



The Belltower

December 2023

The Newsletter of the Clover Hill Reformed Church



Sunday, December 3, at 10:00 am
First Sunday of Advent
Communion / New Members / Baptisms
Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Sunday, December 10, 10:00 am
Second Sunday of Advent
Congregation Decorating Trees during worship
Isaiah 40:1-11 Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 17, at 10:00 am
Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24



Thursday, December 21, at 7:00 pm
Blue Christmas Service
What is a Blue Christmas? Turn to page 13,
Pastoral Care Team of this Belltower.

Sunday, December 24, at 10:00 am
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Pageant



We invite you to join us on
December 24th, 2023,
Christmas Eve

for our 7:00 pm
worship service
to celebrate the coming
of our
Christ Child with
Carols and Candles.
Come Early to get a seat!

Communication and Contact Information

Clover Hill Reformed Church, 890 Amwell Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844
908-369-8451 / chrc1834@gmail.com / Website: www.cloverhillchurch.org / Like Us On Facebook

The office of CHRC is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.
The office administrator will be working remotely each Wednesday and available by
phone (908-369-8451 by leaving a message) and email (chrc1834@gmail.com)



Worship With Us Online

Sundays at 10:00 am

Our live-streamed services will be accessible in real-time through:

YouTube [Click Here to check out our YouTube Channel!](#)

Zoom Login for meetings only

By computer:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/3847369806>

Meeting ID: 384 736 9806

Passcode: 5hhNCv

By phone:

+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 384 736 9806

Passcode: 544042

Clover Hill Reformed Church has lifted all COVID-related restrictions.

If you are not feeling well (COVID, flu, or other potentially contagious illness) please stay home and join us via Zoom.

We're now on Instagram!



click, follow & like

Our Instagram name is 'Clover_Hill_Reformed_Church_' (that's right, there is a 'dangling' underscore at the end).

Are you following us on Facebook?



click, follow, like & share

Even if you are not a Facebook user, you can still see our church's Facebook page. If you have any content that you would like to see up on Facebook or Instagram send to the Office Administration CHRC1834@gmail.com.

2023 Consistory members, officers & team coordinators

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Beth Scibienski

pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com

Elders:

David Gwin—Stewardship

cDavidGwin@gmail.com

Amy Frank—Vice President

frankfmy@yahoo.com

Nancy Lane—Pastoral Care

nlane54@gmail.com

Kirsten Posselt—Health & Safety

kirstenposselt3@gmail.com

Deacons:

Michelle Clover—Clerk—Communications

miclover@gmail.com

Carolyn Keck – Spiritual Growth

carolynkeck64@gmail.com

Barbara Sarzillo—Fellowship & Service

barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com

Staff:

George Farrell—music director

deuscaritasest@aol.com

Lynn- Totten—office administrator

CHRC1834@gmail.com

Message from the Pastoral Search Team

Search Team Update:

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel” (which means “God with us”). [Matthew 1:23 NIV]

We spend most of our days during the month of December in the season of Advent. The season of waiting, anticipation, preparation. We light Advent candles each week representing hope, faith, joy peace. And then, on Christmas, the Christ Candle is lit, and we celebrate because with the birth of Jesus, we know that it means that God is with us, the Emmanuel.

God is with us, when the parsonage burns, we lose a pastor, and our journey towards a new pastor begins. God is with us when COVID changes everything and isolates us from each other.

God is with us when we are loved by Steve Miller, Heidi Hankle and Dave Hill and they help us get our ‘feet on the ground’.

God is with us when Pastor Marisol comes to be with us for a year, she raps for us during sermons and brings a sense of stability.

God is with us when we seek out a transitional pastor, one to help us see where we’ve been and where God might be calling us.

God is with us when Pastor Beth begins her time with us as our transitional pastor.

God is with us as we answered questions about ourselves in the surveys.

God is with us as we put these answers into a Mission Study.

God is with us as we go through the steps necessary to create a Church Profile and post our ‘pastor wanted’ ad.

God is with us as pastor candidates start to apply.

God is with us when we talk about gender and sexuality.

God is with us as we talk about the ‘pastor-congregation’ relationship and what each should expect of the other.

God is with us as we work to drown out the voices of the world and hear His voice alone as we evaluate each candidate application.

God is with us as we search for the person that He has already decided will lead us as we continue to be the church at Clover Hill.

God is with us.

And as Jesus said to his disciples before He ascended into heaven, " And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." [Matthew 28:20b, NIV]

May the blessings of the Christmas season, hope, faith, joy and peace, be yours now and forever.

