

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL

May 24, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of PCCH,

“To everything there is a season,” the writer of Ecclesiastes affirmed millennia ago. Having lived in a season of pandemic, we are now cautiously, and gratefully, emerging into a new season.

While the church’s ministry has continued, functioning creatively and with innovation since March 2020, we have not been able to worship live and in-person in the sanctuary. At its May meeting, your Session approved a plan to do just that. This decision was based on a proposal from the Return to Church Committee, who has been meeting throughout the pandemic, monitoring trends and discerning our response.

Enclosed are two documents, the first sharing details of the plan to ***return to in-person, sanctuary worship beginning Sunday, June 13, at 10:00 a.m. (as Philadelphia guidelines allow)***. The second shares an important update on our financial picture.

In addition to 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship in the Sanctuary, we will begin livestreaming our worship services at www.chestnuthillpres.org. These services will be recorded and posted on our website, so if you miss a service, or want to watch one again, you may do so.

As the accompanying letter details, we will seek to abide by important protocols, as well as the values of our faith. As we sought to embrace the commitments to safety and inclusivity throughout the pandemic, we thank you for your support and cooperation now.

This is an important pivot point for us, one which I gladly welcome. While we are ready, I hope that we will re-commit ourselves to being the “inclusive community of faith” we aspire to be by being mindful of those not yet ready to return, and the wide spectrum of feelings and perspectives that we experience as we emerge from the pandemic season. We also know that many are not yet fully vaccinated, including children, and we want to be hospitable to all members of our community.

We will continue to monitor closely CDC, Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia guidelines, and will adapt and adopt accordingly. We realize that this is a fluid situation and, again, want to ensure congregational safety and inclusivity above all else.

We will worship on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. in the tent on May 30 and June 6. Join us! And join us online for our recorded services on those Sundays as well.

Please read the accompanying documents carefully, and let us know if you have any questions. Keep in your prayers all who continue to respond to, and have been affected by, the coronavirus.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Wilkinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W".

John Wilkinson

Return to live, in-person worship in the Sanctuary!

**Sunday, June 13
10:00 a.m.**

HIGHLIGHTS...

- ◆ Based upon state guidance, there will be no limits on attendance. Seating will be in alternate pews.
- ◆ All worshipers, participants and leaders will wear a mask/face covering when in the sanctuary.

Safety precautions:

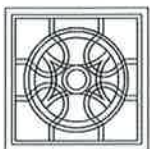
- ◆ The sanctuary and restrooms will be sanitized prior to each worship service.
- ◆ Hand sanitizing stations and masks will be available.
- ◆ MERV 13 air filters installed to help with ventilation.
- ◆ Touchless restroom faucets installed.

Children:

- ◆ Child care will be available for infants to 3 year olds.
- ◆ Summer Sunday school for preschoolers to sixth grade.
- ◆ Families, look for a communication with details.

Worship:

- ◆ Words and music will be printed in the bulletin (rather than using hymnals and Bibles).
- ◆ Communion will be offered using disposable cups.
- ◆ We will not pass the peace, and offerings will be received in plates at the doors.
- ◆ Guidance is evolving on singing, for now we will continue to hum, rather than sing, the hymns, led by members of the choir.



**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHESTNUT HILL**

Services will be

livestreamed each Sunday

morning at 10:00 a.m. at

www.chestnuthillpres.org,

with the recorded services

posted on our website.

Please be in touch with

any member of the Return

to Church Team (Rebecca

Bernstein, Laura Brobyn,

Lisa Guyer, Jane Kaufman,

Kristin Lawton, Dan Pretz,

Taylor Slaughter, John

Wilkinson) with questions.

www.chestnuthillpres.org

(215) 247-8855

May 24, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of PCCH,

As we plan to return to live, in-person worship in the sanctuary on **June 13**, your Finance and Endowment Committees want to provide an update on the church's overall financial health, cash flow, and status of our collective endowments. Given your support, strong endowment performance over recent years, and timely actions over the past months, we have a positive report to share.

Finance Update

Despite the challenges of the past fourteen months, the church's finances and cash flow positions have remained remarkably strong. As previously communicated, we secured a Payroll Protection Program loan in April of 2020 for approximately \$205,000. When a "wave 2" PPP program was made available in early 2021, we were able to secure a secondary loan in the same amount. We are now in the process of applying for forgiveness on the first loan and will do the same on the second loan when that becomes an option. These loans have enabled us to maintain all payrolls at both the church and preschool and have been extremely helpful navigating through a sizable loss of building rental income and some uncertainty in pledging. We are seeing encouraging signs of both rental and pledge incomes coming back to life and as we return to church and things continue to further open up we expect those trends to continue.

Endowment Status and Investment Strategy

With careful oversight from the Endowment Committee over the last year, we continue to see excellent investment results and growth in the overall asset base managed by our investment advisors at Merrill Lynch and PNC. Through a very turbulent time period, the committee has been prudent in making sure that we reserved the cash needed to fund the operations of the church along with keeping our focus on growth of our assets. The Endowment Committee has stayed true to the Investment Policy Statement and has been able to see growth in the portfolios since January 2019.

We also have exciting news to report. The new Cynthia Jarvis Mission Fund, established at the time of Cindy's retirement, has now reached its goal of \$200,000. This enables us to take annual distributions to support the church's mission partners beginning in 2022. This is a great accomplishment for the church, especially during these challenging times.

Stewardship

For 2021, 142 of you, individuals and families, have pledged \$554,054. We are on track in May in terms of pledges received; thanks for maintaining your support during the pandemic and over the coming summer months.

It's never too late to make a pledge. If you'd like to do so, or want to learn more, contact Megan McGowan at mmcgowan@chestnuthillpres.org.

Please always feel free to reach out to any of us below should you have any questions or concerns.

Gratefully,

Steve Bishop, *Finance Committee*

Mark Nottingham and John Lawton, *Endowment Committee*

Matt Eastman and Laurie Menyo, *Stewardship Committee*

John Wilkinson, *Pastor*