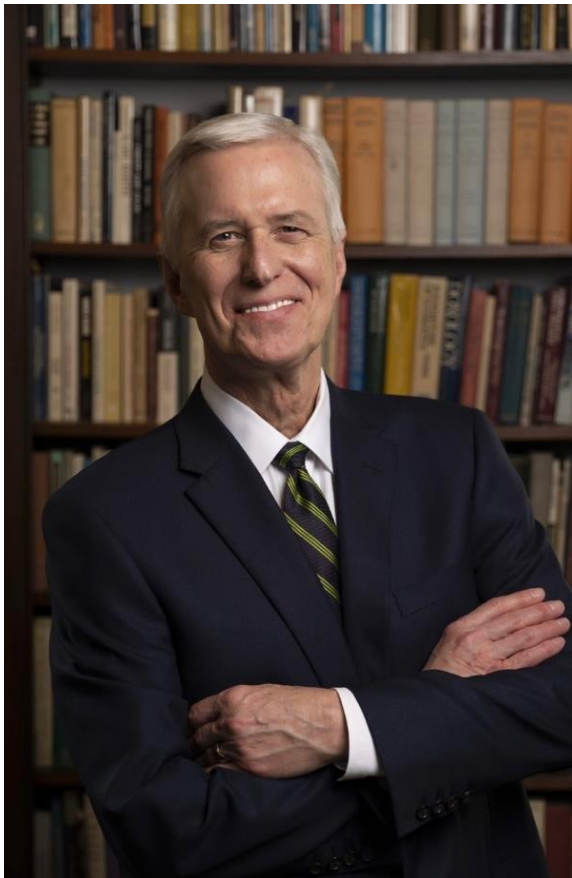


THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL

Dear Members and Friends of PCCH,

With joy, enthusiasm, and deep faith, the Session is excited to announce that The Reverend Dr. M. Craig Barnes has agreed to become our transitional Pastor and Head of Staff during this time of change. Craig has had a long and distinguished career as a pastor and educator, and his preaching, scholarship, and work on behalf of the denomination are known nationally. He is a preacher whose Christian convictions and deep knowledge of Scripture, history, and Reformed theology come together to inspire introspection and action.



8855 Germantown Avenue • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19118 • t 215.247.8855

www.chestnuthillpres.org • info@chestnuthillpres.org

Who is Craig Barnes:

Craig was raised on Long Island, New York. After graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary, he received a Ph.D. in the History of Christianity from The University of Chicago.

He served as the pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Madison, WI, until 1992 when he became the pastor of The National Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. In 2002 he became a chaired professor at Pittsburgh Seminary while also serving as the pastor of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church where he is now pastor emeritus. In 2012, he was elected president of Princeton Theological Seminary and became the president emeritus in January 2023.

He has nine published books including *When God Interrupts*, *Pastor as Minor Poet*, and most recently *Diary of a Pastor's Soul*. He has also served as a contributor and Editor at Large to *The Christian Century* for many years.

Words from Craig:

I am excited to be joining the congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill on its next journey of faith and service to Jesus Christ. It is abundantly clear that God has been building a strong, inclusive community of faith here. Throughout its long history the congregation has faithfully navigated its way through more transitions than anyone could know. Now the church is again in an in between time – between witnessing the faithfulness of God in the past, and the new and creative things God is waiting to unfold ahead.

There actually is never a time with God when we are not in the process of change and growth. So an interim time is not a season for being on hold. Rather it is a time of discernment, maybe experimenting, and always nurturing the Holy Fire within us. As always, we will seek the ministry of Christ among us through worship, pastoral care, service, building community, and even in the administration of the church. And through it all, we'll find the Savior who is again leading the congregation into a future filled with hope.

A few words about my family: Dawne and I both grew up in the church and deeply love being a part of a congregation. We're just about finished, we tell ourselves, renovating a hundred-year-old house in Pennington, New Jersey. Our son Karl and his wife Eszter graduated from Princeton Seminary last May. They now live in Lancaster, PA, where she is an associate pastor at Mennonite church and Karl works from home. Our other son Erik has returned home, like many twenty-somethings, while he launches into his life. Lyndsey, my older daughter, lives in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia with her four sons, where she is an elementary school art teacher. Until recently we had two Bearded Collies named Esau and Dash. After 16 wonderful years, Esau passed away, but Dash does all he can to fill our hearts. In my spare time, when I am not writing, I love to ride my bike along the winding roads of the Delaware Valley. And Dawne deeply enjoys her work as an interior designer, even after our home renovation gave her a considerable challenge. We love to vacation in the mountains, especially the Adirondacks in upstate New York.



Next Steps:

Craig will join us as Pastor and Head of Staff on June 1, 2023, and will preach his first sermon on June 11, 2023. Please join us in giving Craig a warm welcome as he begins his ministry with us.

We would also like to thank Russell Sullivan for his support and leadership as we transition from John to Craig. Russell's warmth, wise counsel, and commitment to worship have been gifts to us during a challenging time.

In Faith and Love,

The Session of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill