

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TODAY AT PCCH

COVID/OMICRON UPDATE

The church staff and Return to Church Team have been monitoring the COVID situation closely, and especially as the Omicron numbers increase. We will continually revisit our plan and approach, both to Sunday mornings and other gatherings.

Worship will happen in much the same way it has been happening for the past few months, including all of us wearing masks, with a few adaptations:

- We will return to alternating pew seating.
- We will receive the weekly offering at the door, either as you enter or exit.
- Rehearsals for all choirs (Gallery, Youth, Joyful Noise) will be put on hold. Choir participation in the Sunday services will be limited to soloists or a quartet.
- We will continue to sing congregational hymns while masked.
- We will put on hold, for now, the participation of member liturgists.
- We will put coffee hour on hold for now.
- Sunday school will continue to happen. We will put snacks on hold for now, as children will keep their masks on throughout the morning.

These steps are in place for the next few weeks in January. As the Omicron situation develops, we will respond accordingly. If you have any questions about that, please be in touch with John Wilkinson or a member of the Return to Church team.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The “presby” in Presbyterian stands for “elder,” and Presbyterian churches elect elders and deacons to ordained office to lead the church.

This year, your PCCH Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for people to serve as elders or deacons. Elders serve on the Session and provide overall leadership for the church. Deacons offer particular forms of care and compassion.

You can nominate someone who you consider to have the gifts and calling to serve. Self-nominations are also welcome. Send confidential nomination to jwilkinson@chestnuthillpres.org.

2022 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

Pledge envelopes are on the table in the hallway outside the church office. If you desire pledge envelopes and your name is not there, please let the church office know. We will be happy to mail your envelopes if you are currently worshipping online.

Stewardship 2022



Thanks to all who have returned your 2022 pledge cards thus far. As of Thursday, January 13 we have received 119 pledges totaling \$506,279.00 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

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Sunday school will be held today. Children and teachers will wear masks throughout.

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

CHOIR UPDATE

Rehearsals for all choirs (Gallery, Youth, Joyful Noise) will be put on hold. Choir participation in the Sunday services will be limited to soloists or a quartet.

SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP

Monday, January 17, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: Souls Shot MLK Project

Sunday, January 23, 5:00–6:00 p.m.: Riddle and Debate

Sunday, January 30, 5:00–7:00 p.m.: Movie Night

JUNIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP

Monday, January 17, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: Souls Shot MLK Project

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN & CONNECT

COMMEMORATING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WEEKEND

Please participate as you can in these activities, as we consider the ministry and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. and how it gives shape to our calling today.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary and livestreamed at www.chestnuthillpres.org
John Wilkinson's sermon will focus on I Corinthians 12:1-11, considering our spiritual gifts through the ministry of King and Desmond Tutu.

11:30 a.m. Second Hour. Education, Race and Equity. Beth Vaccaro, elder, will lead this in-person discussion. Beth serves as teacher and administrator at the Community Partnership School. www.communitypartnerschool.org

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Clean-up of the Rt. 309 off ramp at Paper Mill Road. Sponsored by the Cheltenham branch of the NAACP. No need to register ahead of time. Arrive at 10:00 a.m. at the exit ramp. Reflective vests, gloves and trash bags provided. Proof of vaccination required.

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Youth Gathering: Letters to Souls Shot Portrait Project
Our youth will engage in a reflection on a letter from King, before visiting the Souls Shot Portrait Project virtual gallery.

10:30 a.m. Meal Preparation for Face to Face in the PCCH Kitchen. This is a great communal, all ages activity. We seek food donation and casserole prep (no experience required!). Details and sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044AAFAB22ABF58-casseroles>

7:00 p.m. Evening Reflection on Zoom. Led by John Wilkinson. We will watch a brief video of a King sermon and discuss its legacy for us. Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81176680873?pwd=Q2ZEUUV2YXplTUFCaVRyWlhMaDhLQT09>

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

11:30 a.m. Second Hour ~ We will continue our discussion of "400 Souls," looking at Part Four. You can join this conversation when you can ~ attending the previous sessions is helpful but not required.

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.

- 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.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Tuesday, January 18, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Due to the recent uptick in COVID, we are migrating next Tuesday’s Theology on Tap over to Zoom. Let’s all pray and hope we can return to Campbell’s Place in February or March. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82757470171?pwd=cTFiSUFyZXNLSFpqdlVaNFUT04ydz09> All are welcome. Please contact Brian Russo with any questions (brusso@chestnuthillpres.org).

BIBLE STUDY

We will be studying the gospel of Luke using: *Luke (N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides)*. We will meet every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Harris Room.

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 this 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.

JANUARY IS ANTIHUMAN TRAFFICKING MONTH

This is an opportunity to promote knowledge and interest in the topic of exploitation through labor or sex industry avenues. Human trafficking is a multi billion dollar criminal enterprise that steals freedom for profit and operates on a global and local basis. PCCH, through Social Witness budget, supports Dawn’s Place which operates a local nonprofit treatment facility for survivors of sex trafficking. To learn more about Dawn’s Place, visit www.ahomefordawn.org.

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

Center on the Hill will reopen on Tuesday, January 18 with all our practices and protocols in place (proof of vaccination, masks, sanitation practices, limited number of participants per class, social distancing, and UV air filters). New online content, such as virtual tours, fitness videos, art lessons, recorded presentations and more, is posted Monday–Thursday at 12:00 p.m. on our programs page here:

<https://www.chestnuthillpres.org/center-on-the-hill/programs/>

Upcoming classes and events this winter:

Registration required for all activities and classes at the Center as space is limited.

Call 215-247-4654 or email msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org.

AFTERNOON MOVIE

Thursday, January 20, 1:30 p.m., \$2.00

Join us for an enjoyable afternoon at the movies. Showing “Knives Out.” Harlan Thrombrey (Christopher Plummer) spent a lifetime becoming a rich and successful crime novelist. 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?

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. This class will be entertaining, engaging, educational and fun!