



So this June 16th-23rd, just a few weeks away the PCUSA (Presbyterian Church USA) will be holding its 223rd General Assembly in St. Louis, MO. General Assembly is the national body of the PC (USA) and considers overtures and items of business submitted from presbyteries, committees, and other reporting bodies.

The interesting thing about our General Assembly is that it is never comprised of the same people. Each presbytery is required to send commissioners to General Assembly just as the churches in a presbytery have to send commissioners to presbytery meetings. These commissioners (who are both clergy and laity) are elected by the presbytery in the year leading up to General Assembly and are commissioned to listen to the Spirit, to where God is leading the church, and to vote their conscience on each and every matter that comes before the Assembly. This year the Hudson River Presbytery's commissioners are: Rev. Martin McGeachy (Gilead in Carmel), Rev. Lori Knight-Whitehouse (New Hempstead), Elder Betsy Bostwick (Stony Point), Elder Keith Brokaw (Monroe) and Young Adult Advisory Delegate Austin Kim (South Salem).

There are many things coming before the assembly this year, as there is each time they meet. Some things being considered: the report from the Way Forward Commission (looking at how the denomination moves forward), many different overtures to amend the Book of Order, and, perhaps most pertinent to our presbytery, an overture to divest from fossil fuels that was first brought forward from our presbytery and now has 39 other presbyteries concurring with it (supporting it in bringing it to General Assembly). This is the highest number of presbyteries that has even concurred on one overture. It is a big deal!

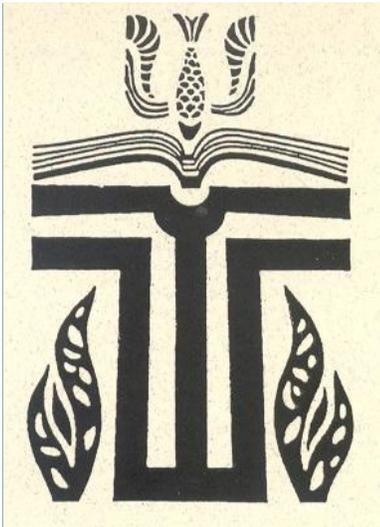
This overture asks that any money within our larger denomination (the Board of Pension system and the Presbyterian Foundation) to divest from the fossil fuel industry as a public witness to caring for creation and caring for our neighbors who are most often affected by climate change. This isn't necessarily something new, our denomination doesn't invest in many things we think are harmful to our neighbors or go against our public witness to follow after Christ. We are not invested in any companies involved in military-related activities, handguns, land mines, gaming, alcohol, and tobacco. Most recently, in 2014 the General Assembly voted to divest from three companies we believe supply Israel with equipment used in the occupation of Palestinian territory (argued that this creates more chaos and injustice than providing a way for healing, peace, and justice).

To highlight the important need and serious action of this overture a group of Presbyterians (and some friends) are walking from Louisville, KY (where our denomination's headquarters resides) to St. Louis, MO to arrive at the General Assemblies opening worship. This is over 200 miles that they have committed to in just about 2 weeks time. They will start the walk June 1st and arrive in St. Louis June 15th with the last mile of the walk happening June 16th into the opening worship service (and can certainly use our prayer for safety in their travels and strength in their convictions).



Good News Gazette

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



CHICKEN BBQ

I know, you are thinking it can't possibly be BBQ time, but it is! The Village Wide Yard Sale is Saturday June 9th, so once again we will be selling our chickens for take-out only. \$5 per half for pre-orders (ends May 31), \$6 if ordered after May 31 (reservation only, not a guarantee). Sides of coleslaw and macaroni salad \$3 container.

Continued from pg 1

While this overture will potentially bring out some of the most heated debates and a lot of prayer, there are certainly other equally important items of business. This is always a time of great discernment and decisions for our denomination. So I ask that you please join me in prayer for the commissioners, the moderators, and all others involved in this process. The assembly spends time each day in worship and bible study along with the sessions of committee work and plenary session. All the worship services, as well as all of the plenary sessions, will be streamed live. Major updates will be posted to our Facebook page along with during the time of Joys and Concerns the Sunday following the Assembly. You can find more information on General Assembly at: <https://gapcusa.org/>. May God continue to guide us as we seek to serve God in all that we do.

