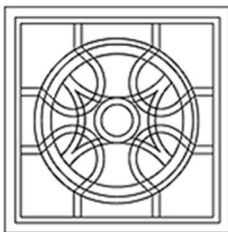


THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL  
*An inclusive community of faith*

Sunday, December 17, 2023  
10 a.m.  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



8855 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## WELCOME!

*Welcome to the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill!*

*Whether you're a first-time guest or a long-time member, we are grateful for your presence. There's a place for you here!*

See an usher for hearing devices or large-print bulletins.

Nursery care for infants through age 2 is available in the Strouse building—ask an usher for assistance. Children who are 3 are encouraged to attend Godly Play but are welcome to remain in the nursery at parental discretion.

Children's "Praise Packs" to aid with worship participation are available in the narthex. Please return these after worship.

We encourage you to fill out the black fellowship pads in the pews, to help us to get to know all who've shared worship with us today.

Following the 10 a.m. service, all are invited for refreshments and fellowship in Widener Hall.

We send regular email updates about worship, church life, and other events. Please contact the church office if you'd like to receive them.

Please silence all electronic devices.

*Find more information about PCCH on page 10.*



PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of grace and truth,  
in Jesus Christ you came among us  
as light shining in the darkness.  
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,  
or trusted good news to be good.  
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,  
expecting little, hoping for less.  
  
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,  
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,  
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE ELEISON

Richard Proulx

The musical notation for the Kyrie Eleison consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff is divided into two parts: 'Cantor' and 'Assembly'. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' The second staff is also divided into 'Cantor' and 'Assembly' parts. The lyrics are: 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' The third staff is divided into 'Cantor' and 'Assembly' parts. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.  
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

REGENT SQUARE  
(Hymn 417)

Laud and honor to the Father,  
laud and honor to the Son,  
laud and honor to the Spirit,  
ever three and ever one;  
one in might and one in glory,  
while unending ages run.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: As a forgiven people, let us share Christ's peace with one another.  
The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (*unison*)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may receive with joy what you say today. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 40:6-11

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

**PSALTER**

*Psalm 126*

Charles Villiers Stanford  
(1852-1924)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

**CHILDREN’S MOMENT AND DISMISSAL**

*Children through 8th grade depart for church school in the Strouse building followed immediately by the Christmas pageant rehearsal in the sanctuary. Parents please pick up your children in the sanctuary at 12:30 p.m.*

**HYMN** (*seated*)

TALLIS’ CANON

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way  
Through this and every coming day,  
That in your Spirit strong and true,  
Our lives may be our gift to you.

**SERMON**

Gifts of the Messiah: Joy  
*The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.*  
Isaiah 40:8

Dr. Craig Barnes

\*HYMN 53

*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

#### OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel  
(1685-1759)

*There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.  
And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,  
and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.  
And the angel said unto them, "Fear not; for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy,  
which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,  
which is Christ the Lord."  
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God,  
and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men."*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

**\*PRAYER OF THANKGIVING**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, Rejoice.  
People: **Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.** (Phil. 4:4)  
Leader: Let us pray.  
All: **Holy God we present these tithes and offerings, as we present ourselves, to be used for the work of your unfolding salvation on earth.**

**\*HYMN 40**

*Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

**\*BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*Amen*

John Rutter  
(b. 1945)

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

*Vom Himmel hoch,  
da komm ich her*

Johann Pachelbel  
(1653-1706)

**In Memoriam**

**“In life and in death we belong to God.”**

Joyce W. Fles

July 4, 1941–December 8, 2023



## LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

### PREACHER

The Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes

### LITURGISTS

The Rev. Dr. Russell C. Sullivan, Jr.

Cade DePasquale

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Grace and Richard Stewart and Diane Cornely

### MUSIC

Daniel Spratlan conductor, Gallery Choir

Jeffrey DeVault organist

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Julie Snyder

### GREETERS

Ryan Mann and Bill Murphy Elders

Lyn Huertgen and Kristin Lawton Deacons

### USHERS

William Cobb Team #3 Leader, Robert Bausman, Peter Cooke, Doug Olson, Dom Rebeck

### FLOWER GUILD

Barbara Olson and Alison Rudolf

**FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of George Lyons by his wife Anne Lyons

**COVER ART** Eastman Johnson, *Gathering Lilies*, oil on board, 1865, National Gallery of Art. One of America's leading specialists in genre paintings of the nineteenth century, Maine native Eastman Johnson (1824-1906) studied in Düsseldorf, the Hague, and Paris before returning to America in 1855. During the mid-1860s, he turned his attention to painting idealized views of women in various pursuits. In the beautiful *Gathering Lilies*, his masterpiece among these, a solitary woman is shown bending down to pick the flower of a water lily from the surface of a tranquil pond with her right hand while holding other flowers in her left. Johnson perfectly captured the graceful elegance of her motion as she balances on the log and turns to grasp the stem of the flower. With no horizon in the distance and a close vantage point looking slightly downward, he created an intimate world for the pond and its banks, with the female figure as its sole inhabitant.

