



Community Presbyterian Church News

OCTOBER, 2025



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

From your CPC Deacons:

It is never too early to collect for the food baskets we will be making in November for families in our area. Our food collection box will be set up in the lobby. Thank you for your generosity!



We appreciate anything you can donate!

The following is a list of the items we plan to give each family:

Flour
Sugar and/or brown sugar
Coffee
Pumpkin, apple, or cherry pie filling
Pie crust or shell
Cooking oil
Evaporated Milk
Pumpkin pie spice, cinnamon, etc.
Bisquick or Corn bread Mix
Cake, brownie, or muffin mix
Canned Gravy
Can of Mushroom Soup
French's Fried Onions
Cranberry Sauce
Stuffing Mix
Hot Cereal: oatmeal, farina, Cream of Wheat
Juices (no glass jars please)
Hot Chocolate



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Pastor's page . . .

The Bible is a story of the history of God and God's people. While the stories are set in various times and places, the lessons they provide transcend both of those things, as our histories can easily be rewritten in and among the stories in the Bible. This is by God's design to bring us a sense of comfort and belonging, but also that we are a part of that ongoing history as well. History is important.

Our particular congregation of Christ's church is about to celebrate 275 years in 2027. That is not a lot in terms of big picture history, but for us as individuals and for we as a country, it is a long time.

From the most humble beginnings as members of a British colony worshiping in the crude environment of "God's Barn" on Pleasant Hill, so named because of the light, wind, and cold that penetrated the gaps in the wall boards; to the rebuilding and shifting of the original building, done so that the entrance faced the road and parishioners entered from behind the pulpit to discourage latecomers. To the decision after 100 years of being a congregation to split into three as the local towns had grown enough to each support its own church. History is important.

In 1851, when the congregation split among new congregations to be formed in Flanders, Mount Olive, and Chester, new histories would begin. We are fortunate to have good documented history from our first sermon by the Rev Samuel Harker (who was later removed for heresy) through 1972, a few years before the Rev. Robert Maseroni made way for the Rev. Charlie Ringe, but then the recorded and written history largely ends. It is time for an update.

We are blessed to have many people with many talents and also many with long memories of life here. So with this and the coming Bicenterquasquigenary of our congregation (yes, it is a real word and maybe by 2027 I will learn how to say it), the time is right to update our history.

So if you have stories and memories to share, please begin writing them down. If you are good at compiling information into a narrative, or if you have desktop publishing skills, or a collection of photos from the period, or anything to contribute to this effort, please let me know. My hope is that a group can form, begin to meet, and strategize a timeline for creating a new history to be distributed during our 275th anniversary celebrations in 2027. So if you have ideas and would like to dedicate time, you know where to find me!

The Mostly Rev. Chris Scrivens
23rd Pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church of Chester.

Stewardship and Finance

When the leaves turn, our council turns to stewardship campaigns and budgets and this year is no exception. By the time this prints, stewardship letters and pledge cards should have arrived. If you didn't get a mailing, please pop in the office and get the package!

To kick off our stewardship season, we'll have an Adult Ed session on October 5 after Worship to review our church budget. Please bring your coffee and join us if you're curious.

And remember:

- As we move into the fourth quarter of 2025, please take a look at your giving so far this year and make sure you're up-to-date in your financial commitments to CPC.
- Scrip is an easy, easy way to donate someone else's money to CPC. Ask Nancy Case or anyone on our council if you have questions.
- The Presbytery supports our church and others in our area. It is financed by assessing each active member in each congregation \$43. and a blue envelope in each pledge envelope box is provided for this purpose. If you haven't paid your assessment (with or without the blue envelope) please consider doing so.

Your Stewardship & Finance Council,

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

Mission Council

We are having a great response to our winter coat drive for Market Street Mission! There is still this week to contribute. Please pass the word to friends and family!



October 3rd is our Movie and Pizza night for Chester Area Senior Housing (CASH) beginning at 5:00 pm. If you would like to help, contact Jeanne Perry at jeanniema@aol.com.

Please support the Chester-Mendham Food pantry by donating deodorant, toothbrushes, paper towels, laundry detergent, and coffee this month.

Christian Education ~ Sunday School



Thank you to all that came out to our Brunch at the Beach!

If you didn't get a chance to decorate your fish, please grab one from the devotional table so we can add you to our disciple wall.



Be sure to check out the new material on the devotional table!

Our new curriculum we will explore different stories in the bible and the children will be discovering where God's Grace can be seen & how to show our gratitude to God for this.

I am excited for the children and I to get immersed in these stories and discover new things about God and ourselves.

We are looking for helper's downstairs, if you are interested in lending a hand one Sunday please let Christy know 908-310-6211 or familyministries@cpcchester.org

Dates that are open: 10/19; 11/2; 11/9 & a teacher for the 4-6th grade bible study on 12/14

Donations needed: Magazines or Newspapers, Clothes pins

Youth registration for the upcoming year of activities is now open, we are changing from the paper form to a google form, the link can be found on the CPC website home.