Pastor Erin

DEACONS' REPORT

Thank you to Joan Van Der Meulen for sending beautiful thank you notes when needed. And thank you to, Jerry Sutherland who has been busy with Care and Share this past month.

The Deacons are having a bake table at the Chicken BBQ. We are looking for baked goods that hold up in the heat, such as cookies. You can refer to the email sent out by Joan.

Remember to preorder your chicken and sides!

Our Food Pantry participant numbers have been steady for both families and seniors. We thank all who help! The Food Pantry bought a new refrigerator/freezer. The one we had received from HAPNAP no longer worked. The appropriate forms were filled out and we got the go ahead to buy a replacement.

The Deacons attended a workshop for the food pantry. Rules about food distribution are always changing, so it is important that we keep up to date. We also participated in some games. One to try at home – put on an oven mitt, grab a pen and paper, and try and write your name and address. It was fun!

A Prayer for General Assembly:

Almighty God,
in Jesus Christ you called disciples
and, by the Holy Spirit, made
them one church to serve you.
Be with members of our General
Assembly.
Help them to welcome new things
you are doing in the world,
and to respect old things you keep
and use.
Save them from empty slogans or
senseless controversy.
In their deciding,
determine what is good for us and
for all people.
As this General Assembly meets,
let your Spirit rule,
so that our church may be joined
in love and service to Jesus Christ,
who, having gone before us,
is coming to meet us in the promise
of your kingdom. Amen.

– Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), *Book of Common Worship, prepared by the Theology and Worship Ministry Unit for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993), 805.

NEW T-SHIRTS

We placed our order for new t-shirts this past week! Thanks for all your interest! If you missed out, we did order a few extra. They will be in before the Chicken BBQ and encourage everyone who ordered one to wear it that day. They will be available for pick up starting June 6th. You can contact Pastor Erin to pick it up ahead of time or wait until Saturday morning during the BBQ to get your shirt. T-shirts are \$10, Long Sleeve T-shirts are \$12, Sweatshirts are \$20. Please have payment ready when you pick up your shirts, if not before.

THANK YOU

A special thank you for Betty Ann Reilly's service as Assistant Treasurer. She has decided at this time to step down and we thank her for her service and her great willingness to step in and help. At this time, Session wants to make an important note that help is needed. Please speak to someone from Session or Pastor Erin if you are willing to help in anyway, it would be greatly appreciated!

LOOKING AHEAD

- June 3 – Deacons meeting after worship (tentative)
- June 4 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am, Music and Worship meeting 1pm
- June 7 – Coleslaw prep 9am (possible Macaroni prep as well)
- June 8 – Prep for chicken BBQ (tent and table set up, extending pit, etc...) time TBA
- June 9 – Chicken BBQ – prep begins at 7am for chickens, packing salads by 9:30/10am
- June 11 - Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am
- June 18 - Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am
- June 19 – Women's Council Lunch time TBA
- June 25 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am, Food Pantry Truck Pick-up unloading 3pm (tentative)
- June 28 – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm

Pastor Erin will be away June 29th-July 2nd 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 July 21st.

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

Per Capita Reminder:

Per Capita for the year is \$37. It was collected for our second offering in Feb. If you missed this collection please get it into the church office as soon as you can. Thank you!

April Second Offering

Our second offering for June 17th will be for Buildings and Grounds spring sprucing up. We will be removing the overgrown bushes in front of the sanctuary (which have become a hazard for those walking on the sidewalk) and replacing with more appropriate bushes/flowers for the space. We will also mulch under the trees and hopefully along the front. Along with this, there will be some repairs made to the pantry steps as well as extending the landing at the top of the pantry steps to make it easier to bring food in on a dolly. Any help with these projects, even with getting your hands dirty, is greatly appreciated! There is also much weeding to be done!

Church Office:

(845) 469-4877

E-mail:

info@chespresny.com

Website:

www.chespresny.com

Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/chespresny