

# The Good News Gazette

The First Presbyterian Church  
94-96 Main Street Chester, NY 10918  
June 2016

## Joy of the Spirit

We have had so many joyous occasions to celebrate as a church family over the past few weeks. A lovely brass benefit concert with joyous music and great fellowship and food following the concert. A beautiful Pentecost celebration with decorations and congregation participation including some of our oldest and youngest members. Certainly, a blessing to remember that the Spirit falls on all flesh, the youngest of the young to the oldest of the old to live out Christ's call in the world.

We also had two students finish out confirmation class and proclaim their faith and desire to be members of Christ's church and walk along side us in our ministry in our church and community.

May the Spirit who fell upon all on Pentecost and who has been moving among us the past few weeks continue to blow through our church and community providing excitement and joy as we continue to push forward to serve God in new and exciting ways!



## **Challenge to Change Update**

News was just received that we were awarded the Challenge to Change grant that we applied for to help fix up the chapel/gym space for lifting up the arts in our community. Details are still forthcoming on when we will get the grant and exactly how much we will be awarded. We applied for \$7,000 but amounts haven't been designated yet. We should get the amount we requested if not close to that amount. This is such exciting news! The Spirit continues to be at work!

## **Update for Brass Concert**

Thank you again to all who helped make our benefit brass concert a success. We had about 40 people in attendance and raised about \$500. This money will help to make necessary and needed repairs to the old chapel/gym area behind the sanctuary in hopes of having a space to support the local arts in our own community.

## **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

We have recently re-formed the B&G committee over the past few months and it has been great to have strong leadership and group efforts to care for our building inside and out. There are projects that have been taken care of that you might have noticed, things fixed, trees trimmed, etc... And an on-going list continues to be added to of projects that need to be done. One in particular is cleaning up a bit of the outside of our building. Session has approved for the removal of the messy holly bushes by the steps of the CE building as well as a few of the bigger bushes in front of the CE building that are over-grown and do not add to the appearance of our building. They also need to be removed to make cleaning and painting of the trim on the CE possible. If you would like to help with this project of removing bushes, planting new bushes or flowers, or helping with the painting of the trim (and doors) please see Gene Winters or Pastor Erin. If the weather cooperates we hope to get a work party together June 25<sup>th</sup> for this work and other outside work (weeding, etc...) that needs to be done to make our building and grounds more attractive.

## **June Second Offering**

Our second offering for Sunday, June 19th will be for sprucing up the front of our church buildings. We have some overgrown bushes and we have some painting that needs to be done. While the sanctuary as a whole needs to be repainted it is too big a job to start right now. We will begin with the smaller things: trim or remove overgrown bushes, painting the trim and doors of the CE building, painting the steps and door of the sanctuary. If you are unable to contribute anything extra this month consider coming to the church clean up day on June 25th and helping to trim bushes, paint, and pull weeds.

For our May Second offering for Pentecost we raised \$465 to date to help benefit Young Adult Volunteers (through the PCUSA), Ministries for Youth, and Children-at-Risk. Along with helping these programs through our larger church, 40% of what was collected gets to stay in our own community for the needs of the youth. Last year we were able to purchase 18 Payless gift cards at \$15 for youth to purchase new shoes for the school year. Once we have a final count we will update you on both the final amount raised and how many gift cards we were able to purchase this year. Thank you for your continued support for this wonderful mission work.

## **Summer Sermon Series**

Hymns sometimes resonate so deeply within us that they help us to understand things or see things in our faith journey we've missed along the way. Sometimes they remind us of the journey along the way with our parents or grandparents teaching us certain hymns. Sometimes just the music speaks beauty into scripture. Whatever the reason many of us have favorite hymns. So we are going to kick off this summer with a sermon series on hymns. Pastor Erin will have some forms for you to fill out Sunday before and after worship to request your favorite hymn(s).

## **Looking Ahead**

**June 4 – Presbytery meeting at Jeffersonville registration starts at 9:30am**

**June 12 – Joint Deacons and Session meeting following worship**

**June 13 – Music and Worship meeting 1pm**

**June 14 – Women's Council 12:30pm**

**June 15 – Prayer Practices 7pm**

**June 16 – Crafters meeting 3pm**

**June 19 – Second Offering Collection**

**June 22 – Prayer Practices 7pm**

**June 23 – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm**

**June 25 – Church Work Day 9am**

**June 29 – Prayer Practices 7pm**

**Pastor Erin will be away on Study Leave May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup> and away on vacation from June 4<sup>th</sup> - June 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor: Erin Moore

Moderator of Deacons: Okey Barrett (845) 651-4707

Treasurer: Alan Eckard

Assistant Treasurer: Betty Ann Reilly

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