

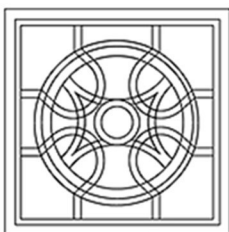
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL

An inclusive community of faith

Sunday, December 31, 2023

10 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen* Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

INTROIT arr. R. L Pearsall
(1795-1856)

In dulci júbilo [*In quiet joy*]
let us our homage show
our heart's joy reclineth
in praeseptio [*in a manger*]
and like a bright star shineth
matris in gremio [*in the mother's lap*]
Alpha es et O. [*you are the Alpha and Omega*]

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A child has been born to us,
People: **a son given to us;**
Leader: authority rests upon his shoulders,
 and he is named:
People: **Wonderful Counselor,**
 Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father,
 Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:6)

*HYMN 41 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God Emmanuel, we just celebrated the birth of our hope, but already we are tempted to live as if nothing has changed. Forgive us for assuming life can return to normal after a Messiah has been born to us. Forgive us for living as if we do not have magnificent hope.

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE ELEISON

Healey Willan
(1880-1968)

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

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

*GLORIA PATRI

WESTMINSTER ABBEY
(Hymn 416)

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*)

Holy God, inspire our hearing of your Word in scripture,
that the Spirit may use it to transform us
closer into the image of the Word made flesh. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14-17

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALTER

Psalm 148:1-4

PLAINSONG

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you angels of his;
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 2:36-38

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Blessing of Rituals
*She never left the temple
but worshiped there...*
Luke 2:37

Dr. Craig Barnes

*HYMN 48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

*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

arr. R. R. Terry
(1865-1938)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance:
Sing, O my love, O my love, my love, my love; this have I done for my true love.

Then I was born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance;
thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance:

Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
my Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance:

***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: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

People: **Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly.**

Colossians 3:15, 16

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Holy God you so loved the world that you gave your only Son. May we
so love you that we give ourselves to the Son's work in the world.**

***HYMN 44**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter
(b. 1945)

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Robert Pearsall
(1795-1856)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHER

The Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes

LITURGIST

Julie Snyder

MUSIC

Julie Snyder soprano, Joanna Gates alto, Steve Williamson tenor, Charlie Moore bass
Jeffrey DeVault organist

GREETERS

William Storm and Beth Nell Vaccaro Elders
Amy Raphael and Dominick Rebeck Deacons

USHERS

Harry Spaeth Team #2 Leader, Troy Foxworth, Graeme Frazier, Kate Houstoun,
Jason Jones, Beth Wrigley

FLOWER GUILD

Diane Cornely and Linda Pettengill

COVER ART Jan van't Hoff, *Simeon and Anna*, crayon and oil, the Gospel Images Project.
Born in the Netherlands in 1959, van't Hoff founded an atelier in 2005 where he displays his series of paintings on themes of Biblical history. Inspired by Dutch Classical Realism and post-Impressionism, he expresses a fascination with the poetry of light and dark, and states that one of his favorite subjects is the human being in his environment.

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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.

Sunday worship is live-streamed at 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.

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 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 or Russell Sullivan at rsullivan@chestnuthillpres.com.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

UPCOMING EVENTS AT PCCH

PCCH HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, January 1, 2024 office and Center on the Hill will be closed.

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

All are welcome in Widener Hall 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.

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.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons will meet on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Harris room on the lower level of the church.

PCCH WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

We meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Harris room. This Wednesday Dr. Craig Barnes will be leading the discussion which will focus on the biblical text used for the upcoming Sunday sermon. The reading for January 3 is Luke 2:41-52. All are welcome.

ANNUAL DEACON BRUNCH

Join the Board of Deacons for a New Year's brunch on Sunday, January 7, 2024 in Widener Hall immediately following worship.

YOUTH MISSION GIVING TREE

Today is the last day for the Mission Giving Tree in Widener Hall. Consider purchasing one of the remaining six ornaments on the tree to support the Youth Mission Trip to Montana in the summer 2024. These ornaments have been hand-painted by our talented youth. 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

We will be sending a team of six people to help with meal serving on Sunday, January 14. Sign up on the Social Witness table outside of the reception room or contact Liz Podraza at lizpodraza@gmail.com.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

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

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MUSIC UPDATE

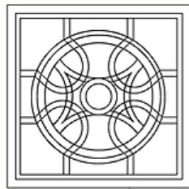
Joyful Noise and Youth Choir will not have regular rehearsals until Sunday, January 7, 2024.

