



Join us this Sunday, January 8th, 2023 for our Epiphany PotLuck Luncheon



*Join the Parish Life
Council on Sunday,
January 8th immediately*

*following the worship service for a
potluck luncheon in Fellowship Center.*

*If you are able, please bring a side dish
to share. Parish Life will be supplying*

*the ham, turkey, beverages and
desserts. Any questions, please
contact Terri Kramer or Carolyn*

Bearlepp.

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Pastors Pages

Well, this year started off strangely, but certainly ended delightfully normal with regards to life here at CPC. Christmas 2021, which seems so long ago, felt like we had the proverbial rug pulled from beneath our feet. Things seemed to be going better and then Omicron hit. That was a big collective “Ugh!”

It is amazing how far we have come during this past year. You’ll notice I used the expression “normal” in that first paragraph. I don’t especially like that term, especially when it has so often been applied these past few years, to the past tense, as in, “get back to normal”. God gives us one direction to move and that is forward. I also like the quote from Ivern Ball that, “*The past should be a springboard, not a hammock.*” (as much as I like some time in a hammock).

I have to say that this has been a pretty amazing year given the ground we have covered as a congregation. Congregation life is always filled with ups and downs, triumphs and tragedies, sorrow and incredible joy, all in living through what God has given us.

As Autumn approached, and the busyness of Summer wound down, there were a few precious moments to reflect upon: the Peach Festival, and our first Appalachia Service Project work camp trip with the Big Youth Group in two years. Jobs well done to all who organized and participated.

Autumn is when we shift into a different gear with Sunday School starting, many events surrounding holidays, and also the Holiday Extravaganza. As we came from the excellent events of Summer, and planned for the last third of the year, there was always a bit of a lingering doubt and fear from the trauma we have, collectively and individually, experienced over the past two years. “Will we be able to. . .” was a question both voiced and felt by many; but we **were** able to, and in fine fashion, but also differently than in the past.

There was much talk of the excellent “vibe” going around the Church, and I think that came from the excitement of simply being able to do things again; things we love so dearly. But also I think it has a lot to do with the WAY in which we did things. This past year and before have been good times for us to evaluate what we do and how we do it. I think we have shaken off aspects of things that just created more work with little return, and moved forward with a simplicity and even purity that allows us to preserve all of the best parts of the various things we do here without all of the extra work. Some might describe that as efficiency or good stewardship of resources. I would certainly not argue those characterizations, but I think there is more to it. We have discovered what we really love to do, what is really important to us, and the rest has simply fallen away. This, combined with our enthusiasm that “things will be alright” and “yes, we can” have really given us a boost of energies that we have been missing for awhile, and that is a very good thing.

Pastors Pages continued

We head into 2023 with challenges, as churches always do and as people always do, but we can continue to capitalize on this energy, enthusiasm, and creativity and apply it to all of the things we missed about early 2022, as well as the many new ideas that have come from our Church Officers and congregants. We look forward to what comes as we look forward to continuing our common life together. We don't know what is ahead, but we can have confidence in and feel very pleased about where we have been recently. With that excitement, with the continued confidence in the goodness of God, I pray that we approach 2023 boldly and with great anticipation together as a Congregation.

Your Pastor,

Rev. Chris Scrivens

NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETINGS

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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 12, 2023 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-7.0302)

BY ORDER OF THE SESSION

The Rev. Christopher Scrivens, Moderator

Janet Lindstrom, Clerk of Session

Church Life: Christian Education & Worship



FootSteps

Following Our One Teacher to Study, Teach, Educate, Pray, Salvation

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

It's back! Sunday School starts up again on Sunday, January 8th during Worship so - ***Come on down at Children's time!*** We will be wrapping up the Christmas lesson and continuing our journey through the Bible.

