



# The Belltower

November 2023

The Newsletter of the Clover Hill Reformed Church



**Sunday, November 5, at 10:00 am**  
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost  
Communion / Memorial Gift Recognition  
Joshua 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13



**Sunday, November 12, 10:00 am**  
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Stewardship Campaign Pledge Dedication  
Joshua 24:1-3, 14-23 Psalm 78:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Potluck Brunch



**Sunday, November 19, at 10:00 am**  
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

**Congregational meeting to elect new Consistory members**

*In all things*  
**GIVE thanks!**



**Sunday, November 26, at 10:00 am**  
Christ the King Sunday & Thanksgiving Sunday  
Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Psalm 65  
Luke 17:11-19  
**Decorate Sanctuary following worship**

## Communication and Contact Information

Clover Hill Reformed Church, 890 Amwell Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844  
908-369-8451 / [chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com) / Website: [www.cloverhillchurch.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:CHRC1834@gmail.com).

## 2023 Consistory members, officers & team coordinators

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Beth Scibienski

[pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com)

### Elders:

David Gwin—Stewardship

[cDavidGwin@gmail.com](mailto:cDavidGwin@gmail.com)

Amy Frank—Vice President

[frankfmy@yahoo.com](mailto:frankfmy@yahoo.com)

Nancy Lane—Pastoral Care

[nlane54@gmail.com](mailto:nlane54@gmail.com)

Kirsten Posselt—Health & Safety

[kirstenposselt3@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenposselt3@gmail.com)

### Deacons:

Michelle Clover—Clerk—Communications

[miclover@gmail.com](mailto:miclover@gmail.com)

Carolyn Keck – Spiritual Growth

[carolynkeck64@gmail.com](mailto:carolynkeck64@gmail.com)

Barbara Sarzillo—Fellowship & Service

[barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com](mailto:barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com)

### Staff:

George Farrell—music director

[deuscaritasest@aol.com](mailto:deuscaritasest@aol.com)

Lynn- Totten—office administrator

[CHRC1834@gmail.com](mailto:CHRC1834@gmail.com)

Dear Clover Hill,

Welcome to November! I once served a church where one woman kept an annual tradition of decorating the communion table on Thanksgiving Sunday with a cornucopia overflowing with squash and gourds and everything that represents the colors and tastes of the season.



One of the best-known histories of the cornucopia involves “the birth and nurturance of the infant Zeus, who had to be hidden from his devouring father Cronus. In a cave on Mount Ida on the island of Crete, baby Zeus was cared for and protected by a number of divine attendants, including the goat Amaltheia (“Nourishing Goddess”), who fed him with her milk. The suckling future king of the gods had unusual abilities and strength, and in playing with his nursemaid accidentally broke off one of her horns, which then had the divine power to provide unending nourishment, as the foster mother had to the god.”

It’s quite beautiful that from the scene in which an infant is in danger from his father who might eat him comes the divine power (and security) to provide all that is needed!

We don’t have to go to Greek mythology to trust that we will be provided for. We believe God is our provider. And everything belongs to God.

Psalm 50:10-11 says,

*Every animal of the forest is mine,  
and the cattle on a thousand hills.  
I know every bird in the mountains,  
and the insects in the fields are mine.*

So often our mindset is one of scarcity rather than abundance. We worry about what we have or what we need. When we see war and violence, hatred and animosity in our world, we often fall into thinking that there will be winners and there will be losers. The world seems like a zero sum game, the pieces of the pie are finite. Once the pie is gone, that’s all there is.

That doesn’t work with our belief in a God to whom everything belongs.

During this month, we will have two opportunities to stretch our minds, to change our perspectives from scarcity to abundance.

The first is our stewardship campaign that began last Sunday. The theme this year is **Dream**. We want to dream together about what God is calling us to be and do in our corner of the world. *Please join us for brunch after worship on November 12 to dream together.*

The second is a conversation we are hosting to discuss “mutual expectations” when calling a part-time pastor. I hope you’ll join us after worship on November 19th to talk about this.

Both of these conversations begin by recognizing what we have and then daring to imagine what God sees possible in and through us.

As we go into this month, perhaps a “gratitude challenge” will help guide us from a place of scarcity to abundance. Download this [30 day gratitude challenge](#) if you’re up to it!

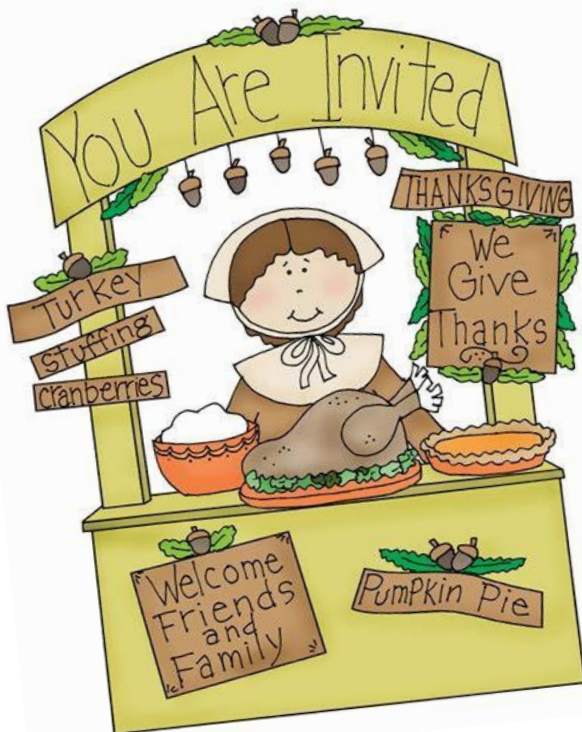
Peace,  
Pastor Beth

[www.bethscib.com](http://www.bethscib.com)

Cell: 732-735-2112

Use this [calendar link](#) to schedule time with me

## Thanksgiving Dinner Invite!



Pastor Beth and Jameel would like to invite you to their Thanksgiving table. If you or someone you know needs a seat at a Thanksgiving table, please join us! We are also open for take out, if your family situation prevents you from eating out, we've got a meal for you too! Let Pastor Beth know if you'd like to join them for Thanksgiving!

Cell: 732-735-2112

[pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com)

# Message from the Pastoral Search Team

## Search Team Update:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

God sent this message, through the prophet Jeremiah, to the Israelites being held captive in Babylon. If we look at the verses in Jeremiah 29 prior to this verse we find Jeremiah telling the exiles that God wants them to settle into this land they’ve been exiled to, to seek peace and make a life for themselves and when the time is right, he will bring them home. But to be brought home, they need to seek out their God with all of their heart, and God will find them and restore them. But, before this will happen, Jeremiah tells them that they will struggle, that they will encounter hardships and that their time in exile will be long.

So, as we read this verse, we are reminded that our God is always in control, even when things seem to not be moving in the ‘right’ direction. That we are not promised an ‘easy’ time or that any tough times we are enduring will pass quickly. But we are promised, that when we seek God, he will bring us through and give us hope and a future.

We continue to ask for your prayers that we listen to where God is calling us in this Search. For prayers that the person that God is calling to serve as our pastor heeds that call. For prayers that our church continues to seek God's will and share His love with those around us.

Our thanks to everyone who participated in the October discussions on gender and sexuality. We hope that you will join us in the November congregational discussion about ‘mutual expectations’ between a pastor and a congregation.

Peace!

Your Search Team:

Patty Agnew [paw61961@gmail.com](mailto:paw61961@gmail.com)

Janet Durborow [jdurbor@gmail.com](mailto:jdurbor@gmail.com)

Marilyn Fineman (Search Team Chair) [marilyn@fineman.me](mailto:marilyn@fineman.me)

Matt Furmato [tmfurmato@embarqmail.com](mailto:tmfurmato@embarqmail.com)

Gary Keck [gkeck6@gmail.com](mailto:gkeck6@gmail.com)

Laurel Suk [sukart24@gmail.com](mailto:sukart24@gmail.com)

Gary Tully [crusingg@aol.com](mailto:crusingg@aol.com)

Pastor, Rev. Beth Scibienski [pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com)

## Message from the Pastoral Search Team, continued...

Our Pastor Search Team is hosting a conversation about the "mutual expectations" between a church and their part-time pastor on November 19 after worship. Please join us!

The job of Pastor is not like a typical corporate 9-5 or an hourly job where one "clocks in." Besides the hours being different, the expectation of availability in the evenings and on the weekends are expected. What other things do we expect of our pastor?

And then let's consider the flipside - the role of a congregant is not the same as family or friend or neighbor. The intimacy and vulnerability shared between congregant and pastor is unique. There is an expectation to grow together as we worship and work. The pastor expects that congregants are growing, learning, searching and sharing. What else do you think Pastors expect of their congregation?

If we think about it, all relationships have mutual expectations. And often, when those expectations aren't met, relationships suffer. If we were calling a full-time pastor, it would still be helpful for us to talk about the expectations we have of a pastor. The truth is, the relationship between pastor and congregation requires work and this conversation is part of the work we can do now.

Please join us as we explore this relationship and how we at Clover Hill Reformed can prepare for our next pastor. Click here to read "Mutual Expectations" - chapter 5 from the book [Calling the Part-Time Pastor](#).



# News from the Communication & A/V Teams

Consistory Facilitator: Communication – Michelle Clover ([miclover@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Thanks to: Karen Babecki, Ann Cucchiara, Ginny DiMilia, Yvette du Fosse', Marilyn Fineman, Amy Frank, Nancy Lane, Barb Sarzillo, Ken Skillman Lynn- Totten, and Lori Voorhees for providing these words of inspiration by changing the sign (which sometimes involves cleaning the letters that get very dirty and grassy!)

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:miclover@gmail.com)).

### Communications Team Members:

Bob DiMilia, Janet Durborow, Marilyn Fineman, 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](mailto:CHRC1834@gmail.com) Thank you!**



If you take pictures at any church event please share with the church office ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto: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 December issue, to the church office ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com)), by Thursday, November 16, 2023.

# News from the Stewardship Team

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

## **The 2024 Stewardship Campaign Has Begun!**

The theme this year is “Be Thou My Vision, Oh Lord of My Heart.”

During the campaign this year, we are asking the question, “Where is God leading us?” We want to dream about the things we could do within the church and what we could do to make a difference in our world. When we gather at the potluck brunch after church on 11/12, we will brainstorm about some of these ideas. We hope you can make it - we promise the food will be good!

*“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**

As always, your pledges continue to be a vital part of the church budgeting process. We will once again use these intentions of giving to build next year’s budget based on realistic expectations about our income. As the Pastoral Search team looks at candidates, our pledges will dictate what level of involvement we can afford in a new minister. Many thanks to the 27 households who made pledges for 2023 and for working towards fulfilling those pledges!

2024 Pledge cards were mailed out and you can send them back to the church, drop them off at the church, or send an email to [chrcfinancialsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:chrcfinancialsecretary@gmail.com). As always, your pledges are strictly confidential. And we recognize that these are your best intentions, but stuff happens in life. Sometimes people will not be able to fulfill their pledges and sometimes people will be able to exceed their pledges.

Last year we began a plan to set aside 5% of the pledge dollars received each year to spend on outside mission projects. In 2023, that amount was \$5,444. Consistory approved supporting the following missions with that money: The Hillsborough Food Pantry, Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (S.H.I.P.), The Flemington Food Pantry, Safe in Hunterdon, Fisherman’s Mark, Good News Home for Women, and the CHRC Benevolence Fund (to help individuals in need).





# News from the Stewardship Team, continued...



## 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*

### We will dedicate our 2024 Pledges of Giving on November 12th

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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

# News from the Stewardship Team, continued...

## Sign up now to participate!

The Stewardship campaign began on Sunday, October 29 and will end on Sunday, November 12, with a **potluck brunch** following the service in the Nevius Fellowship Hall. Please join us!



We invite you to bring a dish to share and also ... your ideas and thoughts to discuss and add to our “Dream” list for property and mission. You received your Campaign Letter and 2024 Pledge form in the mail mid October.

Please contact the church office (908-369-8451 / [chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com)) for further information and to sign up for the Pot Luck Brunch. You may also add your name and information to the sign up sheet on the Fellowship Team bulletin board in the Narthex.

- The Fellowship Team will be assisting with the set up of the pot luck brunch and serving.
- Stewardship Team will be responsible for cleaning up following the brunch/discussion time.
- If you would like to lend a hand with set up or clean up please contact the church office ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com))



# News from the Stewardship Team, continued...

## 2023 MONTHLY GIVING RECAP



**Year to Date (thru September)**  
*attributable & non-attributable gifts - excludes Memorial Gifts*

Actual Giving:	\$98,619
Budgeted Giving:	\$99,000
Difference:	-\$381



# News from the Stewardship Team, continued...

**GARDENING ANGELS**

On November 2, at 9 am  
the team will meet to do a final  
clean up of the church gardens.

Contact Diana Reinhardt  
908-369-4362

**All are welcome!**

**Next Stewardship  
Team Meeting:  
November 16, 7:00 pm Zoom**

Contact the church office for  
Clean Team information!  
chrc1834@gmail.com or



<b>Cash Financial Snapshot (as of 10/27/2023)</b>	
Income Year to Date (excluding special gifts)	\$123,666.29
Expense Year to Date	\$137,448.28
<b>Balance to Date</b>	<b>-\$13,781.99</b>
<hr/>	
<b>TD Checking Balance (Operating Cash):</b>	<b>\$9,899.67</b>
<b>TD Money Market Account (Savings)</b>	<b>\$37,764.63</b>
<b>TD Money Market Account (Restricted Funds)</b>	<b>\$16,883.04</b>
Accessibility Fund	\$5,089.63
Benevolence Fund	\$1,194.00
Building Fund	\$2,105.22
Castellano Scholarships Fund	\$1,099.61
Kris Kanach Library Fund	\$556.50
Mary Nevius Music Fund	\$5,118.08
Paving Seal Fund	\$1,720.00
<b>Vanguard Savings as of 10/26/2023 (opened 5/2023)</b>	<b>\$218,250.24</b>
<b>Total of all Operating and Funds Cash:</b>	<b>\$282,797.58</b>

# Message from the Pastoral Care Team

Coordinator: Nancy Lane ([nlane54@gmail.com](mailto:nlane54@gmail.com))

## WE GIVE THANKS

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me. Matthew 25: 34-40



*NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 – During church service, we will be honoring the lives of those in our church family who have passed away by acknowledging memorial gifts given on their behalf.*

It's almost time for Thanksgiving! This month, we will be exploring ways to make gratitude "actionable". This is something you can do as a family. First, take a moment to count your blessings. Write them down as you think of them. Then for each blessing, think of a way you can turn that into an action that would please God. For example, if you enjoy good health, visit someone who is sick. Here are some more ways to make your gratitude actionable:

- Rake leaves for a neighbor.
- Prepare a meal for someone who can't get out.
- Write a love letter to your spouse.
- Write encouraging notes to your children/grandchildren and put them in their lunch boxes.
- Offer to run an errand or drive someone to an appointment.
- Compliment a stranger.
- Share the Belltower with someone who does not belong to a community of faith.
- Participate in a walk for a charity of your choice. Invite a friend to join you.
- Offer to babysit for parents of young children so they can go on a date.
- Thank employees in a grocery store and tell them they are doing a great job.
- Actively listen to your friends and loved ones.

