



The Webster Word

March 2025 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 25, Issue 3

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

March 2025

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

23 • Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3 PM	24	25 • NO Bible Study	26 • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	27 • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30PM	28	1 • Emmanuel Men's Breakfast 8-9:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist Outreach 10:30 – 12 PM
2 • Communion, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3 PM	3 Feed the Homeless	4 • Grace Place 9:30 AM (meal) • Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom	5 • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	6 • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM	7	8
9 • Scout Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3 PM	10	11 • Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom	12 • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	13 • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM	14	15
16 • Sunday Service, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Deacons Meeting • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM-3 PM	17 SCCW meeting 11:30 AM	18 • Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom	19 • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	20 • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM • Boy Scouts 7:15 PM	21	22
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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 March Message from Pastor Jim

As we wrap up another season of Epiphany, once again the Revised Common Lectionary provides us with the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. As Jesus is transfigured in front of three of his disciples, his face changes and his clothes become dazzling white. Then Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus, but in Luke's version of the story something unique happens. They are speaking to Jesus about his departure which he is to accomplish in Jerusalem. The subject of Jesus' departure makes sense to me because both Elijah and Moses left this world in a rather strange fashion. They didn't die, they were both lifted into the heavens. But the word I have difficulty wrapping my head around is "accomplish." To me, the crucifixion of Jesus has never felt like an accomplishment, more like the ultimate in pain and suffering. And yet Luke insists that along with the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus, it's an accomplishment. Jesus' crucifixion turned an upside-down world right-side up. It is part and parcel of his glory.

So, as we begin our faith journey into the season of Lent, I have one question for you. What do you hope to accomplish during this season of following Jesus to the cross? This year I encourage everyone at Webster Church to accomplish something new. And I don't mean filing your income taxes unless you haven't filed them in years; and I don't mean singing in the Palm Sunday Cantata unless you've never done that before. Rather than giving something up for Lent, I encourage you to accomplish something new. Maybe it will be something tangible, and we will see the results. Or maybe it will be intangible, and we won't. But you will!

Because of the recent decisions of our new administration in Washington DC, I'm not asking you to give up anything for Lent. That will be done for us. And we will probably be giving up more than just eggs, and coffee, and equal opportunities in the workplace. We've already given up thousands of Federal Employees in our Internal Revenue Service, our National Parks, and our Veterans Administration. And we need them! Now we can only pray that we don't also have to give up our Social Security, our Medicare or our Medicaid.

So, please don't give up something for Lent that's going to make you suffer even more this spring. This year let's let Jesus do the suffering as we follow him to the cross. And let's accomplish something new, as we remember that Jesus' passion was the greatest accomplishment of all.

MODERATOR

You may have noticed that our hard-working Pastor has been taking a well-deserved vacation. Our pulpit has been ably filled by Linda Placzankis and our Conference associate Pastor Craig Peterson. Their messages ring true, and we appreciate their help with our worship services.

We know Pastor Jim gives 110% of his time and talents to our Church and his duties are many. Do we really appreciate all he does? Let's think about what he actually does...

Every week he prepares a sermon and Children's message related to the Lectionary

Every week he prepares and conducts a Bible Study session on Zoom

As needed, he visits with the home-bound and sick

Jim participates in SCCW, Deacon's, Board, Anniversary Committee meetings

Jim participates in and leads the business of the Susquehanna Ministerium

Jim leads the Church and Ministry Committee of the Central Atlantic Conference

Jim assists with our outreach programs including the Winter Homeless meals, Grace Place and Bay Pride booth

Jim designs the order-of-worship with the assistance of Angie, Doris and Lauren

I know I may have missed some of the other work Jim performs but suffice to say the most important effort we receive from Jim is his enthusiasm for his work and his Congregation. He encourages us to live well and try to act more like Jesus. He encourages us to do more for those who need our care and love. He asks us to forgive when it is the hard thing to do. And he always shows his appreciation to us when we respond.

Thank you, Jim, and may you have a respite and refreshing time as you need it. You deserve it!

