



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.



## Thanksgiving - Feed a Family Program

The Deacons, in partnership with the Seashore Community Church of the Nazarene, will be taking part in the "Feed a Family" for Thanksgiving program. As a guideline, \$40 will feed a family of five, but any amount will be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to contribute to the program, please fill out the form below and return it to the Church before November 18th. Checks should be made out to Cold Spring Presbyterian Church.

I would like to donate to the "Feed a Family" Program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## A Message from the Pastor

Hello Friends,

*Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well" (Luke 17:17-19).*

The story of the Ten Lepers found in Luke reminds us that a core value of the Good News of Jesus Christ is grace and gratitude. In this instance, though many received a healing touch, only one of the ten former lepers returned to give thanks. In response to God's amazing grace, how do we show our gratitude through our mission?

Consider the community of Racine, Wisconsin. The Mayor and Council recently faced a looming budget deficit. They exhausted every remedy they could think of but Mayor John Dickert, who was also active in a local congregation, wanted to try one more thing. He sent 182 letters to the city's churches and other nonprofits asking for financial assistance. According to the *Journal Times*, tax-exempt organizations were asked if, "they would consider paying a portion of the property tax the city would ordinarily charge them if their properties were taxed."

Mayor Dickert said his Racine Fair Share Program was based on similar initiatives in cities like Boston and Milwaukee. In the United States, property tax exemptions relieve churches from paying billions of dollars to their communities that businesses are obligated to pay. But churches enjoy all the same benefits of services including police and fire departments, common access to community places and repairs to roads, for example. The Racine Mayor reasoned that though churches did not owe property tax, they had a civic duty to do what they could to help solve a mutual crisis.

Mayor Dickert told me in a phone interview that he was grateful for the many churches that expressed authentic connections to the greater community. He shared many stories of how local

churches, including the Presbyterian Church, served families in need, provided safe places for kids, and provided care for seniors through their programs. Mayor Dickert wanted to give churches and other not-for-profits another opportunity to tangibly express genuine gratitude for the community at large.

The town's leadership anxiously awaited the results of their financial appeal. Two months after the letters were mailed, "City Administrator Tom Friedel told the aldermen the surprising news; that the city has yet to collect any money through the program," the *Journal Times* reported. But two weeks later, at last, the mayor's office received a response. It was a free-will gift from the parishioners at Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church in the amount of \$1,500. Of the 182 organizations asked to help, only one came forward to give thanks in this way.

In Racine or in Cape May, Lower Township, the Villas, or Cape May Court House, there is an urgent need for gratitude to be expressed and received. When is the last time you thanked a teacher, a store clerk, or the person who fills your car with gas? While all of us experience good days and well, not so good days, every day can be reframed into a day of peace and hope when we embrace a spirit of joyful gratitude. What do we have in abundance they we can share with others and give away in the name of Jesus Christ? As our nation observes a national day of Thanksgiving, here's one simple thing you can do— express thanks, say thank you, to others every day... THANKS! Psychologist Dr. Robert A. Emmons, in an article on "The Joy of Thanks," says the physical and psychological benefits of being in a state of gratitude is almost equal to that of actual therapy. According to Emmons, recent psychological research shows:

- A person experiencing gratitude is protected from the destructive impulses of envy and greed;
- The practice of gratitude as a spiritual discipline may cure excessive materialism and its attendant negative emotions of envy, resentment, disappointment, and bitterness;
- Gratitude supports well-being by displacing resentment, regret, and other psychological states deleterious to long-term happiness;
- Grateful people experience higher levels of positive emotions-happiness, vitality, optimism, and hope-and greater satisfaction with life.

In other words, Thanks-giving is good therapy. Here are a few other ideas:

- When you wake up, greet the new day reciting Psalm 118:24: "This is the day that the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it!"
- In your next email or text message reply simply remember to include a "Thank you." Sincerely appreciation has an incredibly positive effect on others, and on us, too.

Thanks-giving is what grateful and blessed people do. It's what transforming and growing congregations do in worship and in mission, inside the sanctuary, and outside on the corner. If we are to learn, improve, do more of what God is blessing and less of what is not working, we must embrace a sense of gratitude for God, each other, and our community. A spirit of thankfulness is a sign of God's presence and an indicator of vitality. Thankfulness is our mission! I am blessed to belong to, and serve, such a thank-filled congregation.

