



# Chestnut Hill Views

## From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings Everyone!

As I write this, we are getting another round of snow fall. It seems that is all that we have had so far this year. In fact, I cannot remember the last time I saw grass! Not that I am looking forward to mowing grass again but it sure would be nice to get a break from all the nuisance storms we seem to be having lately. Having said that, I know there are many who love the snow because it means a chance to get out and do some skiing or an opportunity to make a few extra bucks with plowing and shoveling for our neighbors.

This winter sure has felt a lot like the last twelve months...non-stop and torturous for most of us. As we move into March and April this year, I am looking forward to a time when we can gather, safely, in our sanctuary and be together in fellowship once again. I know I am feeling the fatigue of not seeing folks and being able to have conversations and especially the warm, friendly hugs that we share. I know it has been a long time since we could be together in this way but there is a light at the end of the tunnel...

As we approach Lent and Easter this year, I am praying that we can end this never-ending season of Lent. Remember that we ended our in-person worship during Lent last year and even though we were able to gather in the sanctuary for a brief couple of months over the summer, it just feels like Lent never really ended last year. So, this year, during the actual Lenten period, we are going to be journeying alongside each other and all those who have expressed their grief over the last twelve months. As you will see later in this newsletter, we will be taking some time to explore some Psalms of Lament and I pray that we will be able to end that journey on Easter Sunday with a tremendous celebration of joy and relief from the fatigue that has come because of COVID over the last year.

As I close this note to you this month, I want to give you one of my favorite pieces of scripture that has gotten me through some of the most difficult times in my life...And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13, NET). One thing you have all shown me is love and I know that our love for one another will get us through any situation or circumstance we may find ourselves living within.

God's Peace and blessings, Pastor Christian

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## Church News

**Ways to Worship:** The Church remains CLOSED for physical worship or gathering. However, as the weather gets nicer (think Spring), we hope to add parking lot or outdoor worship services at the church, condition permitting, possibly even limited capacity worship inside the church. Please keep an eye out for updates via e-mail, church website, and/or Facebook. The Church website and Facebook Group continues to offer links to future, live or previous Sunday worship services, which are now shared via a webcast called FaithLifeTV.

**WELCOME - to our New Council Members:** Welcome to our new CHC Council members; Craig Adams, Rebecca Bogert, and Laura Held! The new members were elected during our Annual Meeting held February 14<sup>th</sup> via Zoom and were passed unanimously. Welcome to each of you! We look forward to having you serve on Church Council.



**Annual Congregational Meeting:** We held our Annual Congregational Meeting via a Zoom on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> after the church service. If you have not received a copy of the Annual Reports, please contact our Church Secretary, Jessica, who can either e-mail or mail you a copy.

**Repair Needed to Prevent Further Water Damage:** Recently, water was noticed coming into the upper back hall of the church building by the stairs. This water is believed to be coming in from a hole and cracks on the exterior wall of the church. Debbie Koder and the Board of Trustees collected estimates for the needed repairs. The estimate approved by the Trustees, and the Congregation at our Annual Meeting is with Rome Masonry at the estimated cost of \$8,400. As this was an unforeseen cost, any monetary donations to help defray the cost of this repair are greatly appreciated. You can designate funds to the building/improvement line with your offering.

**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.

**THANK YOU:** To our outgoing Council Members after serving for the last four years, Pennie Hoofman and Kim Burns have completed their four-year terms. **THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DID** as part of Council!

**THANK YOU TO THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION!** Each year, we do a special collection for a Christmas Gift for Pastor Christian and he likes to do a personal thank you note to hang in the Narthex. This year, since we are not able to be together physically, Pastor Christian sends his deepest gratitude for the tremendous Christmas gift collected this year! The gift helped Stephanie and he to do some much-needed things around the house. This year the congregation collected \$1,590 for Pastor's gift. **THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

# Church News, continued ...

**Recap of Ash Wednesday:** Once again, we needed to worship in a different way on Ash Wednesday.



A photo of the church taken prior to the start of the 4pm Ash Wednesday parking lot service.