The possibilities are endless! How can you and your family add to the list of actions? If you would like to find other ways to make your gratitude "actionable", or you need Pastoral Care please reach out to Nancy Lane, Pastor Beth, Lori Voorhees, Ann Cucchiara, or the Church Office (908-369-8451). We appreciate YOU and THANK YOU !

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team

Coordinator: Carolyn Keck ([carolynkeck64@gmail.com](mailto:carolynkeck64@gmail.com))

## Made For The Harvest, Jesus' Parables (Mark 4:3-20)



Jesus used the Parable of the Sower (Parable of the Four Soils) to teach people that there are different ways we can approach spiritual growth, but there is only one way that will produce fruitful growth to a true, beautiful, and lasting spiritual journey with God.

The Parable of the Sower's message is that unless we nurture our relationship with God (the good soil), we won't grow into the faithful Christians He calls us to be.

When we feed our faith through God's Word and by seeking Him in earnest, our hearts and lives overflow with the abundance of God's grace.

Which Parable of the Four Soils are you like?

The seed represents the Word of God. What type of soil is in our hearts will determine whether the seed of God's Word, love, and grace will flourish within us or not.

### 1. Seed that fell on the path:

Do you pray from your heart or do you recite prayers from memory while your thoughts wander? Do you read the Bible? Do you reflect, learn, and grow from reading or does it feel empty?

### 2. Seed that fell on the rocky ground:

Do you make time for God in your busy schedule or do you give God time only if you have any left? Does your faith stand up to challenges and criticisms or does it crumble when tested by troubles or doubts? Do you go "all-in" for Jesus, then go for long periods where He's hardly a thought?

### 3. Seed that fell among thorns:

The Seed that fell among thorns is like wanting something very badly, but letting other things keep getting in the way of accomplishing it. Do you take an honest look at your faith and strive to grow closer to God or are you satisfied with your current relationship with Him? Do you strive to lead God's will for your life or do you get drawn away by worldly goals, like wealth, outward beauty, or status? Do you work on building your trust in God or do you get consumed by worldly worries?

### 4. Seed that fell on good soil:

The Seed that fell on good soil is like seeking Jesus with all your heart as He asked us:

*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13*

Good soil makes Jesus a priority. It means making time for Him, rather than trying to squeeze Him into your busy schedule. It means pursuing a personal relationship with Him as you would pursue a relationship – getting to know Him, speaking to Him often, trusting Him, making time for Him, and treating Him with love, kindness, and respect.

Seeking Jesus is an insatiable longing. The closer you get, the more you want to get even closer. This relationship spills over into the person you are, the way you treat others, and the way you live your life.

If you're not where you want to be spiritually, today is a fresh start to plant your seeds in good soil so you can strengthen your relationship with Jesus as God wants you to do. This is also known as God's Will – when you align your thoughts, words, and deeds to God's Word.

I think I need to get outside in the cool of autumn and weed some.

(Excerpts from Finding God Among Us)



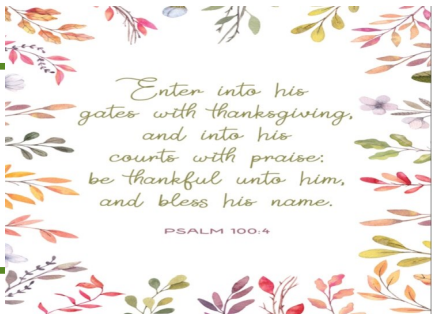
**Growing Gratitude Family Resources**

<https://www.cloverhillchurch.org/family-resources>

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued..

**Recognition of Memorial Gifts** - It has been our tradition to recognize annually those in whose names memorial gifts have been given to the work of the church. In most years, this has been done during worship on the first Sunday in June. This year, we will be holding our memorial gift recognition on Sunday, November 5, as we prayerfully remember all those saints who from their labors rest.

**We will celebrate Thanksgiving during our Sunday worship service on November 26, 2023.**



## Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

Look for via email, MailChimp and CHRC website posting for these Advent happenings as we get ready for His birth-



### Decorating the Sanctuary

Sunday, November 26, following worship we invite all to stay and join in decorating the sanctuary and Narthex.



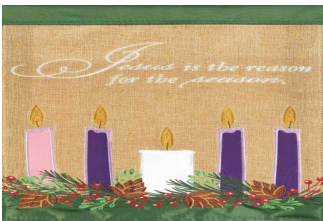
### Advent Daily Devotionals

Information on how to signup to receive in Your email in-box coming to you soon.



### Family Advent Calendar

You will find the calendar on page 18 of this Belltower issue—



### Advent Family Resources (CHRC website)

Launches first Sunday in Advent, December 3



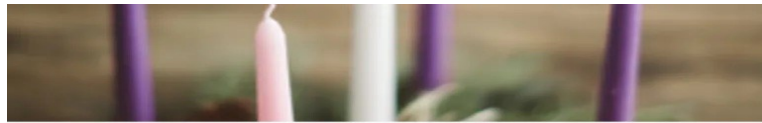
### Advent-ure: Reason for the Season

December 2, 5-6:30 pm  
Advent Wreath Making  
Light Supper  
Expectation Celebration  
Register@ [cloverhillchurch.org](http://cloverhillchurch.org)

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

## Jesus is the Reason for the Season! - continued...

Look for via email, MailChimp and CHRC website posting for these Advent happenings as we get ready for His birth-



### THE MEANING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath symbolizes the never-ending love of God. There are typically four candles on the wreath.

