



# **Chestnut Hill Views**

## **From the Pastor's Desk**

Happy Spring!

It is so nice to feel the sun, the warmth, and see the leaves beginning to sprout around my home. Although my nose is not very appreciative, I love this time of year. It is a time of rebirth, a time of renewal, and it reminds us that all things are made new each spring. Having just celebrated the resurrection, in the sanctuary for the first time in almost 6 months, made this Easter extra special for me. We also had several new members join us in fellowship on Easter Sunday and that made it even more special.

As we look toward the summer and the warmer months, vacations being planned, time away for the first time in nearly a year, and all that comes with the warmer months, I want us all to focus on the good things that God has done and continues to do through us at CHC. We are so blessed and fortunate for all the work that has been done and continues to be done to advance the kingdom of God here on Earth. Not only have we welcomed, and by the time you read this, 8 new members into our family, we have made great strides toward making our organization healthy and strong by working on the Policies and Procedures (which have not been done before, ever). We are looking toward the future of being in fellowship with one another after worship (when it is safe). We are planning ways for all of us to get involved in community outreach and missions. We are thriving and developing ways for us to continue to live out Christ's commission in the world (Matthew 28:18-20) which instructs us to go out and make disciples, using the authority that Christ provides, and the assurance that he is with us always.

I do not know about you, but I have certainly felt Christ's presence amongst us during this time. I am praying that as spring enters the world this year, we continue to feel Christ's presence and the renewal that comes from his resurrection as we move toward the bright future we have in store for us on top of our little hill!

May God's peace and blessings surround you this day and each day that is to come!

Pastor Christian

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## Church News

**Open For Worship!** The Church has re-opened for socially distanced worship services inside the Church Sanctuary at 10 am using CDC COVID safety guidelines. In addition to the in-person worship services, the church will also continue to offer virtual services using the link found on the church website and/or on Facebook. Please remain alert for updates via e-mail, church website, and/or Facebook for changes that might result from the continuing Pandemic. Please be aware, while the live streaming worship continues to be offered, the internet at church is not strong, so the worship may hesitate from time to time.

**Pastor's Vacation:** Pastor Christian will be on vacation starting Friday, April 16 and ending Friday, April 30. While he is away, he will be unable to receive voicemails or email. If there is a need for emergency pastoral care, please contact Rev. Teresa Martin (St. John's UCC in Coopersburg) on her cell phone at (717) 654-4044. Pastor will also be away from June 21 to June 28. Please watch bulletins, Facebook, and your email for contact information of the Pastor on call for the June vacation

**WELCOME Our New Church Members:** On Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, 5 new members were welcomed into our Chestnut Hill Church UCC family. Those individuals include: Trinh O'Rourke, Mike Gane, Michael and Gloria Roeder, and Grace Adams. In addition to these five folks, we will also welcome Leigh Hansen and her two daughters, Val and Kayley, on Sunday, May 2. If you happen to encounter these new members at worship, please provide a warm welcome!

**WWW FOOD DRIVE :** Please be reminded that Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.



WWW will be hosting a Food Drive for Betty Lou's Pantry in the church parking lot. Please see page 6 for more information about the food Drive and other ways that you can support WWW and Betty Lou's Food Pantry.

**Confirmation Class:** We are in the process of planning a virtual Confirmation Class that will begin this Fall and run September through May. The class will be for all ages (12 to 100+). It is open to anyone who is interested in understanding and exploring their faith as full members of the congregation. If you or someone you know is interested in attending the Confirmation class, please send Pastor Christian an email with contact information so that he can set up a time for folks to get to know one another and learn a little bit about the program and its plans.

## Church News, continued ...

**Volunteers Still Needed:** Chestnut Hill Church Board of Trustees is still looking for a few volunteers to join their team. Their business is conducted primarily via e-mail. Individuals with a “hands on” mentality who can make small repairs around the church are a perfect fit for their need. Please contact Debbie Koder if interested in volunteering - 610-390-9026. There is also still some need for volunteers to join the Missions Team. Please contact Joan Slota, if you have interest in joining this group.

**Mailed Printouts or DVDs of Sermons Available:** If you or a member of our church or community would be interested in having written weekly sermons mailed to them, please contact the church Secretary either by e-mail, [J.Yaich@chcucc.org](mailto:J.Yaich@chcucc.org) or by leaving a voicemail with your name and contact information on the church telephone - 610-967-1196. We are also able to send DVD recorded worship services if that is preferred.

