#### The Newsletter of Camp Hill Presbyterian Church

November December January 2023-2024



### Pastor's Note: Christmas Story Is Our Story

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Dear Friends,

As Pastor Stuart and I read through and studied the scriptures we selected for Advent, a line from Mary's song of protest and praise gave us pause:

"Surely, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation."

(Luke 1:48b-50)

Despite the challenges and vulnerability she faced, Mary could glimpse the scale and scope of the good news she was part of bringing forth. This good news transcends time and space — it was and is bigger than just her. Christ is coming for collective liberation; God's redemption is at work for years to come. Therefore, the promise is meant to be lived out and passed on from generation to generation.

This Advent season, we are invited to look at the characters in our scriptures and wonder: What did each character pass on or contribute? How did each character participate in God's liberation and love? Which characters try to thwart God's justice, and what can we learn from

have come before us passed on for us to continue? How is God birthing Christ's life anew in and amongst us?

"From Generation to Generation..." reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. In the midst of narratives, policies, and



them? What is our role now? What is our generation's task? What will we carry forth, and what should we leave behind?

The root word of "generation" is "gen," meaning "origin" or "birth." Our theme is also a call to action: What are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have our ancestors and those who

rhetoric designed to divide us, what does it look like to practice belonging to one another? The work of God is always unfolding — in and through us.

The Christmas story isn't just one person's story. It's the story of Mary and Joseph, shepherds and magi, Elizabeth and John, and their

Continued on Page 3...

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE 2023 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

#### Lighting the Candle of Hope

"From Generation to Generation: There's Room in Every Story"
Matthew 1:1-17 & Isaiah 2:1-5
Kirking of the Church with Bagpiper Gus Person

### SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

#### Lighting the Candle of Peace

"From Generation to Generation: God Meets Us in Our Fear"
Luke 1:26-38 & Isaiah 11:1-10

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### Lighting the Candle of Joy

"From Generation to Generation: We Can Choose a Better Life"
Matthew 1:18-25 & Isaiah 35: 1-11
Special Performance by the CHPC Preschool Choir

### **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

#### Lighting the Candle of Love

"From Generation to Generation: We See God in Each Other" Luke 1:39-45

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

#### 5 p.m. — Family Worship Service

For this year's family Christmas Eve worship offering, join us for a participatory pageant. No rehearsal required — all young attendees can choose their part, suit up in a costume, and take part in the storytelling of the Nativity. This service will be short and sweet for busy families.

#### 7 p.m. — Service of Lessons and Carols

"From Generation to Generation: We Tell the Story," Luke 2:1-20

# 10 p.m. — Meditative Candlelight Service of Readings and Carols

Soloist Lydia Keller and guitarist David Miller

# Take Time to Enjoy MAD Winter Performances

For more than 45 years, CHPC has offered its Music, Art and Drama Series. Join us for these upcoming performances:

#### ■ A Touch of Brass Sunday, Nov. 12, 3 p.m.

A Touch of Brass is an accomplished instrumental group made up of two trumpets and two trombones. Members of the group are professional musicians, music educators, and members of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and other ensembles.

For more than 40 years, they've entertained audiences throughout western Pennsylvania. Now, they've expanded to our area. Let us introduce you to A Touch of Brass with a fantastic afternoon of your favorite pops and jazz selections in our Sanctuary.

A reception in Fellowship Hall will follow the concert.



# ■ Organist Hannah Koby Wednesday, Dec. 6, 12:15 p.m.

Our Noonday Organ Recitals continue in December with Hannah Koby, organist at St. John's Episcopal Church in Carlisle. She also is a contributing faculty member in music at Dickinson College.

Before the recital, a free luncheon will take place at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

#### ■ Elva Hurst's "Chalk Talk" Sunday, Jan. 21, 11:30 a.m.

Join us after worship for lunch in Fellowship Hall, followed by an experience you'll never forget: the revival of the old live performance art called "Chalk Talk."

Elva Hurst's artistic tales are fun and inspiring, using fluorescent chalk, music, and sound effects, and ending with a light show that brings the artwork to life!



# From Generation to Generation..., continued from Page 1

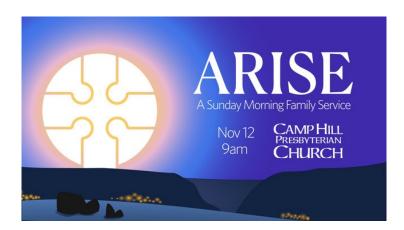
ancestors, David and Isaiah
— all of these individual
threads over centuries woven
together into the story of
God's unconventional
in-breaking through the story
of Jesus.

