

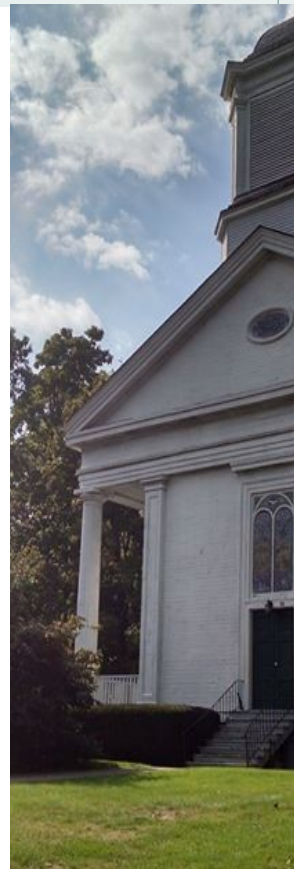


It's been an interesting year to reflect on; one that I struggle thinking I spend too much time reflecting and one that I feel like I don't spend enough time reflecting on. But as we anticipate the celebration of Easter in-person, in our sanctuary this year I can't help but reflect on how much more hope we have than this same time last year. Unfortunately, last Easter there was still so much death, pain, and destruction ravaging our area and country. We all felt the devastation of not being able to gather for Easter, for many the first time in our lives. There was still so much unknown about what the future held and as we hoped we might have been able to gather for Pentecost, sadly, that was not the case either.

Yet, this year, this Easter is filled with so much more hope, more joy, more anticipation of the new life coming. So, take a moment to let that soak in, compared to this same time frame last year, we are filled with immensely more hope. Let that hope turn into joy as we anticipate not just our Savior's resurrection but the amazing possibilities that come with new life.

For this same time last year, we were also recognizing how, while we longed to return to normal, normal really wasn't working for much of our country and much of our world. As we celebrate the resurrection this year, how can we also celebrate the newness of life around us? How can we honor the resurrection of Christ with welcoming in the needed changes so that all may truly have access to new life, to abundant life? Maybe we commit to buying products from companies that pay a living wage. Maybe one day a week we don't consume any meat. Maybe take steps to understand our implicit bias's. Maybe we donate our unneeded stimulus monies to worthy causes, to those in need either in our community, around our country, or relief programs throughout the world. As we are filled with so much more hope this Easter, how can we not just share the hope but truly share the good news of new life with those around us? How can we proclaim, in ways that are tangible, I have seen the Lord! to those who often feel caught in the depths of desperation and despair?

Beloved, while we still may not know fully what new life looks like, I pray Jesus opens our eyes and that we have faith enough to see and to believe. Faith enough to fully enter in to the new life of the in-breaking Kingdom. For the Lord has risen, he has risen, indeed! Hallelujah! Amen.



Good News Gazette

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



Second Offering

Our second offering for Sunday, April 18th will be for the Capital Campaign.

Needed: Clerk of Session

Session is in need of someone who would be willing to serve as Clerk of Session. Anyone who has been ordained a ruling elder is able to fill this role. Please prayerfully consider serving in this way as we only have a temporary Clerk & Session/the church cannot continue in this way for very long. If you are willing to fulfill even just part of this role or share it with another elder, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Congregational Conversations

As was shared this past Sunday, Session is seeking to have a small committee formed to help determine and navigate congregational conversations. We are looking for a few congregation members to pair with about 2 Session members to work together to determine a plan for these conversations to take place starting after Easter. So far we have 3 congregation members who have volunteered, others are welcome, too. Please see Pastor Erin or a member of Session if you are interested in help with this work. It is not a big time commitment. The committee will meet to determine the conversations, once about half way through the conversations, and then again once all the conversations are complete. We hope to have the committee formed by the week of the 12th.

