



The Webster Word

August 2021 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 21, Issue 8

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

August 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 |
|--|------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communion Service, Coffee Talk 10:30AM (Zoom/in-person) Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grace Place 10:30 AM (deseart) Bible Study 11:00 AM (on Zoom) | Think Group 5:30-6:30PM | Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| <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 11:00 AM (on Zoom) Official Board 7PM (on Zoom) | Think Group 5:30-6:30PM | Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM | Peach Festival Pie Baking 8:30 AM | Peach Festival 8:30 AM – 2 PM  |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday Service/Coffee Talk, 10:30AM (Zoom/in-person) Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM | | Bible Study 11:00 AM (on Zoom) | Think Group 5:30-6:30PM | Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday Service/Coffee Talk, 10:30AM (Zoom/in-person) Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM Church Picnic 4:30 PM at Helton Home | • VBS 5:30-8:30. | Bible Study 11:00 AM (on Zoom) | Think Group 5:30-6:30PM | Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday Service/Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30AM (Zoom/in-person) Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM | | Bible Study 11:00 AM (on 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, in August. *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

One of the three committees that make up the Chesapeake Association's Church and Ministry Commission is called "Churches in Transition." Basically, this committee looks after churches that have recently lost their minister or are in search of a new one. But in the last sixteen months it has occurred to me that every church is a church in transition, and Webster Church is no exception. We are all still waiting for this horrible pandemic to end, and we are all still waiting for the "new normal," whatever that will eventually be. And like the rest of the world, it seems like when we take one step forward...we then take two steps backward.

On May 30, Webster Church began our current hybrid version of ministry. We opened our doors to in-person Sunday worship gatherings while also continuing to worship on Zoom. And sometimes both have felt a little lonely. And sometimes both have felt very promising. We also have continued to have Bible Study, the Official Board, and Deaconate Meetings on Zoom; while the SCCW, Vacation Bible School, and our weekly support groups have met in person.

At Webster Church we are trying very hard to keep pace with what the CDC and the State of Maryland advise us to do to keep the new Delta Variant of the virus at bay, and sometimes it's not easy because it feels like health conditions

change overnight. But we feel very blessed by both our in-person and Zoom offerings.

So, this is an invitation to everyone in our Webster Church family. Please do whatever you need to do to stay safe and well but please don't stay away from Webster for too long. Many churches are now having to constantly remind their church families that they are still open because over the past sixteen months their congregations have gotten out of the habit of attending Sunday morning worship.

But you never know what you might miss by staying away from Webster Worship. Last Sunday, our congregation was wowed by a virtuoso viola offering from Al Burden. Two weeks ago, I was sitting in my office before worship when I suddenly heard the sound of a bass guitar, and our worship was filled with the amazing energy of praise music offered by Angie, Kathy, and Mike which I hadn't experienced in a long time. And three weeks ago, Kendrah serenaded us with the lovely and peaceful music she offers from her harp. And again, last Sunday Angie sang a solo and read the scripture... at the same time! And then Siri showed up in the middle of my sermon and asked me what I wanted. So, you see, Webster Church really is "like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get."

I never thought I'd be the kind of pastor who asks his congregation "when are you coming back?" But I recently heard a pastor in Memphis ask his congregation the same question during a Sunday service I was watching on television. Then during the postlude, the camera panned across the sanctuary and there had to be at least over two hundred people in his sanctuary. I guess he's used to twice as many.

So, as you travel over the summer and go about finally getting out of the house, please remember that we are still here for you every Sunday at 10:30 AM, both in person and on the Zoom link Angie sends out every week. And please also remember this quote that Robin R. Stokes, the Community Outreach Navigator of Upper Chesapeake Hospital, ends each email with:

"COVID ISN'T OVER: PLEASE STAY VIGILANT"

MODERATOR

During the last year-and-a-half we have been observing how the world, our nation, our neighbors, our family and our friends have reacted to the pandemic. In many ways their behavior has been puzzling, awkward, and sometimes downright unsafe. Suffice to say, we have learned a lot about our fellow citizens and how they process information. Many surprises!

