

# **Chestnut Hill Views**

## **From the Pastor's Desk**

Greetings Everyone!

Can you believe that Christmas is almost here?!?!? It just does not seem possible and time just keeps marching on whether we want it to or not, Christmas will be here before we know it. As I get older and, hopefully wiser, I am finding that each year I look for a deeper meaning to Christmas and this time of year. Most of you know that I love the fall, usually because it means that I potentially have the time to get into the woods, but the last few years, it seems time does not allow me those opportunities. And so, I wonder how many of us feel like we are losing ground on that precious time that re-energizes and invigorates us to face whatever we might face daily. It is because of this that this year, I not only find myself reaching for that deeper meaning in the birth of Christ but also in ways that I can stay connected to the God that has blessed me so much throughout my life and the lives of those I love.

One of the things I am contemplating as I get myself mentally prepared for the season of Advent is looking at stories of the ways that Christ touched the lives of those around him AND to whom he gave the majority of his time and energy. For me, it is about what we have received from Christ which inspires what I give to others. Over the last few months, I gave over more of myself than I ever thought was possible to give in caring for my father. What I realized is that there is absolutely no way I could have done that without the example of Christ as he spent his days teaching and healing those around him. One of the stories that speaks most to me is the story of Jesus speaking to the Samaritan Woman at the well found in John 4:7-26.

If you are not familiar with this story, it is one in which Jesus opens himself to the opportunity to share God's love with someone with whom he should not have associated. He opened himself to scrutiny, degradation, and ridicule and yet he still began a relationship with this woman and shared God's love with her. This is a story of redemption and love...and isn't that one of the possible meanings of Christmas too?

God's Peace and blessings, PC

### INDEX:

Church News .....	<b>Pg. 2-3</b>	Conference Happenings.....	<b>Pg. 8</b>	Bible Word Game .....	<b>Pg.12</b>
Groups of CHC .....	<b>Pg. 4-5</b>	Celebration Corner.....	<b>Pg. 8</b>	Financial Report .....	<b>Pg.13</b>
Supporting CHC .....	<b>Pg. 6</b>	Holiday Hope Chest Info .	<b>Pg. 9 - 10</b>	Word Game Answers .....	<b>Pg.13</b>
Worship Schedule ....	<b>Pg. 7</b>	Electronic Offering .....	<b>Pg. 11</b>	Pastor Contact/Office Hrs ...	<b>Pg.13</b>

## Church News



**Council Board Volunteers Needed:** Chestnut Hill Church is looking for a few volunteers to join our council team. The Council meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 7:00pm -8:30pm. Please consider volunteering and help our church grow spiritually. Please see any member of the Council or Pastor Christian for more information or signing up.

**Board of Trustees Volunteers Needed:** Chestnut Hill Church Board of Trustees is looking for a few volunteers to join the Trustee team. Much of the Trustee team business is conducted via e-mail, but periodically they meet to discuss and review upcoming projects. In addition, individuals with a “hands on” mentality who are capable of making small repairs around the church are needed. Please contact Debbie Koder if you are interested in volunteering 610-390-9026.

**Garden Clean Up Volunteers Needed:** It's that time of year that the garden must be cut back and cleaned up so that it may look even more beautiful in the spring. Clean up day will be Friday November 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 11am. If you are willing to get out in the fresh air and willing to get your hands a little dirty, please come join. Contact Debbie Koder for more information or for volunteering, 610-390-9026.

**Cemetery Board News:** The Cemetery Board kindly requests that when visiting the Chestnut Hill Church cemetery, please obey the rules posted on the information signs near the entrances to the cemetery. Also, please be reminded that the fall cemetery cleanup will take place on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (weather permitting) and all items wished to be kept must be removed from the cemetery prior to that date.