Book Study—New Book Alert

Our Book Group will be starting a new book by the end of April! We are so excited to have finished our first book together and have already picked our second book, “Consider the Birds” by Debbie Blue. Here is a bit about the book from Debbie’s website: “From biblical times to today, people have found meaning and significance in the actions and symbolism of birds. We admire their mystery and manners, their strength and fragility, their beauty and their ugliness—and perhaps compare these very characteristics to our own lives in the process. From the well-known image of the dove to the birds that gorge on the flesh of the defeated “beast” in Revelation, birds play a dynamic part in Scripture. They bring bread to the prophets. They are food for the wanderers. As sacrifices, they are the currency of mercy. They also challenge, offend, devour, and fight. Highlighting 10 birds throughout Scripture, author Debbie Blue explores their significance in both familiar and unfamiliar biblical stories and illustrates how and why they have represented humanity across culture, Christian tradition, art, and contemporary psyche. With these (usually) minor characters at the forefront of human imaginations, poignant life lessons illuminate such qualities as desire and gratitude, power and vulnerability, insignificance and importance—and provide us with profound lessons about humanity, faith, and God’s mysterious grace.”

Please consider joining us. We meet usually Tuesday or Wednesday evenings at 7pm. If you are interested, please see Pastor Erin.

Recycling, currently collecting: NEWLY UPDATED

- 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, glue sticks, watercolor dispensers, paint sets, and flexible packaging.
- empty toothpaste tubes, mouthwash, old (clean) toothbrushes, empty floss containers, soap packaging, empty deodorant containers

Crafters Corner

We are collecting some supplies:

Pallets
Light bulbs
Flower pots
Old picture frames
Old flatware
Tea cups
Old spools of thread
Rulers or yardsticks
wood cuts – small and medium
Wood scraps (nothing too small, please)
Tin cans (no sharp edges please)
Old candles
Neck ties
slate
old jeans
wine glasses, other glasses (needs to have smooth sides, no etching or design)
old wood cutting boards
Old bicycles/bicycle parts
keys - old house keys, car keys, etc... (preferably no plastic on them)
Metal bottle caps
old cabinets
sweaters

Crafters are working on projects both in person and at home. If you'd like to help, there is plenty to do! We are currently seeking help with the following (which can all be done at home):

- Cutting corks in half
- Removing labels from wine bottles
- Making no-sew fleece blankets (a pattern and instructions will be given, just need to be able to cut!)
- Painting corks
- Some small crochet crafts
- Help cleaning so old barn wood

If you are able/willing to help with any of these please see Pastor Erin or Betty Ann Reilly.

Bottles and Cans

Bring your bottles and cans for us to redeem and help support our mission and ministry! They can be dropped off at any-time by the side entrance to the sanctuary or by the barn door.

Ruling Elders:

Vicki Braidotti
Ron Brooks
Jerry Sutherland
Gene Winters
Janet Writer

Deacons:

Edna Babcock
Jean Barrett-
Helen Braidotti
Joanne Brooks
Catherine DeAngelis
James Peterson—
Moderator & treasurer

Church Office:

(845) 469-4877

E-mail:

info@chespresny.com

Website:

www.chespresny.com

Facebook page:

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



Shop with Scrip

We have an opportunity for an easy fundraiser if we have one or two people willing to be “point person.” Shop with Scrip is a similar program to our ShopRite Gift Card program, only it opens up the possibilities of over 100s of stores. Each store donates a certain percentage of each gift card sold through our organization back to our organization. For example, Amazon gives 2.25% back whereas CVS gives 6% back. Gift cards can be ordered online and emailed directly to you or ordered through a point person through the church and mailed out. This is minimal work, even for the point person or two, and could be a very easy fundraiser for our church if one or two people are able to help. Please see Pastor Erin if you are willing to be the point person.

Fundraising Plans

Thank you to all who helped make our small business raffle such a success! We were able to raise \$1450 through this fundraiser effort as well as provide \$300 towards local businesses in our community! We will determine the time frame to do another raffle rotating in gift cards from other local businesses. Please share your thoughts about which ones and we'll consider how we can support them in the next raffle!

