

Community Presbyterian Church
FEBRUARY~MARCH 2026

Community Presbyterian
Church
P. O. Box 148, 220 Main Street
Chester, New Jersey 07930



Join us to celebrate the start of Lent
With our annual
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday,
February 17th
6-7 pm

We will start with dinner and
fellowship and then move to the
Sanctuary for a short service
with imposition of ashes.

Sign up in Fellowship Center

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Pastor's Page

It has been long said that “*absence makes the heart grow fonder*”. Since the snow season has begun, I think we have realized that in a different way. It is really nice that we have the ability to live stream the service, when there are just a few folks here and most are more safe and comfortable worshipping at home. It is likewise nice that I live close to the Church, 200’ the last time I checked, and can do a “Fireside Chat” if it is so bad that we decide to simply close. These things are very convenient, and more and more folks feel comfortable availing themselves of the technology. But we have had to do this enough in the past month or so to realize how nice it is and how much we enjoy simply being together.

The “community” in Community Presbyterian Church of Chester (CPCC or more commonly simply CPC) has long meant to me that we are present and active in our local community, and that is certainly true. It is nice being the big church on Main Street with the defining red doors so that we are visible. More importantly, this congregation has always been a bright spot in our little town. One of the things that attracted me here nearly 20 years ago was how frequently the parking lot was busy. The CPC campus provides peace to so many community groups: several scouting groups, recovery groups, the Chester 50 + Club, a quilting/sewing group, and more, as well as our own internal groups. It is a busy place for community life.

But back to the absence part. We know how meaningful worship in person is for those who can make it regularly; the sounds of the music, the interaction during prayer time, and the connection I enjoy with all of you during the sermon. Whether you are worshipping in person or online, it is always nice to hear what has been meaningful to you during the service. Some people, especially when worshipping online and you have the ability to pause, send me details (sometimes very detailed) questions about certain aspects of the sermon. This leads to discussion and connection, and connection is what community life in a church is all about.

I’m not sure what the groundhog saw today, and I’m fairly sure that it makes no difference. I know that winter is still here and does not seem to be going anywhere soon, but I am grateful for all of you who make up this community. I am glad we can worship together almost no matter what the weather and that our community can live and thrive in such conditions; but it is always nice when we can see each other and continue to build those bonds.

And those are my simple early February reflections as my weather app tells me it is 22 degrees Fahrenheit out and the snow and ice don’t seem to be going anywhere soon. I’m very glad to be here and have these times of community with all of you.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

The Annual Meetings of the Congregation and Corporation of the Community Presbyterian Church of Chester, New Jersey, are called for Sunday, February 16, 2025 in the Sanctuary immediately following the 10 AM Worship Service.

The purpose of these meetings is to receive the Annual Reports, elect officers, and conduct any other business which may properly come before the Meetings.

(Book of Order G-1.0502, G-1.0503)

BY ORDER OF THE SESSION

The Rev. Christopher Scrivens, Moderator

Sarah Jane Noll, Clerk of Session

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Happy New Year! New Year, new hopes, new ways to serve ... and new budget. Thank you, thank you to everyone who pledged and to our regular givers. Maintaining our beautiful --- but old --- buildings is not cheap and keeping our staff fairly paid is important to all of us. We, again and always, commit to using our income judiciously.

Please

- A per capita assessment is charged for each member of each church in our Presbytery. For 2026, this is \$44. per member and goes directly to the Presbytery to support the larger church structure *that supports us*.
 - You can use the blue envelope in your envelope box
 - You can write “per capita” on the memo line of a check and drop it in the plate
 - You can submit online and put “Per capita” in the Notes section
- Don’t forget to order Scrip cards on or before the second Sunday of the month.