By way of this column, I want to acknowledge one person who has been our rock and led us through the struggle to maintain normalcy. I wish to commend, on behalf of the Congregation, our Pastor, Jim Sterner, for helping us to continue to worship, study, and socialize in new ways. You know Jim was sheltered-in-place in NYC for a long time and couldn't safely travel to Maryland. And yet he and Angie Jones immediately devised a way for our virtual worship, Bible Study and Official Board meetings to take place. We were linked to each other in a safe and new way none of us had experienced before. And at this same time, we were forced to ask Jim to take a pay cut while we tried to recover our financial footing. He gracefully agreed to this.

In addition, Jim used his phone to maintain regular contact with those members who don't use Zoom and/or needed special care- the homebound, the grieving, those with special needs due to health or loss. In some instances, Jim actually traveled to Maryland to conduct funerals and home visits when Covid rules were relaxed. He also continued meetings with the Conference and the Susquehanna Ministerium.

It is to Jim's credit that our Zoom services and Bible Study attracted people related to our Congregation who live out-of-state. Jim's sermons were always on-message to people who need to hear and know the Word! Most of these people continue to worship and study with us and we welcome their presence.

All Pastors have been challenged by the temporary closures of their churches and the work needed to keep their flock together. Jim has met this challenge with his usual good spirit and intellect. He continues to care for us, and we continue to care for and love him. Thank you, Pastor Jim, for leading us through this. We are now mostly open for business. Hallelujah!

Ann Helton - Moderator

DIACONATE

We hope your summer is going well and you are finding cool places to be in this hot summer we are having. Right now, a cool dip in the ocean sounds really good. Now that we are back in the sanctuary and continuing with zoom the services are going well. We have continued to have Coffee Talk and it is easy to see we missed each other's company as we are spending more time in the social hall talking. If you have not been able to return to the sanctuary or zoom, we hope to see you soon, **WE MISS YOU!!!!**

Services for the month of August:

8/1 Communion/Coffee Talk

8/8 Worship/Coffee talk

8/15 Worship/Coffee Talk

8/22 Worship/Coffee Talk

8/29 Worship/Coffee Talk

As we approach the fall with many new beginnings let us remember:

For now, I have new experiences coming, new sorrows, perhaps, but new joys also. I have fresh opportunities to help someone who needs it, more love and understanding to give, and a renewed faith in God.

My journey to tomorrow is always just beginning.

Gladys Taber

Tony Dooley, Deacon

SCCW – Society of Congregational Christian Women

The ladies of the SCCW met for lunch and fellowship in July at Ann Helton's home. We usually don't meet during the summer, but we are just so happy to be able to get together.

Plans were finalized for the Peach Festival. Peaches will be peeled, and pies baked on Friday, August 13th starting at 8:30 AM. Your help would be greatly appreciated. On Saturday, August 14th people can pick up their pies and sundaes between 9 and 2. Peach pies with crust or crumb, peach cobblers, and peach crisp are available for \$13 each. Peach preserves are \$7 and peach sundaes are \$5.

Preorder by emailing Doris at dlyttle@comcast.net or calling Doris at 410.939-9637.

Plans for the church picnic were also established. The Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 22nd beginning at 4:30 at the Helton's home. Meat, drinks, and paper items will be provided. Please let Ann or Doris know if you would like to bring a salad, dessert, or other side and how many are attending.

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 through the summer.
- Church Picnic will be held at the Helton's home on Sunday, August 22nd, at 4:30. See SCCW article for more information.
- VBS on Monday, July 19th 5:30 to 8:30 was a success. Children may join the next VBS get together on Monday August 23rd 5:30 to 8:30.
- Good Samaritan Lutheran Church in Bel Air collected and donated items for Blessings in a Backpack in the fall.
- An anniversary committee to plan for Webster Church's 100th anniversary has been started. Members are Tony Dooley, Doris Lyttle, Carol Greimel, and Pastor Jim Sterner. If you are interested in joining the committee, contact Ann Helton.
- Official Board meeting August 10th at 7 PM on Zoom.

