

November
December
January
2024-25



Pastor's Note: Focusing on Words of Blessing

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Dear Friends,

As the leaves of fall begin to drop and a chill is in the air, we turn our attention to the holidays that mark these coming weeks in the life of the church.

While the world around us will be filled with pumpkins, ghosts, and goblins, we will gather in worship on Sunday, Nov. 3, to commemorate All Saints' Day, remembering those who have died in the faith this past year.

On Sunday, Nov. 24, we will gather together to give thanks to our God for the harvest of the abundance of grace we have received.

As the days get shorter and the light begins to fade across the earth, we will enter into our Advent season — one of anticipation and preparation for the coming of the Light of the World.

Our Advent theme this year, "Words for the Beginning,"

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Words for the Beginning: Advent Reminders for New Seasons

Dec. 1 • First Sunday in Advent
"You Are a Blessing"
Lighting the Candle of Hope
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Bagpiper Gus Person

Dec. 8 • Second Sunday in Advent
"We Can't Go Alone"
Lighting the Candle of Peace
The Handbell Choir

Dec. 15 • Third Sunday in Advent
"Do the Good That Is Yours to Do"
Lighting the Candle of Joy

Dec. 22 • Fourth Sunday in Advent
"Hope Is Worth the Risk"
Lighting of the Candle of Love
CHPC Preschool Choir

Dec. 24 • Christmas Eve
4:30 p.m. Interactive Family Service
"The ABCs of Christmas"
7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service
"Lessons and Carols"

Cedar Cliff Chamber Singers Return to CHPC

SAVE THE DATE!
An all-church
Christmas caroling
event with a
grab-and-go
lunch will be held
Sunday, Dec. 15,
following worship.
All voices are
welcome! More
details to follow.

The Cedar Cliff High School Chamber Singers will once again grace CHPC with their annual December concert. The performance will be held Sunday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and will showcase a blend of festive favorites and traditional congregational carols accompanied by our organ. The evening will conclude with a moving candlelit rendition of “Silent Night.” As Cedar Cliff’s elite touring choir, the Chamber Singers

represent the finest voices of the school. The group consists of students in grades 9 through 12 who are selected through a rigorous audition process in late spring for participation the following school year. They were honored to perform at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State conference in the spring of 2023, solidifying their reputation for excellence. Historically, the size of the choir varies between 20 to 40 members, with this year’s

ensemble numbering 25. The Chamber Singers are led by Matthew Topping, who is in his 11th year as director of choirs at Cedar Cliff High School.

Delight in the sounds of the season and support these talented local youth with this free concert. The Chamber Singers look forward to sharing their music with you and spreading the spirit of the holidays close to home.

~Worship & Fine Arts Ministry

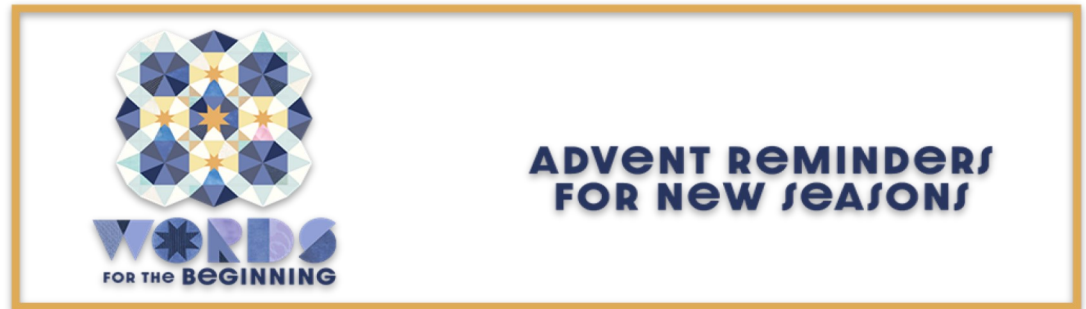


The Cedar Cliff High School Chamber Singers perform numerous times throughout the winter and spring seasons, featuring a predominantly a cappella repertoire. In addition to the group’s December performance at CHPC, their busy touring schedule this year includes several venues in the Harrisburg area and a culminating trip to Walt Disney World in April.