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## GOOD TO KNOW

If you are interested in exploring membership at PCCH, please contact Craig Barnes at the church office or at [cbarnes@chestnuthillpres.org](mailto:cbarnes@chestnuthillpres.org).

Sunday worship is live-streamed at [chestnuthillpres.org/live](http://chestnuthillpres.org/live) and is recorded for later viewing. This offering extends our reach across the country and beyond. Visit us when you're away and tell your friends about this new opportunity to join us.

Please share any pastoral care needs or concerns with Russell Sullivan at the church office or at [rsullivan@chestnuthillpres.org](mailto:rsullivan@chestnuthillpres.org).

Please see the back cover for information about our church staff and how to contact and connect with us. You also can access today's Bulletin online.

The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill has committed itself to be a Matthew 25 congregation, joining an initiative of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) focused on three areas:



Building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty.

Visit our Matthew 25 page: [chestnuthillpres.org/matthew-25](http://chestnuthillpres.org/matthew-25) for more information about Matthew 25 news and events.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

*Only to one who prays can God make himself vivid.* (Harry Emerson Fosdick)

The Prayer Team of the congregation values deeply the spirituality and practice of prayer and would love to receive any prayer requests that you have. Please share your requests by contacting Deacon Kelly Baughman at [kellybaughman@yahoo.com](mailto:kellybaughman@yahoo.com) or Russell Sullivan at [rsullivan@chestnuthillpres.com](mailto:rsullivan@chestnuthillpres.com).

# THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT PCCH

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### **SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP**

Everyone is encouraged to stay after worship today to enjoy our festive high coffee that the Hospitality Committee has arranged while the children are rehearsing for the Christmas pageant. All are welcome in Widener Hall.

### **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL**

All children who signed up for the Christmas Pageant, please remember there will be a mandatory rehearsal today—Sunday, December 17—immediately following worship.

### **2024 PLEDGE CARDS**

Please return your 2024 pledge cards as soon as possible so that the Finance Committee can finalize the 2024 budget. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

### **PCCH WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

We meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Harris room. This Wednesday Dr. Barnes will be leading the discussion which will focus on the biblical text used for the upcoming Sunday sermon. The reading for December 20 is Isaiah 9:2-7. All are welcome.

We will take a holiday break next week but will resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

### **2023 TAX REMINDER**

To be able to deduct donations and pledge payments made to PCCH for 2023, funds must be dated December 31, 2023 and hand-delivered to the church office no later than Sunday, December 31, 2023 OR postmarked December 30, 2023 if mailed. All gifts of stock need to be received by the church by Friday, December 29, 2023.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Annual Deacon's Brunch, Sunday, January 7, 2024 immediately following worship in Widener Hall.



## Christmas Flowers

### A Meaningful Way to Remember Loved Ones

During the Christmas season the sanctuary will be overflowing with beautiful flowers and greens in celebration of Christ's birth. By donating to the Christmas Flower Fund, you can remember your loved ones. You can also highlight a special family event like a birth or anniversary, or give to the Flower Fund in thanksgiving for a special person, for grandchildren, or in honor of programs you love about our church (for example, Music and the Arts, the Mission Trip, or Center on the Hill). Names of those being honored will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

**Please submit your names to the church office by  
Monday, December 18**

**Your dedication is:**

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

In celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Amount donated \_\_\_\_\_

In the past we have suggested a donation of \$25 for those wishing to remember a loved one on these Sundays. That amount does not fully cover our cost. Rather than simply raising the suggested amount, we are trusting your generosity, as well as hoping that more in the congregation will take this occasion to lift up someone or some ministry that has been important to them.

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **HOLIDAY GIVING AT PCCH**

**COLLECTIONS FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS:** Each Sunday during Advent we will be collecting food and toiletries for our mission partners Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry and Face to Face. In addition to suggested items, we will have a basket for monetary donation to purchase needed items for organizations.