Your Search Team:

Patty Agnew paw61961@gmail.com

Janet Durborow jdurbor@gmail.com

Marilyn Fineman (Search Team Chair) marilyn@fineman.me

Matt Furmato tmfurmato@embarqmail.com

Gary Keck gkeck6@gmail.com

Laurel Suk sukart24@gmail.com

Gary Tully crusingg@aol.com

Pastor, Rev. Beth Scibienski pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com

Linda Santa-Lucia (Classis Supervisor)

*inspired by this year’s Advent devotional, ‘bless the Advent We Actually Have’, by Kate Bowler and The Everything Happens Project

News from the Service Team

Coordinator: Barbara Sarzillo (barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com)



Fishermans Mark will once again be hosting the Grandparents giving program.

The grandparents program offers an opportunity to choose a Christmas gift for their grandchildren whom they may not have been able to buy for.

The service team will be collecting toys and clothing to be used on a special day of shopping for the clients of Fisherman's Mark

Please take a tag off the tree and return your item unwrapped by December 17th

A bin will be placed by the Christmas tree in the narthex for your items.

Wrapping paper will also be accepted.

Thank you for helping bring Christmas joy to Grandparents and Grandchildren.

News from the Fellowship Team

Coordinator: Barbara Sarzillo (barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com)

FELLOWSHIP Coffee Hour December 10th Cookies and Coffee With Santa



Please join us in the Nevius Fellowship Hall after worship.

Cookie signup sheet in the narthex Fellowship Team bulletin board



Sunday, December 17 Christmas Caroling

Light lunch will be served in the Nevius Fellowship Hall at 11:00 am.
Caroling will begin at noon.

To sign up contact the church office chrc1834@gmail.com or by using the sign up sheet on the Fellowship Team bulletin board in the Narthex.



gg91328560 GoGraph.com

Skeins of Hope Zoom meetings will be on
Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 8:00 pm.
Diana Reinhardt (908-369-4362 or
greinhardt9@gmail.com)

News from the Communication & A/V Teams

Consistory Facilitator: Communication – Michelle Clover (miclover@gmail.com)

Motivational Message Coming to You from our Church Parking Lot Sign

A group of very dedicated people faithfully change the sign in the parking lot every two (or more) weeks. Sometimes the sign gives information (e.g. about Vacation Bible School), but mostly it provides words of inspiration to those at our church and those who pass by the sign.

We pull the inspiration from various places on the internet, but if you have a message you would like to see displayed, or would like be part of this group that changes the sign, just email to the office administrator, CHRC1834@gmail.com, and she will pass it on. Just keep in mind, we are limited to seven lines and a maximum of 11 letters (spaces included) per line.



Whether we are social distancing or gathering at church, you can always stay on top of what is going on through:

- Belltower and bulletin announcements/inserts
- Facebook
- Instagram
- church website:
www.cloverhillchurch.org
- emails from MailChimp
- Zoom worship/meetings/activities



If you would like to join our ‘team’ and help us spread the word about what is going on at our church, contact Michelle Clover (miclover@gmail.com).

Communications Team Members:

Bob DiMilia, Janet Durborow, Marilyn Fineman, Ken Skillman, Lynn– Totten

All social media items must go through the church office before they can be posted. Please send all write ups to Lynn– Totten at CHRC1834@gmail.com Thank you!



If you take pictures at any church event please share with the church office (chrc1834@gmail.com) so we may include them in our social media and Belltower. Not all pictures will be used but it is good to have them on file.

Please be aware we have a Family Photo Release form on file in the church office that limits the publication of the minors in our church family. Please check with the office admin before posting any photos on social media platforms.

Belltower Deadline

Please submit all write ups to be included in the January issue, to the church office (chrc1834@gmail.com), by Thursday, December 14, 2023.

News from the Stewardship Team

Consistory Facilitator: David Gwin (CDavidGwin@gmail.com)

Pledge Drive Updates:

As of November 19th, we have received and dedicated 25 pledges of giving for 2024 with a combined total of \$85,692 pledged. Last year we received 27 pledges and a total of \$111,972 pledged. **That means we have \$26,280 less pledged for 2024!**

It is still not too late to turn in a pledge or even revise your pledge for next year! The form can be found on the next page of the Belltower and on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Or you can email your confidential pledge to chrcfinancialsecretary@gmail.com. If you fill out the paper form, you can mail it or bring it to the church any time before December 31st. As always, these pledges are strictly confidential.

These intentions to give will shape our budget and help the pastoral search team define what we can offer a new minister. With such a substantial reduction in giving, we are looking at a very difficult budget for 2024. We have also made a promise to dedicate 5% of pledged dollars received towards mission spending.

