

# Chestnut Hill Church UCC Newsletter

Hello Winter! from Chestnut Hill Church.

Happy New Year to Everyone! Winter weather is upon us. We have several fundraisers planned for the church. Plus donations to help those less fortunate than us. Please see where you are able to help or contribute to these worthy causes.

Be sure to read all about these events and mark your calendars so you don't miss them.

There are many opportunities for you to become more involved in church activities. Read on to find some that fit your talents and interests. Be sure to check the weekly bulletin and the bulletin board in the lower Narthex for updates to opportunities.

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### A Letter from Pastor Linda

Greetings Church Family,

It is said: “what a difference a day makes”, but I say, “what a difference a year makes.” Last year, at this time, I was trying to learn the rhythm of the congregation, attempting to get to know people and most importantly, trying to remember their names. Now one year later, looking back, I am still pinching myself for the opportunity to serve Chestnut Hill UCC. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for welcoming, embracing, encouraging, and even guiding me when it was necessary.

Stepping into a new church year, I am excited about the possibilities that might lie ahead. I would like to publicly welcome Brian Wonderly to our music team. Brian is a proficient musician and will be playing piano to accompany the congregation two to three times per month. Both Lily Kubala and Phoebe Kelleher will also continue with us to round out the team.

When we start a new year, it is rather typical for us to think about how we might change our lives for the better. We strive to lose weight, eat better, exercise more, and give up bad habits to improve our quality of life. There is nothing wrong with any of these ambitions. We can read from 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.” Just as we treat holy buildings with respect, we should treat our bodies with respect. God wants us to take care of ourselves.

But we also have a spiritual body that we need to take tend to as well. Perhaps as we think about changes and resolutions, we might consider what can affect our spiritual well-being also. I would encourage you to remember the three C’s: **C**onnection to something greater than yourself, **C**ompassion for yourself, others and the world, and **C**ontribution – service to others and the world. Simply put: Volunteer or help others, practice yoga, meditate, start a journal, spend time in nature, focus on a hobby, read the Holy Scriptures, pray, connect with your faith community.

May we enter the New year with joy and laughter, remembering to be thankful and looking forward to what is yet to come.

Grace and peace to you all,

Pastor Linda

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Finance Team**

The Finance Team is looking for weekly Sunday Counters and people to join the finance team. The finance team reviews and sets the annual budget and then the budget is presented to council in November for approval. If interested, please contact Debbie Koder 610-390-9026

### **Communion Assistants**

We are looking for volunteers to help set up, serve, and break down the monthly communion elements on the first of the month. If you are interested, please let Marj Trinkle know.

A sign-up sheet is available with detailed instructions, and we have other members to assist you if needed. Thank you.

### **Cemetery Board**

The cemetery board will have the deteriorating wall taken down in Spring. The cost of repairing is prohibitive. The landscaping that will replace it will be decided at that time. Many suggestions have been given and we appreciate your concern.

### **Memorial Garden**

We are looking for volunteers to help maintain our beautiful garden during the summer. Simple as just pulling weeds in the garden or around the fire pit would be greatly appreciated.

Let Debbie Koder know if you are interested. No specific dates, whatever fits your schedule. Thank you.

## **Betty Lou's Pantry**

**February is CHC's month** to work distribution at Betty Lou's, so that means we need to begin collecting laundry detergent. We are asked to provide 100 bottles for February.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the lower Narthex to volunteer to work on our designated Saturdays in February. Praying it's not TOO cold and windy—we haven't had much luck with the weather on our workdays at BLP.

There is a bin in the lower Narthex for donations for Betty Lou's Pantry. We will take the donations along after service every Sunday. We need everything in the core food groups but especially: Tuna, Canned Fruit (peaches, pears, pineapples), Pasta Sauces, Tomatoes, Jelly (other than grape - strawberry, raspberry, apple, apricot, etc.), Canned corn.

Although small, Chestnut Hill Church has the best reputation for donations to BLP. All donations are very appreciated. There has been a big increase in families that are utilizing the food pantry distribution. Thank you so much for your thoughtful donations for those less fortunate than ourselves.