Pastor's Note, continued from Page 1

will focus on the words of blessing we hear throughout the story of the beginning of God's coming to us in the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings — large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ's birth



offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike; all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to an end.

When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need blessings that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step

forward into the unknown. Words of blessing that we can bestow upon others.

As you journey through this season, may you hear your own words of blessing. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning.

*Yours for the journey,
Nancy*



On Oct. 27, Pastor Nancy Conklin led the commissioning of Beth Fine during worship. CHPC's retired Clerk of Session, Beth has been endorsed by Session to prepare for ministry as a Commissioned Ruling Elder under the care and authority of Carlisle Presbytery. The preparation process will equip her to serve the church as a preacher, moderator, and pastoral care provider. Upon completion of the program, she will be ready to be authorized by the Commission on Ministry to preach, administer the sacraments, and officiate weddings and funerals.

Treasurer's Notes: Year-to-Date Deficit Reported



Total receipts for the first three months of the 2024-25 fiscal year beginning July 1, were \$127,695.64, and total expenses for this period were \$144,771.96, thus leaving us with a year-to-date deficit of \$17,076.32.

This is an improvement over last year's first quarter deficit of \$32,857.33. Contributions remain at about the same level as last year at this time, but our reduced staffing expense has improved our financial situation, notwithstanding substantial maintenance expenses during the first quarter. Thanks to everyone for your gifts!

So far, we have received back 84 Estimate of Giving cards, with commitments totaling \$363,195. Last year, we received back a total of 88 Estimates of Giving cards totaling \$376,752.

If you have not forwarded your 2024-25 Estimate of Giving card to the CHPC office, please do so as soon as you can so we can complete our 2024-2025 Stewardship Campaign. You may call or email your Estimate of Giving to Andrea at (717) 737-0488 or aebeling@thechpc.com.

Contribution statements for the period ending Sept. 30

were mailed the second week of October. If you find any errors in your statement, please contact me at (717) 503-6518 or dwatts@mcneelaw.com.

Have you thought about including CHPC in your will or as a beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance policy? Legacy gifts help to keep CHPC running. If you are 70-1/2 or older, you can make tax-efficient gifts to CHPC from your 401(k) or IRA. Please contact me for more info.

~David Watts, Treasurer

Session Highlights: Hiring of Custodian Approved



The Session did not meet in July, but did convene on Aug. 26 and Sept. 23. Items of note are listed below:

■ Beth Fine was endorsed by Session and subsequently accepted into the

Commissioned Ruling Elder program, overseen by the Carlisle Presbytery's Committee for Preparation for Ministry.

■ Session began to discern the needs of the church as it relates to the now vacant associate pastor position.

■ The Kirk Families Team has decided to hold the ARISE service the last three Sundays of each month, reserving the first Sunday to join the balance of the congregation in traditional worship and communion.

■ Session approved the hiring of Netia "T" Vaughan

as CHPC's full-time custodian. She started her position on Sept. 3.

■ The Nominating Committee will form a financial review committee to take over the formerly outsourced task of reviewing the books each fiscal year.

■ The Property and Maintenance Commission has formed a committee to evaluate potential uses for the manse.

~Joe Harner,
Clerk of Session

**Per Capita for 2025 =
\$34.04 Per Member**

Please consider paying this fee for yourself and family members. Per capita allows the church as a whole to share equitably in those things that make us part of the PC(USA).

Preschool Corner: Harvest Fest & More Upcoming

The preschool has been busy getting ready for all the excitement of the holiday season!

