THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL

An inclusive community of faith

Sunday, January 4, 2026
10 a.m.
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



8855 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Welcome!

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

Following today's service, we invite you to join us for refreshments and fellowship in Widener Hall.

Accessibility

Please see an usher for listening assistive devices and large-print bulletins.

Families with Children

- Nursery care for children through age two is available in the Strouse building—see an usher for assistance. Children who are three are encouraged to attend the Godly Play Sunday School class, but are welcome to remain in the nursery at the discretion of their guardians.
- Children's *Praise Packs* are available in the narthex to aid children with worship participation. Please return them after the service.
- All children in attendance are invited to attend Sunday School, which begins immediately after the Children's Message. Please scan the QR code to fill out a brief waiver for your child.

Before Worship

Please silence all electronic devices.
Please be mindful of our musicians, who rehearse in the Sanctuary between 9 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. We welcome all to enter the Sanctuary, but ask that you keep your conversations low.

Contact

If you'd like to receive regular updates about worship, church life and other events, please contact Office & Media Coordinator, Mary Frommer. If you are interested in joining PCCH, please contact the Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle.

Order of Worship

OPENING VOLUNTARY *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* Paul Manz (1919-2009)

INTROIT Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)

We have seen His star in the East,
And are come with our offerings to worship the Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord
and consider what wondrous things God has done:
People: The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star.
Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord
and consider what wondrous things God has done:
People: The people who live in the shadows see a glorious light.
Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord
and consider what wondrous things God has done:
People: The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan,
Leader: Making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel.
People: O come, let us worship the Lord,
for God has done wondrous things!

HYMN 68 *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright* PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory,
you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,
to reveal your love for all people.
We confess that our sin and pride
hide the brightness of your light.
We turn away from the poor;
we ignore cries for justice;
we do not strive for peace.
In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,
and pour out the gifts of your Spirit,
that, forgiven and renewed,
we may show forth your glory
shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE ELEISON

James MacMillan
(b. 1959)

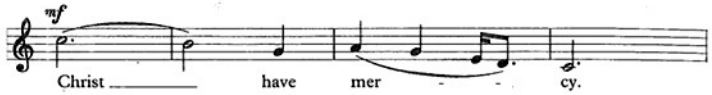
Choir: **Lord, have mercy.**

Congregation



Choir: **Christ, have mercy.**

Congregation



Choir: **Lord, have mercy.**

Congregation



Choir: **Kyrie eleison.**

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

**O God of wonder, as that ancient star rose and guided the magi,
illuminating the place where Jesus was,
so now may the light of your Holy Spirit
shine in our hearts and minds
as the Word is read and proclaimed.
Guide us again to Christ,
and direct us in new paths of faithfulness.
In Christ we pray; Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.
People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT AND DISMISSAL

Children ages three through second grade depart for church school in the Strouse building.
Children will return to worship for communion.
Joyful Noise will meet from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
Parents, your children will be brought to you in Widener Hall.

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.

GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Holy Disobedience* Ellen Williams Hensle

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they left for their own country by another road.
Matthew 2:12

***HYMN 69** *O Morning Star,*
How Fair and Bright WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Apostle's 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM The Three Kings

Jonathan Dove
(b. 1959)

The first king was very young
O balow, balow la lay
With doleful ballads on his tongue
O balow, balow la lay
He came bearing a branch of myrrh
Than which no gall is bitterer
O balow, balow la lay
Gifts for a baby King, O.

The second king was a man in prime
O balow, balow la lay
The solemn priest of a solemn time
O balow, balow la lay
With eyes downcast and rev'rent feet
He brought his incense sad and sweet
O balow, balow la lay
Gifts for a baby King, O.

