



The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

January 2025

Vol. LV No. 1

A Note From Session

At our congregational meeting on December 15th, we elected officers to serve the church in 2025. Nominating chair Kathy Barbehenn thanked the incoming officers for their willingness to serve the church. The new officers will be installed and, if needed, ordained during a church service in January. We thank members of Session for governance of the church, members of the Board of Deacons for their service and outreach to members, and members of the Board of Trustees for their care of church property. We voted to include our identity statement in the church by-laws, and we elected a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to begin our search for a new full-time pastor. In the interim, we are welcoming visiting pastors weekly and interviewing candidates to serve as a stated supply pastor until a new full-time pastor is called.

Founded on September 20, 1825, WPC will celebrate its 200th anniversary on September 21, 2025 with a worship service and luncheon. A planning committee has been formed to tell the story of our church leading up to the celebration. The committee will be offering a time monthly during worship services to tell our story that we are calling "Reflecting on 200 Years". We hope to hear memories from long time members and pastors who have served us in the past.

A forty-nine-page history of the church was prepared when the church celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1975. That history states that WPC was formed when the Penfield Presbyterian Church recognized the need for a church to the north. We were first known as the Presbyterian Church of North Penfield and Ontario. The church started with eleven members. Services were held in a brick schoolhouse and in private homes. Membership did not start to grow until the Christian revivals in the 1820s were happening and the Rev. Richard Dunning was called as pastor in 1830. He was ordained in a barn which was used for revivals. By 1831 there were 109 members of the church. If you would like to learn more and help with preparation for our 200th anniversary celebration, please contact me.

Tony Hubbard
Clerk of Session

***We are followers of Jesus Christ,
living and sharing the love of God
through faith and action, welcoming all.***

JANUARY



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January 12th

**Communion
Baptism of the Lord**

Contact Us

Regular office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from **9:00 am till 3:00 pm.**

Office phone: 585-265-9700

Office email:
office@websterpres.org

Church website:
www.websterpres.org



Annual Meeting of the Congregation

January 26, 2025

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 26th, immediately after the 9:30 service. We encourage everyone to attend to hear information on the church finances and committee updates from Mission, Trustees and the Deacons.

Annual Reports

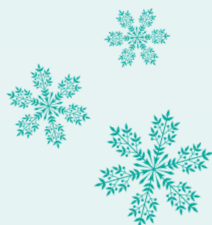
Annual Reports from Committee Chairpersons and Treasurers are due in the church office no later than Sunday, January 5th. You can submit your information by email as a Word or Excel file, or bring a paper copy to the church office.

2025 Offering Envelopes

Envelopes are now available in the hallway outside of the Sanctuary for those who have indicated they would like them. You may pick them up at your convenience when the church is open; Sunday mornings, and from 9:00 am till 3:00 pm Tuesday through Thursday. If you do not find your box of envelopes and would like them, call the church office at 265-9700.

The FEBRUARY Pathway deadline is JANUARY 20th

Email articles to jchippero@websterpres.org and gghubbard@websterpres.org



Deacon's Doings

Angel Tree

A big Thank You to all who donated to the Angel Tree this year. On December 10th, 225 gifts were dropped off at the Williamson Come-Unity Center. A special thank you to those that reached out to friends and co-workers outside of our church; this was a big help! Thank you to all of the Angels who participated.



Food Barrel



Webster HOPE is extremely grateful for our congregation's donations that help serve neighbors in our own community during the holiday season! Please consider donating cooking oil, flour and sugar, pasta and jarred sauce, and canned goods (peas, pineapple, mandarin oranges, beets, and potatoes). Thank you for your generosity!

Trustee's Corner

At long last, the Social Room roof has been repaired! After years of struggling to find the area of concern, Finger Lakes Roofing was able to find the two tiny cracks that were the source of the leak. They corrected the problem. After the heavy rains of a few weeks ago, we verified that the leaks were gone. Alleluia!!!

