

The Good News Gazette

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

94--96 Main Street
Chester, New York 10918
845-469-4877

March 2010

LAST CHANCES:

I looked out my window this morning in Roscoe, and the mountain to the east of us was spectacularly covered with a Winter Wonderland! It seemed like winter was taking its last chance to show us its beauties and power.

Speaking of "*last chances*", we have some coming up in our Church community as well. I'll mention three that you won't want to miss if you can help it:

-Our Adult Bible Study on Ephesians: "*New Vision, New Strength*," is half over. There are five sessions left, each of them on Friday evenings, 7- 8:30 p.m., ending on March 26. Before the study ends, Pastor Wondra will be showing slides of his 2008 trip to Turkey, including pictures of the now excavated site of ancient Ephesus!

-The second and last of our "*Congregational Visioning Meetings*," sponsored by our Mission Study Team, on Sunday, March 14, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.. This will be a pot-luck gathering after church where you will have the opportunity again to give input on what matters most to you about the present and future of our Church. The first meeting was a huge success, with red dots scattered all over nine newsprint sheets! If you missed the first meeting, be sure not to miss this one--your last chance to get in on the conversation!

-On *Maundy Thursday*, April 1, 6:30 p.m, we will again celebrate our *Soup Supper and Communion* around tables downstairs. This gives us the opportunity to remember the informality and closeness of the original "*Last Supper*." As we did last year, we will give opportunity for brief testimonies of how the Lord may be blessing you and your family. Not to be missed!

So there you have it!--3 opportunities for rich fellowship and spiritual growth! As winter slides into spring, may we see you and your family taking part!

Gerald L. Wondra, I.M.



Music/Worship Team Notes:



As was done last year Maundy Thursday, April 1, will be observed with an Agape Meal in the Church dining room followed by a mini-worship service including Communion, starting at 6:30 PM. We trust that some of you will once again offer to make soup or bake bread for all to share as we are reminded once again of Jesus' last Passover meal partaken with His disciples, and His institution of the Lord's Supper. Please speak to a member of the Team if you are willing to provide soup or bread. They are Betty Lutjens, Ingeborg Lange, Marsha Seymour, Jerry Sutherland and Maggie Johnson. As one of HIS Choir's anthems says, "And We Remember Him" with love for what He accomplished on the cross for us.

As Easter Sunrise service will be held 7 AM April 4th, followed by breakfast in the church dining room. And be sure to attend the uplifting Easter worship service at 10 AM filled with the glorious, wonderful news of Jesus' Resurrection through Scripture, message and music! He Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!! Hallelujah!!

GIVING CREDIT

We live in a credit-crushed culture. Credit cards. Lines of credit. Credit checks. Credit histories. Credit ratings. What would life be without credit?

The same can be said about our life with God. We have nothing in our accounts by which to pay God the worship He deserves. Our souls are bankrupt, insufficient in the funding needed to maintain spiritual payment. We are living on borrowed time, knowing the wrath of God is being poured out because of the inflation of wickedness in our hearts. We need someone to extend us credit. God does that in His Son, Jesus.

God sends Jesus and credits to us Christ's obedience. God sends Jesus and credits to us Christ's faithfulness. God sends Jesus and credits to us the Christ's sinlessness. God sends Jesus and credits to us the death of Christ, the resurrection of Christ and the triumph of Christ in eternity. God sends Jesus, a heaven-sent line of credits, without which we would surely die in our sins. Through Christ, we have credit that will never run out, can never be cut, and that need not be paid back—not even the interest!

For the free gift of forgiveness, I give thanks to You, O Christ. Amen

Scott Seidler, DMin, serves as senior pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood, Missouri

ROAST BEEF DINNER – MARCH 20, 2010

4:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Can you believe our next church dinner fund-raiser is almost here? If you can, please set aside the time to join us in preparing and serving another delicious meal. Here is a list of the dates and activities:

Mar. 13, at 9:00 a.m. - Kitchen/Dining Room clean-up. Please speak to Jerry Sutherland (469-4166 or 469-4311) if you are able to help.

