The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill

an inclusive community of faith

Sunday, November 29, 2026
10 a.m.
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



8855 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118

WELCOME!

Whether you're a first time guest or a long time member, we are grateful for your presence with us. There is 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 conversation low.

CONTACT
If you would 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 Senior Minister and Head of Staff, Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle. With pastoral care concerns, please contact Associate Minister of Congregational Life, Rev. Emily Chapdelaine.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

INTROIT *Advent Introit* Iain Quinn (b. 1973)

Our King and Savior draws near;
Come let us adore him.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be; Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: The world says, "All is lost."
People: God says, "All is loved."
Leader: The darkness says, "The light is dying."
People: The light says, "The fire is catching."
Leader: Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."
People: Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."
Leader: As we light our first Advent candle,
People: we pray for the holy hope of God.
Leader: Come now, O Child of Mary.
People: Come now, O Prince of Hope.

***HYMN 2** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

**please stand if you are able*

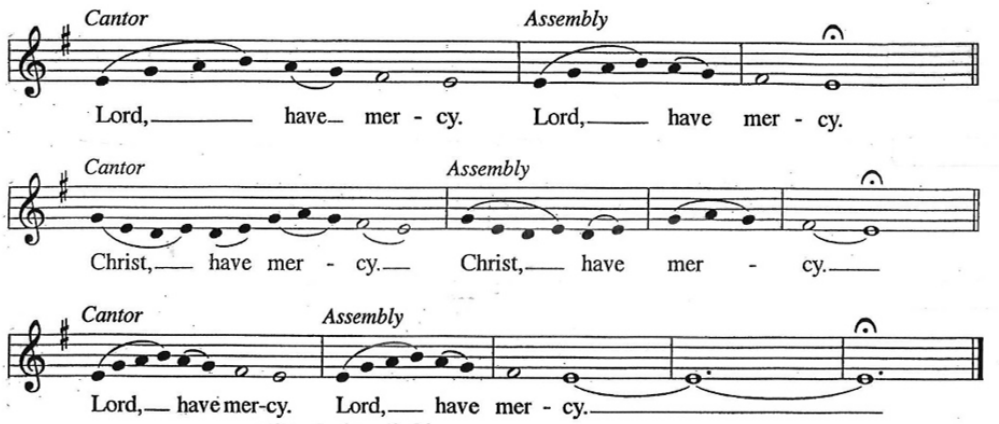
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE ELEISON

Richard Prolux
(1937-2010)



PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

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

*GLORIA PATRI

Regent Square
(Hymn 417)

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

**Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

PSALM 80:1-6, 17 PLAINSONG

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT AND DISMISSAL

Children through eighth grade depart for church school in the Strouse building.
Joyful Noise will meet in the chapel from 11 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.
Parents, your children will be brought to you in Widener Hall.
Youth Choir will meet in the chapel from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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 Mark 13:24-37

"But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

SERMON *Prepare Your Heart to Welcome Hope* Ellen Williams Hensle

"So also, when you see these things taking place,
you know that he is near, at the very gates. " -Mark 13:29

***HYMN 4** *Creator of the Stars of Night* Conditor Alme Siderum

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Confession of 1967

The risen Christ is the savior of all people.
Those joined to him by faith are set right with God
and commissioned to serve as God's reconciling community.
Christ is head of this community, the church,
which began with the apostles and continues through all generations.
The same Jesus Christ is the judge of all people.
His judgment discloses the ultimate seriousness of life
and gives promise of God's final victory over the power of sin and death.
To receive life from the risen Lord is to have life eternal;
to refuse life from him is to choose the death which is separation from God.
All who put their trust in Christ face divine judgment without fear,
for the judge is their redeemer.

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, for ever. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

John Stainer
(1840-1901)

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings,
that publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation;
that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

*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 THANKSGIVING** *(unison)*

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray.
All: Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place, until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts, and increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN 12** *People, Look East* BESANÇON

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Lord God, you no have set your servant free
to go in peace as promised in your word;
my eyes have seen the savior, Christ the Lord,
prepared by you for all the world to see,
to shine on nations trapped in darkest night,
the glory of your people, and their light.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us* Paul Manz (1919-2009)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHING
The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle

LITURGISTS
The Rev. Emily Chapdelaine

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTERS
The Rising Family

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
Dr. Julie Snyder

MUSIC
PCCH Gallery Choir
Jeffrey DeVault Organist and Associate Director of Music

GREETERS
William Murphy and **Elizabeth Podraza** Elders
Sue Brunell and **Troy Foxworth** Deacons

USHERS
Dom Rebeck Team #3 Leader
Peter Cooke, Douglas Olson, Tom Hensle, Jeannette Quirus, and **John Quirus**

FLOWER GUILD
Sandy Sherwood, Maddie Dickinson, and **Diane Cornely**

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY
are given to the glory of God and in honor of **Sylvia Raphael, Robert Raphael, Jr., Thomas R. Kidd, Jr.,** and **all the departed loved ones** of **Kevin** and **Amy Raphael**.

