

the Disciple

The First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown April 2011



MY SOUL WAITS,
AND IN HIS WORD
I HOPE.

Psalm 130:5, NRSV

From the Pastor: A Message from Chip

Giving Up God for Lent has proved to be a very good and challenging theme for us this Lenten season. I have heard from many of you that this theme made you feel uncomfortable. I have heard that it is almost too provocative. We've even heard from the community statements like, "What sort of a church gives us God for Lent?" and "Why don't you just put up a Bible verse on the corner of your property?" These comments and reactions indicate that we are being provoked to examine our idols (and passing drivers as well). Idols are those things we place in front of God in importance and the ways we create God in our image instead of letting God be God. Idols that only want the Bible to say certain comforting things instead of hearing the whole witness of scripture. Idols that are our ways of "editing" God into something we can control and who doesn't demand too much of us. Idols that we create out of our family, friends, nation, flag, money, jobs, even our brokenness (hanging onto our pain instead seeking healing). But, this theme, and more importantly your desire to grow as faithful Christians, won't let us relax and get comfortable any more than Lent does.

I am thankful for the ways you are engaging the theme this year. On Ash Wednesday, people wrote on black strips of cloth those things that get in the way of our relationship with God and tied them to the central symbol of our brokenness, the cross. If you have not written something down a strip of cloth and tied to the cross yet, I hope you will do so as part of our preparation for Easter. Another sign of your engagement is the lively discussion we've had in our Wednesday night and Thursday morning groups of Merold Westphal's book *Suspicion and Faith*. During his visit, Dr. Westphal told us that a friend is someone who will tell you what you don't want to hear or see about yourself, and sometimes our best friends are our enemies. Listening to Freud, Marx and Nietzsche as true friends has been tough but insightful. The Just Eating study of the Presbyterian Hunger Program and our ongoing conversation with our friends in Peru, the Midnight Run our youth will be going on, new people serving food at JanPeek, and many more are signs of letting God be God in our lives. Even the rehab of our sanctuary that has revealed the cracks in our walls so that they may be repaired is a powerful sign of what this Lenten journey is about. We are letting go of idols that keep us from knowing God. We are facing the brokenness in our sanctuary and in our lives that we may know new life and follow God and be the people God wants us to be.

Our journey is not quite over, but the goal is in sight. Good News is promised to us at the end of this journey, and so we travel on through the second half of Lent. This year, we are invited to experience Holy Week in some new ways. On Maundy Thursday, April 21st, we will be hosting a Christian seder. A Jewish seder is a celebration of their exodus from slavery as described in the book of Exodus. A Christian seder is called the Last Supper, when Jesus announces that a new exodus is coming through his death and resurrection. On Good Friday, April 22nd, we will walk through the last hours of Jesus' life and death, hearing Jesus' cry, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Many of you are probably used to this service of shadows and darkness on Thursday. We are simply moving it to its actual day.

Giving Up God for Lent and the events of Holy Week all prepare us for good news. Easter. The Empty Tomb. The day we discover along with the disciples that God does not leave us in tombs. Death is not the final answer. God wins. Life wins. And we shout, "Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed."

I am looking forward to the second half our journey through Lent and hope you are as well. Lent takes us through examination of ourselves and our church and our ministry to our community and world so that we let go of our idols, embody new life, proclaim good news, and share it with this world God loves.

Anxiously awaiting God's promise,

Chip

Looking ahead to



April 17 – Palm Sunday, Services at 8:30 and 10:45; Church School - 9:30

April 21 – Maundy Thursday Seder at 7 pm
 April 22 - Good Friday, service at 7:30 p.m.

Easter – April 24
 Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. at Wilken's Farm
 Services 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary (no Church School)

Reminder: For every day of Lent, a new prayer will be posted on our website.
www.fpcyorktown.org

Regular Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m. Worship, (Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month)
 9:30 a.m. Church School & Adult Education
 10:45 a.m. Worship, (Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month)

The Sanctuary is open: Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for meditation, prayer or contemplation. Use the door at the top of the ramp.