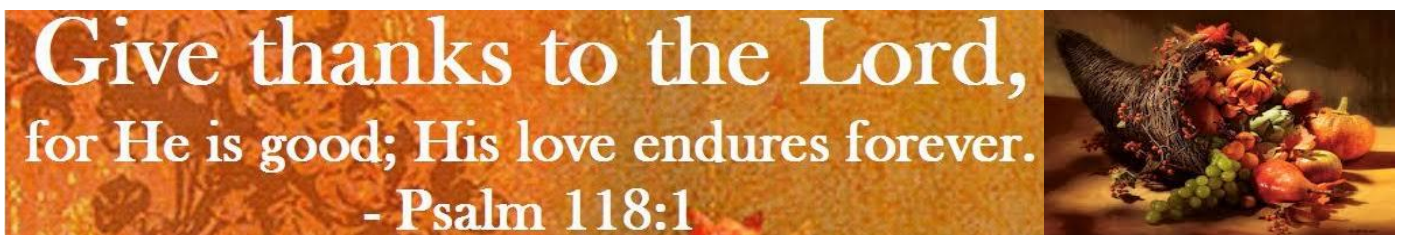
## Church News, continued ...



**Christmas Eve Service:** Pending any changes to the CDC guidelines for physical distancing and limitations on the number of people who can gather in the church sanctuary, our service attendance will likely continue to be limited for the Christmas Eve service this year. If limits remain restricted to the current capacity guidelines, Pastor and Council have estimated that we can safely seat about 60 worshipers. Last year, we accommodated 165 worshipers and the year before we had two services with a total attendance of 195. The idea of a sign-up sheet has been proposed and is under consideration. Because we want to try to accommodate as many as possible, Church Council would like to know: do you plan on physically attending Christmas Eve service this year? Please share whether you plan to physically attend on Christmas Eve by contacting Debbie Koder at (610)390-9026 or e-mail [debkoder@yahoo.com](mailto:debkoder@yahoo.com). This information will help Church Council and Pastor plan accordingly. Thank you in advance for your help with this matter. Please continue to check church e-mails and the church Facebook page for any updates regarding Christmas Eve Worship.

**Ways to Worship:** Physical worship in the church has resumed for those wishing to worship that way. For those who prefer to worship from home, the Facebook Group will live feed the worship taking place at the church, each Sunday. AND, if you miss the live feed, the Facebook page's worship service remains available even after the day and time of service. So, you can worship at your leisure or return to any portion of the worship service whenever you'd like.

**Stay - In the Know:** As COVID cases continue to change, please check Facebook and e-mail for important worship changes. In the case of inclement weather, cancellations will be posted on WFMZ.



# Groups of Chestnut Hill Church

Are you looking for ways to get more involved in our church community? The following groups provide service and fellowship and are always welcoming new members. Below, you can learn more about some of the Church's groups and what they are up to:

**Missions Team:** Our Missions Team will begin gathering again soon. The team currently consists of Pastor Christian, Joan Slota, Heather Lippincott, and Craig Adams. As we begin meeting this fall, we will be looking at ways that we can be more involved in our local communities and beyond. We have special funds for this purpose and will be looking at ways that these funds can benefit others (loving others as Christ taught us to do). If you are interested in participating in this group, please see Pastor Christian so that you can be invited to the virtual meetings when they occur.

**Betty Lou's Pantry:** Betty Lou's Pantry will be sponsoring gift cards for the children they serve. There are approximately 160-180 children within the low-income families that Betty Lou's supports. BLP wants to include \$50 gift cards for each child with the Christmas dinners for families so that the families may purchase Christmas gifts for these children. If you'd like to contribute, please write a check in the amount that you can afford made payable to Betty Lou's Pantry with a note on the check memo line, "Christmas Present" and send it to PO Box 85, Coopersburg, PA 18036. They request to receive all donations by December 2, 2020. In addition, they continue to accept donations of food items. Monetary donations are always accepted; either through BettyLousPantry.com using PayPal; or checks can be mailed to Betty Lou's Pantry, PO Box 85, Coopersburg, PA 18036. Please Alice Debus with questions or for more information.

**CHC Sunday School –** The Sunday School would like to express gratitude and thank everyone who contributed food and animal supplies for the annual SPCA animal collection drive. Heather and Bill Lippincott dropped off the items at the SPCA and the SPCA was very appreciative of the donations received, especially during these trying COVID times.

In addition, Sunday School will again be participating in the Holiday Hope Chests program. The program offers small boxes of gifts to less fortunate children. Help is needed in the form of donations of small gifts to fill the boxes and people who might want to assist with the packing and preparing of gift boxes. All work on the project will follow COVID safety protocols. Chestnut Hill Church has participated in the program for several years. It is requested that all donations be received by November 22. **Please see page 9 and 10 for more information about the Holiday Hope Chests program** and gift donation ideas and suggestions.

