



Transforming Lives,  
Communities, and  
the World for  
300 Years

Cold Spring Presbyterian Church  
780 Seashore Rd. Cold Spring, NJ 08204  
Near Historic Cold Spring Village  
www.coldspringchurch.com  
609-884-4065 office  
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# THE BRICKETTE

A community congregation of worship and mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A National Historic Landmark Site.



## A Message from the Pastor

### Christmas Bazaar/Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

Cold Spring Church  
Price Hall  
780 Seashore Road,  
(Corner of Academy &  
Seashore Roads),  
Saturday November 4th  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Call 884-4065 for more  
information.



Poinsettia  
Tree

Our two poinsettia trees will beautify the sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season. Each plant may be purchased for \$11.00. A list of all those honored and remembered will be included in our worship bulletin. Directions on how to order your plants are in this issue of the Brickette.

### Faith Is Action – Action Changes Things

*Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead (James 2:15-17 (NIV)).*



Hello Cold Spring Friends,

What is our mission? Well, you’d likely begin by describing our worship together on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in our well-known red brick building, our Worship Center. Worship includes welcoming and engaging activities such as singing, praying, responses, Scripture readings, and the preaching of God’s Word. In worship, whether in our personal devotional time or together, we express our gratitude and praise to God and become energized and equipped to make a positive difference in the world. But there is more to Cold Spring Church’s mission than corporate worship on Sundays. Much more.

Faith Is Action. Look around. Though our attendance is increasing (seventy-eight last week), the vast majority of people do not attend *our* Sunday worship. Actually, most of our community does not attend *any* Sunday worship. While we want to keep improving our interactive worship experience for every age group, for newcomers as well as longtime participants, we must work hard to make our faith visible, as James exhorts us to do in the passage above, “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

Action starts with listening. When we respect others and really listen in a spirit of openness, we begin to hear stories that deserve our response. Cape May County families are being ravaged by the opioid abuse and overdose epidemic sweeping the country. While this epidemic may seem a bit distant to you personally, not far from our Worship Center a thirteen-year old middle schooler recently died from an overdose of heroin and fentanyl. The parents were as shocked as they were devastated by this tragedy, unaware of how or even why their child would be taking these drugs. This is just one of many horrific opioid overdose stories being told in our neighborhoods. While this news can easily feel overwhelming, the faith community must respond with practical resources, something in addition to, “Come to church on Sunday.”

As I left the Wawa on Bayshore Road the other day, there was a Prescription Drug Drop-Off zone that urged parents to clear out dangerous and unneeded drugs from their medicine cabinets. I wonder if we could provide prevention training in partnership with the New Jersey Opioid Program, or space for classes to help Parents learn how to better monitor and support their kid’s activities?

Listening Leads To Change. As we keep listening, we also recognize that some in our community have had traumatic or painful experiences related to God, religion, denominations, or churches in general. Our Explore God series provides a safe place for inquiry and sharing. How many have become disillusioned by religion, disappointment by bad-actions associated with Christ or the practitioners of the Christian faith, or simply lack hope that their faith could once again become more meaningful and alive. While we are welcoming, our neighbors may need something more as they seek spiritual energy, hope, and possibilities.

As we move into the holiday months of Advent and Christmas, let’s renew our commitment to be more than just welcoming and more than just worship. How can we practically address urgent community needs and partner with others by learning and listening, loving and serving, inviting and building discipleship, and becoming a pro-active champion for our greater community? Of course, we still will gather for worship, but if all we do is worship on Sundays, we will miss even greater weekday opportunities God has set before us to do (John 14:12).

Action Changes Things. What connections can you make in your neighborhood? How can we help? Think about those who may need an encouraging phone call? Think about the teenage skateboarder you see on the corner, the family next door, the person walking down your street every day, or your favorite store clerk? Many have not been in a worship service recently, or ever. They may not want to, either! Realize that our world of favorite songs, sermons, and prayers will be unfamiliar to them, not make any sense, and they may feel more like outsiders.