As the theme of the Pledge Drive this year was “Dreaming,” the congregation gathered for a pot luck brunch on November 12th to talk about dreams for the church. We listed dreams for the church building, for the parsonage, and for mission ideas. Unfortunately, without funding, most of these dreams cannot be attained. Currently the Building Fund is at just \$160.40. While we do currently have a robust savings account, we need to remember that a large portion of that is a reserve for emergency capital expenses (such as the septic system). And we also need to be mindful that we may start to use up our savings just to balance the budget.

Final Deposit for 2023

The final deposit for 2023 giving will be on December 28th. **Any gift received after December 28th, will be credited toward your 2024 gifts.**

Offering Envelopes for 2024

Offering envelopes will be available for anyone who would like them. Since so few people use them now, they will be available by request only. If you would like to have envelopes, please contact the financial secretaries, Mark and Carol Levitt (malevitt@gmail.com).

Budget Presentation

After the year end finances are closed out, we will compile the 2024 budget. We plan to present the approved budget to the congregation at coffee hour on February 4, 2024. Stay tuned!



Clover Hill 2024 Pledge Campaign

*“Then the Lord answered me and said:
‘Write the vision;
Make it plain on tablets,
So that a runner may read it.
For there is still a vision for the
appointed time;
It speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
It will surely come, it will not delay.”
Habakkuk 2:2-3*

Please return your 2024 Pledges of Giving by December 31st

My financial commitment to CHRC in 2024 is a total of \$_____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL/PHONE: _____

Please place your pledge in the offertory or send your pledge to the church.
Or you may choose to email your name and confidential pledge info to:
chrcfinancialsecretary@gmail.com

Please consider giving electronically through your bank’s “bill pay” option.



I would like to commit my time and talents to CHRC in 2024. I am interested in:

Being contacted about my options, or Other _____

Clover Hill Reformed Church, 890 Amwell Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844
908-369-8451 chrc1834@gmail.com www.cloverhillchurch.org

News from the Stewardship Team, continued...



"Many hands make light work" goes the saying. For many years this has been true for the Cleaning Angels. This team has faithfully met each month to dust, clean, vacuum, and straighten up the interior of the church building.

The cleaning team has had a drop in the number of available hands to do the tasks that were more easily done with "many hands." So we are reaching out to those who feel able and available to help continue this important work. No experience is necessary and all supplies are available at the church.

We meet the second Wednesday of each month from about 8-10:30 am. If you can join us at 8 am, great. If you can't make it for the entire time, or you can't make it until 9 or so, that works also. If Wednesday mornings are not good for you, but you want to help, we can set aside a specific set of tasks (e.g. vacuum the downstairs, vacuum and dust the narthex, etc.) for you to do when it's convenient for you. Every little bit helps! We could also use someone who can stop by the last week of the month, whatever day and time is convenient, to do a quick check and touch-up of the bathrooms, narthex, and sanctuary. Please consider helping on an ongoing basis to maintain our beautiful building.

Contact Nancy Lane at nlane54@gmail.com or 908-399-4791 to discuss in more detail.

Thank you,
Nancy Lane
Marilyn Fineman
Ginny DiMilia

*Next Stewardship
Team Meeting:
January 11, 2023
7 pm on Zoom*



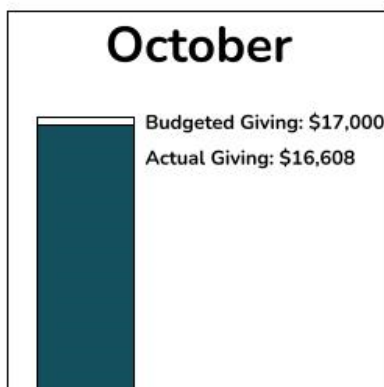
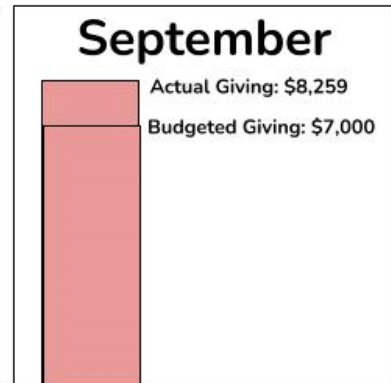
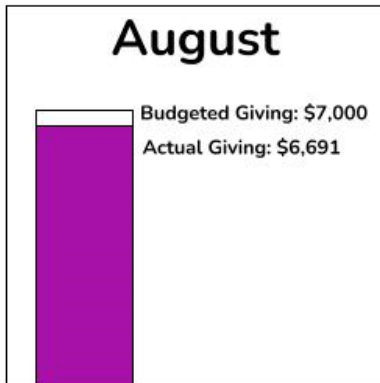
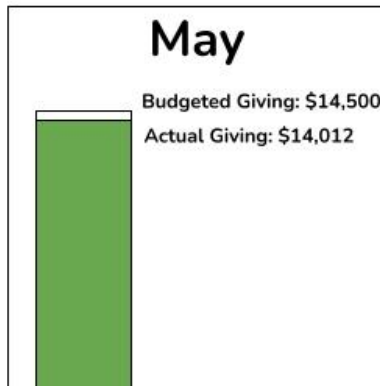
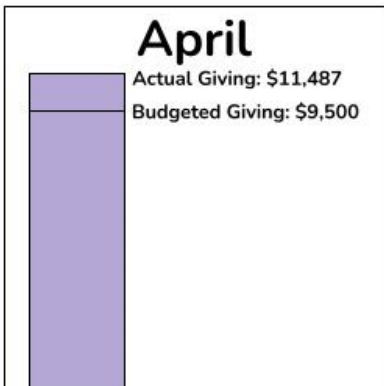
New Cleaners Always Welcome!

