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The Webster Word

September 2021 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 21, Issue 9

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

September 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 |
|---|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 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 | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| <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 (Meal) | Think Group 5:30-6:30PM | Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rally Day, Blessings of Back Packs /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 7 PM | 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"> Sunday Service/Coffee Talk, 10:30AM (Zoom/in-person) Jesus Christ Ministry 1-3 PM Cub Scout Pack 965 new member meeting 5:30 PM | SCCW noon at Lyttle's | Bible Study 11:00 AM (on Zoom) | Think Group 5:30-6:30PM | Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
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INDEX

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Pastor | 2 |
| Moderator..... | 3 |
| Diaconate..... | 4 |
| SCCW | 5 |
| Clerk's Report..... | 5 |
| Scripture Readers..... | 5 |
| Lectionary Readings | 6 |
| Outreach | 6 |
| Birthdays | 7 |

Bible Study notice:

Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 11 AM on Tuesdays, in September. *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 of Deep Gratitude from Pastor Jim

Every Sunday morning during my first two years here at Webster Church (before we shuttered because of the pandemic) there was always a red car waiting to greet my red car as I pulled into the parking lot. And every Sunday morning at 9 AM, I would hear the voices of our Webster Choir rehearsing their anthems upstairs, and they were always ready to sing them at 10:30. And every Sunday morning when I would enter the sanctuary, I would find the sound system ready to go and my lavalier microphone waiting for me on my lectern. These are the signs and sounds of a reliable, dedicated, enthusiastic, caring, professional choir director who has been there for me and my congregation every Sunday before I even entered the church building. So, it's a bittersweet moment for us at Webster Church as Gwen Stolzenbach steps down as our official Minister of Music and hands her baton over to Angie Jones. I use that title because I have never for a moment questioned Gwen's call to the ministry of Webster Church. Gwen not only has provided the music for us every Sunday, but she also taught our children how to sing, listened to us when we had challenges in our lives, taught our girls how to be crafty, and constantly prayed for each and every one of us. Gwen encouraged us to share our musical gifts with our church family, from the youngest to the oldest. Why even I recall playing the piano for worship one fateful summer morning. And we all grew in faith and became a little more confident because Gwen invited us to share what gifts we had.

Now let me be perfectly clear. Gwen is not leaving the planet and Gwen is not leaving Webster Church. Gwen is stepping down so Angie can step up. Gwen will continue singing in worship and will continue teaching our children. Gwen will continue to help Angie provide guest musicians and will continue to inspire us to share our musical gifts. And I will continue to wear my Gwen Stolzenbach original designer face masks and my beautiful handmade rainbow stole in worship. You may not even notice the changes to come, but over the years you couldn't help noticing Gwen. You couldn't help but notice her love for Webster Church. And you couldn't help but notice her big heart! Gwen, we thank you for your unconditional love, your dedication, your expertise, your attention to detail, your kindness, your generosity, and your music from the bottom of our hearts. "Well done, good and trustworthy servant. Well done!"

MODERATOR

The Fall season is upon us and that sets in motion a new set of activities in the life of our community and Church. But still, we see these events in a different light because we are experiencing the continuing threat of Covid infections and deaths. We must be cautious and wary of what can be scheduled, the conditions of our socializations and who will participate, and will they be endangered.

Currently Webster Church is requiring masks inside the building and congregational singing is prohibited. Normal social distancing and sanitizing is being practiced to the extent possible. We have urged all members to be vaccinated. In light of these rules, we expect to conduct some of our activities on the calendar:

- * Rally Day will take place on September 12 to kick-off Sunday School and our students return to school
- *The Fall Bazaar is scheduled for November 6 but its form and substance are not yet determined. But pie baking is on!
- *Our Thanksgiving pie baking will take place on November 23
- *Blessings-in-a-Backpack will resume with the County school reopening, but we are not yet fully funded for the full year. Doris has reached out to all available funding sources, including local churches, to help assure a full nine-month program.
- *Some Boy Scout/Girl Scout activities will resume in the Church building, but they will be determined by Church rules and the Scout leadership.

You can understand our caution as we seek to protect our community and ourselves from any exposure to the virus. Please know we love all of you in Christ's name and we shall gather as much as we can with His blessing.

Ann Helton - Moderator

DIACONATE

September to me had always come as a new beginning. Fresh new children's faces anxiously entering the front doors of the school and beginning the next stage of their lives. Teachers proudly displaying a welcoming smile and a room decorated that said come in. Now at a very different age I welcome September in a much different way. I spend more time watching the weather change and the foliage around me start to show signs of changing colors. But most of all now I am anxious to see the church come alive with young faces and old faces after the season of vacations and rest. I am a realist and I know that covid will again change our lives in ways we have already seen and will continue to see, however, I am determined to not let it take hold of all life and share my Sundays with all of you one way or another.

As we look forward to this next year, 2021 and 2022, please come on Sundays by Zoom or in the sanctuary and get this covid feeling off our backs. Perhaps we should all think **WHAT WOULD JESUS WANT US TO DO.**

The deacons are looking forward to sharing these September Sunday mornings with you:

9/5 Communion Sunday/Coffee talk

9/12 Worship/Rally Day/Blessings of the Back Packs/Coffee Talk

9/19 Worship/Coffee Talk

9/26 Worship/ Coffee Talk

The deacons are here to welcome you and to hear your cares and concerns please do not hesitate to call on us.

Tony Dooley, Deacon

SCCW - Society of Congregational Christian Women

The ladies of the SCCW were busy preparing and baking the pies on Friday, August 13th for the Peach Festival that Saturday. There was a wonderful group of men and women who peeled the peaches so Joce, Heidi, and Doris could bake the pies, crisps, and cobblers. Even though we did a modified form of the Peach Festival, it was very successful. Thank you to those who contributed to this success by peeling peaches, baking, cleaning up, and/or buying peach items.

