



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.



Our annual congregational meeting is Sunday, **January 26**, following worship in Price Hall. To prepare for this exciting event and the Annual report, all team and group leaders are requested to email their reports to the office by January 15th. Thank you! Let's celebrate what God has been doing and get ready to engage together in our brave new year! See you then!



Cold Spring Presbyterian Church is a wonderful music destination for our community. On **January 12**, 2020 at 3:00 PM the "2020 Cape Classical Artists Series- a Season of Duos" begins in partnership with our church. All of this year's five (5) concerts will be held in the historic Red Brick Church sanctuary. A reception in Price Hall will follow each concert. The community is invited to attend. There is no admission charge for the event and sponsorships and freewill donations are welcomed.

"Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus" (Philippians 3:13).

Happy Brave New Year!

2020 looks to be a significant year. Why? The start of every new year holds promise, but 2020? It's the start of a new decade! Take a moment and re-read the verse above from Philippians.



For Paul, being a follower of Jesus Christ meant that he was paying attention to the signs Christ had placed before him. He was connected to spiritual energy moving him forward to the future. Like Jesus, he didn't spend all of his time in religious assemblies, but out and about in the public square, in the neighborhood, with people from every walk of life, from every country, with diverse ideas and experiences. (Compare John 1:14 and Acts 17.)

The *Mission Study Team* and the session have invested a great deal of prayerful work over the past two years listening to the Spirit and the many voices in the congregation. Our congregational Focus Your Vision event and surveys last year were especially meaningful as we began to design our future-looking mission. All these inputs and discernment have produced clarity about our mission.

When we speak of "our mission," we refer to our purpose *put into action*. Put into action that can be appreciated, accessed, and experienced by those we love and serve- our community of faith and the community at large. In other words, *the measure of our success* in fulfilling our mission is what our *community* says it is.

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Record crowd for 2019 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



The 2019 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was attended by more than 135 individuals, with dozens of first time visitors to Cold Spring Church. You can listen again to, or share with friends, the beautiful music from singers Lenore Bowne, Barbara Cain, and Arlene Button, and the inspiring message from Pastor Kevin by visiting our website under Podcasts, www.coldspringchurch.com/podcasts.

Transformational Moments Videos Online!



We are excited to now post Transformational Moments, 2 minute videos posted after our services. Thanks to Norris Clark for his video

capture and editing gifts! You will find the videos toward the bottom of our main website page. [Be sure to share our videos with your friends and neighbors!](#)

Higher Praise Sings In Joy



Thank You to the men and women of *Higher Praise* and to the director, Jayne McDonough, for their inspiring Advent and Christmas Music! Members include Wayne Dilks, Marty

Bowne, Larry Moyer, Barbara Cain, Lenore Bowne, and Sue Dilks. Many of these and other talented individuals including Arlene Button, offered special music which added to our worship experience.

Celebrating Wreaths Across America



Wreaths Across America has become a traditional ceremony here at [Cold Spring Presbyterian Church Cemetery](#). Over the past thirteen years, our veterans cemetery has been an approved host site for this nation-wide tribute to our military personnel both

presently serving and those who have fallen. This annual event now takes place at over 1,700 locations across our country simultaneously at 12-noon in concert with the principal event (and original site) at [Arlington National Cemetery](#). 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 such military men 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.

(For more photos and an inspiring article by reporter Al Campbell from the Cape May County Herald, [click here.](#))

A Fantastic Anniversary Dinner Was Enjoyed In Price Hall On December 21st!



A very enjoyable roast beef Christmas dinner was enjoyed at Price Hall on December 21, 2019. Our guests shared holiday joy celebrating and supporting our

ministry! A special thanks is extended to chef Kevin Beare and his amazing kitchen and serving team that included Neil Oberlin, Lorraine Yonitch, Barbara Keister, Marge Wetherill, Vivianne and Don Rogers, Carlene Moyer, Paula Spence, and Judy Beare.



Angelus Chorus



The Angelus Chorus filled our sanctuary with beautiful music Sunday December 12, for 75 music lovers. Thanks to our worship and music team for

preparation and the splendid reception that followed in Price Hall. Visit our website's [Podcasts](#) tab to listen to excerpts of the performance to be posted soon!

Session Notes:



Summary notes and highlights of our most recent session meeting. For further details and additional session discussion, please

refer to the complete Session Minutes (upon session approval and publication).

Our Session approved the following agenda items on December 3, 2019:

- Minutes of Stated Session Meeting of November 5, 2019;
- 2020 Proposed Budget (amended);
- Supply and install new washer and dryer in Manse;
- Stated session meeting for January 14, 2020 at 6:00pm.

The Session also discussed the following agenda items in progress:

- Promotion of Price Hall for various event rentals;
- Repair of roadside electronic sign structure;
- Seeking additional Sunday School teacher and assistant;
- The Triangle Project: Improvement and use of this roadside property.

