



In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. – Mark 1:35

But Jesus would often withdraw to deserted places and pray. – Luke 5:16

March 6th is Ash Wednesday and thus begins the season of Lent. There are 40 days of Lent. These 40 days are associated with many scriptural references - the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent, and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

Lent is sometimes observed differently by different faith communities. Many Roman Catholics and Lutherans fast during the season of Lent – giving something up. Other Protestant traditions, like the Presbyterian Church, do not follow the fast or giving something up but rather Lent is a time of prayer and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter.

While Presbyterians don't traditionally give something up or fast for Lent there has been a new movement to take something new on during Lent – something that brings you closer to God. For example, adding a new prayer practice to your regular routine or reading your Bible more regularly. It can be simple easy things that take 5-10min out of your day or it can be bigger things. Perhaps you've decided to go for prayer walks each day or once a week. You can read scripture or a prayer before heading out and reflect on it through your journey.

Jesus did a lot of walking in his time, he also had a very busy life, surrounded by people who were looking to be healed, wanted to see miracles. Often times he would take a break and go off to a secluded area by himself to pray, to meditate, to be with God the Father. Even Jesus, both human and divine, needed to take a break from the regular routine, from the busyness of life to grow closer and remain connected to God.

So let us follow Jesus example this Lenten season. Let us remember to take those regular breaks from the busyness of our lives, from our regular routines and enter into a time with our God. Let us be renewed and refreshed by our loving God for each new day. Let us grow closer to our great heavenly Father who truly cares for us and desires a relationship with us.

Some Prayer Practices to try out:

Reading scripture or a prayer and reflecting on it – either in your living room or walking around outdoors in nature.

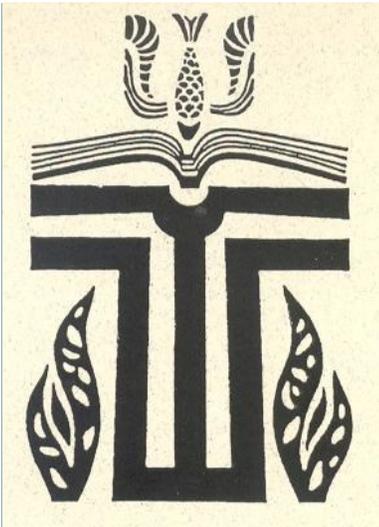
The Daily Examine Prayer- At the end of your day sit down and reflect on the day. Where did you see God that day? Where might you have shut God out instead of inviting God in? Where did you need God in your day? Then say a prayer over your day and ask God to continue to reveal God's self to you.

Open up to the book of Psalms and read a Psalm or two. Then turn it into a prayer for your life or someone else's who might need prayer.



## Good News Gazette

First  
Presbyterian  
Church of  
Chester, NY  
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### **Lenten Lunch-Bag Devotionals**

We start our 6 week Lenten Lunch Bag Devotionals on March 13. We will meet in a classroom in the CE building for devotionals starting at 12pm followed by a bag lunch in the library. All are welcome.

## **DEACONS CORNER**

The Deacons had their first meeting of the year in January. We welcomed Joanne Brooks as a new Deacon and Edna Babcock and James Peterson as returning Deacons. We are all grateful for their willingness to serve. We elected the following people for office/position: Moderator – Jean Barrett; Assistant Moderator: James Peterson; Treasurer: James Peterson; Care & Share: Joanne Brooks; Creative Thoughtfulness – Vanessa Magyar; and Newsletter – Edna Babcock. Joanne will be contacting people in order to make a list of those willing to prepare a meal etc... in time of need. Once this list is completed she will do her best to spread the work around as need is discovered. If you have not been contacted and wish to help you can reach Joanne at 845-783-4281.

The February meeting of the Deacons was on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February. Scheduling of Deacons to help with serving communion each month for the year was set up. Two 6ft tables and three 8ft tables will be purchased in the near future for the food pantry (light weight tables) to replace old, heavy tables. We discussed helping to cover the costs of the mouse problem in our church (for the food pantry) and details will follow.