Pastor Christian and his technological capabilities did not disappoint! At both a 4 pm and 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service, members of the church and community joined together in the warmth of their own vehicles in the Chestnut Hill Church parking lot to participate in a car radio broadcast service. Ashes and a goody bag were offered to worshipers as they arrived. In addition to the two services in the parking lot, Pastor Christian live streamed the 4 PM service. Please email Pastor or Jessica if you would like a link to the service.

**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.

**Snow-much Work:** Thank you to the Koder's and Samuel Leh who have been making sure the church is accessible to employees and servicemen after recent winter weather. The Koder's have been keeping the sidewalks and mailbox clear and Sam Leh has been plowing the church parking lot.

**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; this would be April 15<sup>th</sup> for May/ June newsletter, June 15<sup>th</sup> for July/ August newsletter, August 15<sup>th</sup> for September/ October newsletter, and October 15<sup>th</sup> for the November/ December newsletter. This new earlier deadline will allow us more time to prepare the newsletter, keep a consistent and hopefully more memorable deadline date and will allow us to get any pertinent information for the months ahead to you sooner.

**Bible Study:** We have begun a Lenten Bible Study of the Book, *You'll Get Through This* by Max Lucado. We are meeting on Sundays after worship and Wednesday evenings at 6:30. There is still room in our Wednesday evening group. If interested, please email Cindy Buchter at [buchtecl@ptd.net](mailto:buchtecl@ptd.net).

**New Member Gathering:** We currently have four folks ready to join in full membership with Chestnut Hill Church. Pastor Christian would like to schedule a time for us all to gather before Easter Sunday, when we will welcome these folks into fellowship with us. If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining, please email Pastor Christian with information so that a gathering can be scheduled.

**Confirmation Class:** It is time to begin planning our next Confirmation Class. If you know a young person (ages 11 to 18) or an adult that would be willing to assist, please contact Pastor Christian so that he can begin planning a class. As of right now, Pastor is considering options for gatherings, including offering a virtual only option.

# Groups of Chestnut Hill Church

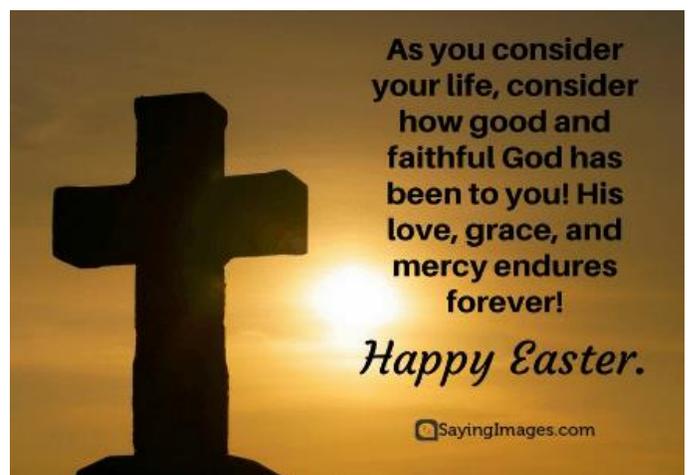
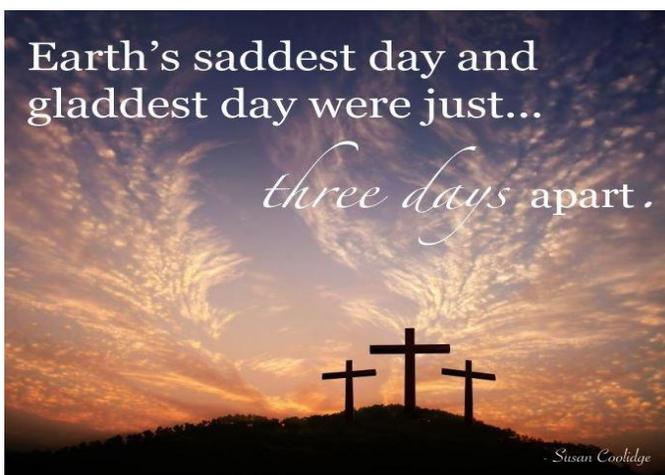
Are you looking for ways to get more involved in our church community? The following groups provide service and fellowship and are always welcoming new members. Below, you can learn more about some of the Church's groups and what they are up to:

**Whine, Women, Worry: IS PLANNING A FOOD DRIVE IN APRIL** —please watch for more details to come via Church bulletins, e-mail, and/ or the Church Facebook page.

