



Community Presbyterian Church News

APRIL, 2021

Community Presbyterian Church
P. O. Box 148, 220 Main Street
Chester, New Jersey 07930
908-879-5091
www.cpcchester.org

From Worship Council

GOOD FRIDAY

- Sanctuary will be open for quiet meditation from 8:30 am till 7 pm. Masks and social distancing required.
- A Tenebrae service of readings and gradual darkness will be offered at 7pm in Fellowship Center. Again, masks are required.

EASTER

Easter is always a special time of hope and renewal. This year, we're able to gather, safely, together to celebrate this most holy day. Alleluia!!



We're planning three services for Easter morning:

- 6:30 at Alstede's Farm
- 8:30 in Fellowship Center
- 10:00 in Fellowship Center

So that we can keep everyone safe, we're limiting the number of participants in the two indoor worship services.

PLEASE SIGN UP TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE!

You can do this by:

1. Signing up on the sheet posted in Fellowship Center.
2. Calling the office and letting us know
 - 1) which service you'd like to attend and
 - 2) how many people are coming
 - 3) your phone number

Emailing the same information (which service, how many and phone number) to the office at office@cpcchester.org.

Please join us any Sunday morning at 10 AM in Fellowship Center or online at the you

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Pastor's Page

This is a very special place to be, even in a normal year; we are at the end of Lent and rapidly approaching Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and then Easter Sunday. What makes it so special this year, is where we have been for the past year, and where we still are now in many ways, but the especially joyful thing about this Easter season is that we will be able to worship together. Even for those who must worship online, we are able to do that live this year rather than via a pre-recorded broadcast. So whether you are venturing out much yet or not, this Easter season is very different in many good ways.

Lent and Eastertide are seasons when we reflect on who we are, genuinely and truly. Who we are when the light of God's truth shines upon us; can be an uncomfortable view, kind of like looking close up in a mirror when the light is just a bit too bright to shadow our imperfections.

While we can approach this Easter season with a singular form of joy and feeling of redemption and renewal because of the pandemic, there are many difficult things in our very recent past upon which to reflect. There are also many new problems that have surfaced and we have to face it day by day, no matter how normal things start to feel, COVID-19 is still with us as a nation and as a world community.

We have spent so much time and effort simply trying to discover what the situation is in our immediate area and also to figure out what that actually means. We have spent much time being inwardly focused out of necessity and self-preservation, that the areas of the world, both geographically and societally, that we find so easy to forget have been even more forgotten and marginalized.

Everyone in the world has been affected by the pandemic. I think we can all say that despite all we went through, we have weathered it relatively well, and that is an incredible privilege to be able to say. But the parts of the world that are typically forgotten, "the least of these" to use scriptural language, are still suffering with much less hope.

The truth is that in Jesus Christ, God's light shines upon us all, illuminating all things. The discomfort we feel at seeing the truth of who we are is overshadowed by the love of God in Jesus, who died for us despite all of our imperfections, as difficult as that may be to believe at times.

That same light dispels all shadows, even in the darkest places, exposing the needs of the world so that WE can do something about them. Not simply acknowledge, not simply pray, but to do and to act with the power of privilege we all enjoy. The light shines in the dark as a beacon calling us to action. As Christ was and is a man of action, so must we be people of action if we are to be called his own.

May this Easter season not only be the joyous season of redemption that it always is, may this season of Easter be especially joyous because of the journey we have taken during this past year. May this season of Easter be the season in which we pray to God, not just in gratitude of our deliverance, but for direction and strength as we move along our path into making the darkest areas bright.

Your Pastor,

Rev. Chris Scrivens

FootSteps

Following Our One Teacher to Study Teach Experience Pray Salvation

Sunday School: Our Sunday School Zoom meetings have been well attended a great way for the children of our congregation to stay connected. We have been meeting weekly virtually from 9:00-9:30 to allow families travel time to church for in person worship. Our Sunday School class begins with the children chatting and catching up with one another, followed by reading from either our online bibles or separate book. Arrangements have been made for the children to get materials in order to complete activities/crafts at home. Together, we have completed “7 Days of Valentine’s”, “Thumbprint Love Tree”, “Jesus is my Pot O’ Gold” and an ongoing “Lent Stain Glass Cross.” Each child has an “Old Testament” Bingo board at home which allows us to end our lesson with a fun game. To help children feel comfortable with group prayer, we have started a new way to end our lessons. One child starts the prayer and everyone has a turn to add someone/something they would like to pray for. As a group, we spoke a lot about various bible stories, some of which have been a review, to ensure complete understanding.