Mark Your Calendars


We will be taking up the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on the fourth Sunday of Lent, which is April 3rd.

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.



Please give generously. You can learn more at <http://www.pcusa.org/oghs/>

The Whiffenpoofs are coming! The Whiffenpoofs are coming! April 3rd at 3:00

Confirmation 

Confirmation Sunday is April 10th

Prayer Shawl Group

April 6 at 9:30 am and April 20 at 10:30 am

This group meets before the women's circle on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. and the third Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Call Marianna (737-8294).

The Knit Togethers

Next Meeting Dates: April 11 & 25 and May 9 & 23

We continue knitting warm lap blankets, baby sweaters, and baby blankets for community giving.

Our meetings are held on 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10:00am to 11:30am, in Lounge 15. All who knit and crochet are welcome. Join us in the joy of creating and giving to others in the community. For information: Norean Radke (962-4370) or Lois Ostling (962-2809).

The Prayer Shawl Group and Knit Togethers can always use yarn. We love donations!

Youth Midnight Run: Friday, April 15, 2011.

This year's confirmation class is organizing and going on this midnight run. We need your help! The below items are needed. Please put items in Midnight Run Bins in the foyer!

Clothing:

Durable pants- large men's sizes are preferred, blue jeans are preferred over khakis; **Socks**- tube socks, white or dark; **Underpants**- jockey style, sizes 32 through 42; **Sweaters, sweatshirts and long-sleeve shirts**- large and extra large, dark colors preferred. Hooded sweatshirts are especially useful; **T-shirts**- medium through extra large, any color; **Hats**- knit and warm for winter, baseball caps for summer, **Gloves**- ski gloves or knit gloves, dark colors, **Shoes**- sizes 9 through 12 and above. Lightly worn sneakers or athletic shoes (no spikes), soft-soled shoes and work boots are preferred; **Long underwear**- large sizes, any color; **Belts; Backpacks**— not essential, but coveted by folks on the street.

Toiletry Kits:

Small size items are important, as full-size items are cumbersome to carry for people on the street. Toiletry items to bring, in order of importance: soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, washcloth, razor, shaving cream, deodorant, lip balm or moisturizer. Each set goes into a zip lock bag.

Bag Meals :

We need between 100 and 150 (please bring these to the church the day of the Run) These should include:

A hearty sandwich; fruit: Something durable like an orange or banana. Apples are okay in some meals, but hard for those with missing teeth to eat. Individual fruit cups are okay (with spoon); **A hard-boiled egg** or a high protein equivalent; **A juice box; A dessert or two.** Granola bars are fine, and sweet things—such as cookies, candy bars and brownies.

Easter Flowers may be ordered to celebrate the joy of Easter, in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event. Lilies, tulips and daffodils are available. To order, fill out this form and return it to the Church Office or you may call in your order to the Church Office, 245-2186. Orders must be received by Monday, April 11.



Name _____

Plant Preference: Lily _(\$15) _____ Tulip (\$12) _____ Daffodil (\$12) _____

Inscription for Bulletin: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Flowers may be picked up after 11:45 a.m. on Easter or left for the following Sunday.



Annual Spring Cleanup

Mark your calendar for **APRIL 16** from 8:00am-1:00pm with a Rain Date of April 30th.

As in previous years, we plan on clearing the effects of another winter on our gardens and lawns, re-positioning concrete parking bumpers, clearing the East Yard Cemetery, and giving Craig Hibben a jump start on the many plantings and planting beds that he maintains. Interior work will include giving all of the rooms and windows the once over, and cleaning and dusting off our beautiful Sanctuary.

The Annual Spring Cleanup is truly an example of many hands making light work. The Church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages for all, and you are invited to bring your favorite side dish.

The Operations Commission is in the process of evaluating the projects it plans to undertake and at this time is open to any suggestions. Should you identify anything that needs attention please call or leave a message with Ian Spence or Barbara Darragh (245-2186). Look for sign up sheets for the various tasks in the next few weeks and come prepared to spend an invigorating morning of wholesome work and conviviality.

