



Transforming Lives,  
Communities, and  
the World for  
300 Years

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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.

Visit our website for up-to-date news, events, blog, and audio from our worship services, including children's messages and selections from our Singing Team.

[www.coldspringchurch.com](http://www.coldspringchurch.com)

## A Message from the Pastor

Why You Should **Expect More** in 2018!



How is your new year looking so far? Are you expecting much? Remember, we are not victims to our past. We are not destined to merely repeat last year, this year. We can take responsibility and choose a different, more hopeful future. Want to find out how 2018 can be different? Read on, and here's a hint: **Expect more.**

*They arrived at Bethsaida. Some people brought a sightless man and begged Jesus to give him a healing touch. Taking him by the hand, he led him out of the village. He put spit in the man's eyes, laid hands on him, and asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up. "I see men. They look like walking trees." So Jesus laid hands on his eyes again. The man looked hard and realized that he had recovered perfect sight, saw everything in bright, twenty-twenty focus. Jesus sent him straight home, telling him, "Don't enter the village." (Mark 8.22-26)*

Someone shared a brochure they picked up at a church they had recently visited when out of town. (I really appreciate learning how other communities of faith communicate their mission and message, so keep sharing your experiences with me when you return from being away!)

The brochure is entitled, *What to Expect During Your Visit*. It was intended to be read by the first-time visitor and previewed what a normal, regular order of worship looked like, how the service would be conducted, the pastor's theology, and a brief description of church groups. It sounded so complete. (Incidentally, it was not a Presbyterian church.)

I wondered though, how many people only experienced what that brochure described should be expected? As if that

brochure was the bar to be met. Nothing more or less. We have produced our own Welcome to Cold Spring Church brochure and I am reviewing it with different eyes now.

We do want everyone, especially our first-time guests, to feel safe and not be caught off guard or made to feel uncomfortable. That is why I try to help acclimate guests during my **Welcome** each week as worship begins. But I wonder if our worship is too regimented, regular, and maybe a bit too predictable. It might be better if more surprises were experienced! That is, if worshippers expected MORE from God, and we experienced MORE in worship, wouldn't we more likely be more energized as God's creativity and wonder were released?!

The story above from the Gospel of Mark about the man who could not see tells what on the surface looks like a failed miracle of Jesus. But it actually tells the story of expectations being exceeded.



The man's friends expected that Jesus would heal the condition of blindness. Imagine like in a post office you line up to see Jesus. Next. Next. And so on. Jesus will heal you. Next, please.

As if that was the man's only need, the man's vision circumstance, could Jesus possibly care about. But surprisingly, what we learn is that Jesus cared about the man's entire life experience not just his vision challenges. Jesus took the man out of town, where otherwise-abled people gathered (those we thoughtlessly refer to as the disabled). Jesus wanted the man to experience something other than same old shame and rejection. Using his own saliva as a healing balm, Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes, asking him if he could see.

Yes!, the man exclaimed. The now-sighted man reported that he saw people upside down! Seeing upside down was better than not seeing at all, right? Maybe they should leave well enough alone. They expected that he would see after being with Jesus. Good enough, then! Maybe they should just go back to town with the little they got.

But thankfully, they waited, they managed to expect more. They recognized in that moment of increasing clarity that Jesus not only could, but would do much more than they at first imagined. At the Master's Second Touch, all was well, and Jesus reminded him, there is no need to go back to that village begging! Jesus exceeded the expectations, and I believe, he wants to exceed ours, and our community's expectations, as well.

What do we expect in our congregation's worship and ministry? I suggest, not nearly enough! God's transforming Spirit is urging us to go beyond incremental and incomplete blessings to receive the empowering Second Touch to be that real, new, community of Christ's disciples. Come on! We have already found we can dream again. We have increased our energy. We have increased our financial giving. We have experienced healing and hope and I don't think God is out of blessings. Do you?

Our 303 year old mission, should we fully embrace it, is to deliver spiritual and other resources through our community of faith to our community at large that transforms our neighbor's lives in the name of Jesus Christ. What do you expect?!