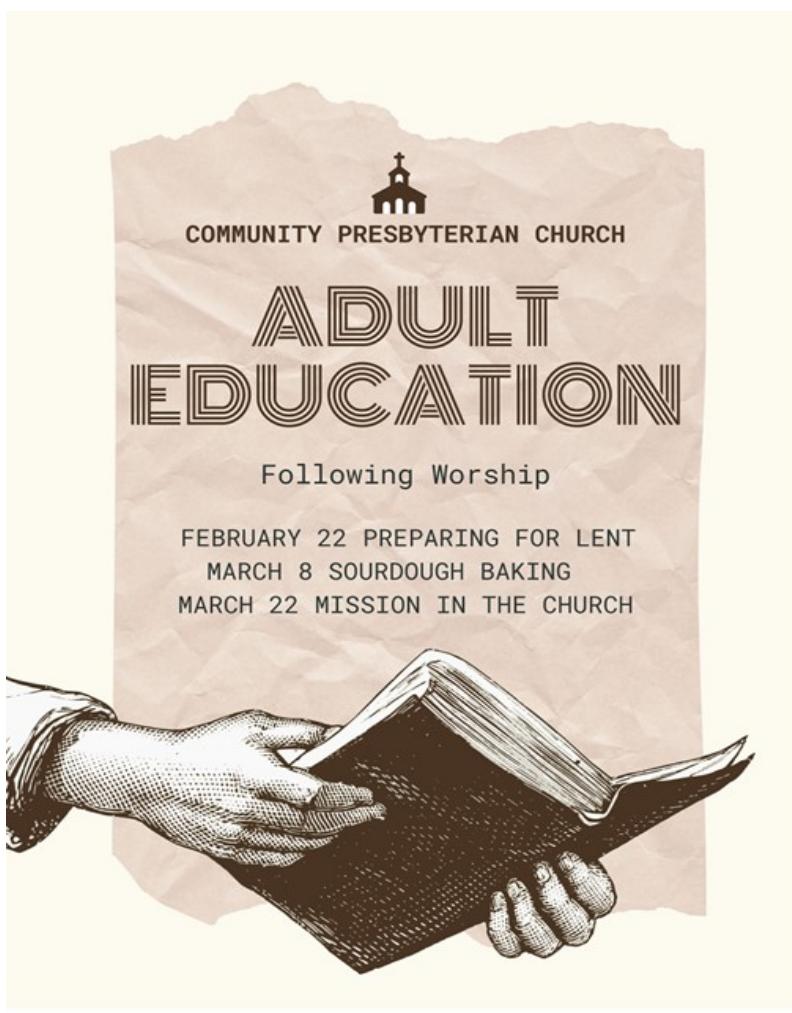
This is the easiest possible way to contribute real money to CPC while spending only what you normally would on what you’d normally buy because ***the retailers rebate money directly back to CPC***. A list of hundreds of retailers offering rebates is posted online under the “Giving” tab on our website. To order, just get a check to the office.

As always, feel free to reach out to any of us with questions,

Your Stewardship and Finance Council

Dale Davis (sitting elder), John Pfaff (sitting elder and treasurer), Joan Stephens (sitting deacon)
Susan Johnson, Harry Hager, Donna Alpaugh, Nancy Thaiss (sitting elder and S&F chair.)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Mission Council

Mission Council had a fundraiser for the Burns Family Mission in Brazil in January. Donations were made through New Horizons Foundation which handles their contributions so we do not have exact numbers, but at least \$2500 was raised that we know of. It will go towards a second car for the family. Thanks to Presbyterian Women and all who donated!

Another pizza and movie night is planned for Chester Area Senior Housing (CASH) for February 6, 2026. It's a fun night for everyone.

We are planning continued support and donations to Market Street Mission as well as continued activities with CASH.

If you'd like to join our Council, please contact Jeanne Perry at jeanniema@aol.com. We'd love to have more people!

Church Life:

BICENTERQUASQUIGENARY COMMITTEE

The Anniversary Committee (275 years of this church!) has had its start postponed by the weather, but fear not! We are ready to get moving and will keep you posted on all our progress for this event happening in 2027.



Anyone still wishing to join us may do so ~

contact co-chairpersons: Pastor Chris or Al Kopacka



WORSHIP COUNCIL NEWS

With the holiday season behind us, we are focused on the year ahead. We will be observing Scout Sunday on February 8th, so all you scouts, plan on wearing your uniform to church that day! As the season of Lent approaches, we all look forward to pancakes on Shrove Tuesday (February 17) followed by a short Ash Wednesday Service. All are welcome.

We've had requests to find more contemporary hymns, so our Music Director, Matt Petrozelli is making that happen ~ Enjoy the new sounds!

Looking further ahead, we will celebrate the Gifts of Women in the Church coordinated by Presbyterian Women on March 8. It'll be Easter before you know it!



CPC VIDEO SERVICE

Did you tune in and catch a service while we were snowed out recently? Many people did! In fact, since we began recording during Covid, it has become more and more popular. We are pleased about that and grateful to the mostly young people who operate the equipment, they've done a wonderful job.

Having said that, we feel it would be a more consistent and reliable situation if we could use older experienced volunteers to continue recording. Our young people often need to be in Sunday School, so we're asking if you or someone you know who is qualified to perform this task regularly would consider helping out? If so, please speak with Pastor Chris so we can make arrangements.

Meanwhile, keep tuning in to our services whenever you need to, or if you missed something at church and would like to hear it again.

