

The Good News Gazette

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

January 2018 – Happy New Year!

It's been quite a year and I almost can't believe it's over already! Reflecting on 2017, I couldn't help but notice just how much we've accomplished this past year, how many new things we've tried, and how much energy we continue to share and grow.

In February we started renovation on the back room (gym/chapel space). We put up a whole new wall with closet space and protections for our furnace, as well as a new bathroom and replace old windows. With the help of Servant's Hearts, a group from NJ, we were able to get a lot done in a short amount of time. Since then, we've spackled the wall, painted almost everything, replaced crumbling plaster with new sheetrock, ran new plumbing work, hung some closet doors, among a list of other things. This was all just with volunteer work. It's amazing what a few, or many, hands can do!

In June, we decided to pick up the old tradition of our Chicken BBQs and set up a pit right here on our property. It was such a success that we more than sold out before the day of the event! Better than we could have anticipated! So we decided to hold another one in September and, again, sold out before the day of the event! Our community sure does love our chickens and we owe many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make both events a success.

Our community gardens were a great success this year, thanks to Austin. We grew tons of tomatoes and zucchini. A project we certainly look forward to developing and growing further in this new year!

We started offering online giving at the beginning of the year and made a good effort around #GivingTuesday to earn some extra funds for our mission and ministry. While it might not have been a huge success, we did manage to get 2 online donations in for the year! That's still two donations we might not have ever seen without offering online giving. We hope to continue to develop and grow this way of giving.

We also started recording our sermons from Sunday mornings and posting them to our newly updated website. A few have shared how great this is when they miss worship to be able to still hear the message. Plus, it allows anyone to share it with a friend or family member.

Most recently, we participated in the village-wide Holiday Lights Parade! You can see in the picture below how we participated. We sure had a lot of fun, even if a little cold. We got our name out there for the village to see that we are still alive and well, and even like to have a bit of fun!

Sometimes we can get so lost in pushing forward, we forget how far we've come. 2017 was certainly a great growing year for us, even if it didn't always feel like it. Sure, sometimes we took one step forward and two steps back, but we are moving. We are letting the Spirit guide us, shake us up a bit, and move us which will hopefully lead to continued growth in 2018.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

May this new year be filled with hope, with building up, with the power, guidance, and continued dance with the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Erin



Stewardship Pledge

Thank you for all who have pledged for 2018! We are thankful to all our members and friends who continue to support the mission and ministry of this church in our community and the world! If you haven't already handed in your pledge, please try to do so ASAP.

January Second Offering

Our second offering for January 21st will be for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help aid hurricane and forest fire relief. More information about this offering will be in the bulletins leading up to the collection.

Book Club

Pastor Erin would like to know if anyone would be interested in a book club (possibly an evening) starting in January. For more information and to sign up, **please see the bulletin board.**

Looking Ahead

January 7 – Epiphany Sunday (also Communion Sunday)

January 7 – Congregational Meeting following worship

January 8 – 10am un-decorate the sanctuary, Music and Worship to follow

January 15 – Bible Study resumes downtown at 19 Main St.

January 16 – Women's Council Meeting 1pm

January 21 – Roast Beef Dinner planning meeting following worship

January 22 - Food Pantry Truck (tentative)

January 25 – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm

January 30 – Presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Monroe at 9:30am

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

Church Office: (845) 469-4877

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Website: www.chespresny.com

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