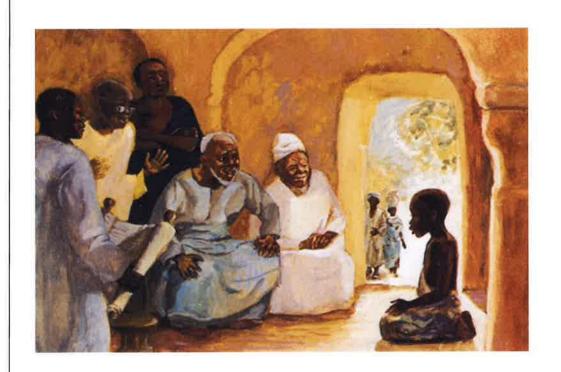
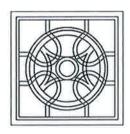
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL

An inclusive community of faith

Sunday, December 26, 2021 10:00 a.m.
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS





8855 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill! Whether you're a first-time guest or a long-time member, we are grateful for your presence. There's a place for you here!

See an usher for hearing devices or large-print bulletins.

Nursery care for infants through age 2 is available in the Strouse building – ask an usher for assistance. Children age 3 and older depart from worship for church school.

We encourage you to fill out the black fellowship pads in the pews, to help us to get to know all who've shared worship with us today.

All are invited for refreshments and fellowship immediately following the service on the south lawn (weather permitting).

We send regular email updates about worship, church life, and other events. Please contact the church office if you'd like to receive them.

Please silence all electronic devices.

Find more information about PCCH on page 14.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart.

-Howard Thurman

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Noël

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

INTROIT

arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Ding dong! Merrily on high, in heav'n the bells are ringing: Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, and "Io, io, io!" By priest and people sungen. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:

We will indeed praise you, O God,

our lives are placed firmly in you.

and tell of your works in us and for us.

People:

For your mercy and grace shall endure forever.

Leader:

As we obey your commandments and abide in your wisdom,

People:

we shall proclaim to the nations how you can be trusted.

Leader:

Upheld by the covenant you established with us

and the gift of Christ, Immanuel, God with us,

People:

We enter your presence to give you all glory.

*HYMN 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God who notices—you see when nobody else realizes we are missing. When we creep away from what we should be doing, or wander far from those who need us, you see us with eyes of love, even when we make you weep. You see us with a heart that loves, even when we break it. We are sorry for ways we cause you concern as our parent. On this day, Jesus was found sitting, listening and learning. Yet, more often we are found sitting grumbling, or arguing or fighting, or wasteful or worrying. Forgive us and help us be free to sit at your feet, to learn from your word, to find our lives renewed. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

Thomas Juneau (b. 1977)



Choir Lord, have mercy.



Choir Christ, have mercy.



Choir Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

All repeat Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

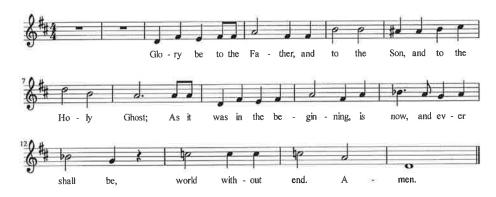
Leader:

Friends, believe the good news.

People:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*GLORIA PATRI Juneau



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

As we prepare to hear your word, O God, may we hear it afresh through the Holy Spirit—who seeks to plant the living word deep within us—so we may grow to maturity as followers of Jesus Christ—who prays for us—and for our world. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

I Samuel 2:18-20, 26 (p. 246)

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord;" and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

Leader:

Holy wisdom, holy word.

People:

Thanks be to God.

PSALTER Psalm 148 PLAINSONG

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you angels of his; Praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke: 2:41-52 (p. 59)

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Leader:

Holy wisdom, holy word.

People:

Thanks be to God.

