



Chestnut Hill Views

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe that by the time you all will be reading this that we have already celebrated the birth of Christ and begun a New Year together. It has been a whirlwind year. There is so much to give thanks for in this past year and so much to look forward to in the New Year. As we look toward the future together, know that we stand together in all things and the future is bright!

This past year has had its difficulties and there have been many changes. It's funny about change, it really is the one thing in this life that creates the most anxiety, depression, and anger. Yet, change is something that we cannot avoid. The world is constantly changing around us and if we do not keep up, we will get left in the past as a memory of what we could have been.

As we move toward the future that God intends for us, I cannot help but think about how things have changed since the night that our Savior was born. Actually, Christmas was not celebrated until nearly the end of the first century after Christ's birth. Christians have done so much to hurt one another in the face of adversity and the changes that happened in the world around them. As 21st Century Christians, we still resist the changes that must happen in order to survive and even more must change so that we can thrive and bring more people to know Christ as we do.

The next year is going to be no different...we are going to encounter changes; it truly is inevitable. Just know that as a community of believers together, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13). Let us look together to the one who came to be an example in his life and gave up that very life for us to have life eternal!

Peace and blessings, Pastor Christian

Conference Happenings:

Cultivating Generous Congregations: In November, we were joined in worship by a special guest from the National Offices and the Wisconsin Conference, Rev. Andrew Warner. Andrew spent the morning with us and brought a message to us about generosity. On January 24-25, there is an opportunity for us to hear more about what it means to have truly generous hearts as Christians in the 21st Century. Pastor, Kim Ruppel, and Joan Slota will be in attendance that weekend to discover ways that we can cultivate our generosity. If anyone else is interested in attending, please see Pastor Christian.

Installation Celebration for Our Conference Minister: On Saturday, April 4 at 2PM, the Conference will gather at UCC Greenawalds to celebrate the installation of our newly called Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates. Bonnie has been serving the Conference for a little more than 2 years as its Designated Conference Minister. In November, at our Fall Conference Meeting, the Conference Board nominated and the Conference at large elected Bonnie to be our settled Conference Minister. Come out to join with the entire Conference as we celebrate and look toward the promise of the future with Bonnie as our leader! All are welcome!

Conference Spring Meeting: On April 24-25, the Conference will hold its Spring Conference Meeting to discuss the state of the Conference, get updates from all of our ministry teams, and conduct the business of the Conference. We are entitled to one adult delegate and one youth delegate to each of our meetings held during the year. Pastor is looking for someone who would be available to attend both days (an adult and a youth) to represent Chestnut Hill Church. If you are interested, please see Pastor Christian. A place for this meeting has not yet been determined.

Vitality Days Reunion: From the fall of 2018 through the spring of 2019, we participated in four Saturday meetings to learn about vitality and how to increase our vitality as a community of faith. On Saturday, March 14 from 10 AM to 2 PM, there will be a reunion of those churches who participated in this inaugural program to see where we are and what we have been able to accomplish as a result of that program. CHC had a total of 10 participants who attended these sessions. Those who participated during the program are invited to attend the reunion.

Special Prayer Request: There is an ecumenical (interfaith) group representing the PNEC and Penn Southeast Conferences, who will be traveling to India to meet with our partners there. Our Conference Minister and a couple other delegates from the Conference will be traveling to India to be part of these discussions. Please keep this whole delegation in your prayers as they travel to and back from India and for their work to be fruitful and successful. The dates of this trip are from February 4 to 21.

Church News and Information:

Winter Weather: Just as a reminder, if we need to cancel church services due to inclement weather, it will be posted to WFMZ as soon as a decision is made. We will also make every effort to contact folks via phone who do not have access to email and send an email blast to notify folks of our decision. If there is bad weather in the forecast, please make sure to check all of the outlets. Also, if you know of someone who does not often check email or watch the TV on a Sunday morning, please, if you can, reach out so that folks do not attempt to come to church if we have canceled.

Annual Meeting: We will hold our annual meeting on February 16 (snow date is February 23), immediately after worship. Please make sure to have all annual reports to Pastor Christian by Sunday, February 2. Any reports received after this date, will not be included.

Constitution and By-Laws: The work on the revised and updated Constitution and By-Laws work has been completed. In the coming weeks, paper copies will be available in the Narthex. When they are, on your way out please take a copy of the revised documents to review prior to our annual meeting on February 16.

Breeze: In October, the church Council voted to move our church database online so that all could access whenever the need arose. We are working diligently to get email addresses for all of our members and are in need of some assistance. As we move forward with this project, it would be helpful if everyone could submit their email address, if you have one, so that we can get everyone on the list for email distributions and send out information that is needed. If you have an email address, please let Pastor Christian know so that we can update the database. In addition, in the coming weeks, an email will come from Pastor Christian to all the folks who have an email already in the database with an invitation to join the database. This is a secure online way for us to stay in touch and for folks to be able to see information on our congregation. The only way to access and become a member of the database is to be invited. Please provide information to Pastor Christian by January 31 so that we can send out invitations in early February.

Vitality Team: The Vitality Team continues to look at ways to enhance our worship experience and to re-energize our call to be Christ's disciples in the world. We ask that you hold this team in prayer as they develop and institute ways for us to reach to the least of these.

Grief Support Group: The Grief Support Group, led by Craig Adams, continues to meet every month, on the last Wednesday of the month. The group 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 see Craig Adams for more information.

Ushers: We are looking for folks to help during the worship services. If you are interested in collecting offering and helping with communion, please sign up on the sheet in the lower Narthex .

CHC Logo T-Shirts: We still have some CHC T-shirts available for sale at \$10.00, please see Debbie Koder for available sizes and details. We may also offer children's t-shirts, if you are interested in getting a children's shirt, please let Debbie know. If there is enough interest, we could get another order together. Debbie can be reached at 610-390-9026.

Faith Night at the Lehigh Valley Phantoms: Friday March 20 at 7:05 pm. Cost is \$23.00 per person, please see Heather Clark for more information.

Men's Fellowship Group: A new men's fellowship group has been formed and we are called the "Fellowship of Mindful Men". The group is open to all men, of all ages. If you are interested, please watch the bulletins and the TVs for information as it develops and becomes available. Our next gathering is on Monday, January 20 at 6:30 PM. We will gather at the Coopersburg Diner for some fellowship and snacks (or dinner, if you choose). Come out and join us!

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.

Facebook: Chestnut Hill Church is busy making it a lot easier for you to stay in touch and in communication with the church, our members and our friends. If you are not already on Facebook with CHC, what are you waiting for? We have 2 pages on FB, the first one below is our closed group, anyone can join this group, but we need you to send us a request to join. We currently have 72 members who have already joined and we have over 200 members in our congregation, so let's see if we can get more to join us. Please go to this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/269721049717923/> to join the group.

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

Trustees are looking for volunteers to help do maintenance around our church. If you are a “Hands On” person and are handy with tools and would like to help keep our church looking great, please speak to Debbie Koder 610-390-9026. We do not have monthly meetings, most items are discussed via email and then occasionally we will have a meeting at church to discuss, review and take a vote on a project. We fit the maintenance aspect in and around our lives. Some of the projects we have done at no cost to the church, include, but not limited to; pressure washing the church, painting inside and outside, installing an electrical line out to the shed, assisting on the handicapped bathroom, installing a wider door into the fellowship hall, installing screening over the outside vents (ground level), painting the bell tower windows, replacing the light bulbs that shine on the steeple, installing hardwood floors in Admin office and so on.

Trustees: Dave Berner, Debbie Koder, Harry Rupp, Keith Ruppel, Glenn Snyder and Terry Miller.

Thrivent Choice Program: If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, make sure you select Chestnut Hill Church as a recipient of your Choice dollars.

Amazon Smile: If you shop through Amazon, make sure you are always going through smile.amazon.com and that Chestnut Hill Church is your chosen charity. Nearly every purchase earns us a contribution!

