

The Good News Gazette

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

July 2016

Prayers and Actions of Love

On June 21st, four churches in Chester came together to hold a prayer vigil for the victims of the Orlando shooting massacre. Prayers were lifted up, scripture was read, the names and ages of the victims were read – with the sad reality that most were 30 years of age or younger. Tears were shed, hearts were heavy, but most of all there was love, love was expressed.

In the sermon that morning, I expressed how prayer moves us to action. We looked at the 1 Kings 19 where Elijah is fleeing for his life from Queen Jezebel and winds up at Horeb, the mountain of God. His words may not sound like it but in a sense they are a prayer, a feeble prayer filled with fear and anxiety. Much of how our prayers are after events like Orlando. God listens; God even comes and passes over him in the small silent whisper. Then God sends him out.

We can and must come to God in prayers during times like these but that can't be where we stop. God listens to our prayers, holds us, passes over us, speaks to us in small gentle whispers, and sends us out. We are to go out with love and share the love of God with all we meet. Love that crosses divides, love that heals deep wounds and broken relationships, love that brings unity even among diversity and disagreement, and love that reaches out even to our enemies.

At a time in our world where every day it seems like we hear of something else devastating, the only way we can move beyond and fight off the evil is love. The love of Christ Jesus. So in the days following the attacks of Istanbul, Turkey lift up prayers to God. Lift up honest prayers filled with anxiety, grief, anger, fear but then be willing to hear the small still and gentle voice of God sending you out with actions of love.



Challenge to Change Update

We have been awarded \$7,000 from presbytery for our project to fix up the old chapel/gym space! Such exciting news! We hope to begin work on this space before September for a possible opening up the space for community use starting in the fall! More details about possible ways you can help will be sent out either the bulletin or in the August newsletter.

Church Yard Clean-up

Thank you for all who came out to help with church yard clean-up. The front yard of our church is looking better already! We were able to take a number of branches off the dogwood tree to open it up a bit and give it some room to breathe. We also cleaned out under our weeping cherries and began spreading mulch. Once a few of the bigger bushes are removed from in front of the CE building we will begin painting the doors and the trim. Be on the lookout for ways you can help continue to improve the appearance of our yard and building!

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

July 5 – Session meeting with Presbytery Rep from Budget and Finance

July 11 – Music and Worship meeting 10am

July 21 – Crafters meeting 3pm

July 26 – Presbytery Meeting at Holmes 2pm

July 28– Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm

Pastor Erin will be away on vacation from July 8th- July 15th. 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 July 25th.

Pastor: Erin Moore

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

Treasurer Alan Eckard

Assistant Treasurer Betty Ann Reilly

Secretary: Ruth Magyar

Church Office: (845) 469-4877

E-mail: info@chespresny.com

Website: www.chespresny.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/chespresny

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