The Christmas story is our story, too: Our own stories from generation to generation, woven together in God's ongoing incarnation in the world, that proclaim the promise of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Join us during Advent as we place ourselves, once again, in those stories told from generation to generation.

Yours for the journey, Nancy

# New Informal Worship Service Set to 'Arise'



Today's young families are busier than ever. It's tough to prioritize work, school, fun, community. And, still, questions linger about what it's all for — what and who should we orient our lives around?

A new day is dawning. The Kirk Families Team is excited to pilot a Sunday morning family service opportunity: Arise.
In the informal setting of Fellowship Hall, with contemporary and

contemporary and contemplative elements, we'll share conversation and laughter, reflection and prayer, coffee and doughnuts.

We'll dive into the tough questions of faith and life, make space for rest and lament, come with our families, and find our place in a family much larger.

Arise in November is the pilot for a new alternative service in the spring.

Designed for young adults and young families of all sorts, folks with any manner of experiences in faith and church settings are invited to join us in a welcoming, low-stress setting.

Childcare and spaces for nursing and changing will be available.

~Pastor Stuart Seelman



On Oct. 8, CHPC members and friends, including the Nilson family (above) and Jeff and Peggy Heiss (right), gathered for our annual Blessing of the Animals to mark the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. Prayer was followed by blessings by Pastor Nancy for furry and stuffed friends alike. In a time marked by human conflict and environmental threats, attendees witnessed the beauty of creation and God's providential care, praying for peace in our world and wholeness in the human family.



# Session Highlights: Calendar, Staffing Items OK'd

The Session met for regularly scheduled meetings on the fourth Monday of the month in August, September, and October. A number of actions were taken over the course of the three meetings.

At the request of the Worship and Fine Arts Ministry, the Session approved the following calendar of Wednesday Noonday Organ Recitals for 2023-2024, featuring gifted members of the American Guild of Organists, music educators, and organ students:

- Oct. 4 Daniel Glessner, organist, of Our Lady of Lourdes, Enola, and Laura Bielen, flutist, of St. Joseph's, Mechanicsburg, and St. Theresa's, New Cumberland
- Nov. 1 Chris Prestia, cellist and organist, of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lancaster
- Dec. 6 Hannah Kobe, organist, of St. John's Episcopal Church and Dickinson College, Carlisle
- Feb. 7 Jacqueline Wilson, organ and sacred music degree candidate, of Lebanon Valley College, Annyille
- March 6 Ethan Draper, organ scholar of Market Square Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg, and organ student, Lebanon Valley College

Also at the request of the Worship and Fine Arts Ministry, the Session approved the following calendar of Music, Art & Drama events for 2023-2024:

- Sunday, Nov. 12, at 3 p.m.
   A Touch of Brass trumpet and trombone quartet, of Mechanicsburg
- Sunday, Jan. 21, at noon Chalk Talk with artist Elva Hurst, of Lititz
- Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 10 a.m.

   Popcorn Hat Players
  Children's Theatre: "The
  Little Mermaid," a program of
  Gamut Theatre of Harrisburg
- Sunday, April 14, at 3 p.m.
   Seasons: "Celebrating
  Spring," a program of Celtic/
  roots music by local group

Session gave its approval to the hiring of the following new CHPC Preschool staff members:

- Samantha Bieler, assistant teacher in Great Steps 3/4s
- Cristin Van Dyke, assistant teacher in Next Steps 3s Tuesday-Thursday class
- Laura Thomson, assistant teacher in Big Steps 4s Monday-Thursday class
- Deb Devlin, assistant teacher in First Steps Monday and Tuesday class
- Christina Dobos, assistant teacher in First Steps Wednesday and Thursday class

The Session also approved the addition of teacher aide, director assistant, and music teacher job descriptions to the CHPC Preschool Policy. In another action item, the Session directed Staff Commission to revise the current music director job description, splitting it into two part-time positions. Following approval of the two job descriptions, Session approved a motion requesting the Music Director Search Committee use its discretion in determining if one or two candidates should be recommended to fill the positions.