#### WEEK 1 CANDLE



#### Prophecy Candle (purple)

This candle reminds us of the promises of Scripture to send a Savior. The many prophecies of the Old Testament teach us this truth! (Isaiah 9:6)

#### WEEK 2 CANDLE



#### Bethlehem Candle (purple)

This candle reminds us of the humble birth of Christ. It also reminds us to prepare our hearts for Jesus during the season! (Micah 5:2)

#### WEEK 3 CANDLE



#### Shepherds Candle (rose)

This candle reminds us that Christ came for all people. The shepherds were unnoticed by most of the world but God chose them to be the first to receive the good news! (Luke 2:8-9)

#### WEEK 4 CANDLE



#### Angels Candle (purple)

This candle reminds us of the good news that the angels announced--Emmanuel, God with us, has come! (Luke 2:13-15)

*Some Advent wreaths also have a white Christ-candle, which reminds us of the purity of Jesus and is lit on Christmas Day!*

THEPURPOSEFULMOM.COM

**Advent 1, December 3, 10 am—**

Theme: the life we actually have, God is the only God we know yet we miss the mark, fall away and forget to call on God.

Isaiah 64:1-9    1 Corinthians 1:3-9

**Advent 2, December 10, 10 am—**

Theme: the life we actually have, life is filled with ups and downs as we wait for justice

Isaiah 40:1-11    Mark 1:1-8

**Advent 3, December 17, 10 am—**

The life we actually have, the spirit of the lord is on us to bring justice and healing.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11    1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Advent 4, December 24, 10 am—**

Pageant



Blue Christmas, December 21-7 pm—

Christmas Eve Service, December 24-7 pm—

1st Sunday after Christmas Day, December 31-10 am—





# 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 / ([deuscaritases@aol.com](mailto:deuscaritases@aol.com)) or cell number (732) 599-4077

A friend told me what happened at work recently when a co-worker told him and his coworkers all about a documentary he had seen about Jesus. According to the documentary, Jesus wasn't divine and He wasn't celibate. The Church and Constantine made it all up. I knew exactly what my friend should have done. God had turned a spotlight on him. He was in the hot seat. He should have witnessed. He should have defended Jesus' divinity in whatever way he knew how. He should have promised to look up the issues he didn't understand and provide answers later. "Wow!" I said. "So what did you do?" "I changed the subject," he said. Ouch. But understandable. This is a hard thing to do. But we have to learn to do it.

I would dare say that evangelization is a daily responsibility. There's a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility, and before you ask, no, it's not just the job of Pastor Beth! It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet, whether they be our neighbors or complete strangers. I would say that this preaching I'm talking about is the informal preaching which takes place in the middle of a conversation and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a mall, during work, or on a journey.

The first thing to do is listen. Good evangelization has to be a dialogue, the other person speaks and shares his or her joys, hopes, and concerns for loved ones, or so many other heartfelt needs.

I saw how powerful this is when I recently saw someone I barely knew and hadn't seen in years.

"I just have to thank you," he said. "You said something to me years ago that changed my life."

"That's great!" I said. "What did I say?" "You said, When you die, all you take with you is what you gave away to others." "I did?" I asked.

First of all, this is not an original piece of wisdom that I can bask in the glow of. It's great advice, but it's been said dozens of ways by countless people, not least in the New Testament (1 Tim 6:6). Second, it's not something I ever remember thinking, let alone saying to anybody.

But apparently, I did, and it hit home. The man told me why. "I was telling you about two career choices I had, but after you said that, I changed my plans."

I had listened, and cared - and the Holy Spirit did the rest.

After listening, bring up God's word, perhaps by reading a Bible verse or relating a story.

This is important. None of us is as smart as Scripture. I discover that over and over as I write homilies about the Sunday readings. Jesus goes places my mind never would.

When people have questions, go to Scripture for answers. You don't need to know much. For instance, it's surprising how many issues the Beatitudes apply to. If you can flesh out the lesson with a personal story, better still.

If it seems prudent and if the circumstances are right, this fraternal and missionary encounter could end with a brief prayer related to the concerns which the person may have expressed.

This is a gutsy move, for sure. But it's also the kind of thing that seems less weird the more you try it.

Praying with somebody does three things. First, it demonstrates your concern - you don't want to win an argument; you want them to be healed and happy. Second, it teaches the person what prayer looks like. Many people you meet might have never heard someone pray. Third, of course, it brings God right down into your midst.

You may not be a theologian or an expert in apologetics. It doesn't matter. Anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love doesn't need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.

You don't need to understand the intricacies of the Church to evangelize, any more than you need to know the restaurant industry to recommend your favorite restaurant.

When it comes to following Jesus it's usually not more information that we need, but more guts.

Speaking of guts, do you have the guts to get out of your comfort zone and sing with the choir? We meet on Sundays at 9:00 AM and sing at 10:00 Worship. Come join us.

