



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.

Updating Our Directory

In this newsletter we are including a contact information form for you to complete if you wish to be included in our upcoming *Directory of the Cold Spring Presbyterian Church Community*

Our community of faith is growing and we want to provide a resource that builds relationships, offers resources, and promotes engagement. Our new directory will include not only members of the congregation but our friends and frequent attenders to worship and various activities and events.

Your privacy is important to us. Complete the form indicating what information you wish to share (or exclude). If you wish to have a photo included, get that to us, too! Visit the church office to drop off your form or e-mail hello@coldspringchurch.com as soon as possible.

Our inclusive new directory will be published in early May.

Make connections. Return the form today!

Start your day with Joy!

Sunrise at Sunset!

Easter Sunrise worship
6:45 AM
Sunset Beach
Cape May Point

Complimentary coffee and donuts.

hope

He Is Risen!

Easter Celebration
10:30 AM
Cold Spring Church

A Message from the Pastor

After Easter, Now What?

Hello friend,

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!” We respond with another exclamation: *“Christ is risen, indeed!”*

This proclamation will ring in our ears on April 1, Easter Sunday. It reminds us that just as Jesus was born to us and “moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14), he became our sacrifice on the cross (1 John 2:2). But the fact that the tomb was empty confirms that God’s Spirit now moves in our hearts and lives (Romans 5:4). We can be assured of a future resurrection life, God’s eternal love, and the joy of living in the power of the Spirit. Now, that’s good news worth sharing! Read the exciting way Paul described our new life:

“But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won’t know what we’re talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God’s terms. It stands to reason, doesn’t it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he’ll do the same thing in you that

he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!" (Romans 8:9-11 The Message).



What's next, after Easter?

The disciples asked that question. So did the throngs of people who must have felt like they were on a roller coaster ride of emotions during Holy Week. Consider Jesus' *Palm Sunday* march for life, to *Good Friday's* crucifixion and burial. Wow. What a change in mood. Huddled together for comfort, the followers of Jesus stressed and grieved in clouded faith. Now what?

We know the story. Though Jesus' death and resurrection was predicted, that Jesus Christ would somehow rise from the dead was still unexpected. After Easter, life would be different for sure, but not in the way they might at first have imagined.

Since I was a kid, church was a part of my Sunday morning routine. That's how it was for many people in the 1960's. Actually, from the 1940's until the 1970's, everyone seemed to belong to a place to express their belief whatever the religious preference, Jewish, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian or other Protestant tribe.

Of course, this is not our experience any longer. As we pay attention to our communities and the social trends, we have come to learn that you do not need to belong to express one's belief. You don't have to join to formally be a part of a group or church to feel like you belong. What's more, you don't have to attend regularly to somehow prove or confirm your connection. Expectations are different now. There are more options and opportunities. 50 years ago high attendance was the norm. But here's an interesting fact: During the same period, say from 1940 through 1970, the time of peak church attendance in the United States, all other non-profit volunteer associations were on the rise, as well. Think about that. When many churches began experiencing steep declines in attendance, so were the Rotarians, Lions, Optimists, Boy Scouts, and Woman's Leagues. (Here at Cold Spring Presbyterian Church, our manse and Price Hall was built at that peak time.) Most new church construction and expansion projects occurred then, too.

To understand the church decline, we should try to understand the decline of other volunteer groups, and here's what we have learned: The *fewer* community connections the volunteer groups and churches had, the fewer members resulted. And the inverse is also true: Volunteer groups and churches that grow are more deeply connected to their communities.

(Now, back to the disciples feeling lost and abandoned after Jesus' death.) The natural instinct when stressed and challenged, when ridiculed and attacked, is to huddle together facing inward, hiding out for safety. But when Jesus rose from the dead, and the disciples finally understood that Jesus' victory over death now made the abundant life in Christ possible. Relieved, they saw Jesus and listened to the news:

"Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side. The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were

exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you." Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said" (John 20:19-23).