Copies of approved Session Minutes are located on the table in the church narthex, and in the designated rack by the church office 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

Can't be with us in person, be with us online!



[Click here to hear a sermon you missed or to share with a friend.](#)

Unexpected Expression Of Christmas Joy Appeared On Our Lawns!



Members and friends of our community were delightfully surprised by a beautiful lawn sign that appeared before Christmas. While the source of the greeting remains shrouded in mystery, many reported how delighted they were to have received this unique Merry Christmas message from Cold Spring Church!

Kids Deliver A Festive and Inspiring Christmas Message to Congregation!



For several months, the congregation has enjoyed the participation of more than a dozen children at worship. They always bring a smile to everyone's face as they join Pastor Kevin for a special learning time before they gather in the second floor classroom with Mary Imperato and others caring adults for fun crafts and

Bible lessons. On December 22, 2019, the kids presented artwork, singing *JOY: Jesus, Others and You!* We hope you will invite your children, grandchildren, and neighbors to worship next week! Cold Spring Church is the safe place for kids to have fun and hear about Jesus.



Food Cupboard News for January 2020



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 200 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.

"For the Lord loves a person who gives cheerfully" (2 Corinthians 9:7 NLT).

"Remember the Words of Jesus "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Deacon Collection for January

- January 5 Instant rice, canned soups, Ramen Noodles, crackers
- January 12 Toothpaste & brushes, soap (bars), toilet paper, pasta and sauce
- January 19 Peanut butter and grape jelly, fruit cups, canned vegetables
- January 26 Hot and cold tea, hot & cold cereals, powdered milk, canned meat

Your donations may 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

Family Promise



Our first family is expected to move in to our former manse January 1,

2020. Thank you for your prayers and warm welcome.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

Men's Group Ministry:

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*"!

Christian Living:

Discover how friendship with God is what you were created for! Out of your relationship with Him will flow wisdom, guidance, freedom, peace and joy, giving you a life that is abundant, uncommon, remarkable -- extraordinary! Join us for the book/dvd study and discussion of "**Your Extraordinary Life**" with Rev. Dr. Mark Virkler. As you follow this spiritual roadmap, your destiny will be released, and you will learn how to live out of your friendship with Jesus every day, becoming more like Him and radiating His goodness and glory everywhere you go. We meet at 10:15am for coffee and fellowship on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Everyone is welcome!

Affirmation of Faith: Wednesday, January 29

Our "Fifth Wednesday Special" will present the new dvd entitled "**New Beginning**", a stirring film that looks at the biblical account of Noah's flood from an unexpected angle: the viewpoint of one of Noah's three daughters-in-law. We follow the wife of Shem as she writes down for her children her memories of the pre-flood world. This historical drama brings the flood account to life in a new way. You will think about the realities faced by Noah and his family differently than ever before.

Learn the significance of a biblical truth that affirms our faith. We meet at 10:15am for coffee and fellowship with our special presentation beginning at 10:30am. Everyone is welcome; invite a friend!

All classes are held in the Taylor Room of Price Hall.

Clerk's Corner By Rob Riehl



"2020 Vision"

How is your vision lately?

Is it time for a check-up?

It's been a few years since I had my vision checked. The "wake-up call" sounded when I had reason to suspect that my vision had deteriorated a bit; it didn't seem to be at 20/20 anymore. I made an appointment in January to see the expert in this matter: my optometrist --he will examine my eyes, diagnose the problem, and proscribe the remediation for corrective lenses to restore the optimum 20/20 vision.

What are your expectations for 2020? What do you envision yourself doing to *improve your life* this year? Everyone wants a better "*something*" in 2020 than they had experienced in 2019. At this time of year, we are reminded of this cultural custom to seek the "new" and "improved"; we call this desire our "New Year's Resolution"! Our

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human nature yearns to be part of *something greater* than one's self. It is why we join certain clubs, associations and organizations --to belong to a *greater shared vision!*

However, all these noble visions have inherent limitations: the groups are temporal and their visions changeable. But God calls us to become integrated in His grand vision for humankind. His infinite spiritual vision is absolute and unchanging because it is perfect and eternal, where the active participants can do *greater things* beyond their expectations!

