



Camp Hill Press

The Newsletter of Camp Hill Presbyterian Church

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From The Pastor’s Desk

Dear Friends,

As we are moving into a new year, I know that the year 2018 included a lot of “new” as well. In June it was, “Meet the new interim pastor.” Near the end of the year we said, “Meet the new Director of Youth and Christian Education,” then said, “Meet the new administrative assistant.” There was a huge amount of transition in the church in 2018, especially as the church said good-bye to the pastor who had been here for 15 years. Times of transition can be exciting, but they can also be rather intimidating, because transition means change, and many people aren’t all that excited about change.

I am looking forward to this new year, even knowing that there may well be more transitions ahead of the church. It is possible that in 2019 the church could be welcoming a new installed pastor as (s)he begins ministry with you. Until that time, though, we’ll be working together to continue trying to make the transition time be a time of calm and also of growing, hopefully growing larger but also growing deeper in learning just who we are as followers of Jesus Christ.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Jan. 6 Epiphany
Communion

Jan. 21 MLK, JR. Day
Church office closed

Jan. 28 Session Meeting 7:30

I don't know if you make New Year's Resolutions (I usually don't), but if you do, I have a couple of suggestions for you. First, I would ask that you resolve to increase your participation in the church. Now, for some of you, that is a difficult task, as there are a number of folks who are involved in a number of ministries at the church, and I appreciate all of you. But if you're not all that involved, see if there are ways you can be more involved. Second, I would encourage you to join a study group on Sunday mornings. Third, I would encourage you to see if you might be able to give a little bit more per week or per month to the work of the church. There is much we want to do in ministry and mission, and we need your support for that ministry. Fourth, I encourage you to, on your own, get more friendly with your Bible. Do some

devotional reading on a regular basis. Read the sermon texts before coming to worship on Sunday. And remember to pray – to pray for peace, to pray for the church, to pray for the Pastor Nominating Committee.

I believe, and have shared with several groups in the church, that Camp Hill Presbyterian Church has a bright future. There are challenges, of course, but there is a lot here to be celebrated, and a lot of ministry can be strengthened while some new ministries can be started. I am committed to being here until that new pastor is called to the church. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you to help Camp Hill Presbyterian Church become what God is calling us to be, and to being “servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God” with you in 2019.

Peace,
Craig Miller

Worship

Advent Devotional

Note: When the Advent Devotional was put together, this devotional was to have been included, but this did not get into the guide with the rest of the thoughts. We are including it here for you to read, and these words are good food for thought as we enter the new year.

I will not be remembering 2018 as one of my favorite years. For a long time, I seemed to be on one long roller coaster ride, with no end in sight. When the ‘lows’ hit, I felt lost and

often overwhelmed. Interestingly, it was then I thought of Mary and Elizabeth, and the trials, loneliness and despair they must have felt at times. And I was reassured, remembering that with faith they had waited, and were blessed with miracles.

Surprisingly, those 'low' points were also when unexpected things began to happen in my life. I often felt surrounded by prayer, and somehow knew I could get through the day. And, I began receiving small miracles of encouragement and love ... a 'thinking of you' card in the mail, a friend stopping by with lunch, another friend showing up to vacuum my house (can you believe it?!). Flowers arrived, and answering a knock on the door one day, I was handed a casserole, and told "I brought your dinner." I'd not asked. I'd only prayed for strength, and healing. Through the love of friends and family, I experienced the joy of people caring, found hope, and received peace.

Remembering Mary and Elizabeth, I was led by Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

So it is during Advent, as I wait, and prepare with anticipation for the coming of the Christ Child, I again think of Mary and Elizabeth, and their faith as they too waited. How blessed I feel, as I focus on He who is to come, and open my heart to His Word on this journey to the stable and beyond.

Thanks be to God! Pam Thompson

PW Thank Offering



Thank you for your generous contributions to the PW Thank Offering. Your contributions totaling \$1,025 will be used towards funding programs that provide education, safe housing, clean water, health care, justice for women, and so much more. Your gifts are appreciated and will be received by thankful hearts.

Calling All Tenors

The Chancel Choir has need of women or men who sing Tenor to participate in the Music, Art and Drama event to be held at CHPC on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 4:00 PM.

