

This Week at CPC

Sunday, March 10	8:45A.M. AWE – FH 9:00A.M. Joyful Noise – Rm 213 9:45A.M. Sunday School – Various Psalms – 2 nd Fl CR New Church – Pastors' Gallery 11:00A.M. Worship – Sanctuary 12:30P.M. Lunch Bunch – Offsite
Monday March 11	6:00P.M. Finance Committee – 1 st Fl CR 6:30P.M. Membership Developmt – 2 nd Fl CR 7:00P.M. Boy/Cub Scouts – Rudy Ctr; FH
Tuesday, March 12	1:00P.M. CPC Staff – 1 st Fl CR 4:15P.M. After-School Tutoring – Rudy Ctr 5:30P.M. Grace Café – FH 5:45P.M. Nominations Committee – 2 nd Fl CR 6:30P.M. Task Force for Youth Ed – 2 nd Fl CR 7:00P.M. Student Brass Ensembles – Sanctuary
Wednesday, March 13	7:00A.M. Men's Breakfast – FH 10:00A.M. Pastor's Bible Study – 1 st Fl CR 2:00P.M. Circle 2 – Rudy Ctr 3:00P.M. Happy Quilters – FH 6:30P.M. Diaconate – 1 st Fl CR Personnel Committee – 2 nd Fl CR 7:00P.M. AA Living Life – Rudy Ctr
Thursday, March 14	4:15P.M. After-School Tutoring – Rudy Ctr 6:30P.M. AWE Singers – FH 7:30P.M. Chancel Choir – Sanctuary
Friday, March 15	8:00P.M. AA Big Book Study – Rudy Ctr
Saturday, March 16	11:00A.M. AA Common Journey – Rudy Ctr

Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of our breast cancer survivors by Kathy Peebles.

Please Remember In Your Prayers: Jude Osborne; Buck Phillips; Lee Farman; Betty Crenshaw; Bob Elliott; Patricia Hines; Judy Danford; Pat Owens; Dick Uhrig; Jean Oliver; Barbara Hignutt; Phyllis Burkey; Sharon Entwistle; Bob Lynn and his sister, Jean Lynn; Larry Turner, Sr.; Ani Martin; Margaret Welleford's sister-in-law, Sandra Welleford; Kathy Peebles' mother-in-law, Evelyn Peebles; Bridget Lehman's father, Robert Roach, Sr.; Brita Simmons's friend, Miranda Holljes; Becky Lang's friend, Rev. Brian Welch and his family; Sadie Benton's son-in-law, Allen Prichard; Harold Yager, friend of Joe Gee; Mary Schiano and Cathy Marny's friend, Tawni Barlow; Lee Farman's friend, Chris Sprole; Cynthia and Todd Woerner's daughter, Rebecca Hodell, and Cynthia's friend Susan Huntington; Deborah Regal's sister, Cherrill, and her nephew, Billy Regal; Frank Brownlee's stepson-in-law, Gordon Hailey; Marnie Brown's friends, Diane Duffy and Heather Escobar; Bob and Marnie Brown's son-in-law, Guy Champ; Gordon's sister, Amanda Trompas, shut-ins; those in assisted living facilities, especially Tim Williams; Catherine Spence; Larry Grina; Helen Hines; Nancy Porterfield; and our military, especially members and friends serving overseas, Shane Johnston-Fisher; Christopher Noe.

Lunch Bunch: We gather today at the Sedona Taphouse in Colonial Heights at 12:30P.M. and hope you will be able to join us! Bring someone new or come for the first time yourself for great food and welcoming friends! Taphouse address and phone: Sedona Taphouse, 435 Charles H Dimmock Pkwy, Colonial Heights 23834; 804-930-8277.

- Marnie and Bob Brown, forestend@verizon.net

Welcome. We're glad you joined us for worship today. We are an engaged community of faith called to deliver God's word, grow in faith and serve all people. We worship on Sunday mornings at 8:45 in the fellowship hall and at 11:00 in the main sanctuary. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst, and that his presence will sustain you in the week ahead.