Have you noticed that you have a little more leg room during the service? The trustees increased the distance between the rows of chairs by 4 inches to enable people to pass through each row while serving communion. We found that it worked well – the new distance allows for easier serving of communion, yet is not too far for easy access to hymnals and Bibles.



Winter is upon us and that means a few things. The plowing of the parking lot has commenced. Despite excellent plow coverage, the parking lot can still be slippery. Please remember to watch your step. Also, if you notice that the sidewalks need extra salt, please reach out to your nearest Trustee. We will rectify the situation. We keep salt bins at both the north and south entrances just in case extra treatments are needed.

Lastly, during our last organ tuning, we were advised that several regulators were beginning to show their age. In the next few years, we will need to replace some of the parts to keep the organ properly functioning. Because there is not an immediate need for repair, we are researching options that will best serve our church. Please stay "tuned" for further details.



Worship and Music

Many Thanks for a Wonderful Pageant!

The Worship and Music committee thanks Elissa and Josh Burke for all of the work they did to provide our congregation a Children's Christmas Pageant. It was obviously appreciated by the congregation - to hear the Christmas Story told from the viewpoint of the animals.

We thank Elissa for directing the pageant and we thank Josh for ALL of the work he did from making the manger to doing the lighting and everything else involved.

A special thank you goes out to the children for their willingness to attend rehearsals to prepare for this special production.

And thanks to the parents who brought them to rehearsals and provided support to Elissa!



Welcoming Our Substitute Pastors

We have been blessed with wonderful pastors and spiritual leaders in our pulpit over the last several weeks. As we move into the new year, we will have the Reverend Bruce Boak join us for the first half of January. We are looking to welcome back some familiar faces for the rest of the month as we continue the process of hiring a stated supply pastor.

Organ Concert Series

Our organ concert series continues with an EROI concert on January 26th at 3:00 pm. The Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) organizes a concert series that features organ recitals by Eastman students as part of the department's ongoing initiative to bring outstanding organ music to the Rochester community. Performances are held in various churches around the area, giving residents many convenient opportunities to attend.

The January 26th concert will be held right here at Webster Presbyterian Church. The concert is open to the public. A free-will offering will benefit the Eastman Organ Department student travel fund. These students will be sure to delight the listener and showcase our Schantz organ. Save the date and invite your friends!

**Join us Sunday Mornings at 9:30
in the Sanctuary or on Live-stream.**

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5-thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/Websterpres/>

ALL ARE WELCOME.



Bell Choir Rehearsals

January Schedule

Family Bell Choir:

January 12 and 19
10:45 in the Sanctuary

Glory Bells:

Thursdays at 9:00 am in
the Sanctuary
January 9, 16, 23, 30

Alleluia Bells:

Thursdays at 6:00 pm in
the Sanctuary
January 9, 16, 23, 30



Women's Circles

Naomi Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 8th at 1:00 pm.

King Circle will meet at 10:00 am on Thursday, January 9th in the Memorial Room. The program after the meeting will be their Talent Auction!

Rachel Circle will meet on Monday, January 27th at 6:30 pm in the Memorial Room for their Silent Auction.



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, January 7th. Join us in Room 9/10 at 9:00 am as we kick off a new year of Bible study!



Mission Update

Letters from Our Kenya High School Students

We have received heartwarming thank you notes from the students that we support with our gifts to the Kenya High School Student Fund. Please keep these children in your prayers as they work hard to gain a life-changing education.

Dear Sponsor,

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude for the amazing work you have done in my life. I am appreciating you for supporting me in my education for the last two years. I am very grateful for that. Thank you for believing in me and helping me to believe in myself. You are truly one of your kind. May God bless you and give you more. You will always be remembered for the good work you have done.

With deepest appreciation,
Elizabeth

Dear Sponsor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind gesture of paying my school fees. I am very grateful for the help you have showed me and my family.