The month of December was all about Advent and Christmas. We did a lot of waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus. We discussed what preparations were being made in the church and in our homes. We made our own Advent wreaths, an Advent box, "lit" Advent candles, read the Christmas story and "stayed" in a stable. We talked about the sights, sounds and smells of the holiday season (cookies baking, pine, lights, candles, bells). We also discussed what it must have been like that very first Christmas years ago. Were Mary and Joseph tired from their journey, were they afraid, hungry and what did the stable smell like? Definitely not what we think of when we think of what our Christmas is like!

We are going to discuss Christmas with Epiphany and then return on our journey through the Bible where we left off before Christmas. Continue to follow us on the bulletin board in Fellowship Center.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HELP IS NEEDED. No teaching is required, just a 2nd adult. See Carolyn Bearlepp if you can lend a hand. Help is needed for January 15th, 22nd and 29th and every Sunday in February.

Worship Council

Worship is thrilled that the Christmas holidays at CPC were quite successful this year! From the weekly decorating of our Sanctuary, to the wrap up on Epiphany, we hope you all were able to experience and enjoy some or all of it, and share the meaning of Christmas with others.

A special shout out to our Music Department, especially choir director , Matt Petrozelli and accompanist, Vicki Kopacka for all their hard work and long hours. Thank you also to Ed Hemmes for his artful videography of the Cantata and other services, and to our newest ensemble, the Youth Chime Choir. Well done!!

As the council begins the new year, we will be focusing on some particular issues, among them, improving attendance, enhanced sound recording during worship for our online audience, and exploring an ecumenical relationship with our friends at Flanders Presbyterian Church. Of course, we will continue as always to examine and improve the worship experience for our congregation as we support Pastor Chris and the Music Department at CPC ~ we are fortunate to work with both.

Our council is always open to adding members, let us know if you'd like to become part of us!!

Church Life

From Parish Life Council. . .

Happy New Year!

Parish Life BOOK CLUB will meet on Thursday, January 26 OR February 2nd (STAY TUNED) beginning at 6:30 p.m. for a discussion of East of Eden by John Steinbeck. Additional participants and book suggestions are always welcome!

Questions? contact Joan Stephens (201) 874-1477.



SCRIP NEWS

In December we had 13 families purchase scrip with a net rebate of \$222.17 for CPC ; our year-end net rebate is \$3,039.65. As a point of reference, last year's total was \$3,070.43. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for making this year another success! Tom and Jeanne Perry won December's donated gift card. It's never too late to join our happy group of scrip shoppers - the more the merrier! 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 nbcase48@yahoo.com) and she will be happy to help you. The next scrip order will be placed on Sunday, **JANUARY 8, 2023**. In the meantime, Happy, healthy New Year!!!

DEACONS

The Deacons would like to thank everyone for all the help received throughout this past year. It is no small task what gets accomplished within this wonderful community. A special thank you to Stony Hill Farms for their generous donations. The deacons look forward to 2023 and all the fun times ahead.



Presbyterian Women

Would you please save the fronts of your received Christmas cards again? There is a place in the office for them. We only need the fronts for a Presbyterian Women project for the next Holiday Extravaganza.



If you are not reusing your decorative paper Christmas bags again, please drop them off in the office as well. Thank you and

Happy New Year Everyone!



CULTURED PURLS -- Cultured Purls met on Tuesday, January 3rd and will meet again



on Tuesday, February 7th at 1pm in the Fireplace Room of Fellowship Center. We are a small group but lots of fun. Come join us, bring a project you are working on or just come. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, we will help you or maybe you would like to take up an old hobby again. We have lots of yarn.

If you have any questions, please see Karen Stewart. *Everyone is welcome.*

Church Life

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 off to whatever adventures we have on our schedules for the day. Our next breakfasts are scheduled for Saturday, January 7th and February 4, If you find at the last minute you can join us, just drop in at the Diner!



Chester Food Pantry

DONATIONS ALWAYS APPRECIATED

Some items needed are: toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, dish detergent, shampoo, coffee, hot cereals (farina, oatmeal, etc.) canned stews, chili, etc.

Trunk for donations is located in Fellowship Center.

January Anniversaries and Birthdays

The following is a list of January 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 . . .

