



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.



## A Message from the Pastor

### The River Is Moving!

“On the final and climactic day of the Feast, Jesus took his stand. He cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Rivers of living water will brim and spill out of the depths of anyone who believes in me this way, just as the Scripture says’” (John 7:38).

Hello Friend,

Rivers of water are powerful. We know this power at the shore. While it looks like the sandy beaches constrains the water, in fact it is the power of the water that moves and shapes the beach. Jesus said that rivers of living water of the Spirit would flow from those who follow him, quenching every thirst. Our church was named for the cold spring nearby, a place of refreshment for all who pass by. But sometimes the rivers of life are hard to get to safely so we build bridges that make connections for us. The river should not overwhelm, but be accessible on our journey.

Take a look at the photo of the Choluteca Bridge in Honduras. It was built by the US Army Corps of Engineers in 1930. It survived many storms providing safe connections from one side of the river to another, easy access to the river bed below. Until Hurricane Mitch in 1998.



The Cold Spring Presbyterian Church *Directory of Members and Friends* is now available on Sundays in the Narthex, and in the secretary's office of Price Hall during the week. Pick up your copy, or get a copy for a friend or family member.

Help us make the directory as useful and accurate as possible. If we inadvertently missed including someone, or need an address or email corrected, just let us know! We will make improvements for our next edition.

Make connections by using our 2018 Directory of Members and Friends.



Hurricane Mitch was a Category 5 storm that decimated Central America with more than 22,000 human lives lost and millions left without adequate shelter. Many lesser bridges were destroyed. As you can see from the photo taken after the storm, the Choluteca Bridge survived unscathed.

But, where did the river go? The hurricane couldn't move the bridge, but the hurricane picked-up and moved the river making the bridge a bridge to nowhere. The river moving beyond the reach of the

bridge is a mission metaphor for every community of faith.

Jesus is the living water, the water of life. Our mission as the bridge is to connect people in our communities to that Living Water. For the bridge to fulfill its purpose it must be in the river **and** connecting others to the river of life.

Cold Spring Presbyterian Church has withstood the seasons and storms of life for hundreds of years. We're still standing! We were built on a solid foundation. Our structures are strong. We just may not always notice that the water has moved. Our neighbors may not even know they are thirsty, they have no experience with our "bridge", or "worship", making the Living Water out of reach. Unless we extend our bridge in every direction to reach people who need to see God's love in action.

We have the Living Water. We don't want to be a beautiful bridge to nowhere. Instead, we have begun a transformation journey to deliver the Living Water to our rivers and streams of life in Lower Township and Cape May that are flowing, moving, dynamically changing.

Water is an amazing substance because it fills and fills whatever container it is placed in. The Living Water of Jesus is just like that. Over time we have grown accustomed to our favorite containers, forms of worship, style of ministry, and focus of mission that truly hold the Living Water. But our community around us may be looking for new containers, different forms and services, that help them drink in the depths of God's mercy. Here are a few ideas to consider as we connect our bridge to the community:

1. **Be Willing to Extend the Bridge:** When it's really difficult to make new connections, what do you do? Stay rigidly in place, or adapt and grow until new connections are made? Let's keep discovering more ways that improve our bridge-building.
2. **Spirit Bridges Are Flexible:** We have many wonderful structures that need to be flexible enough to stay connected to the Living Water but also to the rivers of life all around us.
3. **Everyone is a Bridge-Builder, a People-Connector:** Each of us has a gift, an interest, an experience, talent, or skill, idea, or passion that can help relocate and reconnect our bridge to our community.

Jesus is the ultimate Bridge-Builder, "as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth" (Ephesians 1:10). The Apostle Paul again wrote, "I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever... I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life" (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

The Choluteca Bridge was a marvel of engineering that couldn't keep up when the waters moved. Let's be sure our bridges are making contact and delivering Living Water. Jesus said rivers of living waters would flow from his followers. Can you see it?! Connect to the flow of the Spirit so more can drink and quench their thirst at Cold Spring Presbyterian Church.

Sincerely,

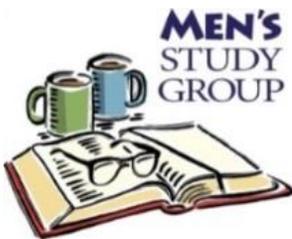
*Pastor Kevin*



### Volunteers With Wheels Wanted!

Are you looking for a way serve others in a very practical way? Do you have room in your car and enjoy company! Consider volunteering to be on our *God Is On The Move!* riding team. Let us know you want to help people get connected! "Holiness is best demonstrated by generosity" (Lk 11:41, LB).

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## 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:

An unfulfilled life is no way to exist. In his new book and DVD series "A ***Life Beyond Amazing***", Dr. David Jeremiah uncovers God's strategy for change and challenges you to make nine important decisions that will transform your heart, your life, and your world. Each of us has just one life to live. Our lives should matter and have purpose. Dr. Jeremiah urges us to reach out and grasp a life beyond our dreams. "A life beyond amazing can be lived right here on earth!" Join us for the viewing and discussion of this life-changing DVD series on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Everyone is welcome!



### Affirmation of Faith:

Our "Fifth Wednesday Special" (August 29) presents the new DVD "***Censoring the Truth***", a compelling documentary that exposes the effort to marginalize and suppress the spread of the Gospel and biblical truth. By labeling such speech as "hateful", and then using this designation as a pretext for silencing the Christian voice, several media giants have banned such speech from their internet media platforms. This revealing program features personal experiences of several prominent Christians who have faced censorship because of their biblical faith perspectives. Jesus said: "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely

say all kinds of evil against you because of Me."(Mt.5:11) Learn how this biblical truth, in turn, affirms our faith! Everyone is welcome!

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



Interested in performing a *hands-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.

