

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

WALKING IN FAITH: STEWARDSHIP 2021

Today PCCH launches its 2021 stewardship campaign, “Walking in Faith.” Over the course of the next few weeks, you will hear conversations with church members who will share their faith experience and how the ministry of PCCH has mattered to them. Watch your mail for an introductory letter and additional communications as we plan for our response on November 22. Thinking about stewardship during a global pandemic is a challenging matter; nonetheless, your financial support is vitally important as we continue to reach out and connect through worship, education and service. Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration, as together we walk in faith.

DONATE FOOD, TOILETRIES and MASKS

As our mission partners continue to meet critical human need during a pandemic, we have the opportunity to support their ministries. Each Sunday in October at our evening prayer, Monday (9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) or Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., you are encouraged to bring the following items to the church.

- Shelf stable food items for Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry and Face to Face (Face to Face in particular needs individual size apple sauce, juice boxes, trail mix bars)
- Travel-size toiletries: deodorant, toothpaste, body lotion, shampoo, conditioner, disposable razors, tissues, soap, shaving cream, etc. for Face to Face
- Cloth face masks for West Kensington Ministry

If none of these drop-off times are convenient, contact the church office. Thank you for your support.

JOIN THE SANDWICH BRIGADE!

Our mission partner Face to Face needs sandwiches and lunch bag items to hand out on Fridays to help tide food-insecure clients over the weekends. We’ve signed up to supply those struggling individuals and families on October 30. Here’s how you can help: Prepare peanut and jelly sandwiches (apply PB to both sides of bread, to prevent sogginess). Put each sandwich in a Ziploc bag and bring them to the church kitchen **by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday October 29**. Face to Face also needs individual snack items: fruit cups or applesauce, oranges, granola bars, water bottles, packets of nuts. Your donation of these, as well as paper lunch bags, would be greatly appreciated. While we can’t gather to assemble these bags together, we’d love to see photos of your in-home assembly line! Send photos to llefer@chestnuthillpres.org or post at the Church Life Facebook page. You are welcome to write notes to include in the assembled lunch bags. Questions? Contact Beth Vaccaro (bethnellvaccaro@gmail.com) or Suzan Willcox (sewillcox@comcast.net).

CHURCH SCHOOL

Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Log onto <https://www.chestnuthillpres.org/> and click on the Church School tab.

Church School begins at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday prior to worship for children of all ages. We would love to have the adults tuning in to pay attention to what we do in church school—often a purely behind the scenes venture. The sessions continue to be available on the website.

SECOND HOUR ONLINE

Second Hour Online Continues to Welcome Mission Partners...
Join us LIVE at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday morning for conversations with the leaders of our mission partners.

October 18 – Adan Mairena of West Kensington Ministry

October 25 – Beth Vaccaro of the Community Partnership School

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82157837121?pwd=cXB4d2l2WnJuM0VCQzB3d1VxTmxTUT09>

CONVERSATIONS ON FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE

October 18, 4:00 p.m. with Beth Shalom Hessel under the tent

“How Honest about our History can Help us become a City on a Hill”

Join Beth Shalom Hessel for a conversation about the vital and difficult work of dismantling the mythologies that have upheld our national narratives in order to create more honest and fulsome histories that create space for confession, healing, and reconciliation.

Beth Shalom Hessel is a Presbyterian minister and church historian. Her family actively participates in life at PCCH. Prior to her appointment as the Executive Director of The Athenaeum of Philadelphia in 2019, Beth served as the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Historical Society. Beth received her Ph.D. from Texas Christian University, where her dissertation was titled “Let the Voice of Christian America Speak: Religion and Empire in the Japanese American Incarceration Camps, 1942–1945.”

EVENING PRAYER SERVICES at 5:00 p.m. – Socially Distanced and Under the Tent!

- October 18 – Focus on Stewardship (Come hear Beth Hessel at 4:00 p.m. and stay for evening prayer)
- October 25 – Reformation Sunday

Join us each Sunday through the end of October under the tent for a service of evening prayer. These services – approximately 45 minutes – will feature scripture, prayers, readings, a brief reflection as well as solos and hymns offered by our soloists.