If you are a visitor we hope you will make Chester Presbyterian Church your church home. Please pick up a copy of *Connections@CPC*, our church newsletter in the narthex. It is full of activities and program schedules to assist you in finding areas of interest in our ministries. Our pastor, staff and officers would be delighted to answer any questions you may have about our many programs and activities, and to discuss membership with you at your earliest convenience.

Serving Today

Liturgist	Mary Owens
Sanctuary Guild	Liz and Bobby Johnson
Ushers	Richard and Susan Nunnally; AZ and Akong Ndingwan
Greeters	Frank and Nancy Hartsoe; David Hendler

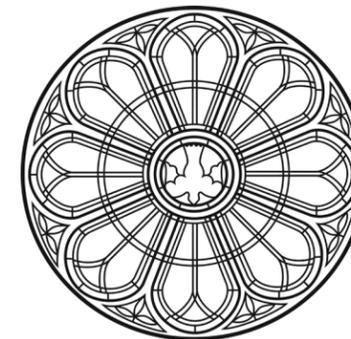
Office Hours: 9:00A.M. – 4:30P.M. Monday – Friday. Church staff can be reached at 748-4636:

Gordon B. Mapes, III, Pastor		gmapes@chesterpres.org
James Dom, Director of Music		jdom@chesterpres.org
Linn W. Coghill, Membership Coordinator		lcoghill@chesterpres.org
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Kim Hopkins, Preschool Director	748-9465	preschool@chesterpres.org
Kathy Peebles, Financial Secretary		financial.sec@chesterpres.org
Don Davidson, Treasurer	717-5020	treasurer@chesterpres.org

**God's Call to Chester Presbyterian Church is:
*Deliver God's Word, Grow in Faith, Serve All People.***



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www.chesterpres.org



CHESTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Sunday in Lent

11:00A.M.

March 10, 2019

WE GATHER

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PEACE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Meditation

Stefan Surynski

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come to the Lord with openness;
Seeking God's presence whatever it brings.
Bring doubt, bring belief.
Seek the Lord and live.

***HYMN 321**

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

CALL TO CONFESSION

We cannot earn God's grace or favor.
It comes to us, not as something owed,
But as a gift freely given.
Confident in God's love for us, even when we are ungodly, we
confess our sins in faith.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change.
Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray... (Silent, personal confession)

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Scripture declares, ‘The Lord is generous to all who call on God’s name. Friends, believe the good news:

God does not turn away from us, but desires to bring us into the glorious freedom offered in Jesus Christ.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE 581

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

WE NURTURE

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING

Numbers 21:4-9

LESSON

John 3:1-21

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Embracing the Mysteries of Faith

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Confession of 1967 (Adapted)

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. Amen.

*HYMN 286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord...

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERING

Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright

Henry Bryan Hays

Lord, teach us how to pray aright With reverence and with fear;
Though dust and ashes in thy sight, We may, we must draw near.
We perish if we cease from prayer; O grant us power to pray;
And when to meet thee we prepare, Lord, meet us by the way.
God of all grace, we come to thee With broken contrite hearts;
Give, what thine eye delights to see, Truth in the inward parts;
Faith in the only sacrifice That can for sin atone;
To cast our hopes, to fix our eyes, On Christ, on Christ alone.
Patience to watch, and wait, and weep, Though mercy long delay;
Courage our fainting souls to keep, And trust thee though thou slay.
Give these, and then thy will be done; Thus strengthened with all might,
We, through thy Spirit and thy Son, Shall pray, and pray aright.

James Montgomery

*DOXOLOGY 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others.

Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray. Amen.

WE REACH OUT

*HYMN 166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

*DIMINISHING LIGHT

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE 228

Were You There

The End of Worship, the Beginning of Service

*All who are able may stand.

Bold Type indicates a congregational response.

