

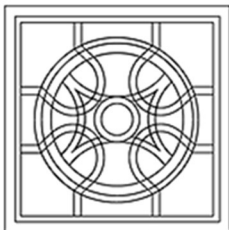
# THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL

*An inclusive community of faith*

Sunday, December 22, 2024

10 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 two is available in the Strouse building—ask an usher for assistance. Children who are three are encouraged to attend Godly Play but are welcome to remain in the nursery at parental discretion.

Children's *Praise Packs* to aid with worship participation are available in the narthex. Please return these after worship.



All children in attendance are invited to attend Sunday School, which takes place immediately after the Children's Message. Please use the QR code to fill out a brief safety waiver for your child.

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

Following the 10 a.m. service, all are invited for refreshments and fellowship in Widener Hall.

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 13.*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Greensleeves*

Richard Purvis  
(1913-1994)

## INTROIT

*Advent Wreath Prayer*

Malcolm Archer  
(b. 1952)

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:  
to you be praise and glory forever!  
Your light has shone in our darkened world  
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;  
grant that we who have seen your glory  
may daily be renewed in your image  
and prepare like her for the coming of your Son,  
who is the Lord and Savior of all.  
Blessed be God forever.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: In this season of Advent, we light the candle of love.

People: **Soon we will welcome the beautiful and extravagant love of God  
as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.**

Leader: We embrace our identity as beloved children of God  
and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

People: **In our homes and in our church, we offer hospitality  
by welcoming those we don't know, those who are in need,  
and those who are different from us.**

Leader: Let us be mindful of the needs of others.

People: **Together, we are a sign of God's love for the world.**

## \*HYMN 600

*Song of Mary*

MAGNIFICAT

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.  
Though we have heard Mary's song,  
We still seek security in pride and power and possessions.  
Thought we know your story,  
We resist the cost of following you.  
We pass by those considered lowly in this world.  
We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Help us to work for the justice you intend.  
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.  
As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.  
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

## SILENT CONFESSION

### KYRIE ELEISON

Richard Proulx  
(1937-2010)

The musical score for 'Kyrie Eleison' is written for a Cantor and an Assembly. It consists of three systems of music, each with a Cantor part and an Assembly part. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' The Cantor part is written on a single staff, and the Assembly part is written on a single staff. The Assembly part includes a large 'A' time signature at the beginning of each system.

*Cantor* *Assembly*

Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

*Cantor* *Assembly*

Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy. Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

*Cantor* *Assembly*

Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer-cy. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

## PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

## \*GLORIA PATRI

REGENT SQUARE  
(Hymn 417)

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

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your Way.  
As we make our final preparations for Christmas,  
clear our minds of holiday distractions and long to-do lists.  
Help us approach your Word with awe and wonder,  
so we may hear the message you intend for us today. Amen.

## FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

## PSALTER

Psalms 98:1-6

Peter Hallock  
(1924-2014)

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.

With his right hand and his holy arm  
has he won for himself the victory.

The Lord has made known his victory;  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT AND DISMISSAL

*Children through fifth grade depart for church school in the Strouse Building.*

*Christmas Pageant rehearsal will take place immediately following worship.*

*Youth should report to the sanctuary, and children should remain in the Strouse building.*

*Parents should plan to pick up their children at 12:30 in the sanctuary, following rehearsal.*

## 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.

## SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Love is the Gift

Ellen Williams Hensle

*In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,  
where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.*

*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.*

*Luke 1:39-41*

\*HYMN 16

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' 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 ANTHEM

Franz Biebl  
(1906-2001)

*Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae  
et concepit de Spiritu Sancto.*

The Angel of the Lord announced unto Mary  
and she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

*Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

*Maria dixit:  
Ecce ancilla Domini  
Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.*

Mary said:  
Behold the handmaiden of the Lord,  
let it be according to Thy word.

*Et verbum caro factum est  
Et habitavit in nobis.*

And the word was made flesh  
and dwelt among us.

