

## No Longer Strangers...

This Lenten season the Wednesday Bible study is reading Fr. Richard Rohr's *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*. Through guided readings and spiritual practices, Rohr invites the reader to reclaim reading Scripture as a spiritual practice that opens a door for transforming our lives. Such an approach is in opposition to the way many read Scripture, as a means of gathering information.

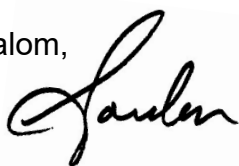
As we continue our Lenten "Wandering Heart" journey, following Peter to "figure out faith," a recent reading in Rohr jumped out at me as I worked to read with Peter's eyes. From the moment we meet Peter—at his call when told to seek fish in a spot he "knows" is without hope—through each successive encounter, his early utterance to Jesus, "I'm not worthy" seems to drive his every action. At times, like his confession, he disproves his theory. At other times—his denial—he seems to prove it.

This came to mind when I read in Rohr: "*God's main problem is how to give away God!* But God has great difficulty doing this. You'd think everybody would want God, but the common response is something like this: 'Lord, I am not worthy. I would rather have religion and morality, which give me the impression that I can win a cosmic contest by my own efforts.'"

Rohr's antidote is to point to Mary as the epitome of receiving God's total grace and gift. When visited by Gabriel, she does not protest her "unworthiness." She does not even ask "why?" She only asks for clarification, "How?" She knows how to say "yes" to an utterly free gift. In such a light, in response to Peter, and each of us who proclaim, "Lord, I'm not worthy," we may hear an echo from the Gospel, 'Of course, you are not, but that was never the question, anyway!'

As we wander with Peter this Lent, may we find the pathways that encourage us forward in faith, recognizing that God's love is unmerited, unabashed, and unquestionably for each of us.

Shalom,



# CHRISTIAN FORMATION



## Children: Simply Loved

Join our Bible Buddy "Bubbles the Whale," Sally Noe, and Mary Schiano for Simply Loved classes for ages 5 through 5th grade, upstairs in room 207 at 11:15AM until 12PM.

Our theme for March will be "Away From Home":

March 10th: Jonah Disobeys God

March 17th: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego Stand Up for God

March 24th: Daniel Keeps Praying to God



## Youth: Practice Joy

We usually think of joy as a feeling, a response to something we experience, but scripture invites us to understand joy as a spiritual practice. The love shown to us in the grace of Jesus Christ has the power to turn our "mourning into dancing" (Psalm 30:11). The full expression of God's joy celebrates God's presence everywhere and always. Find us in the 2nd Floor Conference Room beginning March 10 at 11:15am.



## Revelation: Following the Lamb

Whether you are confused by, afraid of, or preoccupied with the Book of Revelation, join Director of Christian Formation Charlotte Elia after worship as she leads this exploration of this too often either completely misinterpreted or entirely ignored volume of scripture. This class meets March 10, 17, and 24 at 11:15am in the Pastors' Gallery.



## Requies Divina - March 20 @ 7pm

Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat and a pillow for this time of guided contemplation and centering prayer for spiritual rest and renewal.

Our session will take place in the sanctuary and last approximately 45 minutes. Doors open at 6:45pm. Free and open to the public.





## Collage as Prayer - March 16 @ 10am

Sometimes when we struggle to find words for our hopes, fears, deepest anxieties, and greatest joys images can help us explore and break open our hidden hearts to God. After a brief guided meditation, participants will work on an 11 x 14 board (suitable for framing) illustrating their prayers. All supplies will be provided, but you may want to bring: any pretty paper scraps or ephemera, scissors if you have personal favorites, old photos (or photocopies of treasured personal photos).

Saturday, March 16th, 10am-12pm. 1st Floor Conference Rm. \$10. Supplies and light refreshments provided. Register at [chesterpres.org/christian-formation](https://chesterpres.org/christian-formation).

We are collecting materials for our collage classes. Please bring your old magazines, paper scraps, bits of ribbon, fabric, etc, to church for donation. Your offerings will help others explore their faith.



## The Lord & His Prayer: Register Now Adult Sunday School - Starting April 14

In this book of pastoral reflections N.T. Wright explores how the Lord's Prayer sums up what Jesus was all about in his first-century setting. Wright locates the Lord's Prayer, clause by clause, within the historical life and work of Jesus and allows the prayer's devotional application to grow out of its historical

context. The result is a fresh understanding of Christian spirituality and the life of prayer. This deeply devotional book will refresh and stimulate the heart and mind of any reader.