## **Altar Flowers & Refreshments**

Anyone who is interested in providing the Altar Flowers or Refreshments for any Sunday, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board on the Lower Narthex.

The Altar Flowers, you provide for the Sunday Worship Service and take them home with you. Please indicate if they are in dedication for someone.

Refreshments are served after the Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Coffee, tea and water are provided.

## Outside the Church

### Women Working Wonders!

WWW will be collecting quarters to help give folks at the warming shelter/homeless shelter to use at a laundromat to wash/dry their clothing. I know many of us don't carry change anymore, but if you have some or can buy some from the bank, we will be collecting quarters through the winter months. The collection jar is located in Upper Narthex. If you don't see a collection vessel for these quarters, please see any of the WWW members.

Starting in January, the day and time of meetings will change. It will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1 pm. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join us any time. Also, any ideas of who and how we can help those in the community is always welcomed.

We plan to hold our **2024 hoagie sale** April 20<sup>th</sup>. More info will be forthcoming as we get closer to that date.

**Basket Social fundraiser—save Saturday, October 5, 2024** (we will set up the day before at the Lower Milford Fire House). More information in the future.

## **Special Events**

### **Wreaths Across America**

A HUGE THANK YOU to Jeff Bogert for coordinating everything for this event that was held December 16, 2023.

Also, THANK YOU to Pastor Linda and Pastor Bob, Jonathan Tice, Robin Fogel (BS Troop Leader) and Boy Scout Troop #334 and all the members/friends who came out on a beautiful sunny but chilly Saturday to lay wreaths on all the Veteran's graves at Chestnut Hill Church.

Please save the date on Saturday, December 14, 2024 and spread the word to other members and friends...ALL ARE WELCOME to participate in either coordination and/or wreath placement.

If you would like to volunteer, go to [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org) and follow the prompts, or contact Karen Billger ([treasurer@chcucc.org](mailto:treasurer@chcucc.org)) or Jeff Bogert (610-349-4042) or in person.

### **Take me out to the ball park!**

Friday June 7 is Faith Night at the Iron Pigs Stadium. Tickets are \$12.00 and you get a \$2.00 credit to spend on food or souvenirs.

Let Debbie Koder know if you are interested in attending – 610-390-9026

## **Church Updates**

### **Newest Music Team Member**

About Brian Wonderly:

Brian began playing the piano around the time he was seven years old but took a hiatus and didn't play again until near the end of high school. Most recently, he has played occasionally for his home church, Epworth United Methodist in Bethlehem.

Playing accompaniments when the opportunities arise, he figures he has been on and off for 15+ years. Brian lives on the outskirts of Wind Gap, PA. He hopes to be able to put more effort into some original music to offer for church services, especially relating to the Psalms.

### **Chestnut Hill Church Directories**

CHC church directories are available in the upper narthex of the church. If your address or phone number is incorrect, please contact Debbie Koder to update.

All information was downloaded from Breeze database, which we are no longer using, due to the high membership fee.

### **Chestnut Hill Grief Support Group**

**"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED"**

*The Beatitudes- Mark Chapter 5:4*

Chestnut Hill Grief Support Group, led by Craig Adams, meets the last Saturday of the month, 1pm, in Fellowship Hall. We have discovered that Healing and Recovery happens when stories are shared in a safe place. Our fellowship is surrounded by TOTAL anonymity. Safe place!

I encourage you to reach out to see if the Group would be a good fit for you. Please call, text or email Craig Adams 610-554-4967, [dcraig.adams8@gmail.com](mailto:dcraig.adams8@gmail.com) for a confidential, private conversation.



**Church Contact Information:**

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Secretary: Gloria Roeder ([secretary@chcucc.org](mailto:secretary@chcucc.org))

Treasurer: Karen Billger ([treasurer@chcucc.org](mailto:treasurer@chcucc.org))

Sexton: Sandy Eckhart ([sanddune13@yahoo.com](mailto:sanddune13@yahoo.com))

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

Church Website: [www.chestnuthillchurch.org](http://www.chestnuthillchurch.org)

Church Phone Number: 610-967-1196