Faith from an Early Age

Roberta Kearney

SERMON

*HYMN 46

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

PERSONENT HODIE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison, I John 1:1-4)

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—his life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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

arr. Wilcocks

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Infant King

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now recling, Sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Angels are watching, stars are shining Over the place where he is lying: Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, Sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Soon will come sorrow with the morning, Soon will come bitter grief and weeping: Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-dozing, Sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing, Then in the grave at last reposing: Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby is the babe awaking? Sing lullaby! Hush, do not stir the Infant King. Dreaming of Easter, gladsome, morning, Conquering death, its bondage breaking: Sing lullaby!

*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

Leader:

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

People: Leader:

Let us pray.

All:

Jesus, child of God and child with human parents, we thank you for helping us to grow in wisdom both by listening and by asking questions. Thank you for helping us to encounter you in both your glory and in your humanity. Gracious God, we thank you for the home in which Jesus grew from a baby to adulthood under the loving care of his parents, Mary and Joseph. Help us embrace our responsibility to help children grow in body and wisdom, gaining favor with you and all people. Bless us and the gifts we give; multiply your blessings for the sake of the world you love. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 49

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

*BENEDICTION

Wilcocks

God rest you merry gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay, For Jesus Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas Day, To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray: O tidings of comfort and joy.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Trumpet Tune

Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHING

Roberta J. Kearney

LITURGIST

Brian Russo

MUSIC

Quartet: Rebecca Siler, Heidi Kurtz, Steve Williamson and Daniel Spratlan Ken Lovett Conductor and Organist

GREETERS

Kate Houstoun and Jim Lutz Elders Lyn Huertgen and Kristin Lawton Deacons

USHERS

Mike Baughman Team#2 Leader, Jim Burns, Jason Jones and Barbara Olson

FLOWER GUILD

Thank you to all of the members of the Flower Guild.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH-See Christmas Flower Memorials

COVER ART

Jesus Mafa. Jesus among the teachers, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

Music and texts reprinted and performed with permission. CCLI copyright license #3140916; streaming license #4387474

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

In Memory Of

Given By

Our parents

Martha and Will Agate

Departed Loved Ones

Anonymous

Margaret Friel

Mark, Rebecca, Frances and

Taylor Bernstein

Peter and Jim Van Blarcom and

Tom and Lisa Butler

George Butler

Loved ones

Ann Carr

Mildred S. Owen and Harris A. Carr

Emilie H. Carr

Our parents and grandparents, brother, Joel and sister, Betty Jean William and Susan Cobb

Loved ones

The Connelly family

Peg Skinner

Allison and Roy DeCaro

Robert and Nancy Innes and

Jane Beatrice Finbow

Their loving family

Terry Frazier

Barbara Frazier

Loved ones

Graeme and Becky Frazier

Dr. Spurgeon S. Johns, Jr.

Barbara Johns

Thomas N. Lawton and Walter and

John and Kristin Lawton

Beverly Dorer

The Lutz family

Andras Csizmadia and Jeanne Lutz

Diane and Bill Murphy

Our parents: Mr. and Mrs. James Kirlin and Mr. and Mrs. William Murphy, III

In Memory Of

(continued)

Mary D. Nahan

James F. Currie

Stanley and Lenore Podraza and

Buff Hawley

Jeff and Liz Podraza

Barbara Spaeth

Parents and grandparents

Harry Spaeth

Peter Van Blarcom Mary Anne Van Blarcom

Audrey and Russ Van Riper and Cheryl

Van Riper Allen

Debbie Van Riper Harper

In Thanksgiving For

Our granddaughters, Libby and Sloane

Given By

Given By

(continued)

Martha and Will Agate

PCCH Church Staff

Our children and grandchildren

Music and the arts

Loved ones

My grandchildren: Seth, MacKenzie and Timothy

Our families

Barbara Rubin

Richard and Grace Stewart and family

Anonymous

John and Barbara Armbruster

The Cornely family

Barbara and Stan Elwell

Edie Russo

Frank and Taylor Slaughter

Her sisters, Mollie, Debbie and Julie

In Honor Of

Loved ones

PCCH's wonderful music tradition

Given By

Alice Lea Tasman

Elsbeth Wrigley

GOOD TO KNOW

If you are interested in exploring membership at PCCH, please contact John Wilkinson at the church office or at jwilkinson@chestnuthillpres.org.