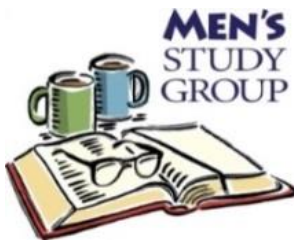
What activities does our community enjoy? Pet lovers? Hobbyists? Community-minded volunteers? How about connecting to others around art and food? Studying the Bible? Homework help? Youth activities? Senior respite? Any car or motorcycle enthusiasts? Outdoor fans? These activities can create natural connections that can be nurtured at Cold Spring Church.

**Action Delivers Hope!** Our community of faith has held fast to core Christian theological beliefs since its founding by followers of Christ in 1714. Let’s recommit to putting that faith in action! However you put your faith in action, know that it is deeply appreciated. I believe Cold Spring Church’s mission can achieve an even greater impact in our community as we work together! What will you do today to make your faith real?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Kevin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



On **November 1:** In anticipation of the "International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church" to be held on Sunday, November 5, the short DVD "*Solitary Prayer*" features excerpts from the new movie Tortured for Christ ( to be released in 2018 ). This theatrical film is a dramatic presentation of the solitary confined life of Richard Wurmbrand, a Romanian pastor who stated "A man really believes not what he recites in his creed, but only the things he is willing to die for." Be inspired by his powerful prayer life which empowered him to overcome the persecution he suffered for fourteen years!

On **November 15:** From the DVD set "Does America Have a Prayer?" Dr. D. James Kennedy delivers his concluding sermon of this series entitled "Drifting". Dr. Kennedy addresses the church's need for revival and explains what it is, why we need it, and how we can invoke God for it. If there is a prayer for America today, it must come from those who are called by His name! This inter-denominational men's group ministry meets at 10:15 a.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month. All men are welcome!



### Christian Living:

The world tells us annoyances and afflictions cause discouragement and doubt --and that we are right to demand our way. Given what Christ has done for us, our lives should overflow with gratitude. Sadly, too often they don't. Nancy Leigh DeMoss's book Choosing Gratitude speaks powerfully to one of our most important issues as individuals, families, and churches. Journey closer to the Heart of God --choose gratitude! Join us for the reading and discussion of this inspirational book. Together we will learn the key to a peaceful, joy-filled heart in every circumstance of life. (Note: the book is not required to participate as we will provide an audio CD for the learning experience.)

This inter-denominational group of men and women meets at 10:15 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Everyone is most welcome!



### Affirmation of Faith:

Our "Fifth Wednesday Special" explores the often-asked question "How do we know the Bible is true?" Join us as we view and discuss the new challenging DVD "*Why 66? The Canon of Scripture*". In this captivating presentation, featuring popular author, theologian, and biblical scholar Brian Edwards, we discover some unexpected and faith-strengthening conclusions about the Bible. This special program will be presented on November 29th at 10:15 a.m. for anyone interested in gaining a deeper appreciation and understanding of a biblical truth that, in turn, affirms our faith. Everyone is welcome!

**All classes meet in the Taylor Room of Price Hall.**



"Q Place" means a safe place where you can ask questions about the topic under discussion. Everyone has the opportunity to explore the question more deeply, some by asking questions or sharing their own perspective and experience; others may prefer to just "listen in" and learn from what others have to say. Whether you are an active or a passive learner does not matter; the shared questions, perspectives, and experiences provide an interesting learning opportunity for everyone in the group. A short DVD introduction of the scheduled question will be viewed, followed by comments from the group. These comments are often the catalyst that ignite stimulating discussion!

Recommended readings will be presented for those who wish to further explore the topic on their own. For anyone interested in discussing these Sunday sermon questions within a small group setting, simply show up for the designated class. No registration is needed to participate in this open-meeting format. You may participate in any one or more of these weekly sessions. Coffee and fellowship begin at 10:15 a.m. with the discussion led by a facilitator beginning at 10:30 a.m.

