

August
September
October
2024



Pastor's Note: Signs of Change Are Emerging

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Dear Friends,

As I write this, the summer is about to hit its halfway mark. Early signs of fall are starting to emerge, not so much in the natural world that surrounds us, but certainly in the artificial world of back-to-school sales in stores and online.

As I look to this new season of autumn in our life together, it seems fitting that we do so amid significant changes in our church family.

As summer began, we bid farewell to Stuart, with thanksgiving to God for his ministry among us, knowing that "the good work that has begun, God will bring to completion." (Philippians 1:6) God called forth a new class of Elders and Deacons who will lead us forward in alignment with the goals identified in our Mission Study. And, as with the transition in our music leadership, the Session will begin to discern what sort of leadership will enable us to

continue to share the tradition of our faith with a new generation of disciples. We also said farewell to our two part-time custodians. We are hopeful that soon after this newsletter arrives

in your home, we will have hired a full-time custodian who will be on site during normal business hours. In the interim, we are fortunate the

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**As dry leaves fall into compost,
Winter seeds gestate
In fertile hearts,
And spring gives birth anew
For summer's ripening of the soul.
Glory to the One in all, the all in One.
Don we now our spiritual apparel:
Love and Light
A holy life
Building, sustaining deep roots,
Strength for seasons to come.
What in life can remain hidden
Or not be attained?
Seeds of unlimited potential lie
dormant;
Nourish them and flourish
Awaken to new Life!
Loving service answers many prayers.**

*from "Lumen Christi ... Holy Wisdom"
by Nan C. Merrill*

Choirs Seeking New Members as Rehearsals Begin



Both the CHPC Handbell Choir and the Chancel Choir welcome new members to join their ranks and “make a joyful noise unto the Lord.”

As a favorite hymn declares, “O that I had a thousand voices” — and surely CHPC Organist/Choir Director Byron Mikesell must be having that same dream as a new season of choir begins. Dave Getz, director of the CHPC Brass Choir, might be feeling similarly, with thoughts of the hymn “The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing” going through his mind.

We can help fulfill their hopes and dreams! If your talents run to humming a tune, caroling, walking while swinging your arms, counting from one to four, tapping your foot to music, or playing an instrument, please join one of our choirs. Professional training is not required, and there are no tryouts.

Practices begin Wednesday, Sept. 4, in the Music Room. The Handbell Choir meets at 6 p.m., and the Chancel Choir meets at 7 p.m. To get more information about joining, contact Byron at bmikesell@thechpc.com.

The Brass Choir rehearses Sundays after worship, with a starting date to be determined. Contact Dave at dgetz101@hotmail.com to find out more.

We look forward to seeing new and returning members!

~Music Ministry

Calling Handy Retirees, Others With Free Time

CHPC's Property and Maintenance Commission occasionally calls on members with specific skills, time, and a willingness to help out with a project around the church. Past projects include painting the men's room on the ground floor (thanks, Monica Zazworsky), building shelving to store Advent supplies (thanks, Bud Swartz and John Robinson), preparing the manse for occupancy (thanks, Stewart family and others), and pulling down loose plaster (thanks, Dan Flint). With changes to our custodial staff, many smaller and

simpler tasks pop up regularly. Recently, a member (and future volunteer) suggested establishing a team of volunteers who might gather once every month or two to address a to-do list, taking on tasks as ability and time permits. No one will be asked to perform work they feel uncomfortable taking on!

Sample periodic tasks include:

- Tightening a handrail in a stairway
- Hanging bulletin boards or other items in classrooms
- Cleaning up the playground (rake mulch, weed)
- Cleaning windows

- Building/reinforcing shelving
- Replacing faucets/toilets
- Replacing or painting ceiling tiles
- Performing small paint jobs
- Vacuuming pew cushion creases (thanks, Rob Coffman)

Let Andrea Ebeling in the church office know if you'd be interested in joining such a team (to be named by team members!). If you have questions, contact me at (773) 858-7548 or carolhelsel15@gmail.com.