In 2018, our leadership and caring teams, groups, teams, staff, and individuals just like you all have an opportunity to expect more of Christ and of each other. Imagine how our greater Cold Spring area neighbors could experience God in new ways, more relevant and effective ways? How could seniors be

energized by hope? How can younger people grow and connect to serve and learn so that more and more people experience the abundant life like that man did, like Jesus continues to offer to us today?

During the past year you may be in a better place, but look carefully. You may see, but are “people walking upside down.”? Well, pay attention, because the Master’s Second Touch is on the way for a new, healthy, and abundant year. Get involved a bit more. Give a bit more. Engage a bit more. Serve a bit more.

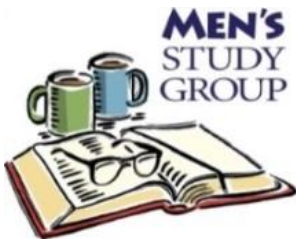
**Cold Spring Church: Energizing Spirits. Transforming Lives. Expecting More.**

Let’s not settle for just a “new” year, but an “expect more” year. I can’t wait to see what emerges...

Pastor Kevin



## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



**MEN'S  
STUDY  
GROUP**

### Men's Group Ministry:

"If your dream doesn't scare you, it's too small." *New York Times* best-selling author Mark Batterson delivers a bold message to everyone with a big dream. His new book **Chase the Lion** proposes a radically different approach to life. Our dreams should scare us! They should be so big that without God they would be

impossible to achieve. It's only when we stop fearing failure that we can fully seize the opportunity for God to show up and show His power! (Note: the book is not required to participate as we will provide an audio CD for the learning experience.) Join us for the reading and discussion of this life-changing book on the first and third Wednesdays 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.) We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome!



### **Affirmation of Faith:**

The rush to embrace a new definition of gender identity has been shocking! From the media to the elementary classroom, nearly all our cultural institutions are being pressured to conform to the new orthodoxy. It's no longer a matter of whether or not your child will be faced with the transgender issue, but *when*. Our "Fifth Wednesday Special" presentation "*Preparing for the Transgender Revolution*" will tell us what we need to know about this important moral issue --and how to confidently engage those considering the transgender argument with grace and truth. This special program will be presented on January 31, 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.

### **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**



Esther and Mary Circles will hold a joint meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 10 a.m. in Price Hall. Elaine Jordan and Roseann Paulits will be hostesses, Roseann will lead the new Bible Study, "A Cloud of Witnesses," and Elaine Jordan will read the Mission book. Please bring a sandwich; dessert and beverage will be provided. Please join us for fellowship and Bible Study.

### **FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS FOR JANUARY 2018**





Win On Saturday, December 16, 2017, here at Cold Spring, our church and community reaffirmed their commitment by their presence and participation to remember the fallen, to honor those who presently serve, and --by their word and example-- to teach our children and grandchildren the value of freedom. Local leaders offered words of commemoration and our pastor offered prayers of gratitude and hope.



ter is upon us and with the cold weather, it is a time to help 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 also made a monetary donation to each of the Food Banks for Christmas which was made possible by the generosity of those who donated to our weekly Sunday collection earmarked for the Deacons. 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 January will be:**

- Jan. 7      Instant rice, canned soups, Ramen Noodles, crackers**
- Jan. 14     Toothpaste & brushes, soap (bars), toilet paper, pasta and sauce**
- Jan. 21     Peanut butter and grape jelly, fruit cups, canned vegetables**
- Jan. 28     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

**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 December 6, 2017:

1. Minutes of Session Meeting of November 1, 2017;

2. Report of Moderator for November;
3. New AA meeting: rental request;
4. Wording for new outdoor church sign approved.

The Session also discussed the following agenda items in progress:

1. Mission and Ministry Study Team: update;
2. Nominating Committee: meeting date re: candidates;
3. Approved "Community Seminar on the Opioid Epidemic";
4. New members "Explorers Group" will welcome 4-6 new member inquirers.
5. Per capita apportionment.

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



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.



**Wreaths across America** has become a traditional ceremony here at Cold Spring Cemetery. Over the past decade, our veterans cemetery has been an approved host site for this nationwide tribute to our military personnel both presently serving and those who have fallen. This annual event now takes place at over 1,000 locations across our country simultaneously at 12-noon in concert with the principal event (and original site) at Arlington National Cemetery.

