

The Good News Gazette

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

September 2017

It's hard to believe summer is just about over. Sure we have a few more weeks until it's officially over, but just a few days until school starts again and some of us are back to the regular routine. Meetings and events, lunch dates and doctors appointments, regular work hours and back to the grind of homework every day. Sure doesn't seem like there's much to celebrate with the ending of summer and beginning of fall (aside from those few parents who are happy to have their kids back to the routine of school).

However, this September we are going to celebrate. Perhaps not getting back to the regular routine or the end of summer, but we are going to celebrate the Season of Creation. Throughout the year the church has what is called a liturgical calendar. It begins with Advent either the last Sunday of November or, like this year, the first Sunday of December. Next comes Christmas, followed by Epiphany which all celebrate Christ's anticipated coming, birth, and manifestation. This is followed by a short break before heading into Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost. These all celebrate Christ's life, death, and resurrection as well as the coming of the Spirit.

A number of years ago, churches in Australia noticed we celebrate Christ and the Holy Spirit but there isn't really ever a season to celebrate our Creator God and created a new liturgical season. The movement took off like a flash and now many churches around the world celebrate the Season of Creation. We celebrated it last year for the first time and will begin again this Sunday, Sept 3rd.

Celebrating the Season of Creation is such a great reminder of God's presence being all around us. For God formed the earth from a formless void, made the waters in the heavens above and the waters below. Every flying creature, monsters of the sea, and everything that creeps on land bears some image of its maker, especially humanity - created in the image of God. And sometimes these creatures and creations (rocks, trees, dirt) give better praise to God than we do. The leaves swaying and jumping in the Spirit's ever changing breeze, the birds praising the new day with the rising of the sun – sometimes even when they can't see it, the crickets and katydids dancing in the moonlight – giving thanks and praise even in the darkest parts of the night.

And so this September we are going to take the Psalmist suggestion in Psalm 148 and with all creation we are going to praise God. Celebrating with creation this great God, who's glory is above earth and heaven.

“Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise him all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!... Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees, and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!... Praise the Lord!”

Pastor Erin

Choir Practice

Choir practice starts back up again Sept 6th at 3pm. Anyone interested in joining please see Michael, our Music Director, for more details. Everyone is welcome!

Synod Information

September 22-23rd 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.

Yard Sale/Chicken BBQ

We will be having a yard sale/chicken bbq sale on September 9th. 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). 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). Please see James Peterson about where to place donations. It would be a great help if they already came with a suggested price.

Bible Study

We will be starting Bible Study back up in Sept and studying the book of Romans. It will be held Mondays, time and place are still being determined. We will start Sept 11th.

Looking Ahead

September 6 – Music and Worship meeting 1pm

Choir practice 3pm

September 7 – 9am Coleslaw prep (possibly Mac prep, too)

September 8 – finishing Coleslaw prep

September 9 – Yard Sale/BBQ Sale 8am-2pm

September 10 – Combined Deacons and Session meeting

September 11 – Bible Study

September 17 – Congregational Meeting

September 18 – Bible Study

September 20 – Tentative stewardship meeting

September 22-23 – Synod Event – Come to the Table

September 25 – Bible Study

Food Pantry Truck

September 28 – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm

If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by September 19th.

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).