*~Carol Helsel, Chair
Property & Maintenance
Commission*

Treasurer's Notes: Financial Report to Be Emailed

CHPC just concluded its July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 fiscal year. As of June 30, we had year-to-date receipts of \$560,778.12 and year-to-date expenses of \$625,698.50, with expenses exceeding receipts by \$65,920.38. Condensed financial reports for the fiscal year are being emailed to members so as to save postage. If you would like a printed version, please contact Andrea Ebeling in the church office.

Fortunately, we have funds left from the forgiven Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan that helped to pay for our staff expenses. However, a deficit of this size

is not sustainable on a long-term basis, and we anticipate some staff restructuring to reduce the deficit on an ongoing basis.

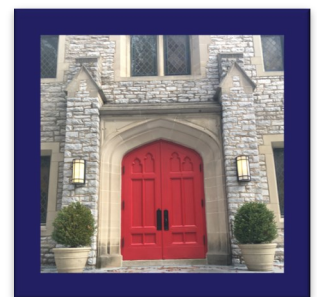
If you have not forwarded your 2024-25 Estimate of Giving card to the CHPC office, please do so as soon as you can so we can complete our 2024-25 Stewardship Campaign. You may call or email your Estimate of Giving to Andrea at (717) 737-0488 or aebeling@thechpc.com.

Contribution statements for the fiscal year were mailed several weeks ago. If you haven't received a statement or if there are any problems with your statement, please contact

me at (717) 503-6518 or dwatts@mceeslaw.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 have questions about planned giving, contact me.

~David Watts, Treasurer



Camp Firelight Shares Faith With 60 Children

Our Preschool's music teacher, Tracy Fisher-Neely, volunteered during VBS to lead the fun song-and-dance sessions.



This summer's Vacation Bible School is officially a wrap! During our week long VBS, more than 60 children enjoyed an interactive, energizing faith-based time here at CHPC. The campers at Camp Firelight explored timeless Bible stories showing how Old and New Testament figures trusted God, faced

their fears, and went on to do great things in God's name. Our campers sang, danced, ate, created, and explored, all while learning to put their trust in God.

To say it was a week filled with love, lots of laughter, fun, and God is an understatement! I am filled with joy from the faces that

I've seen and the testaments that I've heard.

Furthermore, I am truly humbled by the total and complete generosity of so many volunteers, both adults and teens. They made Camp Firelight possible, and it wouldn't have happened without them!

The week of VBS has just solidified for me what it means to be "the church," and how much of an impact we as adults and teens can make both in each other's lives, and in the lives of all the youth and children in our church and community.

I am so thankful for everyone who helped to make our Vacation Bible School such a huge success!

~Hannab Harner, VBS Director



Peggy Heiss and Abby Tierney, left, created an inviting space to share Bible stories with VBS campers, while a number of young adult helpers, including Nate Ebeling, above, shepherded groups during the fun, faith-based week.

MATE Team Completes Annual Work Week Trip

The annual trip to Mission at the Eastward — better known as MATE — in Farmington, Maine, was held during a warm week in July. Our team's 21 volunteers were from CHPC, Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, and First Presbyterian Church of Ramsey, N.J. We were from many walks of life, ranged in age from 27 to 80, and were in various stages of our faith walks, but all of us were broken sinners who were in need of, and thankful for, God's grace.