Upcoming Special Services and Sermon Series':

Special Services:

January 5: Service of Healing (service to recognize the losses we have encountered and prayer partners to pray for those losses and provide hope for the future)

February 26: Ash Wednesday (Lent begins this evening with a special service of lament and repentance) 7:00 PM

April 5: Palm Sunday (special service designed around the triumphal entrance and leading us through the time of Christ's Resurrection)

April 9: Maundy Thursday (7:00 PM) service remembering the institution of communion and the last teachings of Christ (with hand washing)

April 12: Easter Sunday (no sunrise service this year, just our regular 10 AM service)

Scripture/Sermon Series':

January 5: Healing Service – Isaiah 43:8-13 & Luke 1:1-4, 24:44-53

January 12: Isaiah 42:1-9 & Matthew 3:13-17

January 19: Isaiah 49:1-7 & John 1:29-42

January 26: Isaiah 9:1-4 & Matthew 4:12-23

February 2: Micah 6:1-8 & Matthew 5:1-12

February 9: Isaiah 58:1-9 & Matthew 5:13-20

February 16: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 & Matthew 5:21-37

February 23: Exodus 24:12-18 & Matthew 17:1-9

Whine Women & Worry

Whine Women & Worry

Happy New Year Chestnut Hill Church from the ladies in Whine Women & Worry. It is hard to believe we are in the year 2020. We have accomplished many things in 2019 and we hope we can continue the work that we are doing for the church and community. Our group discussed at the last meeting in November that we are going to start collecting things each month for Betty Lou's Pantry. January we will collect paper products. Toilet paper, Paper Towels, Napkins, Feminine Pads, etc. These products are not accessible if you are using public assistance, so let's help these families that are in need. The bulletin will list the items that we will be collecting each month. We meet the 3rd Monday of the month in the Sunday School room at 6:30, if you have never come to a meeting why not join us, we would love to have you.

Fellowship Events

The winter can be long for some folks, the cold, the early darkness, why not join us for some fun! On Saturday January 11, 2020 we will be having a potluck/movie night in the fellowship hall. We will start with fellowship and food at 5:00, movie will start approximately 6:15. A sign up sheet will be posted in the fellowship hall so you can list the item that you will be bringing, the title of the movie will be listed there as well. Come join us and bring a friend!

February 22, 2020 we will be volunteering for the first time at the Jubilee Ministry Breakfast that is held in the winter months at Zion's UCC church on Hamilton Street in Allentown. This breakfast is served mainly to the homeless folks in Center City Allentown and it is served by volunteers only. It is an early rise so if you aren't an early riser this may not be for you. We meet at the church at 6:30 a.m. we will prepare, serve and clean up for all who attend. The kitchen is staffed with 10 volunteers at a time, we still need 4 more folks for this day. We are very fortunate to have a warm place to sleep at night, please consider showing your Christian love with the not so fortunate, remember that is what Jesus taught us. The information for this will be posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. If you have an interest in helping, please see Stephanie Creyer.

Looking for something fun to do on a cold winter afternoon? Join Chestnut Hill & Schoenersville UCC for an afternoon of fun at the Pines Dinner Theatre featuring the show Mission Improbable, this is a murder mystery event with audience participation. Show date is set for Sunday February 23, 2020. Dinner at 12:30 show starts at 2:00. Price will be 52.00 per person, includes meal, show, and gratuity. Payment will be due on February 2. Please make checks payable to Stephanie Creyer. Let's have a fun time and hope we aren't one of the suspects!

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CONGREGATION CORNER

Each month Stephanie will be “interviewing” one of our members to get to know everyone at Chestnut Hill. As part of that process, Stephanie will also write up a “story” of that person’s life for the newsletter.

November greetings to my Chestnut Hill Church Family!

