



No Longer Strangers...

February was a month of lament for CPC. Two beloved, faithful disciples joined the Church Triumphant. Elly Uhrig and Sharon Entwistle gave of themselves in countless ways to this community of faith. They have left legacies of caring committed faith that we long to emulate and we grieve what is no longer present with us. Poet and pastor Jan Richardson offers words for our grief, and a path to cherish what Elly and Sharon gave us, part of that great cloud of witnesses who guide us forward in faith.

Blessing for The Brokenhearted

There is no remedy for love but to love more.

-- Henry David Thoreau

Let us agree
for now
that we will not say
the breaking
makes us stronger
or that it is better
to have this pain
than to have done
without this love.

Let us promise
we will not
tell ourselves
time will heal
the wound,
when every day
our waking
opens it anew.

Perhaps for now
it can be enough
to simply marvel
at the mystery
of how a heart
so broken
can go on beating,
as if it were made
for precisely this—

as if it sees
the heart's sole remedy
for breaking
is to love still,

as if it trusts
that its own
persistent pulse
is the rhythm
of a blessing
we cannot
begin to fathom
but will save us
nonetheless.

- Jan Richardson

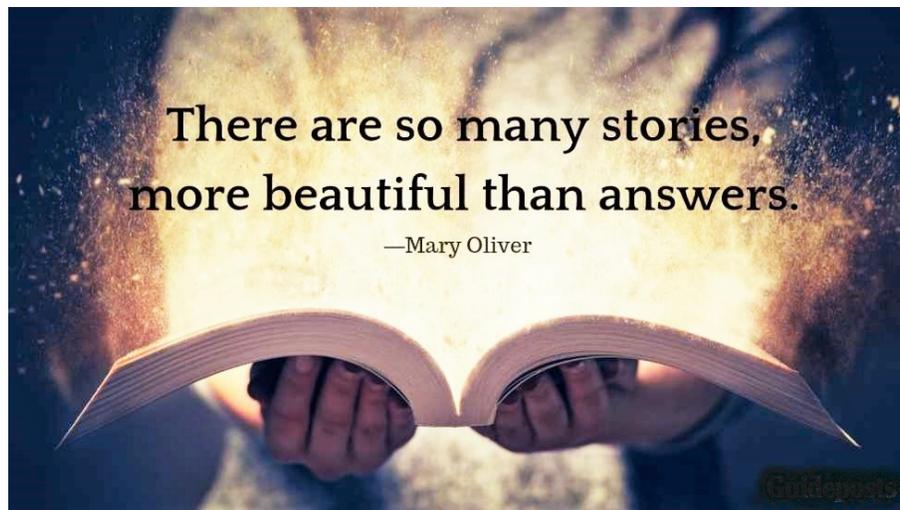
Soli Deo gloria,


◊ Deacon's Bench ◊

My best friend died yesterday. My prayers for a miracle went unanswered. All our prayers for Sharon surviving her ills, well, just didn't pan out. No miracle today! Yes, that is what I thought.

I realize now, we did get one. Not the one we asked for, but one we needed. Late yesterday morning the idea of "caroling" comforting hymns outside Sharon's window floated around and took hold. Within four hours, emails, texts, and phone calls lead almost 40 people to the front yard of the Entwistle home at 4pm. We sang four beautiful hymns, off key, lost words, and probably only 20 of us singing at any given time because of our tears, but it was the most powerful prayer I have ever been part of.

Everyone sang with their heart; you could feel it. I know Sharon heard us; I just know. When I left my bestie's house for the last time with her in it, I felt calm. God was clearly with us, comforting us as we sang a farewell to our beloved Sharon. I thank you Lord, for the 26 years of love, friendship and fun that you gave us all at CPC with Sharon. Be prepared – I bet she already has lists of things that need done in Heaven. Amen. - Jude Osborne



Poetic Ponderings for Lent A Virtual Lenten Journey Pairing Scripture with the Poetry of Mary Oliver

(Zoom Gatherings at 6:30PM on Mondays during Lent)

Every journey needs a guide - and what better guide to the 40 days of Lent than the beloved, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, Mary Oliver?

In this 6-week virtual journey together we will explore the beloved poetry of Mary Oliver to help us illuminate ancient passages of scripture, provoke meditations on key Lenten themes, and point us toward simple practices to deepen our connection with God during this season.

Rev. Sandra Bottoms, will lead this virtual gathering on Zoom each week. To register, simply email Sandra at sbottoms@chesterpres.org and let her know you want to participate. Each week she will email you a link with information about how to join in that week's Zoom gathering.

Join us on Monday evenings at 6:30PM. Zoom dates are: March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29.

Notes from the Organ Bench

The Arts at CPC are alive and well!

DRAMA in the ARTS at Chester Presbyterian –

We are forming a Mime Group that will begin rehearsals in March for the Passion Mime to be presented on Maundy Thursday. If you are interested in participating, please let Jon know. We need 6 players for this program. So far, we have 4 participants. We will set rehearsal and recording times once we have our full group.

