

April 2019

Have you ever had a stuffed animal you loved so much as a child that the fur came off? Or the eyes or buttons fell off?

My brother had this monkey in a red Santa like hat. He loved that thing to death the fur was wearing off and the hat was real thin. I, on the other hand, had a blanket. Only I don't ever remember it being in the form of a blanket. By the time I remember it I had loved it so much that I had worn it to the point of shreds. My mom had to cut it into two pieces and tied it in knots just so I could keep it. I only remember it in its knot form. I would carry it everywhere and I really did love that thing to death.

My New Testament Professor told us a story in class about how when he was young his parents collected green stamps from shopping and when they had a certain amount they could go to a redemption center and redeem their book for whatever they wanted that equated the amount of stamps they had. One time he went with his mother and when they got there she handed him the book of stamps and he was allowed to redeem it for whatever he wanted. Well he decided on a stuffed tiger and explained how he loved it to death. The fur was worn off and an eye wasn't tightly attached anymore.

He used this as an example of redemption. That he redeemed his stamps for the tiger and loved it to the point of death, much in a similar way as Jesus redeemed us. Only, as far as we know, he had no green stamp book.

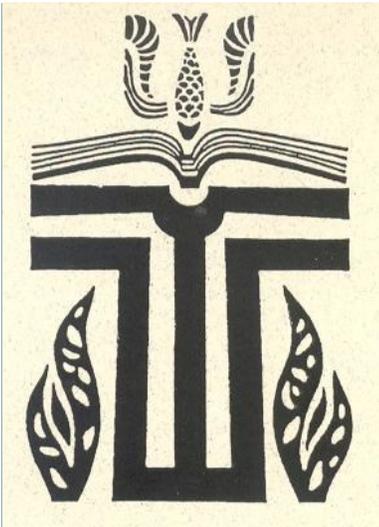
But, you see Jesus didn't come and redeem us while we were brand new looking, like the stuffed animals or blanket when we received them and loved them to death. Jesus came when we looked like death, when we looked like the blanket in shreds and tied in knots, when we looked like the monkey all worn and missing fur, when we looked like the tiger losing an eye. We didn't look new and pretty when we were redeemed we looked absolutely horrible. But that didn't matter to Christ because he loved us regardless. He loved us to death so that we could be transformed from looking like the blanket in shreds and tied in knots or the worn monkey and tiger to looking brand new. He transformed us into a brand new looking blanket or stuffed animal. You see my professor redeemed the book in for something new, Jesus redeemed us so that we could become something new.

What child when given the choice would redeem their stamp book for an old stuffed animal to a new? Or to put it in an adult understanding, what adult would redeem their stamp book for a nearly dead iphone or run down car compared to a brand new one? Of course we would choose the new, but Christ chose us when we looked like death because we were controlled by death and Christ redeemed us from both death and looking like death. We are redeemed into life and transformed into a new creation. That is the beauty of Christ. May we realize through the rest of this Lenten Season, as we anticipate the joyous celebration of Easter, just how great this redemption is for us! In response, may we live grateful lives, sharing this good news and blessing of grace poured out to not just redeem us, but make us new!



Good News Gazette

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



Write your blessed name,
O Lord,
Upon my heart,
There to remain so indeli-
bly engraven,
That no prosperity,
No adversity,
Shall ever move me from
your love.
Be to me a strong tower of
defense,
A comforter in tribula-
tion,
A deliverer in distress,
A very present help in
trouble,
And a guide to heaven
Through the many temp-
tations and dangers of
this life. Amen
Thomas a Kempis

Cooking Classes

Starting April 23rd we will be offering vegetarian cooking classes in partner with both HRP Green (who has granted start up funds) and Michaela Hayes (local farmer/owner of Rise and Root and professional chef). Each class will provide instructions for a main dish, a side/snack, and a healthy dessert. Examples of dishes you'll learn include zucchini fritters with dipping sauce, garlicky lemony green beans, and mango coconut sorbet. You are welcome to join us for just one class or participate to all 3 classes (April 23rd at 5pm, May 5th at 5pm, June 1st at 3pm). Classes are \$20/each to help cover the costs of the food/supplies as well as our instructor.

Vegetarian meals provide great health benefits, and eating a plant based diet also cuts down on carbon emissions that harm our world around us. Most individuals do not eat as many vegetables or plant-based foods as they should, rather grabbing processed food and meats. This does not always make for the healthiest of diets. It also has huge impacts on our environment that many are not always aware of, for eating a meat-based diet creates more carbon emissions/greenhouse gases. By helping to teach those in our community some healthier eating practices, we hope to help improve the quality of health in our communities and for our planet. For God desires we care for this good and beautiful creation - human, creature, and creation alike - given to us in the first chapters of Genesis. RSVP to church (469-4877 or info@chespresny.com). Spots are limited.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Story of Impact – Empowering Women to Farm:

Supporting OGHS provides assistance to organizations like Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE), a partner of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. With support and land rights training from ARUWE, Najjuma, a 56-year-old widow in Uganda, was able to keep her property.

Najjuma was farming the 8-acre farm to grow food for the three children and eight orphaned grandchildren in her care. Without the land, she would have no means to support these children.

When Najjuma's in-laws ordered her to leave the land her husband had inherited, she was able to work with ARUWE to appeal for help through local governance structures.

Your support of OGHS helps women like Najjuma and her family keep what little they have so they might continue living, farming, and thriving.

There are some coin fish banks on the back table in the sanctuary. We invite anyone who would like to take a bank to collect for the next few weeks. Please try to return your filled banks by April 14th (Palm Sunday) when we take our second collection and make our offering for OGHS.

LOOKING AHEAD

- April 1— Bible Study 10am at 19 Main St.**
April 2 – Evening Lenten Prayer 7pm
April 3 – Music and Worship meeting 11am
Lunch Bag Devotionals 12pm
April 7 – Deacons Meeting following worship
April 8 – Bible Study 10am at 19 Main St.
April 9— Evening Lenten Prayer 7pm
April 10— Lunch Bag Devotionals 12pm
Buildings and Grounds Meeting 6:45pm
April 14—Communion Service/Palm Sunday
Tentative Session meeting following worship
April 15—Bible Study 10am at 19 Main St.
April 16 – Women’s Council Meeting 1pm
Evening Lenten Prayer 7pm
April 17— Lunch Bag Devotionals 12pm
April 18— Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
April 21—Easter SonRise Service 7am (continental breakfast to follow)
Traditional Easter Service 10am
April 22—No Bible Study
Food Pantry Truck 3pm
April 23—Cooking Class 5pm
April 25 – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm
April 28— Bible Study 10am at 19 Main St.

A date is needed to de-brief our last RBD.

Pastor Erin will be away 4/5-4/7, if there is a pastoral emergency please contact an elder.

If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by April 23rd.

Note: June 8th will be our Chicken BBQ (Village wide yard sale).

Other dates to note (more info on bulletin board):

April 28th—Habitat Newburgh –Walk for Housing (registration 12:30)

May 18th—Presbybuild Talent Show

May 25th—Kiwaniis 5k

Stay tuned for information about a poetry slam held in memory of Tom Weigel (tentatively in May).

April Second Offering

Our second offering for Sunday, April 14th (Palm Sunday) will be for One Great Hour of Sharing. Please see the small article about how the funds for OGHS are used.

Church Office:

(845) 469-4877

E-mail:

info@chespresny.com

Website:

www.chespresny.com

Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/chespresny