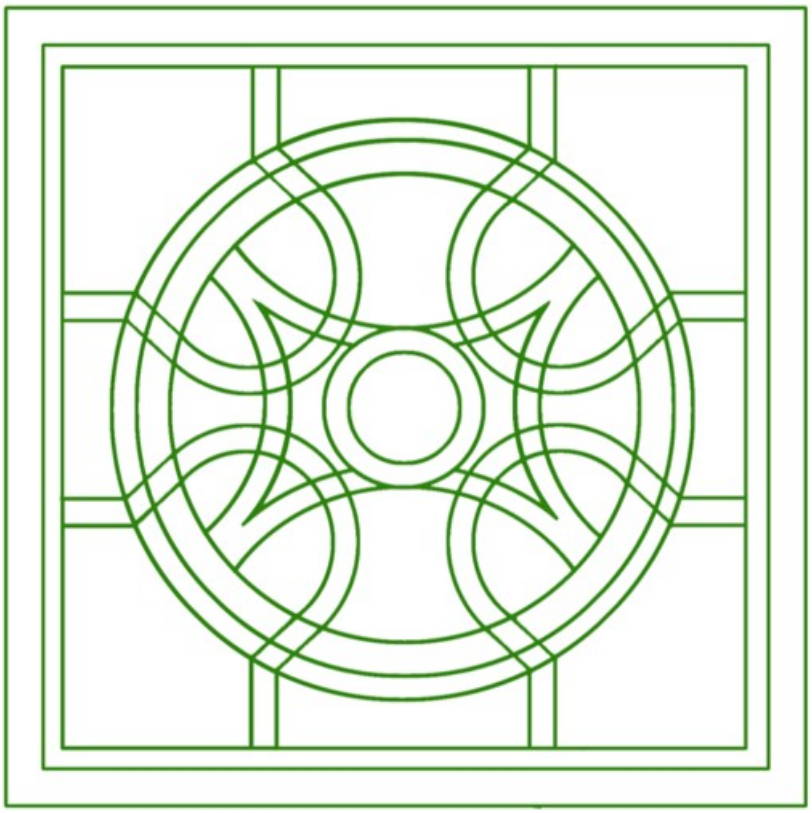
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL

An inclusive community of faith

Sunday, August 23, 2026
10 a.m.
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



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 downstairs in the Center on the Hill.

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. With pastoral care concerns or prayer requests, please contact the Rev. Emily Chapdelaine.

Order of Worship

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Flower Duet* from *Lakmé* — Léo Delibes (1836-91)

INTROIT *Spring Carol* from *A Ceremony of Cards* — Benjamin Britten (1913-76)

Pleasure it is
To hear, iwis
The Birdès sing
The deer in the dale
The sheep in the vale
The corn springing
God's purveyance
For sustenance
It is for man
Then we always
To give him praise
And thank him than
And thank him than

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.
People: We gather, alive to the Word of God.
Leader: You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant,
ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength and mind.
People: We listen, alive to the Word of God.
Leader: You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom,
sometimes startling and unexpected,
something still and quiet, but always dwelling among us.
People: We watch and wait for the Word of God.

***HYMN 446** *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* — AUSTRIAN HYMN

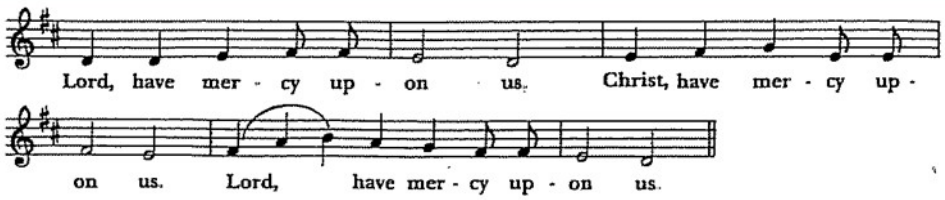
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"
People: We call you the Son of the Living God,
but we do not trust you to be at work
in our world here and now.
Leader: Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"
People: You are the Messiah,
who delivers us from death to life.
But we doubt your power to transform our lives.
Leader: Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"
People: We profess you are the Christ, the Lord of our lives.
But our attention often wanders and our loyalty is tested.
Forgive us.
Help us not only to proclaim you as Lord,
but to follow your way of justice and peace. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE ELEISON

