coffee Talk
- October 30 Worship/ Birthday Sunday/Coffee Talk/ Halloween Party

We look forward to seeing you all at our Sunday worship services!!

This past week I have had the opportunity to drive on our newly surfaced and lined parking lot. How blessed we are that we were able to complete this and pay for it. The choir is excited to see the new audio system installed in the sanctuary. We can do wonderful things when we work and give together to accomplish the goals we set for our church.

Please remember that the deacons are always here to listen to concerns and suggestions of new ideas for Webster. Please don't hesitate to talk with one of us anytime you need to.

Tony Dooley, Deacon

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER:

October 2 – Lamentations 1:1-6 and Lamentations 3:19-26 or **Psalm 137**; Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

October 9 – **Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7** and Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c and Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

October 16 – Jeremiah 31:27-34 and Psalm 119:97-104; Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; **Luke 18:1-8**

October 23 – Joel 2:23-32 and Psalm 65; Sirach 35:12-17 or Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 and Psalm 84:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; **Luke 18:9-14**

October 30 – Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 and Psalm 119:137-144; Isaiah 1:10-18 and Psalm 32:1-7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; **Luke 19:1-10**

SCCW – Society of Congregational Christian Women

The SCCW October meeting is on Monday, October 10th, at 11:30 AM at the Helton home. There will be a lunch and we will begin preparing for our bazaar on Saturday, November 5, 2022. The bazaar will feature an all-you-can-eat breakfast, white elephant, Silent Auction/Collectibles, and crafters. As you do your fall cleaning, collect good, clean, usable items for our white elephant room and items for our Silent Auction/Collectables Table. Please, NO clothing. Items may be brought to church starting on Sunday, October 23, 2022. If you have any questions, see Doris Lyttle.

Doris Lyttle, President



Those celebrating October birthdays are:

**Lindsay Cohen
Paula Whitacre
Hunter Allen
Jonathan Zader
Julie Pensell**

**Al Burden
Austin Barnes
Rachael Pedersen
Troy Samuel Morse
Sarah Wasielewski Mason**

CLERK’S REPORT

Deaths

Marilyn MacAskill – Friend of Webster Church

Things Happening at Webster Church

- The parking lot has been resurfaced and lines marked.
- The chairlift has had some difficulties, but every effort is being made to keep it working.
- The sound system in the sanctuary is in the process of being updated.
- Two antique beds are available for purchasing. Money from their sale will support Blessings in a Backpack. See Ann Helton for particulars.
- Upgrading Comcast at Webster Church will be explored to make the use of the Wi-Fi and Zoom stronger at the church.
- Plans are being made for the Webster Church Bazaar and Craft Show on November 5, 2022.
- Deep cleaning days will be organized to clean the church building. A room or portion of the church will be given a thorough cleaning on scheduled days. Volunteers will be asked to help.

Scripture Readers:

DATE

October 2
October 9
October 16
October 23
October 30

READER

Gary Lyttle
Angie Jones
Hugh Nash
Bonnie Burden
Judi Haverstick

Communion

FEED A CHILD FOR A YEAR

The children are back in school. Webster Church is continuing to support Blessings in a Backpack by providing food for 75 children at Havre de Grace Elementary School over the weekends. To continue feeding 75 students, \$4,000 needs to be raised for the 2022-2023 school year. We would like to feed more of the eligible 200 students, but more funds are needed. Due to the increase in food items \$130 feeds a child for a school year, but we are accepting donations in any amount in hope of providing more food to more children. Any support you can give will be greatly appreciated.

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.



Webster Church
Fall Bazaar
& Craft Show

Saturday, November 5th ~ 9 am to 2 pm

4100 Webster Road, 21078

All You Can Eat Breakfast 9-11:30 am



Preorder your PIES!
 Apple Crumb, Apple Crust,
 Apple Crisp, Apple Cobblers - \$13
 Pumpkin - \$11

Lunch - Homemade Chicken Corn Soup,
 Hot dogs, Apple Pie a la mode,
 Caramel Apple Sundae

Preorder Chicken Corn Soup - \$7 quart



Crafters



White Elephant Room



Silent Auction/Collectibles

To preorder, call Doris - 410-939-9637 or
 410-937-9054
 or email dlyttle@comcast.net, subject Pies





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

