

Chestnut Hill Church UCC

Newsletter

Chestnut Hill Church has received a request from Lower Milford Township to participate in the America250PA.

Lehigh County Commission, asked all municipalities to coordinate ringing a bell on July 4th at Noon in celebration of our nation's 250 Anniversary. As the Township does not have our own bell to ring, the Board of Supervisors invited all of our local churches and the Dillingersville School to participate on the Township's behalf! Lower Milford has created a flyer advertisement to share on social media and here at the Township building.

Jeff Bogert and Mike Gane will be ringing the bell at Noon, July 4th.



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Supply Pastor:

Pastor Ernie Diefenderfer will be joining us for the months of July, August and September. Please introduce yourself to him and his wife Barbara during fellowship hour after service.

We also are having services in the Fellowship Hall for the Summer.

UPDATE FROM COUNCIL

New Fellowship Hall Windows

On May 17, 2026 a Congregational meeting was held for the approval of the proposed windows for the fellowship hall. Installation of new windows was passed by the congregation of 35 members present.

Final window measurement occurred on June 10, 2026.

Nine windows will be ordered as approved and installed after September 1, 2026, so not to interfere with our Summer Schedule. Thank you to all involved in making this happen and to the many generous donations to cover this project.

Classic Cars for Canned Food For Betty Lou's

Our second car show happened on May 30 with beautiful weather once again. About 19 cars were on display from members of our congregation and car buffs in the area. A good time was had and we had a nice amount of nonperishable food and other items collected for Betty Lou's Pantry. Thank you to everyone who donated and came out to help.

June 7 Piano Recital

On June 7, our Organist/Pianist, Brian Wonderly, performed many classical pieces, hymns, etc. for many church members, friends, family, and facebook followers in attendance. It was a warm but most enjoyable afternoon of music and fellowship. We thank Brian for sharing his talent with our congregation and the many others that attended. We even drew some car show enthusiasts, who came back to hear the music. We are blessed to have Brian with us.

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

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many opportunities within the church to share 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, please contact Trustee – Debbie Koder.

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.

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.

Next hoagie sale will be October 24th.

Some of our upcoming Dine to Donate Events:

Saturday, July 11th; 4 - 8 pm – Longacres Modern Dairy. 1445 PA 100, Barto – Ice cream and Food available

Wednesday, July 15th; 4-8 pm – Panera Bread, Hamilton Blvd @ Mill Creek Rd, Allentown (must present flyer or electronic version of flyer)

Friday, July 31st: 12-9 pm – Drizzle Ice Cream, Alburtis

Thursday, September 10th: 4-8 pm – Red Robin, Promenade Shoppes, Center Valley (Must show flyer)

We will be holding a Cash Bingo/Basket Raffle on Saturday, October 3rd. Doors open at 12, Bingo starts at 1 pm. We are holding it at Faith UCC Church, 5995 Route 378, Center Valley. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

We'll be needing lots of help from the congregation as well as donations of gift cards and monetary to purchase food items, pay rental, and buy prizes.

Basket raffle will be held at the end of the bingo games. We will be preselling bingo sheets ahead of the event. More info in September newsletter.

WWW Fundraiser!! - Burgers For A Cause @ Applebee's

Don't forget about the WWW's partnership with Applebee's. We have burger certificates available for purchase (\$10 each). Each certificate is good for a burger off their handcrafted burger section of their menu. These certificates are good at any Applebee's in PA and nearby states and they NEVER expire. Chestnut Hill Church earns \$6.50 for each certificate sold which goes towards our fuel purchases to keep us warm while we worship! To obtain certificates, please email our Treasurer, Karen Billger at treasurer@chcucc.org OR ask any WWW member before or after Sunday service. They are stored in the Church office.

So far, we have raised a total of \$1,775.00 towards our fuel bills.

Betty Lou's Pantry

Any and all donations are more than welcome. Thank you to such a generous congregation. We are little but we are mighty!

Betty Lou's Pantry is always appreciative of any donations for people dealing with food insecurities. BLP is in need of meat helper, tuna helper, non-grape jelly/jam, and always, always toilet paper.

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 tax deductible donations to those less fortunate than ourselves.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Yoga News!

A series of 8 yoga classes will take us to the end of the year. Beginning on Wednesday, September 2nd and ending on Wednesday, October 21st, both chair and mat yoga classes will be held with chair yoga beginning at 4:00 pm and mat yoga beginning at 5:30 pm. Both classes are one hour in length.

Mark your calendars, now, so you can gain all the benefits yoga has to offer!

For additional information, please call Cindy Buchter at 610-751-1909 or email buchtecl@ptd.net

Wreaths Across America

Even though we are less than a year away from this event, we'd like you to SAVE THE DATE (Saturday, December 19, 2026 @ 10:00AM)! Yes, it could be cold and windy on a Saturday in December, but the event itself takes less than 90 minutes (usually). We've gotten very lucky in the past to have a blue sky with the sun shining. Again, in 2026, the HOFF Family is sponsoring all of our 180 wreaths. We are very thankful for their generosity. Your organizers are Jeff Bogert & Karen Billger.