On Saturday, December 16, 2017, here at Cold Spring, our church and community reaffirmed their commitment by their presence and participation to remember the fallen, to honor those who presently serve, and --by their word and example-- to teach our children and grandchildren the value of freedom. Local leaders offered words of commemoration and our pastor, Dr. Kevin Yoho, offered prayers of gratitude and hope.



Locally, our ceremonial tribute event is sponsored and supported by the contributions and participation of several civic associations and veterans organizations, and by the many individuals who deem it important for us as a nation to continue to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives to protect our liberties and freedoms. Standing upon such hallowed ground in the veterans' section of this historic cemetery moves one to reflect upon the thoughts of our revered President Abraham Lincoln who noted that the military gave their utmost devotion to duty, hoped that they not have died in vain, and that the government of, by, and for the people not perish from the earth.

In more recent times, President Ronald Reagan called upon us to teach the younger generations the value of remembering and honoring those who have fought to preserve our freedoms and way of life --that we are never more than one generation away from losing the liberties that we now have.



### **SINGING TEAM NOW SINGING!**

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.

### **The Clerk's Corner    *"Gift Assessment"*    by Rob Riehl, Clerk of Session**

Now that the customary exchange of Christmas gifts has passed, we have decided which gifts received are worthy of our keeping, which gifts can be "temporarily" put aside, and which are "unwanted" that can be given away --- be given a "new life": perhaps re-gifted to a friend or relative, donated to a charity, or become a "prize" in a fund-raiser raffle! Of the gifts we choose to keep, we select which ones should hold a prominent place of display and which will be kept in a place of easy access. Of the gifts we put

aside, we determine which will be put in the attic or basement for "the short term" - and the remainder stored off-site for "the long term". Those gifts we placed "out of sight" can come back to haunt us: what were we thinking? Why did we hold on to these unused gifts for so many years? What do we do with them now? Whether you received just one, a few, or many gifts, each gift calls you to make an assessment and a resolution. What will you do with each gift?

As Christians, we believe that God has blessed us in many ways with His many gifts; among these are the gift of life itself and the opportunity for eternal life with Him. We are especially reminded at Christmas that our Creator Father God gave humanity the gift of His Son Jesus Christ so that we can know Him personally and intimately - to be in continual communion with Him. This is the greatest gift to be offered to us, freely given and undeserved, out of eternal love for us created in His image! Once we realize the incomprehensible magnitude of this gift, we are confronted with the assessment question: what do I do now?

In a recent meeting of our Men's Ministry group, we speculated on the one question that Father God might ask of us at Judgment Day. The one proposed question that stayed with me is this: "What have you done with the gift of my Son?" Truly a sobering question and one that compels me to assess my relationship with God. Where have I placed this gift of God in my life? Have I put this gift aside and neglected it? Or have I embraced, honored, and treasured this gift? Have I shared this gift of His Son with others? The secular-atheist world has rejected it, marginalized it, and strives to dispose of it; let not any one of us be found on that side of the assessment!

With the new calendar year upon us, the secular world suggests that we make "New Year's Resolutions" such as a new diet or weight-loss program, learning another language or skill. As believers in God, let us consider a resolution that really matters -- one that truly creates a new life with eternal consequences: resolve to not only know more about God, but get to know Him personally and intimately. Once you have tasted and seen the goodness of the Lord, you will abandon everything inferior. So open this gift! Eagerly embrace the gift your heart has been seeking -- the unique plan God has called you to become and to accomplish in this life; this is your divine purpose and mission. Do not put this gift aside or store it hidden away -- and then forgotten! What other gift could enable and empower you to become greater than your perceived self-image, to become more Christ-like, and then partner with your heavenly Father in furthering the restoration of His will "on earth as it is in heaven"!

There is a local church "reminder" sign (which I drive by everyday) whose message reads: "Be a mirror. Reflect the glory of God in everything you do." For those of us who are aligned with Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, we are reflecting the greatest gift bestowed upon humankind by the Father. This truly is "the gift that keeps on giving" -- of ourselves, our talents, and our resources to the greater honor and glory of God. All we need do is willingly accept God's gracious gift and be thankful for His mercy, grace, and love. No greater gift can be received -- and then given!

2 Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 34:8; Luke 12:18; Corinthians 13:12