**Deadline for Newsletters:** Just a reminder that the deadline for future newsletter article information or submissions will now be at noon on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the bi-monthly newsletter release; the next deadline is June 15 for July & August newsletter announcements and information.

**Bible Study:** A special thank you to Cindy Buchter who hosted, not one, but two Lenten Bible Study groups, which recently concluded. The Bible Study Groups studied the Book, *You'll Get Through This* by Max Lucado and it was well received by all participants. A special thank you to Cindy Buchter and Pastor Christian for the opportunity. Thanks to a great time had by participants and a large turnout for the recent Bible Study, a future bible study may be in the works! Please watch church bulletins, future newsletters, or Facebook page for more information.

**CHC T-Shirts:** CHC is looking to place a new order for church T-shirts. At this time, there are only a small selection of sizes available. If you are interested in ordering a t-shirt, please contact Debbie Koder, 610-390-9026, with the size of the shirt you would like: S, M, L, XL, and/or 1XL. Also, please let her know if you want a round neck or a V neck T-shirt. The cost for the T-shirts was previously \$10.00, although a confirmation of price won't be available for the new shirts, until a total count of shirts ordered is available.

**Quarterly Town Halls:** Beginning in May, we will attempt to hold some quarterly updates for the congregation, that we are calling “Quarterly Town Halls”. Each quarter, we will gather to hear what is happening in the building, with our vitality, and some of the decision that Council has made on our behalf throughout the year. These meetings will be held in the Sanctuary after worship, with a virtual option for those who cannot attend in person. The date of our first meeting will be held in May is not yet determined, but that date will be announced with at least two weeks notice. Please watch your email, bulletins, and Facebook for announcements of the date.

## Church News, continued ...

**Keeping the Furnace Running:** A special thank you to Robin and Jim Shedlauskas who donated funds to cover the cost of the initial service fee to begin a routine maintenance plan for the church furnace.

### **EXTERIOR BUILDING WORK UPDATE:**

As was noted in the last newsletter, the back of the church needed repairs to the exterior walls after water was observed coming into the building. There was a large hole in the wall where the back roof met with the original church back wall (see first picture below). The scope of the work was to remove all the old plaster, seal the crack, repair the hole in the wall, replaster the outside wall, reframe the area around the window, install drywall and paint.

The contractor selected estimated the cost of the repair work to be \$8,400. Construction began, but as with many construction projects, the damage was more extensive than originally thought and the cost of the repair increased.



When the church walls were opened for repair, it was discovered that the wood was rotting. And as if that was not bad enough news, on day 6 of the renovation, the contractor called Debbie to make the church aware that the back side of the church was not anchored to the main church building as it should be and was actually coming away from the building. Pictured right, shows the gap between the back side wall and the back of the original church main wall. The light seen coming in from outside indicates that the back side wall is not up against the back main wall of the church. Today's standards require that every 16" of concrete block is to have a metal tie/bar that is anchored from the cinder block to the original wall and supported by rebar that runs from the bottom concrete block up to the top or highest concrete block. The upper portion of our church did not have any rebar and the wall wiggled when the contractor applied weight to it!

