



Transforming Lives,
Communities, and
the World for
300 Years

Cold Spring Presbyterian Church
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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.



Poinsettia Plants

Our two poinsettia trees will once again 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.

303 Anniversary Christmas Dinner

December 9th at 5 p.m. in
Price Hall. Choice of Chicken
or Prime Rib
Tickets - \$20.00
Remember to bring your
favorite beverage (wine
glasses will be provided).
Dinner tickets may be
purchased **online** at
www.coldspringchurch.com
or in person. For more info
call: 609-425-1776.

Sign-Up To Light the Advent Candle—

Each year an individual or a family volunteers for one of the four Sundays of December to light our Advent Wreath. Sign-up in the Narthex, or call the church office today. Help bring in the Light!

A Message from the Pastor

*The ADVENTure of Grace and Gratitude Must be Expressed
In Our Faith In Action*

“The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish” (John 1:14).

Hello. The month of December marks the season of Advent, the four Sundays prior to Christmas. Advent is designed to bring the community of faith on a adventure of faith... It starts with the promises foretold and then builds each week toward the mystery and celebration of God becoming human when Jesus moved into our neighborhood! This year could be the beginning of a new family tradition for you. As you read these words, let's consider how Advent can be a truly remarkable and life-changing ADVENTure of faith. It all starts with...

Grace and gratitude—

Yes, Grace and Gratitude are two essential attributes of a thriving community of faith. In fact, more than attendance, giving, and budget, the measure of a thriving community of faith is the expression of:

- 1) How God's *Grace* **impacts** the community of faith, and
- 2) How the congregation's *Gratitude* **impacts** the community at large.

Measure these “impacts,” and you can determine if a community of faith is thriving, or barely surviving, or even dying. Cold Spring Church is improving in each of these areas!



Each day offers ample evidence of God's abundant blessings. You represent one of those blessings, too! I hope you enjoy the holiday season ahead. We recognize that many of us, along with our families, neighbors, and communities, face challenges and stresses, especially during the holidays. I hope you utilize your networks of connections that ensure your safety, wellness, and vitality. Pray for, and check-in on, neighbors. Give generously to community projects. Invite others to share hospitality at your table, or invite them to worship, or an event. Consider ways to remind others they are not alone this holiday season.

Two Christmas Eve Services— This Christmas, we have two inspiring Christmas Eve services, both held in our Worship Center. Plan to attend with your family and friends. At 10:30 a.m., you are invited to participate in our Morning Christmas Eve Service for the entire family. At 5:00 p.m., join us for our beautiful Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service. Experience your favorite Christmas music, Scripture readings, and a message about Jesus' incarnation. Find out how our lives can be more energized and purposeful through fresh expressions of the familiar Christmas Story.

We're Just Getting Started!—As we celebrate 303 years of mission, we continue to learn and grow and make new connections with neighbors of every age. Thank you for the ways you help God's Grace have impact in your life, and how you express Gratitude with impact on the community! Thank you for your continued support of Cold Spring Church through your participation in worship, prayer and financial gifts, volunteering in mission, and serving in leadership. What you do matters as together we see God do even more amazing things beyond our wildest imaginations! Impact, not effort, matters most.

Caring Compassion— From time to time, we face adversities of health, finance, relationships, crises, and pain. Across the street, across the nation, and around the world, poverty, injustice, violence, abuse, bad behaviors, and persistent oppression affects millions of people. I am grateful for the gifts that our community of faith represents that expresses God's love and abundance. I celebrate the ways we are working to address our communities' challenges with more and more of what I call Farming Events— transformational events that are designed to create connections between the community of faith and the community at large. Our hospitality, generosity, worship, witness, and collaborative community work have planted seeds and increased our capacity to show God's love. Thank you!

Merry Christmas From Our Team— Along with our staff (Jayne, Judy, Scott, Chris, and Bob), our leadership team (session), and our caring team (deacons), I thank you for the privilege of serving greater Cape May with you. We are committed to surprising and delighting you with the spiritual and community resources you need to be a blessing With impact where God sends you every day. I offer prayers of gratitude for you, your families, and the communities we serve all year long.

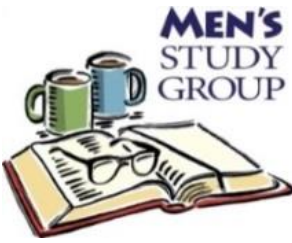
May you experience God's **Grace**, and express **Gratitude** this Advent and Christmas season! Our community deserves our very best in 2018!

On the ADVENTure with you,

Pastor Keun

*Merry Christmas
from Cold Spring Church!*

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Men's Group Ministry:

On **December 6: An Affirmation of Creation"** We will be examining

a proposed "Affirmation of Creation" document to be considered for adoption by the Presbyterian Church USA. This critique will include looking at this proposed document through the lens of scripture, of tradition, of experience, and of reason. This group experience should provide for an interesting and enlightening discussion! Do bring your Bibles!

On **December 20:** A special presentation of the classic film "Martin Luther" (see notes below for more details). Everyone is invited to attend !



Christian Living:

On **December 13: Choosing Gratitude** 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.)