Ian Spence, Chair of Operations



Senior Lunch Bunch

April 20 & May 18: Potluck lunch at church.

June 15: Lunch at 'The Cove', on the Hudson.

Youth Arts Group of Rural and Migrant Ministry to visit Yorktown

Sunday May 1st, 2011 at 5p.m. the Youth Arts Group from Rural and Migrant Ministry will be visiting our youth for a presentation on their visit to Peru in January 2011. Andres Chamorro is their leader and some of the group attended a conference in Lima, Peru, Joining Hands (Uniendo Manos).

Refreshments will be served. All high school aged students are invited to attend.

Save the dates for VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 27 to July 8, 2011. 9:00 to 12:00 Monday through Friday



Every year our church joins with St. Andrews Lutheran and the United Methodist Churches for two weeks of songs, bible stories, snacks and games. This year we will be at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Yorktown. Come join the celebration !!

Questions? Contact Barbara Santagata 528-5226, Debbie Amorese 245-6501 or Nicole Mulcahy 603-3324

Food Pantry

Next Dates: April 9 & 23; May 14 & 28

Hours: 9 a.m. to 11a.m.

Volunteers to help load bags from 8-9 a.m. are always appreciated. Call Katherine Frase (962-0490) if you would like to help out one Saturday.



Food Pantry Always Needs :

Instant coffee	Tea	Cereal	Oatmeal	Pasta
Spaghetti sauce	Peanut butter	Soup	Cookies	Crackers
Paper products	Toothpaste	Soap	Diapers	Personal hygiene products

We also need plastic bags - grocery size. Bring to room 16.

Your monetary contributions are also appreciated. We “shop” at Food Bank of Westchester where a dollar will buy more food than you can imagine, thanks to government and corporate donations. **We have a “matching” Trust Fund that will double the effectiveness of every dollar we donate to the Food Pantry.** Let's make good use of this wonderful gift.

Many thanks to the members of our church community, and the larger Yorktown community, for their support of the Food Pantry in March. We had help from the confirmation class, bar mitzvah candidates from the Jewish center, high school and adult volunteers, and helpers from Brownie and Junior Girl Scout troops. Thank you all for your support of this important service to our community. As an early reminder for your calendars, the Yorktown Postal Food Drive is likely to be Saturday, May 7th.

Deacon Highlights

As a “renewed” Deacon, it had been a few years since I had participated in the **Food Pantry** activities. I was absolutely amazed to see the mountains of fresh fruit and vegetables lining the walls on Friday evening, waiting to be counted and bagged in the morning. Those same corridors were filled with politely-waiting double lines of clients on Saturday, and the lines did not wane until the doors closed at 11. As we were closing the books, a few late-comers begged to be let in, and were served, with a gentle reminder of the closing time. The February 26th and March 12th pantries each distributed about 206 bags of food to grateful families, all of whom were warmly greeted by the Deacons and the troop of Brownies were helping on Saturday. The Food Pantry is one of the faces of our church in our community and we should all be proud of the way this ministry reaches out to those in need.

On **May 7th**, the **Postal Food Drive** in Yorktown will deliver all of their collection to our church at about 3:00 in the afternoon. We can use the help of any and all who can donate some time to sort, date, catalogue, carry and stack cans and cans and cans of food. While it’s not a dance, it still can be fun and certainly builds community. Hope to see you there!

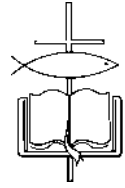
The **Homebound Ministry** again thanks a number of other Deacons (Terri Froehlich, Sue Nelson, Fran Schiel, Barbara Humphrey) as well as others in the congregation for visits to the homebound and those at various facilities. Often we find that not only do the visitor and the person being visited get much out of our visits but the caregivers really enjoy the visits. This month eight Sunday Service flower arrangements were delivered along with visits. An additional six visits were made and several telephone calls were made to check up on those in the congregation in the hospital and rehab facilities. Please keep the Office or Deacons informed of persons desiring or needing a visit.

