

# The Good News Gazette

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

**August 2017**

Dear members and friends, going through the Genesis passages in worship this summer reminds me of a comment I once heard from an older woman after preaching on Isaiah once for a job interview. She said something along the lines of “usually we just hear about the New Testament and it’s all about love, love, love... not that there’s anything wrong with that, but the Old Testament, now that’s real life.”

The comment made me laugh a little, usually everyone enjoys the New Testament readings over the old, many pastors favor preaching on the New, and many find more hope or connection to the New Testament. Yet, her comment wasn’t necessarily wrong – the Old Testament, now that’s real life. Over and over again this summer with our Genesis readings we’ve perhaps seen how close some of these stories relate to our own – family drama, jealousy, trickery and decent, strong love for children, doubts and questions and commitments, fears and anxiety. Maybe we can’t relate to everything we’ve heard this summer but perhaps there was something for everyone that connected them to these stories that almost do seem like everyday life.

However, it’s really not just the Old Testament that is like real life. All of scripture is like real life. While miracle stories are sometimes harder to wrap our heads around, there is not only more to those miracle stories (for example, while it’s miraculous a blind man can see again, it is more so that Jesus gave the man his life back. No longer an outsider not allowed to participate in society. Jesus came to restore everyone and everything. Jesus came to restore creation), but there is also more to the New Testament than just miracle stories. In many of Paul’s letters we see struggles of what it looks like to follow Christ. We see churches fighting over power and structures of society. In the book of Acts, we see how many argued over who was okay to evangelize to and what foods were okay to eat. Silly little things, but sometimes we still get caught up on silly little things in our ministry as well.

The Old Testament might be like real life, but so is the New. We should be looking at and wrestling with scripture that it takes hold of our lives. That we see how not only it feels like real life but it encourages us and empowers us to live a different life, a better life, following Christ’s call, entering God’s covenant, allowing the Holy Spirit to move through us. May the Spirit fall upon all of us for scripture to take hold of our lives in such powerful, life-changing ways. Amen.

Pastor Erin

## **Synod Information**

September 22-23<sup>rd</sup> the Synod of the Northeast will be hosting an event called Come to the Table. It will include churches and presbyteries throughout our Synod (Maine through New Jersey, excluding PA) that are coming together to learn about ministry innovation and missional opportunities being developed by Presbyterians throughout our region.

This event is being held at Stony Point Conference Center, just a half hour away, and since it is within our Presbytery, our Presbytery is encouraging everyone to come and be a part of Coming to the Table. They are offering to cover the costs up to half of the registration fee (registration fees are: \$60 for a commuter and \$75 for an overnight in double occupancy room. So Presbytery would cover \$30-38 of the cost). There are also scholarships available to cover the full cost of the event.

For more information please visit this website: <http://www.synodne.org/cttt-information> or speak with Pastor Erin.

## Session News

At the July 19<sup>th</sup> Session Meeting there was discussion surrounding personnel and expenses. Our monthly donations / contributions continue to be about equal, or as is frequently the case, below our monthly expenses. We have reviewed and changed our garbage disposal, renegotiated our agreement with The Korean Methodist Church and assorted other efforts to trim expenses where we can. It was discussed and agreed upon that at this time we will need to terminate the Church Secretary position. Pastor Erin has agreed to complete and print the weekly bulletin and the monthly newsletter.

The Session of the Church, and Pastor Erin, would like to thank Ruth Magyar for her dedicated service to the church as Church Secretary and for her efforts in the church office.

If, in the future, our finances and our need warrant the need for a part time Church Secretary we will discuss re-opening that position but at this time we feel it in the best interest of the church congregation to eliminate this expense.

Submitted by Matt Van Der Meulen

*Matthew K. Van Der Meulen*

Clerk of Session

### Yard Sale/Chicken BBQ

We will be having a yard sale/chicken bbq sale on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Please see Gene Winters about volunteering to help (either the day of or any of the prep work, any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated). We will have a planning meeting on Monday August 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the library.

If you have items you would like to donate to the yard sale please be advised that we are not accepting any big items (no furniture). Also, please wait until you hear from Gene or Pastor Erin about where to put donated items before bringing anything to the church. We still need to determine a proper space. Thank you!

### Prayer Chain

For those currently serving and those who would like to help serve on the prayer chain we will be holding a meeting August 13<sup>th</sup> following worship.

### August Hymn Sing

We will be having a hymn sing the last Sunday in August, one last hurray and celebration of summer. To help with the program, some songs may be chosen ahead of time, while others can be made that morning. Please let Pastor Erin know of any suggestions by August 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Updating our Directory

Please help us update our church directory. A few weeks ago we added information cards in our bulletins, like the one below. If you haven't already, and would like to be included in our directory, please fill out one of the cards and bring it to church or email the information to Pastor Erin (erinmoore@chespresny.com). We greatly appreciate your help in updating our directory. We hope to have it published by January.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please put a check mark next to the information you wish to share in the directory. All other information will be kept confidential and for church records only.

## Capital Campaign Information

Buildings and Grounds is just about finished finalizing quotes for our capital campaign. Before we officially finish we would love your input. Please take a look at the list below to see what is listed and let us know if you think we missed anything, over looked anything, or if you have any questions about something on the list.

<b>Outside</b>	
Painting/siding of building	
Lighting	~\$1,000
New Signage (and church sign) for around the building	
Paved Driveway	\$40,000
Fix drainage issues in the back courtyard area	~\$500-1,000
Tree removal	\$3-4000

<b>CE Building</b>	
Bathrooms	\$2,000
Insulation	~\$2,000
Update to LED lighting	
Thermostats	\$500-1000
Water pipe replacement	\$1,200
Handicap bathroom in Dining Room	~\$2-3000
Elevator	
Save for furnace and water heater update	

<b>Sanctuary</b>	
Carpeting	\$2,000
Flooring	\$3,250
Sealing windows	\$800
Insulation	\$1,300
Heat in Chapel/community space	\$500
Handicap Access	

<b>Manse</b>	
Carpeting	\$2,000
Bathroom floor	~\$100-200
Insulation	~\$400
Water heater	~\$4-500

## Looking Ahead

**August 7 – Yard Sale/BBQ Sale meeting 7:30pm in the library**

**August 13 – Prayer Chain meeting following worship**

**August 21 – Tentative date for Food Pantry pick-up**

**August 24 – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm**

Pastor Erin will be away on vacation August 25-Sept 1st. 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 August 18th.

Pastor: Erin Moore

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

Treasurer Alan Eckard

Assistant Treasurer Betty Ann Reilly

Secretary: Ruth Magyar

Church Office: (845) 469-4877

E-mail: [info@chespresny.com](mailto:info@chespresny.com)

Website: [www.chespresny.com](http://www.chespresny.com)

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/chespresny](http://www.facebook.com/chespresny)

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