**Next Clean Team Meeting:
December 13, 8 am**

**Contact Nancy Lane
908-399-4791**

News from the Stewardship Team, continued...

2023 MONTHLY GIVING RECAP



Year to Date (thru October)

attributable & non-attributable gifts - excludes Memorial Gifts

Actual Giving: \$115,227
Budgeted Giving: \$116,000
Difference: -\$773



News from the Stewardship Team, continued...

Cash Financial Snapshot (as of 11/30/2023)	
Income Year to Date (excluding special gifts)	\$149,695.80
Expense Year to Date	\$151,204.35
Balance to Date	-\$1,508.55
<hr/>	
TD Checking Balance (Operating Cash):	\$11,544.93
TD Money Market Account (Savings)	\$39,124.38
TD Money Market Account (Restricted Funds)	\$14,484.60
<i>Accessibility Fund</i>	\$5,089.63
<i>Benevolence Fund</i>	\$1,139.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	\$160.40
<i>Castellano Scholarships Fund</i>	\$700.99
<i>Kris Kanach Library Fund</i>	\$556.50
<i>Mary Nevius Music Fund</i>	\$5,118.08
<i>Paving Seal Fund</i>	\$1,720.00
Vanguard Savings as of 11/24/2023 (opened 5/2023)	\$220,507.23
Total of all Operating and Funds Cash:	\$274,031.43



Message from the Pastoral Care Team



Coordinator: Nancy Lane (nlane54@gmail.com)



Blue Christmas December 21, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

Matthew (11:28-30)

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

For many, Christmas is not ‘The Most Wonderful Time of the Year’ (as the song goes). A Blue Christmas service can offer some healing and hope.

The idea behind the Blue Christmas service is to create space for the acknowledgment of the heaviness often carried during this season, as well as offering the hope that Jesus gives.

Our society has become one of masking emotions that are sometimes considered negative. The Bible clearly acknowledges, celebrates, and makes space for pain, struggle, hardship, and tears -- and so should we.

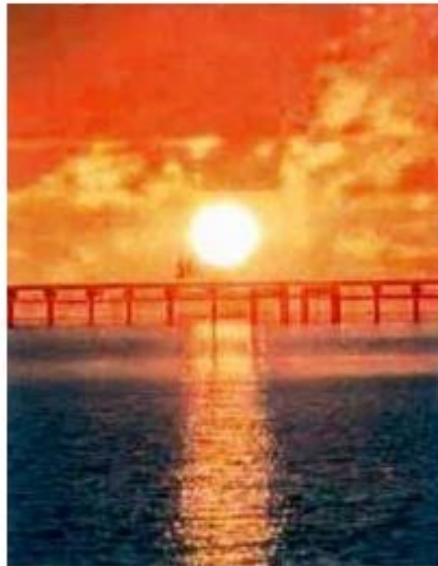
In fact, science, too, is catching up to the Bible as recent studies confirm that the “claim-your-happiness” pop psychology isn’t healthy for us physically, socially, or spiritually -- and that putting on a smile without making space for the tough stuff of life actually leads to more (*and deeper*) unhappiness.

This Blue service is a beautiful way to make space during the Advent season for those suffering any kind of loss -- whether the loss of a person, a dream, finances, stability, health, or more. By Laurie Acker

This Christmas season, know you are not alone. There are healthy ways to cope with the anguish and come to terms with your grief. There are resource materials available in the Narthax and always someone to talk to on Sunday morning. If you need Pastoral Care please reach out to Nancy Lane (nlane54@gmail.com), Pastor Beth (pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com), Lori Voorhees (l.voorhees@comcast.net), Ann Cucchiara (uncannie09@gmail.com), or the Church Office (908-369-8451 / chrc1834@gmail.com).