Sincerely in Christ,  
George

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

On Sunday, October 15, 2023, we joined in the litany of recommitment and rededication as we celebrated those who joined our Clover Hill family in years ending in 3 or 8. This year, we took a moment to thank Mary Fergesen for the ways in which she honored her vows of membership and all that she and Dave contributed to Clover Hill over the last 50 years. We also observed Pastor Appreciation Month as we thanked Pastor Beth for leading us and walking with us on this journey of faith.



*"God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil." -*

*Mother Teresa*



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



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.

*When we pray together, we experience God's presence.*  
Matthew 18:20 (NLT)  
*For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."*  
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** – PJs allowed!

Questions: email Lynn-Totten (chr1834@gmail.com)

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

Random Acts of CHRISTMAS KINDNESS			
Donate toys and books to a local charity.	Make compliment cards and hand them out to strangers.	Hold the door for a stranger.	Make cards for troops serving over seas.
Help a friend with their school work.		Donate supplies to your local animal shelter.	Help your neighbor carry in their groceries.
Send encouraging emails or text messages to family and friends	Compliment a stranger.	Walk a neighbor's dog.	Give away clothing you don't need.
Sit by someone new at lunch.	Donate food to your local food pantry.	Help someone who has dropped something.	Make a bookmark for a friend.
Donate needed items to a local shelter.	Make cards for your teachers.		Make a homemade gift for a friend.
Bring in a neighbor's trash bins.	Make a thank you card for your mail carrier.	Return someone's cart at the store.	Collect spare change and donate to charity.

Hardcopies of the calendar will be available in the Narthex on the Spiritual Growth Team bulletin board as of November 26.



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

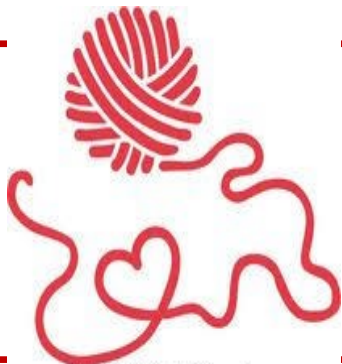
Please remember to take your plant(s) home after the Christmas Eve Service. Thank you.

# News from the Fellowship Team

Coordinator: Barbara Sarzillo ([barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com](mailto:barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com))



Thank you to all who participated in the card shower to celebrate Amelia (Amy) Mutchler's 90th birthday (October 4). Amelia enjoyed all the messages and a wonderful party in her honor.



gg91328560 GoGraph.com

**Skeins of Hope** Zoom meetings will be on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 8:00 pm. Diana Reinhardt (908-369-4362 or [greinhardt9@gmail.com](mailto:greinhardt9@gmail.com))



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](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com) or by using the sign up sheet on the Fellowship Team bulletin board in the Narthex.

# News from the Service Team

Coordinator: Barbara Sarzillo ([barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup>

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 Service Team, continued . . .

Each month the service team will spotlight a local service organization.



This information will be based on the organization's activities and is intended to create awareness in our communities. If you have an interest in donating or volunteering, please follow the link supplied for more information.

## Adopt-A-Family

***Help Feed Your Neighbors In Need This Thanksgiving***

**There are Somerset County families  
struggling to make ends meet.**

**A \$48 donation will provide a family of up to six  
with a Thanksgiving dinner,  
but any amount will be gratefully accepted.**

Please send your check to **any** of the following local food banks and **enclose the tear-off coupon below, or donate online.**

**Food Bank Network of Somerset County**

P.O. Box 149, Bound Brook, NJ 08805

**Franklin Food Bank**

P.O. Box 333, Somerset, NJ 08875-0333

**Feeding Hands, Inc.**

*Mailing address only:*

601 Route 206, Suite 26-217, Hillsborough, NJ 08844

**Hillsborough Community Assistance Network Food Pantry**

Attn: Social Services Department  
379 South Branch Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844

**SHIP – Samaritan Homeless Interim Program**

87 East High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please use my donation in the following town:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Please postmark donations by Saturday, Nov. 18,  
2023. Thank you for your generosity!***

*Sponsored by the Somerset County Board of County Commissioners*



Dear Clover Hill Church family,

This holiday season, **I want to invite your church to partner with RCA Global Mission through our Gift of Hope catalog.** Gift of Hope is a tangible way to provide basic needs, education, access to the gospel, and more to people around the world who need it most. Every gift you give through Gift of Hope reaches individuals on the margins with the resources they need and also with the love of Christ.

Your church should have recently received a Gift of Hope catalog in the mail (if not, please let us know!). Your church can give through the enclosed envelope or view and purchase this year's gifts online at [giftofhope.rca.org](http://giftofhope.rca.org).

If you would like additional catalogs, please [fill out this form](#). We would love to send you as many copies as your congregation needs. You can also find additional [church resources](#) like downloadable cards, a PowerPoint slide, or ideas of how to engage your congregation. I also want to share a [promotional video](#) with you that could be a great resource to share with your congregation if you decide to participate this year as a church or if you extend the invitation for your congregants to participate with their families or small groups.