Thanks to all of the PUPPET ministry voices and puppeteers! We are in process of producing our own creation of a new Palm Sunday treat, "*Understanding the King*", *Palm Sunday from the animal's perspective*. Our thanks to Jude Osborne for directing and Autumn Fesperman for the new backdrop.

The premier of this new script will be during the Palm Sunday Morning worship service.

Check elsewhere in this Newsletter for information about how you can help sponsor the ARTS at CHESTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

CPC Facebook Devotionals now feature Music Mondays offering a selected piano or organ piece leading us in devotions as we are separated, yet not apart.

ARTS CLASSES

The Masterwork for painting in March is Van Gogh's *Iris's in a Vase* 1890.

Acrylics classes for Adults and Children – monthly classes with instruction for painting our own interpretation of masterworks. The next class is March 15 at 5 PM for children and Adults at 7 PM.



Crafting for March will be crackle-painted bottle vases.

Crafting classes for Adults and Children - Monthly classes with instruction for creating seasonally appropriate 3D art. The next class is March 22 at 5 PM for Children and 7 PM for Adults.

Currently, all Arts classes are held in Room 203. All classes include fees for each session to cover the cost of materials provided. Registration forms are available in the church narthex and online.

One Great Hour of Sharing

This is one of our 4 special offerings in the Presbyterian Church each year. We join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. We will gather this special offering on Easter Sunday, April 4th. Please consider making an offering either through our online giving on our CPC webpage – put *One Great Hour of Sharing* in the memo line; drop off at the church office; or, send a check in by mail with *One Great Hour of Sharing* in the memo line. "If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!"



CPC Session In Review

At the February 21 stated meeting:

- Adopted budget for 2021.
- Erin Woodby and Bob Lynn reported on the February meeting of the Presbytery of the James.
- Approved Drive-In worship for Easter 2021.

Holy Week Virtual Worship Highlights



Palm Sunday:

Family Palm Processionals & "Understanding the King"
Puppet Presentation — 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday:

"Passion Mime" music & pantomime presentation —
7:00 PM

Good Friday:

"Before I Take the Body of My Lord" Liturgical Movement
— 7:00 PM

Easter: Drive-In Service, Flowering Cross — 10:00 AM

5-Cents-a-Meal

I grew up in Colonial Heights and I'm old enough to remember when you could get a scoop of ice cream at High's for 5 cents. On those rare occasions when I had 15 cents I could actually get 3 scoops of ice cream! Even though those days are long gone we can help alleviate hunger in our world by setting aside 5 cents per meal.

What an easy way to introduce giving to even the youngest members of your family! The Mission Committee invites you to make 5-Cents-a-Meal an integral part of your giving on the first Sunday of every month.

- Deborah Regal



On average our church provides food for 3 to 5 families per week. We are currently in need of paper towels and toilet paper.

As always, \$10 Kroger gift cards are needed and appreciated.

***Thank you for
your generosity!***



Welcomes you for
a Carry-Out Dinner

**Every Tuesday
5:00 - 5:30 P.M.**

*For more information
contact Cliff Noe,
noetinman@verizon.net
or 804-931-7894.*



Open Enrollment is going on now for the 2021/2022 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.



WILL SOON BE A



We're very excited to announce that CPC is transitioning to a new database and online giving platform. Watch for details after we settle in to the new system and get a chance to learn its finer points.

We'll have expanded features and capabilities and it will be user-friendly too!

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Chester Presbyterian Church, Inc.
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary
31-Jan-21

Headings and Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Revenues(1)			
Offerings (Pledge and Loose)	45,471	0	45,471
Other Revenue	3,628	0	3,628
Payroll Protection Program	0	0	0
Special Gift	0	0	0
Total Revenues	49,099	0	49,099
Expenses(2)			
Salary & Benefits	30,535	0	-30,535
Presbytery and Benevolence	2,763	0	-2,763
Worship/CE/Membership/Music/Stewardship	435	0	-435
Plant Operations & Church Admin	7,544	0	-7,544
Mortgage Loan & Insurance	3,670	0	-3,670
Long term Planning	0	0	0
Total Expenses	44,946	0	-44,946
Net Total(3)	4,152	0	4,152

Ignite Campaign

Total Ignite Income from last month	Revenue from this month	Expenses	Ending Ignite Income to date	Amount paid on Mortgage to date	Amount to pay on mortgage this month
482,617.03	5,553.00	0.00	488,170.03	482,617.03	5,553.00
Mortgage Balance	\$403,461.42				
Ignite Pledge Balance	\$142,554.36				

(1) Revenues – Items in **RED** are where we are behind on income

(2) Expenses – Items in **RED** are where we have spent more than expected

(3) Net Total – **RED** on this line means we are behind where we would like to be

**All numbers rounded to nearest dollar, which can cause slight “differences” in totals

STAY IN TOUCH

CPC has many ways to stay in touch while we practice social distancing!



FACEBOOK

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

WEEKLY EMAIL BLAST

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.



CHURCH LIFE APP

Keep in touch with all your friends at church. Email the church office at office@chesterpres.org to have an account created.

Staff Contact Information

(804) 748-4636

www.chesterpres.org

Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

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