Instead of retreating, Jesus sent them out. Though they likely wanted to stay safely secluded to recall the recent Palm Sunday festivities, Jesus has a different plan.

The disciples were invited to be vulnerable and place their trust in Jesus. So are we. What we can learn from the attendance boom in the 1960's and its steady slope of decline since is that it is not the time to sit back, hid out in seclusion propping up our beleaguered faith with stories of old. No. We learn from history that when we sincerely make deep community connections in our neighborhoods and listen to our communities, we will work hard and smart to position our ministries and programs to meet real needs. We will help families, old and young, from long-time residents to seasonal guests, to connect to the spiritual resources we offer in Jesus' name. Believe, Yes! God invites everyone to believe, to be vulnerable and place their trust in Christ. To make that happen, we need to hear Jesus' words when he said: "Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

We are on a transformation journey. We can start with the Easter Good News ringing in our ears by choosing to be a good neighbor, putting love into action, with a spirit of generous reciprocity. We can be sure that as we practice good *discipleship*, our commitment as a follower of Jesus Christ means we also practice good *citizenship*.

We demonstrate transformational behaviors by listening to the cries of the poor, becoming more of a neighbor-church. Then God's story and God's message will ring out, and our faith in God will become known everywhere (1 Thessalonians 1:7-8). We listen. We serve. We grow. We learn. Let's do more of that! **Churches that transform to establish new community connections become thriving communities of faith!**

Thank you for all you do that expressed in so many unique and sacrificial ways to show God's love in worship, giving, mission events, activities, service, and hospitality. "For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved."

After Easter, let's get up and go. Go where? Across the street. Next door. Pick up the phone. Send an email or a card. Invite others to join an event with you. Make a new friend. Reestablish a connection to Bible study, a mission activity, and share the Good News. Receive God's peace and the power of the Holy Spirit: Make new connections because:

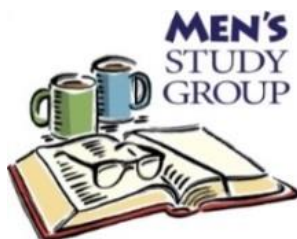
Hallelujah! Christ is risen!"

"Christ is risen, indeed"!

Gratefully,



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



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! 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

we will

gratitude! Join us for the reading and discussion of this inspirational book. Together 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!

Easter DVD Special:

Wednesday, April 4, at 10:15 a.m. In the new DVD "**He Is Risen!**" (2017) --*casting down challenges to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*-- apologist Tim Chaffey examines why the Resurrection of Jesus Christ has been called the best-attested event of the ancient world. He presents its importance, delves into the wealth of its evidence, and then tackles skeptical challenges with clear, precise, biblically established details, and historical facts. After learning these vital truths about the Resurrection, you too can defend that "Christ has risen!" Everyone is welcome! All classes meet in the Taylor Room of Price Hall.

JOIN OUR CARING TEAM!



Deacon Ministries
Caring for All

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



The Mary Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 17 at 7 p.m. in Price Hall. Joan O'Neill and Sue Dilks will be co-hostesses. The Bible Study will be led by Nancy Reed and the Mission Book Reading by Elaine Jordan.



"Gift of the Heart"

The Presbyterian Women will be collecting the following items for Health Kits for Church World Service to give to victims of natural disasters. Donations may be left in boxes in Price Hall or the Church marked Health Kits.

Each kit will contain the following items.

