Community Presbyterian Church News

November, 2026

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

Holiday EXTRAVAGANZA 2026



Save the Date!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAIN STREET ~ CHESTER, NEW JERSEY

❄ DECORATIONS, JEWELRY & GIFTS ❄

❄ CHRISTMAS & NEARLY NEW ITEMS ❄

❄ HANDMADE CRAFTS ❄

❄ BAKED GOODS ❄

❄ GOURMET - ON- THE - RUN ❄

❄ 50/50 DRAWING ❄

❄ AND MUCH MORE! ❄

VISA & MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

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Stewardship & Finance

From Stewardship & Finance Council

Many of us grew up in a time and place where the church was a — if not "the" — critical part of our day-to-day lives. There were absolutely no activities other church on Sunday mornings, and, where I grew up, even Wednesdays were reserved church days. No sports. No after school clubs. No special events. If you've ever heard Marilyn or Judy speak about growing up in Chester, you know how important this church - this very CPC - was in their lives and in this town. (And if you haven't heard them, ask!)

We sometimes want to go back to those days when everyone knew Sundays were for church. It just seems easier.

Really? Easier? Susan told us about bringing hot bricks in the sleigh to stay warm during winter services when the church was a frame structure on Pleasant Hill. And how about this Sanctuary? Just imagine miners working 60 hours a week for 69 cents a day THEN coming to help build and finish this holy place. Before Peach Festival, we hosted a chicken dinner to raise funds. Think about plucking chickens in a non-air conditioned kitchen.

Some things were, in fact, easier, and some things definitely were not. But, as we are reminded over and over, our church is reformed and reforming. We don't get to go backwards to reformed - we can only continue reforming. We've changed and, we pray, with God's oversight, will continue to change as we move forward to see what's next. Buildings change. Events change. People change. But our task now is to ensure that this congregation and this building remain as strong symbols of what doesn't change, the presence of God.

It is stewardship season. As you are filling out your pledge cards, please put deliberate thought into those who came before and left us this beautiful place and also think about those who will follow. Think and pray about it until you see your pledge for what it is — not a financial obligation but an offering of thanksgiving.

Mission Council

We had a great Pizza and Movie night at CASH (Chester Area Senior Housing) this month. Fifteen people participated and we look forward to the next one!

The Council also delivered winter coats to the Adult and Teen Challenge women in Lebanon. Large smiles and a thanksgiving prayer conveyed their gratitude. Some had no outerwear at all so we were so glad to help them in this way. We also were given a tour of the facility - a beautiful and amazing opportunity.

The Market Street Mission coat giveaway is Saturday, November 7th on the Green. We have two people participating and welcome anyone else who would like to help. Please sign up on marketstreet.org.

Sam Burns will be speaking on November 8th during the church service. He will share his mission experience in Brazil that we continue to support. Come and hear about his amazing mission!

Save the date - Sunday, December 13 for caroling at CASH. More information to follow as we approach the date.

WORSHIP

Folks, we are by all means poised for another busy holiday season at CPC. And Worship Council is ready!

As in the past, we will observe All Saints Day by remembering those dearly departed as we read the names with tolling bells and lighted candles on Sunday, November 1st.

There's much to celebrate on November 8 as we kick off our Anniversary Celebration with a tree lighting ceremony on the front lawn beginning at 4:30 p.m. Come for the caroling and refreshments! Also, the Burns Family will be with us in person to share their CPC-supported Mission in the Amazon. We will also have communion that morning.

On November 15 we will take a moment to honor the service men and women who have served our country and are still living. We'll also learn the results of Holiday Extravaganza.

Stewardship and Thanksgiving share the spotlight on November 22, two very appropriate ideas that go together.

Finally (can you believe it?), the first Sunday in Advent falls on the 29th.

So much to be a part of, so much to be grateful for at CPC.

See you in church!