MUSIC AND TEXT
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Prayers in the bulletin are fromThe Book of Common Worship, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018; Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 1, Westminster John Knox Press, 2013; Call to Worship Lectionary Companion, Year B, 2020-2021, PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship.

COVER ART
By Lamp Light, Harriet Backer, 1890, oil on canvas. "Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly." -Mark 13:35-36

HAPPENING AT PCCH

ACHIEVEABILITY TOY DRIVE

Help brighten the holidays by providing gifts to children in West Philadelphia. This year PCCH is committed to providing gifts for sixty children through ACHIEVEability. Sign up to fulfill a child's wish during coffee hour today, November 29. ACHIEVEability requests that you spend $50 per child. Gifts should be placed under the Christmas Tree in Widener Hall or next to the stage if the tree is not up yet. All gifts must be dropped off by Sunday, December 6, 2025 and should be wrapped and labeled with the child's name and child ID. Please contact Beth Vaccaro, 215.764.7213 or bethnellvaccaro@gmail.com, with any questions.

MILNER ARCHITECT MEETING—CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY

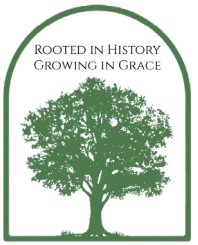
We want to know what you want! Join us on Sunday, December 6 at 11:30 a.m. for an important information-gathering meeting with Milner Architects. Bring your thoughts, observations and wishes for how our building could better serve our Children's and Youth ministries. Youth in grade six and up are invited to attend, and childcare will be provided for those in grade five and below.

MISSION GIVING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Our congregation is proud to provide financial support for a number of local mission partners. These organizations provide food, shelter, guidance, support, and more to our neighbors around the region. Our year-end gifts help our partners sustain their vitally important work, and help us to fulfill our commitment as a Matthew 25 congregation, seeing the face of Jesus in the faces of our neighbors in need. If you would like to help us increase our support of partner organizations at the end of this year that has been difficult for so many, please write a check to PCCH with "Mission Giving" in the memo line, or choose "Mission Giving" from the fund dropdown menu on Church Center.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Saints of PCCH: Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge for 2027! If you have not yet made a pledge, you can mail your pledge card to the church, drop it in the offering plate during worship, or simply email our Church Administrator Rachel Cline. We encourage those who made a pledge for 2026 to fulfill it before December 31. Online gifts should be made via Planning Center. Contact Rachel Cline with questions.



Bible Study	Women's Circle	Men's Fellowship	Theology on Tap
December 2, 10:30 a.m. Harris Room	December 15, 10 a.m. Reception Room	December 3, 2 p.m. Reception Room	December 17, 7:30 p.m. The Stotesbury
Ellen Williams Hensle Mark 1:1-8	Taylor Slaughter praetextem@gmail.com	Ron Rising 203.206.7299	Emily Chapdelaine 812 E Willow Grove Ave



Breakfast
With Santa

Saturday, December 5

Seating opens at 10 a.m.

Families
$40 in advance
$50 at the door

Adults
$15 in advance
$20 at the door

Children
$10 in advance
$15 at the door

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Date	Godly Play (age three—kindergarten)	Growing in God's Love (first—second grade)	Christian Studies (third—fifth grade)	Follow Me (sixth—eighth grade)
11/29	**Buddy Storm** and **Zach Cline**	**Mallory Becker** and **Vincent Rota**	**Anna Storm** and **Linnea Johnson**	**Emily Chapdelaine**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School program (for children age three through grade five) begins with a brief opening in the chapel, after which the children are divided by age into three classes. For more information about our Sunday School classes and children's music programs, please scan the QR code.