The third king was very old
O balow, balow la lay
Both his hands were full of gold
O balow, balow la lay
Many a gaud and a glittering toy
Baubles brave for a baby boy
O balow, balow la lay
Gifts for a baby King, O.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*INVITATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

MacMillan



MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Leader: Great is the mystery of faith:
People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to come forward down the center aisle when invited by an usher. Take a piece of bread from a server (all bread is gluten-free) and partake. Then take a cup from the server and partake. Empty cups may be placed in the pew racks. If you choose not to come forward, servers will come to your seats to serve you.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Edward Elgar
(1857-1934)

O Salutaris Hostia,
Quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.

O saving Victim, opening wide,
The gate of heaven to man below!
Our foes press on from every side;
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.

Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria,
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria.
Amen.

To Thy great name be endless praise,
Immortal Godhead, One in Three;
O, grant us endless length of days,
In our true native land with Thee.
Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *(unison)*

We give you thanks, O God,
for the gifts of this table—
precious, prayerful, and poignant—
like gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
Lead us forth by your light
to share the gifts of your grace
with all people everywhere,
giving glory, honor, and praise
to Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***HYMN 63** *As with Gladness Men of Old* DIX

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE McNeil Robinson (1943-2015)

Amen.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her* Richard Purvis (1913-94)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHING
The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle

LITURGIST
Emily Chapdelaine

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
Ryan Mann

COMMUNION SERVERS
Graeme Frazier, Buddy Storm, Jill Bown, and **William Murphy**

GREETERS
Graeme Frazier Elder
Becky Frazier and **Kelly Baughman** Deacons

MUSIC
Gallery Choir
Dr. Daniel Spratlan Conductor, Gallery Choir
Jeffrey DeVault Organist

USHERS
Kevin Raphael Team #1 Leader
Carolyn Manwaring, Emily McCahery, Ray McCahery, and **Sarah Wright**

FLOWER GUILD
All Team Members

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God.

MUSIC AND TEXTS Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-743217. All rights reserved. Prayers in the bulletin are from *The Worship Sourcebook, Baker Books, 2013*; *The Book of Common Worship, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018*; *Feasting on the World Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 1, Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.*

COVER ART *The Adoration of the Magi,* Edward Burne-Jones, 1894, wool and silk tapestry on cotton warp. Commissioned by Exeter College Oxford through Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co. (a decorative arts company) for the college chapel. *The Adoration of the Magi* was produced ten times, each with a different border; the version on our cover is the third version to be produced. Burne-Jones began the design as a watercolor, that was then enlarged photographically before being sent to the weavers. In the original watercolor only the figures and thatched manger were present, with the extensive foliage added later, to allow clarity and focus in the final image. Burne-Jones's history as a stained glass worker can be seen through his sharp use of color and edges to create depth and space in this work.

HAPPENING AT PCCH

PCCH WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Harris room. Our next meeting will be on January 7. The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle will lead the discussion, focusing on the biblical text for the upcoming Sunday's sermon, **Matthew 3:13-17.** All are welcome.

PCCH PRAYER GROUP
The Deacons host a prayer gathering right after worship on select Sundays. Our next prayer gathering is today, January 4. Find Nicolette Cobbold in Widener Hall to join.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Men's Fellowship meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The next Men's Fellowship meeting is Thursday, January 8 from 2-3:30 p.m. in the reception room. Please call Ron Rising at 203.206.7299 with any questions or concerns.

LADIES CIRCLE GROUP
If socializing, Bible Study and stimulating/lively discussions appeal to you, then you may want to join our group of great women to learn and share. We typically meet on the third Tuesday of every month (September through June) at 10 a.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 20. Please contact Taylor Slaughter, praetextum@gmail.com or 215.983.8561, with any questions.

SOULS SHOT PORTRAIT PROJECT OPENING RECEPTION
Join us Friday, January 16 at 7 p.m. in Widener Hall for the opening reception of the 2026 Souls Shot Portrait Project, highlighting and memorializing the lives lost, and tragically altered, due to gun violence.

WEEKEND OF SERVICE

MATTHEW 25

Saturday, January 17

service projects in the community | in the morning

Sunday, January 18

sandwich and casserole making | during coffee hour

sign up sheets coming soon!