Please wear masks and observe social distancing guidelines.

It will help us in our planning if you RSVP by contacting the church office at 215.247.8855 or ecarpenter@chestnuthillpres.org. We will have extra chairs set out if you decide to attend at the last minute.

YOUTH GROUP

No Youth Group this Sunday, October 18.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Tuesday, October 20, 7:30 p.m., in the tent

We will gather in the PCCH tent for Theology on Tap this month! We have lighting and one heater (don't know how much it will heat, but there is one). So bundle up, bring your beverage of choice, and a mask. Simple rule will be if you're drinking, no talking, so that we keep all health protocols intact. Any questions, email Brian Russo brusso@chestnuthillpres.org.

EVENING PRAYER MOVES TO SANCTUARY

As the weather gets a bit chillier, the Return to Church Team, with the support of the Session, invites you to Evening Prayer services in the Sanctuary. On the first four Sundays in November—1, 8, 15 and 22—we will gather at 4:00 p.m. (note the time) for a 45 minute service of evening prayer. We will observe social-distancing protocols, including masks. We will welcome 50 persons at each service so as to maintain safe distance. Next week, we will send out a letter with additional details, including how to RSVP for the services.

GATHERING NAMES FOR ALL SAINTS DAY

At our November 1 worship service, we will remember the names of church members who have died in the past year. In addition, you are invited to share names of any—friends, family, those who have died recently and those who have died long ago—to be remembered. Send an email to ecarpenter@chestnuthillpres.org with names.

SOULS SHOT EXHIBITION

November 1, 2020 – January 15, 2021

Widener Hall, Free and open to the public.

Visiting hours: Monday–Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

Calling the church office 215-247-8855 ahead is recommended. Safety protocols must be followed: masks must be worn, visitors must stay at least 6 feet apart, occupancy numbers will be limited.

The Souls Shot Portrait Project pairs fine artists with families and friends of victims of gun violence. The artists create portraits using diverse approaches and emphasize the individuality and uniqueness of the victims portrayed. The exhibition is a truly moving tribute. Please join us for this powerful experience. Questions: soulshotportraitproject@gmail.com

MULTIFAITH COMMUNITY GATHERING FOR SOLIDARITY AND HOPE

Monday, November 2, 6:00 p.m., Oxford Presbyterian Church

On Election Eve, join your Northwest Philadelphia neighbors for a time to share solidarity and hope. This multifaith gathering will feature music, brief readings and an opportunity to share your prayers for our community and nation. Mask-wearing and social distancing protocols will be observed. This event, sponsored by the Northwest Philadelphia Multifaith Leaders will also be live streamed at www.facebook.com/nwphillymultifaithleaders

CENTER ON THE HILL

The Center on the Hill is now open for limited in-person classes and events, with strict guidelines and precautions in place. We are also offering many of our activities streamed online as well for people who want to participate or watch from home. New online content, such as virtual tours, fitness videos, art lessons, recorded presentations and more, are now posted Monday–Thursday at 12:00 noon on our programs page here:

<https://www.chestnuthillpres.org/center-on-the-hill/programs/> The Fall Newsletter, and the links and schedule for upcoming events can also be found there.

Upcoming events and classes in-person and online:

REGISTRATION REQUIRED for both in-person and online participation.

September Art Exhibit: Center Hallway- Kass Dymecki, *Watercolors*. (view by reservation) Please call 215-247-4654 or email msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org to reserve a time slot Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm.

Grief Support Group-Mondays, October 26, November 9 & 16, December 7 & 14, 1:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m., Free. Registration required. Limited number of participants for in person group is closed to new members after October 26.

Penn Museum Presentation: Stories from the Tamil Diaspora with Praveen Vijayakumar. Thursday, October 22, 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m., FREE.

Presented online and in-person (to a limited number of participants) to watch at the Center as well.)

