March/April 2025 Volume 2

**Chestnut Hill Church UCC**

**Newsletter**

 Hello Everyone! Hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather!

We will be having a short Congregational Meeting after our service on Sunday, April 6th. Mike Gane will be cooking a pancake breakfast for everyone at 9:00 am before the service. Please plan on attending this meeting.

 ***Easter Services in April***

Palm Sunday……. April 13th at 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday April 17th   6:30 – 7:30 pm

The church will be open from 6:30 to 7:30 pm for a time of personal reflection as we approach Good Friday.  Please enter quietly, have a seat and take some time to consider Jesus’ final hours: his last supper with his disciples, his walk to Gethsemane, his arrest and conviction.  As you are ready, please come forward for Holy Communion before leaving.

Good Friday……. April 18th at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday…... April 20th at 10:00 am

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**Letter from Pastor Linda**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I grew up in the ‘big’ city of Easton in a second-story apartment with a small yard which was shared with the tenants of the other three apartments. I remember a rose bush, a peony bush and a lilac bush whose roots invaded the lawn. Likewise, for most of my adult life, I lived “in town”. But for the past ten plus years, I have been blessed to reside in a rural setting; neighbors to either side and a large field across the street. Woods in the back block the view of the neighborhood behind us. I have never been in such awe of God’s creation!!

From Genesis 1: Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So, God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind.

***God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.***

My home ‘office’ windows face the back yard. At this time of year, I watch plants begin to sprout and the birds in their migration patterns, I watch and wait for green grass to return. The squirrels and chipmunks run amok looking for food and nesting places. I wait for Spring to burst forth with all the beauty of creation. As I watch the seasons change, I think of God having a really big box of Crayola crayons as colors begin to emerge or fade away depending on the season.

Springtime also brings us into the season of Lent which leads us to Easter. As we live and move through the coming weeks, consider taking some extra time to spend with God in this Holy season. I invite you to relax in God’s presence, enjoy the beauty of creation and be reassured of His love and forgiveness.

Peace and Blessings, 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 Sunday of each month. If you have never done this, someone will gladly show you where everything is and how to set it up.

You only need to arrive at church around 9:15 am, it takes about ½ hour to set up.

 If you are interested, please let Marj Trinkle know. A sign-up sheet is available on the Lower Narthex bulletin board with detailed instructions.

 **Refreshments & Altar Flowers**

 Anyone who is interested in providing Refreshments or the Altar Flowers for any Sunday, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board on the Lower Narthex. When services are being held in the Fellowship Hall during the summer months, sign-up sheets are on back tables.

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

 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.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

There are many opportunities within the church to use your time and talents to help the church with its mission in this world. We are looking for folks to serve on the Board of Trustees (building and maintenance team). If you are interested in helping, see: Trustee – Debbie Koder.

**Outside the Church**

**Women Working Wonders!**

WWW Meetings is held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1 pm, at the church, either in the Sunday School Room or the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us with ideas or help.

**Women Working Wonders! update: we have several fundraisers lined up for 2025 so far:**

March 27: 3-9 pm - Drizzle Ice Cream, Alburtis: 15% of total proceeds

April 5, Hoagie Sale, $9 each for Turkey or Italian hoagie

April 16: 3-10 pm - Texas Roadhouse, Trexlertown: 10% of total proceeds (must show flyer)

May 6; 4-7 pm - Five Guys Burgers, Promenade, 10 % of total proceeds

June 5: 6-11 pm - Inside Scoop, 10% of total proceeds

June 10: 5=9 pm - Red Robin Promenade, 20% of total proceeds (must show flyer)

July 31: 12-9 pm - Drizzle Ice Cream, Alburtis, 15% of total proceeds

Applebee’s Burgers certificates: purchase from Karen Billger for $10 each and use at any Applebee’s to purchase a burger worth $13-$15+

Copperhead Grille: TBA

We made 100 Easter baggies for children at Betty Lou’s Pantry for April 19 Easter distribution

We also plan to hold our 3rd annual Basket Raffle, October 4, at the Lower Milford Fire House.

We were able to make donations to over 16 organizations for 2024: Warming Station at YMCA Allentown; 5 local volunteer fire companies; Tails of Valor, Paws of Honor; Essentials Café; Chemo Bag; Local veterans; Love Ran Red, Dukes Delites; Children’s Home of Easton; Betty Lou’s Pantry; Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering; LV Holiday Hope Chests, etc.

 **Betty Lou’s Pantry**

 Betty Lou’s Pantry is always appreciative of any donations. There is a cart in the Lower Narthex to place your donations and they will be delivered to BLP weekly. Thank you so much for your thoughtful donations to those less fortunate than ourselves. **No Laundry detergent is needed at this time. They are using laundry sheets.**

**Special Events**

**Spring Forward into Yoga!**

*(More Daylight Means More Yoga)*

Both Chair and Mat Yoga will be offered on the same day. Wednesdays beginning on March 12, 2025. Last Day will be held on May 14, 2025.