Lay Assistant, Usher, Communion Steward, Coffee Hour Host/Hostess List For November:

November 1: All Saints Day

Lay Assistant:	Deacon Michelle Scrivens
Ushers:	Elder Bill Jardine, Deacon Tom Perry
Fellowship & Coffee:	Needed

November 8: Communion/275th Anniversary Kick Off

Lay Assistant:	Elder Al Kopacka
Ushers:/Stewards:	Barbara Misar, Deacon Karen Stewart
Communion Setup & Stewards:	Deacons Peggy and Drew Gibbon, and Christy Shepard
Fellowship & Coffee:	Needed

November 15:

Lay Assistant:	Greg Burns
Ushers:	Matt Siegrist
Fellowship & Coffee:	Needed

***Please,* if you find that you have a conflict, switch with someone, or ask someone to take your place and let Al Kopacka and / or the office know so bulletin is correct. Thank you.**

November 22: Christ the King/Thanksgiving

Lay Assistant:	Elder Nancy Thaiss
Ushers:	Elder Derek and Karen Wilson
Fellowship & Coffee:	Tentatively taken

November 29: 1st Sunday of Advent

Lay Assistant:	David Rittenhouse
Ushers:	The Ash Family
Fellowship & Coffee:	Emily and Deacon Sophie Meseck

December 6: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Lay Assistant:	Elder John Pfaff
Ushers:	Ruby Young, Karen McConnell
Fellowship & Coffee:	

December 13: Communion/ 3rd Sunday of Advent

Lay Assistant:	Elder Sarah Jane Noll
Ushers/Stewards:	Nancy Case, Nancy Quam
SetUp and Stewards:	Deacons Donna Taylor, Lisa Burns, Darcy Taylor

275th Anniversary at CPC

The time has finally arrived to begin celebrating this long awaited even! The committee has been compiling history, interviewing members, planning events, and creating memorabilia to share for nearly a year.

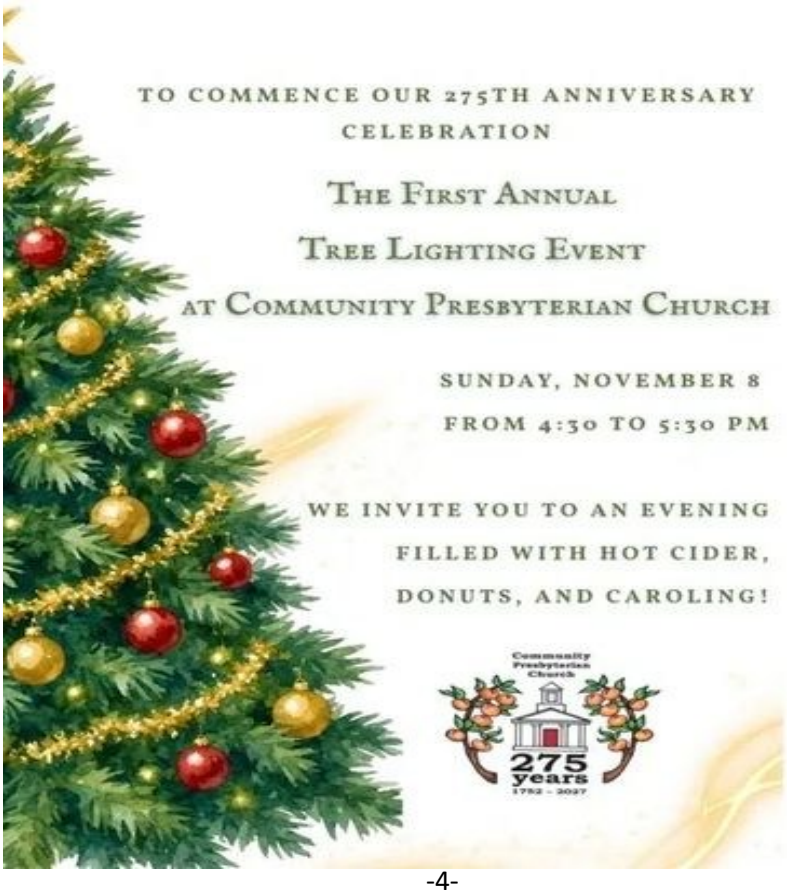
We hope you can join us on Sunday, November 8th starting at 4:30 p.m. to sing carols, enjoy refreshments and light the big tree out front for what we hope will become an annual event. There will, of course, be other events coming soon.

One of our projects involves telling the story of the last 25 years at CPC through letters and essays written by various members. These were inspired by a similar project that was undertaken by former member Matha Van Hise in which the past 250 years of history were illustrated in similar fashion. Starting next month, letters from both projects will appear together in the newsletter. Be sure to read them!