Registration should be completed for any youth Pre-K through High School. It will make it easier to keep everyone informed of the goings on.

Christian Ed: Intergenerational

We have a great **Sanctuary Sunday** program planned, mark your calendars so you don't miss them! Our first date is October 5th with Faith and Finance lead by the Finance committee! So grab a coffee and a snack and join us!



Worship



Lots of things keeping us active on our council this season, all the choirs are excited to begin rehearsing again. All of our groups seem to be growing and enjoying making great music at CPC, is there a spot for you too?

In October, we will observe World Wide Communion by hearing "*Do This in Remembrance of Me*" spoken in different languages. We will also enjoy bread from around the world.

November will include the Remembrance Service on November 2, where we pause to honor and remember those who have gone before us. We will also be decorating the tree on the stage in time for Extravaganza, a new and cherished tradition at CPC!

Of course, December brings all the preparation for Advent and Christmas, including Tuesday night vespers, the choir cantata, and two Christmas Eve services (3 pm with youth choirs, 5:30 pm with adult choirs).

Can't forget the holiday hymn sign on December 28.

As always, we thank you for your support and encouragement throughout the year.

Parish Life

BOOK CLUB



The Book Club chose

Here One Moment by *Liane Moriarty* as their next book. Plans are to meet on Tuesday, October 7th at 6:30 pm. Come join us, more participants and book suggestions are always welcome.

After the discussion they will all choose the next book to read...so come with your suggested reads.

Additional participants and book suggestions are always welcome! If you have any questions please contact Joan Stephens (201-874-1477).

Come Join Us!!!

SCRIP NEWS ~ This month we had 12 families purchase scrip with a net rebate of \$214.93 for CPC and a year-to-date total of \$2,249.53. Last year at this time, our total rebate was \$2,117.67 hopefully this will be our best year yet! Thank you for your continued 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 nbcase48@yahoo.com) and she will be happy to help you. The next scrip order will be placed on Sunday, **OCTOBER 12, 2025**. *Remember holidays are coming, start your scrip gift shopping early.*

Parish Life ~ Deacons

The Deacons have set the date for their third Veterans Dinner on Thursday, October 16th. As of now, we have 50 veterans from two VA hospitals, and their staff, coming to enjoy an evening of food and bingo. The bingo is provided by the Chester chapter of the American Legion. Also in attendance will be our own veterans and the Eagle Scouts from our local group. The Pfaffs, the Hagers and the American Legion have generously donated money to support this worthwhile endeavor! We can't thank them enough!



We currently have five college students that are receiving Amazon gift cards from us this month and will receive a care package of fall decorations and Halloween goodies in October. If you have a college student, please let us know so we can send them cards and care packages as well.

It's hard to believe but it's time to start our food drive for our Thanksgiving Baskets. The front page of this newsletter has a list of items we plan to give every family and senior that receives help from the Chester-Mendham Food Bank. Last year we made more than 55 baskets and this year we will be making even more. We appreciate everyone's support! This small gesture is making a difference in many peoples lives.

Church Life: Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Women held their last meeting on Sunday, September 21st. Collecting jewelry of all kinds has been very successful and a large selection will be for sale at the November 15th Holiday Extravaganza. Thank you to all donors for the jewelry and also for the gift boxes! Presbyterian Women will continue to collect throughout the year, drop off your donations in the shopping bag in Fellowship Center anytime. Do not forget your tax donation letter, copies are in the bag.



✳️ **Thursday, November 13th** we will start setting up in Fellowship Center at **10:15 a.m.** PW will need help arranging tables and displaying our items for sale. Strong men are always welcome! We can use as many helpers as possible.

✳️ **Friday, November 14th** we will fine tune everything **starting at 9 am**, and also baked goods should be dropped off during the day. If you are using nuts, please specify what type of nut on your label. Clear clamshell containers will be available in the office for all bakers, help yourself to what you need. Jeanne Perry will start pricing baked goods in the afternoon. We will need volunteers throughout the day on Saturday,

✳️ **Saturday, November 15th** --even if you can give a couple of hours that will be great! We can use help in all areas--Baked Goods, Vintage Christmas, Larison Room shopping, all our sales areas. Lunch will be provided to all our volunteers. John Pfaff will be selling 50-50 tickets for \$5 each. Barbara Misar heads up Gourmet on the Run, they are cooking every Monday and Friday in the church kitchen if you would like to help out. Sorting, pricing, and packing is almost done in the basement craft room for selling in Fellowship Center and Larison Room. We should have a very nice selection of holiday decor and gifts to sell this year. If you have holiday items to donate, please leave in the church office and Beth or Terry Travis will take care of them. A big thank you to all our donors, and a special thank you to Patty Fricke and the R&R Family for picking up the cost of our flyers and mailing! There will be flyers on the table in the hallway so please take some to give to your friends, neighbors, or post in your favorite store. There will be more information coming soon about how Presbyterian Women will be assisting the young woman Maddie (ASP volunteer worker who Pastor Chris befriended) from Memphis, Tennessee. PW voted on helping Maddie get through college.



