



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF CHESTNUT HILL

Advent  
2024  
CHRISTMAS



## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

*A*dvant means “coming.”

During the liturgical season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Christ. We both remember Christ's first coming, as a baby born in Bethlehem, and we await his return at the last, to make all things new.

As such, Advent is a season of joy and expectation: we look forward with hope as we count down the days to Christmas. Advent is also a season of preparation: just as we prepare our homes and pantries for holiday celebrations, we prepare our hearts by prayer, reflection and confession to receive God's promised salvation in Jesus Christ. And Advent can also be a season of lament: with trust in God's abundant grace, we look around us and grieve that our world does not yet know the fullness of God's justice, peace, and love. We long for Christ to come and make things right.

I hope you will join us for our Advent programming as we remember, celebrate, prepare, lament, and hope together.

In Christ,  
The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle

# Advent Season

## events & activities



### Sunday, December 1—First Sunday of Advent

10 am | Worship

**Food Collection for Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry**

Please remember that all food must be shelf-stable and in non-glass containers.

11:30 am | Fellowship in Widener Hall

**High Coffee in celebration of Ellen's first Sunday!**

The Preschool's wreath sale will take place after worship—offering 18" wreaths for \$25 each. Cash, checks, and Venmo accepted.

Youth Service Sunday following worship—middle and high school youth will serve lunch at Face to Face.

Visit the Youth Mission Giving Tree to support PCCH Youth!

### Friday, December 6




**Northwest Philly Artists Holiday Show & Sale**

The Center on the Hill is pleased to host this exhibition featuring artwork created by the center's own northwest Philadelphia artists. Original paintings, photography, drawings, greeting cards, handcrafted candles, ceramic mugs and more will be on display for sale.

4-8 pm | **Opening Reception**

Featuring delicious chocolate-themed treats, this festive gathering is sure to provide holiday fun and a unique shopping experience.

*This exhibit and sale will be open Monday-Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm, through December 20.*



### Sunday, December 8—Second Sunday of Advent

10 am | Worship

11:30 am | Fellowship in Widener Hall

Visit the Youth Mission Giving Tree to support PCCH Youth!

Last day to drop off wrapped and labeled gifts for ACHIEVEability (see page 5).

### Thursday, December 12



12:30-2:30 pm | **Center on the Hill Community Holiday Party**

\$10 per person in advance, \$12 at the door

*Pre-register and pay by Monday, December 9 to receive the lower rate.*

Join us for this wonderful holiday party with live music, friends, festive decorations, light bites and dessert buffet! Plus other fun surprises to get you in the mood this holiday season!

## Sunday, December 15—Third Sunday of Advent

10 am | Worship

11:30 am | Fellowship in Widener Hall

Carol Sing and Cookie Exchange

Visit the Youth Mission Giving Tree to support PCCH Youth!

4 pm | *Tempesta di Mare* concert

*Neapolitan Christmas*: Scarlatti's *Christmas Cantata*, plus delicious seasonal music  
[tempestadimare.org](http://tempestadimare.org)



## Friday, December 20

11:30 am | *Cookies & Carols*

Preschool holiday pageant in the sanctuary

## Saturday, December 21

7:30 pm | Piffaro concert

*Nova! Nova! Nova!*  
[piffaro.org](http://piffaro.org)

## Sunday, December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent

10 am | Worship

11:10 am-12:30 pm | Children/Youth  
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

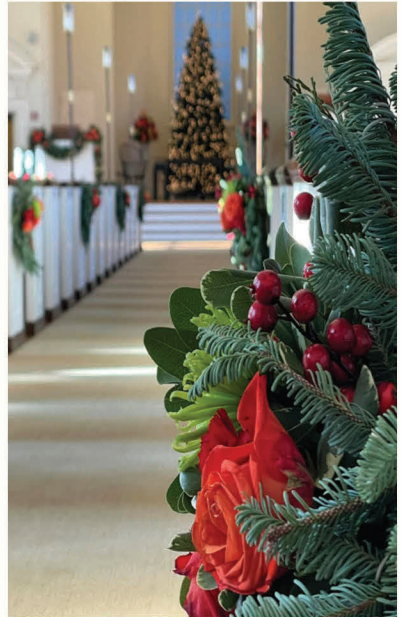
*Mandatory attendance for all participating*

11:30 am | Fellowship in Widener Hall

Visit the Youth Mission Giving Tree to support PCCH Youth!