I was born many years ago in a little town called Zionsville. I have been a member of CHC since I was an infant, I was on the Cradle Roll, does anyone even know what that is today? I am involved in a lot of the activities that go on at church. I enjoy singing, some of my favorite hymns are Ave Maria, Friends are Friends Forever, I Believe, Here I am Lord and many more. I am married to my wonderful and supportive spouse for 49 years; it would be wonderful to have 49 more! I have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. Having my grandchildren over to bake is one of my favorite things to do. I also enjoy working in the flower beds and experimenting with new flowers. If you would ever stop over for a cup of coffee you would see I have a tree currently occupying my kitchen, it is in a pot of course. I enjoy traveling. I have been many places; Alaska is my favorite so far. I have also traveled to Hawaii, Disney, Grand Canyon and the National Parks of the United States. I have fond memories of those vacation spots. When it is time to relax, I enjoy watching NCIS with a bowl of ice cream. If I could ask one person from history a question it would be Eve. I would ask her “What were you thinking and why weren’t you afraid of that apple?” If I was stranded on a deserted island, I couldn’t be without my husband, coffee/water and food. Who am I?



CONGREGATION CORNER

Each month Stephanie will be “interviewing” one of our members to get to know everyone at Chestnut Hill. As part of that process, Stephanie will also write up a “story” of that person’s life for the newsletter. Let’s see how much you know about your fellow Chestnut Hill family members.

Merry Christmas Chestnut Hill Family!

I was born not too far over the hill in Allentown. I have been member of CHC for about 15 years, I just recently started attending again after the death of my father, since I have been attending again, I am active within the church. I would love to find a way to energize the youth of today with perhaps starting a youth group. I have been married for 17 years to my rock star spouse! I have 2 great kids who are very involved in activities that keep me running all over creation. I enjoy helping with different groups in the community, such as sports organizations, community theater and of course church. When I can, I enjoy snuggling under a blanket and catching up on sleep, you can never get enough beauty sleep. I love to travel and see other cultures. Bermuda is on the top of my list so far. I enjoy seeing movies, my favorite right now is Aladdin with Will Smith. Pizza or Mexican are my food of choice. If I could ask one person from history a question it would be God. I would ask him how I could help fix the world. If I was stranded on a deserted island, I couldn’t be without my husband, my kids and my mom. Who am I?



ELECTRONIC OFFERING

If you would like to give your offering electronically, we now have a method for you to do just that. Below are the instructions to set up your electronic offering account. Follow the instructions on the website. If you need added help: Pastor Christian can 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.

E Offering

myEoffering.com

On Log in screen

Click "register"

Name

E-mail

Password

Church

Click on Chestnut Hill Church

Forget member number/ NOT NEEDED

Wallet

Checking/savings account

Credit card

Offerings setup

Amount

Fund (General, improvement, etc)

Church

Funding source

Add Fees \$.30 for Checking/savings Credit card fees determined by card co.

Frequency Weekly, Monthly, etc.

To Log In you need your email and password.

Pastor: Christian Creyer (Pastor Christian)
Church Phone: 610-967-1196 Home Phone: 610-351-8044
Email address: pastorxn@hotmail.com
Office Hours:

Days and times by appointment. Pastor's Cell: (484) 866-5229

Financial Report—November 30, 2019

Answers

Checking Account

QNB checking	\$	17,269.95
Building Fund	\$	6,994.37
Special Savings	\$	40,489.45
Investment Portfolio		
Miller Endowment	\$	434,684.86
Hoff Endowment	\$	207,217.64
Ameriprise	\$	9,918.45

Our Christmas gift card fundraiser was another successful event. Members, family and friends purchased a total of 9610.00 in gift cards and we earned \$578.65 to go towards our fuel bill. Thank you to everyone who participated. This will return in October 2020.

Thank You

To the Christmas angels who visited the organ bench, this season, I give a heartfelt "thank you". Your kindness, gifts, and good wishes are greatly appreciated. It is a joy to worship with you and hear the congregational singing. Sincerely, Peggy

Solution to Word Find on page : **1 Samuel 3**

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AGAIN	ANYTHING	BACK
BECAUSE	CALL	EVERYTHING
FAMILY	GONE	HERE
ISRAEL	LISTENING	LORD
MEANWHILE	MESSAGE	NEVER
REPLIED	SAID	SAMUEL
SERVANT	SPEAK	TABERNACLE
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