(1) Hand towel (approx. 16 x 28) no bath or fingertip towels;
(1) wash cloth; (1) wide-tooth comb; (1) nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards), (1) bar of soap (bath size in paper wrapper); (1) toothbrush (in original

pkg.); (6) Band-Aids or other adhesive bandage strips. Please do not add toothpaste. Toothpaste, which has an extended expiration date, will be added just prior to shipment. Items should be sealed in a one gallon plastic bag with zipper closure. If you wish to donate any of the items listed above separately they will be most welcome. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



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 Garden Club of Cape May
FLOWER SHOW
May 11, 2018

Join us for
"VICTORIAN POETRY IN BLOOM"

- ☞ Artistic Designs and Horticulture Exhibits ☞
- ☞ Complimentary Refreshments ☞
- ☞ Local Vendors ☞
- ☞ Speakers ☞
- ☞ Raffle Baskets ☞

Convention Hall
Cape May, NJ
12:30-6PM

\$2 tax deductible donation



**For more information
about the Flower Show
please contact
Lenore Bowne at
609-898-6159.**

FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS FOR APRIL 2018



Jesus called for the church to feed those in need in Proverbs 22:9 NLT "A generous person will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor." The caring nature of our Cold Spring Presbyterian Church family continues to be demonstrated by our collecting for local food banks. Last month we collected over 271 items for St. Barnabas & The Church of the Nazarene. From money collected each Sunday, we made monetary

donations to each of these Food Banks. This donation is made possible by you the church family who give to help those in need through the "Deacon's Collection". Below is a list of 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 April will be:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| April 1 | Instant rice, canned soups, Ramen Noodles, crackers |
| April 8 | Toothpaste & brushes, soap (bars), toilet paper, pasta and sauce |
| April 15 | Peanut butter and grape jelly, fruit cups, canned vegetables |
| April 22 | Hot and cold tea, hot & cold cereals, powdered milk, canned meat |
| April 29 | Pet food, baby food and diapers |

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 March 14, 2018:

1. Minutes of Session Meeting of February 7, 2018;
2. Report of Moderator for February 2018;
3. Installation of handrails at entrances to Price Hall;
4. Proposal to pay off solar panel loan;
5. Re-elections for clerk of session and for church treasurer;

The Session also discussed the following agenda items in progress:

1. Reconciliation list for 2018: session to establish criteria for membership;
2. Team re-alignments for 2018: chairpersons and team members;
3. Price Hall projects: replace carpeting, kitchen drawers for storage;
4. An alternate flag set for cemetery pavilion.

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

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM. Tear off, and return to the church office!

Building the Cold Spring Presbyterian Church Community

We are in the final stages of producing our Members and Friends Directory, and we'd like to include you! The Directory is intended to build our sense of community and promote conversation, contact, and prayerfulness. Your information and privacy is our primary concern. We will only include information you wish to be included in our printed Directory. The Directory will be distributed to everyone in the Directory, and will be available in the church office. No information will be published online, or shared with third parties. Please update your preferences below. Please print clearly!

Check each item you wish to include in this year's Directory and fill-in that information, below.

Please INCLUDE the items checked below:

(If a couple or Family, please fill in separate card for each individual.)

_____ My Name _____

_____ My Photo

_____ My Home Address _____

_____ My home phone number _____

_____ My mobile phone number _____

_____ My email address: _____

_____ My Seasonal Address _____

_____ My Birthday (Month/Day) _____

_____ My Anniversary (Month/Day) _____

Are You Ready to Grow From Tourist to Explorer?

2018 Explorer Membership Orientation (Yes, our 2nd orientation this year!)

Sundays • April 15, 22, and 29 • 9:30 a.m.

2nd floor of our Worship Center!

People participate in a community of faith for many different reasons. Whatever *your* reason, you are invited to move from community *Tourist* (attending and looking in) to that of an *Explorer* (someone who is ready to engage and make stronger connections) by joining our Explorer Group. We will gather April 15, 22, and 29 for three 40-minute informal and welcoming sessions.

You may have questions about spirituality, or want to deepen your faith in Christ. Join our group to increase spiritual energy and learn how to become part of our community of faith. We will consider the foundations of the Christian faith and the unique benefits and responsibilities afforded to members. Participation in these interactive conversations may lead to membership in our church, but there is no obligation. The **Explorer Membership Orientation** will be guided by Pastor Kevin and Melissa and we look forward to seeing you for our first orientation on April 15th! We will start and conclude on time. Spring is the time for possibilities! Let Pastor Kevin know you want to build a new future as an Explorer in 2018!

