



My, oh my, where has the year gone? Does anyone else feel like this? I know around September and the start of school many wonder where the summer went, but lately I'm left feeling like what happened since March? Has it really been 5 months since we've been able to gather in-person for worship? Some days it feels like just yesterday and other days it feels so long ago. With various issues of technology it's been, at times, harder to feel more connected. Though I am so incredibly thankful for the various modes of technology we do have that have helped us reach out to each other (even if just by snail mail!). But, perhaps the hardest part of all of this is what we still don't know what the future looks like... while we hope to gather again for outdoor worship, it's not clear how long this will last, if it will be safe to gather for indoor worship when the temperature changes, and if it is, how long until we may have to shut down completely again and go back to doing everything virtually. We really are living in some unknown times.

And while we may have felt like this before, wondering what's next in our life, the lives of our children, nieces, nephews, family and friends, perhaps it's never quite been to this extreme. Perhaps, now more than ever, we can relate to much of the books of the prophets in the Old Testament. I'm thinking of Isaiah and Jeremiah, among the small prophets, too. In many of these chapters of these books, as well as some of the Psalms, the Israelites are living in exile. All that they have ever known about life is gone. Some have been taken captive and living in a foreign land, some were left behind in their homeland only to be kicked out of their homes and live in some terrible conditions. Some question where God is, how it could get so bad, what hope do they have, what is next, what does the future look like... And perhaps, unlike the Israelites, we might listen better to the voices of the prophets. Voices that tell us we are to change our ways. Voices that tell us God is still with us but God desires devotion over sacrifice. Voices that tell us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Voices that remind us our ancestors have been in similar situations of unknown before, but that God has gotten them through, provided, and God will continue to provide. Voices that tell us nothing will be the same, but God is still with us.

Yes, we certainly live in many times of unknown right now, but I encourage you to take some time and read through the prophets. Read the book of Isaiah, the book of Jeremiah, even Lamentations. Read the Psalms and the minor prophets – Micah, Amos, and Hosea. Read about the times of unknown, distress, and wondering. And find the words of hope nestled in them, too. Yes, even here in the midst of the unknown, the panic, the distress, the fear God has left them, there are still words of hope. It doesn't mean everything goes back to being the same, that nothing changes, but just that there is hope. Hope in God, hope that God will again do a new thing, hope that the love of God is still present with us.

“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” – Isaiah 40:31

“The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.” Zephaniah 3:17

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:21-23



## **Good News Gazette**

First  
Presbyterian  
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### **Second Offering**

As you may remember, in Sept we usually have someone from Gideon's international come to share with us and we give a second offering to support their mission. It is unclear what sort of message might be shared and how (in-person is unlikely). However, we will continue to collect our Sept second offering on 9/ 27 for Gideon's International.

### **Clothing Bin:**

At this time, our clothing bin has been removed as the company was not able to keep up. It is uncertain if it will be back soon or if we will need to search for a new company/bin. Thank you for your patience.

## **Season of Creation sermon series**

This September we will again be celebrating the Season of Creation! We hope to soon gather outside for worship and what better way to celebrate the Season of Creation than by worshiping in the sanctuary of Creation, God's created world!

September 6 – Forest Sunday; Genesis 2:4b-22 and Acts 17:22-28

September 13 – Land Sunday

September 20 – Wilderness Sunday

September 27 – River Sunday

As a reminder, our services are posted to our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/chespresny/](http://www.facebook.com/chespresny/) and our YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLgI6VOe9lbmcfB4dRHGfA>

We also send out weekly email reminders, if you would like to be added to this list please email the church at [info@chespresny.com](mailto:info@chespresny.com) (please note, if you have not been receiving these emails it is either because we do not have your email address, the one we have is outdated, or it was not recorded properly in our directory).

### **Possible Book Study**

As we begin to gather together for outdoor worship we will also be making decisions about gathering for other meetings such as Bible Study and a possible book study. For both we would need to secure a shaded spot with not a lot of road noise so we wouldn't have to shout at each other to discuss. We may consider a local park or a business with outdoor space. However, we will also consider doing an online book study if those who want to attend do not feel comfortable gathering in person. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Erin. A few options for a book study would be:

A New Kind of Christianity – Brian McLaren

Half Truths – Adam Hamilton

Neighborhood Church - Krin Van Tatenhove and Rob Mueller

Everything Happens for a Reason (and other lies I've loved) – Kate Bowler

### **Food Pantry Update**

The Food Pantry continues to serve about 50 families. We are thankful for our volunteer base that has somewhat expanded and the hopes of what this means moving forward with the pantry. The local farmers continue to support with donated produce, and a few local businesses (as well as many community members) continue to help collecting donations and drop offs. We've also been partnering with the Florida Pantry. They give out Thursday mornings and we pick up any perishable items that won't last until the next distribution for our distribution Thursday afternoon. It is such a blessing to not just have such support but to be able to work in partnership with others. A truly living out of the community God calls us to be! Praise be to God!

## Recycling, currently collecting:

-Vitamin and supplement packaging, Personal care and foot care packaging, and throat and nasal care packaging (blister packs, tubes, bottles, caps, lids, cans, boxes) and Infant formula and child nutrition packaging (tubs, bottles, caps, lids, cans, boxes)

-Any old cell phone cases or Popsocket brand products

—disposable razors and its packaging

—empty writing instruments (pens, markers, etc...), glue sticks, watercolor dispensers, paint sets, and flexible packaging.

— old cell phones, tablets, laptops, and inkjet cartridges (from HP and Cannon only, no toner cartridges). However, it is recommended that all personal information be cleaned from the devices before they are sent in.

## Capital Campaign Update

We are calling a Capital Campaign meeting for Wednesday Sept 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. This meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held outside with everyone at 6ft distance. The meeting will be to discuss and determine a plan for year two of the campaign (which we already collected \$1700 for year two!). We will also discuss the continuation of projects that need to be done from year one (finishing insulation of the CE building once the weather cools down, roof repairs, manse updates, etc...). Please consider joining us for this meeting, we'd love to hear your input!

## Many Thanks

Pastor Erin and James want to pass along many thanks for all the kind words, well wishes, cards, and various ways of support for the wedding. It was a beautiful day that we wished everyone could have joined in the celebration but unfortunately, it was not possible. Hopefully, there will be a time in the not so distant future to celebrate together and praise God for new beginnings. Again, many thanks!



## Buildings and Grounds

Thank you to everyone who continues to help water, weed, and keep up with our grounds! As well as thank you to everyone who has been making sure the inside of the building remains up-to-date with care as well!

### Ruling Elders:

Vicki Braidotti

Ron Brooks

Ruth Magyar

Jerry Sutherland

Matt Van Der Meulen

Clerk of Session

Gene Winters

### Deacons:

Edna Babcock

Jean Barrett-

Helen Braidotti

Joanne Brooks

Vanessa Magyar

James Peterson—

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