

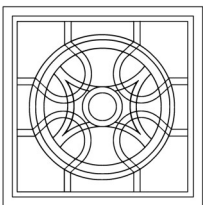
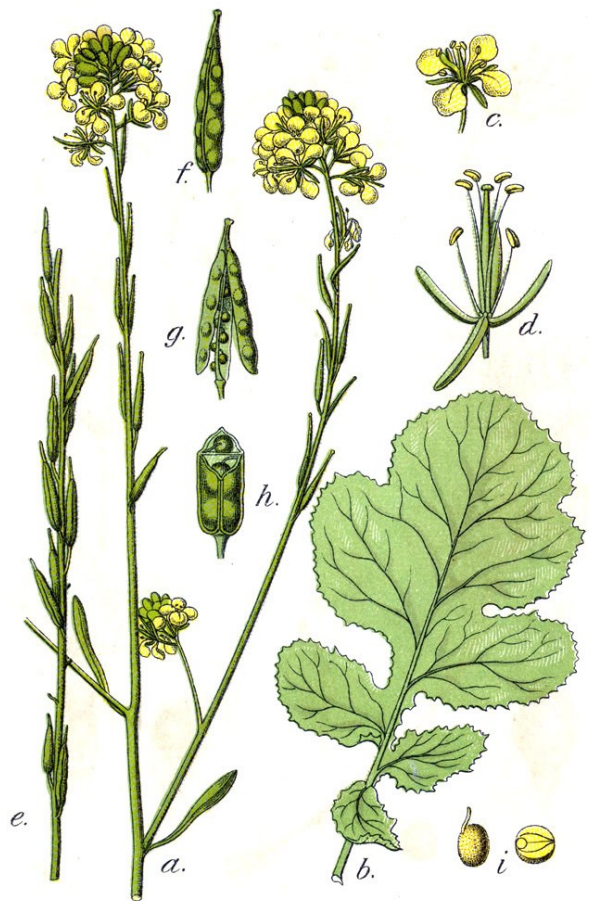
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL

An inclusive community of faith

Sunday, July 26, 2026

10 a.m.

NINETH 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 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. With pastoral care concerns or prayer requests, please contact our Seminary Intern Dr. William “Buddy” Storm.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Adagio molto
(Op. 10, No. 1)

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

INTROIT

How Beautiful are the Feet

G.F. Handel
(1685-1759)

How beautiful are the feet
of them that preach
the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings
of good things.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A tiny seed that burgeons into a majestic tree
with branches that offer shelter and shade;
or yeast, hidden within a bushel of flour,
that transforms the dough in due time:

People: this is what the kingdom of heaven is like.

Leader: We gather around Jesus—our teacher and Lord—
seeking wisdom and understanding,
longing for a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven.

People: Let anyone with ears to hear listen!

*HYMN 441

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

ST. THOMAS

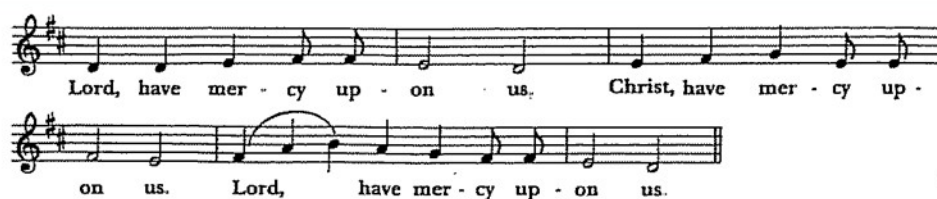
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, your kingdom confounds us.
You challenge our assumptions about right living
and stretch our understanding of what holds worth.
You reverse our expectations and reorder our priorities
until they reflect your vision of well-being for all.
Your kingdom surprises us with grace upon grace.
But we cling to the values of this world,
which privilege products over people,
success over service,
and competition for resources over the common good.
Open us to new ways of living
that embody your desire for creation
and contribute to a commonwealth
marked by justice and joy. 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

Spirit of life, we do not know how to pray as we ought.
Meet us in words written, in words spoken.
Intercede for us with sighs too deep for words,
until hope grows deep within our hearts.
We pray in Jesus' name; Amen.

EPISTLE

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader: Holy wisdom, Holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 105:1-6

Plainchant

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him,
and speak of all his marvelous works.

Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Search for the Lord and his strength;
continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done,
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant,
O children of Jacob his chosen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT AND DISMISSAL

*Children depart for church school in the Strouse building.
Joyful Noise will meet today from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel.
Parents, your children will be brought to you in Widener Hall.
Youth Choir will resume in September.*

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 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Leader: Holy wisdom, Holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Ellen Williams Hensle

"The kingdom of heaven is like..."

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - busied,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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 SOLO

Ich Folge Dir Gleichfalls

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

*Ich folge dir gleichfalls
mit freudigen Schritten
und lasse dich nicht,
mein Leben, mein Licht.
Befördre den Lauf
und höre nicht auf,
Selbst an mir zu ziehen,
zu schieben, zu bitten.*

I follow you likewise
with joyful steps
and do not release you,
my life, my light.
Promote the course
and do not stop,
even to pull at me,
to push, to beg.

*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: We dedicate our lives to you this day, O God,
and seal that promise by way of this offering.
We give out of the abundance of our hearts,
that the treasure of your kingdom may be shared with many.
As we share our gifts, fill us with a spirit of generosity
for the flourishing of your realm. Amen.

*HYMN 452

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

ST. MICHAEL

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Toccata in G major

William Pachelbel
(1686-1764)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHING

The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle

LITURGIST

Barbara Frazier

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dr. Julie Snyder

MUSIC

Sophia Huellstrunk Soprano

Jeffrey DeVault Organist

GREETERS

Harry Spaeth and Margaret R. Spencer Elders

Kristin Lawton and Emily McCahery Deacons

USHERS

Kevin Raphael Team #1 Leader

Carolyn Manwaring, Emily McCahery, Ray McCahery and Sarah Wright

FLOWER GUILD

Liz Podraza and Sandy Sherwood

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of John E. and Lillian G. Cupp by **their family**.

MUSIC AND TEXTS Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-743217. All Rights Reserved. God of the Fertile Fields, *Text by: Georgia Harkness. Copyright 1955, Hope Publishing Company.* Prayers in the bulletin are from *Call to Worship Lectionary Companion, Year A, 2019-2020, PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2, Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.*

COVER ART *Brassica Nigra* (Black Mustard), Jacob Sturm, hand-colored copperplate engraving, 1796. Jacob Sturm was a leading engraver of entomological and botanical publications at the turn of the nineteenth century. A celebrated collector of insects, and founder of the Nuremberg Society for Natural History, Sturm's engravings of the natural world are incredibly accurate in their depictions. *Brassica Nigra* is an analytical illustration of the Black Mustard plant, native to the Mediterranean and temperate regions of Europe. This illustration provides detailed drawings of the parts of the Black Mustard plant: its florals, leaves, stamen, seeds and pods. This illustration, and many others, can be located throughout the 163 parts of *Deutschlands Flora*, a historical compendium documenting the plant life of Germany.

HAPPENING AT PCCH

PCCH PRESCHOOL ADVERTISING ASSISTANCE

The PCCH preschool is looking for volunteers to display lawn signs advertising open enrollment in their front yards. If you are interested, please stop outside of the main office to pick up a sign!

GERMANTOWN AVENUE CRISIS MINISTRY FOOD DONATIONS

First Sunday of the month food collection is next Sunday, August 2, 2026.

GACM provides food, fuel, clothing, housing and other emergency assistance to those who live in the Northwest section of Philadelphia. Help by donating: Regular sized, shelfstable food items in non-glass containers such as rice, pasta, peanut butter and cereal, as well as canned items such as tuna, vegetables, beans, soups & stews, etc; Household & hygiene items such as laundry pods, period products, individually wrapped toothbrushes, etc; Financial donations: please make any payments out to PCCH and include GACM in the note/memo line.

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. More information on how to sign up to help is coming soon—mark your calendars today!

BIBLE STUDY	LADIES CIRCLE	MEN’S FELLOWSHIP	THEOLOGY ON TAP
Will resume in September	Will resume in September	August 6, 2 p.m. Reception Room Ron Rising 203.206.7299	Will resume in September

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Date SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

07/26 Anna Storm 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

The youth of PCCH are invited to join us for the Youth Group Mission Trip, in Pittsburgh, PA, from August 8 through August 12. All other youth programming will resume in the fall.

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!

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 from June 14 through August 30:** Full size shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, laundry detergent, and Clorox wipes.

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.



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.

