



The Webster Word

July 2025 Webster Congregational Christian Church Volume 25, Issue 7

A community of faith in Havre de Grace

July 2026

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

28 • Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk, 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3 PM	29	30	1 • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	2 • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM	3	4
5 • Communion, Coffee Talk 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM -3 PM • July 4 th Parade 2 PM	6	7 • NO BIBLE STUDY • Grace Place 9:30 AM (meal)	8 • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	9 • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM	10	11 • Emmanuel Baptist Outreach 10:30 AM -12 PM
12 • Sunday Service, Coffee Talk, 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3 PM	13	14 • Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom • Official Board Meeting 7PM	15 • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	16 • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM	17	18
19 • Sunday Service, Coffee Talk, 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3 PM	20	21 • Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom	22 • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	23 • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM	24	25
26 • Birthday Sunday, Coffee Talk, 10:30 AM • Emmanuel Baptist 12:15 PM- 3 PM	27	28 • Bible Study 11 AM on Zoom	29 • Think Group 5:30-6:30 PM • Emmanuel Baptist 7 PM	30 • Just Us Guys 5:30-6:30 PM	31	1

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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 Message from Pastor Jim

They say, “If you’ve been to one United Church of Christ...you’ve been to one United Church of Christ.” That’s because each end every local UCC church congregation is unique. No two congregations are theologically, politically or economically alike. We are not only diverse in our worship, but we are also diverse in our welcome. And what I’ve noticed during my tenure here at Webster UCC, is that many of our first time guests from other faith traditions actually feel more comfortable than the folks who were raised in or currently attend another UCC congregation. For example, someone raised in the Roman Catholic, or the Episcopalian faith tradition knows that when they enter a Protestant church, the liturgy, the music, and the message are going to be different than what they grew up with. But someone from another United Church of Christ might be expecting something similar to that which they are accustomed to. That’s partly because each local congregation is autonomous, meaning that like my cat Benny, they pretty much get to do what they want to do with their building, their worship, and the way they are structured. It’s also partly due to the fact that the United Church of Christ is made up of four original faith traditions: Congregational, Christian, German Evangelical and German Reformed. So, when a person raised in a German Evangelical Church in Missouri moves to Harford County and is looking for a new UCC home, they might be shocked or perplexed or amazed when they arrive at Webster Church. You can almost hear the tapes that are going off in their heads by the look on their faces. “This is NOT UCC. I know from UCC, and this is nothing like the church I grew up in.” I know that there are a few of you who were able to navigate through the joy that’s louder than the prelude at the start of Webster worship, and the ten-minute Passing of the Peace. Certainly, Tony and Lois Dooley were able to let go of their Pennsylvania Reformed traditions long enough to consider Webster Church with open minds.

And this is where you come in. There will be Sundays this summer when Ann or Doris or Angie or myself will be away. And that's your cue to step up to the plate and offer a first-time guest more than just a handshake. We are called to treat them like a cherished long-time member. We are called to answer their questions and invite them to coffee talk. We don't need to hover over them, as we are also called to give them their space. We don't have to kill the fatted calf to show our extravagant welcome. But it's great when people of all ages greet our guests. So please take the initiative this summer to really say "hello" to all our newcomers. The opposite of our autonomy is our call to be in covenant with each other's churches, with our associations and with our conferences. Last April three of our Central Atlantic Churches got together for a Fire Side Chat and a delicious meal at Pastor Cynthia Robinson's home in Newark, Delaware. And in less than fifteen minutes all twenty people gathered, many who had never met, were sharing and socializing like they had known each other all their lives. It was like a miracle! That's covenant, folks. That's extravagant welcome. That's the UCC experience!