On **December 29:** A special presentation of a new film "Chasing the Star" (see notes below for more details). Everyone is invited to attend !

Special Presentations : Two Feature Films

1. On Wednesday, December 20, the 50th Anniversary edition of the classic film **Martin Luther** (1952; B & W; 105 mins.) will be presented to highlight the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. We will gather at 10 a.m. for coffee, fellowship, and a short preview; we expect to begin the film promptly at 10:15 a.m. Anyone interested in experiencing this historic film is welcome!

2. On Wednesday, December 27, the new film **"Chasing the Star"** (2017; Color; 96 mins.) is described as "an epic exciting tale from Jesus' birth narrative and proves the wise men were more than mere pawns, but holy adventurers instead!" We will gather at 10 a.m. for coffee, fellowship, and a short preview; we expect to begin the film promptly at 10:15 a.m. Anyone interested in viewing a speculative story about the Magi ("The Three Wise Men") is welcome! **All classes meet in the Taylor Room of Price Hall.**



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*



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered, donated or attended our Annual Soup and Sandwich Luncheon, Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale on November 4th. We were able to raise \$1,648.00 for our mission work. We could not have done it without all of you. *Many thanks, Roseann Paulits*



CIRCLE MEETINGS

*The next meeting of The **Esther Circle** will be December 19th at 10 a.m. Study Book reading by Lillian Ridgway and Beverly Greger, Mission Book reading by Beverly and she will also be the Hostess.*

Don't bring a lunch it's a Pizza Party.

*The **Mary Circle** will hold their Christmas meeting on December 19th at 7 p.m. the co-hostesses will be Betsy Crosby and Roseann Paulits. This meeting will be a sharing of Christmas songs, stories and Christmas treats. All are welcome.*

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) for a confidential conversation.

Thank
You

The Busy Bee's would like to thank those who bought our crafts from both the May and November bazaars. We were able to help the Presbyterian Women in their mission work with the proceeds from the sale of our crafts.

For those who bought the gift certificates we had for sale, we thank you. The total raised from both the Strawberry Festival and Christmas Bazaar was \$785.00. This money was divided between St. Jude's Research Hospital for Children and the Shriners Hospital for Children. Each hospital received a check for \$392.50. This is the most we have been able to donate in the past three years. This would not have been possible except for the generosity of the businesses that were kind enough to donate the gift certificates. We hope you will patronize these businesses:

In Lower Township: Uncle Bill's Pancake House, Church's Garden Center, Acme, Yozu Sushi & Hibachi Restaurant, Cape Winds Florist, Lucky Bones, Lobster House Castaway Café, Jake's Bar and Grille. In Middle Township: Belview Tavern, Nino's Family Restaurant, Rio Station, Court House Diner, Menz's Restaurant, Link's Restaurant Avalon Golf Course, Shoprite. In Cape May: Mad Batter, Rusty Nail, Washington, Fudge Kitchen. In Upper Township: Dino's Diner, Tuckahoe Inn, Dollard Baker Sew & Vac, Yesterday's Restaurant & Bar, Island Shore Chinese, Restaurant, Tokyo Mandarin Chinese & Japanese restaurant, L's Restaurant and J Bone's Tavern.



Again we thank you. The Busy Bees - *Lillian Ridgway, Nancy Wand, Helen Lincoln, Lois DeSoo and Beverly Greger.*



**303rd Anniversary
Christmas Dinner**

Annual Prime Rib Anniversary Dinner December 9th

Our annual Anniversary Church Community Dinner featuring Prime Rib will be held on Saturday, December 9th, 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, or in person. Look for inserts in the church bulletin. **For more information, please contact Kevin Beare, 609-425-1776.**

Farewell Luncheon for Lois DeSoo: Lois has been active in our church for many years. Most recently as a Busy Bee, a Deacon and a member of the Esther Circle. She and her



husband Ken will be moving back to Pennsylvania on December 7th to be closer to her family. They will be greatly missed.

FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2017



The Winter season is upon us and our "Savior's Birth" is about to be celebrated. Christmas, what a wonderful time of year. With the spirit of Christmas in our hearts, it is a time for remembering those less fortunate. Our food collected and distributed to the local food banks demonstrates the caring nature of the Cold Spring Presbyterian Church family. ***Last month we collected over***

370 items for our two food banks (St. Barnabas and The Church of the Nazarene). The deacons will also be making a monetary donation to each of the Food Banks for Christmas. Thanks to the weekly Sunday collection earmarked for the Deacons, we are able to do make this donation.

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. We ask that you be aware of the sell-by dates. 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 December will be:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Dec. 3 | Instant rice, canned soups, Ramen Noodles, crackers |
| Dec. 10 | Toothpaste & brushes, soap (bars), toilet paper, pasta and sauce |
| Dec. 17 | Peanut butter and grape jelly, fruit cups, canned vegetables |
| Dec. 24 | Hot and cold tea, hot & cold cereals, powdered milk, canned meat |
| Dec. 31 | Baby food and diapers and pet food. |

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



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, or in person. Look for inserts in the church bulletin. For more information, please contact Kevin Beare at 425-1776.

