



Happy New Year! May this year truly be a new and beautiful year from the last. May we give thanks to God for helping us make it through and offer up prayers that this year God continues to provide abundant blessings as we strive to serve God faithfully in this new year. And may this be our prayer for the new year:

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing, put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,

exalted for you, or brought low for you;

let me be full,

let me be empty,

let me have all things,

let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things

to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

This prayer is the Wesley Covenant Prayer. Its origins are subject of much debate over who first wrote it and who it can be attributed to – whether English puritan or influences of German piety or echoes of the high church (Anglican) tradition from which Wesley sprang. Yet, in 1755, John Wesley adapted it for a Covenant Renewal Service. Tradition was that at the beginning of each year, this prayer was read. It helped to refocus Christians' faith and priorities as they entered into a new year.

May this new year we start off by renewing the covenant with our God, to put God first and foremost in our lives. Maybe this can be our new year's resolution. This new year maybe we can reflect on the past year and all the places we let the world be put first, where we failed, and make a resolution to do better this year. Chances are we will still fail again this year with always putting God first (no one is perfect), but the more we consider how we can put God first, the better chance we have of actually being able to do it. As we enter into this new year, of still so many unknowns, may one thing be made know, our God still desires us, loves us, and calls us into covenant together. May we continue to strive to love and serve our God faithfully in this coming year.



Good News Gazette

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



Second Offering

The Second Offering for January will go towards the second year goal for our capital campaign.

Help Needed

A local community member has reached out seeking help with his two young children. They are looking for a full-time (40hrs) babysitter/nanny starting at \$20/hour. After 2-3 months the pay will go up to \$22/hr. If you know anyone who is interested please contact Pastor Erin.

Christmas Bazaar

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas Bazaar such a success. We were able to raise over \$1700 through your efforts of baking cookies, making crafts, and helping to work the sale. We couldn't have done it without all the help! We look forward to continuing to work on crafts regularly throughout the year and hold a larger craft fair in the fall.

Buildings and Grounds Help

We are in need of a volunteer or a few to help cap off the electric in the CE building attic. We cannot continue with finishing the insulation until this is completed. If you are willing to help, please contact Pastor Erin or James Peterson. Thank you!

Capital Campaign Update

We are about half way through our campaign for the year, the second of our multi-year campaign. We hope to raise another \$20,000 for a new sign, tree removal, manse work, and update the heating system in the CE building (as we fear our 1960s furnace might fail us any day now). To date we have raised about \$8,000 towards the campaign.

Per Capita Update

Per Capita for the new year has remained the same at \$39. We will have more information in the February newsletter and will be taking this up as our second offering in February.

Nominating Committee Update

The nominating committee has been working to determine leadership for this new year, 2021. While they are still waiting for a few responses, it looks like we will have at least one Elder spot open. We ask that you please prayerfully consider if God is calling you for such a time as this to fill this seat, even if just for one year. Please, take time to prayerfully consider this as it is extremely needed during this time. Contact Edna Babcock, Betty Ann Reilly, Matt Van Der Meulen, Janet Writer, or Pastor Erin if you are interested. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

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, water-color 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...

January 4—Bible Study 10am in the library

January 6 – Book Study 7pm in the library

January 10—Session meeting following worship

January 11—Bible Study 10am in the library

January 13—Buildings and Grounds meeting 7pm

January 18—Bible Study 10am in the library

January 19 or 20 (TBD) - book study in the library

January 25—Bible Study 10am in the library

January 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 December 17th.

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

www.facebook.com/chespresny/ and our YouTube page: <https://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

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