What was this trip about? It was about Jesus. In Mark 12, we read: "One of the Pharisees, an expert in the law, asked Jesus, 'Of all the commandments, which one is the most important?' 'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'"

The mission trip was our response to Jesus. We loved our neighbors by:

- Installing replacement windows to keep out harsh Maine winters
- Tearing down a decrepit lean-to that was protecting an



MATE mission team members Randy Gale, Bob Bell, Chrisy Vita, Adam Taylor, and Karen Taylor couldn't resist taking a work break in Maine to pose with a (wooden) moose!

oil tank, building a much sturdier replacement, and hauling an old oil tank out of the way

- Repairing a shingle roof
- Repairing a leaking toilet
- Drywalling in MATE's Tiny House to help move that project along
- Working on various projects at MATE's McCleary Mission House, such as scraping and painting, repairing windows, installing a wall, and working on the egress stairway from the second floor
- Repairing a broken shower valve and installing a new tub surround and grab bars
- Putting in an awesome new luxury vinyl tiling floor
- Working in the kitchen 12 to 15 hours a day to make

sure the team was well fed, and to welcome our homeowners and other Maine friends for a celebration dinner one night

- Doing other small projects
- Praying for our homeowners

We also enjoyed worship at Fairbanks Church, two cookouts at the homes of two different Maine friends, daily devotions led by Dr. Mike Smith, and recreation such as swimming and shopping in the local stores of Farmington. We ended our week with worship and communion.

Thank you to all who provided prayers and financial support for the trip.

~Nancy Flint

AED/CPR Training Scheduled for August 21



Each year, there are a significant numbers of deaths from sudden cardiac arrest. In the 1990s, the Federal Drug Administration approved AEDs (automated external defibrillators) for use by average citizens. As we know, such devices had been used in hospital settings and by paramedics for more than two decades. Following numerous clinical studies, AEDs were proven to be safe for use in the community.

Many states (including Pennsylvania) passed Good Samaritan Acts that removed liability from a person acting in good faith. The American

Red Cross now includes education for AED use in its basic CPR course.

The AED equipment analyzes the cardiac rhythm (the lack thereof) and then is primed to deliver the necessary shock. A person is two to three times more likely to survive cardiac arrest if a bystander applies an AED before EMS personnel arrive.

Currently, CHPC has one AED machine located in the hallway outside the sanctuary and office area. There are plans to obtain at least one more for the Kathy Kuhn Education Wing.

On Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 6 p.m., CHPC will be offering CPR/AED training in Fellowship Hall.

Depending on the number of participants, a usual class time is two hours. There is not an age limit for adults to take the course. Each participant receives a Basic Life Support certificate, which includes AED instruction. Cost is \$35, and checks can be made out to CHPC.

Please consider joining us for this important training. You could save a life!

~Carol Stasz

Casserole Ministry Helps When the Need Arises

**My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
-John 15:12**

We are here to help!

We are a loving, caring, giving community of faith. We are always there to help when a need arises. Why, then, is it so hard for us to ask when we need a helping hand?

Did you know that the Deacons have an ongoing casserole ministry? We try to keep CHPC's freezer stocked with several meals that can be distributed when a need arises. The need could be on an occasion such as a death of a family member or the birth of new

baby. It could be during a time of illness or injury. It could also just be during a time of feeling overwhelmed with life in general, when you need an extra meal or two to make life easier. Your church family is happy to help, whatever the circumstances.

If you would like a meal or two, please do not hesitate to reach out. Additionally, if you know someone who could benefit from this ministry, let us know.

If you love to cook and would like to support this program, please consider making an

extra casserole or dinner to add to our freezer.

For more info, contact me at (717) 576-7589 or vonnygetz1260@gmail.com. Thank you!

~Vonny Getz

Session Highlights: New Church Leaders Elected

The Session met for regularly scheduled meetings on the fourth Monday of the month in May and June. A special meeting of Session was held on June 4. As is Session's practice, there was no scheduled meeting in July.