**The "Q Place" discussion group schedule: Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Taylor Room of Price Hall on November 1, 8, and 15.**

You may have noticed our banner now posted (near our worship center) on Seashore Road proclaiming "*We all have Questions! Explore God*". There are also several "lawn signs" positioned by our several property driveways and facility entrances. In addition to a series of newspaper ads, these signs are another way that our church is announcing to our surrounding community (and the out-of-town drive-by vehicles) that we at Cold Spring are a participating church in this mission! The best ways are people like you helping us to "spread the word" and by your personal prayers, calling upon the Holy Spirit to move the hearts of those who are ready to explore God! ~ Rob Riehl

### **JOIN OUR CARING TEAM!**



The mission of the Deacons is to show love, care, and compassion in the name of Jesus Christ. That's why we refer to it as our Caring Team! We are looking for a few more loving humanitarians to serve as deacons at Cold Spring Church. We are exhorted in God's word to have Faith, Hope, and Love. Of these three, love is the greatest. All of us can demonstrate a love of God and love for others. This is an amazing opportunity to serve and to help others in our community. If you are interested becoming a Deacon, please let the pastor or one of the deacons know. *Thank you! Neil Oberlin, Moderator of the Deacons*



## **SINGING TEAM FORMING**

Music is an integral part of our worship experience every week at Cold Spring Church. We enjoy a range of music from traditional to contemporary and we want to do more.

If you'd like to share your voice or other musical talent with others in a singing team that is just beginning to explore the possibilities, please let music director Jayne McDonough know of your interest, or call the church office. *Let's make some music together!*



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## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS**

Our Annual Soup and Sandwich Luncheon, Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, November 4th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Price Hall. All donations of Christmas crafts, decorations and baked goods will be appreciated as well as volunteers to help on that day. We will also accept "White Elephant items" as we do at the Strawberry Festival.

The Busy Bees will be on hand to sell their hand-crafted items that the ladies have made during their Wednesday morning Craft Sessions. These items are the perfect gift for that "hard to buy for" friend or neighbor.

If anyone would like to make soup or sandwiches, please call Roseann Paulits (886-8220) for recipes or with any questions. All proceeds benefit Presbyterian Women Missions. Thank you all for your help.



## **CIRCLE MEETINGS**

The next meeting of The **Esther Circle** will be November 21st at 10 a.m. Co-hostesses will be Beverly Greger and Lillian Ridgway. Lillian will read from the mission book. Bring lunch! Bring a friend. Beverage and dessert are provided.

The **Mary Circle** meets on November 21st. at 7 p.m. Nancy Reed will do Lesson 8 and Roseann Paulits will do Lesson 9 of the Bible Study. Joan O'Neill will read from the Mission Book and the co-hostesses will be Eileen Word and Ruth Traber.

*Both Circle Meetings are open to all women; you don't need to be a member of Cold Spring Presbyterian Church to attend.*



## FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS FOR NOVEMBER 2017

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful fall weather! The wonderful people who founded Cold Spring Presbyterian Church surely realized and knew what they were doing. Three hundred years later we continue to enjoy their founding spirit. In that spirit our food cupboard continues to collect and distribute food to people in need in our area. This giving spirit demonstrates the heart of the Christian church. ***Last month we collected over 352 items for our two food banks (St. Barnabas and The Church of the Nazarene).***

Through prayer and giving hearts we are responding to the need. I pray that we continue to meet the need and increase our sharing each month. Let's with God's help, make 2017 the best year ever as we open our hearts to others. The list below are items the food banks have given to us as a guideline of need. In addition we take almost any non-perishable food and personal items (extra in your home). As always if you would rather make a monetary donation to the food banks it is most welcome and we will pass it on to them.

*II Corinthians 9:7 NLT "For the Lord loves a person who gives cheerfully"*  
*Acts 20:35 Remember the Words of Jesus "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

### Our collection for November will be:

- Nov. 5      Instant rice, canned soups, Ramen Noodles, crackers**
- Nov. 12     Toothpaste & brushes, soap (bars), toilet paper, pasta and sauce**
- Nov. 19     Peanut butter and grape jelly, fruit cups, canned vegetables**
- Nov. 26     Hot and cold tea, hot & cold cereals, powdered milk, canned meat**

Your donations can be dropped off at Price Hall, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday in the sanctuary narthex. ~ *Neil Oberlin, Coordinator*

## CRAFT AND GIFT FAIR



Join us on Saturday, November 18, 2017 from 10 a.m. 2 p.m. at Cold Spring Presbyterian Church /Price Hall 780 Seashore Rd. (corner of Seashore & Academy Rd.) for our Annual Craft and Gift Fair.

Seeking Crafters and Vendors - we provide the tables, the entire event is inside, no worry about the weather. Price: 8' x 3' Table: \$25 before 11/1 ~ \$35 after 11/1.

For Registration Form or more information call:  
Judy Beare at 884-8051 or  
Susie Sparks at 602-2931

## Session Notes

These are the summary notes --or highlights-- of our most recent session meeting. For further details of these notes and additional session discussion matters, please refer to the next set of complete Session Minutes (upon session approval and publication).

Our Session approved the following agenda items on October 4, 2017:

1. Minutes of session meetings of September 6 2017;
2. Purchase of leadership magnetic name tags;
3. Annual Congregational Meeting: January 28, 2018;
4. Replacement of kitchen lighting in Price Hall;
5. Digital signage for worship center.

The Session also discussed the following agenda items in progress:

1. Mission and Ministry Study Step;
2. Campus Easement process update;
3. Formation of new church member's class;
4. New church community pictorial directory;
5. Volunteers for Advent candle-lighting at Sunday worship services.

Complimentary copies of our approved Session Minutes are located on our information table in the church narthex; additional copies are available in the designated rack by the church office bulletin board in Price Hall.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the current meeting agenda items, kindly contact the pastor, a session member, or myself for clarification.

-- Rob Riehl, Clerk to Session



## Poinsettia's Will Beautify Our Advent Experience

Advent begins December 3rd! Last year our amazing **Poinsettia Trees** added warmth and beauty to our worship experience. Absolutely inspiring! Share Christmas blessings with others by purchasing a beautiful red poinsettia plant in memory of a loved one, to honor someone, or recognize a special event in your life! Each plant may be purchased for \$11.00. Our two poinsettia trees will beautify the sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season. A special printed recognition of all those honored and remembered will be included in our worship bulletin.

Celebrate the Good News of Christmas by purchasing your Poinsettias online, [www.coldspringchurch.com](http://www.coldspringchurch.com), or in person. Look for inserts in the church bulletin. You may also purchase your Poinsettias at the November 4th Presbyterian Women's *Soup and Sandwich Luncheon, Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale* and the Cold Spring Church *Gift and Craft Fair* November 18th. For more information, please contact Kevin Beare at 425-1776.



Join the "*Hospitality Team*" of volunteers who are willing to provide occasional help with preparing, serving, and/or cleaning up with the several church breakfasts, luncheons, and/or dinners that are being planned to create more opportunities for "food and fellowship" gatherings. Contact Rob Riehl or the church office.



### Annual Prime Rib Community Dinner

purchase your Prime Rib

### Annual Prime Rib Community Dinner December 9th

Our annual Prime Rib Church Community Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. in Price Hall. Make your plans and save this date in your calendar! Seating will be limited. Tickets can be purchased for \$20.00 each.

Celebrate the Christmas season by purchasing your Prime Rib Dinner tickets **online**, [www.coldspringchurch.com](http://www.coldspringchurch.com), or in person. Look for inserts in the church bulletin. You may also purchase your Prime Rib Dinner tickets at the Cold Spring Church *Gift and Craft Fair* November 18th.

For more information, please contact Kevin Beare at 425-1776.



## Looking for an Outreach Ministry?



**Stephen Ministers** are members of local church congregations who receive special training to provide one-on-one Christian care to people in our congregation experiencing challenges in life -- grief, loneliness, divorce, hospitalization, disability, job loss, and many other life difficulties. Add a "higher-calling" purpose to your life: provide confidential Christian care to someone in need of your help! To learn how to become a Stephen Minister --or to receive care from one-- contact Rob Riehl (609-889-3538; [robriehl@verizon.net](mailto:robriehl@verizon.net) ) for a confidential conversation.



Interested in performing a "hand-on" active ministry on behalf of our church within our local community? Deliver meals to home-bound persons in the North Cape May and Villas area on a weekday morning. You can set your own schedule --even if only one day a month! Volunteers for **Mobile Meals** are needed for this worthy cause. Fulfill the message of "feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty"! (Matt. 25:35)

Contact Rob Riehl (609-889-3538; [robriehl@verizon.net](mailto:robriehl@verizon.net)) for additional information.



### **Join the Wreaths across America Tradition at Cold Spring Church Cemetery**

Our annual Wreaths across America event is a nationwide ceremonial tribute to military veterans to be held on Saturday, December 16, 2017, at 12 noon in the veterans' section of Cold Spring Cemetery. The ceremony at our beautiful Veterans Memorial beneath the service flags is free to the public and is located along Academy Road at the southern side of Cold Spring Church's 200+ acre campus, near the parking area. You may choose to purchase wreaths, see details below.