Big Youth Group will have a planning meeting at Lower Valley Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 25, beginning at 1pm.

Church Life

WOMENS BREAKFAST



Our next breakfasts will be held Saturday, October 4th and November 1st at the Chester Diner at 8am. Come and start your day by joining us for breakfast and catching up with each other. Bring a friend, the more the merrier.

Hope to see some new faces joining us!



CHESTER FOOD PANTRY

Donations are always appreciated and gratefully accepted. Just some of the needed items

Laundry detergent, paper towels, tooth-brushes, deodorant, coffee, cooking oil, drinks (juice, shelf-stable milk) hot cereal, dessert mixes (cookies, brownies, etc.) tuna fish, cookies crackers.

Donations may be placed in the trunk in Fellowship Center.



Birthdays

The following is a list of October 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!

<i>Diane Phares</i>	<i>10/01</i>	<i>Ethan Cudnik</i>	<i>10/22</i>
<i>James Suter</i>	<i>10/01</i>	<i>Carol Puffer</i>	<i>10/22</i>
<i>Brian McConnell</i>	<i>10/02</i>	<i>Kaitlyn Davis</i>	<i>10/23</i>
<i>Tyler Clessuras</i>	<i>10/03</i>	<i>Tom Perry</i>	<i>10/24</i>
<i>Thomas Stewart</i>	<i>10/05</i>	<i>Brandt Davis</i>	<i>10/25</i>
<i>Jakob Scrivens</i>	<i>10/08</i>	<i>Madeline Rose Rolfe</i>	<i>10/25</i>
<i>Barbara Gill</i>	<i>10/16</i>	<i>Andy Smith</i>	<i>10/25</i>
<i>Janet Lindstrom</i>	<i>10/17</i>	<i>Chloe Ash</i>	<i>10/27</i>
<i>Nikolas Thunberg</i>	<i>10/18</i>	<i>Stacey Cudnik</i>	<i>10/28</i>
		<i>Matthew Menagh</i>	<i>10/29</i>



If we have missed anyone, please email or call the church office so we can put you on the list for next time.

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER, 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 Healthy Bones 4:30 DIY Exercise Ladies 6:30 Bell Rehears. 7:30 Choir	2 9:00 Aerobics	3 9-12 Gourmet-on-the Run 10:00 Al-Anon	4 8:00 Women's Breakfast 7:30 AA Meeting
5 World Communion 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship & Coffee Youth Choirs 11:15 Sanctuary Sun. Adult Ed: Faith in Finance 6:00 IPSA	6 9-12 Gourmet-on-the Run 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 DIY Exercise Ladies 7:30 Boy Scouts	7 9:00 Aerobics 1:00 Cultured Purls 3:00 Bible Study 6:30 Book Club 7:00 Overeaters Anon.	8 9:30 Healthy Bones 4:30 DIY Exercise Ladies 6:30 Bell Rehears. 7:30 Choir	9 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 Quilty Pleasures	10 9-12 Gourmet-on-the Run 9:30 Beginners Mtg 10:00 Al-Anon	11 9-1 Presbytery Finance Committee Mtg. 7:30 AA Meeting
12 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship & Coffee Councils Youth Choir Scrip Orders 6:00 IPSA	13 Office Closed 9-12 Gourmet-on-the Run 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 DIY Exercise Ladies 7:30 Boy Scouts	14 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 50 Plus Club 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Overeaters Anon	15 9:30 Healthy Bones 4:30 DIY Exercise Ladies 6:30 Bell Rehears. 7:30 Choir	16 9:00 Aerobics Deacons: Veteran's Dinner	17 9-12 Gourmet-on-the Run 10:00 Al-Anon	18 7:30 AA Meeting
19 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship & Refreshments Youth Choirs 11:15 Sanctuary Sun. Adult Ed: Jary Jibilian 6:00 IPSA	20 9-12 Gourmet-on-the Run 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 DIY Exercise Ladies 7:30 Boy Scouts	21 9:00 Aerobics 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 SESSION 7:00 Overeaters Anon	22 9:30 Healthy Bones 4:30 DIY Exercise Ladies 6:30 Bell Rehears. 7:30 Choir	23 10:30 Quilty Pleasures	24 9-12 Gourmet-on-the Run 9:30 Begin. Mtg. 10:00 Al-Anon	25 1:00 BYG Planning Meeting at Lowr Valley PC 7:30 AA Meeting
26 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship/ Ref. Youth Choirs 6:00 IPSA	27 9-12 Gourmet-on-the Run 10:00 Al-Anon 4:30 Lifelong Fitness 7:00 DEACONS 7:30 Boy Scouts	28 9:00 Aerobics 10:30 50 Plus Club 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Overeaters Anon.	29 9:30 Healthy Bones 4:30 Lifelong Fitness 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir	30 9:00 Aerobics	31 9-12 Gourmet-on-the Run 10:00 Al-Anon 12-on set up for Presby. Disaster Relief 	

Community Presbyterian Church
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Address Service Requested



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