Church Life

Lay Assistant, Usher, Communion Steward, Coffee Hour list for remainder of February & March

February 8:

Lay Assistant: Greg Burns
Ushers: Alex Regber, Edward Johnson
Coffee Hour: Dawn and Matt Siegrist

February 15:

Lay Assistant: Harry Hager
Ushers: Bob and Emily O'Dell
Coffee Hour: **Needed**

February 22:

Lay Assistant: David Rittenhouse
Ushers: Emily Meseck, Nancy Case
Coffee Hour: **Wanted**

March 1:

Lay Assistant: Elder John Pfaff
Ushers/Stewards: Deacons Matt McConnell,
Ruby Young
Communion Set Up & Stewards: Deacons Lisa
Burns, and Joan Stephens
Coffee Hour: Dawn and Matt Siegrist

March 8: Celebrating Women

Lay Assistant: Deacon Michelle Scrivens
Ushers: Jary Jibilian, Kim Biango
Coffee Hour: Men wanted

March 15:

Lay Assistant: Emily Moorhead
Ushers: Deacon Karen McConnell, Emily
Meseck
Coffee Hour: Wanted

March 22:

Lay Assistant: Harry Hager
Ushers: The Conlan Family
Coffee Hour: Wanted

Parish Life Council

The Parish Life Book Club



met on Tuesday, January 27th

for a discussion of *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi. They chose *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabakov as their next book. The group will meet on Thursday, March 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room for a discussion of the book. The group is open to suggestions for new books to read, and are happy to welcome anyone interested in joining the group! If you have questions please contact Joan Stephens (201) 874-1477.



SCRIP NEWS

In January we had 14 families purchase scrip with a net rebate of \$223.28 for CPC. Thank you everyone! Mauricette Moffitt won this month's donated gift card. Orders are placed on the second Sunday of the month, but individual orders/payments can be dropped off in the office prior to that if it's more convenient. If you have any questions regarding the scrip program or would like to place an order, **PLEASE NOTE:** *for February only contact Ann Marie at amoc@cpcchester.org or 908-879-5091 ~ checks can be left on her desk.* The next scrip order is Sunday, **February 8, 2026.**

Church Life



Hope everyone is staying warm this winter! Presbyterian Women are busy working on projects for the November 2026 Holiday Extravaganza. We will take Christmas decor year-round. If you are clearing out decorations you no longer use, please drop them off at the church. PW has a craft room in the basement and we will sort, price, and store your donations until the next bazaar. If you need a tax donation letter from the church for your donations, please take one from the jewelry collection bag on the table in Fellowship Center.

PW collects jewelry year-round also. We can use all types of jewelry and even broken bits which we use in crafts for the bazaar. We were extremely successful selling odd earrings, broken jewelry for the gold or sterling silver content in 2025 which boosted our sales tremendously. Also needed are small jewelry gift boxes, we like to sell as much as we can gift boxed at the bazaar. You can drop off items in the collection bag any time.

If you have new ideas for the Holiday Extravaganza, please share them with Christy Shepard, Michelle, or Beth. PW is always looking for new crafts and baked goods to sell.

Thank all of you for your support this past year, we could not do it without you! We will let everyone know when the next meeting will be held. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings.

JOIN US ~

Monthly Women's Breakfasts



Come join us and bring a friend or two for our monthly Women's Breakfasts. We meet the first Saturday of the month, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Chester Diner for fellowship and food before heading out to whatever we have planned for the rest of the day. Our next breakfast is February 7th. March Breakfast will be on Saturday, the 7th as well!! We always enjoy seeing new faces!

‘Cultured Purls’ meets on the first Tuesday of the month ~ bring some handwork and join our group. Maybe you would like to learn to knit or crochet or haven’t picked it up in awhile and would like a little help getting started again ~ come, we will help you. We meet in the Fireplace Room of Fellowship Center at 1:00 p.m. and work on our projects and visit with each other. A small group met on Tuesday, February 3rd. Come, join us and bring a friend. Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 3rd, 1pm. If you have any questions, please see or call Karen Stewart (973) 895-



Chester -Mendham Food Pantry

Please keep the food pantry in mind when you do your grocery shopping. Hunger doesn't take a holiday. Items can be dropped off in the trunk in Fellowship Center. Many items are needed. It is especially great when you pick one or two items and purchase a bunch of those rather than one of a lot of things.

Some items are: laundry detergent, dish detergent, coffee, mayonnaise, cookies, large and small garbage bags catsup, Donations always appreciated.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

The following is a list of February and March Anniversaries and Birthdays according to our records. If there are any additions or corrections, please let the office know so that we may update our files. Thank you!