Discussed bible stories include: Jesus, and Feeding the 5,000. of donating and talk about the If your child missed one of our and I will happily send you remember, friends and family so please feel free to reach out utilize our online bible activities review their bible stories. continue to use the Five Finger Together we are making



The Good Samaritan, John Baptizes Additionally, we discuss the importance food collection for the Easter baskets. zoom meetings, please let me know activities to complete at home. Please members are always welcome to join, so I may add them to our list. Please as they are a fun way for the children to www.adventurebible.com Additionally, Model with your children while praying. Footsteps for the children of our future.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at #908-879-5091 or familyministries@cpcchester.org. Thank you for your help and support. Love, Melissa Ash



FROM PARISH LIFE

SAVE THE DATE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS for **May 23rd: Outdoor Picnic** (bring your own food, drinks and seating) following the Worship Service.

BOOK CLUB

Members of the Book Club met in person on Wednesday, March 3rd for a discussion of Anxious People by Fredrik Backman. At the meeting they chose Winter Garden by Kristin Hanna as the next book and plan to meet on Wednesday, April 7th for a discussion of the book. Book suggestions and additional participants are always welcome! If you have questions, please contact Joan Stephens (201) 874-1477.

CHURCH LIFE



Presbyterian Women held their first meeting in 2021 on March 14th. Topics discussed were:

- Annual Dinner will be postponed to late summer/fall 2021. We will be looking for an outdoor dining venue if possible.
- There is plenty of stock Easter hand outs for the Easter Egg hunt. PW will not need to order any items.
- Please start thinking about nominating a fellow member for Presbyterian Woman of the Year. We will send out a list of previous recipients. Ginger Miller Jones was the last Presbyterian Woman of the Year elected.
- PW will commit to giving the CPC Deacons in 2021 \$2,000 for their various projects.

Financially we are in good shape but will need to hold another fundraiser this year. Hopefully we can have the Holiday Extravaganza again. Projected date will be Saturday, November 13th. We might have to make some changes to what we have offered in the past. As time goes by, we can assess the covid situation in our area and see if it is advisable to hold an event open to the public. If you have holiday craft items you would like to make, please go ahead and work on those. We welcome all ideas! If you have jewelry--costume or real you would like to donate, please drop off in the church office. Jewelry has become a good seller for us at the Extravaganza. Tax donation forms are available in the office.

The next PW meeting will be held on Sunday, May 16th at 11 am.

Thank all of you for your support this past year!

Beth and Michelle

FROM YOUR DEACONS

The Community Presbyterian Deacons have been busy all month and meeting virtually to discuss upcoming events. As a group, we mailed personalized cards enclosed with Starbucks gift cards to the college students of our congregation. Over the last few weeks, we have also been collecting food donations for our Easter Baskets. We have been collecting and sorting the requested items for about 50 local families that use the Chester Food Pantry. The Chester Girl Scouts are hosting a drive-thru food collection on Saturday, March 20th from 10:00-Noon at CPC to help with the collection as well. We are hoping to not only include the requested food items, but a Shop Rite gift card as well as a box of Girl Scout cookies in each basket. Working with Stony Hill Farm, each basket will include fresh, local produce. If you would like to contribute to our Easter Baskets, please leave your donation at church or drive by Saturday! Baskets will be packed on Monday, March 29th. Upcoming fundraising events have been discussed, but dates have not been set. We are hoping to host a parking fundraiser when local events occur.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Donations are always happily and gratefully accepted

Items that are most needed: Paper towels, toilet paper, jelly, Jam, canned stews, chili, deodorant, dish detergent, laundry detergent, cereal, coffee, cooking oil, cookies, crackers, pancake mix, syrup, sides.

PLEASE: No Glass containers of any kind

Thank you for your generosity.

Items maybe dropped off in the trunk in Fellowship Center.

BYG ~ (Big Youth Group) ~ Upcoming Fundraising Events!



Clothing Drive!

Saturday, April 17

11:00am-4:00pm

**Community Presbyterian Church
220 Main Street, Chester, NJ 07930**

*****All items donated must be in good, usable condition. Items we collect are NOT SHREDDED.*****

We are collecting:

All Merchandise must be in a Plastic or Paper Bag.

Adult & Children Clothing, Shoes, Apparel, Handbags, Purses, Wallets, Sandals, Sneakers, Boots, Jackets, Coats, Rain Gear, Leathers, Belts, Ties, Pants, Shirts, Sweaters, Vests, Blouses, Dresses, Skirts, Robes, Undergarments, Sheets, Towels, Linens, Tablecloths, Hats, Scarfs, Gloves, Wallets, Jewelry, Watches, Uniforms, Jerseys, Backpacks, New Diapers, and **NOW ACCEPTING** Household Items, Utensils, Hard & Soft Toys, Electronics, Small Bric-A-Brac Items which all must be bagged.

Not Acceptable Items:

Flea Market, Yard Sales, Furniture, Books, Pillows & Curtains. Any large items such as Baby Carriages, Strollers, or other large Bric-A-Brac items that are of similar size.