5 pm | *The Crossing* concert

*What Remains When We Are Gone?*  
[crossingchoir.org](http://crossingchoir.org)



## Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

4:30 pm | Worship  
& Children's Christmas Pageant

8:30 pm | Prelude  
*featuring the PCCH Festival Brass*

9 pm | Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols

PCCH offices will be closed  
December 25-January 1

The Center on the Hill will be closed  
December 23-January 5

# Social Witness

## ACHIEVEability

Help brighten the holidays by providing gifts to children in West Philadelphia! PCCH has committed to providing gifts for 60 children through ACHIEVEability this Advent season.

Sign up to fulfill a child's wish list after church beginning Sunday, November 29, or sign up online.

Please deliver your wrapped and labeled presents to church by Sunday, December 8.

Questions? Ask Beth Vaccaro.  
bethnellvaccaro@gmail.com 215.764.7213



[bit.ly/3CDit1y](http://bit.ly/3CDit1y)

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

As always, during the Christmas season our sanctuary will be filled with beautiful flowers and greens in celebration of Christ's birth.



With your gift in support of the Christmas Flower Fund, you can

- remember loved ones
- celebrate a birth, anniversary, or other special event
- offer thanksgiving for a special person or grandchildren
- honor one of our programs at PCCH

Names of those honored will be listed in the Bulletins for Christmas Eve and the Sunday after Christmas.

For more information, contact the church office or watch for details in the weekly Bulletins.

*a meaningful way to remember loved ones*

# CHILDREN & YOUTH

## Children's Programming

During the month of December, our Godly Play and third-fifth grade Sunday School classes will focus on Jesus's conception and birth.

Our Memory Verses are John 1:5-9

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light. The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world."*

**Sunday, December 8 | 10 am**

Joyful Noise will sing in worship

*"This is the Day"*

Children's Advent Wreath-making workshop during Sunday School

## Youth Programming

Throughout Advent, youth will study the Christmas story, paying particular attention to Mary's story. Youth will reflect on the strength of Mary's faith in God, even as she may have been the subject of ridicule for being an unwed mother in Biblical times. Youth will consider how God chose a poor, teenage girl to bring salvation to the world.

**Sunday, December 1 | after worship**

Youth Service Sunday: youth will serve lunch at Face to Face.

**Sunday, December 15 | Fellowship in Widener Hall after worship**

In conjunction with the children, youth will host the PCCCH cookie exchange during the Carol Sing.

## Children & Youth Programming

**Sunday, December 22 | 11:10 am -12:30 pm**

Children/Youth Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

*Mandatory attendance for all participating*



## YOUTH MISSION GIVING TREE

Support future youth mission work by purchasing an elegant and unique ornament from the Mission Giving Tree!

Ornaments have been hand-painted by our talented youth. The Mission Giving Tree will be on display in Widener hall through the month of December—you can purchase your mission ornaments each Sunday during the second hour (cash, check or Venmo).





# Christmas Eve

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

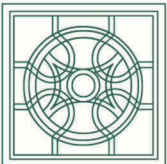
4:30 pm **Worship & Children's Christmas Pageant**

8:30 pm **Prelude**  
*featuring the PCCH Festival Brass*

9 pm **Christmas Eve Service**  
**Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols**  
*led by the Gallery Choir*



## The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill



8855 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118  
215.247.8855



[chestnuthillpres.org](http://chestnuthillpres.org)