May the Lord Almighty bless you and your family and may you never lack. Thank you. I hope you will continue to support me for the final year.

Bonface

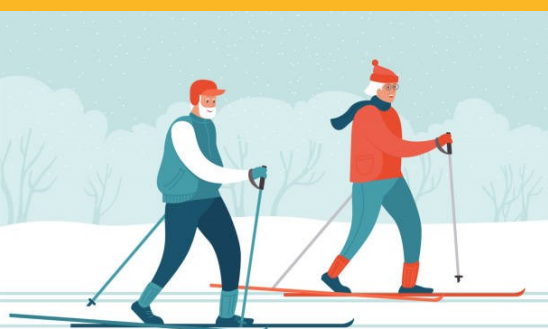
Dear Sponsor,

Thank you so much for paying my school fees from form one up to form four. Am so thankful for the support. I don't take it for granted for I could not have come this far without your help.

I sat for the exams and now waiting for the results. May our good Lord bless you mightily.

Tabitha

Look for more letters in the next month's Pathway!



Blanket Sunday Special Offering



Donations for this special annual offering sponsored by Church World Service will be collected from Sunday, January 19th until Sunday, February 16th. During that time, special envelopes will be in the chair racks for your donation or you can contribute by sending it directly to the office or by donating online on our church's website. This offering is used to

purchase warm blankets and other necessities such as tools and seeds for extremely needy folks around the world, including here in the USA. Please prayerfully consider donating to it generously.

Gift Cards for Christmas for the Men at Grace House

Praise the Lord and thank you for your generous contributions of gift cards for the men at Grace House on Norton Street! We donated a total of 79 cards and the Mission Committee donated 22 cards from its funds for an inspiring total of 101 cards!! They were delivered on December 16th. The staff at Grace House was extremely grateful, assuring us that the men will be too when they are distributed at their Christmas party.

Christmas Joy Offering

This important annual denomination-wide (PCUSA) offering which provides emergency financial aid to current and former pastors, church workers and their families and to students of color at Presbyterian sponsored colleges will conclude on Sunday, January 5th. Thank you to all who have already contributed, and if you haven't done so yet, there is still time!



A Special Visit from Jody Collinge!



Missionary Jody Collinge, who grew up in our church, visited us the morning of Monday, December 2nd. Gail Galen and Nancy Granger arranged for a welcoming and delicious meeting in the Memorial Room where Jody talked to us informally about her ministry and answered questions for well over an hour. Although she has lived mostly

in Mexico in recent years, she has visited almost 40 countries for either mission trips or conferences during her career! During her mission trips she often does pre-emptive health care with children, educating them about proper sanitation, insuring that they use clean water, etc. Two days after talking to us, she left for a 2-week trip to Kenya, where she will visit with our good friend John Sankok, who lives in Narok, Kenya and operates 10 medical clinics in the remote Maasai Mara region of Kenya. We support Jody annually via our mission budget and she said that she really appreciates that!

Learning for a Lifetime

Adult Ed classes begin at 10:45 am and are in Room 9/10 unless otherwise indicated.

JANUARY 5 - BOOK DISCUSSION

Since Christmas has 12 days, a discussion about Mary is still appropriate, so we will begin the new year with “The God Bearer,” chapter 1 of *Into the Mess*. Come explore with us the lessons Mary taught us as she leaned in and said yes to an encounter with God.

We still have several copies of the book available for \$15. Please see Sally Turner or Sandi Blakey.

JANUARY 12 - PRAYER

John Kubiniec will lead us as we continue to experience different prayer styles.

JANUARY 19 AND 26 - BOOK DISCUSSION

On both dates, we will continue with our study of *Into the Mess*. The segments being discussed will be posted in the weekly announcements and on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Spiritual Nurture

Happy New Year from your Spiritual Nurture Committee (SNC)! Praying that your personal spiritual practice(s) continue to uplift and nurture you, and that you can feel the Holy Spirit moving in your life. This year your SNC will collaborate with Adult Ed, Worship and Music, and ONE in Christ in a mutually supportive way.