“SOUL” LINE DANCING (*registration required*)

Thursday, July 30, 1:30 p.m., \$5

Where can you dance with a room full of people, yet dance by yourself? Get fit and have fun as you line dance to R&B, jazz, hip-hop, the "Philly" sound, classic oldies, the latest soul favorites, and more. Gloria will help you make this simple and easy activity, a feel-good form of exercise. No partner needed! All levels welcome to join any time!

YOGA WITH ATTITUDE (*registration required*)

Fridays, ongoing, 9:45 a.m., \$45 per calendar month, \$10 walk-in first class, \$15 single class

This is basic yoga with breath warm-ups, asana and meditation. Students of all ages and levels of experience are welcome. The class provides a method which allows us to adopt an “attitude” when confronted and to respond to the adventures in our lives. Participants practice alternative viewpoints, while standing in truth and light.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING (*registration required*)

Fridays, 12 p.m., \$70 for ten sessions, \$8 drop in rate, first visit free

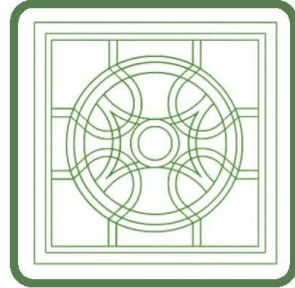
Start your weekend right! Enjoy learning folk dances from the Balkans, Greece, France, British Isles, and beyond. No partner needed, as most dances are done in lines and circles. There is a mix of teaching and “just dancing” making this a great place for beginners to pick up the basics in a super friendly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

MEDITATION PRACTICE: SHELTER FOR THE HEART & MIND (*registration required*)

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., \$12 per session

In these chaotic times it is extremely important to practice brain health through meditation. Components of class: sitting and walking meditation, and a variety of mind/body exercises. Our class motto is: my whole being is healthy, healed and whole. Our goal: to breathe and relax our minds. David Dimmack, MEd. was trained by Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh for over thirty-five years.

PCCH YOUTH HYGIENE DRIVE



This summer, our Children's Ministry will be collecting hygiene and home items for Nationalities Service Center as a part of our Summer Sunday school curriculum. We are collecting the following items: FULL SIZE shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, laundry detergent, and Clorox wipes. We will have a collection box in Sunday School beginning June 14.



CONTACT DR. JULIE SNYDER WITH ANY QUESTIONS:
JSNYDER@CHESTNUTHILLPRES.ORG

AchieveAbility Backpack Drive

**Help send 1600 kids
back to school in style!**

PCCH is once again partnering with
AchieveAbility to provide high quality
school supplies to children and teens
throughout West Philadelphia.

**Sign up to provide requested supplies by
using the QR Code below**

**Please drop supplies in the reception room
by Sunday, August 9.**

**We will assemble the backpacks during fellowship
on Sunday, August 16.**



ACHIEVEability



HAPPENING HERE THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, July 26

Church School	Strouse, 10:20 a.m.
Fellowship	Widener, 11 a.m.
Joyful Noise rehearsal	chapel, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, July 27

Sketching and Watercolor class	room 1&2, 10 a.m.
Tai Chi group	room 3&4, 10:15 a.m.
Table Games Open Play group	room 5, 12 p.m.
Qigong	Harris, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, July 28

Meditation Practice group	Harris, 9:30 a.m.
Sketching and Watercolor class	room 1&2, 10 a.m.
Mah Jongg Open Play group	room 5, 12:30 p.m.
Strong Bones class	Widener, 1 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, July 29

Beginning Tai Chi class	Widener, 10 a.m.
Rummy Tiles Open Play group	room 5, 10:30 a.m.
Continuing Tai Chi class	Widener, 11:15 a.m.
Bridge Open Play group	room 1&2, 11:30 a.m.
Golden Yoga class	Widener, 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, July 30

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.
Soul Line Dancing class	Widener, 1:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, July 31

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 group	room 3&4, 12 p.m.

SUNDAY, August 2

Worship	Lord's Supper
Church School	sanctuary, 10 a.m.
Fellowship	Strouse, 10:20 a.m.
Joyful Noise rehearsal	Widener, 11 a.m.
	chapel, 11 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

Jill Bown
Rebecca DePasquale
Gregory Dickinson
Jack Evans
Graeme Frazier
Kelley Garner

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 Pretz
Amy Raphael
Sharyn Walker
Sarah Wright
Beth Wrigley

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle Senior Minister and Head of Staff
The Rev. Emily Chapdelaine Associate Minister of Congregational Life (on leave)
Dr. William “Buddy” Storm Seminary Intern
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