*December 17:* non-perishable food items for Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry

*December 24:* individually wrapped tooth brushes and full-size toothpaste for Face to Face

**YOUTH MISSION GIVING TREE:** The Mission Giving Tree will be set up in Widener Hall for the month of December. Consider purchasing an ornament on the tree to support the Youth Mission Trip to Montana in the summer 2024. Most ornaments have been hand-painted by our talented youth. Only a few ornaments still remain to be taken. A table will be set up next to the Giving Tree during fellowship hour for your donations.

### **FACE TO FACE SERVICE DAY JANUARY 14, 2024**

(Change of schedule—we will not be sending a team in December)

We will be sending a team of six people to help with meal serving in January.

Sign up on the Social Witness table outside of the reception room or contact Liz Podraza at [lizpodraza@gmail.com](mailto:lizpodraza@gmail.com).

### **PCCH SOCIAL WITNESS COMMITTEE**

The Social Witness Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. We would love to have you join us. For more information about any of the above mission partners, contact Beth Nell Vaccaro at [bethnellvaccaro@gmail.com](mailto:bethnellvaccaro@gmail.com).

## PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) would like to provide the congregation with an update on our recent activities in the search for our new pastor and head of staff. Throughout the months of November and December, we dedicated our efforts to networking and engagement with friends of PCCH. We are grateful for the numerous candidate referrals we received during this time. Our committee has diligently reviewed these referrals and extended invitations to potential candidates to apply for the position. In addition to friend referrals, we have explored matches through the Church Leadership Connection site, which has brought forth candidates for consideration. Furthermore, we have received self-referrals from interested candidates and have commenced the comprehensive review process, including the thoughtful examination of candidate sermons.

As we delve into the exciting phase of candidate review, we continue to refine our candidate review protocol to ensure a thorough and discerning evaluation. This process is crucial in identifying a candidate who aligns with the values and vision of our congregation. With the Advent season upon us, we acknowledge that many potential candidates are likely occupied with the responsibilities that accompany this special time of year. Please keep the PNC in your prayers as we expect our activities to intensify in January and February.

## CENTER ON THE HILL

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The Center on the Hill will be closed from December 18–January 1 for the holiday break. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2 at 9:00 a.m.

### **Upcoming Classes and Events in 2024**

Registration opens January 2 and is Required for all activities and classes at the Center. Call 215-247-4654 or email [msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org](mailto:msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org)

### **STRONG BONES EXERCISE CLASS** (*registration required*)

Session 1: January 9- February 13, 1-2 p.m., \$72 for 6 week session or \$15 per class drop in  
Hundreds of clinical studies have indisputably proven that doing the right exercises, improving your balance, and making some lifestyle changes, are critical factors in building stronger bones. This class will include standing and floor exercises to improve postural alignment, balance, and strength. Bring your own mat, but all other equipment will be provided.

### **LET'S PLAY BINGO** (*registration required*)

Tuesday, January 9, 1-2 p.m., free

Join us for your favorite game, with prizes and snacks provided by some of our partners and friends from different organizations in the area. Meet some new people, and have fun!

**A**dvent is a season in which we prepare to receive more of the coming Savior's salvation than we have known.

We hope you will join in these worship services & other opportunities for fellowship and service this season—all of which can become the angels God sends to proclaim Joy to the World.

grace & peace,  
M. Craig Barnes

IN WORSHIP THIS  
**Advent Season**

**Sunday, December 3**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

**10 am | Worship**

Sermon *Gifts of the Messiah: Hope*  
Communion  
Scripture *Isaiah 40:1-5*  
Text *In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord*  
(*Isaiah 40:3*)

**Sunday, December 10**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

**10 am | Worship**

Sermon *Gifts of the Messiah: Peace*  
Scripture *Isaiah 11:9*  
Gallery Choir *O Antiphons* by Arvo Pärt  
Joyful Noise and Youth Choir *This Christmastide*

**Sunday, December 17**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

**10 am | Worship**

Sermon *Gifts of the Messiah: Joy*  
Scripture *Isaiah 40:6-11*  
Text *The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word*  
*of our God will stand forever*

**Sunday, December 24**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**10 am | Worship**

Sermon *Gifts of the Messiah: Love*  
Scripture *Isaiah 9:27*  
Text *For a child has been born for us, a son given to*  
*us* (*Isaiah 9:6*)

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4:30 pm | Worship & Children's Christmas Pageant**

**9:30 pm | Prelude**

*featuring the Soloists of the Gallery Choir & PCCCH Festival Brass*

**10 pm | Christmas Eve Service**

*Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols led by the Gallery Choir*

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Date	Godly Play PreK-2nd Grade	Christian Studies Grades 3-5	Feasting on the Word Grades 6-8
12/17	Linnea Johnson and Fred or Connie Lewis	Diana Rodgers	Kate Magid

No Sunday School on Sunday, December 24 or Sunday, December 31. Children age 3 years and over will remain in worship with their parent. Nursery is still available for children under the age of 3 years.