## Groups of Chestnut Hill Church, continued...

**Fellowship of Mindful Men (FoMM)** This men's fellowship group is designed to provide a space to look at ways to grow closer to God and one another. If you are interested in more information, or joining the group, please contact David Kadingo, [alfdaver@gmail.com](mailto:alfdaver@gmail.com) .

**Grief Support Group:** The Grief Support Group, led by Craig Adams, has been doing book studies and discovering how their grief helps them to live in this world and acknowledges that not everyone grieves in the same way. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Craig Adams, 610-554-4967.

### Social Media and Electronic Groups:

Being a part of the Chestnut Hill Church family is at your fingertips, literally, for those with access to smart devices and internet.

**Facebook:** If you are not already on Facebook with Chestnut Hill Church, what are you waiting for? Via Facebook, you can access live feed sermons and stay up to date on church events.

Please use this link to send a request to join our group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/269721049717923/> .

**Online Sermons and Interaction with the Service (trivia and polls):** On your smart phones, download and install Faithlife Bible App and request to be part of our presentation group. Pastor Christian will add you and you can use a digital bulletin, interact with the trivia questions, or participate in polls. If you are interested in following along, see Heather Clark and she can help you get it set up on your phone.

**Instagram:** We are now on Instagram. Check us out at [instagram.com/chestnuthillchurchucc/](https://www.instagram.com/chestnuthillchurchucc/)

**Recorded Services:** If you do not have access to the internet or Facebook or even to a streaming device, you too can still be part of our worship experience. If you would like to receive recorded sermons and services (on DVD), please contact Pastor Christian.





# Supporting Chestnut Hill Church

Some of the many ways to financially support the church include signing up for the Thrivent Choice Program (if you are a member of Thrivent Financial). **If you shop Amazon, be sure to go through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Chestnut Hill Church as your charity and almost every purchase earns a contribution.** In addition, donations may be sent via mail at your convenience, arranged for in person drop off by contacting the Church Secretary, Jessica Yaich, 610-967-1196 OR at your leisure via E-offering. Please see page 11 for E-Offering instructions.

## Holiday Gift Card FUNDRAISER!



This is a reminder that one of the church's biggest annual fundraisers has recently begun. The annual Scrip fundraiser offers you dozens of opportunities to buy gift cards for friends, family or even treat yourself while earning money for our church. We earn a percentage of sale from each and every gift card purchased. Orders can be submitted between now and November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Gift cards will be available for pick-up Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or for an order form, please contact Debbie Koder at 610-390-9026 or via e-mail [debkoder@yahoo.com](mailto:debkoder@yahoo.com) Checks for orders should be made payable to Chestnut Hill Church.

### Want to keep Christ in Christmas?

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.

- Steve Maraboli



### *"Who can add to Christmas?"*

THE PERFECT MOTIVE IS THAT GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD.  
THE PERFECT GIFT IS THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON.  
THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS TO BELIEVE IN HIM.  
THE REWARD OF FAITH IS THAT YOU SHALL HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

-CORRIE TEN BOOM-

# Worship Schedule & Information

## Upcoming Service Information and Tentative Sermons: *(focus passage in bold)*

<b>11/08/20</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Sermon Title: "I AM the Resurrection and the Life"	<b>John 11:17-27</b> Job 19:23-27
<b>11/15/20</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Sermon Title: "I AM the Vine:	<b>John 15:5-9</b> Jeremiah 23:5-6
<b>11/22/20</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Reign of Christ</b> <b>Pastor on Vacation</b> Pastor on vacation: Virtual Worship      Romans 12:1-8/Galatians 5:22-26 featuring a message from our Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates	
<b>11/29/20</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent: Introduction to Advent Series, "Prepare Ye"</b> Sermon Title: "PREPARE YE: Ponder"	<b>Luke 1:26-38</b> Joshua 1:7-9
<b>12/06/20</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent</b> Sermon Title: "PREPARE YE: Pray"	<b>Luke 1:5-25</b> Genesis 28:10-17
<b>12/13/20</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent</b> Sermon Title: "PREPARE YE: Praise"	<b>Luke 1:39-45</b> Exodus 15:1-3
<b>12/20/20</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</b> Sermon Title: "PREPARE YE: Proclaim:	<b>Luke 3:1-16</b> Deuteronomy 32:2-4
<b>12/24/20</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b> Sermon Title: "PREPARE YE: Prepare a Place"	<b>Luke 2:1-20</b> Isaiah 9:1-7
<b>12/27/20</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Christmas</b> Sermon Title: "PREPARE YE: Prepare for Paradise"	<b>John 1:1-14</b> Isaiah 52:7-10