Scripture

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:1-21

³Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Let us journey with Jesus this Lent. As we prepare these forty days for Holy Week and its world transforming events, we begin with an opportunity to imitate Christ and pattern our lives in the image of the One we follow. Included in each Sunday's bulletin is a weekly devotional written by *Presbyterian Outlook* editor Jill Duffield. You are invited to use it daily to explore Jesus' earthly ministry and seek to discern how we are called to emulate it. In a similar manner, the Gospel text for each Sunday features an encounter Jesus had during his public ministry and an invitation to our own encounters with Jesus during the Lenten season

Lenten Wreath: For many years, we have prepared ourselves for Christmas and the birth of Christ by including an Advent Wreath in our worship. Lighting a candle each week helps us focus on the preparations we make throughout the Advent season. This year we will use a wreath and candles during worship to help us move through Lent and prepare for the triumph of Easter. Instead of lighting a candle each week, we will extinguish a candle, snuffing out one additional candle each week for the 5 weeks of Lent preceding Easter. You will see that the wreath itself is a stark contrast to the Advent wreath, without greens and bare, with thorns. The Easter Wreath then will be transformed with light, color, new life and the assurance that Christ has risen! We look forward to seeing you in worship as we prepare ourselves to move from Christ's crucifixion to Christ's resurrection.

Circle 2 meets this Wednesday at 2:00P.M. in the Rudy Center.

The Diaconate meets this Wednesday at 6:30P.M. in the first floor CR.

Another Golden Opportunity! Calling all adults for another speaking choir, a group choral reading. Looking for adults of all ages, men and women, sitting or standing. No experience necessary. Contact your friends too! We will raise our voices to the glory of God on Easter, both services. We will plan 3 rehearsals in April with the third rehearsal being held the day before Easter, Saturday, April 20 (the other 2 to be determined once group is set). If interested, please contact Ann Dunbar dunbarpt@gmail.com; phone 804/731-8272.

Camp Hanover Summer Camp Registration is Open! Camp Hanover, our Presbytery's camp, is currently accepting registrations for Summer 2019 for youth in grades 1-12. You can visit the website at www.CampHanover.org to view offerings for each age group and learn more about the program. If you have any questions, please email Camp Hanover at info@CampHanover.org or call (804)779-2811. Brochures are in the Narthex. Please contact Susan Mapes if interested as Scholarships are available.

This Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00P.M. in the sanctuary, there will be a concert with the *'After Dinner Mints' Brass Quintet*, featuring Noah Mendoza, trumpet; Sebastian Ford, trumpet; Stephen Deren, horn; Tim Lopez, euphonium; and T.G. Burkes, tuba. In May, these students from the VCU Department of Music, will travel to Cartagena, Colombia to perform and teach as part of the International Festival of Music. At this concert, there will be an offering received to assist them in their travel expenses. That evening, VCU students will also provide music at Grace Café. The Brass Quintet will also be with us on Easter Sunday at the 11:00A.M. service! All are welcome.

Silent Auction: Presbyterian Women of CPC seek donations for a Silent Auction during the Women's Tea next Sunday, March 17. Donations from plants to home decor, art, gift cards to area restaurants / stores etc. We ask that all donated items be new or like-new condition. This event generates a lot of excitement and substantial funds for a local charity. Please place your donated items in the blue plastic bin, labeled PW Tea, located in the hallway next to the playground door. Any questions, please contact Jana Wood at 796-9110 or dtwood2@verizon.net.

Attention men! It is once again time for the Women's Annual Tea next Sunday, March 17 at 2:00P.M. As in the past, our men will serve tea. Theme this year is St Patrick's Day and we will have green armbands and bowties. Cliff Noe is assembling this year's butler team. Please let him know if you can be a butler: noetinman@verizon.net or 804-931-7894.

Grace Café welcomes you Tuesdays at 5:30P.M. Menu: potato soup, bangers and mash, peas, shortbread cookies and ice cream.

Our Food Pantry thanks you for your generosity. We need spaghetti sauce and coffee / tea; and as always, \$10 Kroger gift cards are needed and appreciated. Thank you.

CPC Yard Sale: Cleaning out your cupboards, your closets, and those over-loaded basements and attics? Need a place to take your old treasures? Consider saving them for the CPC yard Saturday, April 27. We will not be able to store the items until just before the sale, but keep us in mind!

Chester Presbyterian Preschool: Open Enrollment is going on now for the 2019/2020 school year! We offer a half-day program for children ages 2 ½ - 5 years old. For more information, check out our website at cpcpreschool.org or call Kim Hopkins at 804-748-9465.

Today is CAN Sunday. Please bring your clean, crushed cans to the area behind the dumpster to benefit Habitat for Humanity.