Blessings,

Scott Engelsman  
Associate Director for RCA Global Mission

## Jonas’ Gift

Do you find it difficult to be generous when you are facing a challenge in your personal life? I know I do. When I’m under some kind of pressure, I find that I start looking inward and clam up— ignoring opportunities to be generous. Well maybe you too can be inspired by this story...

The market in Burkina Faso was swarming with throngs of shoppers and vendors selling their wares. In the far back corner of the market was a shop selling creative wooden puzzles and toys. A man in a wheelchair comes forward to welcome the EMI team, **his hands were calloused from years of work, but his face beamed with pride.**

His name is Jonas, and he especially touched the project leader’s (Andy’s) heart. Andy was **deeply encouraged by Jonas’ entrepreneurship, positive attitude, and stamina to overcome the incredible odds evident in his life with living in a country that provides little to no assistance to people who are handicapped.** After purchasing several of his crafts Jonas said, “I want to give you a gift.” He asked Andy to select one of his smaller toys. Andy’s heart was deeply moved by this remarkable act of generosity. Jonas’ kindness, generosity, and inner drive helped us regain a perspective that some of us had lost sight of.

“My spirit was moved to keep pressing on in the Lord in the midst of whatever challenges I may face today and in the days to come, knowing that in the Lord our labor is not in vain.” (1 Cor. 15:58)



Jonas and his sister, Rose display his handiwork.

## Helping During Political Instability



EMI felt a little apprehensive about the political instability in Burkina Faso before the trip. Most people will not visit the country because of this reality. However, the Sisters of Holy Cross commented several times how thankful they were for EMI’s willingness to come and serve them.



As you can imagine, the political instability is a great discouragement for the people, and it is **easy to wonder if this hospital project would be destroyed, stalled or stopped by terrorist activity.** Was it worth EMI’s time and effort?

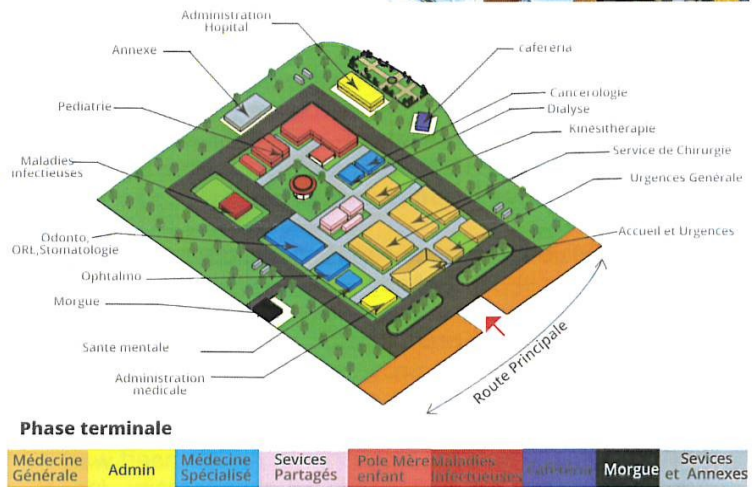


## The Design Team

EMI kept the design team small for this project to avoid attracting unwanted attention, even though the project was very demanding. The complexity of designing a hospital from scratch proved challenging, however God's hand was on the team. **Collectively, the multinational team represented Burkina Faso, Chad, Senegal and the US.** The whole team, including the Sisters, the translator, the architects, and the EMI team, felt the fatigue and obstacles of the language and cultural barriers.

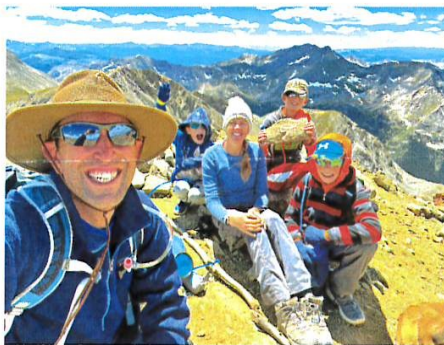
The Sisters depended on the team to provide direction for the design, and yet the desire was for them to express their ideas, vision, hopes, and dreams for this design. The inception of this hospital is important to many people, and the project has many engaged investors. Please continue to pray for this hospital project, and specifically pray for the discovery of a water source.

**The Sisters' faith in God and hope for their community was an encouragement.** One evening before dinner, a group of us were discussing an African soccer game being broadcast on the television. The Sisters said, "How great it would be if the crowds in the stadium knew Jesus!" The joy of the Lord and His Spirit of peace is evident. It is a reminder to pray for this hospital to be a place where multitudes give their lives to Jesus.



## Reinhardt Family Update

This Summer Drew, Blake, and Cole were able to spend some wonderful time outside. They joined Trail Life, which is essentially a Christian version of Boy Scouts, where we got to do some father-son camping trips. The boys wanted to climb a 14er (Missouri Mountain) and take surfing lessons. In addition, Nana and Papa blessed us with an epic family rafting trip through the Grand Canyon. It was a beautiful Summer to be outside!



## SPECIAL FUNDING REQUEST!

I just found out that **my support account is negative by \$8,800** and I'm currently borrowing that money from EMI. If you are in a position to contribute, please prayerfully consider doing so. Every little bit helps! Thank you and we are truly grateful for the sacrifices you have made so we can serve people around the world at EMI.