The proposed Worship and Communion Calendar for 2024 also received Session approval. Morning worship will be held on all Sundays in 2024 at 10:30 a.m., with the exception of summer worship, which will be held Sundays at 9:30 a.m., June 2 through Sept. 1.

Approved special worship services will be held on:

- Ash Wednesday on Feb. 14, with a time to be determined
- Maundy Thursday on March 28 at 7 p.m.
- Good Friday on March 29; a joint service will be held, with a time to be determined
- Easter Sunrise on Sunday, March 31 at 7 a.m.
- Christmas Eve on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m., 7 p.m., and 10 p.m.

Continued on Page 6...



# Session Highlights, continued from Page 5

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and on Maundy Thursday.

The Session approved an additional Music, Art & Drama event — a concert featuring the Cedar Cliff High School Chamber Singers, to be held Sunday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The Session also gave approval to a proposal from the Kirk Family Team to pilot a new initiative entitled "Arise," a new worship program for families, to be held in Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12. It is hoped the program will

become regularly offered in Spring 2024.

The Session approved the call of a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 26, at 11:30 a.m. (immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service of worship) in the Sanctuary for the purposes of:

- Approving revised Pastors' Terms of Call for 2024, to include 12 weeks of family leave, as required by the 2023-25 Book of Order and Carlisle Presbytery
- Receiving a report from the CHPC Sign Committee

Monthly Treasurer's Reports for August, September, and October were approved by Session, as well. Church Treasurer David Watts reported receipts and expenses for each month. For the current fiscal year, which began July 1, the church is running a deficit of approximately \$32,000.

~Beth Fine, Clerk of Session

### ~MEETING NOTICE~

The Session has called a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. (directly following the 10:30 a.m. service of worship) in the Sanctuary for the purposes of:

- 1) Approving revised Pastors' Terms of Call for 2024, to include 12 weeks of Family Medical Leave\*, as required by the 2023-25 Book of Order/Carlisle Presbytery
  - 2) Receiving a report from the CHPC Sign Committee

\*Note: Family Medical Leave may include parental leave at the birth or adoption of a child, the death of an immediate family member, serious illness of self or an immediate family member, or moving an immediate family member into a care facility.

# It's Not to Late to Provide Estimate of Giving

Total receipts for the first three months of the 2023-24 fiscal year were \$126,380.81, and total expenses were \$159,237.94, thus leaving us with a year-to-date deficit of \$32,857.33.

Contributions remain at about the same level as last year at this time, but costs continue to increase with the current inflationary pressures. Thanks to everyone for your gifts! So far, we have received back 88 Estimate of Giving cards with commitments totaling \$376,632. Last year, we received back a total of 103 cards totaling \$383,568. If you have not forwarded your 2023-24 Estimate of Giving card to the CHPC office, please do so as soon as you can so we can complete our 2023-2024 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 found any errors in your statement, please contact me at (717) 503-6518 or dwatts@mwn.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 legacy gifts, please contact me.

~David Watts, Treasurer

# Per Capita, 'Tie That Binds,' Increases for 2024

The annual giving of all Presbyterians, in the form of our per capita offerings, is a "tie that binds" the entire church and benefits every congregation. Per capita provides the means to strengthen the connections of our work and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God's love through mission and ministry.

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. These monies are used to administer the responsibilities,

functions, and mission of each governing body.

The per-member amount for 2024 is \$33 (a \$2 increase from 2023). Of this amount, \$20.80 is designated for Carlisle Presbytery, \$2.40 is for the Synod of the Trinity, and \$9.80 is for the General Assembly.

CHPC's Session honors this commitment on behalf of our congregation by paying our full per capita assessment each year, which for 2024 will be \$9,669.

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 own mission efforts locally, while supporting our collaboration with our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in furthering the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

~Beth Fine, Clerk of Session







# Preschool Corner: Families Celebrating Fall Harvest



The preschool has a lot planned for the upcoming months!

During November, our students will be learning about Thanksgiving, enjoying stories read by Pastor Nancy, making crafts, and disguising turkeys so they won't be gobbled up for Thanksgiving dinner!