## Those Serving During Worship:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>Acolyte:</b>
11/08/20	Stephanie Creyer	Pastor Christian
11/15/20	Debbie Koder	Pastor Christian
11/22/20	Pastor Christian	N/A
11/29/20	Debbie Wagstaff	Pastor Christian
12/06/20	Cindy Buchter	Pastor Christian
12/13/20	Craig Adams	Pastor Christian
12/20/20	Stephanie Creyer	Pastor Christian
12/24/20	Pastor Christian	TBD
12/27/20	Lorraine Kahler	Pastor Christian

# Conference Happenings

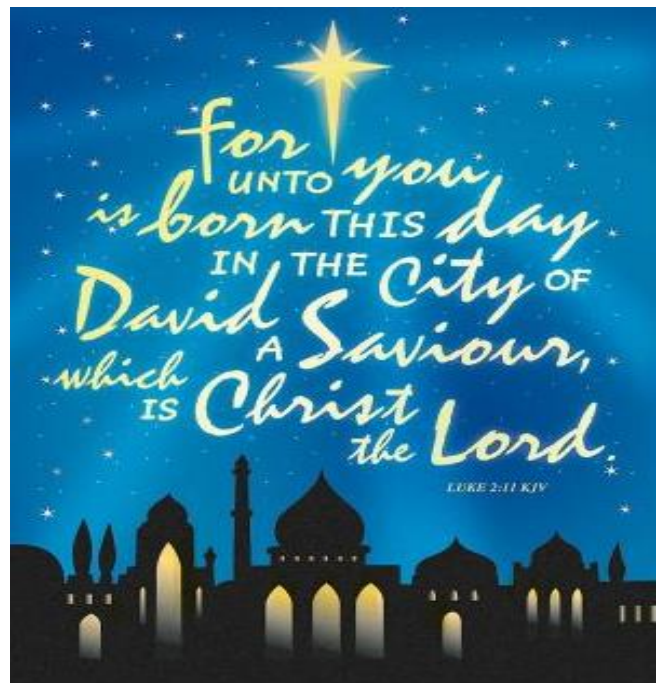
Conference: For all news and updates on the Conference, please see <https://pnec.org/this-week-in-pnec/>

**Fall Conference Meeting:** On Saturday, November 7, we will be gathering as a Conference to celebrate the installation of Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates as our 5<sup>th</sup> Conference Minister and conducting the business of the Conference. At this meeting, there will be a vote for delegates to our first ever virtual General Synod. Did you figure out who else might be attending from Chestnut Hill Church? Stephanie Creyer has been nominated to serve as a delegate to the 2021 and 2023 Bi-Annual General Synods. Stephanie will also be our delegate to the Fall Conference Meeting.

## Celebration Corner

**A Special Welcome!** The Personnel Team is happy to report and welcome, Ms. Karen Billger to our staff as our new Treasurer. Karen's name might sound familiar to some...she is the daughter of Arlene Billger and comes to us with many years of accounting experience. As she begins working for us, if you see her around the office or the building, make sure to say hello and introduce yourself (she may already know many of us)! In our next newsletter, we will have Karen give us a quick bio and introduction so that we can all get to know her a little better. Congratulations, Karen, and welcome to the family of Chestnut Hill Church UCC!

**PLEASE SHARE NEWS** – If you know of random acts of kindness, anything to celebrate, or can share information about a group looking for volunteers that in some way help our community; please provide a snippet of the information to the Church Secretary, [j.yaich@chcucc.org](mailto:j.yaich@chcucc.org) for the next newsletter. The deadline for news, stories and announcements for the January/ February newsletter will be Monday December 28, 2020. Thank you to all who provided stories, information and/ or ideas for the newsletters throughout the past year.





# CHC Sunday School- Holiday Hope Chests

## Holiday Hope Chests - Happiness in a Shoebox

It's time to think about the 2020 Holiday Hope Chests Program - Happiness in a Shoebox. This year the need is especially great for less fortunate children in the Lehigh Valley, and with the pandemic that need continues to grow. The program is still happening and will have COVID protocols to keep everyone safe!