Led by Charlotte Elia, this study starts at 11:15 am on Sunday, April 14, 2024 in The Pastors' Gallery on the second floor and meets on April 14, 21, 28 and May 12, 19, 26. Study guides are available for loan or purchase. Register at [chesterpres.org/christian-formation](https://chesterpres.org/christian-formation).



## Upcoming Spirituality Workshops

Join Director of Christian Formation Charlotte Elia Thursdays from 10:30am-12pm for workshops designed to enhance your creativity and refresh your spirit.

April 11: Journaling as Prayer

April 18: Psalms of Lament

April 25: Lectio Divina

May 2: Tab Closing Party

May 9: Journaling as Prayer

May 16: Psalms of Thanksgiving

May 23: Lectio Divina

May 30: Creative Free Space

All sessions are free and open to the public but are limited to 15 participants. For more information and to register, please visit [chesterpres.org/christian-formation](https://chesterpres.org/christian-formation).





## ◆ Deacon's Corner ◆

I FaceTimed my grand-niece, Drianna so I could talk to her son (my great-nephew) Ronan for his third birthday. I love how he calls me "Jude" instead of Aunt Jude, just like his sister does, much to his mother's consternation. I also talked to his grandmother, my niece Donna. I thought of my sister Roni, the mom, gramma, and great gramma of the crew.

She's been gone 10 years now, and my heart breaks that those young ones never got to know her. Roni was 13 when I was born and she took over raising me, so losing her was like losing my mother. I spent the afternoon mourning her, wishing she were here, and pouring my heart out to her picture like I was praying to God. I've had a tough year, and sure could have used her wisdom and love.

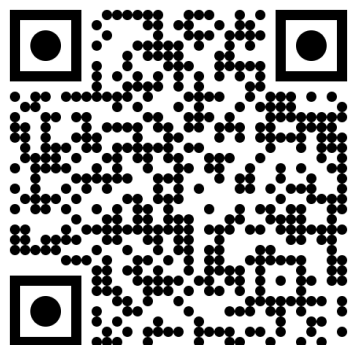
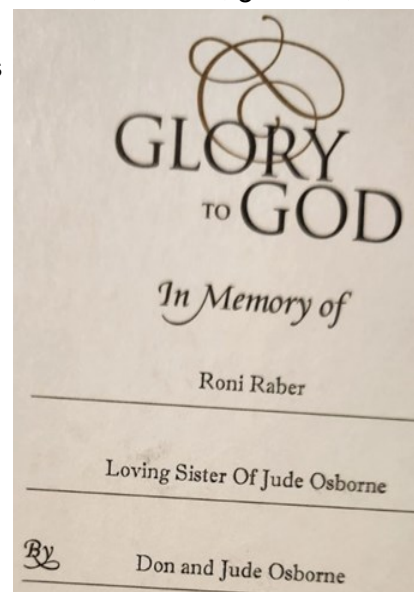
I didn't attend church that Sunday, but a very special friend did. My phone dinged and this appeared:

*"This is in my hymnal this morning. You've been on my mind the last few days. Miss you friend. ♥"*

The tears flowed again. Happy tears!! How can anyone not believe in miracles? In my heart, I feel Roni let me know she is still with me, still loves me, and she found the best way to let me know; through those I love in our church.

This was such a simple act, just a moment of her time, yet so important to me. Next time a "simple act" presents itself to you, do it. Just do it.

You never know what comfort or support or even a miracle you are bringing. Thank you all for being there for me. (I♥Erin) - Jude Osborne



The session has added two new exciting ways to receive CPC contributions and fee payments. In addition to traditional checks, cash and on-line contributions, going forward both a QR code and NFC tags will be available for instant, contactless, secure transmission of financial contributions to CPC.

Both QR codes and NFC tags allow a user to access the CPC web (Breeze) address/donation platform, as well other CPC information without inputting data directly into their mobile device. While a QR code is scanned with a user's camera, using an NFC tag can be simply tapped with a user's phone. Watch for the QR code in the bulletin, as well as special offering receptacles around the narthex with an NFC tag, to make your next contribution.

# **Notes from the Organ Bench**

## **ARTS Events:**

### **Craft Classes:**

The class meets the first Monday of the month at 6pm. **PLEASE register in advance.** There is a nominal fee to cover supplies for each class.

