



Community Presbyterian Church News

SEPTEMBER, 2025

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



JOIN US FOR BRUNCH AT THE BEACH
JOHN 21:1-14

September 21st

Following worship
Bring a dish to share & enjoy
fellowship time
Sign Up sheet in fellowship center

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Pastor's Page

While the summer is still with us, in many ways it is waning as we approach the autumn. Our summer activities are mostly done, both in the Church and in our personal lives, kids are going back to school, the days are shorter and the mornings cooler, and thoughts of the crisp autumn air and changing leaves are closer to reality.

The culture of Church life and congregational life flow the ebb and flow of the liturgical year and calendar. For congregants who have been around for awhile, this is simply part of life. For folks who are new to the congregation, it can be a bit daunting, especially at times when everyone else seems to know what is going on and what is coming.

We like to say that, "there is a way for everyone to get involved." or some version of that. That is certainly true, but it can also be a bit of a mystery for people in their first months, or even years, of life here at Community Presbyterian. Also, as we age and change, we often find that we cannot do the things we used to do and can have a hard time feeling useful and included.

So as Sunday School kicks off and helpers are asked for, as announcements and talk of Holiday Extravaganza become more prevalent, as Advent leads to Christmas and you are wondering how you might participate more deeply, please let me know.

As the Church year goes through seasons, so do we, and for a variety of reasons, not simply aging. You might be heading into a season where you just want to come on Sundays and participate from the pews. There is nothing at all wrong with that. In fact, I applaud that as we live in a society where our personal worth seems tied to our level of activity and "contribution". I understand that and understand the joy of doing and working and participating, but sometimes it is simply time to refrain and sit back a bit.

Wherever you are on your life's journey and your journey in congregational life here at CPC, we are all in this together. My office door is open. It is in physical fact, quite a challenge to close. So please, call, email, or approach me at coffee hour or any time and we can set up some time to sit and discuss. Most of you know me as the one who is always up front speaking, but I am also a pretty good listener.

Opportunities abound, and there are always new ways to be involved, so don't be afraid to knock, ask, seek and see what you will find.

From Stewardship & Finance

After boxes piled high, shorts and sweaty T-shirts and a creative summer of music, we're back to a cleared out Fellowship Center, re-emerging sweaters, and choir anthems during Worship. The CPC season change is certainly dramatic, but some things just don't change.

We still monitor our income and expenses each month, and we're happy to report that through July, our income was better than budgeted, largely because of special gifts, and our expenses were lower. However, pledges, as is typical in the summer, are lagging and, of course, we thankfully haven't had to pay for snowplowing or heat for a while! Just a reminder --- please keep up with your pledge if at all possible.

Remember, too, that buying Scrip cards is an easy, easy way to contribute 4% of your Shop Rite spending to CPC without impacting your spendable money at all. And, of course, Shop Rite is just one of hundreds of merchants offering to return a percentage of full value gift cards we purchase. Ask any of the members of the council or Ann Marie or Nancy Case. Nancy's info is in the bulletin each week.

Finally --- wish you knew a bit more about how CPC finances work? The S&F council will be doing an Adult Ed session on October 5 to explain the budget. Please join us after Worship.

Your Stewardship & Finance Council,

*Dale Davis, Harry Hager, Susan Johnson,
John Pfaff, Joan Stephens, Nancy Thaiss*

Christian Education: Adult Ed

**SANCTUARY SUNDAYS ARE
BACK!**

**OCTOBER 5TH
FAITH & FINANCE**

**OCTOBER 19TH
COMPARING RELIGION &
CULTURE**

**NOVEMBER 9TH
KEEPING GOD IN OUR HEARTS
DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

**NOVEMBER 23RD
HOW DO YOU RESEARCH IN
THE BIBLE**

**DECEMBER 14TH
NATIVITY**

**GRAB A COFFEE & SNACK AND JOIN
US IN THE SANCTUARY AT 11:15**



Big Youth Group ~ Fundraiser

BYG is looking for helpers to direct cars in the CPC parking lot for the upcoming craft fair. It is a great way to support the mission trip with a little time!