Sunday worship is live-streamed at chestnuthillpres.org/live and is recorded for later viewing. This offering extends our reach across the country and beyond. Visit us when you're away and tell your friends about this new opportunity to join us.

Please share any pastoral care needs or concerns with Brian Russo at the church office or at brusso@chestnuthillpres.org.

If you would like to receive a ride to church for Sunday worship, please contact the church office.

Please see the back cover for information about our church staff and how to contact and connect with us. You can access today's Bulletin online (with links to more information) by scanning the QR code.



The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill has committed itself to be a Matthew 25 congregation, joining an initiative of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) focused on three areas:

Building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty.

MATTHEW 25 Get connected in this way:

- Read "400 Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019" and join our discussion.
- Pray for Presbyterian higher education institutions who support students of color

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TODAY AT PCCH

Stewardship 2022



Thanks to all who have returned your 2022 pledge cards thus far. As of Friday, December 24 we have received 108 pledges totaling \$488,959.00 in commitments. Thank you!

Your Stewardship Committee hopes you will return your pledge soon, as it helps in our planning for the next year. You can:

- Return your pledge during worship on a Sunday morning.
- Mail a completed pledge card to the church office.
- Email a confidential pledge to mmcgowan@chestnuthillpres.org

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Today is the last day we will receive the Christmas Joy Offering, an offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Christmas Joy Offering supports:

- The assistance program of the Presbyterian Board of Pensions, which supports retired church workers facing critical financial need.
- Three Presbyterian-related academic institutions supporting students of color, in particular Black and indigenous students.

Envelopes are located in your bulletins. Please give generously as you are able. To learn more visit www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy

FELLOWSHIP

Please join us in Widener Hall immediately following worship. All are welcome!

2021 TAX REMINDER

To be able to deduct donations and pledge payments made to PCCH for 2021, funds must be dated December 31, 2021 and hand-delivered to the church office no later than Monday, January 3, 2022 OR postmarked December 31,2021 if mailed. All gifts of stock need to be received by the church by December 31, 2021.

REVERSE ADVENT BOXES AND GIFTS FOR BABY JESUS

Boxes may be placed in the reception room any time between now and January 2.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Sunday school will resume on Sunday January 9, 2022.

Nursery care is still available for children ages two and under and is staffed by two fully vaccinated, fully background-checked adults.

EPIPHANY PARTY

Sunday, January 9 following worship, in Widener Hall

A celebration of the coming of the wise men to worship Jesus—games, crafts and activities for children and families. All ages are welcome.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN & CONNECT

UPCOMING SECOND HOUR

Please join us for Second Hour, stimulating discussions on faith and life covering a broad range of topics. All are welcome! We begin at 11:30 a.m. following coffee bour

- January 16: Join us for a conversation regarding equity and equality in education led by Beth Vaccaro Jones.
- January 23: "Four Hundred Souls" Part four. We will continue our meaningful
 discussion of this important work. You need not have attended the previous
 session and a copy of the book can be borrowed from the church office.
- January 30: Caring for God's Creation, Part three—Food. Led by Bill Toffey.

BIBLE STUDY

Starting Wednesday, January 5 we will be studying the gospel of Luke using: *Luke* (N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides). We will move to the Harris Room and all are welcome to join us!

CHURCH-WIDE BOOK STUDY

The Adult Education Committee is commending "Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019" as a book to read for the upcoming program year. Edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain, this work

is an anthology, written by eighty authors from different fields—novelists, historians, sociologists, political scientists, activists, lawyers, and ten poets; each takes a five year period for their brief chapter. The chapters are divided into ten, 40-year sections, and each section is capped by a poem. A copy of the book for borrowing is available in the church office.