In November, our students will be learning about Thanksgiving. Pastor Nancy will read to the classes, and the preschoolers will be making crafts. They'll also disguise turkeys so they won't be gobbled up for Thanksgiving dinner!

Our fourth annual Fall Harvest Festival will be held Thursday, Nov. 7, in Fellowship Hall. Families will have an opportunity to play games, do a craft, look at their artwork, get their faces painted, and grab a sweet treat or two.

During November, we will collect new and gently used stuffed animals for the annual Hershey Bears Teddy Bear Toss. (The bears will be tossed onto the rink during the Sunday, Jan. 5, game.) If you would like to donate, please drop off your items in the bin in front of the preschool office. Stuffed animals will be picked up Monday, Dec. 16.

On Sunday, Nov. 24, the preschool will be participating in the Camp Hill Borough Candy Cane Walk. We will pass out peppermint playdough, and we'll have a few games for those who want to play in the chilly weather. I hope you can come out and visit us.

In December, we'll have a new Christmas fundraiser. Families will have an opportunity to sign up to get their pictures taken with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 14, for a small fee. While they are waiting, they can participate in Christmas activities, purchase raffle tickets for our five Christmas-themed baskets, or nibble on Christmas cookies. Our CHPC families are invited to sign up, too — there will be more details in the CHPCConnections email

blast in the next couple of weeks!

The rest of December will be filled with Christmas carols and fun activities. Our preschool music teacher, Tracy Fisher-Neely, will be directing our two Christmas mini-programs on Tuesday, Dec. 17, and Thursday, Dec. 19, to share what our students have been learning over the last few months in music class.

Continued on Page 6...



During the CHPC Preschool Fall Harvest Festival, family and friends will play games, eat treats, and enjoy the beautiful student art made throughout the autumn season.

Preschool Corner, *continued from Page 5*

Then, the CHPC Preschool Choir will perform Sunday, Dec. 22, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

In January, our students will be participating in two fun-filled themed weeks — Farm Week and Bear Week. All the classes will enjoy special games and schoolwide events during these times.

On Monday, Jan. 6, we will open registration for the

2025-26 school year to all our CHPC families. We will have several classes for ages 21 months through 5. You can find the form on our website, www.chpcpreschool.org, or at the Information Station outside of the preschool office. We hope to hear from you and your friends!

Please note that during this holiday season, the preschool is again offering its P.E.A.C.E

program. You can support our preschool while honoring a loved one or friend. For each donation, you will receive a greeting card that can be sent to someone special, letting them know you are honoring them with this gesture during the Christmas season. Please see the insert included with this newsletter for more information.

~Dana Tarnoci, Preschool Director

Share Your Time, Talents, Treasure This Season

God has graced us all with so many gifts! Please consider sharing yours this holiday season, be it time, talents, or treasure:

TIME

- Assist with decorating the church for Advent/Christmas
- Host fellowship time following worship

■ Serve as a greeter during worship

- Represent CHPC during the upcoming Candy Cane Walk
- Assist with November's church luncheon

TALENTS

- Hang bulletin boards, shelving, and other items in the preschool and church

- Clean the playground and maintain church garden beds
- Perform small paint jobs
- Replace faucets/toilets
- Take photos of church events for the next newsletter

TREASURE

- Lend or donate non-fragile Nativity scene pieces (animals, angels, shepherds) for use on Christmas Eve
- Pick an ornament off the Christmas Giving Tree and donate gifts to families in need
- Support the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering and mission sales
- Buy a card from the preschool's P.E.A.C.E. program
- Donate blankets, food, and personal care items to local agencies using the labeled bins in the Gathering Place

Call the church office at (717) 737-0488 for more info.

~Staff



During October, CHPC's children made handprint angels on a heart-shaped sign, at left, to support Homeland Hospice's 15th anniversary. Also in October, volunteers used donations from preschool families and the congregation to pack cleaning supply buckets, at right, for those affected by Hurricane Helene.