God expects the people of faith to express thanks:

*And you will say in that day,*

*"Give thanks to GOD."*

*Call out God's name.*

*Ask God anything!*

*Shout to the nations, tell them what God's done,*

*Spread the news of God's great reputation!*

Isaiah 12.4

*"Thank God! God deserves your thanks. God's love never quits"* Psalm 136.1.

"Thank you! Everything in me says, "Thank you!" Angels listen as I sing my thanks" Psalms 138.1.  
"I couldn't stop thanking God for you-every time I prayed, I'd think of you and give thanks" Ephesians 1.16.

"You need to know, friends, that thanking God over and over for you is not only a pleasure; it's a must. We have to do it. Your faith is growing phenomenally; your love for each other is developing wonderfully. Why, it's only right that we give thanks" 2Thessalonians 1.3.

Make plans this month to include getting more involved, joyfully invite others to worship, attend our events, volunteer in acts of service and mission. Be active in your special family and community gatherings this month as we give thanks wherever we are.

Maybe the faith community in Racine, Wisconsin forgot to consider God's view that gratitude has in authentic, faithful ministry. But is not so with us!

May a spirit of gratefulness overflow in your life, and through Cold Spring Presbyterian Church, as we experience each day's surprises and joys ahead as followers of Jesus Christ. Give thanks!

Gratefully,

*Pastor Leon*

## 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!

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



**God Is On The Move!** Volunteers With A Car Needed! Are you looking for a way serve others in a very practical way, have room in your car and enjoy company? Consider volunteering to be on our **God Is on the Move!** Riding team. "Holiness is

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best demonstrated by generosity” (Lk 11:41, LB). **Need a Ride?!** If you know of someone who would appreciate a ride to worship, or to our other events, please let us know. We want to put them in touch with volunteers who can assist with that! Cold Spring Presbyterian Church, where God Is On the Move!



**Stephen Ministers** are members of local church congregations who receive special training to provide one-on-one Christian care to people 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.



### Food Pantry Donations Needed

### FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS FOR NOVEMBER 2018

As we approach the holiday season, let us not forget 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 425 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. With God's help, may we finish out the year by opening our hearts to others in need. The list below is 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 November

- Nov. 4 Instant rice, canned soups, Ramen Noodles, crackers
- Nov. 11 Toothpaste & brushes, soap (bars), toilet paper, pasta and sauce
- Nov. 18 Peanut butter and grape jelly, fruit cups, canned vegetables
- Nov. 25 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



*The Mary Circle will meet on November 20th at 7 p.m. in Price Hall. Nancy Reed and Roseann Paulits will lead the Bible Study, "A Cloud of Witnesses," Ruth Traber will read from the Mission Book. Eileen Word and Ruth Traber will be the co-hostesses.*



- ⊙ The Presbyterian Women will hold their **Annual Soup and Sandwich Luncheon, Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale** on Saturday, November 3rd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Price Hall. All donations of Christmas crafts and Christmas items 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. If anyone would like to make soup or sandwiches, please call Roseann for recipes. Please call Roseann Paulits (886-8220) with any questions. Thank you in advance for your help

### **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 2, 2018:

1. Minutes of Session Meeting of 9/4/18, and special Session Meeting of 8/19/18.
2. List of Communion Servers;
3. Funding of new outdoor church sign;
4. Pastor's vacation requests and pulpit supply (2);
5. Outdoor digital sign repair.

The Session also discussed the following agenda items in progress:

1. Upcoming and proposed events for October and November 2018;
2. Presbytery Grant for community ministry;
3. Financial investment allocation changes;
4. Stewardship theme and program for 2018.

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

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### **Celebrating Pastors**

The recent Presbyterian Outlook magazine included an inspiring article on love and gratitude celebrating the ministry of pastors. It offers a few tips to congregations to show appreciation to pastors, too, copied below. For the full article, visit Presbyterian Outlook Magazine online: <https://pres-outlook.org/2018/10/on-loving-pastors/>

Showing God's love to people commit so fully to loving others as their calling (regardless of what the terms of call have to say about part-time or tentmaking, the loving part is full-time). It's inspiring and humbling to witness. It can be heartbreaking and frustrating, too. I am grateful for anyone who loves a pastor well, the way Jesus calls us to love: sacrificially, with grace and humility. It's something for all of us to strive toward, together. Ultimately, the best things you can do for your pastor are:

- Pray for them: frequently and specifically.