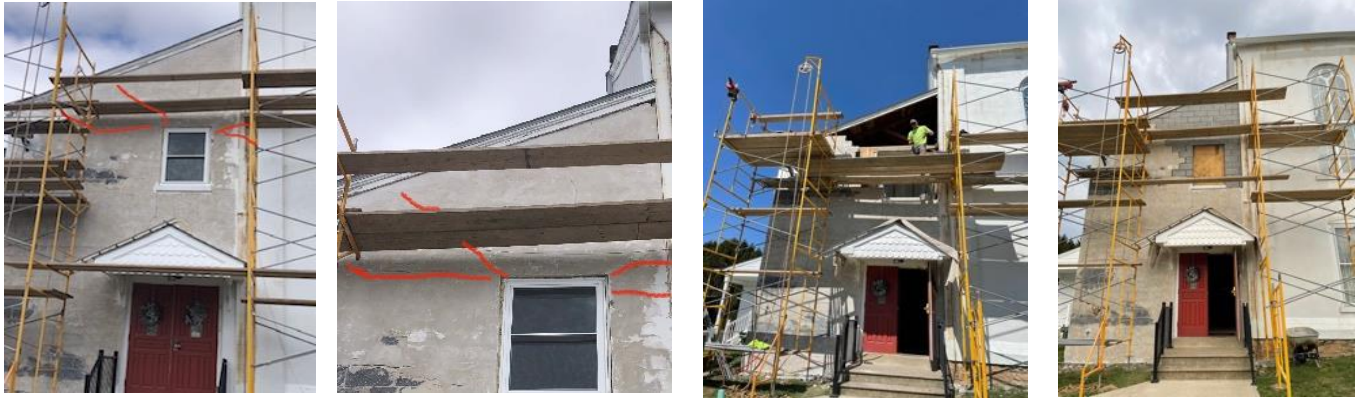




## Church News, continued ...

### EXTERIOR BUILDING WORK UPDATE, continued:

Per our contractor, the least costly, satisfactory repair, would be to remove all the cinder block that was not installed correctly and re-install new cinder block the proper way. The areas noted in RED, shown below, are the sections that needed to be removed and installed correctly. The additional work came at a cost of \$2,400 more than the original estimate.



At the time of newsletter publication, the unsatisfactory cinder block work was removed and correctly installed. Once the cement dries, the inside wall will be reframed, drywalled, and the exterior of the building will be replastered and painted.

**And that's not all ... more work is needed.** Our masonry contractor has made us aware of additional deterioration across the back wall of the church addition. We will need additional work to the back wall, once the side wall project is complete. The issues found on both the side, and back wall, are structural concerns and must be repaired. Years of weathering combined with a non-permeable exterior coating (paint) has caused several large cracks to develop throughout the stucco. The areas directly over the windows are now hollow and there are several long vertical cracks up the wall. Funds to cover these expenses have been allocated and we encourage everyone to attend an upcoming Congregation Town Hall Meeting in May (Date TBA), where more specific information will be provided, and questions can be answered.

As, this work continues, **please consider making a donation to the Improvement Fund to help with the cost of these repairs.** All maintenance work around the church comes from the Improvement Fund. Also, a special thank you to Ken Debus and Debbie Koder for making sure the church was opened and closed daily for the contractor to perform the necessary work. Thank you - The Trustees, Council and Finance Committees

For behold, the winter is past;  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.  
Song of Solomon 2:11-12



## Groups of Chestnut Hill Church

**Whine, Women, Worry:** On April 24, 2021, WWW will be hosting a Food Drive for Betty Lou's Pantry from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Chestnut Hill Church parking lot. Items most in need at the Food Pantry include: Canned Pasta i.e., SpaghettiOs, Ravioli; Tuna Helper; Toilet Paper; and Non-sugared Cereal. Also, please see below for a special request for laundry detergent. If you are unable to bring donations to the church on April 24th, please contact Alice Debus at [adebus1@ptd.net](mailto:adebus1@ptd.net) or 610-967-2811, or Laura Held at [heldy2@ptd.net](mailto:heldy2@ptd.net), or 215-771-3873. Also, if you plan to donate towards the 100 bottles of Laundry Detergent, please let Alice or Laura know so that they can track how many more bottles of detergent are needed to meet the 100 bottle goal.



**Please see Celebration Corner, page 10, for photos of the wonderful work the WWW ladies did to make Easter more special for the kids at The Children's Home of Easton.**

**Betty Lou's Pantry:** Chestnut Hill Church's month to assist Betty Lou's Pantry is May. Please note the date change for CHC to work the pantry is now May 8 and May 22. In addition to needing volunteers to work the pantry, we were asked to provide 100 bottles of laundry detergent for our month, so please keep this in mind as you do your shopping over the next month. The detergent donations can be dropped off at the Food Drive that Whine, Women and Worry will be hosting on April 24th. If you are unable to bring donations to the church on April 24th, please contact Alice Debus at [adebus1@ptd.net](mailto:adebus1@ptd.net) or 610-967-2811, or Laura Held at [heldy2@ptd.net](mailto:heldy2@ptd.net), or 215-771-3873. FYI: You can get laundry detergent at Dollar Tree! If you plan to donate towards the 100 bottles of Laundry Detergent, please let Alice or Laura know so that they can track how many more bottles of detergent are needed to meet the 100 bottle goal.

**Fellowship of Mindful Men (FoMM)** FoMM is a men's fellowship group designed to provide a space to look at ways to grow closer to God and one another. If you are interested in more information, or joining the group, please contact David Kadingo, [alfdaver@gmail.com](mailto:alfdaver@gmail.com).