Under the direction of Linda L. Tedford, Artistic Director, Founder and Conductor of the Susquehanna Chorale, the Choir will be performing exciting choral works based on hymns and spirituals by John Rutter, Mack Wilberg and Gilbert Martin, as well as other American arrangers.



Requirements include possessing a Tenor voice, the ability to read music and the willingness to attend all scheduled rehearsals and the performance. If interested, we sincerely hope you will join us at our scheduled rehearsal time on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM in the Music Room.

About

Session Highlights

Staff Commission

Administrative Assistant Jolie Kaufmann resigned from the church staff, effective November 27, 2018. Session approved the request of the Staff Commission and Church Administration Ministry to hire Andrea Ebeling as Administrative Assistant, effective December 3, 2018. Also, Amber Soule has returned to the CHPC Staff as a Sunday morning Child Care Worker.

Staff Commission has invited all Elders to participate in CHPC Staff Evaluations, with written input due to Abby Tierney by December 17, 2018. Staff Evaluations will be conducted on January 14 and 15, 2019.

Mission Outreach Ministry

Session approved the request of the Mission Outreach Ministry designating the 2018 Christmas Eve Offering to go to the Christian Churches United Overnight Shelter.

Property and Maintenance Commission

The Christian Education wing roof is being evaluated for repair, and the sealing of the front porch has been postponed until spring when weather conditions will be more favorable.

Church Treasurer

Church Treasurer David Watts is learning to use the church's PowerChurch software and is working with Financial Secretary John Rutzler on assessing and correcting necessary issues with our current financial recording process.

Special Meeting of the Congregation

Mission Study Team members Cindy Harbert and Abby Tierney presented an overview of the CHPC Mission Study, approved by Session on December 9, 2018 and distributed electronically to the congregation on December 13, 2018. Hard copies of the Mission Study are available in the church office. The congregation was given the opportunity to pose questions about the Mission Study.

Nominating Committee Chair John Groff then presented a report from the Nominating Committee, nominating the following candidates to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee:

Bob Griesemer

Joe Harner

Bryan Kostukovich

Albert Sarvis

Mary Swartz

Cindy Thompson

Abby Tierney

There were no further nominations from the floor and the seven candidates were elected to the Pastor Nominating Committee.

The PNC will begin the process of calling a new pastor using the insights gained from the Mission Study to guide them. They will be reporting their progress frequently, so be sure to read future emails which will include timely updates.

Presbyterian Women



THANK YOU ...for supporting the Quilters and Crafters' Show and Sale and the PW Bake Sale! All funds go toward Mission Projects.



In case you missed the PW Christmas Coffee...

We missed you.

Good food, good friends, good time!
A special presentation of handbells and chimes by Kathy Bittenbender. Everyone got to play the chimes as we sang Christmas carols.



Dorcas Circle Luncheon

Dorcas Circle met for their Christmas Luncheon at a local restaurant, and 24 women were present! We had the added pleasure of having The Reverend Anne Ross join us for the luncheon and lead us in prayer. This luncheon replaced the December meeting date at CHPC.

Care

Church History

Do you 'remember when'? Do you like history?

When clearing office space for Lindsay Gottwald, our new Director of Youth and Christian Education, we uncovered books and files and pictures of our church history. Would you like to help transform the library room into a church history room? We need volunteers to organize the library and properly file/display our church history.



Please contact Dale Meadowcroft at dale.meadowcroft@verizon.net

Welcome Andrea Ebeling



On December 3rd, we welcomed our new CHPC Administrative Assistant, Andrea Ebeling. Andrea will be working to support our staff by carrying out the administrative functions of the church.

Andrea recently moved back to Camp Hill, where she spent part of her childhood, and is pleased to be the new administrative assistant at Camp Hill Presbyterian Church. A graduate of Penn State, she worked in the communications field before spending many years as a stay-at-home mother and school/community/church volunteer. Most recently, she served as the copy editor for a number of regional publications.

Andrea has two sons, Alec, 21, a college senior, and Nate, 15, a high school freshman. She enjoys exploring the arts (especially when her boys are involved), reading, visiting new places, watching Pittsburgh sports, and spending time with family and friends.

Please introduce yourself and consider finding a way to support Andrea as she gets settled into her work.

Special thanks to our Staff Commission Ministry members for a job well done!

