



*It doesn't have to be the
blue Iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot..
just pay attention, then
patch a few words together..
this isn't a contest, but the
doorway into thanks...*

Mary Oliver, Praying

It's simple really, paying attention; paying attention to the world around us. As Mary Oliver states, the blue iris, the weeds in the vacant lot, these small, simple, sometimes silly things are the doorway into thanks. For really, when we truly pay attention, we realize just how much we have to be thankful for: the blue sky or loving family, the support of a friend, or the devotion of a pet.

Unfortunately, we tend to live in a world or at least a culture where both thankfulness and gratitude seem far from front and center. People would much rather complain about what's going wrong than be thankful for what they have, what's going right, or the world around them. But the truth is, we certainly have a lot to be thankful for, even when things do go wrong (for not everything in life will always be good and right and easy or pretty or clean). Yet, if we learn to pay attention, perhaps we'd see just this, perhaps we'd enter into the doorway of thanks. If we paid attention to the glimmer of a loved ones eyes when they look into yours; if we paid attention to the friend calling just to see how we are, just to check in on us; if we paid attention to the warm breeze or the sunny days, the birds singing their hearts out every morning with the rising sun; if we paid attention to the beauty of the changing leaves or the other people walking past us on the street waiting to smile if we'd just look up; if we paid attention to the older sibling teacher the younger to ride a bike, to the majestic stars in the night sky; if we paid attention to the words of love spoken through the Bible, enacted out in our congregation, neighbor helping neighbor, grace extended to each other, God's presence in this place; if we'd just paid attention perhaps we'd realize just how much we have to be thankful for, we'd enter into the doorway of thanks.

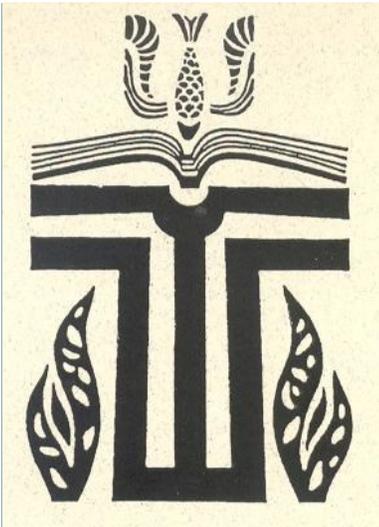
In a few weeks many of us will be sitting down at different tables to celebrate Thanksgiving, leading up to that celebration take some time to pay attention... to the blue iris or the patch of weeds, to the changing leaves or the bare trees. Pay attention to what's going on both in and around your life. What do you notice? What does it make you thankful for?

Psalm 9:1-2 "I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High."



Good News Gazette

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



Deacon's Reminder

Fall and College Box time! If you know of a student who would like to receive a care package please speak with a Deacon.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES

On November 25th we will be finishing up our Stewardship Campaign for the year and will be asking all of our members if they would please make a pledge to support the work of our church. This pledge will include both a financial pledge and also a time and talents pledge. Session recognizes the amount of time, energy, and finances that goes into keeping our church up and running and so along with financial pledging information we will be providing information for ways you can pledge to help support the weekly to monthly activities. For example, serving as liturgist, helping at a church clean up day, help with organizing upcoming events, etc... We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can pledge this year to support our congregation and all the wonderful things we are able to do for our congregation and for our larger community.

Stewardship reflection: The world asks, "what does a man own?" Christ asks, "how does he use it?" – Andrew Murray

TELL IT LIKE IT IS...

This past month (and into the next) we've been going through our sermon series "Tell it like it is" as we hear Jesus words from the various gospels in how he tells it like it is... We started with looking at the story of the rich man in Mark 10 with Jesus looking at him, loving him, but still telling him to sell everything he had, give to the poor then come and follow. While Jesus loved him first, he certainly didn't sugar coat anything for this rich man. He told him exactly what he needed to do, he told it like it is... In the same way, we've been hearing both stories about our church in this place and time and stories from our church members, in a sense telling it like it is... Like Jesus, we are to tell it like it is, we are to share our faith with those around us. We are to tell our story of why this church, why we follow Christ, why it makes a difference in our lives. In everything we do, we are to tell it like it is, live as if we are following after this One who calls us. In the weeks ahead we will hear more of Jesus telling it like it is... lessons of where our treasure is our heart will be also, worry vs. gratitude, healing and thankful praises, and how one cannot serve two masters. In all of this, we'd love to hear more stories from the congregation as well. Would you be willing to share, even just a sentence or two, of what this church means to you, why you have decided to follow after Christ, or share a bit of your faith journey? Please let Pastor Erin know. We'd love to hear your stories.

NAMES OF JESUS

T—eacher (Matt 23:10); Treasure (Col 2:3)
H—ead of the church (Eph. 5:23)
A—uthor and perfecter of faith (Heb 12:2)
N—azarene (Matt 2:23); Name above all names (Phil 2:9)
K—ing of all kings and Lord of all lords (Rev 19:16)
S—avior of the world (1 Tim 4:10)
G—iver of grace (Rom 5:15)
I—mmanuel (Isa 7:14); I am the Alpha and Omega (Rev 1:18)
V—ine, you are the branches (John 15:5)
I—mage of God (Col 1:15)
N—ew covenant (Heb 9:15); Nativity (Luke 2)
G—ood Shepherd (John 10:11)

ROAST BEEF DINNER—ALL HANDS ON DECK

November 3rd is fast approaching. Here are a few key dates to remember for the Roast Beef Dinner:

November 1st – 9am Coleslaw prep

November 2nd – 9am potato prep, table prep, coleslaw dressing

November 3rd – all volunteers be here by 3:30pm

ADVENT LUNCH BAG DEVOTIONALS

Mark your calendars now! We will be holding Advent Lunch Bag Devotionals for the weeks of Advent. The first one will begin on Dec 5th at 12pm in the choir practice room and we will share a lunch together afterwards. We will have one each of the following Wednesdays at 12pm our last one will be Dec. 19th. We look forward to having you join us for a time to slow down during such a busy season and focus on our wonderful Savior.

LOOKING AHEAD

November 3—Roast Beef Dinner

November 4 – All Saint’s Day and Communion Service

Deacons meeting following worship

November 5 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am,

Music and Worship meeting 1pm

November 7 —Choir Practice 3pm

November 11 – Session meeting following worship

November 12 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am

Food Pantry Truck time TBD

November 13 – Women’s Council meeting 1pm

November 14 —Choir Practice 3pm

November 15 – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm

November 19 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am

November 21 —Choir Practice 3pm

November 26—Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am

November 28 —Choir Practice 3pm

Pastor Erin will be away on vacation November 16-18 if there is a pastoral emergency please contact a Session member.

November Second Offering

Our second offering for November will be for the Times-Herald Record People for People Fund. Its purpose is to provide temporary assistance to residents with ties to the Times Herald-Record's readership area, which covers Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties, N.Y., and parts of Pike County, Pa. This offering will be collected on November 18th.

Church Office:

(845) 469-4877

E-mail:

info@chespresny.com

Website:

www.chespresny.com

Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/chespresny