We send prayers out to those in our community who have lost a loved one, suffered an illness or just need solace, as well as to the entire population of Japan who have lost so much so suddenly.

Angelyn Forbes-Freeze

Christian Education

Church School Chalkboard



During the month of April, leading up to Easter Sunday, the children will learn about “The Last Supper”.

The Last Supper is recreated every time we celebrate Holy Communion. The bread of life and the blood of the covenant sustain our faith. We witness to the presence of God in our lives each time we partake in Communion.

This unit will spend time looking at Communion traditions in our congregation as it is important that the children connect this important Biblical story to their present day activities. Seeing the story from many different vantage points, as interpreted by each of our Centers (Art, Media, Cooking, Faith Today and Moved by The Spirit), will allow them to integrate this story into their own developing faith.

Just a few additional housekeeping reminders:

The 3rd graders will begin their eight week Bible Skills rotation on April 3rd (through May 29th). They will meet in Room 2 from 9:30-10:30 each week during that time.

Also on April 3rd, the Pre-K children will now get to experience what the “big kids” do as they begin participating in our regular rotation schedule for eight weeks. Their first rotation after Sanctuary time will be Art! Can’t wait to see their faces when they join the fun!

Also, the One Great Hour of Sharing “fish banks” will be collected on April 3rd.

JoAnne Marsh and Amy Coccodrilli, Church School Co-Superintendents

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Adult Education

SPECIAL LENTEN STUDIES continue (All studies meet in the library-lounge unless otherwise noted.)

GIVING UP GOD FOR LENT

Book Study led by Rev. Chip Low

Freud, Marx, and Nietzsche – all atheists – are perhaps the most influential thinkers of modern history. The book Suspicion & Faith by philosopher Merold Westphal asks some challenging questions. What if we took the atheists’ critiques of Christianity seriously? What if we just let God be God? Westphal, a committed Christian in the reformed tradition, argues that the atheists’ call to repentance may be just what the Church needs!

Wednesday evenings, April 6, 13, 20, 7:30 pm

Thursday mornings, April 7, 14, 21, 10:00 am

Continued next page

OUR PERU CONNECTION:

Exploring how we might accompany the children and families of La Oroya, Peru, in their struggle for justice and health . . .

JUST EATING? PRACTICING OUR FAITH AT THE TABLE

Study led by Shawn Cribari and Jean Post-Winget

We all spend a lot of time eating or preparing to eat, and the habits we form reflect our values and shape our lives. This study will help us better understand the relationship between our Christian heritage and our food. We will reflect on selected scripture, pray together, and dialog. Drawing on Jesus' story and the rituals of the Christian faith, this study will examine four aspects of our lives with food: the health of our bodies; the access others have to food; the health of the earth and how our food choices affect it; and the ways we use food to extend hospitality and enrich relationships.

Sunday mornings, April 3, 10, 17, May 1 & 8 at 9:30 am

**Sunday, April 10: "THE DEBT GAME"**

An enlightening and fun experience in global economics. Join us after the 10:45 worship for lunch and to participate in playing an economic simulation game. Bring a dish to share, a hunger for understanding and a sense of fun!

The Debt Game will help us to understand by actually experiencing it, what is meant by a shift into a global economy. We will participate in a simulation of the chain of events that have led to overwhelming debt in many parts of the world. Rev. Rick Ufford-Chase, Co-Director of Stony Point Center, will lead us through the game.

JOURNEYS THROUGH REVELATION continues . . .

Women's Bible Study led by Rev. Tami Seidel

A time of fellowship and study that focuses on the "Book of Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today." All women are invited.

First Wednesday of the Month, 10:30 am, in the library

April 5, May 4. For more info, contact Marianna Sherman, 914-737-8294

Coming in May . . .