Getting to Know Our Staff



Lindsay Gottwald is our new Director of Youth and Christian Education. Take a few minutes to learn a bit about Lindsay, and reach out and introduce yourself if you haven't done so.

Where are you from originally?

I grew up in South Hanover Township, outside Hummelstown.

Where have you lived before this area?

I've also lived in the DC Metro Area and Chicago.

Where did you go to school?

I graduated from Lower Dauphin High School, then attended American University and George Washington University in DC.

What have been your favorite jobs?

I love teaching in hands-on learning situations. Some of my favorites have been leading small groups at the International Spy Museum and teaching in a natural environment at Discovery Creek Children's Museum.

What is your favorite book?

"The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green

What is your favorite movie?

"Amelie"

Do you have hobbies?

I joke that I'm not happy unless I'm making something. I always have a knitting project I'm working on, and I like to take photos when I go on walks.

What is your favorite Scripture verse?

2 Timothy 1: 6-7 (NIV)

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

What do you enjoy most about CHPC?

I have received an overwhelmingly warm welcome from everyone!

Serve

Is This the Year That You Join Us at M.A.T.E.?

July 20-27, 2019

Do you feel called to serve God through helping others? Do you want to learn new skills? Do you want to make new friends, and strengthen bonds with other church folks you already know? Do you want to have fun? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then this may be the year for you join our mission team as they travel to beautiful western Maine to work at Mission at the Eastward, more commonly known as MATE.

Set aside the week of July 20-27 on your calendar now to join members and friends of CHPC for our annual summer mission trip. Our group works with the MATE Housing Ministry (MHM) to repair or build homes for persons in need. We expect to once again work side by side with members of the First Presbyterian Church of Ramsey, NJ.



Registration materials will be available in the Gathering Space on March 1st, and must be returned to the MATE mailbox (across from the church office) no later than April 30. The team will meet for orientation immediately after the annual Deacon's Pancake Breakfast.

On February 17, Pastor Thea (pronounced "Tee-ah") Kornelius will be here. She is the pastor of the Fairbanks and New Portland churches, and Executive Director of MATE and the MATE Housing Ministry. Please plan to be in church that day to learn more about this ministry that has meant so much to generations of Camp Hill Presbyterians.

This trip is a wonderful opportunity for teens and adults to meet new people, have lots of fun, and serve in Christ's name. No prior construction skills are necessary! Save the dates!

Downtown Daily Bread needs Backpacks!

Downtown Daily Bread would greatly appreciate our donated backpacks. Please bring in your used, but still functional, backpacks and place them in the marked box in the gathering space. Thank you for your generosity.

Downtown Daily Bread New Signup Method

Every Saturday, members and friends of CHPC volunteer their time in service of others at Downtown Daily Bread. While serving hot meals to those in need is a fulfilling and noble cause, we often do not have enough volunteers to appropriately support this program. If every member of CHPC volunteered just two hours, one Saturday per year, our commitment would easily be 100% fulfilled.



If you would like to join your brothers and sisters in service to those in need, please prayerfully consider donating your time to this worthwhile cause. To make volunteering even easier, we have created an electronic signup form for the new year. Please visit <https://ttsu.me/gy4jjh> at your convenience or contact Joe Harner at 717.421.1493 to generously volunteer your time.

Are you of a “sound” mind?



We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in learning to use the sound equipment in the audio/visual booth during worship and special events. This is a great skill to have and it's not hard to learn. All are welcome, especially youth members. Contact commtaskforce@gmail.com or just stop by the audio/visual booth any Sunday.

Learn

Nurture Update

Parents/Guardians: Do you receive the Youth Update on Fridays? We may not have your most recent email address. Contact Lindsay Gottwald at lgottwald@thechpc.com to provide an update.

Nurture has an immediate need for Sunday School teachers for K-5th on Jan. 6, 20, and 27. Sign up at www.timetosignup.com/chpcnurture/sheet/1266828



The Christmas Spirit

In mid December, the Nurture, Fellowship & Membership, and Worship & Fine Arts Committees held an intergenerational event called “Let’s Get Into the Christmas Spirit!” After worship, we enjoyed a light lunch and set to work preparing our space, our neighbors, and ourselves for the arrival of Christmas.