MODERATOR

Most of you know I am deep into my garden this time of year and throughout the seasons. Gardening has been described as a spiritual practice, offering meditative escape and a way to connect with the Divine through acts of patience and creation. In a world we see full of hate, vitriol and war I definitely find solace in my garden. Someone said to nurture a garden is to feed not just the body but the soul. Others have said the garden is the best place to find God. Of course, I say that about my Church also! My garden is the best place for me to develop patience, exercise my aging limbs and communicate with nature. Just me and the bees and butterflies going about our work in concert with each other. I might think I am nurturing my garden but of course my garden is really nurturing me. Some days I think it is too hot and humid to work outside so I wait for the dusk to move in before I start lugging watering cans and killing Japanese beetles. The tasks are endless and imperative. But they won't wait if the plants and trees and shrubs are to thrive. Some days I rip out plant material that has not met my expectations or were sold under false pretensions by the nursery or mail order catalog. Some days I move plants that are not doing well in their current location. Some days I brutally chop down and hope for new growth. These are my personal decisions based on my gardening experiences. Sometimes my instincts are wrong. Oh, well, who will know! Me and my God!

Ann Helton, Moderator

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

There were no special plans at my home for the Fourth of July as my father was a plumber and the calls were many and always emergencies. However, my mother always had the fixings for a celebration picnic ready on that day and we had a picnic when my Dad was home. As my brother and I, matured we did the grilling and my dad would always say as he was going out the door “start to grill at noon and save some food for me”. Sometimes he made it by noon and then he let the business phone ring and his partner would answer the calls after that. Those full afternoons I loved as my Dad would tell stories about growing up in South Philadelphia. I know some of the stories were embellished but I loved them just the same. They never grew old.

I hope you will have a great celebration as our country is celebrating 250 years and share with your family stories of special holiday stories you remember especially if they were related to the Fourth of July.

Worship services at Webster church are as follows:

- 07/05 Communion/Coffee Talk
- 07/12 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 07/19 Worship/Coffee Talk
- 07/26 Worship/Coffee Talk

The Deacons will not meet in July or August, but at least one or more of us will be in worship for you to ask questions or express concerns. We hope the summer months are enjoyable for all of our members.

Tony Dooley, Deacon

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JULY:

July 5 – **Mathew 11:16-19, 25-30**; Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 and Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Zecharia 9:9-12 and Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a

July 13 – Genesis 25:19-34 and Psalm 119:105-112; Isaiah 55:10-13 and Psalm 65(1-8), 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

July 19 – **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**; Genesis 28:10-19a and Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Word of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or Iasiah 44:6-8 and Psalm 86:11-17:

July 26 – Genesis 29:15-28 and Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128; 1 Kings 3:5-12 and Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

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Service Attendants:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>	<u>USHER</u>
July 5	Libby Copes Communion	Mark DeVoe	Carol Greimel
July 12	Doris Lyttle	Barbara Nash	Hugh Nash
July 19	Lonna Smith	Beth Jackson	Jean Cook
July 26	Carol Greimel	Libby Copes	Ann Helton

Society of Congregational Christian Women (SCCW)

The June meeting was held at Webster Church on June 15th. Ann Helton shared an interesting book report about the author and illustrator Beatrice Potter. Plans were made for our Dads and Grads celebration on Sunday, June 21st.

The SCCW doesn't meet in July and August, but the ladies will be peeling peaches and baking pies for the Peach Festival on August 8, 2026. The setup will be on Thursday, August 6th and peaches will be peeled and pies baked on Friday, August 7th starting at 8 AM. Your help would be greatly appreciated. There will be a white elephant room at the Peach Festival. If you have gently used items that you don't want any more and would like to donate them for the white elephant, they can be brought to the church and placed in the scout room. Please, NO CLOTHING. If you have any questions about the Peach Festival contact Doris.

The next SCCW meeting will be Monday, September 21st at 11:30 at Webster Church. All ladies are welcome.

Doris Lyttle, President

CLERK'S REPORT

Things Happening at Webster Church

- Important dates to put on your calendar:
 - * Peach Festival set up – Thursday, August 6
 - * Peach Pie Baking & Set Up – Friday, August 7, 8 AM
 - * Peach Festival – Saturday, August 8, 9 AM - 2 PM
 - * VBS at Helton home - Sunday, August 16, 5:30-7:30
 - * VBS at Helton home - Monday, August 17, 5:30-7:30
 - * VBS at Helton home – Rain date Tuesday, August 18, 5:30-7:30
 - * Church Picnic at Helton home - Sunday, August 30, 3-6 PM
- The July meeting of the Official Board is Tuesday, July 14th at 7 PM.
- Anyone from Webster Church may attend the Official Board meeting and copies of the minutes are available upon request. Contact Doris Lyttle.