FILM: "For the BIBLE Tells Me So": Friday, May 6, 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

An award-winning documentary about how five Christian families come to accept their gay and lesbian children unconditionally, and to celebrate and affirm who they are.

BIBLE STUDY: "This I Know": Dates and times TBA

Join us for a faith-filled and intellectually rigorous look at the overarching themes of the Bible, the specific texts about homosexuality and the cultural context in which they were written.

COMMISSION CORNER

Congregational Life

The Congregational Life Committee has a new suggestion box in Fellowship Hall.

- If you have an idea for fun and fellowship ... please drop it in the box.
- We are collecting new entrée recipes to consider for the Progressive Dinner in June. If you have a delicious and easy recipe, please drop it in the box.

Coffee Hour Volunteers:

- We need your help. Take a look at the new Coffee Hour sign up book. The tasks have been broken up into smaller groupings, making it easier for you to help.

Operations Commission



- Many items of routine maintenance have been completed; including: re-nailing the roof flashing on the North end of Fellowship Hall, repair of several leaky toilets, resetting the temperature sensors in the Sanctuary for better comfort, and relocation of rocks which slid down onto the shoulder of Rt. 132 from our rock wall.
- Several items of long term maintenance are planned for the upcoming months; including painting of the outside of the Sanctuary, painting of the outside walls and peaks surrounding our Memorial Garden, repair of several significant stress cracks in the plaster board on the inside front wall of the Sanctuary, and Spring maintenance of the driveway & North parking lots.
- Two pressure relief valves have been repositioned on our furnaces to bring them into compliance with a State Inspector's recommendation. Also, a carbon monoxide detector has been added to the furnace room.
- A detailed Maintenance Reserve Analysis has been completed which gives us much better insight into the amount of money which should be budgeted each year so that we can handle long term maintenance without special financing campaigns.
- A new soft spotlight is being added to the Sanctuary to better illuminate the pulpit and speaker.

As a result of the work described above, there will be evidence of our "work in progress" for the next couple of months. We anticipate no disruptions in our use of the Sanctuary due to the work both inside and outside.

Spring Clean-up is scheduled for April 16th (back-up date April 30th). Please join us at 8 A.M. for a great time of camaraderie and improvement in our facilities.



Please let me know of any issues that need to be addressed.
Thanks! *Dick Seymour* for Operations Commission.

Mission Commission

Jan Peek Volunteers

Apr. 23: Child and Eliasson families May 28:????

The 4th Saturday of each month, we provide dinner at Peekskill's Jan Peek House (a shelter for 19 men and women, which is part of Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill, C.H.O.P.). It is rewarding to share food and conversation with the residents and it is an important part of our congregation's ministry to the community. Information and sign-up list are on the SIGN-UP bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall doors. Contact: Bud Coccodrilli (245-6475).



Thanks to **Diane Hawlk and the Marsh family** for dinner in March.

Are you interested in a mission trip?

The Mission Commission would love to have **your** input! To help us plan a trip that will best fit the interests of our congregation, we have designed a brief survey. Please take just a moment to complete our survey online: www.surveymonkey.com/s/G357ZZ8. Please have each interested member of your family take the survey. Thanks!

The Easter Offering will be collected on Easter Sunday, April 24th. Whereas the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (to be collected April 3rd) funds projects of the PC(USA), 100% of the Easter Offering is dedicated to local projects, giving you a chance to support programs this congregation chooses to support. More information will follow in the coming weeks about how the Easter offering will be dedicated, so stay tuned.

Communications Commission

Are you taking advantage of all the ways you can stay connected to our church family throughout the week?

The Email Announcement List: FPCY maintains an "Announcements" list for sending alerts to the church community. These alerts can be anything from prayer requests, notices of deaths within our church family, or weather related schedule changes. To sign up, simply send an email to FPCY_Announce-subscribe@googlegroups.com. Questions? Speak to Mark Linehan or any member of the Communications Commission.