Message from the Pastoral Care Team, continued...

**Hunterdon County Senior Center and H.O.P.E.
(Helping Other People Evolve) present:
Grief Support Group for Widows and Widowers**



This is a grief support group for those who have lost a spouse or partner. You will be surrounded by people who know your pain and who are sharing your journey. The group meets weekly and is led by trained volunteers.

When: Every Thursday from October 12th to December 14th

Time: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Where: Conference Room, Human Services, Building 3, 6 Gauntt Place, Flemington (**please note location change)

For more information and to register for this program,
please contact

Nancy Dominiani: 609-238-8039

News from the Spiritual Growth Team

Coordinator: Carolyn Keck (carolynkeck64@gmail.com)

We are about to enter the season of Advent in our church/liturgical calendar. Advent is defined as the “arrival of a notable person, thing or event”. For Christians it is the four weeks of time we prepare for Christmas. It begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas.

There are many ways Christians celebrate the coming of the birth of Jesus into the world and into our hearts. We must be mindful, always, of the gift of salvation that is born with Him and that He would one day die for us.

Here at CHRC we have started our preparations. The *decorating of the sanctuary* each year comes from the love and fellowship of our church members as it did on November 26th. *Advent wreaths* are familiar symbols in our homes and churches this season. *Advent candles* remind us of Jesus’ coming as the light in the darkness. This year we will join in a special early evening alternative worship to construct such wreaths under the direction of Diana Reinhardt on December 2nd during “*Advent-ure - The Reason for the Season*”. We will share a meal and have a brief worship and praise time under the direction of the Spiritual Growth Team and Pastor Beth. Our tradition of *decorating the trees in the sanctuary* will take place on Sunday December 10th during the worship service. Voices are raised in praise during this season not only in church, but at the doorsteps of friends and neighbors. All are welcome to come *Christmas Caroling* on Sunday December 17th. A light lunch will be served in the NFHall prior to the start of a (new) daytime journey to homes that you all recommend, to sing our favorite songs. And raising voices in praise doesn’t have to end there. Our *dedicated choir members* welcome additions each and every week as you are able, under the direction of George Farrell, Music Minister.

While Advent is a time of love, happiness, sharing of gifts and time with loved ones and friends, it can also be a time of stress for others with financial pressures, loneliness, loss, bereavement and depression. The *Blue Christmas Service* offered each December 21st at CHRC encourages us to follow Matthew 11:28-30: “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you - learn from me for I am gentle, humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Join us for a supportive service on this the longest of the darkest nights, that you may see the stars shine brightly. In the depths of dark nights the shepherds and the Magi followed the brightest star. And it was this star that guided them to a new beginning and new hope.

And finally, join us Sunday morning December 24th for our 10 am worship service and again for our 7pm Christmas Eve worship complete with candlelight’s. “O, Come let us adore him....”

Merry Christmas

News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

Heroes of the Nativity- Experience joy through faith in God

Family Resource -

<https://www.cloverhillchurch.org/christmas-family-resource#>

Advent Playlist—

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLILkcl3pytPAYiSVaur9NW_2sliURCJ77&si=lfHxJ2fp29fZBVXC



Life can sometimes be a little scary and uncertain, can't it? Even in the Bible, people faced challenges and unknowns. Just imagine being a shepherd out in the fields, a wise man following a star, or Mary and Joseph being told they would have a very special baby! That's a lot to handle! But guess what? They weren't alone in their journeys, and neither are we. God was with them every step of the way, showing His love, guiding them, and turning their faith into miraculous experiences. When we trust God, we too can discover joy, love, and miracles in our everyday lives. Even when things seem tough or confusing, God guides us with His love, just like He did with the **Heroes of the Nativity**. (**How many of God's heroes can you find in the nativity picture above?**)

Just like the shepherds, God reveals His love to us when we take the time to listen. The shepherds were ordinary people doing their job when they heard the incredible news of Jesus' birth. This shows us that even in our ordinary lives, God can do extraordinary things. When we listen and trust in God, we can experience His love and joy, just like the shepherds did.

Luke 2:8-20- God reveals His love to those that listen.

The Wise Men were guided by God as they earnestly sought the newborn king. Their story teaches us that when we genuinely search for God in our lives and ask Him to guide our steps, He will lead us right to Him. It's through this earnest seeking that we can experience the love of Jesus, and when we find Him, like the Wise Men, we will be filled with joy.