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Date	Godly Play (age three—kindergarten)	Growing in God's Love (first—second grade)	Christian Studies (third—fifth grade)	Follow Me (sixth—eighth grade)
1/4	**Buddy Storm** and **Greg Dickinson**	**Rachelle Pretz** and **Dan Pretz**	stay in worship	stay in worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Our Sunday School program for children age three through grade five begins with a brief opening in the chapel. For more information about our Sunday School classes and children's music program please scan the QR code.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE
On Sunday evenings when our Confirmation class is meeting, Youth Group will meet from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please note that all middle school and high school youth, regardless of confirmation status, are welcome to come to Youth Group! Feel free to bring a friend! Please contact Kate Magid for more details.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MUSIC UPDATE
Joyful Noise, our Children's Choir (age three to grade five) will rehearse today from 11 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. in the chapel. Children will proceed directly from Sunday School to Joyful Noise and will be brought to their parents in Widener Hall after rehearsal. New singers and drop-ins are always welcome.

Youth Choir (grades six through twelve) will not rehearse today from 11:30 a.m. to12:15 p.m. to participate in a youth service project. New singers and drop-ins are always welcome.

CENTER ON THE HILL

If you have time in your day, we have something fun for you to do! Open Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. New Online content is posted Monday through Thursday at 12 p.m. on our programs page. Scan the QR Code for more information.

The Center on the Hill is closed Monday, December 22, 2025 through Friday, January 2, 2026 for the Holiday break. We will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2025

REGISTRATION FOR UPCOMING CLASSES AND EVENTS BEGINS MONDAY, JANUARY 5 AT 10 A.M.
Registration 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 to register.

STRONG BONES EXERCISE CLASS (*registration required*)
Tuesdays, January 6–February 10 (no class on 1/27), 1 p.m., $72 for a five week session
Clinical studies have proven that doing the right exercises, improving your balance, and making lifestyle changes are critical factors in building stronger bones. "Strong Bones" includes standing and floor exercises to improve postural alignment, balance, and strength. Bring your own mat, all other equipment is provided.

JANUARY ART SHOW: THE JOINED HANDS ARTISTS COLLECTIVE *(registration required)*
Meet the Artist Reception: Friday, January 9, 3 p.m.
The Joined Hands Artists Collective are Quaker and Quaker-friendly artists who create through various mediums: fiber arts, painting, photography, ceramics, mixed-media, book and literary arts. Their collective meets monthly to share current works, teach skills, and attend events.

AGING IN PLACE GROUP *(registration required)*
Thursday, January 8, 2:15 p.m., free
Join this fun and informative social group of adults like you, healthy aging in place. Share ideas, tips, tricks, thoughts, and concerns that come up in your daily lives. Discuss your insights and observations about the world around you in a welcoming environment. Find support, friendship, and helpful information in this group lead by Megan Do Nascimento, the wellness coordinator at Awbury Arboretum in East Mt. Airy.

FORUM ON THE HILL—JIM MURPHY: REAL PHILLY HISTORY, REAL FAST *(registration required)*
January 15, 11:30 a.m., $5 requested donation
Longtime resident of Philadelphia, Jim Murphy does frequent in-person and online presentations on "The Amazing Success of William Penn." A copywriter and former creative director Jim has owned his own marketing/communications business since 2004, and was the editor of *Choices*, an award-winning magazine published by the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union. He has been researching Philadelphia history since 2010. Find out what Jim Murphy learned during the eleven years spent writing his popular book "Real Philly History, Real Fast."