In the meantime, take a moment to reflect on what it means for an institution like ours to survive for so many years — all the changes, the people, ministry and effort that encompasses.

It's all covered in the scripture we've chosen: *Psalm 100, verse 5:*

"The Lord is good. His steadfast love endues forever and His faithfulness to all generations."



Mission Council

Holiday Extravaganza

Saturday,
November 14th
10am -3pm



Presbyterian Women have been very busy for months getting ready for the November 14th, Holiday Extravaganza. Thank you for your help and your donations of goods.

- We will need assistance setting up on Thursday November 12 starting at 10:30. We have to get the tables arranged and the inventory of what we are selling, displayed. We can use some men with the table set up.
- If you have been making any craft items to sell, please drop them off on Thursday, the 12th. This year we have a huge collection of really nice jewelry to sell! Thank you to everyone who donated jewelry and the little gift boxes!
- Baking containers are in the office starting Nov. 1st. Please take what you need and *do not forget to label if using nuts*. We can use baked goods of all kinds--breads, cookies, candies-- whatever you like to make!
- There are Extravaganza flyers (courtesy of R&R Construction) in the church lobby outside the office. Please take some to give to friends and coworkers. We would love to get a big crowd this year. We will be in Fellowship Center and also in the Larison Room.
- Thank you to all our CPC members for your support , we hope to have another successful bazaar!
- Don't forget to buy your 50-50 tickets!

Welcome Susan Johnson! She is the new treasurer for PW. If you have any expenses for the Extravaganza and need to be reimbursed, please leave your receipts in the office for Susan.





Thank you Christy Shepard for your many years of serving as treasurer and taking care of the CDs.

Big Youth Group

Two more dates to BYG Clothing Drive!

Saturday, November 7 at CPC; Saturday, November 14 at Lower Valley PC
10:00am-4:00pm

Church Life

From your Deacons

The Deacons honored our Veterans, from two VA hospitals, with our 5th Veterans Dinner. We hosted approximately 40 Vets and their staff. Our local American Legion had a group that attended and assisted us in welcoming our guests, along with our Veterans in our own congregation. The dinner was dedicated in memoriam, to Kevin Czekanski, Karen Stewart's brother.

Currently, we are collecting food items for the Chester Mendham Food Bank for their Thanksgiving baskets. The Food Bank has requested us to provide baking products, coffee and desserts. The list is in our weekly bulletin and our last collection day is November 8th. We will be packaging bags of food for 78 Seniors and Families (over 200 people in need of food). We want to thank Carolyn Bearlepp & Ann Marie for putting together beautiful packages of candies for each basket!

This month we will also be putting together our Christmas Gift Bags for the same Seniors and families. We will be purchasing $25 Walmart gift cards for each bag and fill them with candies, a luminary that has a battery operated candle and a beautiful wooden cross.

Our 7 college students will be getting a Christmas box from us containing a $25 Amazon gift card, a luminary, cross, cookies & candies.

At our Presbyterian Women's Holiday Extravaganza, on November 14, the Deacons will be selling beautiful luminaries, with battery operated candles, for a fundraiser to support our projects. They are a lovely addition to your Christmas decorations!

Your Deacons wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!



Parish Life



CPC Book Club met for a discussion of ***Untamed: The Wildest Woman in America and the Fight for Cumberland Island***. Following their discussion, they chose ***Mad Mabel*** *by Sally Hepworth* as their next read. The group plans to meet in the Fireplace area of Fellowship Center on Thursday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m. for a discussion of the book. More participants and book suggestions are always welcome.

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Stephens (201) 874-1477



DON'T FORGET! TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR BEFORE RETIRING THIS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31st. DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS.

Church Life

SCRIP NEWS

This month we had 13 families purchase scrip with a net rebate of $206.89 for CPC and a year-to-date total of $2,184.12. As always, we appreciate your support! Nancy Thaiss 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 contact Nancy Case (201-317-4437 or nocase000@gmail.com) and she will be happy to help you. The next scrip order will be placed on Sunday, **NOVEMBER 8, 2026.**

The holidays are just around the corner - scrip cards make wonderful gifts, and there are hundreds of stores/companies available including Amazon, Home Depot, Lowes, Walmart, Ulta, Target . . . .

start your scrip shopping early.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Join us Saturday, November 7th for our monthly Breakfast out at the Chester Diner. We meet at 8am and have fellowship and food to start our day. Can't join us this time? Our next breakfast will be held Saturday, *December 5th*. *Start your day with fellowship, friends and food* and bring a friend! The more the merrier.