Thank you to all who helped make our soup fundraiser a success! We sold over 170 pints of soup/chili, exceeding our goal of 150!

We are still awaiting receipts to determine our net total. So far our gross total is \$1100. Please note, this includes a few generous donations.

We are planning another Ziti Take-Out Dinner for April 24th. Please see the sign up sheet on the back table in the sanctuary or contact Pastor Erin (erinmoore@chespresny.com or 845-469-4977) if you are able to help.

Future hoped for events:

June 12th (save the date) – Chicken BBQ tied to village-wide yard sale and we would hold a yard sale, too. Please see the sign up sheet on the back table in the sanctuary so we can determine we have enough help to do both.

A Fall Craft Fair and possible chicken BBQ, November dinner, and small Christmas Bazaar

We'd love to hear other ideas/suggestions! Please share your thoughts! You can pass them along to Pastor Erin, a Session member, or leave a note in the collection plate.

Looking Ahead

April 1 – Maundy Thursday Service 7pm

April 4 – Easter Sunday, Sunrise 7am, traditional 10am

April 5 – No Bible Study

April 12 – Bible Study 10am

April 13 – Buildings and Grounds 7pm tentative

April 14 – Crafters meeting at 3pm; Book Study 7pm

April 18 – Session meeting following worship

April 19 – Bible Study 10am; Tentative food pantry truck

April 22 – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm

April 26 – Bible Study 10am

Pastor Erin will be away April 5-11th. 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 April 19th.

Presbytery News

Holmes Camp and Retreat Center welcomes your help at their upcoming Work Day on April 10th. Please consider participating. Details here: <https://conta.cc/3tKqk3x> or see the Holmes Camp website: <https://holmescamp.org/>

On Monday **April 12th** at 10 a.m. the presbytery will host a zoom gathering for church-related **food pantries and feeding programs**. This will be an occasion to share information on what has worked as need and client numbers have grown and to brainstorm what might be done next. If you are connected with a pantry and would like to be added to the list for this event, please let Susan De-George (susandegorge@hudrivpres.org) know.

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany invite you to their Spring Zoom Gathering, Thursday, **April 22**, 10:00 am to noon: ***Creation Care - How Can We as a Church Respond to God's Call?***

There is a flier on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary with more information. For a copy of this flier, please contact Pastor Erin.

HRPGreen and the Presbytery Committee on Representation with the support of 16 HRP congregations has been awarded a Legacy grant to provide training on systemic racism and environmental justice. The **Racial Justice Team** is planning a 3-year initiative which will include trainings, workshops, worship, and actions. More information will be available soon. In the meantime, if you'd like to get more involved, further information can be provided. Please see Pastor Erin and she can supply you the "working" list of resources the Presbytery provides.

HRPGreen, a partnership of Hudson River Presbytery, will premiere their latest Healing Sacred Sites Service on Sunday, April 11th, a virtual tour of Newburgh. It is a worship and education experience—an Environmental Justice Death and Resurrection Tour of Newburgh, NY. It combines liturgy, music, photography, and an online exploration of environmental justice sites, the tour features speakers representing science, the community, and religion. For those who participated a few years ago, it is very similar to the Peekskill Death and Resurrection Tour. A video will be posted both to our Facebook page and access on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/8rBBwA18kyc>) Anyone with questions or help accessing the link, please contact Pastor Erin.

Community News

Library Book Delivery

The Chester Public Library offers home-bound book delivery services for people who are unable to visit the library due to limited mobility, illness, or handicap. Homebound status can be permanent or temporary. Doctor's notes are not required. This is a FREE service. Call for more information: 845-469-4252

NY Project Hope (Coping with COVID)

Feeling uncertain, overwhelmed, anxious during COVID? NY Project Hope is here to talk, to listen, and to support. They provide:
Information
Education
Emotional support
Links to resources

Speak with one of their experienced counselors: dial 311
It is free, anonymous, and confidential

(A program of the NYS Office of Mental Health Funded by FEMA)