Happening Here This Week

SUNDAY, January 4	**Lord's Supper**
Worship	sanctuary, 10 a.m.
Church School	Strouse, 10:20 a.m.
Fellowship	Widener, 11 a.m.
Youth service project	kitchen, 11 a.m.
Joyful Noise	Strouse, 11:10 a.m.
Youth Group	Harris, 6 p.m.
Confirmation class	Harris, 7 p.m.
MONDAY, January 5	
Sketching and Watercolor class	room 1&2, 9:30 a.m.
Tai Chi Private Practice group	room 3&4, 10:15 a.m.
Table Games open play	room 5, 12 p.m.
WaterMedia Level Two class	room 1&2, 1:30 p.m.
Qigong class	Harris, 2 p.m.
Philomusica rehearsal	Widener, 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, January 6	
Sketching and Watercolor class	room 1&2, 9:30 a.m.
Meditation Practice group	room 4, 9:30 a.m.
Mah Jongg open play	room 5, 12:30 p.m.
Strong Bones class	Widener, 1 p.m.
Strong Bones class	Widener, 2:15 p.m.
American Dance Wheel rehearsal	Widener, 4 p.m.
Deacon meeting	Harris, 6:30 p.m.
Royal Scottish Dancers rehearsal	chapel, 7 p.m.
PWMP rehearsal	Widener, 7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, January 7	
Tai Chi class	Widener, 10 a.m.
Rummy Tiles open play	room 5, 10:30 a.m.
PCCH Bible Study class	Harris, 10:30 a.m.
Tai Chi class	Widener, 11:15 a.m.
Bridge open play	room 5, 11:30 a.m.
Golden Yoga class	Widener, 3 p.m.
Social Witness Committee meeting	Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, January 8

Qigong class	Harris, 9 a.m.
Painters group	room 1&2, 9:30 a.m.
Mah Jongg group	room 5, 1:30 p.m.
French Conversation group	room 1&2, 1:30 p.m.
Alzheimer's Support group	room 4, 2 p.m.
Aging in Place group	Harris 2:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, January 9

Yoga with Attitude class	Harris, 9:45 a.m.
Scrabble Play group	room 5, 10 a.m.
Yoga, A Chair and You class	Harris, 11:30 a.m.
International Folk Dancing class	room 3&4, 12:30 p.m.
January Art Show Meet and Greet	COTH Hallway, 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, January 10

Building cleaned

SUNDAY, January 11

Worship	sanctuary, 10 a.m.
Church School	Strouse, 10:20 a.m.
Fellowship	Widener, 11 a.m.
Joyful Noise rehearsal	Strouse or sanctuary, 11:10 a.m.
Youth Choir	Stouse, 12 p.m.
Youth Group	Harris, 6 p.m.
Confirmation Class	Harris 7 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

Jill Bown
Rebecca DePasquale
Gregory Dickinson
Jack Evans
Graeme Frazier
Kelley Garner-DiCesare
Melissa Montgomery
William Murphy
Elizabeth Podraza
Jeannette Quirus
Dominick Rebeck
Diana Rodgers
Harry Spaeth
James Spause
Margaret R. Spencer
William Storm
Tennyson Tippy
Clarke Woodruff

BOARD OF DEACONS

Kelly Baughman
Mark Bernstein
Stephen Bishop
Sue Brunell
Nicolette Cobbold
Debby Evans
Becky Frazier
Ann Goslin
Kristin Lawton
Emily McCahery
Jane McGill
Laura Messenger
Thanice Petrak
Rachelle Pret
Amy Raphael
Sharyn Walker
Sarah Wright
Beth Wrigley

Church Staff

The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle Senior Minister and Head of Staff
Emily Chapdelaine Interim Director of Congregational Life
The Rev. Cynthia A. Jarvis Pastor Emerita
Dr. Daniel Spratlan Director of Music
Jeffrey DeVault Organist and Associate Director of Music
Dr. Julie Snyder Director, Children's Education, 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
Mary Frommer Office and Media Coordinator
Felix Delgado Full Time Sexton
Nakeem Coleman Part Time Sexton
Debbie Lambeth Sunday Child Care Giver

PCCH links and online giving options

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation

PCCH is a Matthew 25 Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are committed to building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. Scan the QR code to learn more.

Contact PCCH

Church office	215.247.8855
Preschool	215.247.8865
Center on the Hill	215.247.4654

info@chestnuthillpres.org
chestnuthillpres.org
PCCHestnuthill
chestnuthillpres.org/live