Healey Willan
(1880-1968)



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

Lord God, you have declared
that your kingdom is among us.
Open our eyes to see it,
our ears to hear it,
our hearts to hold it,
our hands to serve it.
In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the Lord.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

PSALM 138: 1-2, 4, 7-9 Plainchant

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
Before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
Because of your love and faithfulness.

When I called, you answered me;
You increased my strength within me.

Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly;
He perceives the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
You stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
Your right hand shall save me.

The Lord will make good his purpose for me;
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
Do not abandon the works of your hands.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Leon Charles Chapdelaine
son of the Reverends Emily and Andrew Chapdelaine.

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL

Children depart for church school in Widener Hall.
Joyful Noise will meet today from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Widener Hall.
Parents, your children will meet you in the hallway outside of
Widener Hall when rehearsal concludes.

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 16:13-28

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

SERMON Ellen Williams Hensle

***HYMN 356** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON

***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.

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Laudamus Te* Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Laudamus te, benedicimus te,	We praise you, we bless you
Adoramus te, glorificamus te.	We adore you, we glorify you.

***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: Gracious God, we thank you for the measure of faith you have given to each of us. Increase in us generosity, compassion, and prophetic courage so that we may continue to be your body in and for the world. With thanksgiving we pray in the name of Christ; Amen.

***HYMN 421** *The Church of Christ in Every Age* WAREHAM

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Fugue on the Kyrie* François Couperin (1668-1733)

Leading Worship today

PREACHING
The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle

LITURGIST
Dr. William "Buddy" Storm

MUSIC
Katy Avery and **Rebecca Siler** Sopranos
Jeffrey DeVault Organist

GREETERS
Jack Evans and **Graeme Frazier** Elders
Debby Evans and **Stephen Bishop** Deacons

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

FLOWER GUILD
Barbara Olson and **Grace Stewart**

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God and in honor of **Mildred S. Owen, Harris A. Carr,** and **Timothy A. Carr by Emilie H. Carr.**

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HAPPENING AT PCCH

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUMMER MISSION PROJECT
Our Children's Ministry is collecting hygiene and household items for the Nationalities Service Center. **The following items will be collected through August 30:** Full size shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, laundry detergent, and Clorox wipes.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
The Session has called a very brief congregational meeting to follow worship today, for the purpose of electing Rebecca Bernstein to fill the remaining two years of a vacated term on Session.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JOAN TORELLO
Please join us at Normandy Farms on Friday, August 28, at 2 p.m. for a memorial service celebrating the life of Joan Torello.

LABOR DAY HOURS
The PCCH offices and Center on the Hill will be closed on Monday, September 7 in recognition of Labor Day. We will reopen for regular office hours on Tuesday, September 8.

SAVE THE DATE: THE PCCH HOMECOMING PICNIC IS COMING!
Join us on Sunday, September 13 as we kick off the 2026-27 program year with our annual Homecoming Picnic, on the front lawn. Bring your favorite side dish, salad or dessert to share. Use the QR Code to volunteer with setup or clean up!

THANK YOU!—FROM THE SOCIAL WITNESS COMMITTEE!
The Social Witness Committee is very grateful for your support of our back to school backpack drive for AchieveAbility. We filled sixty backpacks with all the supplies for high school and middle school students to get started on the right foot for a great school year. Your donations and help in packing the backpacks is greatly appreciated. The AchieveAbility staff was very impressed and pleased with the quality of the backpacks we provided. Well done!