Our third annual Fall Harvest Festival will be held Thursday, Nov. 9. Families will have the opportunity to play games, do a craft, look at their artwork, get their faces painted, shop at our Scholastic Book Fair, and

grab a sweet treat or two. We also will be collecting new and gently used stuffed animals for the annual Hershey Bears Toss. (The plush toys will be tossed at the Sunday, Jan. 7, game.) If you also would like to donate, please drop off your items in the bin in front of the Preschool office. Stuffed animals will be picked up Friday, Nov. 17. On Sunday, Nov. 19, the Preschool will be participating in the Camp Hill Borough Candy Cane Walk. We will

pass out peppermint

playdough and have a few games for those who want to play in the chilly weather. I hope you can come out to visit us.

The Preschool is offering its P.E.A.C.E program again this year. This program gives members of the church and others a gifting opportunity that supports our scholarship fund and honors loved ones and friends. For each donation, you will receive a greeting card that you can send to someone to let them know you are thinking of them and honoring them with this special gesture this Christmas season. (Please see insert for more information.) December will be filled with Christmas carols, visits from Santa, and class Christmas parties. Our new Preschool music teacher will be directing our two Christmas programs on Tuesday, Dec. 12, and Thursday, Dec. 14, to share what our students have been

We are excited to announce that the second year of our Preschool Choir has started! Students from our Great Steps, Big Steps, and Future Steps classes (4- and 5-yearolds) will be meeting four times throughout the next couple of months to prepare for their singing debut on Sunday, Dec. 17. Students

learning over the last few months in music class.



Playing with dolls helps preschoolers develop their imaginations — and it's fun!

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# CHPC to Welcome Cedar Cliff Chamber Singers

The Cedar Cliff Chamber Singers will present Benjamin Britten's critically acclaimed masterwork, "A Ceremony of Carols," with live harp accompaniment, on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The concert also will feature traditional congregational carols accompanied on the organ, and end with a candlelit singing of "Silent Night." A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.

The Chamber Singers is an elite touring choir comprised of the best singers at Cedar Cliff High School in grades 9 through 12. Members are selected through a rigorous audition process in late spring for participation the following school year. This year's ensemble numbers 24, who perform a predominantly a cappella



repertoire. In the spring of 2023, the group was selected by the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association to perform at its All-State Conference.

"The Chamber Singers are thrilled to be performing so close to home at the beautiful Camp Hill Presbyterian Church, and hope you will consider joining us for this free performance," said Cedar Cliff Director of Choirs Matthew Topping. "Come support our local youth at their best and ring in the season with the sounds of the Cedar Cliff Chamber Singers."

~Staff



### More Singing for Advent!

On Oct. 18, as preschoolers and their adults filed out of the building, a small group headed instead to Fellowship Hall. Coats were hung on chairs, and lunch boxes taken out of backpacks. And as the children wrapped up eating, something special happened: the first fall session of the Preschool Choir was underway.

Tentative murmurs made way for a full chorus as the group listened to stories, played, and sang in preparation for its first performance. Catch the Preschool Choir during 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, Dec. 17, for a small concert of seasonal songs.

# Youth Team Up With Derry Presbyterian Group

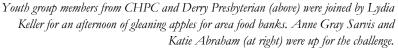
On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in October, youth from CHPC joined our friends from Derry Presbyterian Church for apple gleaning at Sycamore Spring Orchard. At the end of their growing season, the orchard let the group pick from trees featuring many varieties of

apples. Sharing the afternoon of fall fun, the group ended up picking approximately 40 bushels of apples to donate to local food banks.

The Kirk Families Team is excited to collaborate with other local youth groups for fun and fellowship. We look forward to announcing some Christmas events for youth. To receive Youth@CHPC emails to stay connected, contact me at sseelman@thechpc.com.

~Pastor Stuart







### Preschool Corner, continued from Page 8

stay after their regular class and head to Fellowship Hall for lunch, singing, crafts, and games until 1:30 p.m. This year, we have music teacher Tracy Fisher-Neely, Pastor Stuart Seelman, and teachers Maura Brittingham and Elena Bartlett leading the way to learning some wonderful Christmas songs. The children

will be using a variety of motions, bells, and props to sing six songs and poems in celebration of the season. We hope to see you there!

On Monday, Jan. 8, we will open up registration for the 2024-25 school year to all of our CHPC families. We will have several classes for ages

21 months to 5 years old. 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!