September 6th & 7th

9AM – 4PM

Please let Christy or Pastor Chris know if you can lend a hand.



MISSION COUNCIL

Coat Drive



Mission Council Coat Drive Mission Council is doing a coat drive for Market Street Mission which began on August 24 and will end on September 28.

We are looking for new and gently used coats for all ages and genders for distribution in the Morristown area. They also welcome new hats, gloves, and scarves. Drop off your items in the bin in the church lobby during office hours. This is a



great way to get rid of closet items as you sort through your winter wear this fall! Please share with friends and family so we can help Market Street Mission help others stay warm this winter. Also if anyone is interested, they are looking for help sorting during September and October and distributing on November 1st. Please contact Jeanne Perry (jeanniema@aol.com) if you would like to help.

The Council is also scheduling some events for CASH (Chester Area Senior Housing) residents such as a pizza and movie night in the coming months. If you'd like to help, let the office know and we'll get in touch with you. Events will be publicized in the Sunday bulletin.

We also support Adult and Teen Challenge as well as Comfort Zone Camp for children who have lost loved ones. We sponsored a 5K Your Way walk for Comfort Zone Camp and raised \$15,990, third place over all this past June!



Another mission we support is the Burns family mission in Brazil. Their website, which features an interesting blog on their ongoing experiences, is samandalyx.com.

Their blog is called ***"Lost in Transition: a Play in One Act"***. Check it out!

WORSHIP

CHOIRS BEGIN SOON!



It won't be long now, and our choir programs will begin singing and ringing to our delight once again.



Adults will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 10, with handbells at 6:30 p.m. in the Larison Room and senior choir in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm, with choir singing on September 14. We are especially interested in new choir members to replace some voices that have left, and all are welcome. We have handsome new robes and another wonderful Christmas cantata to tempt you with!

Our children's choirs are also starting back and will be alternating singing and chiming rehearsals on a Sunday following church very soon. Again, all are welcome.



Our thanks to Matt Petrozelli and Vicki Kopacka for all their fine work with our music program.

WORSHIP

Did You Know what a Bicenterquasquigenary is?

A rather significant event is on the horizon for CPC. In 2027, we will be observing the 275th Anniversary of the founding of our church!

Officially referred to as a “bicenterquasquigenary” BI (two), CENT (hundred), QUASQUI (a little more than, GENARY(relating to years), (try saying that five times fast),

it provides an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the life and story of our congregation. And there's more! We get to include our friends at Flanders Presbyterian Church, who also trace their origins to the original church at the cemetery site on Pleasant Hill Road.

Soon, we will be forming a committee (how Presbyterian) to start planning for this, but for now, just take a moment to reflect on all that history and the lives our church has touched.

Happy 275th!!!



Lay Assistant, Usher, Communion Stewards and Coffee Hour Hostesses for September . Please pencil in on your calendars if you haven't already done so and PLEASE let the list makers know that you have switched with someone or need someone to fill your place. Thank you.

September 7: Communion

Lay Assistant: Nancy Thaiss

Ushers/Stewards: Karen Stewart, Terri Kramer

Set-up / Steward: Matt McConnell, Darcy Taylor

Coffee Hour: Al Kopacka and ???

September 21 Welcome Back Sunday

Lay Assistant: Elder Christy Hemmes,

Family Ministries Director

Ushers: Emily Hemmes, Ellie Regber

Brunch: Brunch at the Beach ~ Parish Life/
Christian Ed

September 14:

Lay Assistant: Elder Betsy Regber

Ushers: Elder Sarah Jane and Mike Noll

Coffee Hour: Need someone

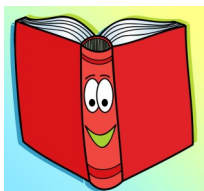
September 29:

Lay Assistant: Deacon Tom Perry

Ushers: Susan and Edward Johnson

Coffee Hour: Need someone

Parish Life Council



The Parish Life sponsored book club met last week for a discussion of **The Red House** by Mary Morris. The group chose **Here One Moment** by Liane Moriarty as their next read. They will meet for a discussion of the book on Tuesday, October 7th, 6:30 p.m. Come join us! More participants and book suggestions are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Stephens (201) 874-1477.