Scripture Readers

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>READER</u> | |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| August 1 | Hugh Nash | Communion |
| August 8 | Bonnie Burden | |
| August 15 | Judi Haverstick | |
| August 22 | Pat Mengel | |
| August 29 | Ann Helton | |

Those Celebrating August Birthdays are:

Gary Lyttle
 Meghan Witmer
 Lauren Dooley
 Monica Pederson

Lisa Jennings
 Marilyn Cooley
 Colton Sedler
 Donna Brinegar

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR August:**

August 1 - John 6:24-35; 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a and Psalm 51:1-12 Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 and Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16

August 8 - John 6:35, 41-51 and Psalm 85:8-13; 2 Samuel 18:5-9,15,31-33; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; 1 Kings 19:4-8 and Psalm 34:1-8

August 15 - 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 and Psalm 111; Proverbs 9:1-6 and Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

August 22 - 1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11),22-30,41-43 and Psalm 84; Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18 and Psalm 34:15-22 and Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-210 John 6:56-69

August 29 - Song of Solomon 2:8-13 and Psalm 45:1-2,6-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9 and Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

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 \$6,000 this summer, as our funds are very low. 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 Samaritan Lutheran Church in Bel Air has been collecting items and money during the month of July to help us with the backpacks. We picked up 39 grocery bags of items and will pick up Samaritan 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.

Grace Place

Hi All,

Thanks to the Webster Church family for your generous support of the Grace Place feeding center in Havre de Grace. With donations of non-perishable food and other goods from Webster Church and other local individuals, churches, and organizations, as well as the occasional one-off donation from food distributors of food items that could not be delivered to an intended customer, we have been able to continue to provide a variety of nutritious foods as well as personal care products to all who need them. As a reminder, please do not donate out-of-date items or items in glass jars. Twice monthly, we use your monetary donations to buy non-perishable foods to round out our inventory, as well as to provide toilet paper, diapers and baby wipes, milk, and occasional offerings of ground beef. The photo shows 60 cans of vegetables and fruits and 24 sleeves of four 4-oz fruit cups, which cost about \$125 at Aldi in Aberdeen.

Coronavirus measures and major renovations of the Parish Hall at St. John's Episcopal Church on Union Avenue have combined to limit the number of individuals that have been showing up, but our guests are often picking up additional items for family and friends. While we are serving a smaller clientele and handing out pre-made lunches rather than offering a sit-down hot meal, our services are still in demand and well-appreciated.

While we rely solely on the donations from individuals, organizations, and churches, there are several other food pantries in Havre de Grace that hand out food provided by the Maryland Food Bank, serving the same clientele as does Grace Place. These organizations have no choice but to give out what they are provided, so that WE DO NOT NEED and are grossly overstocked in peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce, canned tomato products, canned and dried beans and rice. On the other hand, we can use all the fruit cups, canned meat and fish, and prepared foods that you can offer. This being the summer, we get some fresh vegetables from the Havre de Grace Victory Garden, but could use any donations of fresh tomatoes, bell peppers, and other popular garden fruits and vegetables. If you wish, let Louise and I know, and we can pick them up Monday to hand out on Tuesday. We can be reached at 410-734-6721 or gsilsby3@comcast.net. We also are looking for volunteers to pick up baked goods donations from Panera and from Shoprite in Aberdeen once a week for a month during the year.

Finally, we noticed a significant decrease in demand in the periods following the distribution of stimulus money. Thus, we expect a drop in demand when the Federal childcare money begins to flow. While the Bible says that the poor will always be with us, ideally, we would reach a time when our charity was no longer needed. We will advise you all when we see how the new situation impacts our need for donations.

Again, thanks to all for keeping Grace Place in your mind.

Graham and Louise Silsby
Grace Place Feeding Center,
Havre de Grace, MD



Webster Congregational Christian Church of the United Church of Christ

ANNUAL PEACH FESTIVAL



Saturday, August 14, 2021

4100 Webster Road,

Havre De Grace, MD

Fresh Peach Items for sale:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Regular deep dish peach pies | \$13.00 |
| Crumb deep dish peach pies | \$13.00 |
| Peach cobbler | \$13.00 |
| Peach crisp | \$13.00 |
| Peach preserves | \$7.00 |
| Peach sundae | \$5.00 |

Preorder your Fresh Peach Items:

By Phone: 410-939-9637 or 410-937-9064

By Email: DLYTTL@COMCAST.NET

**Preordered items will be available for pick up or brought to
your car between - 9 AM and 2 PM**





Special Notes

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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AUGUST

