**Scatter to Serve God & Neighbor**

***Welcome to all!*** *We gather to praise God for the innumerable blessings given to us and to grow deeper in the Spirit. Joyfully, let us lift our hearts to God.*



*DIRECTORY OF CHESTNUT HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bishop Sue Haupert-Johnson |  Richmond Area Resident Bishop |
| Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert | Mountain View District Superintendent |
| Adam White | Minister |
| Erin Long | Associate Minister |
| Monica Campbell | Administrative Assistant |
| Heather Wilson | Director of Music Ministry |
| Judy Martin |  Bookkeeper |
| Judy RobertsonElizabeth Nichols | Lay Leader Missionary in Henry County |

**

 *Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church*

10:30 a.m. ~December 8, 2024 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Our ministry vision for the Virginia Annual Conference is ***“to be***

***disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners, who influence others to serve.”***

***Welcome! Join us in worshiping God!***

Prelude

Welcome and Ministry Announcements

*Welcome in the name of Christ our Lord. Please register your attendance, printing your name, address, phone, and email, on the attendance pad provided on your pew. Thank you for silencing cell phones as we gather to worship God.*

Invocation

\*Greeting (See insert)

\*Singing Our Faith **# 211** *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Dan & Judy Robertson

*“John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”* *(Mark 1:4)*

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ the Way. May the Word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Opening Prayer

**Advent God, we journey with you, to Bethlehem’s stable and a new-born King, ears attuned to the song of angels, eyes alert for Bethlehem’s star. Forgive us if on our journey if we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas, and the promise of a Saviour. Amen**

Anthem *“Love Has Come”*

Greeting Friends and Neighbors

Prayer for Illumination Rev. White

**Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

 **-**by Rev. Andy James

Scripture Lessons Acts 2:17 and John 1:14 Rev. White

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Singing Our Faith **# 204** *“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”*

The Good News ***“Christmas Presence”***

Bringing Forward God’s Tithes and Our Gifts

\*Doxology **# 95 Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all Creatures here below;** **praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Singing Our Faith **# 220** *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

\*Blessing and Dismissal

\*Postlude

**Greeting:**

I have good news.  The Lord is Coming!  We have been expecting Him.  We have been waiting and the time is drawing closer.  What should we do to prepare for His arrival? Are we ready for His coming?

**We rejoice at the good news of the Lord's coming.  We are anxious to begin the festivities and the Holy Days.  We are ready for the celebration.**

The Lord is Coming!  He is coming with grace and righteousness.  He is coming in purity and holiness, like gold and silver purified by fire.  Will he find righteousness and holiness among His people?  Can we stand in the presence of a Holy God?  Are we prepared for His Coming?

**O Lord, we want you to come.  But not just yet.  And not too close.  We know the One coming is Lord and Savior, the embodiment of grace and love.  Yet we do not always reflect that love.  Perhaps we are not as ready as we think.**

The Lord is Coming!  Prepare the way of the Lord.  Remove every obstacle.  By the mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**O God, prepare *us* as we prepare for your Advent.  Purify us.  Cleanse us.  Clear a way through the clutter of our lives.  Tear down our pretensions to righteousness.  Make a path through our doubts and pride.  Soften our hearts that we may receive you with humility.**

The Lord is Coming! Prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people's way. For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I come and dwell with those who are contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

**Hear our humble prayer, O Lord.  Forgive us for wanting celebration without preparation.  Fill our hearts anew with your love.  Give us strength to serve you in holiness and faith.  May we give voice to your presence among us as we await your Advent.**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, every mountain and hill shall be made low, the crooked shall be made straight, the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**O God, come and be with us.  We are ready for your purifying and transforming presence.**

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***\*\*Calendar \*\****

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Monday, 12/9 | 6:30 p.m. | *Wesleyan Group @ Charley’s Restaurant* |
|  |  |  |
| Tuesday, 12/10 | 7:00 p.m. | *Homeschool Game Night* |
|  |  |  |
| Thursday, 12/12 | 10:00 a.m. | *Homeschool Rehearsals* |
|  |  |  |
| Friday, 12/13 | 10:00 a.m. | *Homeschool* |
|  | 4:00 p.m. | *Homeschool First Talent Show* |

***\*\* Looking Ahead”***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday, 12/22 | 10:00 a.m. | *Choir* |
|  |  |  |
| Tuesday, 12/24 | **5:00** p.m. | *Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service**(Note time change.)* |

**Angel Tree**

Angel gifts and checks are due **today!** Checks are to be made out to *“Chestnut Hill UMC”,* Memo**: Angel Tree**.

**Christmas Offering**

We have set a goal of $7,000.00 for our Christmas offering. 90% will go towards HVAC repairs and 10% will go towards Miriam’s House. Envelopes are provided in the pew racks.

**For the Grocery Cart:**

**December ~** *“Pop-top cans of food and fruit”* to be used in emergency bags for the homeless. Place donations in cart in the Commons.

**Cards for Homebound Members**

Please take a moment to sign the cards for our homebound members/friends that Erin has placed in the Commons.

**Estimate of Giving for 2025**

It is that time of year when we are asked to take a prayerful look at our giving and to make a financial commitment for CHUMC ministries. We are asking you to fill out the **“tear off”** pledge that was provided in the December newsletter or use a card that is placed in the Commons. Put it in the weekly offering plate so that we have your pledge by the end of December. We plan to have a luncheon after church (date and time to be announced) to celebrate our statement of faith to support the ministries of CHUMC.



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*C* *hestnut Hill*

 ***United Methodist Church***



*Making disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*

*You are welcome at Chestnut Hill UMC.*

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Associate Minister’s Cell: 1-502-489-0200

Associate Minister’s Email: healingsolutions12@gmail.com

Email: chestnuthillumc@comcast.net

On the Web at chestnuthillumc.net

Find us on Facebook: Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church