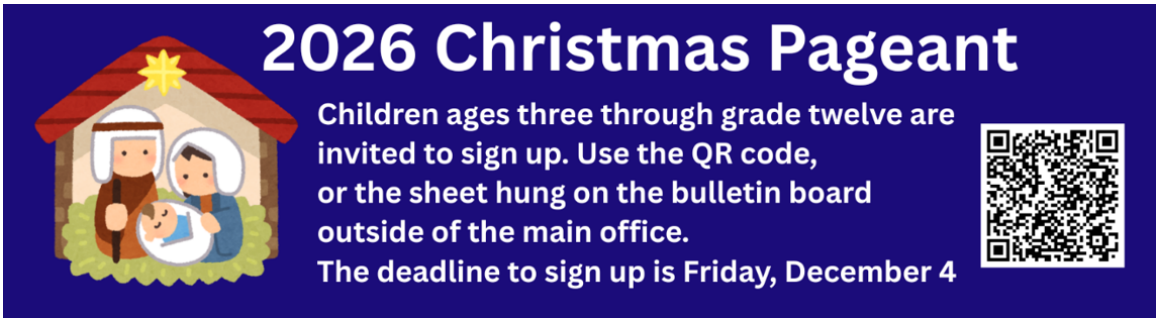
YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Youth Group will meet tonight from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Service Sundays are scheduled for the third Sunday of the month. All youth grades six through twelve are welcome at these, and special youth events, whether their families are members or not! Please contact the Rev. Emily Chapdelaine with any questions.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MUSIC UPDATE

Joyful Noise, our Children's Choir (age three through grade five) will rehearse today from 11 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. in the chapel. New singers and drop-ins are always welcome.

Youth Choir (grades six through twelve) will rehearse today from 11:40 a.m. to 12:30 p.m in the chapel. Youth Choir typically does not meet on the third Sunday of each month to engage in community service with the Youth Group. 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 through 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 informaiton.

The Center on the Hill will be closed Thursday, November 26 through Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will reopen for regular hours on Monday, November 30.

Upcoming Classes and Events
Registration for Fall activities and classes is open. Registration is required for all activities and classes. Call 215.247.4654 or email msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org to register.

SUPPORT THE CENTER ON THE HILL!
This season we are asking you to help make it possible for us to continue offering our excellent programming at little or no cost to our participants. Any amount you can give today will help with some of the ever-increasing programming costs and ensure we can continue to offer the excellent activities you have come to expect. $20 would help us offer cooking classes and lectures at a minimal rate. $50 would enable us to have art activities and luncheons at an affordable price. $100 makes it possible to schedule special events and bus trips to destinations of interest around the region without having to pass the full cost down to those attending!

To donate:
by credit card—scan the QR Code or visit: https://tinyurl.com/COTHdonation.
by check—write your check to "PCCH" with COTH Donation" written in the memo line. Checks should be mailed to: The Center on the Hill, 8855 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19118.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

HEALTHY HOLIDAY COOKING
Thursday, December 3, 11 a.m., *$10*
Learn how to make sweet and savory recipes for your next holiday dinner or get together. You'll learn how to make Spinach and Feta stuffed mushrooms along with a Mixed Berry Crisp in this fun interactive class. You will also get to sample these delicious dishes as well!

NW PHILLY ARTISTS HOLIDAY SHOW AND MARKETPLACE OPENING RECEPTION
Friday, December 4, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., *free*
Original paintings, photography, drawings, greeting cards, jewelry, hand crafted candles, ceramic mugs and more by the center's own NW Philly Artists will be on display and for sale. A reception on Friday, December 4, including delicious, homemade treats will create a festive gathering sure to provide holiday fun and a unique shopping experience. This exhibit and sale is open December 4 through December 18, Mondays through Saturdays 10 a.m to 4 p.m. No appointment needed.

HAPPENING HERE THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, November 29	**First Sunday of Advent**
Fellowship	Widener, 11 a.m.
MONDAY, November 30	
Sketching and Watercolor class	room 1&2, 10 a.m.
Tai Chi group	room 3&4, 10:15 a.m.
Table Games—open play	room 5, 12 p.m.
Trivia game	Harris, 1 p.m.
WaterMedia Level Two class	room 1&2, 1:30 p.m.
Qigong class	room 3&4, 2 p.m.
TUESDAY, December 1	
Meditation Practice group	Harris, 9:30 a.m.
Sketching and Watercolors class	room 1&2, 10 a.m.
Mah Jongg—open play	room 5, 12:30 p.m.
Healthy Bones class	Widener, 1 p.m.
Voices of Route 66 talk	Harris, 1:30 p.m.
Healthy Bones class	Widener, 2:15 p.m.
Deacons' meeting	Harris, 6:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, December 2	
Beginning Tai Chi class	Widener, 10 a.m.
PCCH Bible Study	Harris, 10:30 a.m.
Rummy Tiles—open play	room 5, 10:30 a.m.
Continuing Tai Chi class	Widener, 11:15 a.m.
Bridge—open play	room 1&2, 11:30 a.m.
Intermediate Tai Chi class	Widener, 12:30 p.m.
Staff meeting	reception, 1 p.m.
Intro to Interior Design class	Harris, 1:30 p.m.
Golden Yoga class	Widener, 3 p.m.
Ping Pong—open play	Strouse, 3:15 p.m.
Social Witness Committee meeting	room 1&2, 7:30 p.m.
AA meeting	Harris, 8 p.m.
THURSDAY, December 3	
Qigong class	Harris, 9 a.m.
Painters group	room 1&2, 9:30 a.m.
Healthy Holiday Cooking class	Kitchen, 11 a.m.
Movement class	room 3&4, 11 a.m.
French Conversation group	room 1&2, 1:30 p.m.
Mah Jongg MLE group	room 5, 1:30 p.m.