Session took the following actions during this time:

- Approved an updated Child and Youth Protection Policy for CHPC at the request of the Intergenerational Ministry
- Approved the creation of a full-time (40 hours per week) custodian position, to replace the two current part-time custodial positions, effective July 1, at the request of the Staff Commission/Church Administration Ministry
- Accepted the resignation of the Rev. Stuart L. Seelman, effective June 30, pending the approval of the dissolution agreement by the congregation at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on June 23. Subsequently, the Session approved the Gracious Partings document, required by Carlisle Presbytery upon the dissolution of the pastoral agreement with Pastor Seelman
- Approved the celebration of communion during worship at Mission at the Eastward on July 26
- Approved Session assignments for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, including officers of the Corporation Ministry. Dave

Getz was appointed Church Administration Ministry chair and chairperson of the corporation, John Robinson was appointed Staff Commission chair and vice-chairperson of the corporation, David Watts was appointed church treasurer and treasurer of the corporation, and Joe Harner was appointed clerk of session and secretary of the corporation

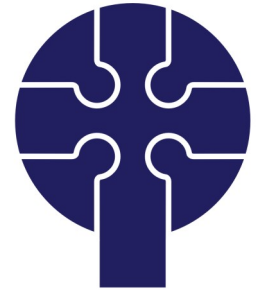
- Appointed John Rutzler to serve as financial secretary of the church for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025
- Appointed Dennis Lebo and Doug Silvis to serve as first term CHPC Endowment Fund trustees for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027
- Approved the Covenant of Agreement with the Rev. Donald Potter for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025
- Approved monthly financial reports from CHPC Treasurer David Watts
- Approved the CHPC Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$674,050, allocated as Administration, \$68,000; Communications, \$9,000; Staff Commission, \$396,000; Property and Maintenance Commission, \$150,000; Intergenerational Ministry,

\$12,000; Board of Deacons, \$1,000; Worship and Fine Arts Ministry, \$16,550; and Mission Outreach Team, \$21,500

Additionally, the Session approved the minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, held June 23. Among the actions approved by the congregation were:

- A motion to approve the dissolution of the call and the Terms of Dissolution document for CHPC's pastoral relationship with the Rev. Stuart Seelman
- A motion to approve the election of E.J. Barben, Nancy Nilson, Sue Rothman, and Abby Tierney to serve as Ruling Elders, Class of 2027, with terms to begin July 1, 2024, and expire June 30, 2027
- A motion to approve the election of the following candidates to serve as Deacons — Rob Brown, Chris Forbrich, Cathy Snavelly, Carol Staz, and Cindy Thompson, Class of 2027, with terms to begin July 1, 2024, and expire June 30, 2027; Susan Steele, Class of 2026, with a term to begin July 1, 2024, and expire June 30, 2026; and Vonny Getz and Josh Wiedt, Class of 2025, with terms to begin July 1, 2024, and expire June 30, 2025

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CHPC Participates in HELP Ministries Tourney



Dennis Lebo and Roger Hummel representing CHPC.

The 43rd annual HELP Ministries Golf Tournament, held June 3 at Sunset Golf Course in Middletown, raised more than \$15,000 to support our neighbors facing homelessness. And, CHPC did our part to help make the event successful.

In addition to sponsoring a hole, CHPC sent two teams of players to the tourney — Team A, consisting of Roger Hummel, Dennis Lebo, Dave McBride, and Dick Michaelian, and Team B, made up of Bruce Nilson, Bill Stout, Kacey Wiedt, and Rick Woodard. The CCU Golf Committee, which organizes the event, meets monthly at

CHPC, and Rick Woodard and I are committee members.

HELP Ministries is a program of Christian Churches United of the Tri-County Area. It helps those facing crisis situations or poverty to find housing, keep the heat on, and overcome other barriers to stability. The nonprofit is supported by local churches, businesses, foundations, government agencies, concerned individuals, Community Aid, and the United Way of the Capital Region, as well as by funds raised from the golf event.

~Bobbie Kitzmiller

In June, a daughter of CHPC, the Rev. Anne Stewart, preached at Myungsung Presbyterian Church in Seoul, South Korea.

The largest Presbyterian church in the world, it has more than 100,000 members. Anne said she was honored to preach at one of the church's five Sunday services, and that "it was an inspiring experience to participate in worship with thousands of Christians in Korea, gathered to pray and praise the God we all serve."