**Betty Lou's Pantry:** Chestnut Hill Church's month for Betty Lou's Pantry is May: May 1 and May 22. We are 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 few months to stock up. Hopefully, the church will be re-opened before May and you can deliver your donations to the church, as done in the past. The detergent donations can also be dropped off at the food drive that our very own Whine, Women and Worry will be hosting in April! Please stay tuned for more information. Thanks for your support, Alice Debus – Adebus1@ptd.net

**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).

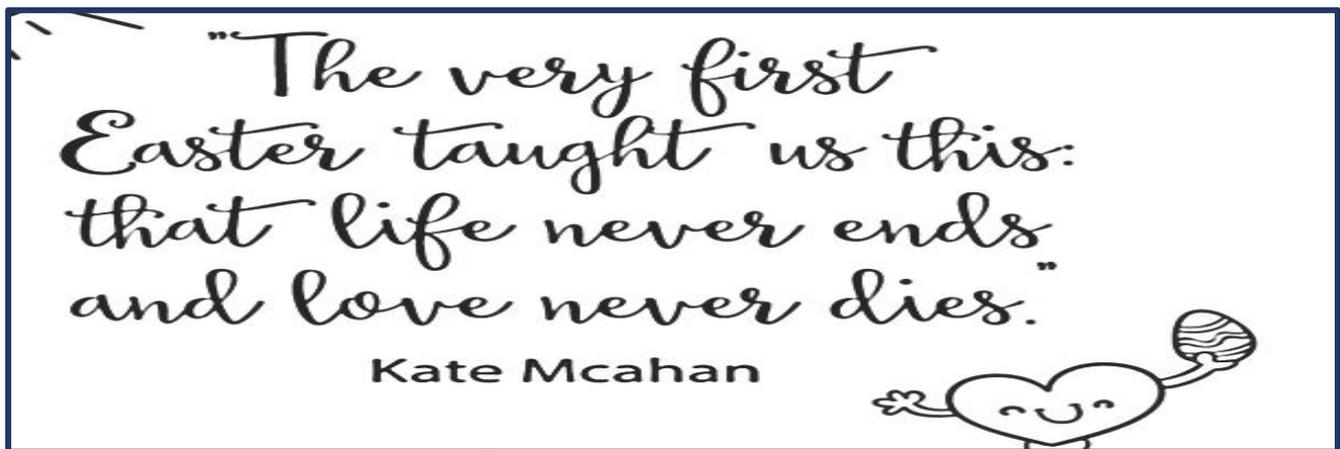
**Grief Support Group:** The Grief Support Group, led by Craig Adams, is regularly checking in with its members in need of support. Participation in this group is kept anonymous. The group is judgement free and recognizes that not all people grieve in the same way. If you are interested in learning more about this group or becoming a new member, 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). If you shop Amazon, be sure to go through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Chestnut Hill Church as your charity and then almost every purchase will earn a contribution. In addition, monetary donations may be sent via mail at your convenience, arranged for in person drop off by contacting the Church Secretary, Jessica Yaich, 610-967-1196 OR at your leisure via E-offering. Please see the next page for more information about E-Offering or envelope offering.



# Offering & E Offering

If you would like to give your offering electronically, below is the link to get started or continue giving. If you need additional instruction, you can e-mail Church Secretary, Jessica at [j.yaich@chcucc.org](mailto:j.yaich@chcucc.org) who would be happy to provide you via e-mail written more detailed instructions and for those needing one-on-one assistance, Pastor Christian would be happy to assist you.

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.