- Get to know them: build relationships with your pastors that acknowledge that they are people worth knowing.
  - Love them: in action, even and especially when you're not feeling it. I can guarantee you that your pastors will do the same for you.
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**"A Thanksgiving Challenge"** by Rob Riehl

"Oh My God!" someone may blurt out shocked by an unexpected occurrence -- sometimes with joy and other times with grief. "Thank God!" another may exclaim in relief of a tragedy averted. We hear people --even many "unbelievers"-- use these casual references to God quite often to the extent that such expressions have become embedded in our conversational repertoire. Without thinking, we say "God Bless You" to a sneeze, "Good morning" as a greeting, and "Good-bye" for a departure. (For the sake of this writing, I will not include the profane use of God's name used in anger!) I wonder if because we have been created in the image of our Creator God that there is a deep spiritual and subliminal connection to this "primal scream" spontaneous use of God's name. Something happens in our presence and we react to it with habitual "Godly" responses. Perhaps it is one of God's mysterious ways of reminding us humans that He is ever-present in our lives --even when we are *not really thinking* about Him! Ponder that metaphysical thought.

With the annual celebratory family dinner event of Thanksgiving Day, we Americans focus our attention to be thankful for all the pleasurable and wonderful aspects of our lives. As Christians, we are quite aware to whom we owe our prayerful thanks. Our thanks to God ought not be solely of the prescribed ritual kind, but strive to be intentional and specific; using God's personal names (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit) evinces a personal intimate relationship with Him. It draws you and those in your presence closer to the holiness and inner life of God. This acknowledgment honors Father God, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit in an intentional and personal way; this thanking God *by His personal names* may influence and inspire others to seek a deeper personal relationship with Him. Paying mere lip-service to a generic God falls short of this mark; it would be akin to calling me and you anything but our personal names. That would indicate separation and distance --not personal and intimate! Therefore we want to sincerely thank our heavenly Father, his son Jesus, and his Holy Spirit with our whole mind and heart to give Him all glory, praise, and honor for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us --and upon our nation.

With the theme of thanksgiving, that is, **thanking God**, for the month of November, I am suggesting to myself (and to you as a reader) to consider taking the time each morning to thank God in a specific way for something He has given to you. It could be the blessing of a person in your life, a spiritual insight or thought you have received, or a motivation to do a random act of kindness or a specific service for someone. Whatever it is, write it down! In the evening before you retire to bed thank God for whatever blessing you received that day --and write it down. Let you and I commit to doing this *every day* for the month of November. We will be amazed at our compilations of all the blessings we have received over the short

period of just thirty days! Imagine the list of blessings we could thank God for if we continued this discipline for the duration of 2018! This reminds me of the lyrics of an old hymn refrain which repeats for emphasis: "Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings, see what God has done; Count your blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord has done." Now let us all **thank God** from whom all blessings flow! Amen.

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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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### Hungry for some great conversation?



Are you looking for another way to get to know others you meet at Cold Spring Church? Next Sunday, November 4, after worship, stop by the Back Bay Bistro, 1891 Bayshore Rd, Villas. Purchase the beverage or meal of your choice and share in the lunchtime conversation! Let's build a sense of community out in the community! Bowne will be available after church today to take your reservation. You may also contact her at 609-898-6159 or [lenorec2@comcast.net](mailto:lenorec2@comcast.net) Deadline for reservations is Friday,

November 2nd. Thank you. See you at Back Bay Bistro!

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**Register online today** to build your own **"GINGERBREAD HOUSE"**.

This is a **FREE** interactive Christmas holiday community event for children! On Sat., Dec. 1, 2018 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Cold Spring Presbyterian Church, Price Hall; 780 Seashore Road; *children, ages 4 to 12 are invited to come and build their own "Gingerbread House."* *There will be a surprise visit and gift from Santa! An adult must accompany child!* *Registration is strongly recommended. Seating limited to the first 40*

*children registered.* **Register online at [www.coldspringchurch.com](http://www.coldspringchurch.com)** or call t09-884-4065.