Preschool Corner: Preparing for New School Year

The preschool was super busy this summer! We held Summer Blast camps and Thursday playgroups in the early summer, with fun themes such as “Bubbles and Bees,” “Party in the U.S.A.,” “Sports Mania,” and “Can You Dig It?” Now, we’re excited to hold two weeks of our “Camp Crayon” in August, which will help two different age groups prepare for the return to school in the fall.

Our first session of Camp Crayon, “Rhyme Time,” will be taught by preschool teachers Deb Juliana and Maura Brittingham. This week is designed to get students acclimated to preschool through having fun. They’ll learn about rhymes, feelings, and manners while making crafts and participating in learning activities.

Our second session of Camp Crayon, “Full STEAM Ahead, Little Learners” will be taught by teachers Celeste Black and Cristin Van Dyke. These students will move full “STEAM” ahead and have lots of fun while exploring letters, numbers, and some basic science concepts. STEAM activities include elements of science, technology, engineering, art, and math, promoting learning experiences that allow children to explore, question, research, discover, and

exercise innovative building skills.

The preschool was closed in July to start preparing for the upcoming school year. Our carpets and rugs were professionally cleaned, a new fence was installed around half of the playground, a new classroom was established, and several rooms got new coats of paint. We’re getting estimates now to repair or replace the sidewalks around the Kathy Kuhn Education Wing.

Due to enrollment in established classes already being full, we made the

decision to open an additional class for the school year. The new class will be a multi-age class with 3- and 4-year-olds called Connectors 3 & 4s. This class will primarily be following the same curriculum as our Next Steps 3s classes, with some extra additions to help with the skill set of those who are entering kindergarten the following year.

Recent studies have shown that children in a multi-age environment work well together. Younger students

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It's been a hot summer, but our preschoolers have had a cool time at camps led by Donna Dougherty and other teachers. When they return in for the 2024-25 school year, they'll find new fencing on the playground and other improvements at the school.

Preschool Corner, *continued from Page 9*

learn social skills from older peers, while the older students develop empathy and leadership qualities.

The 2024-25 school year will be our trial year to see how it all works. Then, we will decide if it has the potential to stay on as one of our regular classes. Again, since all our original classes are full, this will help fulfill the need for those families looking for placement for the fall.

In the next few weeks, we'll start to see all our teachers back in the school, preparing, planning, organizing, and decorating their classrooms. Our teaching staff remains the same as last year, but we have added two new teacher aides onto our roster. We're excited to have Sarah Thompson and Helene Betz join us!

Our teaching staff for the 2024-25 school year is:

- First Steps M/T and W/Th — Donna Dougherty and Christina Dobos
- Betweeners M/T and W/Th — Laura Workman and Pearl Phillips
- Next Steps 3s M-W — Maura Brittingham and Nadine Buzzard
- Next Steps 3s T-Th — Debbie Haar and Cristin Van Dyke
- Connectors 3 & 4s — Lauren Kohl and Katie Smith
- Great Steps 3/4s — Elena Bartlett and Samantha Bieler
- Big Steps 4s M-Th — Deb Juliana and Laura Thomson
- Big Steps 4s T-F — Laura Foose and Anita Kelsch
- Future Steps 4/5s — Celeste Black and Deb Devlin
- Music — Tracy Fisher-Neely

We are eager to get the school year started. Our first week of school starts Monday, Sept. 9, and a Back-to-School Night and Open House will be held the previous week. We will have 11 classes, 22 staff members and up to 166 students!

We have very limited openings for the new school year. If you or a friend know someone who is interested in registering their child for the fall, please contact me at (717) 761-6003 or dtarnoci@thechpc.com. You can also check out our website at www.chpcpreschool.org.

We are looking forward to another successful school year filled with fun and learning!

~Dana Tarnoci,
Preschool Director



Summer camp activities this year included time spent in the Bike Room practicing yoga and enjoying an inflatable bounce house and slide. CHPC's Preschool was busy all summer with camps and other events happening nearly every week.