Men's Fellowship group	reception, 2 p.m.
Aging in Place group	Harris, 2:15 p.m.
FRIDAY, December 4	**Pageant Sign Up Deadline**
Yoga with Attitude class	Harris, 9:45 a.m.
Scrabble—open play	room 5, 10 a.m.
Yoga, A Chair, and You class	Harris, 11:30 a.m.
International Folk Dancing class	room 3&4, 11:10 a.m.
December Art Show and Sale reception	COTH Hallway, 4 p.m.
Sober and Out meeting	Harris, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY, December 5	
Breakfast with Santa	Widener, 10 a.m.
Piffaro concert	Sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, December 6	
Worship	sanctuary, 10 a.m.
Fellowship	Widener, 11 a.m.
Milner Architect Meeting—Children and Youth Mininsty	room 3&4, 11:30 a.m.

The Colors of Advent

As we move through the church year, liturgical colors orient us to the season and engage our sense of sight in worship. We use red at Pentecost for the fire of the Holy Spirit, white and gold to celebrate the joy of Christmas and Easter, and green for the growth that comes in Ordinary Time. This year we are joining many other churches in moving to blue for Advent. Blue represents the color of the predawn sky and inspires us to look for the promised light of Christ, which comes to change the night into day. Further, using blue for Advent differentiates this season of expectation from the season of Lent, when we use purple to symbolize penitence. You will also notice a pink candle in the Advent wreath. The pink candle is for the third Sunday of Advent, when we celebrate Christ coming into the world to bring us JOY! This tradition is known as Gaudete Sunday (gaudete means "rejoice!" in Latin) and is shared by Christians across denominations.



Friends,

While I am only beginning my fourth week at Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, the dedicated support of PCCH is very clear to see! In the new year, after the Advent and Christmas seasons, I look forward to meeting your congregation and getting to further connect with your generous spirits. Until then, please know of my sincere gratitude for your goodness to our mission and our neighbors.

Over the course of four days last week, our team assembled more than 300 Thanksgiving baskets to distribute, which was largely made possible due to your generosity! Over firty-five volunteers came to assist us in unloading donations, packing baskets, and distributing them to our community, fourteen of them from PCCH. If you are interested in partnering with us in the future, please email info@crisisministry.org – we would love to have you join us!

Amid the busyness of the holiday season, there are three simple ways you can support GACM:

- Keep an eye out for our end-of-year annual appeal: coming the first week of December, which will be shared via social media and email.
- Follow us on social media: we want to increase our following to reach more people and widen our network of partners in mission. Facebook: @gacmphilly /Instagram: germantownavenuecrisisministry
- Help us update our records: we are in the process of updating our data management system, so we want to collect accurate contact information of folks who want to be connected to our mission. Scan the QR code to complete the quick contact form.

May this Advent season whisper new graces to your hearts, and may you rest assured of our gratitude at GACM for you. I look forward to meeting you in 2027!

Peace,
Olivia Sharkey
Executive Director
Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry



Christmas Flowers

A MEANINGFUL WAY TO REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE

During the Christmas season our sanctuary will be filled with beautiful flowers and greenery. We invite you to make a donation in support of the Christmas Flower Fund.



With your gift you can:

- Remember loved ones
- celebrate a birth, anniversary, union or other special event
- offer thanksgiving for those who are special to you
- honor our PCCH programs

The names of those to be honored will be listed in the bulletins on Christmas Eve and the Sunday after Christmas.

If you would like to make a donation of flowers in the name of someone special, please complete this form and return to the church office no later than Sunday, December 20.