YOUTH UPDATE

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

Forum on the Hill

Presented to a limited number of people in-person at 12:30pm then recorded and posted online starting at 5pm. www.chestnuthillpres.org/education/forum-on-the-hill/



JANUARY 11

BRETT MANDEL

PHILADELPHIA, CORRUPT AND CONSENTING A CITY'S STRUGGLE AGAINST AN EPITHET

More than a century after muckraking journalist Lincoln Steffens derided the city of Philadelphia as being "corrupt and contented," Philadelphia struggles to rise above this unfortunate characterization. Brett joins us to discuss his book, *Philadelphia, Corrupt and Consenting*. It is the story of a city's confrontation with a history that threatens its future. He examines the costs of corruption, both financial and nonpecuniary, and considers the opportunity cost that corruption imposes. Mandel explores the nature and development of Philadelphia's unique culture of corruption, emphasizing how machine politics and self-dealing are entwined with city history, creating a culture that allows corruption to thrive. In addition, he provides practical, achievable policies and actions that can produce positive change in Philadelphia and elsewhere.

Brett H. Mandel is a Philadelphia-based writer and consultant who engages in civic activism and government reform when he is not serving as Chief Financial Officer and Utility Player for his start-up, Baseball BBQ. He has also served as the Executive Director of the National Education Technology Funding Corporation; Executive Director of the citizens' organization, Philadelphia Forward; and Director of Financial and Policy Analysis for the Office of the Philadelphia City Controller.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL

8855 GERMANTOWN AVE, PHILADELPHIA PA 19118

Registration Required for in-person attendance.

Contact 215-247-4654 or email msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org

<https://www.chestnuthillpres.org/education/forum-on-the-hill/>

Visit our website above to watch the recorded version after 5pm.

CENTER ON THE HILL

The Center on the Hill is open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. with all our ongoing health practices and protocols in place. New online content is posted Monday to Thursday at 12 p.m. on our programs page: chestnuthillpres.org/center-on-the-hill/programs.

Registration opens January 2 and is required for all activities and classes at the Center, as space is limited for social distancing. Call 215-247-4654 or email 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!

INTRODUCTION TO TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS AND FALLS PREVENTION *(registration required)*

Tuesdays, January 16-February 6, 1-2 p.m., \$60

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention (TCA) is an evidence-based program recommended by the CDC and the Arthritis Foundation. TCA is based on Sun style tai chi, a style chosen because of its healing component, its unique Qigong elements and its ability to improve mobility, confidence, and balance. We will learn an excellent set of warm-ups that you'll love doing daily, invigorating Qigong breathing exercises, and safe, flowing and soothing tai chi movements.

CHANGING YOUR DEMENTIA CARE MINDSET *(registration required)*

Thursday, January 18, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., free

Repetitive questions. Personal insults and verbal aggression. Making a mess by rummaging in cabinets and drawers. Your loved one is doing the best they can to communicate. Shifting the way you think about the dementia experience will actually reduce these troubling behaviors and bring you greater peace.

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

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

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

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes Interim Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Russell C. Sullivan, Jr. Minister of Visitation
The Rev. Cynthia A. Jarvis Pastor Emerita
Daniel Spratlan Director of Music
Jeffrey DeVault Organist/Associate Director of Music
Julie Snyder Director of Children's Education/Director, Joyful Noise and Youth Choir
Katherine McGill Magid Director of Youth Ministry
Rachel Cline Church Administrator
Megan Cullen Director, Preschool
Mariangela Saavedra Director, Center on the Hill
Leslie A. Lefer Communications Coordinator
Evelyn F. Carpenter Administrative Assistant
Felix Delgado Sexton
Donna Marciel Sunday Sexton
Debbie Lambeth Sunday Child Care Giver

CONTACT PCCH

Church office 215.247.8855
Preschool 215.247.8865
Center on the Hill 215.247.4654

info@chestnuthillpres.org

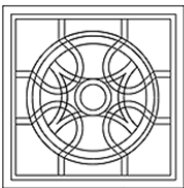
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 [chestnuthillpres.org/live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



PCCH Bulletin online



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