The following is a list of November 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.

Happy Anniversary wishes to . . .

Nicholas & Dawn Clessuras	*11/01/09*
Tom & Melissa Ash	*11/11/08*
Norman & Nancy M. Thaiss	*11/19/16*
Jeff & Darcy Taylor	*11/26/94*



Happy birthday wishes to...

Christopher Scrivens	11/04
Nancy Thaiss	11/06
Pat Fricke	11/09
Jessica McConnell	11/10
Lucy Chomiak	11/11
Dale Davis, III	11/12
Steve Misar	11/14
Betsy Regber	11/16
Emily Moorhead	11/17
Samantha Wilson	11/17
Ron McConnell	11/18
John Pfaff	11/20
Dave Rittenhouse	11/20
Meghan LaClair	11/22
Vince Kramer	11/23
Melissa Menagh	11/23
Rachel Cozzo	11/27
Neil Perry	11/28
Karl Schuetz	11/28

NOVEMBER, 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **ALL SAINTS DAY** **9:15 Choir Rehearsal** **10:00 Worship** **10:15 Sunday School** **11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments** **Youth Choirs** **Adult Ed** **4-6 Fall Family Fun at Stony Hill** 5:00 IPSA	2 9:00 Gourmet-on-the-Run 10:00 Al-Anon **6:15 Councils Meet** 7:00 Irish Music & Dance	3 9:00 Aerobics 1:00 'Cultured Purls' 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Overeaters Anonymous	4 9:30 Healthy Bones 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 7:00 Confirmation 7:30 Choir .	5 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Quilty Pleasures	6 8-5pm LIFE LINE SCREENING 9:00 Gourmet-on-the-Run 10:00 Al-Anon	7 8:00 Women's Breakfast Decorate Tree on Stage for Holiday Ext. and Advent season BYG Clothing Drive 7:30 AA Meeting
8**Communion Sun.** **9:15 Choir** **10:00 Worship -** **10:15 Sunday School** **11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments** **Scrip orders Taken** **Youth Choirs** **4:30 275th Kick-Off — TREE LIGHTING** 6:00 IPSA	9 10:00 Al-Anon 7:30 B.S. Com.Mtg. 7:30 Boy Scouts	10 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Fifty Plus Club 3:00 Bible Study **7:00 SESSION** 7:00 Overeaters Anonymous	11 9:30 Healthy Bones 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir	12 9:00 Aerobics **10:30 Holiday Extravaganza set up**	13 9:30 Beginners Mtg 10:00 Al-Anon **Holiday Extravaganza set up continues** Drop Your baked goods off	14 ***10 - 3 pm Holiday Extravaganza*** 10:00 BYG Clothing Drive at Lower Valley 7:30 AA Meeting
15 **9:15 Choir Rehearsal** **10:00 Worship** **10:15 Sunday School** **11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments** **Youth Choirs** **Day After Sales -HE** 6:00 IPSA	16 10:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Boy Scouts	17 9:00 Aerobics 3:00 Bible Study 6:00 Presby Mtg. 7:00 Overeaters Anon	18 9:30 Healthy Bones 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 7:00 Confirmation 7:30 Choir	19 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Quilty Pleasures	20 10:00 Al-Anon 5:00 Den Meeting 5:30-7:30 Cub Pack Meeting	21 7:30 AA Meeting
22**Christ the King Stewardship Sun.** **9:15 Choir Rehearsal** **10:00 Worship** **10:15 Sunday School** **11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments** **11:15 Youth Choir** 6:00 IPSA	23 10:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Boy Scouts	24 7:00 Overeaters Anon.	25 9:30 Healthy Bones 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir	26 *Office Closed* ***Happy Thanksgiving*** 	27 *Office Closed* 9:30 Beginners Mtg 10:00 Al-Anon	28 7:30 AA Meeting
29 **1st Sunday of Advent** **9:15 Choir rehearsal** **10:00 Worship** **10:15 Sunday School** **11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments** **11:15 Youth Choir** 6:00 IPSA	30 10:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Boy Scouts Board of Review					

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Address Service Requested



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