



There's a song lyric from a Christian music group called Everfound that keeps popping into my head recently, it goes, "And I somehow start to wonder if spring is ever breaking through."

I think we've all been feeling that lately, it's the end of April and just last week we had flurries mixed with rain. The trees buds are ready to burst (some already have), crocuses are shivering, and my tulips and daffodils are peeking but don't dare open their eyes (or buds) yet. The ground hogs and skunks are out scavenging for food along with the chipmunks and squirrels perhaps wondering if some woke up too early during those very few warm days. All tired of sleeping in their dens, of the cold winter weather and nasty wind, wondering if spring is ever going to break through.

And I think everyone from Montana to Michigan to Maine to here in Chester and everywhere in between are tired of it as well (for Pete's sake, Minnesota got over 20 inches a few weeks ago). Everyone is tired of the cold, the grey, the wind, the snow, and the being stuck inside. We are ready to burst forth as well into the warm weather, into our gardens, walks on the trail (or biking), hiking in the woods, or just enjoying our morning coffee on the porch. We are ready to listen to the birds sing, watch the chipmunks scurry, enjoy the beauty of the new flowers, the new life around us and all the hope it brings. We are so ready.

Yet, here we are, wondering if this weather will ever change. Wondering if all the hope that comes with new life will ever finally come... But what if we decide to stop waiting and rather begin to spread the hope that comes with new life. The new life of our Risen Savior.

A few weeks ago we looked at Luke 24:36-48 and Acts 3:12-19, both passages that call us (followers of Christ) witnesses. We are witnesses to the gospel, to Christ's ministry, his life, death, and resurrection. So what if we stopped waiting for the all the hope that comes with spring that more than half our country is waiting for, and begin to bring the hope of new life? What if we pointed not just to the crocuses and forsythia but to the food pantry feeding the hungry in our community? What if we instead of waiting for the birds to sing out, we speak out such sweetness to our neighbor? Offering a kind word, giving company to the lonely, listening to those who feel unheard, or sharing a meal with someone who often eats alone. What if we lived and breathed the new life of Christ into our community around us? And what if it gave more than just the hope of spring and new life but produced new, resurrection life into our community?

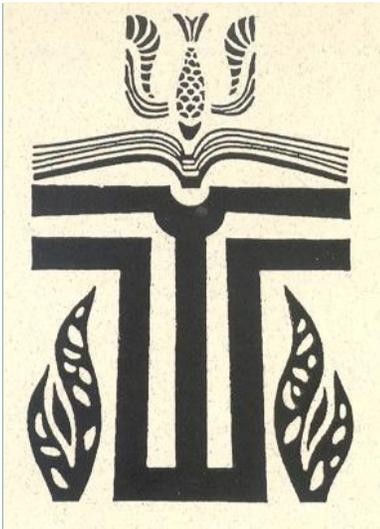
As spring continues to slowly come upon us, may we grant more hope than the few warm days and certainly more light than the cold, snowy days (and may those days be behind us!). May we be the breakthrough of spring. Amen.

Pastor Erin



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.

TOUR DE GOSHEN

This year Session has decided that we will be participating in the Tour de Goshen on August 19th. Pastor Erin will ride 25 miles along with whoever else would like to join her (also, lesser distances of 12 miles). There are plans to hopefully host a water station and cheer on all who pass by. While we are still working out all the details, we wanted to let you know this official decision from Session. We hope to be more visual in our community, to show everyone we like to have some fun and offer great encouragement, and we also hope to kick off our Capital Campaign with Pastor's riding (pledging per number of miles). Session is very excited about this and we hope all of you are as well! More details will come out in the next month or so but if you'd like to help with the planning please see Pastor Erin.

SOLARIZE INFO

On April 9th, we held a wonderful Solarize Information Session with New York State Solar Farm. They gave a great presentation to the benefits of solar and how affordable it has become, along with great incentives from NYSERA, NY State, and the Federal Government, meaning a 7kW system with a starting price of \$22,750 could potentially only be about \$9,210 with all the incentives and tax credits.

They do free home assessments and won't try to sell you anything that wouldn't benefit you. Also, they have made it so even if you have to finance your system, you are never paying more than what you are now for your electricity. The products are top of the line with 25 yr warranty (which means if a panel or piece of equipment begins to fail at year 24 you get a brand new replacement).

If you are kicking yourself for missing the meeting or just now realizing you might be interested either talk to Pastor Erin, Alan Eckard, or visit: <http://www.solarizewestchester.com/hrp-north/>

Please feel free to pass this information along to anyone you know who might be interested. It is an incredible opportunity!

T-SHIRT ORDERS

Thank you for all your interest in T-Shirts! As some of you have noticed, we had a few sample options we were looking into and now Session has narrowed the pick down to what we will order/have available. Any t-shirt can also be ordered as a long-sleeve t-shirt or a hooded sweatshirt (possibly a regular sweatshirt as well). For those who receive the newsletter via email, see the last page that is in color. For those who receive the print out, we were unable to print them in color at this time but are working on it (see Pastor Erin for a view on the computer or for an email). See more information about the shirts on the last page of the newsletter.

Now that we have our options picked, please fill out an order form with which shirt you would like, which includes which design, size, if it's a t-shirt, long-sleeve, or sweatshirt (can order multiple options). Please have your orders in ASAP as we hope to have shirts by the Kiwanis Road Race at the end of May (if not, then by the Chicken BBQ June 9th).

We hope to order by May 7th so please get order forms in ASAP.

LOOKING AHEAD

May 6 – Deacons meeting after worship

May 7 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am, Music and Worship meeting 1pm

April 8 – Communion Service; Deacons meeting following worship

May 14 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am

May 15 – Women's Council Meeting 1pm

May 21 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am, Food Pantry Truck Pick-up unloading 3pm (tentative)

May 24 – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm

May 26 – Kiwanis Road Race – Breakfast help (TIME)

May 28 – NO Bible Study (Holiday)

If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by May 21st.

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

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!

May Second Offering

Our second offering for May 20th, will be our Pentecost offering. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering is retained by individual congregations to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

- Young Adult Volunteers
- Ministries for Youth
- Children-at-Risk

Church Office:

(845) 469-4877

E-mail:

info@chespresny.com

Website:

www.chespresny.com

Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/chespresny

We are offering two shirt options. One that is a general church t-shirt with a design chosen by session and one that would be geared for our Tour de Goshen Event. You can order one or both. Options of t-shirt, long sleeve t-shirt, or hooded sweat shirt available for either option.

T-shirt option #1:

Raising Spirits, Planting Roots
Chester Presbyterian Church

Right now, the color is a pistachio green with green lettering. We can change the color of the shirt (not the lettering) if you have a strong preference.

Colors like work best with the green lettering:

Navy or Blue Dust (both darker blues)

Stone Blue (a bluish gray)

Sky (a light blue, like the sky)

Light Pink

Cornsilk (a pale yellow)

Tan (a light brown)

Jade Dome (a bluish green)

Lime Green (not as bright as it sounds)

Kiwi (a bit bolder green than the pistachio)

Mint Green

Any other strong preference see Pastor Erin ASAP



Option 2: Tour de Goshen event shirt. Front: Bike gears with a cross in the middle and CPC.

Back: Picture of a bike with a gear around it and #pedalingpastor with Chester Presbyterian Church.

No other color options available.