Happy Anniversary wishes to . . .

Joachim and Becky Thunberg 02/21/2003



FEBRUARY

Kelly Emerton	02/01
Lucas Hemmes	02/04
Emily Meseck	02/06
Joseph Biango	02/07
Dick Wynja	02/11
Matt Siegrist	02/14
Teddie Hutter	02/15
Harper Emerton	02/16
Alexander Regber	02/22
Tyler Untisz	02/24
Debbie Madsen	02/25
Matt Petrozelli	02/25
Linda Conover	02/26

MARCH

Jen Bergmann	03/01
Andrew Volante	03/08
Jary Jibilian	03/09
Ella Chomiak	03/13
Martha Smith	03/13
Mary Robinson	03/17
Judy Treutlein	03/17
Hope LeFrancis	03/19
Susan Marks	03/19
Marilyn Guerin	03/20
Jerilynn Harris	03/20
Matilda Lavelle	03/20
Mauricette Moffitt	03/20
Robin Chu	03/22
Dawn Siegrist	03/23
Janice LeFrancis	03/28



Here's a peachy date to SAVE on your calendars

AUGUST 1st

ANNUAL CPC PEACH FESTIVAL



2026 Flower Calendar



The 2026 Flower Calendar is posted in the office. For your convenience an order form is printed below. If you would like flowers in the Sanctuary on a particular Sunday, please fill this in and mail/drop off in the Church Office.

Flowers are \$42/Sunday (you may order a larger arrangement if you desire.) The flowers are supplied and arranged by Stony Hill Gardens located on Route 24, Chester. You may pick them up after the service on Sunday. In order for you to take this as a tax deduction, please make your check payable to Community Presbyterian Church (note in memo line for flowers). If you would like to make your own arrangement, or provide flowers from your own garden in the summer, just let us know.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

I would like to provide flowers for the Sanctuary on _____ Date: _____

In memory of: _____ and/or In Honor of: _____

Please order them from the florist. I will take my flowers after the service

I will provide them from my garden or other florist. I would like the Deacons to deliver to a
Shut-in

FEBRUARY	1	8	15 O'Connor	22	
MARCH	1 Kopacka	8 Harris	15 Fricke/Hoffman	22	29
APRIL	5 EASTER Easter Flowers	12 Wright	19	26	
MAY	3	10	17 Harris	24	31
JUNE	7	14	21	28	
JULY	5	12	19	26	
AUGUST	2 Anonymous	9	16	23	30
SEPTEMBER	6	13	20	27 Anonymous	
OCTOBER	4	11	18 Wright	25	
NOVEMBER	1	8	15 Harris	22 Thanksgiving Arrangement	29
DECEMBER	6	13 Fricke/Hoffman	20 Poinsettias	27	



February, 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 9:15 Choir Reh. 10:00 Worship: 10:15 Sunday Schl. 11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments Genesis ringers and singers 11:15 275th Anniv. Committee Mt. 6:00 IPSA	2 10:00 Al-Anon	3 9:00 Aerobics 1:00 Cultured Purls 3:00 Bible Study	4 9:30 Healthy Bones	5 9:00 Aerobics	6 10:00 Al-Anon 5:00 Movie Night at CASH	7 8:00 Women's Breakfast 7:30 AA Meeting
8 9:15 Choir Rehears 10:00 Worship: 10:15 Sunday Sch. 11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments Genesis ring/sing Scrip Orders COUNCILS 6:00 IPSA	9 10:00 Al-Anon 11:00 Memorial Service for Mary Lou Wynja	10 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Fifty Plus Club 3:00 Bible Study	11 9:30 Healthy Bones 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir	12 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Quilty Pleasures	13 9:30 Beginner Meet. 10:00 Al-Anon	14
15 Annual Mtg. 9:15 Choir Rehears 10:00 Worship/ Annual Meeting 11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments Genesis Bells/Choir 6:00 IPSA	16 10:00 Al-Anon OFFICE CLOSED PRESIDENTS' DAY	17 9:00 Aerobics 3:00 Bible Study 5:00 Shrove Tues. Set-Up 6:00 Pancake Supper Worship svc and clean up. 7:00 Overeat. Anon.	18 9:30 Healthy Bones 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir 7:30 B.S. Com. Mtg.	19 9:00 Aerobics	20 10:00 Al-Anon	21 7:30 AA Meeting
22 9:15 Choir Rehears 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments Genesis Bells/Choir Adult Ed: Preparing For Lent 6:00 IPSA	23 10:00 Al-Anon 7:00 DEACONS 7:30 Boy Scouts	24 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Fifty Plus Club 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 SESSION 7:00 Overeaters An.	25 9:30 Healthy Bones 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir	26 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Quilty Pleasures 5:00-9:00 Cub Scout Pack Event Weigh-In	27 9:30 Beginners Mtg 10:00 Al-Anon 5:00-9:00 Scouts: Track Set-Up & Outlaw Race	28 8:30 ~ PINEWOOD DERBY - RACE DAY
LENT						