**Grief Support Group:** The Grief Support Group, led by Craig Adams, is regularly checking in with its members in need of support - AND starting May 29<sup>th</sup> and continuing the last Saturday of each month, the Grief Support group will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm at Chestnut Hill Church. This support group is free of charge for ANYONE, whether they are a member of our church or not. If you, or someone you know, might benefit from this group and want more information - please contact Craig Adams, 610-554-4967.

# Groups of Chestnut Hill Church, continued...

## Social Media, Electronic Groups, & Church Website:

Being part of Chestnut Hill Church is at your fingertips, literally, for those with access to smart devices and internet. Some of the many ways to join us virtually include visiting the church website <https://www.chestnuthillchurch.org/>, where you can find links to participate in recent and upcoming church worship services and other church news, via Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/269721049717923/> where you can also access links to worship services, view daily sentiments and stay up to date on church news and events, and Chestnut Hill Church is also on Instagram, at the Instagram address - <https://www.instagram.com/chestnuthillchurchucc/> there you can find photos and notes of past and upcoming church news and activity.

## Supporting Chestnut Hill Church

Some of the many ways to financially support the church include signing up for the Thrivent Choice Program (if you are a member of Thrivent Financial). Shopping Amazon, using smile.amazon.com and choosing Chestnut Hill Church as your charity, and monetary donations may be sent via church envelope offering, via USPS mail, arranged for in person drop off by contacting the Church Secretary, or Treasurer, 610-967-1196 OR at your leisure via E-offering (more information regarding E-Offering and envelope offering can be found below.)

**E-Offering:** Below is the link to get started or continue giving electronically. If you need additional instruction, please contact Pastor Christian, or Secretary, Jessica, who would be happy to assist you. **To create a new E-Account to start, or continue giving electronically, go to:** [www.members.myEoffering.com](http://www.members.myEoffering.com)

**Envelope Offering:** For those who wish to continue using the regular offering envelopes, you will continue to receive the envelopes in the mail as you have in the past. The envelopes will continue to be mailed to you every 2 months. If you have any questions about the envelopes, please contact Pastor Christian. **If you are using E Offering and no longer wish to receive envelopes, please let Pastor Christian or Church Secretary, Jessica, know** so that you can be removed from the envelope mailing list.



**SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
begins on **June 6<sup>th</sup>** and on that date and  
continuing throughout summer, **worship**  
**services will begin at 9:00 am**



# Chestnut Hill Church Trips



**Let's Go Out To The Ball Park In 2021!** Last year due to Covid-19, the Iron Pigs' season was cut short and our Faith night games were cancelled. At this time, there is no Faith Night date set, but they are allowing groups to attend games. CHC has selected 3 dates to try to gather a group to go and enjoy a game. The dates selected are: Saturday, July 10 at 6:35 pm, Saturday, July 24 at 6:35 pm, and Saturday, August 28 at 6:35 pm. The goal is to meet a minimum of 20 people for at least 1-2 games. Tickets are \$11.00 each and include a \$2.00 off voucher for the concession stand or store. Concession stands will be open for food at the games. Please let Debbie Koder know which dates work for you. The group will go with the date(s) that works best for the majority. Please call Debbie at 610-390-9026 OR email her at [debkoder@yahoo.com](mailto:debkoder@yahoo.com) if you are interested in attending a game.

## Conference Happenings

For all news and updates on the Conference, please see <https://pnec.org/this-week-in-pnec/>.

**UPCOMING SPECIAL OFFERING:** Each year, there are 4 special mission offerings collected for the wider church (Conference and National). Our second special offering will be collected in May. This offering, Strengthen the Church, will be collected on Sunday, May 23 (Pentecost Sunday). The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. One half of all monies collected through this special offering stay within the Conference to support programs that help us to continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world. You can give through a special offering envelope (available in the Narthex) or through My Eoffering (using the special offering line UCC Special Offering – Strengthen the Church).

**Get READY!** Our bi-annual national gathering has gone virtual! Which means that everyone can participate in this year's gathering. Check out the UCC website for links to the worship and meeting information. Also, we have two delegates attending General Synod this year, Pastor Christian and Stephanie Creyer. We will be live streaming worship from General Synod this year, so if the meeting information is not of interest, you might be interested in worshipping with the entire denomination at a very special time in our history. Watch the next newsletter for more details as they become available!