Facebook: we are now an "organization" on facebook. If you are already on facebook, enter a search for "First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown" and "Like" our organization to get updates sent directly to your newsfeed. If you don't have a facebook account, you can still check out our facebook page and see what it's all about. Go to our website, www.fpcyorktown.org, and click on the facebook icon in the upper right corner of the screen.



New in the Church Library

N. T. Wright, who wrote the series of New Testament studies recently added to the Library, has also written several books about Christian belief and life.

Why do we expect justice? Why do we crave spirituality? Why are we attracted to beauty? Why are relationships often so painful? In *Simply Christian; Why Christianity Makes Sense* (230 W), Wright argues that each of these questions takes us into the mystery of who God is and what he wants from us. For two thousand years Christianity has claimed to answer these mysteries, and this biblical scholar and Anglican bishop shows that it still does today. Like C. S. Lewis did in his classic *Mere Christianity*, Wright describes Christian faith from the ground up, assuming that the reader is starting with no predisposition to and perhaps even some negativity toward religion in general and Christianity in particular. His goal is to describe what Christianity is all about, both to commend it to those outside the faith and to explain it to those inside.

Wright has also tackled the question of how Christians should live in the here and now. *After You Believe; Why Christian Character Matters* (241 W), discusses how we can develop a character suited for God's kingdom. Drawing on scripture as well as such classical writers as Aristotle, he asserts that true transformation comes through the work of the Holy Spirit and through worship, mission, and following Jesus. As the habits of virtue grow, the church community will become the royal priesthood it is meant to be, anticipating God's coming new world. As a combination of traditional biblical interpretation and an emphasis on contemporary social justice, this book "is deep Christian wisdom for a bewildered age."

Carol Jensen, Church Librarian

Spotlight on... The Caring Circle

The Caring Circle, one of the many groups that use our facilities during the week, serve the needs of many people dealing with loss. Although most of the members of our congregation recognize that the Caring Circle helps children deal with the loss of a loved one, most of us are unaware that the Caring Circle also has programs for grieving adults. These include:

Spousal Loss, Child Loss, Adult Loss of a parent, Prenatal Loss

The children's groups are divided into age groups:

Little's, 3-5 year olds; Pre-Middle's, 6-8 year olds; Middle's, 9-12 year olds; Teens

If you have any questions regarding the Caring Circle or if you feel their services could benefit either yourself or someone you know, please contact Mariane Walsh at (914) 666-4228 or mwalsh@vnahv.org.

From the church office



Thank You To:

Sally Martin for helping to collate bulletins and do mailings.

Pat Prauda for help with mailings and bulletins.

John Prauda for maintaining all the literature in the pew racks in the Sanctuary.

Carol Jensen for help preparing bulletins.

Baby food jars needed by the Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool. Please save them for us as often as possible. Just leave them in a bag outside our classrooms (rooms 5 & 7). We will wash them and be ever so grateful!

Reminder:

- 1.) Please remember to **DRIVE SLOWLY** on the unpaved parts of our parking lots.
- 2.) Please use plastic trash bags when putting stuff in the dumpster. Please do not put anything in there loose. It is messy and creates opportunities for rats.

Giving Opportunity: Jocelyn Ramage has discovered that De Cicco's Market (on Rt. 6 across from the JV Post Office) will rebate 2% of your purchases to the charity of your choice, which also includes churches. Jocelyn has registered our church and all you need to do is mention it to the cashier when you make your purchase. Talk to Jocelyn 962-0320 for more information.

Members and friends are encouraged to donate flowers for Sunday services. Donors will be asked by the office when they purchase the flowers if they plan to remove one or both bouquets after sanctuary use, or make them available for distribution by the Deacons to hospitalized or homebound persons of the church. Arrangements are \$25 each. To order, call the office (245-2186). **April 3, 10 & 17 are available.**



The Disciple



2011

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF YORKTOWN

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Disciple is published monthly, Sept.-June.

Submit copy to the Church Office

or by email to fpcy_disciple@googlegroups.com

by the third Sunday of each month

for the next month's issue.

Next Disciple deadline:

April 17th

for the May Issue