



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.



The **Annual Community Fall Picnic** is Sunday, September 29, immediately following worship. All members of the congregation and community are welcome to enjoy the abundant conversations with friends and neighbors, great food, and lots of fun in the yard behind the manse.

Congregation members are encouraged to bring their favorite salad or dessert. The West Cape May Fire Company will again supply their huge barbecue pit with grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, and even a vegan option. Special activities for kids are being planned. A special Historic Ancestors Walk Tour of the church and cemetery will also be offered

Look for the sign-up list that will be available soon! More information is coming soon!

September 29th! Plan to bring your neighbors to this awesome outdoor event!!

A Message from the Pastor

Our Mission Is More Than “All Are Welcome”

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead (James 2:15-17 (NIV)).

Hello Friends,

It is almost Labor Day. I can’t believe it! Where has the summer gone? Labor Day is unlike other special holidays because it is a combination of celebration and a bit of grief and sadness, too. The holiday does include a welcomed three-day weekend that celebrates the value of work, and those who labor for a living. But, on the other hand, it marks the unofficial end of Summer. Kids go back to school, vacation is no longer at the top of our conversational lists, and even the recent lower temperatures remind us that the hottest days are behind us as we approach the Fall.

Labor Day can be a day of fun barbecues, backyard get-togethers, and relaxed conversations as we visit with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, to share a meal and a moment. We love the work God has given us to do... our stores, shops, classrooms, hotels, and the services we provide. But, we also enjoy the break to re-focus on



relationships and become hospitable to our neighbors and strangers, too, in a moment of community. Like James said, faith by itself, "if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17). Making God's love visible is our mission.

In the first century to the present, being gracious to family is not to be the hospitality standard. Our family-friendly, nice-neighborhood gatherings become true expressions of "hospitality?" when they are a welcoming of those whom we do not already know and, and to those who do not know us.

Hospitality is ministry. And hospitality that flows out of authentic worship can transform an individual's experience with their Creator, and with their community, too. We invest a lot in our worship experience on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in our well-known red brick building. Worship includes welcoming and engaging activities such as singing, praying, responses, Scripture readings, and the preaching of God's Word. In worship, whether in our personal devotional time or as a congregation, we express our gratitude and praise to God and become energized and equipped to make a positive difference in the world. But there is more to Cold Spring Church's mission than corporate worship on Sundays. Much more.

Faith Is Action. Look around. Though our attendance engagement is increasing (seventy last week), the vast majority of people do not attend *our* Sunday worship. Actually, most of our community does not attend *any* Sunday worship. Summer venues at the Cape May Beach Sunday School or the Beadle Memorial Church continue to attract worshippers. While we want to keep improving our interactive worship experience for every age group, for newcomers as well as longtime participants, we must work hard to make our faith visible, as James exhorts us to do in the passage above, "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

Action starts with listening. When we respect others and really listen in a spirit of openness, we begin to hear stories that deserve our response. Cape May County families are being ravaged by the opioid abuse and overdose epidemic sweeping the country. Seasonal unemployment, affordable housing, veteran care, safe places for seniors and young people alike, represent real opportunities to make God's love visible. While these challenges can easily feel overwhelming, the faith community must respond with practical resources, something more than saying, "Come to church on Sunday."

Listening Leads To Change. As we keep listening, we also recognize that some in our community have had traumatic or painful experiences related to God, religion, denominations, or churches in general. Our Explore God series provides a safe place for inquiry and sharing. How many have become disillusioned by religion, disappointment by bad-actions associated with Christ or the practitioners of the Christian faith, or simply lack hope that their faith could once again become more meaningful and alive. While we are welcoming, our neighbors may need something more as they seek spiritual energy, hope, and possibilities.

As we move into the Fall, and the many seasonal events and activities such as our Annual Community Picnic following worship on Sunday, September 29, let's renew our commitment to be more than just welcoming and more than just worship. How can we practically address urgent community needs and partner with others by

learning and listening, loving and serving, inviting and building discipleship, and becoming a pro-active champion for our greater community? Reaching out much include strangers, visitors, and neighbors we have not yet met. Of course, we still will gather for worship, but if all we do is worship on Sundays, we will miss even greater weekday opportunities God has set before us to do (John 14:12).

Action Changes Things. What connections can you make in your neighborhood? How can we help? Think about those who may need an encouraging phone call? Think about the teenage skateboarder you see on the corner, the family next door, the person walking down your street every day, or your favorite store clerk? Many have not been in a worship service recently, or ever. They may not want to, either! Realize that our world of favorite songs, sermons, and prayers will be unfamiliar to them, not make any sense, and they may feel more like outsiders.

What activities does our community enjoy? Pet lovers? Hobbyists? Community-minded volunteers? How about connecting to others around art and food? Studying the Bible? Homework help? Youth activities? Senior respite? Any car or motorcycle enthusiasts? Outdoor fans? These activities can create natural connections that can be nurtured at Cold Spring Church.