Marc and Diane Phares	01/07/73
Noah and Skylar Sebastian	01/16/22

Happy Birthday wishes to...

Grace Cudnik	01/04	Greg Bergmann	01/14
Liz Hutchinson	01/04	Colin Wilson	01/16
James Kramer	01/05	Joachim Thunberg	01/19
Skylar Sebastian	01/05	Bryn Davis	01/20
Faith Moffitt	01/06	Brian Conlan	01/23
Jonathan Ash	01/10	Madaline Scarfo	01/23
Matthew Ash	01/10	Karen Stewart	01/25
Bill Wolgamuth	01/10	Lisa Burns	01/28
John Biango	01/13	Catherine Bearlepp	01/29
Dan Harris	01/13	Daniel Hellriegel	01/29
Lauren Lombardo	01/13	Lorraine Scholl	01/30



2023 Flower Calendar



The 2023 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. The Deacons will deliver them to one of our shut-ins or 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 pick up my flowers after the service.

_____ I will provide them from my garden or other florist. _____ I would like Deacons to deliver to shut-in

JANUARY	1	8 Treutlein	15	22	29
FEBRUARY	5	12 Perry	19	26	
MARCH	5 Harris	12	19 Harris	26	
APRIL	2 Wright	9 EASTER <i>Lilies & Tulips</i>	16	23	30
MAY	7	14	21 Harris	28	
JUNE	4	11	18	25 Treutlein	
JULY	2	9	16	23	30
AUGUST	6	13	20	27	
SEPTEMBER	3	10 Harris	17	24	
OCTOBER	1	8 Treutlein	15	22 Wright	29
NOVEMBER	5	12	19 THANKSGIVING ARRANGEMENT	26	
DECEMBER	3	10	17 Poinsettias	24	31



Community Presbyterian Church

January, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR</i> <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i> 9:15 Pick-Up 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 6:00 IPSA	2 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 LifeLong Fit. 7:00 Eagle Sct Bd of Review 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 4:30 LifeLong Fitness 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir	5 9:00 Aerobics 6-8 Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Workshop?	6 <i>Epiphany</i> 10:00 Al-Anon	7 8:00 Women's Breakfast
8 Epiphany 10:00 Worship 10:15 SundaySchool 11:00 Scrip Orders Epiphany Pot Luck Luncheon 6:00 IPSA	9 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 LifeLong Fit.- 7:30 Boy Scouts	10 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 50 Plus Club 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Overeat.Anon	11 9:30 Healthy Bones 4:30 LifeLong Fitness 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir	12 9:00 Aerobics 9:00 Take Decorations down from Sanctuary 4:00 Girl Scouts	13 10:00 Al-Anon	14 11:00 - 3:00 Girl Scout Cookie Rally
15 9:15 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship & Ref. 11:00 COUNCILS 6:00 IPSA	16 MLK Jr. Day 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 LifeLong Fitness? 7:30 Boy Scouts ?	17 9:00 Aerobics 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 SESSION 7:00 Overeat. Anon. 7:00 Boy Sct. Com. LL	18 9:30 Healthy Bones 4:30 LifeLong Fitness 6:30 Bells 7:00 Confirmation 7:30 Choir	19 9:00 Aerobics	20 9:30 ~Beginners Mtg 10:00 Al-Anon	21
22 9:15 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship & Ref. 6:00 IPSA	23 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 LifeLong Fitness 7:30 Boy Scouts 7:30 DEACONS	24 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 50 Plus Club 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 SESSION 7:00 Overeat.Anon	25 9:30 Healthy Bones 4:30 LifeLong Fitness 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir	26 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Quilters 6:30 Tentative Book Club or 2/2	27 10:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Cub Scouts Popcorn Awards & Bobcat Ceremony	28
29 9:15 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship & Ref. 6:00 IPSA	30 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 LifeLong Fitness 7:30 Boy Scouts	31 9:00 Aerobics 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Overeat. Anon.				