CHURCH LIFE

DEACONS

The Deacons are excited about their upcoming fall activities. We will be hosting another Veterans dinner for two VA hospitals, either in September or October. We are just waiting for a confirmation on the date. Plans are in the making for our Thanksgiving Food Baskets and Christmas Gift Bags for the Chester/Mendham Food Bank.

And the Deacons are always available to visit or drive you to a doctor's appointment or other place in their "Sunshine Taxi"! Please don't hesitate to call either Christy Shepard at 908 892-3878 or Darcy Taylor at 908 996-4649.



Presbyterian Women will have a Holiday Extravaganza planning meeting on *Sunday, September 21st, after the worship service*, by the fireplace. The Holiday Extravaganza will be held Saturday, November 15th -- please save the date! We will have a wonderful selection of items to sell at this event.



Our craft room is filled!



Thank you everyone who donated jewelry to the Peach Festival and Holiday Extravaganza! If you did not get a tax donation letter, they are in the drop off bag on the table, in Fellowship Center.

Presbyterian Women are still collecting all kinds of jewelry--costume/real--broken and single pieces are fine. Back in the spring gold and unusable sterling items brought in \$550 for PW. During Peach donations, we were able to get \$4,790 for gold/silver items and an additional \$720 is coming in for dented sterling dishes. Plus a number of Tiffany and other extra nice pieces of jewelry/silver were sold on eBay by Pastor Chris. Those final numbers should be coming in soon. So please keep PW and CPC in mind when cleaning out jewelry and unused sterling serving pieces. Let your friends and neighbors know too, we welcome all donations, in any condition. So far it has been a very successful year -thank you everyone!



SCRIP NEWS ~ This month we had 12 families purchase scrip with a net rebate of \$ 203.01 for CPC with a year-to-date total of \$2,035.10. Thank you all! Marilyn Guerin was the winner of the \$10 gift card for August. 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, **September 14, 2025**.

Later Additions

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday school is preparing for the Fall and we are looking for the following items from the congregation if you have them laying around.

Paper towel/toilet paper rolls
Egg cartons
Shoe boxes
Old magazines/newspapers
Clothespins

Mission Council



CIDER FEST

OCTOBER 9, 2025 5-8 PM
BURNT MILLS CIDER, BEDMINSTER, NJ

JOIN COMFORT ZONE CAMP FOR AN EVENING OF FUN AND FRIENDSHIP TO SUPPORT GRIEVING CHILDREN!

- 🍏 Premium hard ciders crafted by Burnt Mills Cider
- 🍏 Win unique raffle baskets
- 🍏 Roast s'mores around the bonfire
- 🍏 Bring your own lawn chair or cozy blanket
- 🍏 Proceeds will help send children to CZC

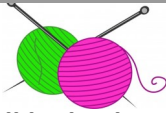
GET YOUR TICKETS HERE TODAY!

<https://givebutter.com/ciderfest2025>

For more information, email kcollopy@comfortzonecamp.org

CHURCH LIFE

CULTURED PURLS



'Cultured Purls' **will be back starting October 7th** beginning at 1 pm in the Fireplace Room. We hope to see more of you coming to join us. In the meantime, keep working on your projects or start a new one and bring when we meet in October. Don't forget to ask your friends to join us. We try to meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireplace room of Fellowship Center.