*Sancta Maria, mater Dei,  
ora pro nobis peccatoribus.  
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis  
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.  
Amen.*

Holy Mary, mother of God,  
pray for us sinners.  
holy Mary, pray for us,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

## \*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.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Holy God, with Mary we seek to magnify you in our worship and in our deeds. Accept these gifts and bless them for Christ's ministry. May they lift the lowly and fill the hungry. May they reveal your glory present with us today and still yet to come. Amen.

**\*HYMN 31**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*Amen*

Biebl

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

*In dir ist Freude*

J. S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

## LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

### PREACHING

The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ryan Mann

### LITURGIST

Mark Bernstein

### ADVENT READERS

Rebecca, Ella, and Cade DePasquale

### MUSIC

Gallery Choir

Dr. Daniel Spratlan Conductor

Jeffrey DeVault Organist

### GREETERS

Jill Bown and Rebecca DePasquale Elders

Mily Barth and Kelly Baughman Deacons

### USHERS

William Cobb Team #2 Leader

Troy Foxworth, Graeme Frazier, Kate Houstoun, Jason Jones, and Beth Wrigley

### FLOWER GUILD

Barbara Olson and Liz Podraza

**FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY** are given to the glory of God and in celebration of George Lyons, given by his family.

**COVER ART** curated by **Rebecca Thornburgh**

Gerónimo Antonio de Ezquerra, *Feast of the Visitation*, circa 1730s, oil on canvas, Carmen Thyssen Museum, Spain. A Spanish painter of the Baroque period, de Ezquerra (c. 1660–1733) was known for his half-torso paintings of saints. He also excelled in *bodegones*—still life paintings depicting pantry items, such as victuals, game, and drink, often arranged on a simple stone slab, or paintings with one or more figures, but with significant still life elements, typically set in a kitchen or tavern—subject matter intended to display the masterful skills of the painter.

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## GOOD TO KNOW

If you are interested in exploring membership at PCCH, please contact Ellen Williams Hensle at the church office or at [ewhensle@chestnuthillpres.org](mailto:ewhensle@chestnuthillpres.org).

Sunday worship is live-streamed at [chestnuthillpres.org/live](http://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 Ellen Williams Hensle at the church office or at [ewhensle@chestnuthillpres.org](mailto:ewhensle@chestnuthillpres.org).

Please see the back cover for information about our church staff and how to contact and connect with us. You also can access today's Bulletin online.



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.

Visit our Matthew 25 page: [chestnuthillpres.org/matthew-25](http://chestnuthillpres.org/matthew-25) for more information about Matthew 25 news and events.

### **Sunday mornings before worship—a gentle reminder**

The Gallery Choir rehearses in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings from 9 to 9:45 a.m. All are welcome to enter the sanctuary during this time, but please remember to keep conversations low so that the choir is able to focus on their rehearsal.

### **Nametags during worship**

The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle is thrilled to be here and looking forward to getting to know all of you. To assist her and her family, we are requesting that you wear a nametag during worship for the next few weeks. Nametags will be available for you to fill out in the Narthex prior to worship on Sundays.

## THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### HAPPENING AT PCCH

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#### **FELLOWSHIP**

Join us in Widener Hall immediately following worship today for coffee and sweet treats. All are welcome.

#### **PCCH WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

We meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Harris room. We will not meet for the next two weeks. Our next Bible Study will be on January 8, 2025. Ellen Williams Hensle will be leading the discussion which will focus on the biblical text used for the upcoming Sunday's sermon. All are welcome.

#### **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The next meeting of the new Men's Fellowship will be Thursday, January 2, 2025 from 2-3:30 p.m. in the reception room. Please call Ron Rising at 203.206.7299 with any questions or concerns.

#### **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL**

All children who signed up for the Christmas Pageant, please remember there is a mandatory rehearsal today, Sunday, December 22, immediately following worship.