### **Concert Season 2024:**

<b>March 10</b>	Myles Roberts - Flute Through the Ages	3:00 PM
<b>April 16</b>	Richmond Symphonic Winds Ensemble	7:00 PM
<b>May 5</b>	Chesterfield County Choral Society	3:00 PM
<b>June 9</b>	BoneFire Brass Ensemble	3:00 PM
<b>July 2</b>	Richmond Brass & Percussion Consort	7:00 PM



## **One Great Hour of Sharing now through March 31**

During Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus' resurrection, and connects us with "those who have least." One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world by advancing the causes of justice, resilience, and sustainability.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries. You can donate by check (please put OGHS on the memo line) or online by clicking [here](#) and selecting One Great Hour of Sharing from the drop down list. Thank you for your generous support!

Due to the high demand on our Food Pantry, we welcome donations of any of our "ingredients." Here is the list of what we provide:



Chili  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Spaghetti Noodles  
Boxed Potatoes/Stuffing  
Jelly  
Canned Fruit  
Mac & Cheese  
Hamburger Helper  
Rice  
Coffee/Tea  
Canned Chicken  
Canned Tuna

Adult Cereal (i.e. corn flakes, Cheerios)  
Ramen Noodle Soup  
Hearty Soup  
Creamed Soup  
Regular Soup  
Beans (black, pinto, etc)  
Pork & Beans  
Mixed Vegetables/Canned Carrots  
Peas  
Corn  
Green Beans  
Beef-A-Roni

\$20 Kroger gift cards are always welcome. Thank you for your generosity!





## Meet Norma Donado!

Norma joined our team as our accountant in February. By way of introduction, she sent:

*Greetings! My name is Norma Donado. In true American fashion, my three passions are my family, my work, and Jesus. I graduated from ODU, and I have been in public accounting for 10 years. I am a member of Faith Baptist Church, where I enjoy Bible study and serving my Savior. I love to spend as much time as possible with my husband and my two young boys. I look forward to working with your church. Thank you!*

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Attention all rising 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, rising Middle Schoolers, and Rising SR Highs at end of 2023 school year. Camp Hanover offers a variety of Day and Overnight camping experiences and summer employment for college-age job-seekers. See the brochures in the narthex for additional information or visit the Camp Hanover website ([www.camphanover.org](http://www.camphanover.org)).

There are opportunities to attend the Presbytery of the James camp during the day or overnight for a week, with a \$30 discount for CPC members. Additionally, we have scholarships available to help offset the cost of these camps. For additional information, talk to Cliff and Sally Noe, Mike Rose (Chair of the Christian Formation Committee, and our Director of Christian Formation, Charlotte Elia.

## Garden on the Corner News

Spring is just around the corner and the Garden on the Corner Committee is already at work. Mushroom compost will be added to the entire garden. Plans are underway for Scouts to shovel mulch into the raised beds prior to **March 23 – our targeted early planting date!** Watch for specific details closer to that date.

As a result of those who have brought compost over the last 2 years, some of the resulting rich soil was added to the garden. We welcome again those who would like to resume composting to deposit the compost in the bin marked COMPOST at lower end of the garden. Please adhere to the guidelines and bring **ONLY** acceptable materials:



Fruit and vegetable peels and stalks (**except citrus**)

Wood ashes (full of potash) but not coal or charcoal

Dry dog food

Coffee grounds and coffee filters

Shredded paper

Peat moss

**Dry** grass clippings (fresh ones get smelly)

Shredded dry leaves (run the law mower over them to shred)

Chicken or turkey feathers

Pine needles

Annual flowers that you pull up after frost

Not sure if a particular item is acceptable? **When it doubt, leave it out!**

The Garden on the Corner Committee always welcomes new members and/or helpers.

For questions or more information, contact Susan Mapes [gmapes3@aol.com](mailto:gmapes3@aol.com) or Frank Hartsoe [boilermakers45@hotmail.com](mailto:boilermakers45@hotmail.com)

## Session Highlights

At the February 18 meeting, session:

- ♦ Approved Property Recommendation to move forward with FH roof painting project & special offering
- ♦ Approved adding QR codes & NFC Tags to contribution process
- ♦ Elected Steve Entwistle to Nominating Committee
- ♦ Approved worship recommendation to not celebrate communion April 7
- ♦ Approved 2023 GA statistical report



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



***Everyone is invited!***

**ALL** CPC women are members of Presbyterian Women and are encouraged to attend any/all meetings.

Please join us at the church on **March 27**, at 6:30pm.

