

# The Good News Gazette

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

## Celebrating Pentecost!

Pentecost Sunday marks the birth of the church as we know it! Well, maybe not as we know it, things look a lot different today than they did back when it first began, but it does mark the birth and beginning of the church. It is the day the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples and those who were waiting and praying in the upper room. That same day Peter preaches making it clear no one is filled with new wine at 9am, but that it's a sign from God. With this, over 3000 people are baptized and converted. Certainly a cause for celebration! And yet, Pentecost is often the most overlooked or forgotten church holiday. We rarely have big celebration. There's no presents or gifts, no baskets or eggs. We don't hang ornaments from flames of tongues (or burning bushes). We don't go outside and try to collect the wind. Okay, maybe both of those are stretches considering trees and eggs are nowhere in the Christmas or Easter stories but there is nothing similar for Pentecost. No signs or symbols we really share or celebrate with on Pentecost... Maybe doves but no one really goes around trying to catch doves or puts bird seed out to try to lure them in (which is probably a good thing).

But this past week away with other pastors, I caught up with a friend I went to seminary with. He told me that he took a look at the bulletin for June 4th (Pentecost Sunday) before leaving for the conference and noticed there's nothing in there at all about Pentecost. The bulletin was already done because it will be his Head of Staff's (senior pastor) last day. So scripture and hymns are all in reflection of that... This really got me thinking how many other churches just skip over Pentecost and how un-highlighted it is throughout the year. This church and pastor could have easily tied the two together. Celebrating both Pentecost and his leaving. Celebrating and giving thanks for the work of the Spirit in his ministry and in that place for his years of service, for their work together, and yet, instead, it's completely overlooked.

Perhaps it's because with the Spirit coming we have to admit we aren't in control and some of us have a hard time with that... we like to be in control, we like to feel like we have it all together, that all the work we've done has been our own. Yet, with the Spirit coming we have to be able to let our hair down a bit, we have to be willing to let it blow in the wind and let the wind take us where it will, and give up control a bit... or at least recognize that we aren't the ones fully in control. It might lead to wonderful celebrations and encounters with baptizing 3000 people all in the same day or it might take us to places we'd rather not go... persecution and hardships, ridicule and discomfort. But without both, the church wouldn't be the church. These are the very things the disciples, the apostles (among other believers) encountered the good and the bad. The joyous and the painful. But, it's also important that the Spirit was with them the whole time, they didn't go in it alone and that it often leads to wonderful Spiritual, God-filled encounters of sharing the Good News.

Sometimes, I think we forget this, especially when we are called to go out into the world, to the ends of the earth. We forget that we don't go alone and so we don't need to be afraid. Whatever happens, the Spirit of God is with us, that we really aren't fully in control. So maybe the more we are able to give up the feeling of being in control and give more over to God, like the apostles and first believers, we can begin to find reasons to celebrate even among or trials and tribulations. We can begin to see God at work in the world we never have before. We can celebrate the coming of the Spirit and the gifts of ministry we all have, especially on the Day of Pentecost. And maybe for just one day we can lose a bit of control so much so that the outside world views us a bit drunk in our celebration, wondering what it all means and if we are filled with new wine. We can recognize the holy work we are called to together with each other and with the Spirit, and just maybe, we can celebrate with cake and a bonfire. Maybe we can fly some kites or go bird watching or find other ways to celebrate the coming of the Spirit. So let us give up a bit of our control, let our hair down and have a little fun in celebrating the birth of the church, celebrating the gift of the Spirit, celebrating the workings of God among and within us! Amen.

Pastor Erin

## **Chicken BBQ**

All hands on deck! Our Chicken BBQ is next Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, from 11-2pm. We will need helpers there early to start cooking the chickens as well as doing some set-up. Chickens will begin cooking by 7am. Need helpers to set-up the sale table and get to-go containers by 9:30am (unless some containers are packed ahead of time). If anyone has bottled water they would like to donate for us to sell please have it down to the church by 10:30am (if not prior). Brownies need to be in by 10:30 as well to make sure they are ready to sell.

Thank you all for your continued help with this fundraiser!

## **Buildings and Grounds**

We continue to slowly make progress on the old gym/chapel area. The first round of spackling is almost done, we are working on lighting, the pocket doors will soon be getting a renovation, and the ceiling will soon be nailed back together and hopefully have a fresh coat of paint soon enough. We really hope to have the space done for use by Sept. so any and all help is greatly appreciated! We hope to plan another big work day soon, so stay tuned to announcements in the bulletin and on our facebook page.

Also, if you are interested, there are some pictures up on our facebook page ([www.facebook.com/chespresny](http://www.facebook.com/chespresny)) of the progress we are making on the old gym/chapel. Please feel free to take a look. We will continue to post updates as we go along, as well as information about our grand-opening when it's finally ready!

## **Thank you to everyone who continues to help with improving the appearance of our grounds!**

Slowly but surely, our appearance is getting a bit better as we check things off our list for grounds work. If you find some extra time please feel free to stop by for an hour or so on your own time to help with any of the yard work listed below (updated to reflect what has been done already). Or plan with another member or two when a few of you might be able to get together to help.

### **Front of the building:**

- Trim cherry trees and weed underneath
- Weed by church sign
- Cut any new growth coming out of the base of the dogwood tree

### **Back of the building:**

- Trim back the larger bushes
- Weed the memorial garden (partially done)
- Cut down any saplings in the memorial garden
- Replace pavers blocks
- Remove dead bushes and any branches that have fallen
- Trim cherry tree

Of course, if you see anything else that might have been overlooked, please feel free to either let Buildings and Grounds know or take on the project yourself. Thanks again for all of your help to get our yard looking great!

## Looking Ahead

**June 5 - Music and Worship meeting 1pm**

**June 8 – Cole Slaw prep 9am**

**June 10 – Chicken BBQ 11am-2pm (prep cooking 7am, prep salads and sale table 9am)**

**Prep set up for yard sale tables 8am**

**June 11 – Session Meeting following worship**

**June 19 – Tentative Food Pantry Truck Delivery 3pm**

**June 22 – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm**

Pastor Erin will be away on study leave the evening of June 11<sup>th</sup>-June 16th. If there is a pastoral emergency during this time please contact a session member or the church office.

If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by June 20th.

Pastor: Erin Moore

Moderator of Deacons: Okey Barrett (845) 651-4707

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