Any merchandise that has holes, rips, stains, mold or has an odor.

Any items once they have been re-bagged after they have left the home.

If you need to drop off prior to Saturday please Contact BYG to schedule an appointment bygwork-camp@gmail.com

Fundraiser to benefit BYG Work Camp!

CHURCH LIFE



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

The following is a list of APRIL anniversaries and birthdays according to our church records. If there are any additions or corrections, please let the church office know so that we are able to update our files. Thank you.



Happy Anniversary wishes to . . .

James Suter and Deb Madsen 04/03/93
Tom and Karen Stewart 04/21/79
Derek & Karen Wilson 04/27/91

April Birthdays

Mark Puffer	04/01	Andrea Hartle	04/10	Helen Jones	04/22
Athena Meseck	04/02	Kerri Wright	04/11	Karen McConnell	04/23
Eleanor Biribauer	04/03	Nicholas Clessuras	04/12	Paul Beam	04/25
Adelaide Lavelle	04/03	Barbara Misar	04/12	Jennifer Dean	04/25
Timothy Treutlein	04/03	Marc Moffitt	04/13	Mark Seel	04/25
Aubree West	04/03	Derek Wilson	04/17	Bart Case	04/26
Miriam Gonsiska	04/06	Richard Carrara, III	04/21	Joshua Hartle	04/26
Bill Jardine	04/06	Annibelle Ernst	04/21	Emily Sullivan	04/26
Dawn Clessuras	04/07	Bob Jones	04/21	Emily Hemmes	04/29
Ava Hartle	04/07	Suzanne Hoffman	04/22	Scott Ernst	04/30
Jack Dean	04/08				



*Wishing everyone a
Happy Easter*

DIRECTORY OF CHURCH OFFICERS

The Rev. Christopher Scrivens, Moderator of the Session	(908) 879-5091 O (732) 801-4801 C	pastor@cpcchester.org
Jeanne Perry, Clerk of Session	(908) 672-4612 C (908) 879-6269 H	jeanniema@aol.com
John Pfaff, Treasurer	(908) 768-9995 C (908) 879-5859 H	johnpfaff3@gmail.com

ELDERS

Name	Council	Telephone	E-Mail
Carolyn Bearlepp	Mission & Discipleship	(908) 441-2215	cbrooksmenagh@aol.com
Jen Bordonaro	Mission & Discipleship	(347) 909-1761 C	richjenn_bordonaro@yahoo.com
John Hellriegel	Stewardship & Finance, Chair	(973) 513-5154 C (973) 543-0708 H	johnnyhell@hotmail.com
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Terri Kramer	Mission & Discipleship	(908) 876-9384 H	vkramer49@comcast.net
Ron McConnell	Management, Chair	(908) 879-6143 H	r.c.mcc@comcast.net
Andy Smith	Management	(908) 879-1740 H	amsmith930@earthlink.com
Joan Stephens	Parish Life, Chair	(201) 874-1477 C	Stephens@mescomed.com
Nancy Morris Thaiss	Worship, Chair	(908) 879-4718 H	nancytmorris@comcast.net
Emily West	Parish Life	(908) 674-2734 H	emilyw6813@gmail.com

DEACONS

Melissa Ash	Mission & Discipleship	(908) 955-7608 H	missy62580@hotmail.com
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April 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Good Friday 10:00 Al-Anon	3
4 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30 Sunrise Service At Alstede's 8:30 Worship in Fellowship Center 10:00 Worship in Fellowship Center	5 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 LifeLong Fitness virtual	6 7:00 Overeat. Anon. virtual	7 4:30 LifeLong Fitness virtual 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 6:30 Book Club	8	9 10:00 Al-Anon	10
11 9:00 Virtual Sunday School 10:00 Worship: person and virtual 11:00 Scrip	12 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 LifeLong Fitness virtual 7:00 COUNCILS 7:00 Boy Scouts- outside	13 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Overeat. Anon. virtual 7:00 COUNCILS	14 4:30 Lifelong Fitness virtual 6:30 Bell Rehearsal	15	16 10:00 Al-Anon	17 11-4 BYG CLOTHING DRIVE at CPC
18 9:00 Virtual Sunday School 10:00 Worship: In person & virtual	19 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 LifeLong Fitness virtual 7:00 Boy Scouts - outside	20 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 SESSION 7:00 Overeat. Anon virtual	21 4:30 LifeLong Fitness virtual 6:30 Bell Rehearsal	22	23 10:00 Al-Anon	24
25 9:00 Virtual Sunday School 10:00 Worship	26 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 LifeLong Fitness virtual 7:00 Boy Scouts outside 7:30 DEACONS	27 7:00 Overeat. Anon. virtual	28 4:30 LifeLong Fitness virtual 6:30 Bell Rehearsal	29	30 10:00 Al-Anon	