Questions? Contact Kathy Peebles at [kathyspantry@gmail.com](mailto:kathyspantry@gmail.com)



If you would like to order a Chester Presbyterian Church magnetic-backed name badge, please contact Marcie at office [office@chesterpres.org](mailto:office@chesterpres.org) or 804-748-4636.

Cost is \$15 per name badge.



## Five-Cents-a-Meal

We collect for this ministry on the first Sunday of each month. Please consider making a donation to this ministry using your regular contribution method - online or by check. Just indicate that it's a "Five-Cents-a-Meal Of-

fering." If you were to set aside a nickel at every meal during the month, it would come to about \$4.50. Once collected, we send these funds to the Presbytery of the James.

The majority of funds distributed by the Hunger Ministry provide emergency food relief to people in need: church emergency food centers, school backpack programs, county food pantries.



## Chancel Flower Dedications

The 2024 Flower Calendar has been posted in the narthex. If you'd like to dedicate flowers for a particular Sunday, contact the church office for details - 748-4636 or

[office@chesterpres.org](mailto:office@chesterpres.org)

# FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

**Chester Presbyterian Church**  
**Congregational Report**  
**January 31, 2024**

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
<b>Revenues(1)</b>			
Offerings (Pledge and Loose)	51,517	33,772	17,745
Other Revenue	3,581	3,670	(88)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>55,098</b>	<b>37,442</b>	<b>17,657</b>
<b>Expenses(2)</b>			
Salary & Benefits	25,019	29,239	4,220
Presbytery and Mission	1,386	3,095	1,709
Worship/CE/Membership/Music/Stewardship/Parish Care	3,901	2,728	(1,173)
Plant Operations	3,019	4,544	1,525
Church Admin	2,402	2,691	289
Mortgage Loan	1,460	1,460	0
Property Insurance	7,307	7,307	0
Worker's Comp Insurance & Processing Fees	<u>482</u>	<u>482</u>	<u>(1)</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>44,975</b>	<b>51,545</b>	<b>6,569</b>
<b>Net Total(3)</b>	<b>10,123</b>	<b>(14,103)</b>	<b>24,226</b>

**Mortgage Balance:**

Beginning Balance (Ending Balance last month):	<b>\$144,547</b>
Payments to principal this month:	\$925
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$143,622</b>

\*\*Numbers rounded to nearest dollar, which can cause differences in totals



# STAY IN TOUCH

CPC has many ways to stay in touch!



## FACEBOOK

Like Chester Presbyterian Church on Facebook and enjoy daily prayer and much more!

## WEEKLY E-NEWS

Stay up to date on all the great things happening at the church with our weekly email newsletter.



## WEBSITE

Check out the church calendar, view sermons, or make a donation. Everything you're looking for is on our website!

## YOU TUBE CHANNEL

Our weekly Worship service is posted on our YouTube Channel. Grab a cup of coffee and enjoy the service from home.



## BREEZE APP

Keep in touch with all your friends at church. Email the church office at [office@chesterpres.org](mailto:office@chesterpres.org) to find out how to create an account.

## Staff Contact Information

(804) 748-4636

[www.chesterpres.org](http://www.chesterpres.org)

Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM, Mon - Fri.

Gordon B. Mapes, III  
Pastor  
[gmapes@chesterpres.org](mailto:gmapes@chesterpres.org)

Charlotte Elia  
Director of Christian Formation  
[celia@chesterpres.org](mailto:celia@chesterpres.org)

Marcie Murphy  
Church Administrator  
[office@chesterpres.org](mailto:office@chesterpres.org)

Kathy Peebles  
Financial Secretary  
[financialsec@chesterpres.org](mailto:financialsec@chesterpres.org)

Roshan Chakane  
Director of Music  
[rchakane@chesterpres.org](mailto:rchakane@chesterpres.org)

Kim Hopkins  
Preschool Director  
[preschool@chesterpres.org](mailto:preschool@chesterpres.org)

Norma Donado  
Accountant  
[accountant@chesterpres.org](mailto:accountant@chesterpres.org)

Anne Kalemjian  
Treasurer  
[treasurer@chesterpres.org](mailto:treasurer@chesterpres.org)