

Chestnut Hill Church UCC Newsletter

Hello Fall! from Chestnut Hill Church.

Many exciting events are coming up in the next several months. There's the annual Lower Milford Fall Festival, then a WWW! Basket raffle, Music on the Hill!, hoagie sale and more.

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

Dear Church Family,

Back in 1965, a group of musicians named The Byrds recorded a popular song titled: “*Turn, Turn, Turn*”. The opening lyrics went like this (I know at least some of you will start singing) - “To everything turn, turn, turn. There is a season turn, turn, turn and a time to every purpose under Heaven”. According to Wikipedia, the lyrics were taken almost verbatim from the book of Ecclesiastes, as found in the King James Version of the Bible, (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8) though the sequence of the words was rearranged for the song by its writer, Pete Seeger.

Time – a time to every purpose under heaven. Here we are three-quarters of the way through the year 2023. And you know, once we hit Labor Day, Christmas is right around the corner. Does anyone else remember when the time between the two holidays took forever? It seems that’s it’s true, my friends, time flies and the more mature we become the faster it seems to go. Time is such an indescribable phenomenon. Interestingly, we can save time, and we can kill time. We lose time and we have all the time in the world. We can rob time and get robbed of time. We have all the time in the world, but no one is powerful enough to stop the march of time or slow it down.

We’ve also been told time is on our side and there’s no time like the present. When it comes to the last part of that sentence, truth be told, I’m a bit of a procrastinator; always have been. In fact, when I was a young teenager, my grandmother bought me a little sign to hang on my mirror which said, “I’ll get to it when the time comes, if it ever gets here.” I am also of the opinion that the Pandemic produced a bit of procrastination in us. I think most of us are beyond the fear part; we just want life to go back to the way it was. But that won’t happen unless we have the will and the strength to return to our previous habits.

We were created, by God, to be in relationship with one another. We all know that was quite difficult to do during a pandemic where we couldn’t be physically together. But as we move away from the seclusion and the separation, let us consider the opportunity to utilize the time to reconnect. We have the time now to focus on the people in our lives that we may have lost touch with. Perhaps some of those people may be your brothers and sisters in Christ. The first step is always the hardest, but God is walking with you, and He’s got you in this. Brothers and sisters, there’s no time like the present.

Pastor Linda

Volunteer Opportunities

Betty Lou's Pantry

There is a bin in the lower Narthex for donations for Betty Lou's Pantry—Alice Debus, Laura Held, and Barb Leh work at BLP 2 to 3 times a month to restock, and we will take the donations along after service every Sunday. 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.

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 is discussing replacement of the deteriorating wall. The cost of repairing is prohibitive. We are looking for alternative solutions, i.e., landscaping boulders, decorative concrete block, or a ground mound. See Sam, Brett, Joan, Jeff, or Marty with suggestions.

Outside the Church

Lower Milford 21st Annual Fall Festival

The annual Fall Festival held at Lower Milford Township Building is on Saturday, Sept 23rd from 10 am – 5 pm. We are looking for volunteers to help set up and break down the tent. In the past, we have sold crafts and food, but if you have an idea for something new, let us know. We have our regular location reserved with electric. Due to a prior commitment, I will not be able to be at the festival (2nd time in 21 years.) For questions, call Debbie Koder at 610-390-9026.

Women Working Wonders!

Women Working Wonders! have been very active this past year and remains so in the upcoming season.

This past Spring, we sold **WAWA** coupons—made a profit of \$450. June 22nd, we held a fundraiser at **Inside Scoop**, Coopersburg, and made \$195.

Upcoming: August 24, we will be holding a fundraiser at **Drizzle Ice Cream** in Alburtis—they will provide us with 15% of their total proceeds for the entire day. You don't need to announce CHC or provide any paperwork—just go and enjoy some ice cream. They also have Penn State ice cream available for sale.

September 30, 10 am to 2 pm, at Lower Milford Fire House, Limeport Pike, we will be holding our first **Basket Raffle**, which has the potential to be a huge success. We have received some phenomenally wonderful donations, (including free dinners at local restaurants, free services, lots and lots of filled baskets with tons of goodies), as well as free admissions to museums and events in, nearby, and outside the Valley. We have also received some impressive large grand prize items. Tickets will be sold at the door, \$5/25 tickets; grand prize tickets slightly more. We will begin drawing the winners at 2 pm. Winners will be called to pick up their prizes—we are hoping that most of the winners will be on the premises or nearby in order to pick up their prizes quickly. Any remaining prizes will need to be transported back to the church until pickups can be arranged. In addition, we will be selling crockpot soups, hot dogs, baked goods, etc. All monies from the raffle will go toward our Mission donations to those less fortunate than ourselves in the community—monies from the food sales will go toward the fuel bill at the church.

