

The Good News Gazette

The First Presbyterian Church
94-96 Main Street Chester, NY 10918
March 2017

Looking Towards Jerusalem, a Lenten Reflection

While preparing for Lent I came across this poem by Ann Weems. During Advent I share with you a poem written by her, entitled "Refugees." I ask that you take some time to reflect over some of the things we overlook, some of the things we miss in the busy-ness of the season. Hopefully, most of the busy-ness has calmed down after the holidays and we are finding we have a bit more time to relax and reflect. Yet, I still ask you to do the same with this poem. Read it over, read it slowly, drink it all in. Where do you find yourself in her words? Where do you get stuck? How would you rather stay in Bethlehem than move on to Jerusalem? And in the next 40 days of Lent, how can we begin to not just look towards Jerusalem, but point our hearts to God? Where is God in the world today? Where are we called to follow? Is it someplace we'd rather not go? Is the light too dim, are we forced to grow, does it make us uncomfortable?

Looking Towards Jerusalem

"The journey to Bethlehem
was much more to my liking.
I am content kneeling here,
where there's an aura of angels
and the ever-present procession
of shepherds and of kings
who've come to kneel to the Newborn
in whom we are newborn.

I want to linger here in Bethlehem
in joy and celebration, knowing once I set my feet
toward Jerusalem
the Child will grow, and I will be asked to follow.

The time of Light and Angels is drawing to a close.
Just when I've settled contentedly
into the quiet wonder of the Star and Child,
He bids me leave and follow.
How can I be expected to go back
into darkness
after sitting mangerside,
bathed in such Light?

It's hard to get away
this time of year;
I don't know how I'll manage.
It's not just the time...
the conversation along the way turns from Birth to
Death.
I'm not sure I can stand
the stress and pain;
I have enough of those already.
Besides, I've found the lighting
on the road to Jerusalem is very poor.
This time around, there is no Star...

The shepherds have left;
they've returned to the hillside and to sheep.
The Magi, too, have gone,
having been warned in a dream,
as was Joseph,
who packed up his family and fled.
If I stay in Bethlehem,
I stay alone.
God has gone on
toward Jerusalem."
(from Ann Weems' book: *Kneeling in Jerusalem*)

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Installation service, the reception with set-up, food, and clean-up. Thank you to everyone who has been helping in any way with the work going on in the chapel/gym. Thank you to those who have been helping with the building project and labor work as well as those providing such delicious meals! There has certainly been a lot going on lately and all the extra help has been greatly appreciated! Thank you!

Buildings and Grounds Update

Take a sneak peek in the chapel/gym area to see the progress being made! The group from NJ, as well as the help from our own church, is doing such a great job getting the space ready for use!

Training Opportunity

Leadership Development...HRU on March 11, 9:00am – 2:30pm at Stony Point Center

There will be three "majors" offered at Hudson River University: **stewardship and finance; Christian education; and healthy interaction in times of disagreement and conflict**. Each of these majors will have three 80 minute classes and participants can "major" in one area, taking all three classes, or can be a "liberal arts" student and take classes in two or all three major areas.

This university is open to all "students"... old and young... any church members, officers or friends from any of our HRP congregations! The best part is that tuition is FREE!!! There will be a cost for lunch but any and all instruction and materials will be at no charge.

Please note: you can also just go to one class, you do not need to come and stay for the whole day.

Looking Ahead

March 1 – Ash Wednesday Service 7pm

March 5 – First Sunday in Lent and Communion Service

March 6 – Music and Worship meeting 1pm

March 7 – Women's Council meeting 1pm

March 8 – Lunch Bag Devotionals 12pm

Buildings and Grounds meeting at 4pm

March 9 – Bible Study 10am

March 11 – Hudson River Presbytery Training (see above) 9am-2:30pm at Stony Point Center

March 15 – Lunch Bag Devotionals 12pm

March 16 – Bible Study 10am

March 20 – Tentative Food Pantry Truck Delivery 3pm

March 22 – Lunch Bag Devotionals 12pm

March 23 – Cole Slaw Prep

Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm

March 24 – Potato Prep and Set up for RBD

March 25 – Roast Beef Dinner 4-7pm

March 28 – Presbytery meeting at Stony Point 9:30am

March 29 – Lunch Bag Devotionals

March 30 – Bible Study 10am

If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by March 22nd.

Pastor Erin will be away on Study Leave March 14th-20th. Please contact the church office or an elder if there is an emergency.

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).

SPRING ROAST BEEF DINNER - March 25, 2017 - 4:00 to 7:00 P.M.

The planning is done and the advertising is going out. Now, the rest of the work to prepare and serve another delicious meal continues. If you are able to help in any aspect of the dinner, please speak to the contacts below or Jerry Sutherland. Here is a list of dates and activities:

- Mar. 18, at 9:00am - Kitchen/Dining Room Clean-up: (Jerry Sutherland (325-2488 or 469-4311)).
- Mar. 23, at 9:00am - Preparation of coleslaw: Catherine De Angelis (469-2730).
- Mar. 24, at 9:00am - Preparation of potatoes & dining room set-up: Joan Ribando (469-4208).
- Mar. 25, at 3:30pm - Servers and other helpers arrive for last minute instructions & prayer: Karen Krawczyk (914-474-0640).
- Mar. 25, at 6:30pm - Post-Dinner Clean-up: Karen Krawczyk.

The dessert will be applesauce cake with whip cream. Please speak to Rosemary Eckard (469-6425) if you are willing to bake. A church pan & recipe will be provided, if you supply the ingredients.

Kitchen volunteers are also needed the day of the dinner; please speak to Jerry Sutherland (469-4311). To reserve tickets for dining in or takeout, please speak to Catherine De Angelis (469-2730).

There will be a table for the Women's Council bake sale if anyone is bringing baked goods. Also, The Crafters will be selling items and the Deacons will have a Book sale.

As you can see there are many opportunities to use your time and talents; the success of these dinners depends on your participation. We thank you for all that you are doing to support our church and the March 25th Roast Beef Dinner!!!

Thank you!

...Jerry Sutherland