

The Good News Gazette

The First Presbyterian Church
94-96 Main Street Chester, NY 10918

April 2016

Telling the Story

We are a society of storytellers. We always have been and we most likely always will. There is something about a good story that draws us in, leaves us wanting more. We can easily get lost in a good book or an engaging TV drama. So much so that once we finish the book or the TV series comes to an end we feel a bit lost. The story was so moving, so engaging that it became a part of us. We could see ourselves in the characters. We placed ourselves in the story somehow and now it came to a close.

And so perhaps we are a bit lost, well until another great story comes along. One that we will find ourselves getting lost in once again.

The authors of the gospels knew this concept well, they were no fools to the power of storytelling. Many of the gospels offer parables – which were essentially stories to help teach lessons. They knew the best way to help someone or a group of people understand something was through a story. Something they could get engaged in, relate to, find themselves lost in as one of the characters. Where there aren't parables the gospel writers themselves tell the story. The story of Christ's birth, Christ's baptism, his life and all the healings and miracles he performed. They tell of his betrayal and death where everything gets very dramatic and a bit terrifying. For even his disciples who said they would fight for him desert Christ. But we know the ending, we know it well. We perhaps know this part of the story better than any other part – Christ's rising from the grave – the resurrection story.

The most beautiful part of the story that has the air of mystery we may never fully understand. And yet, through each gospel we are invited to enter in, especially at this part. In each story the angels or Jesus himself tell the women or Mary to go and tell. Go and tell the disciples I am going on ahead of them to Galilee. Go and tell. The gospel writers aren't just speaking about the women just as the angels words are meant for more than just the women. Our Lord has risen, all are called to go and tell!

We are called to enter the story and just like the women go and spread the word that Our Lord has Risen. Indeed. To the disciples where some will believe and some may struggle to believe. To the world – where some may hear us and some may ignore us. But we are called to go and tell the story. The story that our Lord is Risen!

For the story isn't finished. We are called to live into this beautiful, unfinished, miraculous story. Called to get lost in it, in the wonder, in the amazement so much so that we can't keep it to ourselves. That we go out and tell the world the amazing story we have experienced. Christ our Lord is Risen! He has called us by name and we are his!

Pastor Erin

April Second Offering

Our second offering for Sunday, April 17th will be to help cover the cost of the insurance for our church.

Roast Beef Dinner Thank You

Thank you to all who helped make our Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser such a success! From volunteers who helped with the prep work – cakes, coleslaw, potatoes, and set-up to volunteers who helped work the dinner – servers, those in the kitchen, those doing tickets or the craft table, and all who helped make the take outs a success. We couldn't have done it without any of you! Thank you for your continued help and support!

Challenge to Change - Update

Session has sent in our application for a Challenge to Change grant through our Presbytery. For more information about this grant please read the paragraphs below.*

Now that our grant is in and we await to hear the results we need to start moving! The space desperately needs to be cleaned out so that when (high hopes!) we are approved we can start getting the repairs and work needed done ASAP. In our monthly schedule of looking ahead there have been two church clean-up days included. We hope you can make it out to at least one of them. We had one late last summer and worked until we filled the dumpster. With only a handful of people we were out of here before lunch time. Please look over your calendars and see if either of those dates will work for you to help get us cleaned out!

*These grants range in gifts of \$200-\$7000 to churches that are willing to engage in new ideas, new forms of ministry, or new uses of their space. We are applying in hopes to get some funding to help fix up the old chapel/gym space behind the sanctuary. We need new windows to replace both broken and very old windows. We need to figure out how to add heat to the area (hopefully it will be an easy fix using our newly installed heating system). Also, the room needs a new coat for fresh paint, along with some cracks spackled and the floor could use some loving care. We are also hoping to get the pocket doors fixed and build some protection around our new furnaces.

We are really excited to start this project and to turn this space into something useful. With presbytery's help we focused on a theme for our project that focuses on appreciating the arts within our community. We hope to hold coffee house/open mic nights. We hope to hold poetry slams and art displays/galleries. Over time we hope to expand on these ideas and get more community members and groups involved. The space can and will certainly still be used for other things – like church functions, trivia or movie nights, etc... But we also hope to provide something more than just a space for various things in the community but a space for art appreciation, fellowship, and fun.

Training Opportunity

Sunday April 10th Presbytery is holding a training for Ruling Elders, Deacons, and Financial Teams at Goshen Presbyterian Church from 1-5pm. This event is open to anyone currently serving, anyone who has served in the past, and anyone who is interested in serving in the future. The training is free but they are asking that you register ahead of time. More information can be found on the bulletin board or you can ask Pastor Erin.

Looking Ahead

- April 5 – Confirmation Class 7pm**
- April 9 – Church clean out day 9:30am**
- April 10 – Training in Goshen at 1pm (see article above)**
- April 12 – Presbytery Meeting at Stony Point 9:30am**
Women’s Council Meeting at 1pm
- April 13 – Buildings and Grounds meeting 5pm**
- April 14 – Session Meeting 6pm**
- April 19 – Confirmation Class 7pm**
- April 21 – Crafters meeting 3pm**
- April 23 – Church clean out day 9:30am**
- April 28 – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm**

*****Mark your calendars now: May 14th at 4pm the Covenant Brass Quintet will be playing a benefit concert in our sanctuary.**

Pastor Erin will be away on Study Leave March 29th-April 4th. Please contact the church office or a session member if there is an emergency.

If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by April 21st.

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If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact our pastor at the church office number (845-469-4877).