

# The Good News Gazette

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

## **New Changes – Where will the Spirit move us next?**

There has been a lot going on behind the scenes that we would really like to make known to everyone in the congregation and everyone who continues to support the work of our ministry:

First, is our challenge to change grant. We've been trying to keep you up-to-date as much as possible. The great thing is work should be beginning shortly! We recently had a site visit with a member of Servant Hearts Ministry who will be helping us with doing most of the labor for free. They will be sending us a list of needed supplies along with a timeline of when the work can begin and about how long it will take to finish.

We are very excited about getting the old chapel/gym space back in working order! Especially, to help support culture and art in our own community! Once the space is done we can start hosting different events like art shows, poetry slams, open mic nights, etc... Any interest in helping with the planning of these events please speak with Pastor Erin. It would be great to form a committee to begin planning for when the space is open for use!

Second, Pastor and a few members have been going to financial meetings put on by the Presbyterian Foundation. They are geared at helping small churches figure out ways to move forward stronger financially. These meetings have been great at giving us different ideas and helping us to prepare for some possible changes – even the possibility of a capital campaign! There is still a good bit of planning that needs to be done with the session and with more conversations through our representatives from the Presbyterian Foundation but we are really excited with some of the options they talked about with moving forward.

Third, we have been trying to get more connected with the local farmers in our community. A few from Rise and Root Farm (who also own Crock and Jar) reached out to us a few months ago about sharing our kitchen space. Out of some great conversations we are allowing Crock and Jar to use our space for their canning and preserving needs with a trade-off of doing cooking demonstrations (and hopefully eventually some cooking classes) with food pantry recipients. Possibly even cooking classes with different youth once school starts back up, too. Along with this, one of the collaborators of the Green Onion (farmer's market downtown) has reached out to us about forming some connections and help with cooking classes, demonstrations, and even some food education as well with our food pantry. We are all very excited about these connections and hope to see great fruits as we move forward together.

We are continually discerning where the Spirit might be moving us next as the body of Christ we aren't called to remain static, to remain still. Instead, we are told to go. We are told to go out and make disciples, go out and teach, go out and baptize, go out to all the nations. So let us remain faithful to the call to go. If you have any new ideas or suggestions about new things we can try (examples: new worship services, book studies, leading a bible study at the diner or downtown, etc...), new connections we should try to be making within the community, or if you have any concerns about any of these new things happening please speak to Pastor Erin.

## **Yard Sale**

We hope to have a church yard sale in September and need your help! We will be collecting some items to sell, please note they must be in good-fair condition. Also note, anything that doesn't sell will be thrown away unless re-claimed. Please keep in mind we have limited space for storage with possible work beginning on the chapel/gym within the next month. If you would like to help with the planning, collecting, advertising, or on the day of the yard sale, please see Pastor Erin. We need as much help as we can get for this effort. Also, the crafter's group will have a table with home-made gifts. If you would like to help with this project or have anything to add to the table please let Pastor Erin or Helen Braidotti know. The Yard sale will either be Sept 17<sup>th</sup> or Sept 24<sup>th</sup> still looking for volunteers to help before setting the final date.

## **Looking Ahead**

**August 8 – Women's Auxiliary from St. Columba will be bagging school supplies in the Food Pantry at 12:30pm.**

**August 10 – Buildings and Grounds meeting**

**August 18 – Crafter's Meeting 3pm**

**August 18 –Hudson River Presbytery Green is hosting a meeting at 7pm at Stony Point. Anyone is welcome to attend.**

**August 25– Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm**

**August 27 – Church Clean-up day (inside and out!) 9am**

**Pastor Erin will be away on vacation from August 1-5. 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 August 22nd.

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