Some of us decorated the gathering space or set up the Christmas tree. Others baked cookies or decorated handmade cards for our neighbors and shut-ins. Then, after the work was done, we walked door-to-door singing carols and delivering the cookies and cards to families living nearby.

My favorite thing about the event wasn’t the cards or cookies or ornaments hung with care. I appreciated seeing collaboration between groups of people who don’t always work together face-to-face. Even in our faith communities, we often find ourselves partitioned by factors such as interest, age, and even where we prefer to sit at worship.

In the new year, we will be acting on feedback that youths want to feel more included in the congregation as a whole. As youths take on new roles during worship this year, I know they will be welcomed with enthusiasm. Likewise, I hope many of our adults without youths will consider incorporating themselves into youth programming, even if it is volunteering once or twice a year.

Lindsay M. Gottwald, Director of Youth & Christian Education

Give

2018 Christmas Giving Tree

The Deacons of Camp Hill Presbyterian Church would like to thank the congregation for their support of this year’s Christmas Giving Tree. Through your generosity, the Deacons collected monetary donations and over 160 pounds of unwrapped gifts, which were delivered to New Hope Ministries in early December. New Hope Ministries is a Christian social service



agency that serves community members in need and supports their efforts toward stability. Thank you for remembering those individuals in our community who are in need and who, through your generosity, experienced the true joys of Christmas.

What Per Capita Dollars Do For Your Congregation



*Per Capita -
For Love of
Christ's Church*

All Presbyterians benefit from each congregation's payment of their share of Per Capita. Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) connect, participate, and share in the work of the wider church. Per capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

The per capita amounts are determined by the General Assembly nationally, regionally by the Synod and locally by the Presbytery. These monies are used to perform and coordinate the responsibilities, functions, and missions of each governing body. The amount for 2019 is set at \$27.10 per member. \$15.85 is for the Presbytery, \$2.30 is for the Synod, and \$8.95 is for the General Assembly.

The Carlisle Presbytery is committed to remitting the full amount of the Per Capita assessment to the Synod and General Assembly. The churches that do not honor their full financial commitment place an unfair burden on the Presbytery and those churches that do.

CHPC's Session honors this commitment on behalf of our congregation by paying our full Per Capita assessment each year, which for 2019 will be more than \$10,000.

Many of our members pay their own Per Capita assessment each year, assisting CHPC with this expense. Please consider paying the Per Capita assessment for all in your family who are active members of CHPC. This extra gift to the church will free monies in the CHPC budget to further our mission efforts locally while supporting our collaboration with our Presbyterian brothers and sisters furthering the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

Per Capita directly benefits your church as it:

- Maintains a physical office and staff at all three levels of governance.
- Provides tools for your congregation if searching for a pastor.
- Assures the future of the Presbyterian Church by preparing those in our Presbytery who are called to ministry.
- Assists in conflict resolution if your congregation is having internal disagreements.

- Supports your youths' faith journeys through Camp Krislund, Youth Triennium, and other youth events.
- Insures prudent business administration by assisting your congregation with property issues, loans, insurance, and record keeping.
- Educates your church leaders to become better ruling elders, deacons, and ministers by providing free learning opportunities such as REACH, etc.
- Represents your congregation's disaster assistance mission through Lend-A-Hand and work of mission committee.
- Improves your congregation's ability to discern God's call in the life of the Church universal and working and living in fellowship with "all persons in every nation."
- Holds General Assembly meeting bi-annually where each Presbytery is represented to discern God's plans for congregations and denomination.
- Supports the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia.

Notes from the Treasurer

Please bear with us while we go through transition in the CHPC office.

We are putting in place new financial procedures to ensure timely deposit of checks and more accurate reporting of contributions. Thank you in advance for your patience.

Contribution envelopes for 2019 are available. Please do not put cash in contribution envelopes without writing your name on the envelope, as the envelope numbers are meaningless, and 2019 envelopes will have no numbers.

The first envelope in your box is a per capita envelope for our church's apportioned share of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly expenses. The 2019 per capita amount is \$27.10. Please consider making this contribution, as this is a regular annual expense for CHPC.

We are receiving increasing numbers of third-party checks with no identification, such as from Vanguard or other brokers; please encourage your broker, donor-advised fund sponsor, etc., to put identification on these checks.

Also, it's not too late to turn in your estimate of giving cards. If you need a card, please let me know. Thank you!