PW, Dorcas Circle Members Ready for Fall

The women of Dorcas Circle met in July at Pizza Grille in Camp Hill for the group's annual summertime luncheon. It truly was a special reminder of how we share the love of Christ with the women of our church. Bernice Ryder, a longtime CHPC member and former CHPC Preschool teacher, was in attendance, and the group celebrated her birthday with cards and special cupcakes. This occasion is always a blessing, and leaves us with a renewed sense of unity and love.

The fall kickoff for our regular Dorcas Circle Bible study meetings is set for Thursday, Sept. 12, at 10 a.m. in the Quilters & Crafters Room. The group meets the second Thursday of the month, September through June. Please take time to fill in your calendar with any of the dates that you can attend. We would love to see you there!

The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team's quarterly meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 6, was changed to the following Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 6 p.m. in the Blue Room. This meeting is important to attend for planning purposes for the upcoming lineup of activities. Each person involved with PW has a special part to play, as God speaks through each one of us. Women are so gifted with many unique talents, and we are excited to

to see how we can grow PW's mission field in the months ahead.

Our PW Fall Gathering is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 6, immediately following worship. We will serve a light luncheon with yummy desserts and beverages. Our speaker will share information on the tiny homes that are being built for military veterans experiencing homelessness. Tickets for the luncheon will be available ahead of time; check the church bulletin for more information on how to purchase them. Then, consider buying a ticket or two and bringing a friend to

enjoy this time of food and fellowship.

Just a reminder to continue placing your unwanted clothes and small household items in the Community Aid bins in our parking lot. CA provides us with checks based on the weight of donations, and the funds benefit the Preschool.

Our card ministry continues throughout the year. If you have received a card, you know the personal blessings it brings to your heart. Thank you to those of you who participate in this ministry of love.

*~Susan Ault,
PW Corresponding Secretary*



More than 15 women attended the Dorcas Circle's July luncheon at the Pizza Grille, filling one of the restaurant's dining areas with faith, fun, and friendship courtesy of CHPC!

Session Highlights, continued from Page 7

■ A motion to approve the election of Ann Ganshaw (second term), Barb Lenda (first term), Sandy McBride (second term), and Bud Swartz (third term) to serve on the congregational Nominating Committee, with terms to begin July 1, 2024, and expire June 30, 2025

■ A motion to approve updated Terms of Call for the

Rev. Nancy Conklin for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025

*~Beth Fine,
Retired Clerk of Session*

Pastor's Note, continued from Page 1

church is being thoroughly cleaned by one of our preschool teachers who also has her own cleaning business.

Over the summer, the staff has accomplished some overdue sorting and shedding throughout the church. All these changes remind us of nature's message to us each

autumn. Life does not stand still; change is the one thing we can count. Yet, through it all, we are held in our Creator's hands, empowering us to trust God in all the seasons of our lives.

In September, we will resume the 8:30 a.m. ARISE service, and our more formal worship

will return to 10:30 a.m. After worship on Sunday, Sept. 15, we will gather as a church family to break bread together, and share the joys we experienced during our summer season of rest and renewal.

*Yours for the journey,
Nancy*

Dates to Remember in August, September, and October:

- Board of Deacons Meeting – Monday, August 19
- AED/CPR Training – Wednesday, August 21
- Session Meeting – Monday, August 26
- Choirs Picnic – Wednesday, August 29
- Office Closed for Labor Day – Monday, September 2
- Choir Rehearsals Begin – Wednesday, September 4
- Dorcas Circle Bible Study Resumes – Thursday, September 12
- 'Back-to-School Bash' Luncheon – Sunday, September 15
- Session Meeting – Monday, September 23
- PW Fall Gathering – Sunday, October 4
- Office Closed for Indigenous Peoples Day – Monday, October 14
- Board of Deacons Meeting – Monday, October 21
- Session Meeting – Monday, October 28
- Deadline for November/December/January Camp Hill Press – Wednesday, October 30

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