How is your *spiritual* vision lately? Is it time for a *spiritual* check-up? What have you done lately to improve your *spiritual vision*? Have you considered what God's expectations are for you? His ways are always better --and *greater*-- than anything we can conceive! May I suggest that you ask God to show you *how to live* in His expectancy. God does have a specific plan for each of us that somehow "fits" into His greater over-arching plan for the reconciliation of mankind. When all is said and done, this is THE PLAN that God has always had; there is no other plan! God's plan is *unstoppable*; His divine Will cannot be thwarted. In His often mysterious way, God will reconcile all things unto Himself. "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!" Go with His flow and marvel at how God will use you in His church body in 2020! Whose plan do you think is better-yours or God's? Unbelievers have little choice; it's their own way or someone's suggested way. With us as believers, there is yet another way: God's higher way. We know from experience that manipulating our own way is inherently fraught with uncertainties and unintended consequences; we fear losing control of our planned vision. Allowing God to take control of our life vision and plan, we can overcome anxiety and fear by resting in His Word, relying on His promises, placing our hope and confidence in His eternal lovingkindness to us. He will guide us to the

vision that *really* matters: abiding in the spirit of God now and beholding His presence in eternity! Do you (or *does anybody else?*) have a grander and more glorious vision than this? Let go of self-sufficiency and let God be God in your life! Let God improve your vision through His corrective lenses that will allow you to see and understand *clearly* to embrace His divine plan.

As I transition from one church leadership role to another this year, I look to God to provide the details of His plan for me as they unfold in the fullness of His time. Adopting this *change of attitude* is life-changing! Following the Will of the Father, abiding in the Heart of His Son Jesus Christ, and following the imparted wisdom of the Holy Spirit in truth and in love-you too can be an active and integral participant in God's magnificent plan of reconciliation and restoration-bringing heaven to earth! Now there's an offer of a 20/20 vision for 2020 that ought not be refused!

With this being my concluding submission for the "Clerk's Corner" of our Brickette Newsletter, I acknowledge with gratitude your support and encouragement given over the years. It has been both an opportunity presented and a blessing to me to have been of spiritual service to you faithful readers and to this church congregation through this special ministry. "To God be the glory, great things He has done" --and will *continue to do for you, the beloved!* Amen.
—Rob Riehl

Biblical references: Jeremiah 29:11-13; Isaiah 55:9; John 14:12; John 15:4; 1 John 4:9



Explore the possibilities at Cold Spring Church!

New Members Group Forming Soon

You've felt welcomed and have experienced the energy at Cold Spring Church. Now is a great time to grow in

your relationship with Christ and get more connected! You are invited to participate in our next **Explorer's Group** that is forming in March. Spring Forward in Faith! Let Pastor Kevin know today you want to Get more connected!



We care about what our neighbors experience and we want them to experience God's abundance and grace in 2020!

Every church of Jesus Christ can be assumed to worship Christ, proclaim the Bible, and serve others. But each of us, and each congregation, has a unique mission, a special call, as well. Why is Cold Spring Presbyterian Church at the corner of Seashore and Academy roads?

What has God called us to focus on in 2020?

We can't do everything, because if everything is our priority, then nothing is a priority. If we focus on doing it all, we end up doing nothing at all. So our mission is what God has called us to do as a unique community of faith right now. For such a time as this, God has called Cold Spring Presbyterian Church, and all those participating in its worship and work, (that's you and me!) to celebrate, communicate, engage with, and promote our mission.

Similarly, when we refer to vision, we mean the imagined future we seek to see. Our vision describes the outcomes accomplished by God's empowerment and grace.

VISION: Cold Spring Presbyterian Church

We believe that everyone deserves to experience God's love in relevant and authentic ways. Our thriving faith community energizes spirits and transforms lives by putting God's love into action to help make greater Cape May a better place. We invite others to join with us as we joyfully love and serve God and our neighbors through the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ.

MISSION: Cold Spring Presbyterian Church

Cold Spring Presbyterian Church delivers spiritual resources and experiences that are centered in God's love. We enthusiastically proclaim the abundant life through Jesus Christ. Our mission is to improve the spiritual

vitality and wellness of our congregation and community throughout the Cape May region through inspiring worship, practical teaching from God's word, innovative programs, and community-focused events and ministry. You will find our vision and mission statements on our website, in each Connections and Brickette issue, in our weekly bulletin. Our mission helps us tell our story! Our clear vision helps us know when to say yes or no. Our clear mission guides every decision the session makes about by our resources, priorities, and values as we listen to God's Spirit. Our mission informs our teams, committees, and all our work across our congregation. Even more, our compelling vision and mission will attract new individuals, families, resources, partnerships and opportunities!

We are beginning our 306th year of ministry! And you are an important part of its success! Member, friend, neighbor... you have a place at Cold Spring Church in 2020!

Join us on Sunday, January 26th, after worship in Price Hall when we hold our **2020 Annual Congregational Meeting**. We will celebrate all that God has done in our midst in 2019! You are invited to participate and be energized during this very special gathering. What's ahead in 2020? With the apostle Paul, we know three important things about the future:

- We are learning and growing as we follow Jesus.
- We have a clear mission.
- God is calling us all to bravely fulfill our mission and move forward into the future.

Thank you for all you do...praying and supporting, engaging, and serving... in the name of Jesus Christ! **Let's expect a brave new year in 2020** as we experience God's abundance and grace, working together to achieve our mission in God's emerging, hopeful future! That's why we can confidently say, **"Happy Brave New Year!"**

Sincerely,
Pastor Kevin