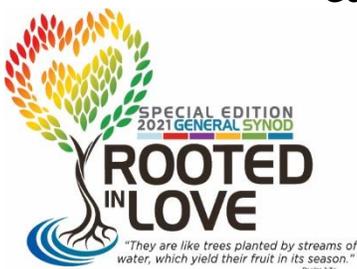
To create a new E-Account to start, or continue giving electronically, go to: [www.members.myEoffering.com](http://www.members.myEoffering.com)

# 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). The first of those is One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), which is collected in March each year. This year's OGHS offering will be collected on Sunday, March 14 and will go towards providing clean drinking water to those who do not have it readily available. The Pandemic has made this a global crisis. COVID did not have boundaries and the need is even greater to help prevent the further spread of the disease and clean drinking water is one way we can prevent the spread. If you are able, please consider giving to this global initiative. Donations to this special offering can be made through your usual offering envelope (with the designation of OGHS on the memo line or through My Eoffering, by choosing the line item OGHS. Let us make a difference in this world because we are foolish enough to believe we can!

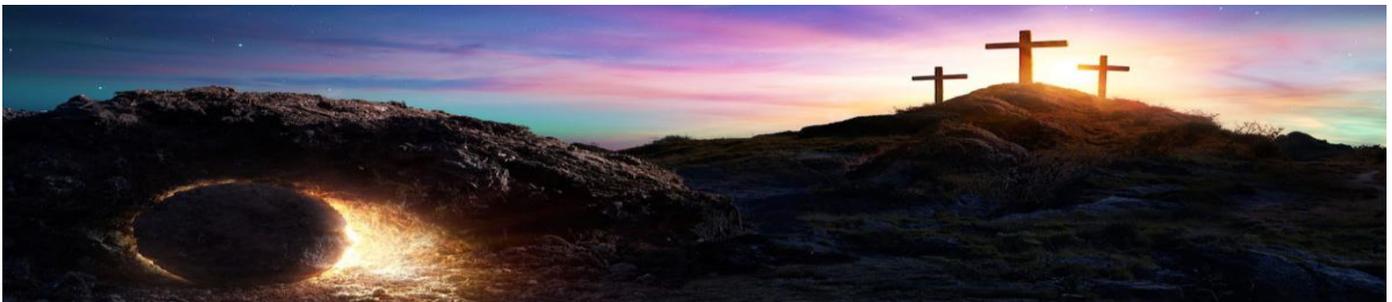


**Get READY!** Our bi-annual national gathering has gone virtual! Which means that everyone can participate in this year's gathering. Check out the UCC website for links to the worship and meeting information. Also, we have two delegates attending General Synod this year, Pastor Christian and Stephanie 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)

02/28/21	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Sermon Title: "Psalms of Lament: Pleas for Deliverance"	<b>Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18</b> Matthew 10:24-39
03/07/21	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Sermon Title: "Psalms of Lament: Brevity of Human Life"	<b>Psalm 39</b> John 16:1-15
03/14/21	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Sermon Title: "Psalms of Lament: God's Judgement"	<b>Psalm 52</b> Luke 10:38-42
03/21/21	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Sermon Title: "Psalms of Lament: Praise for Justice"	<b>Psalm 9:9-20</b> Mark 4:35-41
03/28/21	<b>Passion Sunday</b> Sermon Title: "Psalms of Lament: Prayer for Rescue"	<b>Psalm 43</b> Matthew 23:1-12
04/01/21	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Sermon Title: "Psalms of Lament: God the Refuge"	<b>Psalm 71:1-14</b> John 12:20-36
04/02/21	<b>Good Friday – Community Wide Worship Service (Recorded)</b> 7 Separate Sermons from Local Pastors on the 7 Last Words of Christ Pastor Christian will be preaching on "Father, Forgive Them..." from Luke 23:34	
04/04/21	<b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>(7:30 AM Dawn &amp; 10:00 AM Resurrection Service)</b> Sermon Title: "Psalms of Lament: Praise to God for Love"	<b>Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24</b> Mark 16:1-8
04/11/21	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Sermon Title: "Psalms of Praise: Unity in Faith"	<b>Psalm 133</b> John 20:19-31
04/18/21	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Sermon Title: "Psalms of Praise: We Have Been Blessed"	<b>Psalm 145:10-18</b> John 6:1-21
04/25/21	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Sermon Title: "Psalms of Praise: Faithfulness of God"	<b>Psalm 100</b> Matthew 25:31-46
05/02/21	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Sermon Title: "Psalms of Praise: For Remembrance"	<b>Psalm 105:1-8</b> Matthew 13:31-33,44-52
05/09/21	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Sermon Title: "Psalms of Praise: Praise for Family"	<b>Psalm 114</b> Matthew 18:21-35