Food Pantry truck pick-up is on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>. The Key Club is stocking the shelves. Food Pantry distribution is on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the Key Club and everyone who helps on this community service of love. And thank you all for your continued support of the Deacons.

## **NEW IDEAS/FUNDRAISERS**

There have been some suggestions throw around for new ideas, particularly new fundraisers. We will make a list here, feel free to add on to it with other ideas or volunteer to see it get off the ground (note, some are relatively easy with little work, we just need someone or a few people willing to organize):

Spring Craft Fair (in the new community room)

Brass Quintet Concert

Hold a Tea in the new community room

Silent Auction

Panera Fundraising – organize a night at Panera where 20% of the proceeds go to our church

- This could similarly be done at the Chester Diner (10% of proceeds)

## Interactive Lenten Evening Prayer

We will be trying something new this Lent! We are excited to introduce and interactive evening prayer service. There will be liturgy, prayers, maybe some singing, and scripture reading. After the scripture reading we will spend some time in contemplation and begin to share our thoughts and questions about it with the group. We will use “I wonder” and “I notice” statements. Using the scripture above in a very brief example, it would look something like this:

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. – Mark 1:35

I notice it was morning, very dark. I wonder why Jesus got up at this time to go pray. I notice Jesus went to a deserted place. I wonder where Jesus was before he went to the deserted place or how far he traveled.

A longer scripture will be used and you are welcome to participate in the, “I wonder, I notice” statements or just listen to others if you’d rather not speak up.

Please join us for this new evening prayer service on Tuesdays at 7pm starting on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

### TREASURER UPDATE—PLEASE READ

We still do not have someone ready/willing to step into the role of treasurer and Session still needs help. Note, we have divided up tasks to help make the role easier to step into. What we currently have: Two people who know how to work the weekly spreadsheets and are willing to learn Quickbooks.

#### **What we need:**

**-1 more person willing to learn Quickbooks**

**-1 person willing to learn payroll**

**-1 person willing to do bill pay and oversee the banking**

**-1 person willing to step into the “treasurer” role to oversee these moving parts, make sure everything is working smoothly, and collect important information to present to Session**

We are not asking one person to do it all, we are asking if a few people can just do some of it. We are willing to help train in any area you would feel comfortable helping.

Note: If we are unable to find willing bodies we will have to outsource. The only position we cannot outsource is that of a “treasurer.” We would still need a church member to oversee the accountant/book keeper if we outsource.

### March Second Offering

Our second offering for Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> will be for Buildings and Grounds for the purchase of a new snowblower. If you’d like to give early to this offering, please mark your check or envelope appropriately. Thank you!

### ROAST BEEF DINNER

Our Spring Roast Beef Dinner will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We still need a chair person and a full planning meeting.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Per Capita

#### Reminder

per capita for 2019 is \$39. We had a second offering for the per capita in February. If you missed it, please do your best to get this in ASAP as we will begin paying our congregations portion very soon.

Church Office:

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

March 3 – Communion Sunday, Deacons meeting following worship

March 4 – Bible Study at 10 Main St. 10 am, Music and Worship meeting 1pm

March 5 – Shrove Tuesday 4:30-7pm

March 6 – Ash Wednesday Service 7pm

March 10 – Session meeting following worship

March 11 - Bible Study at 10 Main St. 10 am

March 12 – Evening Prayer 7pm

March 13 – Lenten Lunch Bag Devotionals, Tentative planning meeting for community garden 6:45pm

March 16 – HRU – Hudson River Presbytery is offering a day of training and education at Stony Pt more information can be found on the bulletin board

March 18 – Bible Study at 10 Main St. 10 am

March 19 – Women’s Council Meeting 1pm, Evening Prayer 7pm

March 20 – Lenten Lunch Bag Devotionals

March 21 – Coleslaw prep 9am

March 22 – Potato Prep and Table prep 9am

March 23 – Spring Roast Beef Dinner 4-7pm

March 24 – Second offering for One Great Hour of Sharing

March 25 - Bible Study at 10 Main St. 10 am, Tentative Food Pantry Truck Delivery

March 26 - Evening Prayer 7pm

March 27 – Lenten Lunch Bag Devotionals

March 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 March 25th.*