



It's been a hard year... and even that right there is an understatement. It's been a year that many of us have never experienced before and hope to never experience again. Perhaps the good thing about the church calendar is that Advent marks the beginning of a new year! We are about a month ahead of the world around us as we enter into this time of anxious anticipation of Christ's arrival. So, maybe this year we might experience Advent a bit differently. This year that has taught us much about waiting, about our anxieties, about wondering where Christ is in it all. The season of Advent is typically described as the season of waiting, of anticipation, of preparing our hearts for Christ to enter in.

Advent means arrival, a notable arrival of a person, thing, or event, and in it we await Christ's arrival. While we know he already arrived (spoiler alert), entered into our world, we also know that he will one day come again. This season of Advent, this time that we set aside once a year, reminds us of this – that Christ will one day come again. However, it doesn't only remind us of this, it reminds us of what it looked like the first time Christ entered our world.

There was no pomp and circumstance. A young woman answered yes to an angel, a young man awoke startled from a dream, they traveled to the small town of Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The only ones who came to visit the night of his birth were lowly shepherds who heard the angels' voices proclaiming his arrival. He came humbled as a child, an infant, needing the love of a mother and father to care for him and help him grow. He came to those who were willing to welcome him, to those who were eager to hear the voice of angels, the voice of God. Even as he began his ministry, it is the ones who were open to him, his radical welcome, teachings, and healings that believed and followed after. The ones who made the choice to have their whole lives changed.

This year, many of us did not have a choice in the matter of our whole lives changing – unlike Mary, no one asked us if we wanted to experience something completely life altering. But, here we are, in the middle of it all. Perhaps feeling a bit like the rest of Israel the time Mary became pregnant, wondering where God is in it all. For by this time, it had been hundreds of years since a prophet had proclaimed the word of God. Many felt abandoned, losing hope, wondering what was next.

This year, as many are sharing those same feelings, may we truly come to know what it means to wait for Christ, anxiously await his goodness, mercy, and love. In the stories we hear and share, may we realize what the Israelites often forgot – God is always with us (Emmanuel). May we remember we are never alone. As we journey through this Advent season with all the challenges and changes of life, may we choose each step of the way to welcome Christ – to welcome Christ into our hearts, into our lives, into our world. For it is only when we do this that our lives can be transformed, restored, and made new.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

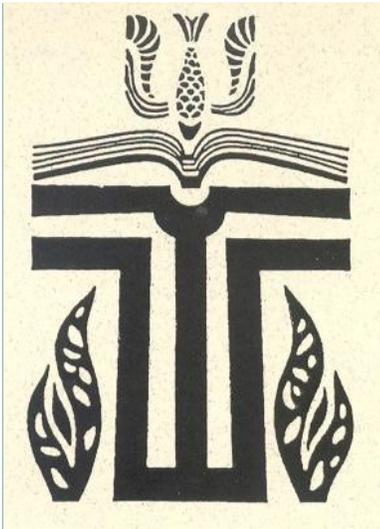
⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” - Isaiah 9:2-6



Good News Gazette

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



Second Offering

The Second Offering for December will be the PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering. This offering is split in two ways. First, it makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Second, it provides assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

Ziti Dinner

A HUGE thank you to all who helped make the ziti take out dinner such a success! We were able to raise over \$1600! We certainly couldn't have done it without the collected effort. Thank you to all who helped with advertising, making phone calls, buying supplies, all the prep work and cooking as well as getting it all packaged and to people's cars! We've heard nothing but compliments and hope that next time we can work out the few kinks but all in all it went very well!

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 5th, we will be having a bit of holiday fun! The plan is to sell pre-packaged home-made Christmas cookies, have a small craft fair, provide some live or recorded music, do some socially distanced pictures with Santa (paint a figure/cut out from plywood), etc... This event is right around the corner and we will need some help for it to be a success. If you have any items that could go into a gift bag, please bring to the church by Wednesday, Dec 2nd. Monday, Nov 30th, we will begin pricing items between 1:00-2:30pm.

All cookies are needed by Wednesday evening.

Thursday, Dec 3rd we will be packaging cookies and setting up the Community Room. Time TBD.

If needed, this will continue into Friday.

Saturday, Dec 5th, day of event – if helping please be there between 9:15-9:30am for final set-up.

The Bazaar will feature prepackaged homemade cookies for sale, various crafts from ornaments to scarves to blankets, decorations, and more! There will be a Santa wood cutout for kids of all ages to safely get their picture with Santa. And there might even be some pre-packaged gift baskets for that certain someone. Help spread the word! We are also taking pre-orders for the homemade cookies!

Book Study

We are starting a book study/book club with “A New Kind of Christianity: 10 questions that are transforming the faith” by Brian McLaren. We will begin Dec 1st at 7pm in the church library.

Please contact Pastor Erin if you are interested so a date/time/place can be determined. A book can be provided, but Pastor Erin needs to know ASAP.

(erinmoore@chespresny.com or 469-4877)

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.

Good Clothes Collection

As you may know, our clothing bin has been removed due to the pandemic and we are unsure when/if we will get it back. However, Betty Ann Reilly has set up an account with a local consignment shop to sell used/good clothes and we get a portion of the sale (if they sell). We will work on setting up a place for drop off, but please be in touch with Betty Ann about what clothes the consignment shop is accepting (if they have too much of something, for example boys clothes, they will not accept more until what they have sells).

Looking Ahead...

December 1 – Book Study begins 7pm

December 3 – Set-up and prep for the Christmas Bazaar

December 5 – Christmas Bazaar 10am-2pm

December 6 – 10am Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service - Peace

December 7 – Bible Study 10 am

December 13 – 10am Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service - Joy

December 14 – Bible Study 10 am

December 15 – Book Study 7pm

December 17 - Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm

December 20 – 10am Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service - Love

December 21 – Bible Study 10 am; Tentative - Longest Night Worship Service 7pm

December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship Service 7pm

December 27 – 10am Worship Service

December 28 – No Bible Study

December 28-31 Pastor Erin will be away on Vacation. If there is a pastoral emergency, please contact one of the elders.

If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by December 17th.

As a reminder, our services are posted to our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/chespresny/ and our YouTube page: [https://](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLgI6VOe9lbmcfB4dRHGfA)

www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLgI6VOe9lbmcfB4dRHGfA

Bottles and Cans

Do you just throw away your bottles and cans? Do you not bother redeeming them? We can help! Or, rather, you can help us!! Bring your bottles and cans for us to redeem and help support our mission and ministry in the community! They can be dropped off at anytime by the side entrance to the sanctuary or by the barn door.

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—

Moderator & treasurer

Church Office:

(845) 469-4877

E-mail:

info@chespresny.com

Website:

www.chespresny.com

Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/chespresny