

# The Good News Gazette

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

September 2016

## What does the Lord require?

How is it September already? It feels like summer just started and now we are already on the downward spiral of rapid descent to Christmas. There's something about this time of year though that always reminds me of starting new, starting over in a sense. Perhaps it was the number of years spent in school with returning to school this time of year. A new school year, new possibilities, new friends. New shoes, notebooks, pens, etc... There was always a sense of newness and a sense of great possibility. Even though I'm out of school, this time of year always brings me back to that newness. The potential for a fresh start so to say. September will also mark the end of my second year of ministry and the start of my third, serving you as pastor, as well as mark a new form of ministry, no longer designated pastor but fully installed. So while I might not be in school, there is still some newness to life this time of year.

There is so much potential for newness within our church as well. We have great projects we are currently working on or will shortly begin. We have great ideas with the possibility of a capital campaign in the near future. We are connecting to the community more and in new ways. The potential and possibility is great, but it's also going to take some work if we decide to move forward in any or all of these directions. Sometimes that can be a daunting task. I remember being excited starting the first day of school and then sometimes overwhelmed upon coming home with all the work I would need to complete for the year, let alone that night. But I took it one day at a time, enjoyed some of the work while suffering through other parts of it. In the end, it was always worth the effort.

While it might be hard to try to compare the work of the Kingdom to that of homework and school, perhaps there is more truth to it than we realize. Sure, we were somewhat forced (or at least expected) to go to school and thus the work was, in a sense, forced on us. However, it can also be viewed as the work was required. There were always required readings or required memorizations. Requirements to get things done on time. In a sense, being a Christian, a follower of Christ is no different. The minute we profess our faith we are required to share it, to live it out. Now, I know, required seems like a hard word, a word that can catch us off guard, throw us off. But as Micah states, "He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God?" If we claim to be followers, believers, this is what is required of us. We are called to action, to do justice. We are called to compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation, to love mercy. We are called to follow God and God's call in our lives, to walk humbly with our God. This is in our personal lives - the way we live. This is in our church community - helping to build up the community of believers. This is in our larger community and world - reaching out and helping to share God's love with all we can. This is the work of the Christian and the work of the Church. This new year we have together has great potential to grow in our own faith, to help those within our congregation grow, and to reach out into the community, the world and share our faith with all who will listen. The tasks to take on may seem overwhelming at first, but we can do them together, one day at a time. Rome wasn't built in one day, and neither is the Kingdom of God. But we are called to take each day and build upon the foundation that was already laid by Christ, our cornerstone. And the work will certainly be worth it in the end, when we hear that voice that says, "well done, thou good and faithful servant." Let us live into what the Lord requires of us, let us start today.

Pastor Erin

## **Yard Sale**

We are moving along with the Yard Sale on Saturday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> starting at **8am**. Donations that are in good condition can be brought to the chapel/gym of the church. Please note, anything not sold the day of the yard sale will not be brought back into the church. The chapel/gym will soon be under construction and we have no place to store anything.

## **Looking Ahead**

- Sept 11<sup>th</sup> - Session Meeting following Worship Service.**
- Sept 11<sup>th</sup> - Community 9/11 Memorial at 1pm (at the 9/11 memorial site downtown)**
- Sept 12<sup>th</sup> – Music and Worship Meeting 1pm**
- Sept 15<sup>th</sup> – Crafter’s Meeting 3pm**
- Sept 17<sup>th</sup> – Church Yard Sale**
- Sept 18<sup>th</sup> – Congregational Meeting**
- Sept 18<sup>th</sup> – Deacon’s Meeting following Congregational Meeting**
- Sept 19<sup>th</sup> – Tentative Food Pantry Truck Delivery 3pm**
- Sept 20<sup>th</sup> – Women’s Council Meeting 1pm**
- Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm**
- Sept 27<sup>th</sup> – Presbytery Meeting at Holmes 9:30am**

**Please note: Communion will be changed from 9/4 to 9/11.**

If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by September 26th.

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