October 21, 2023, Hoagie Sale: our hoagie sales have been popular and we plan another sale from the same vendor. WWW makes the hoagies at the church the morning of Oct. 21; pickup will be from 11 am to 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. [There will not be any baked goods or raffle baskets this year since we will be doing the Basket Raffle the month prior.]

Holiday Shoeboxes: we will be filling shoeboxes again in November. We will be asking for donations of small toys, etc., to use to fill the shoeboxes in the upcoming months.

WWW meets monthly, 6 pm, 3rd Monday of the month in the church. Anyone is invited to join us at any time. Also, any ideas of who and how we can help those in the community is always welcomed.

Special Events

“Music on the Hill:”

“Music on the Hill” will be held on Saturday, October 14th from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Rain Date Saturday, October 28th.

Please join us outdoors as we make a “Joyful Noise to the Lord.” Chestnut Hill Church will be hosting a music worship event. We will have professional sound in place to reach out to our neighborhood. Several of our music worship leaders will be performing; Lily Kubala, Phoebe Keleher, and Kyle Shedlauskas have been booked, and a few other invites are in the works. We are excited to announce, in addition to our performers, my friend, Ariel Velez, and seven other performers from First Pentecostal Bethany Church, Allentown, Life Church, and Cyber Church fellowship will join us. Our “Mission” for this event? “To meet our neighbors, to share God’s love, and to attract the youth in our area.” More details to come.

Wreaths Across America:

Wreaths Across America will be held on **Saturday, December 16, 2023, 10am.** WAA is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organizations’ mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at more than 2,500 veterans’ cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and overseas. Through this national program, WAA has given back more than \$20 million in local contributions over the last 15 years! Last year, more than 4,000 locations participated in National Wreaths Across America Day. Chestnut Hill Church, an official WAA location, will host a wreath-laying ceremony for National WAA Day.

As in past years, the Hoff Endowment is sponsoring the cost of the wreaths for our Church. Our goal is to place a live, balsam fir veteran’s wreath at the headstone of every service member buried at CHC and ensure no one is forgotten. Grave specific wreaths can be placed on family members’ headstones. Please consider volunteering to help us place wreaths on our headstones on December 16, 2023. Last year, volunteers placed over 153 wreaths at our Chestnut Hill Church. Go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org and click on the Menu at the top right

corner. Click on “Volunteer To”. Click on “Place Wreaths on Wreaths Day”. Follow prompts. Please remember to include a contact email so that we can keep in touch with you in case of inclement weather.

For more information on sponsoring a wreath or volunteering to place wreaths, please contact Karen Billger (treasure@chcucc.org) or Jeff Bogert (jef4golf@hotmail.com) or in person.

Church Updates

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! Folks in their grief journey do not want to be told what to do or how they are supposed to grieve, we just want to be heard!

History: We have grown into a close-knit fellowship, which began in August of 2018. This August we will celebrate the fifth anniversary of our Group’s experience and journey together. We have maintained and survived in amongst a host of challenges, including the passing of members. But the main reason and CHESTNUT HILL CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP credit goes to our Lord and Savior, JESUS CHRIST!!!

Also, we could not survive or thrive without the support of our Pastor, Church Council and our Church family. Our Group and its Outreach efforts would not happen without the financial support of William Hoff and the Vivian Hoff Christian Education and Community Outreach Endowment. The Hoff Endowment

provides the resources for our study materials and treasured Group's relaxing annual trips, including transportation, meals and most importantly, fellowship together. We enjoy, that once in our Group, you are never alone! But surrounded by folks that truly understand what we all go through.

We are always learning that there are many Grieving events:

Death of family member, spouse, partner, parents, child. Divorce, Marital separation, Personal injury, Illness, Dismissal from work, Marital reconciliation, Retirement, Care Giving, change in a family members health, Pregnancy, Change in financial state, Death of a close friend, Career changes, Children leaving home, Change in living conditions. In-law troubles, Trouble with boss, Sleeping habits, Loss of a pet, Addiction. Can you add to the list or relate to any of these?

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 for a confidential, private conversation.