Mar. 18, at 9:00 a.m. - Preparation of coleslaw. Please speak to Carol Ravert (469-2997).

Mar. 19, at 9:00 a.m. - Preparation of potatoes & dining room set-up. Please speak to Joan Ribando (469-4208).

Mar. 20, at 3:30 p.m. - Servers and other helpers arrive for last minute instructions and prayer. Please speak to Marsha Seymour (469-4311) to volunteer.

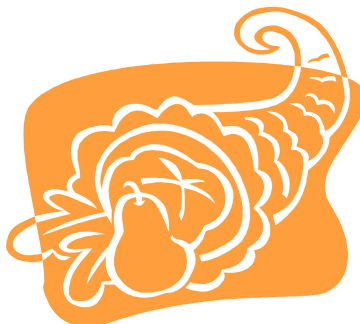
Thank all of you who have volunteered to bake an applesauce cake for this dinner's dessert. You can pick up your pan and recipe after church on Sunday, March 14th.

Volunteers are needed the day of the dinner to wait on tables or work in the kitchen. Please speak to Marsha Seymour (469-4311). Also see Marsha if you need *tickets*.

Our Women's Council will sponsor a bake sale at the dinner and would appreciate your donation of any type of homemade goodies.

As you can see by the many requests made for your time and talents, the success of these dinners depends on your participation. We thank you for your continued support and hope to see you at our *March 20th Roast Beef Dinner!!!*

Dinner Co-Chairpersons: Marsha Seymour & Jerry Sutherland



News from the Deacons

The Deacons are starting a new year with some new faces. At the same time we would like to welcome the two Deacons that were elected to our board by you – the members of our congregation. In January we witnessed and welcomed the ordination of Nancy Sterling as a first time and first term Deacon and the installation of Matt Van Der Meulen as a second term Deacon. Both Matt and Nancy will be serving 3 year terms on the Board of Deacons. During the Deacon's first meeting of 2010 we elected the following officers for the coming year.

Matt Van Der Meulen – Moderator of Deacons

Jean Barrett – Secretary and Food Pantry Coordinator

Linda Poshadel – Treasurer

Samantha Green – Correspondence committee

Ruth Magyar – Creative Thoughtfulness committee

Nancy Sterling – Care & Share coordinator and also the Deacon representative on the Church's Nominating Committee for 2010.

Please join me in welcoming Nancy to the Deacons as well as thanking those to continue to serve in our Lord's name to fulfill the mission and purpose of our church Deacons.

College & Military boxes

The Deacons are preparing to send out care packages to our members / college students that are away from home as well as any Chester resident serving in any branch of the Military. These packages are sent out twice a year as a reminder that we are thinking of and encouraging those that are aware at college or serving our country. We enjoy extending our mission to those away from us but don't always have the proper information to include everyone that should be receiving these care packages. Please contact one of the Deacons to have someone you know of included on this list of recipients.

WORDS FROM PAUL, THE APOSTLE

Words to encourage, strengthen, comfort and guide us all during these temporary days from Paul, the apostle:

“We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Rom. 8: 28)

“If God is for us, who is against us?” (Rom. 8: 316)

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?” (Rom. 8: 32)

“...so stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.” (Phil. 4:16)

The One Thing We All Want

Norman Vincent Peale

What is Easter? Is it a day when everybody dresses up? Is it a holiday? Is it flowers? Is it the end of winter and the coming of spring? Oh yes, it is all of these. But these are only signs of the main thing. What Easter really demonstrates is the one thing we all want—life. Easter promises us life, now and always.

One dark, gloomy, rainy morning while I was on a speaking trip, I went into a hotel coffee shop in an Indiana town. I took a seat at a table for two and noticed a man at the door with a look of happiness on his face. The hostess brought the man over to my table and asked if I minded if he sat with me and, of course, I welcomed him. We were by the window and you could hear the drumming of the rain outside. But he greeted me by saying, “Isn’t this a terrific morning!”

“Well, yes, I guess it is,” I said. “It’s raining, though.”