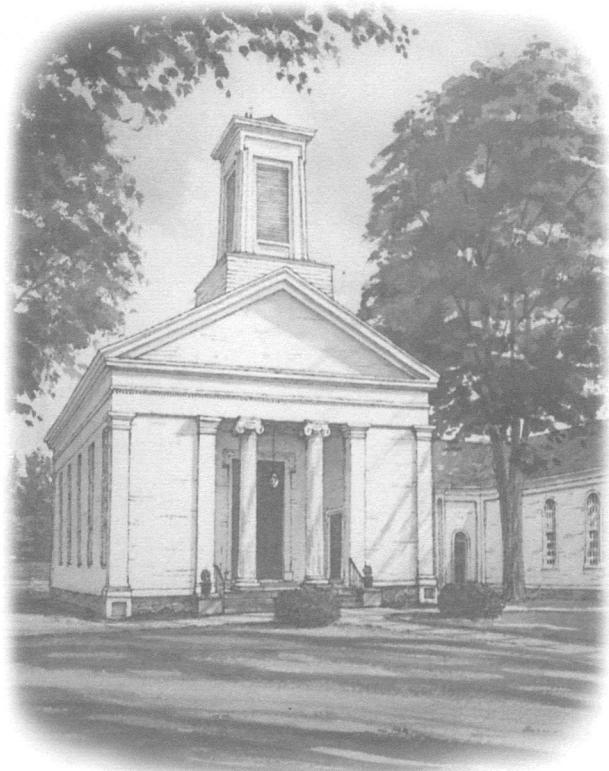
March, 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 9:15 Choir Reh. 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday Sch. 11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments Genesis Bells/Choir 2:00 Prayer Walk 6:00 IPSA	2 10:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Boy Scouts	3 9:00 Aerobics 1:00 Cultured Purls 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Overeat.Anon.	4 9:30 Healthy Bones 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir	5 9:00 Aerobics	6 10:00 Al-Anon	7 8:00 Women's Breakfast 7:30 AA Meeting SPRING AHEAD ONE HOUR before retiring 
8 9:15 Choir Rehears 10:00 Worship: 10:15 Sunday Sch. 11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments Genesis Bells/Choir Councils Scrip Orders 11:15 Adult Ed 6:00 IPSA	9 10:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Boy Scouts	10 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Fifty Plus Club 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Overeats Anon.	11 9:30 Healthy Bones 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir	12 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Quilty Pleasures	13 9:30 Beginners Meeting 10:00 Al-Anon	14 9:00-1:00 Comfort Zone Camp Training 7:30 AA Meeting
15 9:15 Choir Rehears 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday Sch. 11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments Genesis Bells/Choir 6:00 IPSA	16 10:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Boy Scouts	17 9:00 Aerobics 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 SESSION 7:00 Overeat. Anon	18 9:30 Healthy Bones 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir 7:30 B.S. Com. Mtg.	19 9:00 Aerobics	20 10:00 Al-Anon 5:30-7:30 Cub Pack Mtg.	21 7:30 AA Meeting
22 9:15 Choir Rehears 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments Genesis Bells/choir 11:15 Adult Ed: Mission 6:00 IPSA	23 10:00 Al-Anon 7:00 DEACONS 7:30 Boy Scouts	24 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Fifty Plus Club 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Overeaters An.	25 9:30 Healthy Bones 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir	26 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Quilty Pleasures	27 9:30 Beginners Mtg 10:00 Al-Anon	28 7:30 AA Meeting
29 Palm Sunday 9:15 Choir Rehears 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments Genesis Bells/choir 6:00 IPSA	30 10:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Boy Scouts	31 9:00 Aerobics 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Overeat.Anon				

Community Presbyterian Church
220 Main Street, P. O. Box 148
Chester, New Jersey 07930

Address Service Requested



***Community Presbyterian
Church News***

February/March 2026

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*The Rev. Christopher W. Scrivens, Pastor
Christy Hemmes, Director of Family Ministries
E-mail: office@cpcchester.org
Website: www.cpcchester.org*