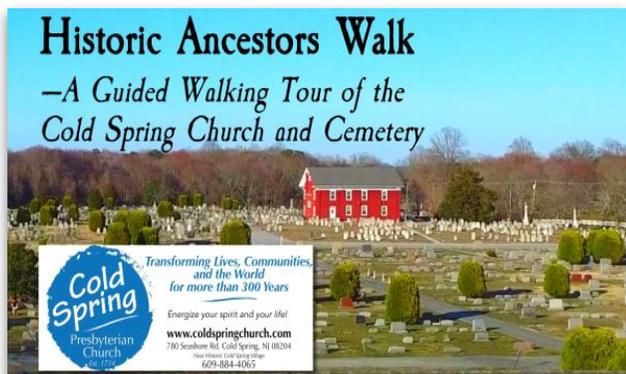
Our community of faith has held fast to core Christian theological beliefs since its founding by followers of Christ in 1714. Let's recommit to putting that faith in action! Making God's love an action word, visible to everyone, is why the sign says more than "All Are Welcome". We make a commitment on our sign when we add, "Energizing Spirits, Transforming Lives." We are loving, listening, working, showing, serving, learning, in our community. Connections matter!

However you put your faith in action, know that it is deeply appreciated. I believe Cold Spring Church's mission can achieve an even greater impact in our community as we work together! What will you do today to make your faith visible, God's love real, and our ministry of hospitality and worship welcoming to one and all? I can't wait to see!

Sincerely,



Pastor Kevin



Experience our Historic Ancestors Walk Guided Walking Tour and create a new future of possibilities for you and your family at 10:00 AM on scheduled Saturdays, meeting at the Red Brick Church Tour dates: September 7, 21, 28

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 August 6, 2019:

1. Minutes of Stated Session Meeting of July 2, 2019;
2. Installation of iron railing at entrance to Price Hall;
3. Installation of motion sensor on Price Hall outside lights;
4. Establish separate church and cemetery accounts for payroll.

The Session also discussed the following agenda items in progress:

1. Exploration of our "triangle property" beautification on Academy Rd.;
2. Exploration of security cameras for Price Hall parking area;
3. Clarification of session e-voting procedures;
4. Update on church property improvement proposals.

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



Food Pantry Donations Needed

FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

We hear every day about the homeless among us. The food banks are begging for supplies to fill their shelves. We have been blessed here at Cold Spring Presbyterian Church with many generous people who donate to our weekly food drive. *Last month we collected over 300 for our two food banks (St. Barnabas and the Church of the Nazarene).* I pray that we will continue to donate and increase our sharing each month. The list below is a guideline of the items the food banks need the most. In addition, almost any non-perishable food and

personal items are accepted. Please check expiration dates.

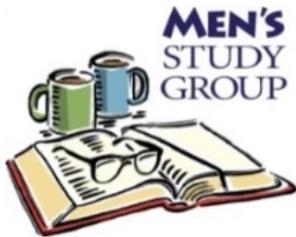
II Corinthians 9:7 NLT "For the Lord loves a person who gives cheerfully"
Acts 20:35 Remember the Words of Jesus "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Deacon Collection for September

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

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Let the Spirit of God rest upon you! Discover how *you* can be a person who hosts the presence of God -- bringing his Spirit into *your* world.

In this eight-session dvd presentation "***Hosting the Presence***", author and pastor Bill Johnson takes us on an unforgettable and life-changing journey using Scripture to show us what it looks like to host the Spirit of God's presence in our everyday lives.

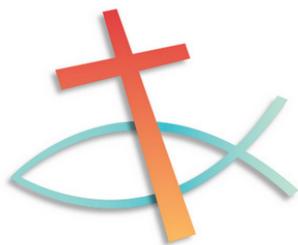
Prepare to encounter God like never before and transform the world around you by hosting his presence! Gather with us for coffee and fellowship at 10:15am on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Every man is welcome; just "*come and see*"!



Mary Circle:

Mary Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 17th at 7 PM in Price Hall. All women are invited to join us for Bible study and fellowship. Sure Dilks and Diane Riehl will be our hostesses, Roseann Paulits will lead the Bible study, and Sue Dilks will read the Mission book. In addition, the Annual Soup and Sandwich Luncheon, Christmas Bazaar, and Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, November 2nd from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in Price Hall. More information will be coming soon.

Christian Living:



What would you say if someone were to ask you, "Do you know that God loves you?" Do you *really* believe it? Are you *living* like you know and believe it? In this dvd series, "***Know and Believe The Love***", Kenneth Copeland will help you grow from mental agreement with the fact that God loves you, to *knowing* in your heart and living in the truth of His love every day. Live in *the blessing* as God always intended for you, and step into a whole new level of love for your family, your friends, and your world! Join us for the viewing and discussion of this "love

ministry"! We meet at 10:15am for coffee and fellowship on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Everyone is welcome !

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) for a confidential conversation.



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) for additional information.