Our spirituality informs every aspect of our faith, mind, memory, heart, soul, and creation, seen or unseen. In 2024, Father Richard Rohr reflects on this in week forty-nine: *Contemplation and Science*, “Evidence for Things Not Seen.” meditations@cac.org.

Please join us. (Bob Blakey, Nancy Duquette, Barb Hach)

ONE in Christ

I choose Love.

I choose Inclusion. I choose Empathy.
Compassion. Equality. Dignity. Diversity.
I choose Community. Kindness. Integrity.

Honesty. Respect. I choose Justice.

I choose Facts. Peace. The Planet.

I choose Humanity.

I choose Love.

This is reprinted from a Facebook post by our former pastor, Tracy Spencer-Brown, who is now pastor of Lovington First Presbyterian Church in Lovington, New Mexico.

In the new year, your ONE in Christ Committee will host an Adult Ed program discussing Safe Zone Training, the purpose of which is to show allyship with the LGBTQIA+ community, to be part of stopping the harm. A colleague and friend of our own Elissa Burke, Sean Scott, will be our speaker. Stay tuned for further details.



Heart and Hand

We hope you all had a very special Christmas.

Did you pick up one of the little cord tamers that Heart and Hand made for the congregation and gave away on December 22nd? If not, feel free to contact us, Jean Maier, Jennifer Wengender or Tina McNeary. We will be happy to make sure that you receive one.

We wish you a happy and peaceful 2025.



Church Family News

During the last month we prayed for:

The Fargo family, the Hall family, Susan (Jaol & Sally Jamison’s daughter), Pastor Tedd of 3rd Presbyterian Church, Bob Melfi, and the Oliver family.

We are saddened by the loss of:

Gary Groot, Karen Fargo’s father, on November 24th, Evelyn Kromm on November 28th, Luisa Hall on December 10th, and Jan DeVos, Laura Oliver’s mother, on December 22nd.

New Address:

Kay Wahl
1 Wheatley Terrace, Apt 119
Pittsford, NY 14534
Phone: 248-1252





January Lectionary Readings

January 5

Old Testament Jeremiah 31:7-14
 Psalm Psalm 147:12-20
 New Testament Ephesians 1:3-14
 Gospel John 1:1-18

January 12 - Baptism of the Lord

Old Testament Isaiah 43:1-7
 Psalm Psalm 29
 New Testament Acts 8:14-17
 Gospel Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19

Old Testament Isaiah 62:1-5
 Psalm Psalm 36:5-10
 New Testament I Corinthians 12:1-11
 Gospel John 2:1-11

January 26

Old Testament Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
 Psalm Psalm 19
 New Testament I Corinthians 12:12-31a
 Gospel Luke 4:14-21

Memory Verse

*So if anyone is in Christ,
 there is a new creation;
 everything old has passed away;
 see, everything has become new!*

II Corinthians 5:17



SHINE Church School News



As parents and as Christian educators, we have a message of HOPE to bring to children.

God cares! God is working in this world to bring about his kingdom. The lessons this month in SHINE will hopefully reassure your children that God is in charge and that he knows about the poor, the hungry, the sick and the lonely – and loves them all. We hope to motivate the kids with the exciting message that they can be God's agents of change and make a difference by reaching out to people who are hurting.

January 5: Crafts and Games with Mrs. Galen.

January 12: Bells and Chimes with Mrs. Anderson



January 19: Bible Lesson – Jesus cares about people who are hungry. (Matthew 6: 25-27)

January 26: Bible Lesson – Jesus cares about people who are poor. (Mark 12: 41-44)

Give as freely as you have received

Matthew 10:8

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth in grades 6th - 12th can attend Sunday School on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Join us in the Youth Room following the Children's message during the worship service.

January:

Jan 12
 Jan 19

February:

Feb 9
 Feb 16