Matthew 2:1-12- God guides those who earnestly seek Him.

Joseph's story shows us that God supports those who obey Him, even when it's challenging or doesn't make sense. Joseph trusted God's plan and followed His instructions, which led to him being a crucial part of Jesus' story. Similarly, when we obey God, we're saying we trust Him. It's through this trust that we can experience the love of Jesus and find joy, even in uncertain times.

News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

Matthew 1:18-24, Matthew 2:13-15- God supports those who obey Him even when it's hard.

Mary was just an ordinary girl, but her trust in God led her to be part of the most extraordinary event in history: the birth of Jesus. Her story teaches us that when we trust God, even when things seem impossible, we can experience His miraculous love. This trust opens us to the love of Jesus and brings joy into our lives.

Luke 1:26-38, Luke 2:19- God blesses those who trust in Him, no matter how impossible things seem.

Jesus' birth, the central event in the Nativity story, shows us that Jesus is the greatest gift of God's love. His coming to earth as a baby, growing up to die for our sins, demonstrates God's immense love for us. Through Jesus, we can experience forgiveness and form a deep relationship with Him. When we realize this gift, it brings us the greatest joy of all.

Luke 2:1-7, John 3:16- Jesus is the greatest gift of God's love to us.

The Shepherds teach us to listen to God, reminding us that we need a Savior. The Wise Men's journey encourages us to seek Jesus wholeheartedly and ask for His forgiveness. Joseph's obedience shows us the faith needed to follow God's will, much like trusting in Jesus, even when difficult. Mary's trust reflects our own call to trust Jesus with our lives and sins.

May the joy of the Christmas season deepen our understanding of Jesus' saving love and encourage us to find joy in trusting Him.

(Revised from The Sunday School Store—

<https://sundayschool.store/products/heroes-of-the-nativity-5-lesson-christmas-curriculum>)

Practice Kindness while you are waiting for Him:



24 Acts of Kindness in December

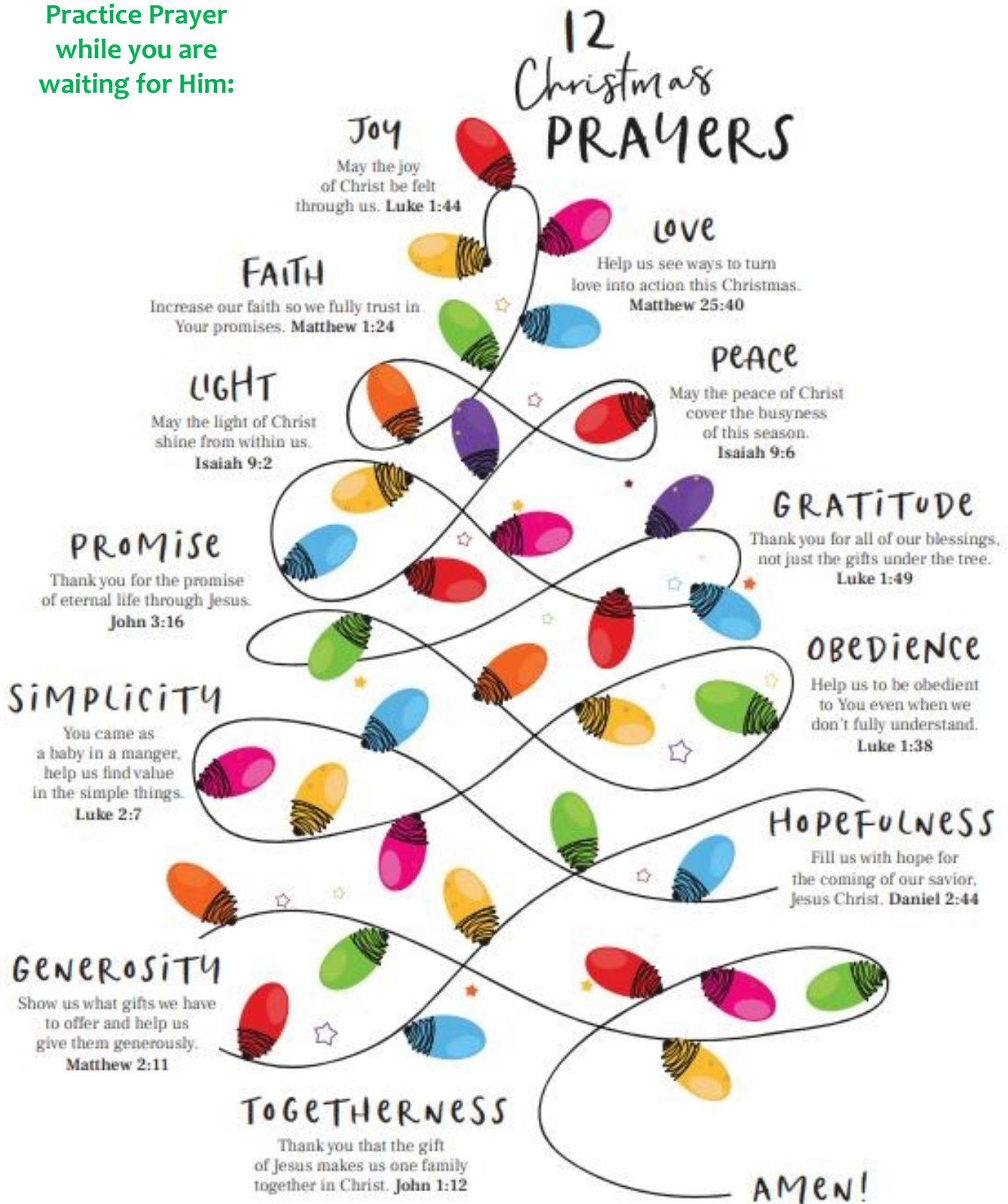


1 Leave waters on your front porch for delivery drivers.	2 Bake Christmas cookies for a neighbor.	3 Draw a card for your principal, teacher, librarian, custodian, or school nurse.	4 Paint a kindness rock and hide it somewhere in your neighborhood.	5 Offer to help a neighbor decorate the outside of their house.	6 Donate dog or cat food to a local animal shelter.	7 Help a neighbor shovel their walkway or bring in trashcans.
8 Collect warm clothes that no longer fit and donate them.	9 Make Christmas decorations and take them to a nursing home.	10 Donate canned and boxed food to a local food bank.	11 Take hot cocoa to the crossing guard near your school.	12 Donate a new toy to an "angel tree" or Toys for Tots.	13 Help a sibling do their chore.	14 Take a warm meal to someone who is hungry.
15 Purchase or make small, thoughtful gifts for your siblings.	16 Call family members to say "hi" and tell them about your day.	17 Make Christmas crafts and give them to a neighbor or friend.	18 Bring your teacher their favorite drink.	19 Bundle up and pick up trash on your street or local park.	20 Compliment neighbors' holiday decorations and lights.	21 Clean up your toys and books without being asked to.
22 Take a warm drink out to your mail carrier.	23 Read or "read" Christmas stories to your sibling.	24 Take cookies to a fire station to thank them for working tonight.	<h1 style="color: red;">Spread kindness and cheer.</h1>  			



News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

Practice Prayer
while you are
waiting for Him:



News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...



Join the **ADVENT-ure!**
And Learn about the Reason for the Season

DECEMBER 2, 2023, Saturday 5-6:30 PM

Clover Hill Reformed Church
890 Amwell Road, Hillsborough, NJ
www.cloverhillchurch.org / 908-369-8451

Alternative Worship Opportunity

Create a **Family Advent Wreath** / **Advent Expectation Celebration** with Music and Message
Light Supper (kid friendly) / Make your own **Nativity Trail Mix**

Registration Open / please use the following link to register

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8TUBpJf7Bn2FPrFzSioSHV4UXgRARmBvOF38hpfOXdrp87w/viewform>

OR

Register on the sign up sheet posted on the Narthex Spiritual Growth Team bulletin board.

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year! This means that we will host two worship services: 10am and 7pm. The 10am service will feature a...



We will all participate in an interactive, family (of any kind) friendly service that will feature a retelling of the Christmas story along with plenty of Christmas carols. Ask your friends and neighbors to join you!

News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...



We invite you to take a moment or so, as you can, between the hours of 8 and 11 Wednesday mornings, and pray for all of those who are called by God to be connected to Clover Hill. He will guide our Church, our country, and our world on a path of faith and benevolence to all.



Same day of the week –
different time!
 Wednesdays at **7:00 am** on Zoom

When we pray together, we experience God's presence.

For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."
Matthew 18:20 (NLT)
 Ephesians 3:12 (NLT)

- Come and be in community** with others while we seek God's guidance and comfort for the new day.
- Come join in** each Wednesday at 7:00 am on Zoom for a 10-15 minute time of devotion, scripture, sharing of concerns and joys, prayer, and lifting those on the CHRC prayer list to God.
- Come as you are** – PJ's allowed!