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 November 1, 2017:

1. Minutes of Session Meeting of October 4, 2017;
2. Report of Moderator (for October);
3. Purchase of stainless steel work-table for kitchen (Price Hall).

The Session also discussed the following agenda items in progress:

1. Mission and Ministry Study Team: update;
2. Nominating Committee: status;
3. Cemetery Team chairperson; Corporation president (TBD)
4. Stewardship options;
5. Per Capita assessment: Review.

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 of Session



Join the Wreaths across America Tradition at Cold Spring Church Cemetery

The annual Wreaths across America event, a nationwide ceremonial tribute to military veterans will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2017, promptly at 12 noon in the veterans' section of Cold Spring Cemetery.

The ceremony at our beautiful Veterans Memorial beneath the service flags is open to the public; it is located on Academy Road near the parking area of Cold Spring Church's Price Hall. For more than 300 years, Cold Spring Church has been at the crossroads of the greater Cape May area transforming lives and offering hope to its surrounding communities.

The half -hour program includes the participation of several local veterans associations and civic organizations within Cape May County. Representatives of these groups will present ceremonial wreaths followed by the laying of the many donated wreaths upon the gravesites of the veterans interred here. Following this event, light refreshments will be available to all participants and attendees in the adjacent Price Hall. In the event of inclement weather, this ceremony will take place inside Price Hall.



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) for additional information.



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 join please let music director Jayne McDonough know of your interest, or call the church office.

From the Clerk's Corner ~

A Powerful Gift

Sometimes I wonder what gift can I give this year to someone special in my life. What can I give that they don't already have? What do I think they need? Better yet, do I know what he/she *really wants*? What can I give that will be an unexpected surprise? What can I give that is different and yet thoughtful? What can I give that conveys the message that I have carefully chosen the gift they have desired? What gift can I give that shows that I care? These are among the familiar questions we ask ourselves about gift-giving at Christmas.

The true plight of Parker Johnson, the six-month old child born with a cancerous tumor --and not expected to survive --was a lesson about the power of a special gift. It was a gift that confounded medical science seeking a logical reason, caused some to "scratch their heads (or chins)" in amazement and wonder, and still others instant jubilation for a blessing received! For those who believe, it was the power of prayer; for those who disbelieve, it just had to be "something else"! For those who prayed, it was an answer for a miracle; for those who doubted, it was mere chance or "luck"! For the cause of these reactions was the undeniable result of the collective prayers of individuals and church congregations for this baby Parker, his tumor reduced by 75 per cent which, in turn, allowed certain surgical procedures to now be done with the prognosis being favorable for his survival. How could this terminal case be suddenly reversed? For those who believed in the power of prayer, it was an affirmation; for the scoffers and sceptics, it was inexplicable!

Here is a truth that I learned not too long ago that I will share with you: "Everyone is fighting a battle that no one else knows". That profound thought alone compels me to realize that everyone --including myself-- needs the gift of prayer. We easily say "I will pray for you" or write "You are in my thoughts and prayers", and then due to our delay we often forget --and perhaps later regret! The "business of life" gets in the way and so the offered prayer is not done and the blessing lost. Realize that time is of the essence for most prayers to be effected. "Who knows? Your prayer gift may influence, re-direct, heal, reconcile, or save someone immediately! And as long as you know and God knows, that's all who *really* needs to know!

Have you ever considered the biblical truth that God has given us humans, made in His image, a most special gift --a gift that no other created creature on earth has been privileged to possess: the gift of prayer ! We are the only earthly beings who have been granted the means to communicate directly to our Creator ---we can converse with God! He is never too busy, pre-occupied, out-of-town, or asleep on the job. No matter is considered insignificant, silly, or stupid. He can handle all things; nothing is impossible to Him.

We are not told to leave a voice-mail, be placed on "hold", or need to make an appointment. We have instant contact with God --at any time we want and in any place we may be. He is never unavailable to us! We have an innate "wireless connection" with God; He created us to be in communion with Him --all the time! Anyone who believes in the awesome power of prayer can access this infinite resource. For God reads our hearts; He knows our level of belief. God hears all prayers and answers all prayers ---according to His Will and in the fullness of His time. We do not always understand (or accept) God's ways, but He certainly knows our ways! God is not a "vending machine"; He doesn't negotiate "quid pro quo" transactions. Therefore, we unconditionally place our faith, our trust, and our hope that God knows what He is doing --that He really is in control!

Think about which gift can last a lifetime; which gift has eternal value; which gift has unlimited power to change the mind and transform the heart of someone in desperate need? Which gift is both free and yet priceless? What gift do you suppose I am describing? It is the gift of prayer! God has given you, dear reader, the gift of prayer. Especially at Christmas, the gift-giving season. Can you give this gift to someone? Is there someone you know who could use a thoughtful prayer from you? Who comes to mind that the Holy Spirit has placed upon your heart right now? Time may be of the essence; do not procrastinate (and then forget). Will you give someone this powerful gift of prayer --and do it right now? God will bless this prayer request!

-- Rob Riehl

Christmas Bazaar/Soup and Sandwich Luncheon and Bake Sale Volunteers





Craft and Gift Fair Pictures