Those celebrating July birthdays are:

Alexandra Pedersen
Ceionie Doctor
Victoria DeVoe
Adam Pedersen



Blessings in a Backpack – Support a Child

The 2025-2026 school year has ended. Exactly what happened concerning Blessings in a Backpack from August 2025 to June 18, 2026. Doris and Gary ordered food from Sysco which was delivered periodically through those months. Gary would meet the truck on delivery day and receive the boxes of food consisting of two different weekend menus. Packing days were set up where a group of members of the church came and packed several weeks of backpacks and placed them in bins. On long weekends or extended holidays additional food items were packed in the backpacks. The packing days were a time for fellowship and exercise. Usually on a Tuesday, Gary would deliver the bins for that week's distribution to 75 Havre de Grace Elementary students and picked up the bins from the previous week. Doris was keeper of the records, set up fundraisers, contacted and thanked those who donated funds and supplies, and corresponded with the Blessings in a Backpack Headquarters and the school.

That was the procedure, but let's look at some of the numbers. The cost to feed 75 students on weekends for the school year was \$11,444. The donations through the end of April were \$16,288. (The May and June information hasn't been received from headquarters). The donations were in the form of a \$900 grant, \$1,359 from fundraising, and \$14,029 from individual donations. This outreach project involved over 200 volunteer hours. Thank you to those who gave their time to help pack the backpacks, and everyone who donated funds. It takes a village, and the children appreciate your commitment.

There is approximately \$9,000 in our account, but additional funds are needed for the 2026-2027 school year. We are asked to have a balance in the account at the end of each school year. If you would like to contribute to the Blessings in a Backpack Webster Church fund directly, 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>



Congratulations 2026 Graduates

Avery Ashby, great granddaughter of Lonna Smith, was an honors graduate from Havre de Grace High School. While there she completed some college classes and graduated one year early on her seventeenth birthday. In the fall she will attend Coastal Carolina University.

Meghan Greimel, daughter of Joce and Ken Greimel, graduated from Havre de Grace High School as the Class of 2026 valedictorian. She will attend Florida State University, but during her freshman year she will be studying in Valeneia, Spain.

Minnie Miller, daughter of Bradley and Christina Miller, graduated from Homestead Wakefield Elementary School. In the fall she will attend BelAir Middle School.

Thomas Nigrin, grandson of Hugh and Barbara Nash, graduated from Fountain Green Elementary School. In the fall he will attend South Hampton Middle School.

Henry Pensell, son of Garrett and Heidi Pensell, graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Mathematics and Computer Science. He will be working as a software engineer at Lufco in Aberdeen.

Christiana Snyder, great-granddaughter of Ann C Helton experienced her first graduation. She graduated from Pre-K at St. Martins-In-The-Field and will attend kindergarten in the fall.

AJ Williams, nephew of Wayne and Libby Copes, graduated with a master's degree in communication from West Chester University. He works at Netflix House in Philadelphia.

Stephanie Williams, niece of Wayne and Libby Copes, graduated from Penn State University with a Math degree. She will attend grad school at Penn State.

Benjamin Parker Zader, son of Jonathan and Elizabeth Zader and grandson of Terry and Judi Haverstick, graduated from Forest Hill Elementary School and will be attending North Harford Middle School in the fall.



WEBSTER CHURCH'S ANNUAL

PEACH FESTIVAL



SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 • 9AM TO 2PM

**ALL YOU CAN EAT
BREAKFAST \$12
9 - 11 AM**

Bake Table
Crafters
White Elephant

**LUNCH - hot dogs, sloppy joes,
peach sundaes, peach pie ala mode**



To preorder:
email or call Doris
dlyttle@comcast.net
410-937-9054

Crumb or Crust topped Peach Pies,
Peach Cobblers or Crisps, Cherry Pies - \$15
Peach Preserves - \$8

Webster Church - 4100 Webster Road, HdG 21078



Special Notes



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JULY