WOMENS BREAKFAST ~ Join us for our next **Women's Monthly Breakfast** at the Chester Diner, Saturday, September 6th beginning at 8 am. It's such a nice way to start the day, having food and fellowship and catching up. Bring a friend, the more the merrier.



The following is a list of **SEPTEMBER** 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.



ANNIVERSARIES

Albert and Vicki Kopacka, Jr.	9/03/88
Al and Janet Lindstrom	9/15/90
David and Jennifer Dean	9/26/15

BIRTHDAYS

Heberton Fricke, III	9/01	Christy Hemmes	9/15
Burton Fricke, IV	9/07	Drew Conlan	9/21
Ben Pfaff	9/09	Evie Taylor	9/23
Paul Rolfe	9/09	Carolyn Bearlepp	9/25
Karen Collins	9/10	Susan Johnson	9/26
Shannon Lavelle	9/10	Albert Kopacka, Jr.	9/27
Sebastian Volante	9/10	Quinn LaClair	9/30
Jeff Taylor	9/14	Sophie Meseck	9/30



CHESTER FOOD PANTRY

Donations are always appreciated and gratefully accepted.

Donations may be placed in the trunk in Fellowship Center.

– **PLEASE:** No Glass containers of any kind



September 2025



Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 10:00 Al-Anon <i>Office Closed</i> 	2 7:00 Overeaters Anonymous	3 9:30 Healthy Bones 4:30 DIY Fitness	4	5 9-12: Gourmet-on-the-Run 10:00 Al-Anon	6 8:00 Women's Breakfast 9:00 - 4 pm BYG Fundraiser Parking for Craft Fair 7:30 AA Meeting
7 Communion 9:00 - 4 BYG Fundraiser Parking for Craft Fair 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship & Coffee 6:00 IPSA	8 9-12 Gourmet-on-the-Run 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 DIY Fitness 7:30 Boy Scouts	9 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 50 Plus Club 7:00 Overeaters Anonymous	10 9:30 Healthy Bones 4:30 DIY Fitness 6:30 Bells 7:30 Vocal Choir	11 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Quilty Pleasures	12 9-12 Gourmet-on-the-Run 9:30 Beginner Mtg 10:00 Al-Anon	13 7:30 AA Meeting
14 9:15 Choir Rehearse 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship & Coffee COUNCILS Scrip Orders 6:00 IPSA	15 9-12 Gourmet-on-the-Run 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 DIY Fitness 6:30 Stewardship & Finance 7:30 Boy Scouts	16 9:00 Aerobics 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 SESSION 7:00 Overeaters Anonymous	17 9:30 Healthy Bones 4:30 DIY Fitness 6:30 Bells 7:30 Vocal Choir	18 9:00 Aerobics	19 9-12 Gourmet-on-The-Run 10:00 Al-Anon	20 9-1pm Comfort Zone Camp 7:30 AA Meeting
21 Welcome Back Sunday 9:15 Choir Rehearse 10:00 Worship 11:00 Brunch at the Beach 6:00 IPSA	22 9:00 Gourmet-on-the-Run 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 DIY Fitness 7:00 DEACONS 7:30 Boy Scouts	23 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 50 Plus Club 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Overeaters Anonymous	24 9:30 Healthy Bones 4:30 DIY Fitness 6:30 Bells 7:30 Vocal Choir	25 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 - 5 Quilty Pleasures 'Mystery Quilt'	26 9-12 Gourmet-on-the-Run 9:30 Beginner Mtg. 10:00 Al-Anon 9-on Quilty Pleasures 'Mystery Quilt'	27 7:30 AA Meeting
28 9:15 Choir Rehearse 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship & Coffee Youth Choirs ? 6:00 IPSA	29 9:00 Gourmet-on-the-Run 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 DIY Fitness 7:30 Boy Scouts	30 9:00 Aerobics 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Overeaters Anonymous				

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Address Service Requested

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Christy Hemmes, Director of Family Ministries
Website: www.cpcchester.org