Chair Yoga starts at 4:00 PM and Mat Yoga starts at 5:30 pm. Both sessions will be one hour in length. 10 week sessions. Everyone has to sign a waiver of liability before their first class. Feel free to invite a friend to join you.

As always, a goodwill offering will be accepted at each class to help defray costs of our use of the Fellowship Room space at Chestnut Hill Church UCC, located at 6870 Chestnut Hill Church Rd. in Coopersburg, where the class will be held.

Class will be led by Cindy Buchter. Any questions, please call her at 610-751-1909 or email buchtecl@ptd.net.

**WWW FUNDRAISER!!  - BURGERS FOR A CAUSE @ APPLEBEE’S**

We have partnered with Applebee’s!!!!!

Applebee’s is offering a “Burgers for a Cause” (for non-profits only).  CHC has purchased 100 certificates for resale @ $10 each.  Each certificate is good for the purchase of ANY burger off their menu (includes fries).   Currently, Applebee’s has approx. 9 different burgers on their menu with prices ranging from $12.49 - $15.99.  Certificates do not expire and they are good at all Lehigh Valley Restaurants plus nearby (restaurants are listed on the certificates, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, surrounding PA locations).   There are flyers in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for reference.

Contact Karen Billger (484) 358-1957 (cell) or treasurer@chcucc.org (email) to obtain certificates to purchase or sell to family/friends.

 **Take Me Out to the Ball Park**

Iron Pigs Faith Night is Friday June 13, 2025. Game time is 7:05 pm and gates open at 5:45 pm.

Ticket cost is $13.00 with a $2.00 food or souvenir credit.  We hope you can join us!  We will be sitting in section 119 by 3rd base, no sun glare this year!

Contact Debbie Koder 610-390-9026

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA – Saturday, Dec 13, 2025**

In order to make our Wreaths Across America (WAA) event more successful, the WAA Team is looking to obtain information of relatives of our Veterans laid to rest in our Cemetery.  We would like to reach out to relatives to invite them and let them know they are welcome to lay a wreath at their relative’s gravesite.  This event is wholly funded by the Hoff Endowment and is at no cost to the relative.

If you are in touch with any relatives, please either ask them to contact either Karen Billger (CHC Treasurer) at treasurer@chcucc.org or Jeff Bogert fuat jef4golf@hotmail.com or leave a message at the Church at (610) 967-1196.

**Church Updates**

**Fellowship Hall Windows Replacement**

The windows in the Fellowship Hall need to be replaced in the near future. We are looking for donations to have them replaced.

If this is a possibility, please make your donation to:

Chestnut Hill Church – Improvement Fund – please note on offering envelope fellowship windows.

 By mail : Chestnut Hill Church – 6870 Chestnut Hill Church Road, Coopersburg PA 18036, or depositing it in the collection plate at church.

Thank you for your kind and generous consideration.

**Steeple Repair**

This spring, 2025 all new aluminum windows will be installed in the steeple, to replace the wooden windows that are rotting and falling apart.

The new windows will be insulated and no storm windows are needed.

**Thank you to all the people/members** who donated to memorial funds and steeple funds to make this happen.

**Steeple Bell Frame**

As mentioned at the annual congregational meeting, our bell frame/brace has a crack in it.  **Mike and Brett will be able to attach a plate to secure this crack, (per instructions from the Schulmerich Bell company) at a savings of $5500.00** and we will be able to continue to hear our bell ring!

**Security Cameras**

Our 4 wired outdoor security cameras were installed March 4, 2025.

This will allow 3 members to have eyes on the church, when we are not there, plus our staff, when they are in the office are able to see if anyone is about.

**Member Information Form**

Attached is a form to update our records. We handed these out at the Congregational Meeting in February for members to fill out. For anyone who hasn’t filled it out already, if you could please fill your information out, and either mail back to the church or email it back to me. Separate form for each member, please. Thank you for your cooperation in filling in the form out.

Gloria Roeder secretary@chcucc.org

  **Chestnut Hill Grief Support Group**

   Our next meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 29, 2025**. Starting with Grief Yoga at noon. After light refreshments, our meeting will begin at 1:00 pm.

Please give a big SHOUT OUT to Cindy Buchter, for providing Grief Yoga and officially joining our Grief Support Ministry. Cindy has provided Grief Support resources for quite some time. WE'RE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL. for her Ministry. Thanks Cindy!

If anyone is struggling, please free to reach out, Craig Adams, 610-554-4967 or my email dcraig.adams8@[gmail.com](http://gmail.com).

We are extremely Grateful to the Hoff family, for funding our Group donations. Our Group is made possible by their generosity and support. Thanks Hoff Family.  May our Lord keep you in his loving embrace!

**Church Contact Information:**

Pastor Linda Rapp: (Pastor@chcucc.org)
Pastor Linda Rapp Phone: 610-462-7067

Secretary: Gloria Roeder (secretary@chcucc.org)

Treasurer: Karen Billger (treasurer@chcucc.org)

Sexton: Sandy Eckhart (sanddune13@yahoo.com)

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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

Church Phone Number: 610-967-1196