PW Thank Offering, Christmas Coffee Scheduled

Thank you to all who participated in the Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering. It was a lovely luncheon with 50-plus women and men in attendance.

The speaker for the event was Tom Zimmerman, chairman and co-founder of Veterans Outreach of Pennsylvania. He discussed homelessness among veterans and the tiny homes VOPA is building for them in Harrisburg.

Tuesday, Nov. 5, is Election Day, and CHPC serves as a polling place. PW will hold a bake sale that day, catching people as they leave the booths. If you're interested in donating baked goods, pick up an information sheet in the Gathering Place.

The PW Thank Offering is received in the fall of each year, and the Thank Offering worship service led by PW

will take place Sunday, Nov. 17. Look for offering envelopes in the pews throughout November. This year, the national Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women read, prayed over, and selected eight projects for funding. Six of the projects serve people in the United States, and two are international.

One of this year's selected projects is in the Presbytery of Carlisle. Peace Promise offers advocacy, education, and economic empowerment to survivors of sexual exploitation and human trafficking in the Harrisburg area. Funds from the national Thank Offering will provide a \$25,000 grant to help equip and renovate a kitchen that will serve as a central location for two new social enterprises,

Ruby Coffee + Co. and Soaps By Survivors. These programs will employ survivors and offer mentoring, education, and on-the-job training, giving them the opportunity to find peace and experience the hope of a new tomorrow.

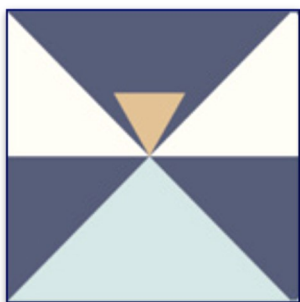
Other items on the PW calendar for this quarter:

- Thursday, Nov. 14 — Dorcas Circle, 10 a.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 1 & 8 — Quilters & Crafters Sale, before and after worship
- Tuesday, Dec. 3 — Coordinating Team Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 5 — Christmas Coffee, 10 a.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 15 — Bake Sale, before and after worship
- Thursday, Jan. 9 — Dorcas Circle, 10 a.m.

*~Susan Ault,
PW Corresponding Secretary*



More than 50 women and men attended the PW Fall Gathering on Oct. 6 in Fellowship Hall. The theme of the event was "Harvest Gratitude," and funds were raised to support housing for homeless veterans.



Words for the Beginning

'Joy and Celebration: You Are a Blessing'

You are a blessing.
If you hear nothing else,
if the wind howls, if your brain runs amok, if rebuttals and denials line up like little toy soldiers,
then hear *this* — you are a blessing.

**I knew it the first moment I met you/heard your name/learned there are 7 billion of us
on this planet.**
I knew it in my bones, the way my feet know the way home.
You are a blessing.

For our creating God breathed life into your being.
And there is simply no way that, along with that life,
some of God's goodness
didn't slip right in.

So tell the rebuttals to rest.
Tell the toy soldiers to find another hill, because this one is reserved for joy and celebration.
You are a blessing.
Breathe it in.

~Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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Pastor Nancy Conklin
Visitation Pastor Don Potter
Organist/Choir Director
Byron Mikesell
Preschool Director Dana Tarnoci
Office Manager Andrea Ebeling
Custodian Netia Vaughan

Send "Camp Hill Press"
submissions to
aebeling@thechpc.com.

Other Dates to Remember in November, December, and January:

- Office Closed for Veterans Day — Monday, November 11
- Fellowship Luncheon — Sunday, November 24
- Session Meeting — Monday, November 25
- Office Closed for Thanksgiving — Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29
- Board of Deacons Meeting — Monday, December 16
- Session Meeting — Monday, December 23
- Office Closed for Christmas — Wednesday, December 25
- Office Closed for New Year's Day — Wednesday, January 1
- Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day — Monday, January 20
- Session Meeting — Monday, January 27