“Ah, yes,” he continued, “but look at raindrops glistening like diamonds. Isn’t it beautiful?” Then he changed the subject. “You know, there is something marvelous about breakfast in a hotel dining room, isn’t there?”

Well, I am an enthusiastic person, but I figured this was really putting it on a bit thick. So I said, “I’m interested in your vibrant attitude. You seem so alive. How did you get this way?”

“Well, sir,” he answered, “some time ago I was in a serious accident. While the doctors were working on me in the hospital, I could hear a voice saying, ‘There isn’t much chance for this fellow.’ And even in my bewildered state I thought, ‘Oh, I don’t want to die!’

“It was touch and go for days, but, by the grace of God, I got well. And now it is all so different, so unbelievably wonderful. It’s as if I never really lived before. People are beautiful; the world is beautiful; even simple things are exciting.”

What had happened to this man was that he had experienced a new awareness of life, a deeper sensitivity. A keen delight had been put upon this thing called life.

Easter comes to remind us that life is not just for now, it is forever. Jesus said, “Because I live, ye shall live also.” (John 14:19) He was telling us that life has two sides, this side and the other side.

But the Resurrection is much more than a single event that happened over 2,000 years ago. It is also a contemporary process whereby the spiritually dead, the unhappy, the sinful, the weak, find new life through Jesus.

Life can be ordinary, or it can be great. Easter is a perfect time to wake up and become enthusiastically alive, knowing that because He lives, we may live also.

EASTER PROMISES US LIFE, NOW AND ALWAYS!

This is from a book that I believe everyone should read. It's spiritually powerful!
Ruth

KEYS TO OVERCOME

Accept God's promise to be made spiritually alive by placing your faith in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, so that you can break free from the power of Satan, and become a child of God. (John 3:16)

Look past the physical world, and recognize the spiritual world is living, active, and impacts your daily life.

Understand that your struggles take place in the spiritual realm, and not in the physical realm. (Ephesians 6)

Understand that Satan and his army are the root to every form of destruction including sickness, disease, and tribulation.

Stand strong in the promises of God through Jesus Christ so that you can resist and overcome the devil in the name of Jesus Christ and be victorious. We are made free from all sickness and disease by the pain and suffering Jesus Christ endured for us.
(Isaiah 53:4-5)

Protect your body and mind in Christ by avoiding sin and growing strong in the spirit through prayer and Bible study.

From: Power in No Other Name
By Grand Master Dong Jin Kim & Reverend Steve Hannett
Ragged Edge Press, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania

Elite Cinema in Chester Promotion

The local movie theater - Elite Cinema 6 in Chester - is beginning a promotion to help the food pantry and our efforts to feed those less fortunate in our town. Effective right now, any movie goers who bring a non-perishable food item to the theater will receive a coupon for 1 small popcorn at the theater's concession stand. Currently there is no end date for this promotion. The next time you go out to enjoy a movie remember those that need our help, bring a food item with you, then enjoy your movie and popcorn knowing that you have helped give someone else a basic meal. Keep your eye on your email for an official promotional offer, or contact one of the Deacons of our Church.

2009 Team Chairs and Co-Chairs

Ministering to the People

Music and Worship Team: Maggie Johnson (469-4268)
Marsha Seymour (469-4311)

Christian Education and Youth Team: Janet Writer (469-2578)

Mission and Outreach Team: Sara Green (469-2975)

Stewardship and Finance: John Ravert (469-1801)

Buildings and Grounds Team: Jerry Sutherland

We are always looking for our brothers and sisters in Christ to help us serve the Lord. Want to join a team in our church? Please contact the team chair/co/chair. We look forward to working with you in the Lord's ministry.

Interim Minister: Gerald Wondra: Church (469-4877)
Manse (469-4281)

Clerk of Session: Scott Vogt (469-3068)
Moderator of Deacons: Matt Van Der Meulen (469-2088)
Treasurer: John Ravert (469-1801)
Secretary: Ruth Magyar (469-4078)

Church Office: 469-4877
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Website: www.chespresny.com

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