



# The Webster Word

October 2023

Webster Congregational Christian Church

Volume 23, Issue 10

*A community of faith in Havre de Grace*

## October 2023

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"> <li>World Communion Soup and Bread Meal Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bible Study 11 AM (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grace Place 9:30 AM (dessert)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bay Pride 2-6 PM</li> </ul>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bible Study NOON (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official Board 7 PM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM</li> </ul>		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SCCW 11:30 AM at church</li> <li>NO Bible Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deacons Meeting 7 PM (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM</li> </ul>		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bible Study 11 AM (Zoom)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM</li> </ul>		
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birthday Sunday, Halloween Coffee Talk 10:30 AM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bible Study 11 AM (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Halloween</li> </ul>				

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**Bible Study notice:**

**Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 11 AM on MONDAYS. 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.**

## **An October Message from Pastor Jim**

Although I wasn’t really looking for them, and I certainly wasn’t expecting them, the first thing that caught my eye when I walked into our Webster sanctuary for the first time were the six beautifully hand quilted banners that adorn the back wall of the choir loft beside the cross. Made with great care and exquisite craftsmanship by Reverend Ellen Witko, they are a bold reminder that Webster Church is an open and affirming congregation. This congregation obviously voted to become inclusive long before I was called to Webster, and by calling me you “put your money where your mouth is.” You stood on your rock of commitment and called an openly gay pastor. And that was a huge risk.

And your voting to become an open and affirming congregation was not without a cost. Many good people fled Webster Church in droves because they believed in their hearts that homosexuality is an abomination to the Lord and to the Body of Christ. But many of you stayed. You had to decide between fear of others and love for your sisters and brothers. Somehow you took to heart Jesus’ message from John’s Gospel where he says, “I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice.” Other sheep!

I know that over the years we’ve lost many devout Christians to neighboring congregations, but every year God also provides us with an incredible opportunity and a huge responsibility to get a little evangelical with the same people we welcomed without bias or prejudice so many years ago. It’s called Bay Pride. And it’s Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> between 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM, at Concord Point Lighthouse Park. But “the harvest is plentiful, and the laborers are few.” So, I invite you to join Heather, Jessica, Scott, Marge, Paula, James, and myself to let our LGBTQIA+ community know that there is a welcoming place for them at the table and at Webster Church. Come celebrate for an hour or two. As the Bay Pride website suggests, “Come foster relationships and create a safe and inclusive environment for everyone in the community.”

Many of our LGBTQIA+ friends grew up believing that the church is the “enemy of all Gay People.” So let’s let this be our opportunity to witness to those same folks who are uncertain about the church. Let’s let them know “that Jesus never turned anyone away and neither do we.” And Webster Church is so adamant in our belief that God created everyone equal we hung the six rainbow banners beside the cross of Jesus. And that alone is a huge message.

## MODERATOR

I am so happy to be in the season where choir practice begins again, and we are singing hymns of praise during the regular Sunday services. My singing voice can only be described as a "low croak" at this stage of my life, but I really enjoy the chance to be in a choir and contribute the alto clef. I have been singing in a church choir since I was six years old, including all my college years. One of the warmest memories I have is singing "The Messiah" at Christmas time in the Naval Academy Chapel with the Hood College and US Naval Academy choirs. What a sound! We were accompanied by a real orchestra. And one year we also performed this work at Riverside Church in NYC.

Webster Church is so blessed to have the musical leadership of Angie Jones who brings her incredible musical scholarship to our congregation. We have a small choir for her to lead but she understands our devotion to bringing songs to praise the Lord with our voices. She leads us with patience and professionalism. Thanks to her contacts we performed a Christmas cantata with Hopewell Church, and we are on our way to making this an annual event. She selects the weekly hymns we sing during our weekly services, so they reflect and enhance the lectionary of Pastor's sermons.

So let our praise our Choir Master and my fellow singers for their devotion to music being part of the way we pray together. How sad it would be if this wasn't possible! "Sing, you sinners!"

**Ann Helton, Moderator**

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### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR October:

**October 1** – Exodus 17:1-7 and Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16, or Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 and Psalm 25:1-9;  
Philippians 2:1-3; Matthew 21:23-32

**October 8** – Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Psalm 19 or Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15;  
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

**October 15** – Exodus 32:1-14 and Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 or Isaiah 25:1-9 and Psalm 23; **Philippians 4:1-9**;  
Matthew 22:1-14

**October 22** – Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99 or Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)  
**1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**; Matthew 22:15-22

**October 29** – Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 or Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and Psalm 1  
**1 Thessalonians 2:1-8**; **Matthew 22:34-46**

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## NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

Did you ever rake the leaves into a pile and then jump in? I could not wait until the leaves at my childhood home were high enough to rake and put in piles so my siblings and I (actually my brother and I most of the time) could enjoy this wonderful fun. We loved to toss each other around and roughhouse. Sometimes my younger sister would join in, and we then had to be more careful. Now that we have become senior citizens, we now use our eyes to appreciate the colors of the leaves and often take rides to see their beautiful shades. Fall is a time to take in the beauty provided in the artistry of our Creator.