Classes will be offered for three different age groups:

- Children ages 3 to 2nd grade will engage in faith formation through Godly Play curriculum.
- Children in grades 3-5 will increase their Bible literacy while learning about the richness of our Christian history and faith in a fun, structured setting. We will be using the Memoria Press Christian Studies curriculum.
- Middle schoolers in grades 6-8 will wrestle with deep faith questions in classes on alternating weeks. On the other weeks, they will attend worship with their families.

Most Sundays, we will begin Sunday School with a brief opening in the chapel. On Sundays when Communion is served in worship, the children will return to sit with their families so that they can participate.

### CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MUSIC UPDATE

Joyful Noise and Youth Choir will not have regular rehearsals until Sunday, January 7, 2024.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please don't hesitate to reach out to us:

Julie 267-804-2410, jsbishop717@gmail.com and

Kate 215-620-8283, katemagid@gmail.com

### YOUTH UPDATE

Today Sunday, December 17: Pageant rehearsal and high school Christmas party

Youth group will not meet again until Sunday, January 7, 2024.





# Christmas Eve

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:30 pm **Worship & Children's Christmas Pageant**

9:30 pm **Prelude**

*featuring the Soloists of the Gallery Choir  
& PCCH Festival Brass*

10 pm **Christmas Eve Service**

**Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols**  
*led by the Gallery Choir*

## HAPPENING HERE THIS WEEK

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### SUNDAY, December 17

#### Worship

Church school  
Pageant rehearsal  
High Coffee fellowship  
Senior High Christmas party  
Crossing concert

#### Advent III

sanctuary, 10 a.m.  
Strouse, 10:20 a.m.  
sanctuary, 11:10 a.m.  
Widener Hall, 11:15 a.m.  
Magid home, 5 p.m.  
sanctuary, 5 p.m.

### MONDAY, December 18

PNC committee meeting

Harris, 7 p.m.

### TUESDAY, December 19

Preschool holiday performance

sanctuary, 11 a.m.

### WEDNESDAY, December 20

PCCH Bible Study group  
PCCH Staff meeting

Harris, 10:30 a.m.  
reception room, 1 p.m.

### THURSDAY, December 21

PCCH Gallery choir rehearsal

choir room, 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, December 22

PCCH Flower Guild decorating  
PCCH Sober and Out group

sanctuary, 9 a.m.  
Harris, 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, December 24

PCCH Flower Guild decorating

sanctuary, 9 a.m.

### SUNDAY, December 24

#### Worship

#### Advent IV

sanctuary, 10 a.m.

### SUNDAY, December 24

Worship with Children's Pageant  
Music Prelude  
Worship with Lessons and Carols

#### Christmas Eve

sanctuary, 4:30 p.m.  
sanctuary, 9:30 p.m.  
sanctuary, 10 p.m.

## ABOUT PCCH

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL** is a lively congregation that has been serving Philadelphia and beyond since 1852. We have been located on this site since 1950. We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Our traditional worship service connects with contemporary approaches to questions of faith and life. We support a wide range of mission partners throughout the city and are home to a number of music groups.

Our membership is drawn from the city and surrounding communities. We aspire to be an inclusive community of faith in our work and worship together.

### SESSION

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Jill Bown	Lisa Guyer	Taylor Slaughter
Shannon Cavanaugh	Kate Houstoun	Harry Spaeth
Rebecca DePasquale	James Lutz	James Spause
Gregory Dickinson	Ryan Mann	Margaret Spencer
Matthew Eastman	William Murphy	William Storm
Jack Evans	Elizabeth Podraza	Beth Nell Vaccaro
Graeme Frazier	Michelle Shachtman	Clarke Woodruff

### BOARD OF DEACONS

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Emily Barth	Becky Frazier	Barbara Olson
Kelly Baughman	Ann Goslin	Thanice Petrak
Mark Bernstein	Beverly Heimbach	Linda Pettengill
Cathy Brzozowski	Lyn Huertgen	Rachelle Pretz
Nicolette Cobbold	Kristin Lawton	Amy Raphael
Beth DeSoo	Emily McCahery	Dominick Rebeck
Debby Evans	Jane McGill	Sarah Wright