BIBLE STUDY	LADIES CIRCLE	MEN'S FELLOWSHIP	THEOLOGY ON TAP
September 2, 10:30 a.m. Harris Room Rev. Emily Chapdelaine Ezekiel 33:1-11	Will resume in September	September 3, 2 p.m. Reception Room Ron Rising 203.206.7299	Will resume in September

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Date	SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS
08/23	**Mallory Becker, Vincent Rota** and **Dr. Julie Snyder**

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Our Summer Sunday School program (children age three through rising sixth graders) will take place in our air conditioned Chapel. We will meet until 11:30 a.m. each week.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE
Our Youth Group programming will resume in September. Have a great rest of your summer!

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MUSIC UPDATE
Youth Choir (grades six through twelve) will be on summer break until September. Joyful Noise (our children's choir age three to grade five) will rehearse as part of Sunday School.

IT'S COOL IN THE FURNACE

PCCH Summer Children's Ministry

Join us as we study the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, rehearse and perform the children's musical *It's Cool in the Furnace*, and explore the many ways that immigrants have contributed and continue to contribute to our communities. Mark your calendar for our performance on Sunday, August 30 during worship!

It's Cool In The Furnace Rehearsal Schedule

August 23—Full dress rehearsal.
We appreciate your child's attendance at as many rehearsals as possible.

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 information.

The Center on the Hill will be closed August 24 through August 28 for summer break.

Upcoming classes and events

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.

AGING IN PLACE GROUP (*registration required)*

First Thursday of the month, beginning September 3, 2:15 p.m., *free*

Join us for this fun and informative social group of adults like you, healthy aging in place. Join the conversation and 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.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING (*registration required)*

Fridays, ongoing, 12 p.m., *$70 for ten sessions, $8 per session walk-in, first visit is free*

Start your weekend right! Enjoy learning folk dances from the Balkans, Greece, France, the British-Isles, and beyond. No partner needed, as most dances are done in lines and circles. There is always a mix of teaching and "just dancing" and is a great place for beginners to pick up the basics in a super friendly group. For more details about our Friday folk dance session, contact Anne Ehrhart at anne.ehrhart@gmail.com

SCRABBLE: OPEN PLAY (*registration required)*

Fridays, ongoing, 10 a.m., *$2*

Do you love to play board games? Are you a great speller or want to be a great speller? Then join in on this classic crossword game that is full-on fun. You can feel the excitement begin as soon as you rack up your letters, choose a great word, and hope to land on a triple-word score. Scrabble game provided.

BRIDGE: OPEN PLAY (*registration required)*

Wednesdays, ongoing, 11:30 a.m., *$2*

This is an opportunity to simply enjoy others' company and play the game of Party Bridge. Not for beginners: participants should be familiar enough with the game to play without formal instruction.

Happening Here This Week

SUNDAY, August 23	
Church School	Widener, 10:20 a.m.
Congregational meeting	sanctuary, 11 a.m.
Fellowship	Center on the Hill, 11 a.m.
Joyful Noise rehearsal	Widener, 11 a.m.
MONDAY, August 24	**COTH Closed**
Organ practice	sanctuary, 9 a.m.
TUESDAY, August 25	**COTH Closed**
District Scouts meeting	room 5, 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, August 26	**COTH Closed**
Rotary Club meeting	Widener, 7:30 a.m.
Staff meeting	reception, 1 p.m.
AA meeting	Harris, 8 p.m.
THURSDAY, August 27	**COTH Closed**
Organ practice	sanctuary, 3 p.m.
Scout Board of Review meeting	Harris, 6 p.m.
FRIDAY, August 28	**COTH Closed**
Sober and Out group	Harris, 7 p.m.
SUNDAY, August 30	
Worship	Widener, 10 a.m.
Church School	Strouse, 10:20 a.m.
Fellowship	Widener, 11 a.m.
Joyful Noise rehearsal	chapel, 11 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 of 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
Debbie Lambeth Sunday Child Care Giver
The Rev. Cynthia A. Jarvis Pastor Emerita

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