# Worship Schedule & Information

## Upcoming Service Information and *Tentative Sermons: (focus passage in bold)*

<b>04/25/21</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	Psalm 23
	<b>Pastor on Vacation – Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister leading worship</b>	
	<b>Sermon Title: “One Flock:</b>	<b>John 10:11-18</b>
<b>05/02/21</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	Psalm 22:25-31
	<b>Sermon Title: “Following the Risen Christ: Remaining in Christ”</b>	<b>John 15:1-8</b>
<b>05/09/21</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	Psalm 98
	<b>Sermon Title: “Following the Risen Christ: Loving Each Other”</b>	<b>John 15:9-17</b>
<b>05/16/21</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	Psalm 1
	<b>Sermon Title: “Following the Risen Christ: Glorifying God”</b>	<b>John 17:6-19</b>
<b>05/23/21</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	<b>Acts 2:1-13</b>
	<b>Sermon Title: “Following the Risen Christ: The Spirit of God”</b>	John 16:1-16
<b>05/30/21</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	Romans 8:12-17
	<b>Sermon Title: “Mysterious Encounter: Jesus and Nicodemus”</b>	<b>John 3:1-17</b>

**June, July, and August:** Beginning June 6, worship will move to 9 AM for the summer. Make sure to mark your calendars! We will also be spending some time over the summer looking at and celebrating some of our hymns of nature. These services have not yet been planned, so keep an eye on the bulletins for announcements about these upcoming services.

<b>06/06/21</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pentecost</b>	<b>TBD</b>
	<b>Sermon Series: “Hymns of Nature”</b>	
<b>06/13/21</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pentecost</b>	<b>TBD</b>
	<b>Sermon Series: “Hymns of Nature”</b>	
<b>06/20/21</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost</b>	<b>TBD</b>
	<b>Sermon Series: “Hymns of Nature”</b>	
<b>06/27/21</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost</b>	<b>TBD</b>
	<b>Pastor on vacation – exploring a hymn sing in the garden.</b>	
<b>07/04/21</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost</b>	<b>TBD</b>
	<b>Sermon Series: “Hymns of Nature”</b>	
<b>07/04/21</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost</b>	<b>TBD</b>
	<b>Sermon Series: “Hymns of Nature”</b>	

# Celebration Corner

This page is dedicated to the special work that the ladies of Wine, Women, Worries did to provide Easter Egg Hunt Supplies and treats to the kids at The Children's Home of Easton this past Easter. Their work included manually stuffing 500 plastic eggs with treats, the donation of 40 chocolate Easter bunnies, and 40 greeting cards! The Children's Home of Easton provides services and housing for children dealing with abuse, neglect, and other traumatic experiences. Great job ladies. *(Pictures courtesy of Laura Held)*



Pictured left, in front, is Bunny Hare preparing cards, and in the back are Carol Vasilik, Becca Bogert and Robin Shedlauskas stuffing eggs.

Pictured below are Alice Debus and Lorraine Kahler prepping supplies.



Pictured bottom left corner is Barb Leh packing some plastic eggs, and pictured to her right, are all of the colors of the beautiful eggs that were filled and donated.

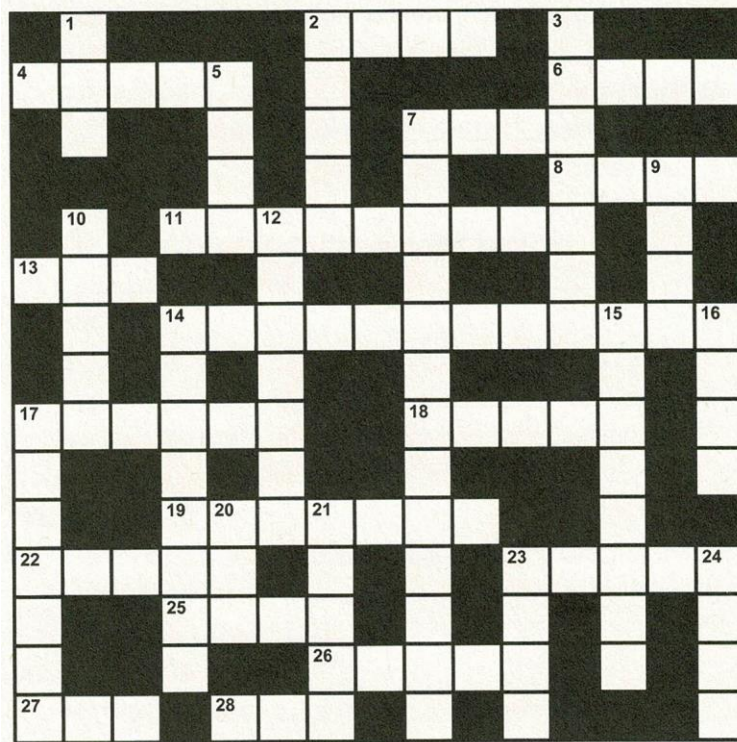


Pictured above is Stephanie Creyer preparing eggs with treats.