Name(s) of contributor(s)

_____

Please Select One:

- ☐ In loving memory of
- ☐ In honor of
- ☐ With thanks for

Names of those to include in the bulletins:

_____

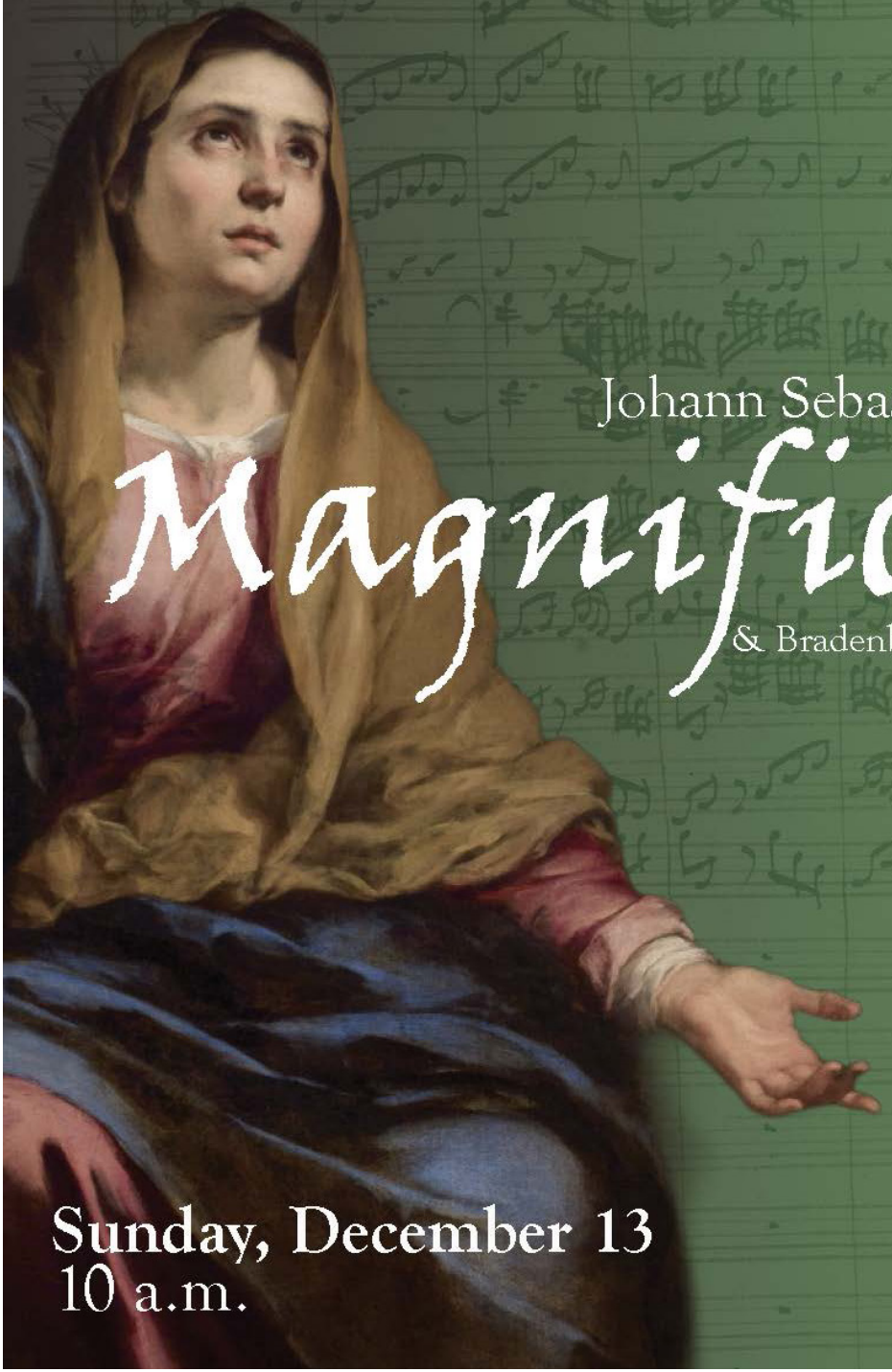
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Suggested minimum donation is $40. Payments made by check should be made payable to "PCCH" with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line.

Cantatas & Chamber Music

presents



Johann Sebastian Bach's

Magnificat

& Bradenburg Concerto #3

Sunday, December 13
10 a.m.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle Senior Minister and Head of Staff
The Rev. Emily Chapdelaine Associate Minister of Congregational Life
Dr. Daniel Spratlan Director, Music
Jeffrey DeVault Organist and Associate Director of Music
Dr. Julie Snyder Director, Children's Education, Joyful Noise, and Youth Choir
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
The Rev. Cynthia A. Jarvis Pastor Emerita

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	info@chestnuthillpres.org
Preschool	215.247.8865	chestnuthillpres.org
Center on the Hill	215.247.4654	chestnuthillpres.org/live