EPIPHANY PARTY

Sunday, January 9 following worship, in Widener Hall

A celebration of the coming of the wise men to worship Jesus—games, crafts and activities for children and families. All ages are welcome.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

FOOD DONATIONS RECEIVED EVERY SUNDAY AND ALL WEEK

As food insecurity grows, PCCH will continue to receive shelf stable food donations to support several mission partners. You may bring items to the church every Sunday and during the week. NO GLASS CONTAINERS PLEASE. Thank you for your support.

CENTER ON THE HILL

The Center on the Hill is open for in-person activities this winter. When in person at the Center we are following all recommended guidelines and precautions, including masks, proof of vaccination and strict sanitation practices. New online content, such as virtual tours, fitness videos, art lessons, recorded presentations and more, is posted Monday—Thursday at 12:00 noon on our programs page here: www.chestnuthillpres.org/center-on-the-hill/programs

Upcoming classes and events this winter: Registration required for all activities and classes at the Center. Call 215-247-4654 or email msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org.

STRONG BONES EXERCISE CLASS

Session 1: Tuesdays, January 11—February 15; Session 2: Tuesdays, February 22—March 29, 2:30—3:30p.m , \$72 for 6 Week Session or \$15 per class drop in This class will include standing and floor exercises to improve postural alignment, balance, and strength. Joanne's Strong Bones program is derived from evidence-based research in the field of osteoporosis. Bring your own mat, but all other equipment will be provided. Joanne Fagerstrom, PT, CFP, has been a physical therapist since 1978.

UNDERSTANDING BACK PAIN

Thursday, January 20, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., free

Presented in person for a limited number of people, and recorded to stream online the following day.

Join us for an interactive presentation addressing one of the most common diagnoses and gateway to disabilities in the United States. Learn posture and body mechanics in order to prevent and treat back pain. After this presentation, you will understand back pain as well as how to avoid it with early intervention. Finally, we will discuss natural treatments. Presented by Elizabeth Edmonds, OTR/L, CDP Fox Rehab, Debbie Golstein, Sunrise of Lafayete Hill and Kristen Bogle, Sunrise of Lafayete Hill

AFTERNOON MOVIE

Are you looking for an enjoyable activity that's economical and during the daytime so you don't have to drive at night? Are you looking to see a movie in an intimate setting with easy parking and no long lines? Then join us for an enjoyable afternoon at the movies.

Thursday, January 20, Showing "Knives Out," 1:30 p.m., \$2 Harlan Thrombrey (Christopher Plummer) spent a lifetime becoming a rich and successful crime novelist. And on his 85th birthday, he invites his extended family to his mansion, hoping to move past their dysfunctional past and bring them together. Things take a turn for the worse when Harlan is found dead during the party, prompting Detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) to investigate. But will he be able to find the killer when everyone there that day had a reason to do it? From Harlan's dysfunctional family to his devoted staff, Blanc sifts through a web of red herrings and self-serving lies to uncover the truth behind Harlan's untimely death.

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, January 25, 12:00 p.m., \$10

Registration Required by Friday January 21

(Registrations received after January 21 will be charged \$12)

Where else in the community can you go for lunch where you'll see both familiar and new faces, where the atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming, where the food is consistently good and served by a wonderful corp of volunteers, and where it only costs you ten dollars? Our large room is full of round tables that are simply decorated and set with white linens and festive tableware. Join us as our ever popular Community Luncheons return in 2022. We'd love to see you there! *Luncheons are subject to all current Covid guidelines, including proof of vaccination, gathering size limits, and social distancing practices.