You can donate using the response card included or online at: [emiworld.org/reinhardt](http://emiworld.org/reinhardt)

Thank You!

~Jason & Jalina, Drew, Blake, and Cole



*Come join us for our*

# Turkey Dinner

**Saturday,**

**November 18, 2023**

4:00-6:30pm

at

South Branch Reformed Church  
870 River Road, Hillsborough



## **Dine-in or Take out Menu**

**All Tickets**  
**\$20**



- Mashed Potatoes
- Herbed Stuffing
- Candied Sweet Potatoes
- Green Beans with Craisins
- Homemade Cole Slaw
- Cranberry Sauce
- Dinner Rolls
- Assorted Desserts



Roast Turkey with Gravy

Please call (908) 369-4956 for reservations or purchase on-line at  
[app.gopassage.com/events/turkey-dinner1](http://app.gopassage.com/events/turkey-dinner1)

***Dine-in or take-out. Remember to bring a bag  
for your take-out.***



**BROOK**  
**ORCHESTRA**

CELEBRATING 49 YEARS

SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 12  
3:00PM

THOMAS VACCA CONDUCTOR

TICKETS AVAILABLE  
NOW AT  
BROOKARTS.ORG

FREE PARKING LOCATED  
AT THE BOUND BROOK  
TRAIN STATION



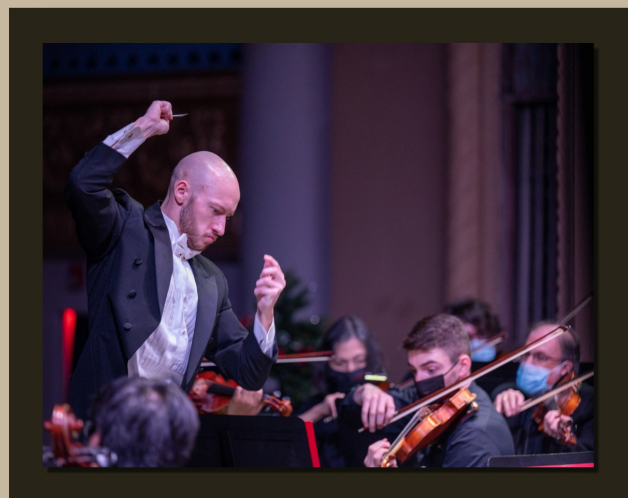
10 HAMILTON STREET  
BOUND BROOK, NJ

*Felix Mendelssohn,  
The Hebrides Overture*

*Max Bruch,  
Concerto for Clarinet, Viola,  
and Orchestra*

DANIEL CHOI, CLARINET  
ELI SCHAFFER, VIOLA

*Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov,  
Symphony No. 1 in E Minor*



# NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Consistory</b>  <b>The Consistory will meet</b>  <b>Tuesday, November 14, at 7:00 pm Zoom</b></p>			<p>1            7:00 am Early Bird Devotion &amp; Prayer Time Zoom            8:00-11:00 am Prayers            11am-2pm NFHall in use</p>	<p>2            9:00 am Garden Angels church parking lot            11:30am sanctuary use by organist            8:00 pm Skeins of Hope Zoom</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5            9:00 am Choir            10:00 am Worship &amp; School / Communion / Memorial Gift Recognition / 2024 Stewardship Campaign  <b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7            11am-2pm NFHall in Use            Staff Team meeting NFH time to be determined</p>	<p>8            7:00 am Early Bird Devotion &amp; Prayer Time Zoom            7:20 am Pastoral Care Team Zoom            8:00-11:00 am Prayers            11am-2pm NFHall in use</p>	<p>9            11:30am sanctuary use by organist</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11            10:00am Fellowship Team set up NFHall for Potluck Lunch 11/12</p>
<p>12            9:00 am Choir            10:00 am Worship &amp; School / 2024 Stewardship Campaign—Pledge Dedication            11:00 am Potluck Lunch in the NFHall</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14            11am-2pm Upper Room in Use            12noon Lunch Bunch NFHall            7:00 pm Consistory meeting Zoom</p>	<p>15            7:00 am Early Bird Devotion &amp; Prayer Time Zoom            8:00-11:00 am Prayers            11am-2pm NFHall in use</p>	<p>16            11:30am sanctuary use by organist            7:00pm Stewardship Team Zoom Meeting            Belltower Deadline</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19            9:00 am Choir            10:00am Congregational Meeting            10:00 am Worship &amp; School            11:00 am Mutual Expectation Discussion NFHall</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21            11am-2pm NFHall in Use</p>	<p>22            7:00 am Early Bird Devotion &amp; Prayer Time Zoom            8:00-11:00 am Prayers            11am-2pm NFHall in use</p>	<p>23            11:30am sanctuary use by organist            10am-6pm Thanksgiving Dinner in the NFHall</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26            9:00 am Choir            10:00 am Worship &amp; School / Thanksgiving Sunday            11:00 am Decorate the Sanctuary and Narthex</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28            Prayer “Refresh”            11am-2pm NFHall in use</p>	<p>29            7:00 am Early Bird Devotion &amp; Prayer Time Zoom            8:00-11:00 am Prayers            11am-2pm NFHall in use</p>	<p>30            11:30am sanctuary use by organist</p>		