#### **YOUTH SERVICE SUNDAY**

On the first Sunday of every month, middle and high school youth will engage in a service project immediately after worship. The next *Youth Service Sunday* will be Sunday, January 5.

#### **THEOLOGY ON TAP**

Tuesday, January 21, 7:30 p.m. in the upper room of Campbell's Place, 8337 Germantown Avenue. Mark Bernstein will be the presenter. All are welcome. Any questions, please contact the church office.

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE AT PCCH**

We have updated our Christmas Eve schedule for the 2024 season. Our earlier worship and children's Christmas Pageant will remain at 4:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Our evening service of Lessons & Carols will begin at 9 p.m. with the prelude, featuring the PCCH Festival Brass, beginning at 8:30 p.m. Please contact the office with any questions.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Date	PreK-2nd Grade	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8
12/22	Rebecca DePasquale And Katie O'Dwyer	Anna Storm and Buddy Storm	stay in worship

Classes will be offered for three different age groups:

- Children ages three to second grade will engage in faith formation through Godly Play curriculum.
- Children in grades three to five will increase their Bible literacy while learning about the richness of our Christian history and faith in a fun, structured setting. We will be using the Memoria Press Christian Studies curriculum.
- Middle school youth in grades six to eight will study *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living*. Youth will explore how they can live out their faith, as Jesus taught, in our modern world. The middle school youth will meet during worship two to three times per month. On the remaining Sundays, youth should participate in the full worship service.

Most Sundays, we will begin Sunday School with a brief opening in the chapel.

On Sundays when Communion is served in worship, the children will return to sit with their families so that they can participate.

### YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Middle and high school youth will meet immediately after worship each week until noon in the Youth Group room. Lunch will be provided. Youth Group will not meet on the first Sunday of the month but will instead engage in Service Sunday after worship.

### CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MUSIC UPDATE

*Joyful Noise*, our children's choir for ages three through grade five, will not rehearse today due to the Christmas Pageant rehearsal.

*Youth Choir*, for grades six to twelve, will not rehearse today due to the Christmas Pageant rehearsal. Youth Choir will not meet the first Sunday of each month in order to engage in community service with the Youth Group. New singers are always welcome.

## CENTER ON THE HILL

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Open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. New online content is posted Monday-Thursday at 12 p.m. on our programs page here: [chestnuthillpres.org/center-on-the-hill/programs](http://chestnuthillpres.org/center-on-the-hill/programs). Call 215.247.4654 or email [msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org](mailto:msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org) to register. The Center will be closed Monday, December 23 through Friday, January 3 for the holiday break.

### *Upcoming classes and events*

The Center on the Hill is closed Monday, December 23-Friday, January 3 for the holiday break! We will reopen on Monday, January 6th when registration will begin for winter classes and activities.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



## HAPPENING HERE THIS WEEK

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### **SUNDAY, December 22**

#### **Worship**

Church school  
Christmas Pageant rehearsal  
Fellowship  
Youth Group  
Youth Choir rehearsal  
The Crossing concert

#### **Advent 4**

sanctuary, 10 a.m.  
Strouse, 10:20 a.m.  
sanctuary, 11 a.m.  
Widener, 11 a.m.  
Strouse, 11:10 a.m.  
Strouse, 12 p.m.  
sanctuary, 5 p.m.

### **MONDAY, December 23**

Center on the Hill closed

### **TUESDAY, December 24**

Christmas Eve Service and Pageant  
Music Prelude  
PCCH Service of Lessons and Carols

#### **COTH closed**

sanctuary, 4:30 a.m.  
sanctuary 8:30 p.m.  
sanctuary, 9 p.m.

### **WEDNESDAY, December 25**

#### **Christmas Day**

**COTH and offices closed**

### **THURSDAY, December 26**

**COTH and offices closed**

### **FRIDAY, December 27**

PCCH Sober & Out

**COTH and offices closed**

Harris, 7 p.m.