Our church has participated in this program for several years. If you can help, please have your donations to the church by November 22. If you're not ready to come inside the church, we can arrange a drop-off time; just send a message to [hjlendy@ptd.net](mailto:hjlendy@ptd.net), text 484-294-7792, or call 610-282-3725. This is a Sunday School project and the children will be filling boxes as usual in a safe manner. If one or two families would like to fill their own shoebox, that would be fine, too. There will be a box on the table in the fellowship hall labeled "Holiday Hope Chests" for you to put the donated items or filled shoeboxes.

See the gift suggestion sheet on the next page.

Thank you, Heather Lippincott and Helene Endy

- \* Due to allergies, we cannot allow any food or candy of any kind in the boxes.
- \* All items do need to be new; we cannot accept used items.
- \* You can certainly split up multi-packs between different boxes. If they are hygienic products, they have to be individually sealed/wrapped.
- \* Gift cards can be appropriate for some of the boxes. We recommend a \$5 to \$10 gift card for children ages 8-14 and a \$15 - \$20 gift card for ages 15 and up. If possible, please include other items in addition to the gift cards in your box.
- \* Filling boxes with items that can be for either a girl or a boy are very helpful for agencies that do not know how many boys or girls they will have in their program at the time of distribution.
- \* You can find many items in colors /designs that are not marketed to a boy or girl specifically
- \* All items should be able to fit into a shoe box, no boot sized boxes.
- \* All toiletry items should be in the original packaging.
- \* All toys should be in their original packaging,

## Items to avoid:

Balloons	Toy guns
Cameras	Used or opened items
Candy/Gum	Violent or inappropriate books
Food	Movies
Glass items	CD's
Money	Jump ropes
Religious materials	Yo-yo
Sharp items: scissors, knives, razors	

# Holiday Hope Chests 2020

## Gift Suggestion Sheet – Kids & Pre-teens



### 2-3 or 4-5 years old

Books and Puzzles\*  
Bath Toys\*  
Bouncy Balls\*  
Card Games and flash cards\*  
Costume Jewelry  
Craft Projects, Craft Supplies, Stickers\*  
Coloring Books, Crayons\*  
Flashlights and glow in the dark toys\*  
Winter Hats, Gloves, Socks, Scarves\*  
Hair brush and accessories\*  
Legos, Blocks\*  
Lunch Bags\*  
Magnets (magnetic letters)\*  
NEW Stuffed Animals\*  
Nickelodeon, Disney, PBS characters\*  
Play-Doh, Model Magic\*  
Shampoo, Soap, Lotion  
Sketch pad/drawing paper\*  
Toys, Matchbox Cars\*  
Toothbrush and Toothpaste\*

### 6-8 or 9-10 years old

Art Supplies (Scented Markers)\*  
Books and Puzzles\*  
Card Games, Travel Games, Flash Cards\*  
Coin Purse, Wallets\*  
Craft Projects, Slime, Magic Tricks\*  
Drawstring Bags\*  
Earbuds\*  
Hair Brushes and Accessories\*  
Jewelry, Nail/Manicure Set  
Journals/Diaries\*  
Refillable Water Bottles\*  
Shampoo, Soap, Lotion\*  
Sports Items, Nerf Balls\*  
Stylish/Sporty Pens & Pencils\*  
School Supplies\*  
Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Toiletries\*  
Toys\*  
Winter Hats, Gloves, Socks, Scarves\*  
Watches\*

### 11-13 years old

Books (fiction)\*  
Earbuds\*  
Games\*  
\$10 Gift Cards/Certificates to McDonalds; Subway; Target; Walmart\*  
Hairbrushes, Combs\*  
Journals/Diaries/Notebooks\*  
Nail/Manicure Set, Nail Polish  
Refillable Water Bottles\*  
School Supplies\*  
Shampoo, Soap, Lotion\*  
Small Purse, Wallet\*  
Sports Balls/Nerf Balls\*  
Stylish/Sporty Pens & Pencils\*  
Team Hats (baseball/football)\*  
Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Toiletries\*  
Watches, Jewelry\*  
Winter Hats, Gloves, Socks, Scarves\*