For more than 300 years, Cold Spring Church has been at the crossroads of the greater Cape May, South Jersey community transforming lives and offering hope. Refreshments will be available following the event indoors at Price Hall's meeting space adjacent to the parking area.

### **Remember, Honor, Teach**

*You may purchase a wreath **online** below or **in-person** with a purchase form available in the Worship Center narthex on Sundays between 10:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., or in the church office Monday through Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **Wreaths are \$15 each.** If paying by check, make checks payable to: Cold Spring Church, memo WAA 2017. Donations must be received no later than Sunday, November 26, 2017. Thank you for joining with us in this national tribute at Cold Spring Church!*

### **Join the Wreaths across America Tradition at Cold Spring Church Cemetery**

## **CLERKS CORNER**

### ***"Sorting Through Holiday Mix"***

With the need suddenly arising to get a "Thinking of You / Get Well" greeting card, I hurried to the card store and became somewhat unhinged to discover that the usual display racks allocated to such cards had been displaced with Halloween cards along with yet another section for such cards likewise replaced with Thanksgiving Day cards. To add to my discomfort was the intrusion of Christmas music embellishing the holiday atmosphere at the "hard-to-ignore" decibel level. All of this holiday madness before the week of Halloween! Being the only customer in the store at the time, I queried the cashier on duty, "How can you stand this --hearing Christmas music every workday from now until Christmas? How many times a day can you listen to Jingle Bells?" I admitted that I would have a hard time working in such a workplace environment; I would be all "Christmas-ed out" well before the actual holiday! How does this overdose of "triple-play commercialism" affect the original meanings of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas --and how does this blending and blurring of these special days affect our respect and understanding of these disparate days? Ecclesiastes had it right: "To everything there is a season." There is something to be said about having *too much* of a "good" thing! How much hot sauce can you add to a recipe before all you can taste is the hot sauce? How much tuna fish can you eat before it becomes nauseating? Allow me to apply this to other areas: how many instant replays can a televised sport employ before it loses the interest and enthusiasm of the spectators? How much socialism can a democratic-republic absorb before it becomes a socialist government? Churches of all denominations are not immune to the infiltration --and sometimes imposition-- of secular humanism with biblical principles. How much of "man's word" is conflated with God's Word thus blurring the original message causing confusion of the truth among the believers? Upon reflection, it is endemic of our present progressive culture that the traditional boundary lines governing the order of things --- both commercial and social-- have been incrementally and insidiously combined (the blending) or expanded (the blurring) causing the suffering of unneeded anxiety and distress, leading to chaos and confusion. The secular world for the most part has undermined the true meaning of these three unique days of our calendar year. As Christians we need to "sort through this holiday mix" to recover and uphold their true spiritual purposes --both for ourselves and for those in our sphere of influence!

On Halloween, we enjoy seeing the costumes, the parties, and the "Trick and Treat" community events. As Christians, we are reminded of the dark demonic presence that exists --the spiritual warfare within us to follow Satan or Jesus Christ. On Thanksgiving Day, we are grateful for so many persons, benefits, and opportunities received in our lives. As Christians, we are thankful for the churches, pastors, fellowship, and discernment using God's Word to help us navigate through the obliteration and confusion of boundary lines in our daily lives. On Christmas, we are joyful of celebrating the "goodwill" and gift-giving of the day with loved ones. As Christians, we are thankful that God has sent His Son to redeem us, personifying in Jesus Christ THE Way, THE Truth, and THE Life --for us to truly live free from sin, and for the sending of the Holy Spirit to energize us to be "containers of Christ" transforming the lives of those we encounter every day!

The secular commercial world has no problem with the blending and blurring of what they call the "holiday season"; after all, for them it is all about the money! But for us Christians, we see the importance of framing these special days as distinctly significant to ponder. After all, they point out to us aspects of our spiritual life journey that we must heed (and be reminded):-- recognizing our "dark side"--our propensity to sin; our need for humility -- to be grateful and thankful; and our reason to be joyful -- receiving the gift of Christ, our Hope.

~ Rob Riehl