### **SATURDAY, December 28**

Building cleaning

**COTH and offices closed**

all rooms, 2 p.m.

### **SUNDAY, December 29**

#### **Worship**

Fellowship

**COTH and offices closed**

sanctuary, 10 a.m.  
Widener Hall, 11 a.m.

Dear Saints of PCCH,

Below is a summary of our congregation's financial position as we reach the end of the year. PCCH relies on three main sources for the funds we need to provide programming, operate our building, and pay our employees. The largest of these sources is money given by the congregation. As you can see, we need to make up a significant shortfall in congregational giving to balance our budget for this year.

If you made a pledge in 2024 and are able to fulfill it, please do so by December 31st. If you are in a position to give extra this year, we would be very grateful for any additional support you can provide. And as we begin the budgeting process for 2025, we invite you to make a pledge in support of our congregation's ministry.

If you have questions about your 2024 pledge, or would like to learn more about the pledging process, please contact church administrator Rachel Cline: [rcline@chestnuthillpres.org](mailto:rcline@chestnuthillpres.org).

Thank you for your generous contributions to the life and work of PCCH.

In Christ,

The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle

**2024 OPERATING FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY**  
**as of November 30, 2024**

	<b>2024 Annual Budget</b>	<b>2024 YTD Actual</b>	<b>2023 YTD Actual</b>
Congregational Response	693,000	509,565	501,188
Endowment Draws	154,073	149,236	145,437
Other Sources of Funds	158,000	175,848	140,347
<b>Total Sources of Funds</b>	<b>1,005,073</b>	<b>834,649</b>	<b>786,971</b>
All Expenses and Mission	1,005,073	867,087	719,942
<b>Difference</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32,438</b>	<b>67,029</b>

## 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

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Jill Bown  
Rebecca DePasquale  
Gregory Dickinson  
Matthew Eastman  
Jack Evans  
Graeme Frazier

Ryan Mann  
William Murphy  
Elizabeth Podraza  
Jeannette Quirus  
Dominick Rebeck  
Michelle Shachtman

Taylor Slaughter  
Harry Spaeth  
James Spause  
Margaret Spencer  
William Storm  
Clarke Woodruff

## BOARD OF DEACONS

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Emily Barth  
Kelly Baughman  
Mark Bernstein  
Stephen Bishop  
Catherine Brzozowski  
Nicolette Cobbold  
Beth DeSoo

Debby Evans  
Becky Frazier  
Ann Goslin  
Kristin Lawton  
Emily McCahery  
Jane McGill

Barbara Olson  
Thanice Petrak  
Linda Pettengill  
Rachelle Pretz  
Amy Raphael  
Sharyn Walker  
Sarah Wright

## CHURCH STAFF

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**The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle** Senior Minister and Head of Staff

**The Rev. Cynthia A. Jarvis** Pastor Emerita

**Dr. Daniel Spratlan** Director of Music

**Jeffrey DeVault** Organist/Associate Director of Music

**Dr. Julie Snyder** Director, Children's Education, Joyful Noise, and Youth Choir

**Katherine McGill Magid** Director of Youth Ministry

**Rachel Cline** Church Administrator

**Megan Cullen** Director, Preschool

**Mariangela Saavedra** Director, Center on the Hill

**Mary Frommer** Office and Media Coordinator

**Leslie A. Lefer** Communications Coordinator

**Felix Delgado** Sexton

**Debbie Lambeth** Sunday Child Care Giver

## CONTACT PCCH

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Church office 215.247.8855

Preschool 215.247.8865

Center on the Hill 215.247.4654

✉ [info@chestnuthillpres.org](mailto:info@chestnuthillpres.org)

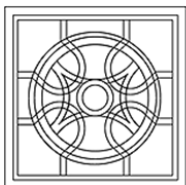
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PCCH Bulletin online



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