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies,  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Folliott S. Pierpoint

As the deacons of Webster, we try to plan worship to be meaningful and you will be treated to a very well prepared and informative sermon (and sometimes spiced with humor). The following are the dates and of the October Worship services:

- October 1 World Wide Communion/Soup and Bread Meal
- October 8 Worship/Coffee Talk
- October 15 Worship/Coffee Talk
- October 22 Worship/Coffee Talk
- October 29 Worship/ Birthday Sunday/Halloween Themed Coffee Talk  
(children may wear costumes}

We hope to see you in worship and to enjoy the fellowship of Coffee Time.

**Tony Dooley, Deacon**

## **Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)**

The SCCW October meeting is on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 AM at Webster Church. There will be a lunch and we will prepare for the bazaar on Saturday, November 4, 2023.

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 the Silent Auction/Collectibles Table. Please, NO clothing. Items may be brought to church starting on Sunday, October 22, 2023

Plan what you can bake for the bake table or put in the general store/craft table. We are also looking for items for our Silent Auction and Collectibles table. It can be new or used, antique or modern, tangible or hours of service of some kind. One of our best gifts was a wine dinner prepared by one of our parishioners, and another parishioner auctioned off 4 hours of help over the holidays. He put up the highest bidders Christmas decorations and then took them down later. See Doris if you have something for the Silent Auction or Collectibles Table.

If you have any questions, see Doris Lyttle.

**Doris Lyttle, President**



**Those celebrating October birthdays are:**

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

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

## CLERK'S REPORT

### Things Happening at Webster Church

- If you know of an artist whom Ann could contact to display their art in the church sanctuary, please let her know.
- Plans are moving forward for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 2024. Put Saturday, September 28, 2024, on your calendar for the church service and dinner.
- Plans are being made for the Webster Church Bazaar and Craft Show on November 4, 2023.
- Official Board meeting - Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

### Scripture Readers, Greeters and Ushers:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>	<u>USHER</u>
October 1	Angie Jones (Communion)	Liz Luethy	Hugh Nash
October 8	Carol Greimel	Jim Cook	Tony Dooley
October 15	Bonnie Burden	Gary Lyttle	Doris Lyttle
October 22	Hugh Nash	Libby Copes	Linda Placzankis
October 29	Lonna Smith	Lauren Dooley	Carol Greimel

## 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, \$6,000 needs to be raised for the 2023-2024 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.**

## **You Can Now Donate to Webster Church Using PayPal**

Thanks to Heidi Pensell, Webster Church has set up an account so that you can donate using PayPal. You just image the QR code (see next page) in your cell phone camera and touch the link to be taken to a screen where you can enter your donation information. If you are lucky, you can even capture the information from your credit card through the camera. You will get an e-mail from PayPal acknowledging your gift, which you can use for tax purposes. The QR code is below, and also printed in our weekly bulletins for your convenience.

PayPal charges us a nominal fixed fee of about \$0.60 per transaction plus 2% of the amount (discounted from their normal 3% because we are a non-profit). Their fee is just a cost to us for their services. For your information, we pay nearly a dollar each for our high-security checks and over \$0.50 a stamp, plus the cost of an envelope if one is not supplied, so Webster pays out about \$1.50 each just to pay a bill.

To maximize how much of your donation the church gets, you should just send one donation a month rather than, say one each week. We work on a monthly basis and won't see any difference in how often you give in a month, just how much we receive in the month.

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at [gsilsby3@comcast.net](mailto:gsilsby3@comcast.net) or call me at home at 410-734-6721.



# Digital Offering

Thank you for supporting the work of Webster Church!



Hold your camera over this qr code and click the link to give your offering through PayPal.



Webster Church

# Fall Bazaar & Craft Show

Saturday, November 4th ~ 9 am to 2 pm

4100 Webster Road, 21078

All You Can Eat Breakfast \$12 \* 9-11:30 am




Preorder your PIES!



Apple Crumb, Apple Crust,  
Apple Crisp, Apple Cobblers - \$14  
Pumpkin - \$12

Lunch - Homemade Chicken Corn Soup,  
Sloppy Joes, Hot dogs,  
and Apple Pie a la mode

Preorder Chicken Corn Soup - \$8 quart

 Crafters  White Elephant Room  
 Silent Auction/Collectibles

To preorder, call Doris - 410-937-9054  
or email [dlyttle@comcast.net](mailto:dlyttle@comcast.net), subject Pies



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## 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](mailto:websterucc@comcast.net)  
[www.websterucc.org](http://www.websterucc.org)

# ***OCTOBER***