### 14-16 years old

Art Supplies\*  
Board and Card games\*  
Books, Puzzles\*  
Cosmetics, Cologne, Perfume\*  
\$10 Gift Cards for Local Restaurants: (Subway, Panera, Wawa, etc.)\*  
Hair Accessories and Products  
Headphones, Small Wireless Speakers\*  
Journals, Planners, Notebooks\*  
Mechanical Pencils, Gel Pens\*  
Refillable Water Bottles\*  
Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant\*  
Sport Socks\*  
Sports Memorabilia, Baseball Hats\*  
Texting Gloves\*  
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes\*  
Winter Hats, Gloves, Socks, Scarves\*  
Watches, Wallets\*

\* Can be an item for girls or boys, see gender neutral section on next page

Contact the Volunteer Center with any questions: 610-807-0336 or [vc@volunteerlv.org](mailto:vc@volunteerlv.org)

**Thank you to our Holiday  
Hope Chests Sponsors:**



**Gifts of time and love are surely  
the basic ingredients of a truly  
merry Christmas.**

*- Peg Bracken.*

# Electronic Offering

If you would like to give your offering electronically, below are the instructions to set up an electronic offering account. If you need added help, Pastor Christian would be happy to help you. For those who wish to continue using the regular offering envelopes, you will continue to receive the envelopes in the mail as you have in the past. The envelopes will continue to be mailed to you every 2 months. If you have any questions about the envelopes, please contact Pastor Christian. If you are using E Offering and no longer wish to receive envelopes, please let Pastor Christian know this as well.

## Instructions on How to Sign Up for Electronic Offering

**To create a new account, go to: [www.members.myEoffering.com](http://www.members.myEoffering.com)**

On Log in screen, click “register”

Enter the following information: Name, E-mail, and choose a password that you will remember. Once you have this completed, click on “Register”, you will receive an email on how to finish registering. Once you have clicked on the link from email, you will need to login and then read the onscreen instructions and click the “Proceed” button.

Next, you will need to select a church, so click on “Churches” at the top of the screen. Next click on “Join a church+”. Search for Chestnut Hill Church, select the church which has our address showing, and “Join+”. You do not need to provide a member or envelope #.

After you have selected Chestnut Hill Church, you must add a wallet. Click on “Wallets” on the top of the screen and then “Add a Wallet+”. Follow the onscreen instructions as they come up on the screen...and click on “Add Wallet+”

To setup an offering, click on “Offerings” at the top of the page and “Add New Offering+”. Choose the option that best fits how often you would like to give and the date upon which to begin drawing those funds. Funding source is your choice from where to draw the funds (i.e. your checking account or credit card found in your “Wallets”). Remember to select the fund to which you would like your offering to go, enter an amount and if you choose to contribute to more than one fund, you have the option to do so.

Fees to use a checking or savings account are \$.30 and the fees for using a credit card fees determined by the credit card company.



