



Did you know there are four women listed in the genealogy of Jesus listed in the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew? While some might say, "only four," it is actually a pretty big deal that any women are included at all. Usually, only men are listed in the genealogy, never women. Sure they played a role but this was a patriarchal system... men were where the lines were passed down from, not women. Yet, for whatever reason, the gospel writer of Matthew decided to include four women. The first is Tamar, she appears in Genesis 38 and is found to be "more righteous" than Judah whom she has twins with after he tries to both deceive her and have her killed. One of those two children is named Perez. Through him comes a man named Boaz, while he eventually marries the 3rd woman mentioned in the genealogy, his mother is the second - Rahab, a prostitute in Jericho who helps the Israelites in return for safety for her and her family. Ruth, the woman Boaz eventually marries was originally married to one of Naomi's sons in the land of Moab, meaning Ruth is an outsider. Yet, she unlike her sister-in-law, upon Naomi's request that she go home and find another husband for Naomi has no more sons to offer for marriage, Ruth refuses. Instead, she travels back to Bethlehem with Naomi and meets and marries Boaz. The last woman, aside from Mary, listed in the genealogy is Bathsheba. A woman married to a man named Uriah but one King David sees bathing and quickly falls in love with, demanding he have relations with her. Unfortunately, she becomes pregnant from David and out of fear and concern has her husband killed on the front lines so no one would ever find out.

These four women all have unique and interesting stories and would have all been considered outsiders. Tamar and Rahab were Canaanites, Ruth was a Moabite, and Bathsheba was first married to Uriah, designated as a Hittite, meaning she could have been a Hittite as well. This means that not only are women listed in the genealogy of Jesus, so were outsiders—those who weren't Israelites. This is a pretty big deal, too. No one would have expected the Messiah, the Savior to come from such a line of people—including such outsiders.

This Advent Season we are going to be going through these four stories to hear more about these women, who are often overlooked, and how they fit into the story of Jesus.

If you are unable to join us, or would like to come prepared to worship, the scriptures we will be looking at are:

Matthew 1:1-17 (genealogy)

Genesis 38 (Tamar)

Joshua 2 (Rahab)

Ruth— 1 & 4 selected verses, if you have time read all 4 chapters

2 Samuel 11-12 (Bathsheba)

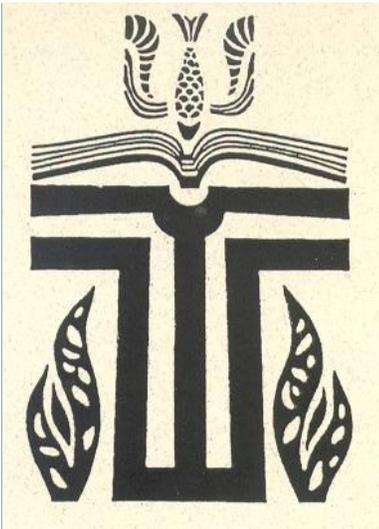
Also, if you miss any service, Pastor's sermons are uploaded to our church website: www.chespresny.com/sermons

Hope you are able to join us this Advent to hear the incredible stories of these women and how they connect to Christ!



Good News Gazette

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



Stewardship and Pledge reminder

On November 25th we collected our stewardship pledges. If you haven't gotten your pledge in yet, please get it in ASAP. Session needs to know our projected pledges to help determine the 2018 budget.

Life Is an Advent Season

CONNECTIONS, 11-28-93

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience.

"The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

"May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives."

UPDATED DIRECTORY

We hope to have a new, up-to-date church directory completed before the new year and all ready to hand out the start of January. Please help Pastor Erin by making sure your information is correct. If you are unable to do so in person, please email to erinmoore@chespresny.com if you aren't sure your information is up-to-date. Printed copies will be available for pick up at the church. Mailing by special request only. Electronic copies will also be available upon request.

MAIL SLOT UPDATE NEEDED

Calling on any volunteers to work on updating our mail slot out in the main hallway. The names haven't been updated in probably over 10 years. It's time for that to change. If you are interested in helping with this project please speak with Pastor Erin. There are a number of names to be removed and a number of names to be added. We will most likely need to reconfigure the slots as names are removed and added.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING—SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS

Just a reminder to pick up your Shop Rite gift cards from the church for the holidays. You can order in increments of \$25, \$50, or \$100. They make perfect gifts for family, friends, co-workers. Also, with all the extra holiday food shopping you are doing make sure to pick an extra one up for yourself!

ADVENT LUNCH BAG DEVOTIONALS

Mark your calendars now! We will be holding Advent Lunch Bag Devotionals for the weeks of Advent. The next one will begin on Dec 5th at 12pm in the choir practice room and we will share a lunch together afterwards. We will have one each of the following Wednesdays at 12pm our last one will be Dec. 19th. We look forward to having you join us for a time to slow down during such a busy season and focus on our wonderful Savior.

Let Me Not Keep Christmas Linda Felver

A Book of Christmas, Nashville: Upper Rooms, 1988, p. 48

"Let me not wrap, stack, box, bag, tie, tag, bundle, seal, keep Christmas. Christmas kept is liable to mold. Let me give Christmas away, unwrapped, by exuberant armfuls. Let me share, dance, live Christmas unpretentiously, merrily, responsibly with overflowing hands, tireless steps and sparkling eyes. Christmas given away will stay fresh—even until it comes again."

LOOKING AHEAD

December 2 – Advent Begins, Communion Service 10am, Deacons meeting following worship

December 3 – Bible Study 10am

December 4 – Presbytery meeting at Stony Point at 9:30am, new GP will be installed all are welcome

December 5 – Advent Lunch Bag Devotionals 12pm

December 9 – Session meeting following worship

December 10– Bible Study 10 am (19 Main St)

December 12 –Advent Lunch Bag Devotionals 12pm

December 17 – Bible Study 10 am (19 Main St), Food Pantry Truck

December 18 – Women’s Council Tea 3pm

December 19 – Longest Night Service 7pm

December 20 – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm

Pastor Erin will be away on vacation December 26-28 if there is a pastoral emergency please contact a Session member.

If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by December 17th.

December Second Offering

Our second offering for December 16th will be for PCUSA Christmas Joy. More information about PCUSA Christmas Joy offering will be in the bulletins leading up to the collection.

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Website:
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Facebook page:
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