Ann Helton, Moderator

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

As we prepare for Lent to begin on March fifth, Ash Wednesday, I will begin with the calendar of worship services for the season of Lent plus the beginning of Easter:

- 3/2 Communion/Coffee Talk
- 3/9 Worship/Coffee Talk (SCOUT SUNDAY)
- 3/16 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 3/23 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 3/30 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 4/6 Communion/Coffee Talk
- 4/13 Cantata/At Hopewell (HOPWELL AND WEBSTER COMBINED CHOIRS) (EASTER EGG HUNT)
- 4/17 Maundy Thursday (AGAPE MEAL)
- 4/20 EASTER COMMUNION (EASTER SEASON BEGINS)
- 4/27 Worship/Coffee Talk

I will wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day and warm weather soon!!

Hope to see you at worship!!

Tony Dooley, Deacon

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH:

March 2 – Exodus 34:29-35 and Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; **Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)**

March 9 – **Luke 4:1-13**; Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13

March 16 – **Luke 13:31-35** or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a); Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 and Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1

March 23 – Isaiah 55:1-9 and Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; **Luke 13:1-9**

March 30 – Joshua 5:9-12 and Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; **Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Service Attendants:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>	<u>USHER</u>
March 2	Beth Jackson Communion	Liz Leuthey	Libby Copes
March 9	Angie Vie Brock	Scout	Scout
March 16	Lauren Dooley	Linda Placzankis	Lisa Taylor
March 23	Lonna Smith	Ann Helton	Jim Cook
March 30	Linda Placzankis	Gary Lyttle	Doris Lyttle

Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)

The ladies met at the February 17th meeting for the annual Burning of the Greens ceremony. Tony Dooley explained about the duties of the Deacons at Webster Church.

On Monday, February 3rd meals were prepared and taken to a group of homeless people with temporary housing at a motel in Aberdeen. On Monday, March 3rd members of Webster Church will again feed the group of homeless people.

The March meeting will be on Monday, March 17th, at 11:30 AM at the Lyttle home. There will be a St. Patrick's Day lunch. The officers: President - Doris Lyttle, Vice President of Devotions – Judith Haverstick, Vice President of Programs – Ann Helton, Treasurer – Linda Placzankis, Secretary – Libby Copes, Hospitality/Flower Chairperson, Jean Cook, and Official Board Rep – Carol Greimel will be installed.

The ladies of Webster Church are invited to attend the SCCW meetings. The SCCW meets at 11:30 AM on the third Monday of the month. There is a lunch followed by devotions, a program, and a business meeting. The dues are \$12 for the year.

Doris Lyttle, President

Those celebrating March birthdays are:

Hugh Nash
Bessie Bowman
Bonnie Burden
Tucker Barnes
Heidi Pensell

Marge Joseph
Susan Roeder
Henry Pensell
Kyla Placzankis



CLERK'S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

- Copies of the Annual Report are available in the church office or see Doris Lyttle.
- Due to the inclement weather Scout Sunday was changed to March 9, 2025.
- If anyone has dates for activities and meetings in 2025, contact Doris Lyttle so they can be put on the 2025 calendar posted in the hall downstairs.
- **Snow policy.** In most cases a decision as to whether to cancel in-person Sunday services will be decided on Saturday evening. The congregation will be notified by email or phone call if services are cancelled or on Zoom only. Please check your emails Saturday night or Sunday morning. People without emails will be contacted by phone.

Blessings in a Backpack – Support a Child

Webster Congregational Christian Church continues to pack backpacks of nonperishable food to deliver to students at Havre de Grace Elementary School each week for 75 students. Once or twice a month a group of people braved the cold scout room this winter to pack several weeks' worth of backpacks. They are very important to the success of the program, and it is a time of fun and fellowship and exercise.

The children are very grateful for these items as for some, this may be the only food they have for the weekend. \$175 will supply food for a year per child.

If you would like 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.

Or donate at

<https://giving.blessingsinabackpack.org/organizations/havre-de-grace-elementary-md>

EARL'S PLACE



Earl's Place Transitional Housing provides an up to two-year program for 17 men recovering from substance abuse and homelessness. While they are there the men have a permanent, safe, secure, and supportive housing, support from a case manager, and a time to address and reverse individual causes of homelessness.

Periodically Webster Church donates gently used or new men's clothing and bed linens. Recently Doris and Gary Lytle met Shelia Helgersen with a carload of men's suits, other assorted men's clothing, bed linens, and a large suitcase.

The SCCW donates a monetary contribution each year.



Special Notes



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March

