



No Longer Strangers...

An exciting post-Easter April awaits us! Look for details inside regarding:

CPC's "Rescue the Roof" campaign has been launched. Close to \$10,000 of \$65,000 needed has been raised! What treasure might you convert to cash to help this special rescue effort?

The 3rd season of God's Garden on the Garden on the Corner has cool-weather vegetables in the ground. Grace Café's June 25 meal will be created with this produce.

New Sunday Formation classes for all ages begin April 14. Including for adults: "The Lord & His Prayer" by N.T Wright.

The Richmond Wind Symphony will be in concert April 16.

Cookies for The Kairos Ministry work with Sussex inmates are needed by April 14.

Spiritual Practice classes include *Collage as Prayer* April 20 and new opportunities for moms, and others through "Thursday Spirituality Classes" each Thursday mid-morning.

The Food Pantry and Backpack ministries continue to need your non-perishable food donations. An extra item or two in your grocery cart makes a difference when we all participate.

Indeed, something to engage each of us on our April faith journey. What will you explore?

Shalom,

CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Children: Simply Loved

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

Our theme for April will be "Back Home Again":

April 14th: Nehemiah Returns to Jerusalem

April 21st: God's People Rebuild Jerusalem's Wall

April 28th: Prophets Talk about a Coming King



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.



Adults: The Lord and His Prayer

In this book of pastoral reflections N.T. Wright locates the Lord's Prayer, clause by clause, within the historical life and work of Jesus. 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. Study guides are available for loan or purchase. Register at chesterpres.org/christian-formation



Requies Divina - April 17 @ 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.



Thursday Spirituality Workshops

Join Director of Christian Formation Charlotte Elia Thursdays from 10:30am–12pm in the first floor conference room for workshops designed to enhance your creativity and refresh your spirit.

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.

Journaling as Prayer: April 11

In this workshop you'll draw inspiration from a classic Christian spirituality excerpt and a brief centering prayer before being encouraged to pour out your hidden heart to God through the written word. This experience should leave you feeling more self-aware, spiritually present, and connected to God. Bring your favorite writing tools, e.g. journal, paper, pen, laptop, etc.

Psalms of Lament: April 18

In this workshop you'll be introduced to the form and structure of the biblical psalms of lament before being encouraged to use that model to express your own sorrows or frustrations in prayer to God. This creative exercise is designed as a tool to deepen your connection with God. Bring your favorite writing tools, e.g. journal, paper, pen, laptop, etc.

Lectio Divina: April 25

In this workshop you'll engage the ancient practice of Lectio Divina or "sacred reading" in which you'll be invited to meditate on a brief portion of scripture through repeated hearings of the text. You'll then be invited to respond to the text using the medium of your choosing including journaling, poetry, drawing, collage, or silence. Supplies and light refreshments provided. You are welcome to bring your own materials if you choose.



Collage as Prayer - April 20 @ 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, April 20th, 10am–12pm. 1st Floor Conference Rm. \$10. Supplies and light refreshments provided. Register at chesterpres.org/christian-formation.



One of the Bible's most familiar stories tells how Jesus's followers, frustrated by the crowds around him, lowered a paralyzed man through a hole in the roof to be healed by Jesus. With the deteriorating roof on the Chester Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, this story could have easily happened here! Perhaps this is somewhat of an exaggeration but the roof has been steadily deteriorating over the last 15 years and without immediate repair, damage is likely to occur throughout this wing of the church. This is the only roof on the CPC complex that is not galvanized and it is gradually deteriorating since its construction in 1994.

The Fellowship Hall houses a number of ministries of Chester Presbyterian Church from the church pre-school, funeral receptions, fellowship outings, Fantabulous Fridays, movie nights, celebrations and Grace Cafe. It is also a potential source of revenue for rentals ranging from weddings, receptions, dance recitals and more.

Starting March 24, 2024 and running through June 2, 2024, the Rescue the Roof campaign will be asking your help to raise \$65,000 to repair the roof and complete a few minor projects. We ask everyone to prayerfully consider contributing to this project which is vital to the activities of the church. While cash or check offerings are always welcome, the church will gladly accept any other means of potential revenue such as vehicles or property. Please mark all donations for the "Rescue the Roof" fund. Please prayerfully consider how you can help the church meet its goal as to "Rescue the Roof." If you have any questions, please see Curt Powell, Don Davidson, Mike Rose or Rusty Hopkins.



Scan the QR Code for instant, secure transmission of financial contributions to this fund.