# Celebration Corner

While it is understood that the snow can be problematic and it is not everyone's favorite, some children, adults, and pets do still cherish the beauty and joys that winter weather can offer. Here are a few photos showing how some of our church family spent their time in the recent winter weather.



Pictured left, a view from Pastor Christian's front porch after the snowstorm in late January...it took two days for him and the entire neighborhood to be able to get out after the storm.

Pictured below, is Teddy, our Church Music Director, Erica's dog. Teddy would have been buried in the snow without the paths his human mommy, Erica, shoveled for him.



Pictured upper right, Debbie Koder and Deb Wagstaff smile in the sun at Blue Mountain Ski Slope after getting caught in a short-lived snow squall (pictured upper left).

Pictured below, Debbie and Brett Koder took to the Rail Trail to enjoy some snow shoeing.



Pictured below, Jessica Yaich's son, Christian, stands up with sled in tow, in search of a hill worthy of sledding down.



Pictured above, Jessica Yaich's son, Christian, stands with two near human adult sized snowmen that he and his family made.



# Bible Trivia

“The Story of Joseph”: From *Ultimate Bible Trivia* by Timothy E. Parker © 2016...It has been a while since we have had a multiple-choice Bible Trivia. Since, it has been so long, maybe we should see how you all do! **When you think you have all the answers, send Pastor Christian an email with your responses to the questions.** Let’s see how we all do!

## THE STORY OF JOSEPH:

1. How many of Joseph’s brothers traveled to Egypt to buy grain?
  - a. 12
  - b. 10
  - c. 11
  - d. 6
2. Which brother of Joseph did not go down to buy grain in Egypt?
  - a. Reuben
  - b. Benjamin
  - c. Levi
  - d. Judah
3. How many days did Joseph keep his brothers in prison?
  - a. 3
  - b. 14
  - c. 20
  - d. 1
4. Which of Joseph’s brothers did Joseph keep tied up until Benjamin was brought back?
  - a. Reuben
  - b. Manasseh
  - c. Levi
  - d. Simeon
5. What did Joseph command to be placed in his brothers’ sacks along with grain?
  - a. Money
  - b. Manna
  - c. Quails
  - d. Sword
6. When Joseph’s brothers returned, what did Joseph command to be placed in Benjamin’s sack?
  - a. Golden candlestick
  - b. Silver cup
  - c. Bronze laver
  - d. Golden ring

# Financial Report & Pastor Contact Information

## Financial Report

### Checking/Savings Accounts:

(As of January 31, 2021)

QNB checking	\$	11,041.41
Building Fund	\$	9,349.28
Special Savings	\$	39,313.62

### Investment Portfolio:

#### Miller Endowment

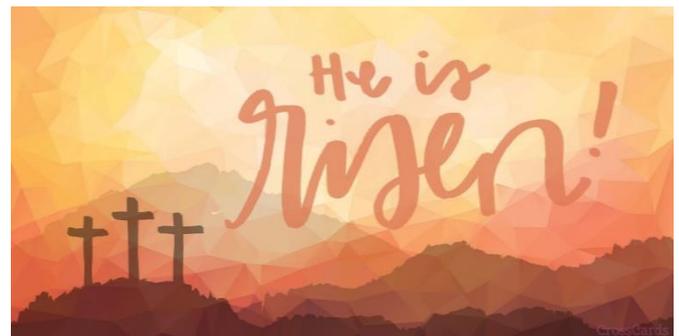
(As of 1-31-2021) \$ 463,913.58

#### Hoff Endowment

(As of 1-31-2021) \$ 206,721.58

#### Ameriprise

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



**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.