BEGINNING BRIDGE LESSONS

Wednesdays, January 26—March 16, 1:30—3:30 p.m., \$80 for 8 classes Minimum of 5 students to run., Registration Deadline: Monday January 24. The game of bridge is a lot of fun, and many people keep on playing even into their 90s. In addition, studies have shown that playing bridge keeps your mind sharp and reduces the chance of Alzheimer's disease. This class assumes no prior knowledge of bridge. Bring pencil and paper.

BRIDGE REFRESHER LESSONS

Thursdays, January 27—March 17, 1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m., \$80 for 8 classes Minimum of 5 students to run. Registration Deadline: Monday January 24. If you have taken the Beginning Bridge class and want to learn more, or if you want to improve your skill, or if you played bridge "back in the day" and want to learn more modern improvements in bridge, this course is for you. Have fun while you learn. Bring pencil and paper.

NAME THAT TUNE

Thursday, January 27, 2:30-3:30p.m., Free.

Do you love music? Do you wish you knew a little more about some of your favorite songs? Join us for a fun and interactive music appreciation class this winter! Back by popular demand, your instructor Michael Kraus, will guide you through monthly lessons featuring songs from the past. Learn about the musical roots of songs you have known since childhood, and songs you still love to sing along with today. These classes will be entertaining, engaging, educational and fun! Can you Name That Tune? Come and find out!

HAPPENING HERE THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, December 26

Worship sanctuary, 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Widener, 11:15 a.m.

MONDAY, December 27 OFFICE AND CENTER CLOSED

TUESDAY, December 28

Well Spouse Support Group

Royal Scottish Dancers

OFFICE OPEN UNTIL 2:00 p.m.

Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

chapel, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, December 29 OFFICE OPEN UNTIL 2:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, December 30 OFFICE OPEN UNTIL 2:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, December 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFICE OPEN UNTIL 12:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, January 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 2022

SUNDAY, January 2
Worship
Fellowship
Widener, 11:15 a.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

Martha Agate	Jack Evans	Jeffrey Podraza
Linda Amsterdam	Robert Fles	Alison Rudolf
Rebecca Bernstein	Lisa Guyer	Taylor Slaughter
Jill Bown	Kate Houstoun	James Spause
Ryan Cavanaugh	James Lutz	Margaret Spencer
Gregory Dickinson	Katherine Magid	Beth Nell Vaccaro
Matthew Eastman	Ryan Mann	Christen Webber
	Melissa Montgomery	Kevin Welsh

BOARD OF DEACONS

Alison Abernethy	Debby Evans	Jane McGill
Karen Asper	Courtney Franklin	Barbara Olson
Emily Barth	Trish Franklin	Linda Pettengill
Kelly Baughman	Beverly Heimbach	Amy Raphael
Rebecca DePasquale	Cynthia Hillsley	Dominick Rebeck
Beth DeSoo	Lyn Huertgen	Deborah Robinson
Jess DeSoo	Jane Kaufman	Edna Russo
Sara Eastman	Kristin Lawton	Beth Vaccaro

CHURCH STAFF

John Wilkinson Pastor

Brian D. Russo Associate Pastor for Youth and Senior Adults

Roberta J. Kearney Interim Associate Pastor for Faith Formation

Beth Shalom Hessel Parish Associate

Daniel Spratlan Director of Music

Ken Lovett Organist/Associate Director of Music

Megan McGowan Church Administrator

Diana Rodgers Interim Director PCCH Preschool

Mariangela Saavedra Director Center on the Hill

Leslie A. Lefer Communications Coordinator

Evelyn F. Carpenter Administrative Assistant

Felix Delgado Sexton

Owintier Charles and Donna Marciel Sunday Sextons

Icilda James and Debbie Lambeth Sunday Child Care Givers

CONTACT PCCH

 Church office
 215.247.8855

 Preschool
 215.247.8865

 Center on the Hill
 215.247.4654



info@chestnuthillpres.org



chestnuthillpres.org



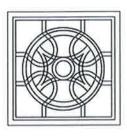
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PCCH Bulletin online



The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill 8855 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118