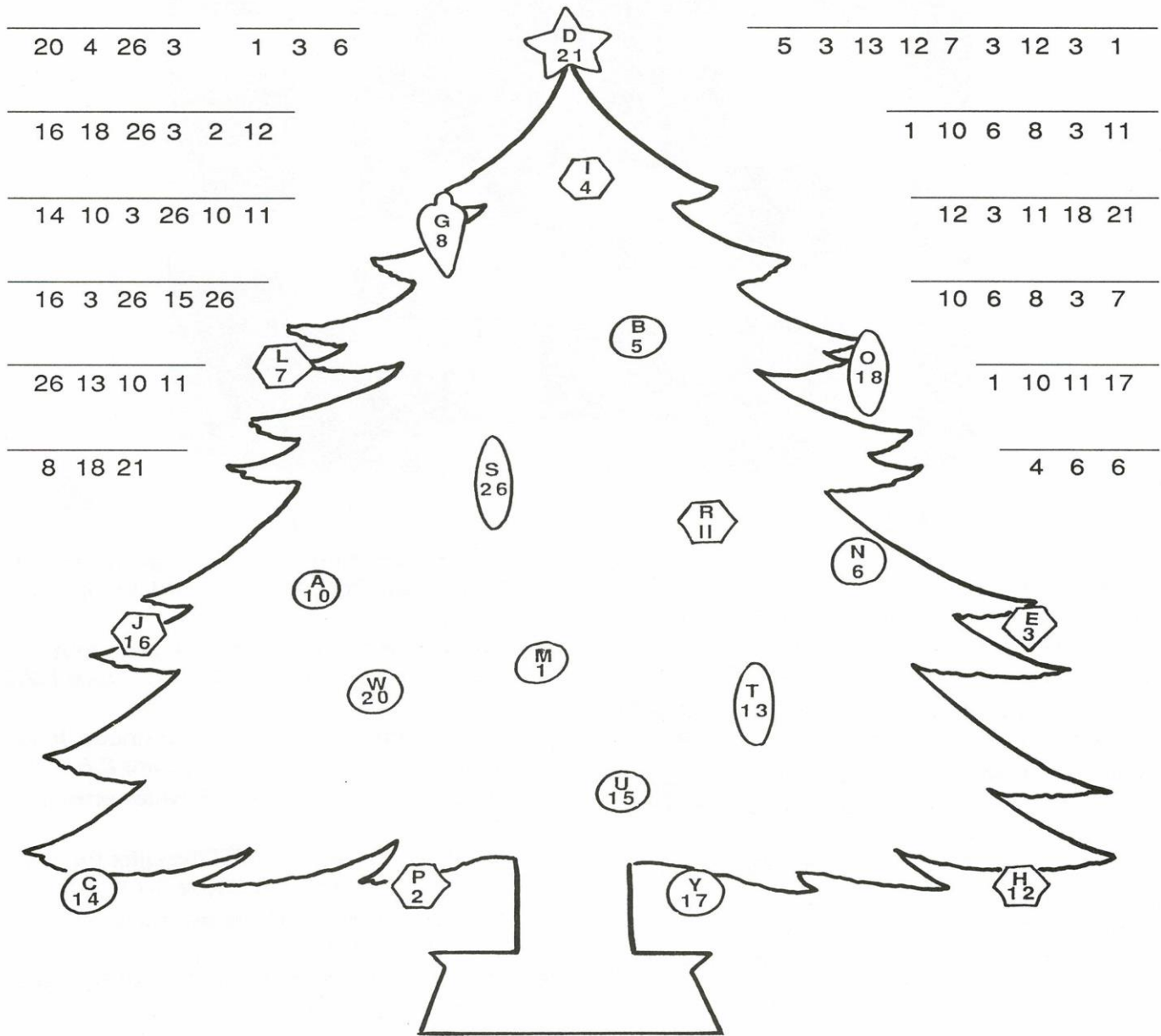
# Bible Word Game

**"A Special Christmas Tree":** From *Life of Jesus Bible Puzzles* by Rainbow Publishers...all answers are listed on page 13.

Matthew 2; Luke 2

## A Special Christmas Tree

Christmas is the time when we celebrate Jesus' birthday. In the story of Jesus' birth in the Bible, there are many people and objects which had an important part in God's special plan for the birth of His Son. Use the code on the Christmas tree ornaments to find people and objects from the Christmas story and write them on the lines.



# Church Financials & Pastor Contact Information

## Financial Report

**As of September 30, 2020\***

\*Please be advised there was an error in the reported information of the financials listed in the September/ October newsletter. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused and thank those who brought the error to our attention. The numbers below are current and accurate:

### Checking/Savings Accounts:

QNB checking	\$ 14,521.36
Building Fund	\$ 6,482.01
Special Savings	\$ 46,284.18

### Investment Portfolio:

Miller Endowment	\$ 433,401.99
Hoff Endowment	\$ 186,786.47
Ameriprise	\$ 10,284.42
Income Year-to-Date:	\$ 83,707.85
Expenses Year-to-Date:	\$ 94,025.17
Interest Draw from Miller	\$ 17,000.00

In order, the hidden words are:  
WISER MEN, JOSEPH, CAESAR, JESUS, STAR,  
GOD, BETHLEHEM, MANGER, HEROD,  
ANGEL, MARY, INN.

A Special Christmas Tree

↑ Bible Word Puzzle Answers  
from game on Page 13



**Pastor: Christian Creyer (Pastor Christian)**

**Church Phone: 610-967-1196**

**Cell Phone: 484-866-5229**

**Email address: [pastor@chcucc.org](mailto:pastor@chcucc.org)**

**Office Hours:**

If you would like to make an appointment to see Pastor Christian, please call, text, or email.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

For God so loved the world that he  
gave his only begotten son, that whosoever  
believeth in Him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

Merry  
Christmas  
&

HAPPY NEW YEAR