From the Clerk's Corner ~ "In Our Brokenness"



Things break. Recently a mishandled "treasured" glass item in our household fell and shattered into innumerable pieces. There was the initial anger of blame quickly followed by the pain of loss. Looking upon the scattered debris, a fleeting thought of Humpty-Dumpty came to mind: this glass object can never be put back together again! Then, of course, the solution would be to replace the object --if one could find a replica. Perhaps that would sooth the momentary pain. Hearts break. The unanticipated loss of someone we love --whether through death, divorce, or estrangement-- causes emotional pain and suffering that could last for many years. How does one fix or replace a lost intimate relationship? Lives break. The loss of a job, a home, or health brings suffering and pain. Life is fragile, things fall apart, things decay. How does one cope with suffering such painful losses? Where does one seek healing and restoration? Here a critical life-changing decision is made: to choose relief from "the culture of death" or to choose solace from "the culture of life"? Many choose the former, a wider road as it appears to be the "easier way" --to numb the pain of brokenness through alcohol, drugs, gambling, sex and a host of other addictions -- all of which incrementally spiral into self-destruction. Fewer choose the latter, a narrow road that is challenging yet hopeful -- choosing to surrender to self and submit to the will of our Creator God Who desires only good things for us, for God is infinite goodness! The reality --the truth-- is that we are all broken in some way, be it physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual.

But our brokenness can become a blessing when we realize our affliction brings us closer to God, dependent upon Him (and not ourselves or others) to heal us. Father God is the Great Physician, Jesus Christ the Miraculous Healer, the Holy Spirit the Comforter --when all else fails, our awesome God is always present and mindful of our needs. Broken bodies, broken promises, broken relationships, broken spirits -- God can handle all such things; absolutely nothing is impossible to Him. In our brokenness, our hope for healing is to be found in the name of the Lord! Living under the curse of our fallen condition we sometimes forget this truth and attempt to restore healing on our own. God wants us to lean on Him, so let go of the need to "be in control" and let God be God! He will not abandon anyone who places his trust and hope in His hands. Sometimes God's will is for us to endure our affliction of brokenness in a seemingly paradoxical way to bear witness to His existence and sovereignty. The Apostle Paul begged God to relieve him of his brokenness (an unidentified chronic affliction), but God responded that His grace was sufficient. On the night of His impending arrest, even Jesus prayed if another way be made possible --yet fully accepted the will of His Father to endure. The world sees suffering as a curse to be avoided; believers in God can accept suffering as a blessing!

The two greatest cataclysms that dramatically changed the course of human history: the Fall of Man and the Resurrection of Christ. The first Adam fell from grace with God through his disobedience and with that act the wages of sin, suffering and death entered the world; moreover, nature itself fell from its state of perfection to one of hostility and instability. These two events are inextricably linked; for with the fall of the first Adam, God promised a Redeemer to provide the means of restoring salvation to mankind through a second "Adam": Jesus Christ. Jesus willingly allowed His perfect human body to be broken for us, to fully identify with us by experiencing the excruciating fullness of human pain, suffering, torture, and death -- solely out of His divine infinite love so that we might live again! By His stripes, we are healed. Through this required sacrifice of His only Son being satisfied, God offered reconciliation, sonship, and salvation to all those who believe in Him and follow Him. The full restoration of God's creation will take place when the Risen Christ reconciles all things unto Himself at the Second Coming. Revelation tells us that there will then be no more tears and suffering for those who are His faithful children. On the night before His destiny with crucifixion, Jesus gathered His Apostles together, offering Himself as "the Bread of Life" -- the bread that nourishes, heals, and sanctifies. "Take and eat, for this is My Body -- broken for you!"

--Rob Riehl