Questions: email Lynn-Totten (chrc1834@gmail.com)



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

\$10.00 each

Please complete the form, including \$10.00 for each poinsettia ordered and return to the church office no later than December 17.

PLEASE ORDER _____ Poinsettia(s) for:

GIVEN BY _____

GIVEN BY _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

GIVEN BY _____

GIVEN BY _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

Please remember to take your plant(s) home after the Christmas Eve Service. Thank you.

News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

CHRC Choir

You are invited to participate in rehearsals at 9:00 am each Sunday morning. Choir then sings during the 10:00 am worship.
George Farrell, organist/choir director / (deuscaritasesest@aol.com) or cell number (732) 599-4077

Well, here it is... December! Hopefully we've all recovered from our Thanksgiving gatherings, whether they were with our families or friends or as I like to sometimes say, spent with our in-laws or out-laws!

Now we're facing the next big holiday, CHRISTMAS. For some of us that may have started around Halloween, for others, perhaps we're just getting around to it. The Church begins Advent on December 3, so as a faith community we're looking toward Christmas with a particular lens; the lens of faith. During Advent, as we prepare for both the second coming of Jesus (Dec 3-16) and look back at the preparations/predictions of the first coming of Jesus (Dec 17-24), we do so with hope. Yes, we hope for peace in that part of the world where it all began for us. Yes, we hope that those who don't know Jesus will find Him in their lives. Yes, we hope that our ever-loving God will assist us in making Jesus known to those around us. Yes, we hope that we will preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As St. Francis of Assisi is purported to have said, preach the Gospel and if necessary, use words!

In my faith tradition we say, oh Advent is almost over and Christmas is practically here on the third Sunday of Advent. We call it Gaudete Sunday. (If you know what Gaudete means you can sing a solo one Sunday! Just let me know!) Instead of purple we may use rose as the liturgical color. (I told the people I felt like I was a big bottle of Pepto-Bismol when I wore the rose-colored vestment!)

Christmas is a great time of the year. I love all the merriment that comes with it and I hope that you enjoy that too. After all, don't we usually celebrate the things in our lives that we see as important landmarks, e.g. birthdays, anniversaries, marriages, graduations and so on. So as church we start to celebrate Christmas by preparing with the season of Advent. We recall the prophecies, the annunciation, the yes by Mary and Joseph, who were integral parts of the coming of Jesus at Christmas. As Christians we hope to help others to know of Jesus the Christ. We want Him to be born again in our hearts and the hearts of others. Of course, we have an advantage over those first people who were there. We know how it unfolds and how it ends and yet continues to unfold.

So, as you prepare in your homes and with the church community know that the choir is preparing for Christmas as well. Perhaps you can't make a commitment to sing every Sunday but you'd love to sing for the Christmas Eve service. How about if you join us at any or all of the following rehearsals on Dec 10 & 17 at 9:00 AM and Dec 24 at 6:15 PM. We'd love to have you sing with us.

May your Advent season be filled with much rejoicing!

Sincerely in Christ,

George Farrell

"To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees."

- Billy Graham

DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 5-6:30 pm Advent-ure Event NFHall
3 9:00 am Choir 10:00 am Worship & School / Communion / New Membership / Baptisms 11:00am Reception in NFHall	4	5 11am-2pm NFHall in Use 7:00 pm Search Team meeting Zoom	6 7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in Use 7:00 pm Informal Presentation on the History of Modern Israel on Zoom	7 11:30am sanctuary use by organist	8	9
10 9:00 am Choir 10:00 am Worship & School / Decorate the Sanctuary Trees 11:00 am Cookies with Santa in the NFHall	11	12 11am-2pm Upper Room in Use 12noon Lunch Bunch NFHall 7:00 pm Consistory meeting Zoom	13 7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 8:00 am Clean Team 11am-2pm NFHall in use	14 11:30am sanctuary use by organist Belltower Deadline	15	16
17 9:00 am Choir 10:00 am Worship & School 11:00 am Light Lunch in NFHall & then head out to Carol Deadline for Fishersman Donations Deadline for poinsettia orders	18	19 11am-2pm NFHall in Use	20 7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in use	21 11:30am sanctuary use by organist 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service	22	23
24 10:00 am Worship & No School / Pagaent 6:15 pm Choir 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship	25	26 Prayer "Refresh" 11am-2pm NFHall in use	27 7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in use	28 11:30am sanctuary use by organist Final offering deposit for 2023	29	30
31 9:00 am Choir 10:00 am Worship & No School Deadline to submit 2024 Pledges	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p>Consistory The Consistory will meet Tuesday, December 12, at 7:00 pm Zoom</p> </div>					