# Bible Trivia

From *Ultimate Bible Trivia* by Timothy E. Parker © 2016... Answers on page 12



## Across

2. Caspar, Balthazar, and Melchior
4. Christian symbol
6. First gardener
7. Apostle to the Gentiles
8. Proverbs 19:15, Slothfulness  
casteth into a deep sleep; and an  
\_\_\_ soul shall suffer hunger
11. Chief heavenly messenger, like  
Gabriel
13. Daniel 7:1, In the first year of  
Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel  
had a dream and visions of his head  
upon his \_\_\_
14. A gift to the infant Jesus
17. Certain man of the cloth
18. Psalm 106:16, They envied Moses  
also in the camp, and Aaron the  
\_\_\_ of the LORD
19. Adore to the fullest
22. Genesis 7:22, \_\_\_ whose nostrils  
was the breath of life, of all that  
was in the dry land, died (2 words)
23. Confidence that God's Word is true
25. Period beginning Ash Wednesday
26. Church building feature
27. Mother of Abel
28. The wages of it are death

## Down

1. How great thou \_\_\_
2. Proverbs 7:17, I have perfumed my  
bed with \_\_\_, aloes, and cinnamon
3. Nazareth's locale
5. Revelation 8:11, And the name of  
the \_\_\_ is called Wormwood
7. He ordered Christ's crucifixion
9. The Ten Commandments, for  
example
10. Man originally called Simon
12. Thing with verses in the Bible
14. What God has given so that people  
can make their own choices (2  
words)
15. Christmas scene
16. Twin in Genesis
17. Kind of story Jesus told
20. Genesis 11:1, And the whole earth  
was of \_\_\_ language
21. The enemy to us all
23. Genesis 19:24, Then the LORD  
rained upon Sodom and upon Go-  
morrah brimstone and \_\_\_
24. Psalm 9:17, The wicked shall be  
turned into \_\_\_, and all the nations  
that forget God

# Financial Report, Celebrations & Pastor Contact Information

## Financial Report

### Checking/Savings Accounts:

(As of March 31, 2021)

QNB checking \$ 1,459.92

Building Fund \$ 7,250.59

Special Savings \$ 39,326.33

### Investment Portfolio:

Miller Endowment

(As of 2-28-2021) \$ 467,863.63

Hoff Endowment

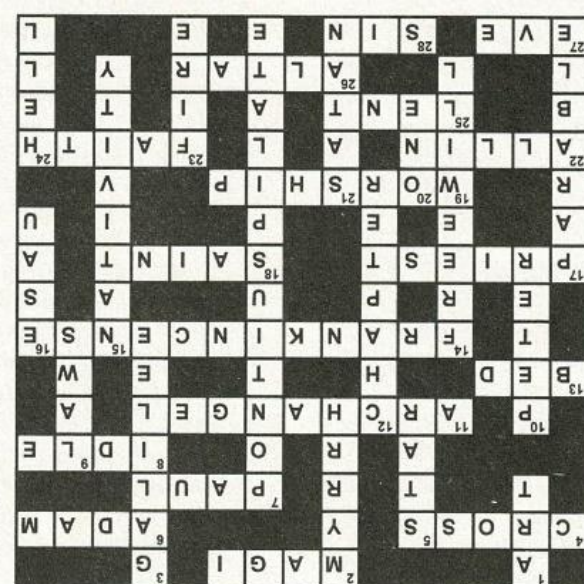
(As of 3-31-2021) \$ 207,099.43

Ameriprise

(As of 12-31-2021) \$ 11,722.85

Answers for crossword

puzzle on previous page 11.



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

**Joan & Rod Slota**

**June 20<sup>th</sup> – 34 YEARS!!!**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY !**

**Stephanie Slota**

**June 14th**

**Pastor: Christian Creyer (Pastor Christian)**

**Church Phone: 610-967-1196**

**Cell Phone: 484-866-5229**

**Email address: [pastor@chcucc.org](mailto:pastor@chcucc.org)**

**Office Hours:**

If you would like to make an appointment to see Pastor Christian, please call, text, or email.