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:



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|-------------------------|--|
| Chili | Adult Cereal (i. e. corn flakes, Cheerios) |
| Spaghetti Sauce | Ramen Noodle Soup |
| Spaghetti Noodles | Hearty Soup |
| Boxed Potatoes/Stuffing | Creamed Soup |
| Jelly | Regular Soup |
| Canned Fruit | Beans (black, pinto, etc) |
| Mac & Cheese | Pork & Beans |
| Hamburger Helper | Mixed Vegetables/Canned Carrots |
| Rice | Peas |
| Coffee/Tea | Corn |
| Canned Chicken | Green Beans |
| Canned Tuna | |

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

◆ Deacon's Corner ◆

Happy Easter! Take a moment to breathe and then off we go to the gardens and to the end of the year preschool celebrations. There is so much to do in the gardens and our Frank is out for repairs, so please keep up to date on what the gardens need and offer to help. Even one visit helps the crew keep it going.

I listened to Rusty's tale of his attending the CPC preschool, and I realized my oldest daughter is just a bit older than he is. I can't be THAT old! But what a neat connection, his wife and children being such a big part of the preschool. The people of today's world move around so much you are lucky to finish high school at the same school. Congratulations to the (soon to be) newest alumni at CPC Preschool!

I am on the church property committee, and we are so concerned about the roof. It's bad, folks. Every option we could think of was explored and considered. Finally, we found a good group to do the repairs and prevent this from happening again, at least in the near future. They are ready, we are ready, now we need money. Anything you can give will help. Please think about it.

Now I need to attend to my own house! Where did I put that hammer.... ? Peace! - Judy Osborne

Session Highlights

Session's meeting on March 17 was brief, with updates from its committees, the deacons, treasurer & a plan for the *Rescue the Roof* Campaign.



Garden on the Corner News

By the time you read this message all of the cool weather vegetables should be in the ground. Due to 2 weeks with heavy rains, we had to rely on 5 special workers who went to work on very short notice on March 26 to get cabbage, collards, and cauliflower in the ground as well as some beets, and spinach in raised beds. Thanks for additional helpers completing raised bed planting before Easter Sunday.

The Garden Committee is excited for our 3rd season and hopeful that the garden yield will help even more people this year. We hope anyone who was looking forward to helping with early planting and got rained out will join us on Saturday, May 4 for planting warm weather vegetables. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for this important mission!

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

For questions or more information, contact
Susan Mapes gmapes3@aol.com or
Frank Hartsoe boilermakers45@hotmail.com



Notes from the Organ Bench

ARTS Events:

Craft Class: 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:

April 16	Richmond Symphonic Winds Ensemble	7:00 PM
May 5	Chesterfield County Choral Society	3:00 PM
June 9	BoneFire Brass Ensemble	3:00 PM
July 2	Richmond Brass & Percussion Consort	7:00 PM

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 **April 24**, at 6:30pm.

Questions? Contact Kathy Peebles at kathyspantry@gmail.com



If you would like to order a Chester Presbyterian Church magnetic-backed name badge, please contact Marcie at 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

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Chester Presbyterian Church

Congregational Report

February 29, 2024

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Revenues(1)			
Offerings (Pledge and Loose)	90,817	67,545	23,272
Other Revenue	7,067	7,339	(272)
Total Revenues	97,885	74,884	23,001
Expenses(2)			
Salary & Benefits	59,251	58,406	(844)
Presbytery and Mission	4,545	6,240	1,695
Worship/CE/Membership/Music/ Stewardship/Parish Care	4,278	3,139	(1,139)
Plant Operations	8,458	10,116	1,658
Church Admin	7,439	6,703	(736)
Mortgage Loan	2,920	2,920	0
Property Insurance	7,307	7,307	0
Worker's Comp Insurance & Processing Fees	<u>482</u>	<u>482</u>	<u>(1)</u>
Total Expenses	94,679	95,312	633
Net Total(3)	3,206	(20,428)	23,634

Mortgage Balance:

Beginning Balance (Ending Balance last month):	\$143,622
Payments to principal this month:	\$2,376
Ending Balance	\$141,246

**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 to find out how to create an account.

Staff Contact Information

(804) 748-4636

www.chesterpres.org

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

Gordon B. Mapes, III
Pastor
gmapes@chesterpres.org

Charlotte Elia
Director of Christian Formation
celia@chesterpres.org

Marcie Murphy
Church Administrator
office@chesterpres.org

Kathy Peebles
Financial Secretary
financialsec@chesterpres.org

Roshan Chakane
Director of Music
rchakane@chesterpres.org

Kim Hopkins
Preschool Director
preschool@chesterpres.org

Norma Donado
Accountant
accountant@chesterpres.org

Anne Kalemjian
Treasurer
treasurer@chesterpres.org