The weather caused us to move the church picnic to the church Social Hall, but good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all who attended.

The next SCCW meeting will be on Monday, September 20th at noon at the Lyttle home. All the ladies of Webster Church are invited to attend.

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 in September.
- Rally Day and Blessings of the Backpacks on Sunday, September 12th.
- Good Shephard Lutheran Church in Bel Air collected and donated items and money valued at over \$700 for Blessings in a Backpack.
- Official Board meeting September 14th at 7 PM on Zoom.

Scripture Readers

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>READER</u> | |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|
| September 5 | Marge Joseph | Communion |
| September 12 | Graham Silsby | |
| September 19 | Gwen Stolzenbach | |
| September 26 | Elizabeth Zader | |

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR September

September 5 – Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Psalm 125; Isaiah 35:4-7a and Psalm 146; **Mark 7:24-37**; James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

September 12 – **Mark 8:27-38**; Proverbs 1:20-33 and Psalm 19; Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 116:1-9 or Wisdom of Solomon 7:26-8:1; James 3:1-12

September 19 – Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalm 1; Words of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22 or Jeremiah 11:18-20 and Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:3,7-8a; **Mark 9:30-37**

September 26 – Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and Psalm 124; James 5:13-20. Number 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Psalm 19:7-14; **Mark 9:38-50**

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 Samaritan 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 Shephard 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.

Those Celebrating September Birthdays are:

Saddie Burkentine Sofia
Rebecca Zader
Terry Haverstick
Haveallen Doctor
Seiken Taylor
Connor Jennings



A Note from Gwen

I first came to Webster Church 42 years ago, where my children, who were 7 and 3 at the time, could have contact with other kids their own ages. I wanted to expose them through Sunday School to the kind of religious training I never had as a child. My intent was to drop them off and then wait for them in the car. I was uncomfortable coming inside, as I'd been "accosted" almost to the point of bullying, by a member of another church when I attempted to do the same thing there. However, God had a different plan for me this time. While I was talking to one of the other moms, I heard the Choir begin singing, and like the bystanders in the movie "Sister Act", I was drawn upstairs to the Sanctuary by the sound. The next week I came back with the kids, because I needed to hear them sing again. The 3rd week I decided to join the Choir myself and fill a long held need to make my own music. That was the beginning of a spiritual, musical journey, my music ministry, here at Webster.

I quickly discovered that the Choir was without a director and had been for several weeks. In order to continue the music, each Choir member was taking 2 weeks to select and lead the Anthem and Offertory for each service. At the end of the 1st month, it was my turn. Unlike most of the Choir members then, I'd never had (still don't have) any formal music training outside what my dad was able to remember from his teen years and singing with the high school chorus for 2 years. But I come from a musical family, and I'd been singing all my life, so with trepidation and prayer I took my turn and discovered I really enjoyed the process. My Choir mates accepted my lack of knowledge with grace and love, so by the end of that 2nd month I took over as Choir Director for the 1st time.

That 1st periods of directing lasted 2 years, until I started working at the school and no longer had time to do the planning and prep work necessary to produce good music every week. Over the ensuing years, though, it became my joy to temporarily pick up the reins again several times as new Choir Directors came and went every couple of years.

Most of those stints lasted just a few months until a new Director was found. All, that is, until this last time. I couldn't remember how long this period has been until I went through the files to find out when Auggie Sommers came here as organist and found my own contract, dated to begin in January 2005. That was 16 years ago!!! Since then, I've kept the Directorship through some of the most rewarding, taxing, frustrating and joy filled years of my life. God has blessed this church, and me, with several amazingly talented young people who came to work here as organist/pianists during that time - Neil Fung, Troy Lawson, Gianni Cappelletti and Kendrah Absner. Each of these kids brought new energy and new ideas with them. They all quickly became an integral part of my work, and captured my heart as well, becoming as dear to me as all of you are. Family.

Then Angie Jones returned to us (she's family, too 😊). She had been organist and Music Director here for several years, until she needed to move back to her parent's church at the end of 2004. Now, she's returned to us through God's foresight and deep love for this church. He knew what was coming and sent us the one person with everything we need to keep the music going through this pandemic and beyond. At the beginning in early 2020, as it became necessary to close the church doors, it rapidly became clear to me that trying to keep me in the planning loop for Zoom services was inefficient and somewhat confusing for Angie and Pastor Jim. So, I chose to step back and let them deal with each other directly. Over the past 18 months that has proven to be one of the best decisions I've ever made. Angie has done an amazing job keeping everything going and her music ministry has been a blessing I, along with all of you, will always treasure.

Now, with an uncertain future ahead, it's time for me to make another decision. On September 15th, Rally Day, I will officially retire as Music Director of Webster Church, in order to pass that title on to Angie. She's been doing the job for the past 18 months and deserves that recognition of her role here. But

I'm not walking away. This is just the beginning of the next chapter of my own music ministry here at Webster. I'll still be singing, on my own and with the Choir. And when there are children who want to make music, I'll work with them in Children's Choir and/or Bell Choir for as long as I'm able.

I'm looking forward to discovering what God has planned for me next. Forty-two years ago, He and I made a deal that I could be the "big fish in the little pond", with the caveat that no matter what happened it would be up to me to keep the music going. With His help over the years, I have successfully done that. For whatever reason, God has always loved and protected the music in this little country church and now I can see His hand at work in this changeover, too. For me, this is but the next step in the most remarkable spiritual musical journey I've been on for so long. I can't wait to see where we're going next!

Thank you all for your constant love and support, I couldn't have done it without you either!

Love you all!!!!!!
Gwen Stolzenbach
Music Director



Special Notes

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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