CHURCH UPDATES

Cemetery Board News

Another big project will be completed in June at Chestnut Hill Cemetery. Arlene Billger generously donated the money necessary to install a new driveway around the last section of the cemetery. Sam Leh will be doing the excavating and laying the stone, then Lenny Wells Paving will finish the job.

Church Garden

The garden will need weeding throughout the summer, so if you can spare an hour or 2, here and there, when it is convenient for you, we would greatly appreciate the help.

Chestnut Hill Grief Support Group

Chestnut Hill Grief Support Group, led by Craig Adams, meets the last Saturday of the month, 1pm, in Fellowship Hall. We have Grief Chair Yoga at 12 pm before the support meeting starts, led by Cindy Buchter.

Summer Greetings, Church Family. I am very grateful for this newsletter, that gives me the opportunity to share some thoughts on a subject we all have experienced or will at some time in our lives. Realizing the many topics associated with the Grief Journey.

Our Group and I have found great comfort in the connection of our Group. Concentrating on Gratitude as much as possible. Dates keep filtering in, the triggers, anniversaries, birthdates, special moments, songs, events, etc., that show up each day, the calendar moves on and doesn't stop.

However, Gratitude moment, with the anniversary of Eight years together on this journey. Through sharing the discomfort/pain of our journeys, we've found some Meaning in our Grief Journey. Meaning?

One of our excellent resources for our Group is a service I subscribe to Grief.com. David Kessler is the facilitator, with 40 years of experience in this Journey. He connected with Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, who showed us the 5 Stages of Grief. David Co-Authored a book with her, entitled Finding Meaning The 6th Stage

of Grief. I'm a slow study at best, but I find it to be an eye opener for me. I will share more as I delve into it. If you're still with me, and haven't used this part of the newsletter, to help you fall to a sound sleep, I'll try and to keep you alert for just a little longer.

Now that I'm concentrating "Finding Meaning" on my Journey, please allow me to share a quote I found from Rose Kennedy.

"Birds sing after a storm; why shouldn't people feel as free to delight in whatever sunlight remains in them,"

One of my favorite songs that helps me breathe in Summer is "Summer Wind". The lyrics written by Johnny Mercer/Henry Mayer and Hans Bradtke, and performed by the "Chairman of the Board", Frank Sinatra

"The summer wind came blowin' in From across the sea
It lingered there to touch your hair And walk with me.
All summer long we sang a song And then we strolled that golden sand
Two sweethearts And the summer wind. Like painted kites
Those days and nights, they went flyin' by The world was new
Beneath the blue umbrella sky. Then softer than a piper man
One day it called to you I lost you to the summer wind.
The autumn wind and the winter winds They have come and gone
And still the days Those lonely days go on and on. And guess who sighs his
lullabies Through nights that never end My fickle friend
The summer wind.
The summer wind
Warm summer wind
The summer wind!

I pray that this speaks to someone reading this as it has to me.
Just a reminder, people on their grief journey" just want to heard".
I'm here for you 610-554-4967 dcraig.adams8@gmail.com
If I don't answer right away, just leave me a message and I'll get back to asap.
Thanks, and God bless
In Christ,
Craig
The Grief Support Group of Chestnut Hill Church

Financial Report

Checking / Savings Accounts:

(as of 05/31/2026)

QNB General Savings	\$ 58,037.10
Improvement Fund	\$ 21,814.46
Special Savings Memorial Fund-\$ Mission	\$ 8,671.88
Garden/Landscaping	\$ 307.43
Steeple	\$ 6,822.23
WWW	\$ 3,850.75
New Church Sign	\$ 504.04
TBD (To Be Determined)	\$ 10,000.00
Special Savings Other Total Special Savings	\$ 30,156.33

Investment Portfolio:

Miller Endowment	\$ 532,234.59
Hoff Endowment	\$ 198,992.57

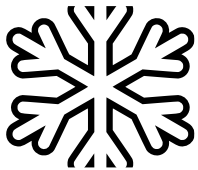
Cemetery Portfolio:

QNB Checking	\$ 72,634.53
Ameriprise	<u>\$ 84,102.77</u>
Total Cemetery	\$ 156,737.30

Miller Endowment, investment held by Magellan Financial Inc, these funds are designated for income and all expenditures must be approved by Council and the Congregation. The initial investment was \$415,000; the end of year investment (with accumulated earnings and market swings... gains and losses), current ending balance is \$532.234.59

Vivian Hoff Endowment, investment held by Magellan Financial Inc., these funds are restricted and the interest earned has been designated for Music, Worship, Christian Education, and Community Outreach. All requests for funding are reviewed by the Hoff Endowment Board of Trustees and Council prior to disbursement. The initial investment was \$150,000; the end of year investment value (with accumulated earnings and marketing swings... gains and losses), ending balance is \$198,992.57

Sponsored since Nov 2025-Grief Support \$576; Wreaths Across America 2025 \$2,091; Wreaths Across America 2026 prepay \$1,445; Betty Lou Pantry \$750; LM Fire Co \$500; UM Fire Co \$500; Upper Saucon Fire Co \$500; Tails of Valor \$500; Veterans Brotherhood \$500; and Loads of Blessings \$500



Church Contact Information:

Pastor :

Pastor Phone:

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

Church Phone Number: 610-967-1196