“Stories from the Tamil Diaspora” traces a Singaporean Tamil family’s history back to Tamil Nadu, India, in the early 20th century.

Day Trip: Laurel Hill Cemetery with Private Tour Saturday October 24, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., \$20.00, Picnic Lunch option included. Meet at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday October 24 (Free parking available) Laurel Hill Cemetery Main Entrance: 3822 Ridge Ave. Philadelphia, 19132

Space is Limited: Registration and Payment Due by Monday October 19.

Join us for a private walking tour led by local author and historian Thomas Keels. The Tour will end with a scenic picnic lunch that will be provided where you can spread out and enjoy scenic views while you eat.

Speakers Series on the Hill- Recorded on October 15, Speaker: Margaret Montet Topic: Twentieth Century American Music- Part 1

Access the recorded presentation here:

<https://www.chestnuthillpres.org/education/speaker-series-hill/>

PCCH BREAKFAST CLUB MEETS AGAIN UNDER THE BIG TENT!

The PCCH Breakfast Club is BACK! Join us **Saturday, October 17 at 9:00 a.m.** for breakfast under the big tent! We will have tables set up to facilitate appropriate distancing. Coffee, orange juice, and water will be provided. Questions? Email PCCHChurchLife@gmail.com

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday – Bible Study, 12:00 noon, Facebook Live

Friday – Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m., Facebook Live

Visit our website www.chestnuthillpres.org and our Facebook page regularly for updates and events. Let us know if you have prayer concerns.

VIRTUAL GALLERY EXHIBITION—NEW ART ON VIEW NOW!

We miss your face! The dedicated curators of the on-going PCCH Virtual Gallery encourage you to share your smile with your PCCH pals! For “Homecoming,” our next online exhibit, we ask you to take a second to take a selfie of your smiling face in your favorite place! (And, yes, if the spirit moves you, we encourage you to embrace your creative, wacky, silly side!) **The deadline for submission has been extended to October 24. !** Please send your

photos to pcchvirtualgallery@gmail.com. We encourage you to include some text to accompany the image—tell us why this is your favorite place right now or just share what’s on your mind at the moment. Your text can be attached in a Word doc or included in your email. We can’t wait to see your beautiful, even silly smiles!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE UPDATES AND FALL SCHEDULE

During the three blood drives in September the Red Cross collected 84 units of blood which will help up to 252 hospital patients in the area. Our contact at the Red Cross is very grateful for our support and many donors have expressed gratitude for a local donation site.

Future blood drives:

- Friday, November 6 — 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 13 — 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 20 — 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 11 — 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

If you can volunteer to greet potential donors, take their temperature, and check them in using the Red Cross computerized system, please email Liz Podraza at lizpodraza@gmail.com.

If you would like to be a blood donor, go to redcrossblood.org and search for Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill using the zip code 19118. You must have an appointment to donate; no walk-ins can be accepted, but appointments may be made the day of the drive.

CONVERSATIONS ON FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE

Sundays, October 18 and 25, 4:00 p.m.

Join us under the big tent – masked and socially distanced – as we engage in important conversations about what it means to live out our faith in the world. These two conversations will help us explore what that might look like in 2020.

Each conversation will be followed by our 5:00 p.m. service of Evening Prayer, offered throughout the month of October.

October 18 at 4:00 p.m. with Beth Shalom Hessel (see above)

“How Honesty about our History can Help us become a City on a Hill”

October 25 at 4:00 p.m. with John Wilkinson

“Why Voting Matters to Presbyterians”

Join John Wilkinson for a conversation about the importance of voting in the American Presbyterian tradition. Presbyterians have been committed to living out their faith in the public (not partisan) arena, and have issued statements on the importance of voting. We will explore aspects of these statements and consider their contemporary relevance.

MAKING MASKS FOR STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee has identified “Walking in Faith” as our theme for 2021. As part of our unique fall effort, we are making special masks for the congregation, that you can wear out and about or when you gather under the big tent. If you’d like to help sew the masks, please contact Trish Franklin at trish@zachbehr.com.