



To the Session of Webster Presbyterian Church,

As 2025 ends, the year has provided both joys and sorrows, times of growth, and times when we found ourselves wondering about the future. In the life of the church, several members are struggling with health issues, while we see several members discerning what to “do now,” that they are retired? We have watched as some moved away, while some are facing 2026 with the spirit of adventure, hoping to do things that they have never done before. While as a community, we hold on to those who have lost loved ones this year or suddenly found themselves in a much different place than they were at the beginning of the year.

I always seem to find that the time of Advent is about trying to catch my breath, while being aware that everyone comes into this season with expectation.

I remain thankful for a staff, and leadership, that continue to work closely with one another, and that through a number of challenges, the overall campus has had many updates, and while our membership has fallen below 300 members, I still hold out hope that God is helping us to discover the blessings that will find their way to us in our faithfulness.

Once again, our music ministry has outdone themselves with this year’s Cantata. An incredible amount of work went into this year’s production that resulted in a moving and meaningful worship service.

A breakfast prepared by the men’s group welcomed all, and our young people brought a smile to so many people with their coco and will once again collect change this Sunday as part of the Change4Change effort.

On Christmas Eve, we will once again welcome acolytes to our worship service, as they will light the Christ candle and begin a new opportunity of service. They will provide support on the First and Third Sundays of the month (Communion and Change4Change Sundays).

I continue to serve on the United Campus Ministries for Greater Houston Board, and this Christmas Season, they have provided supportive baskets, including food, some paper products, hygiene items, and additional items providing a supportive presence. This past year UCM served nearly 8,000 students, nearly doubling in number since

the pandemic ended. I have another year on my 3-year term as a representative for the PC(USA).

I have had several individual meetings with members, as well as prospective members. I have provided a supportive presence for several activities this month, including the ICM Christmas Store, cooking for Family Promise, and taking dinner to several persons who needed help.

Our administrative staff has been reviewed by the personnel committee, and if they have not already, will be making some goals for the new year to meet the changing needs of WPC.

Nearly two months ago, the PNC provided an overview of what they had learned about our faith community, and it continues to prompt discussion, and questions. I believe that most of the questions at this point have been directed to those who can best provide the answers being sought. As the Interim, I consider my role to be one of change, and one to help find ways to make those changes, while ensuring that the needs of WPC are being met. It can sometimes create more questions, but what I have discovered is that the love that this community has for one another continues to move forward.

In our Session meetings, I have begun lighting a candle at the beginning of our meetings, offering prayer for our faith community, and the person that God is preparing to be the next pastor.

On January 11, 2026, we will install/ordain new members of Session including Elders and Deacons, while acknowledging those whose terms will be ending.

As we look to 2026, I will invite our church to a time of prayer for the church, leading up to Lent. It is hard to believe with Christmas just next week, that Ash Wednesday is just 64 days away. I pray that we enter the year with our hearts open to the Spirit, our eyes fixed upon Christ, and the reminder that the One who created each of us, continues to love and care for us deeply.

Stay in God's grip!

Todd

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