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Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

### FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS FOR AUGUST 2018

SUMMER IS HERE. As we are all basking in the sun and enjoying the longer days let us not forget that there are still many people who are experiencing real hunger. We have been blessed here at Cold Spring Presbyterian Church with many generous people who donate to our weekly food drive. The food cupboard is an area we can and are making a difference in our community. *Last month we collected over 325 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 2018 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.

*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."*

#### Deacon Collection for August:

- Aug. 5 Instant rice, canned soups, Ramen Noodles, crackers
- Aug. 12 Toothpaste & brushes, soap (bars), toilet paper, pasta and sauce
- Aug. 19 Peanut butter and grape jelly, fruit cups, canned vegetables
- Aug. 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

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**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.

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The Deacons are collecting book bags and school supplies to be donated to and distributed by St. Barnabas Church in the Villas to children in area schools. If you wish to participate, please drop it off in Price Hall - Monday thru Friday from 9 AM to 1 PM, or in the Narthex on Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Thank you for your generosity.

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### 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 July 3, 2018:

1. Minutes of Session Meeting of June 6, 2018;
2. Report of Moderator for June 2018;
3. Dinner-Jazz Music fund-raiser on August 25;
4. Price Hall improvements: allocation of funds;
5. Price Hall: calendar dates by community groups (2).

The Session also discussed the following agenda items in progress:

1. Price Hall: storage use by church and community groups;
2. Nominating Committee: candidate search for session and deacons;
3. Sunday worship service: suggestions for modification;
4. Status of church directory (with on-line version).

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

## "Two Gardens"

It was simple and easy to do. All Adam had to do was not eat the forbidden fruit, and all would be well.

In my garden, there are several varieties of tomato plants about to produce their delicious fruit. It began in late spring with the clearing of the land and the preparation of the soil, followed by the setting and securing of the nursery-raised plantings with stakes and cages. Then began the regular and requisite watering, with the occasional pruning, and overall maintenance of the growing plants to maximize production. And now with the emerging small blossoms appearing, I patiently wait - anticipating the "first fruits" of my labor! Not surprisingly my neighbors at this point take an interest in my garden. One such neighbor has been granted "free access" to my garden providing that he tend to and water the now highly-regarded and popular tomato plants whenever I am away from home. It has been agreed that he would take only what he might need for a given day's use. I would still have more than enough for my wife and me to consume, and then share the abundance with my other neighbors. A straightforward simple arrangement and easy to do, and all would be well.

The "other garden" of which I speak was actually the first in human history; it was located in a now lost place called Eden. The first man Adam was given dominion over the earth and gifted with a pre-planted garden by his Creator-God. Adam was given free access to all the fruits of its trees but one (Gen.2:8-9); it was a simple command and easy to do (Gen.2:15-17). We know the rest of this biblical account: Adam and Eve's betrayal of their Father-God's command by transferring their trust in the deception of Satan. The consequence of this violation was a cosmic catastrophe -- sin and death entered into the now fallen world, along with the banishment of mankind from the perfect garden (Gen.3:23-24). I wondered: would my neighbor violate our agreement and betray me for self-centered reasons -- such as taking more tomatoes than he *really* needed or giving them away to his friends -- or worse yet selling *my* tomatoes for his profit? These thoughts brought forth related questions about *myself*: How would I *feel* about our neighborly relationship? How would I *react* to my neighbor's transgression? How would I *behave* toward him henceforth?

From the biblical account of Adam and Eve's disobedience, there are many aspects to this narrative that one could explore; for the purpose of this writing, I want to focus on the example our Creator God set for us when dealing with transgressions. As our heavenly Father, He modeled for us His children - made *in His image* - what is expected of us to collaborate with the reconciliation of all things to Himself. Yes, there were consequences, but our eternal all-loving God did not cut off mankind completely to allow the apex of His creation to drift into oblivion. God did not "close the door" for reconciliation of this lost relationship; His love prevailed by remaining open for an opportunity to restore a loving relationship.

God remembered Noah as a good faithful man and re-connected with mankind through a covenant granting Noah dominion over the earth and blessing his descendants (Gen.9: 8-11). Moreover, we know that God gave of Himself -- through the ultimate willing sacrifice of His Son Jesus -- to reconcile and redeem mankind.

What is the "take-away" from all this? Is there anyone you need to forgive for an infraction of your expectations? Perhaps it was a word, a deed, or an omission that caused a breakdown of a relationship with a neighbor, co-worker, friend, or family member. Our Father God modeled the way out of this impasse. He demonstrated the attitude and behavior for you (and me) to take with offenses by others in life. Here is a truth: The person who has been forgiven understands the power of forgiveness. We have been forgiven by the Blood of Christ; we are expected - even commanded! - to forgive and love our neighbor. When we "open the door" for reconciliation, watch what happens! Now the question is "which is more important to you - the restoration of the relationship or holding on to the consequences of the infraction?" Which choice do you think is what God desires for you (and me) to do? Anger (and hate) loses; Love (and forgiveness) wins!

---- Rob Riehl

*Cold Spring Presbyterian Church presents...*

# Summer *Jazz* Dinner

*featuring the Midiri Brothers Orchestra  
and Silent Auction*

Saturday, August 25, 2018 - 5:00 PM

Price Hall — 780 Seashore Road, Cold Spring, NJ 08204  
For more information and to reserve your tickets visit:  
**[www.coldspringchurch.com](http://www.coldspringchurch.com)** — Cost: \$50/adult, \$25/child

Menu: Spring Mix Salad, Roast Pork w/Raspberry Sauce, Apple Sauce, Vegetable, Sweet Potato, Dessert, Coffee & Tea, BYOB



*Jazz, big band, swing, and classical music performed by the nationally acclaimed Midiri Brothers*