~Dana Tarnoci, CHPC Preschool Director

# PW Thank Offering Funds Health Ministries

The Presbyterian Women Thank Offering is received in the fall each year, and gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. This year, seven projects were funded:

- Light for the Darkness, New Worshipping Community, Grounded Gardening — provides a worshipful support group for people with mental health variances (Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy)
- Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Summer Arts Camp — offers quality childcare in a supportive summer learning environment (New Castle Presbytery)
- Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance Inc., First
  Neighborhood Building —
  provides safe and affordable

housing for agricultural workers and other families who pay up to 70 percent of their income to reside in dilapidated and crowded trailers (Peace River Presbytery)

- Gainesville Community
  Counseling Center Inc.,
  Building Resilience
  Through Mindfulness —
  provides mental health
  support, community
  education, and camping to
  address the challenges facing
  LGBTQIA+ youth who have
  little access to mental health
  services (Presbytery of St.
  Augustine)
- Ministries, Tech for Teens
   provides a safe space for
  an underserved and
  low-income area with few
  youth programs; students will
  learn to use Microsoft Office
  and acquire basic web design
  and coding skills (Albany
  Presbytery)

■ Troy Area United

#### ■ Okra Abbey New Worshipping Community, Solar Power for

Resilience — will provide a full solar power system to allow this female-led, community-focused ministry to expand their services for low-income and transitory individuals (Presbytery of South Louisiana)

■ Phalaza Rural Health
Center — will provide rural
residents of this area of
Zambia with maternal services
including prenatal, delivery,
and postnatal care, as well as
primary care of children
(Church of Central Africa)
Thank Offering envelopes can
be found in the pew pockets
during November. On Sunday,
Nov. 12, the Rev. Dr. Anne
Stewart will present the

~Gail Mark, PW Corresponding Secretary

sermon as CHPC's PW leads

our Thank Offering service.





Nearly 30 women attended the PW Fall Gathering in October. The speaker for the event was Karri Starling, a trainer and breeder of service dogs for Dandy Dog Training. Thursday

# Join CHPC's Membership & Evangelism Team

CHPC's Membership and Evangelism Team takes care of making sure there are worship greeters and fellowship hosts each week. We could use some extra volunteers for these tasks. The jobs aren't difficult, and it's easy to sign up. Even doing it just one time every three months would be appreciated!

The team also supports our evangelism efforts by participating in four of Camp Hill Borough's annual events (Harvest Hop, Candy Cane Walk, Spring Fling, and Memorial Day parade). We need volunteers to work these

four-hour events, passing out goodies and church information.

Please use the following links to sign up:

#### **■** Fellowship

www.signupgenius.com/go/ 10C0E45A4A922A0FDC07fellowship

#### **■** Greeters

www.signupgenius.com/go/ 10C0E45A4A922A0FDC07chpc

#### ■ Borough Events

www.signupgenius.com/go/ 10C0E45A4A922A0FDC07camp

Jesus encourages us to gather in His name. We support this guidance by coordinating fellowship luncheons during the year. Please watch for them and attend. Offer to help with setup, bring food to share, or assist with cleanup. Many hands make light work. Lastly, please consider volunteering to be a part of the team. We have meetings every other month on the first Thursday at 7 p.m. (in the Blue Room and on Zoom) for an hour. Please email me at membership@thechpc.com

~Monica Zazworsky, Membership Chair

to join our fantastic team!

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

- PW Election Day Bake Sale Tuesday, Nov. 7
- Dorcas Circle Meeting Thursday, Nov. 9
- Church Office Closed for Veterans Day Friday, Nov. 10
- Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24
- Session Meeting Monday, Nov. 27
- Quilters and Crafters Sale Sunday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 10
- PW Christmas Coffee Thursday, Dec. 7
- Dorcas Circle Meeting Thursday, Dec. 14
- PW Holiday Bake Sale Sunday, Dec. 17
- Board of Deacons Meeting Monday, Dec. 18
- Church Office Closed for Christmas Monday, Dec. 25
- Church Office Closed for New Year's Day Monday, Jan. 1
- Dorcas Circle Meeting Thursday, Jan. 11
- Church Office Closed for MLK Day Monday, Jan. 15
- Session Meeting Monday, Jan. 22
- Deadline for February/March/April Camp Hill Press Wednesday, Jan. 24

Camp Hill Presbyterian Church 101 N. 23rd Street Camp Hill, PA 17011 (717) 737-0488 www.camphillpres.org

Pastor Nancy Conklin Associate Pastor Stuart Seelman Visitation Pastor Don Potter Preschool Director Dana Tarnoci Office Manager Andrea Ebeling

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