



The Belltower

January 2024

The Newsletter of the Clover Hill Reformed Church

Sunday, January 7, at 10:00 am

First Sunday after Epiphany
Communion
Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29;
Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 14, 10:00 am

Second Sunday after Epiphany
Ordination and Installation
1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 21, at 10:00 am

Third Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 28, at 10:00 am

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

*thank
you*

Consistory and the Nominating Committee:

Our heartfelt thanks to David Gwin and to Barbara Sarzillo as they complete their current terms of service on Consistory. During the past three years, David has lent his expertise to our response to the pandemic, actively engaging in creating and carrying out a protocol to allow us to return to worshipping in person in an environment that would be protective of the health of our members. And Barb served as the liaison to the combined Service and Fellowship Teams, meeting the unique challenges the pandemic presented as we continued to support our mission partners and to gather as a church family. Thanks to both David and Barb for their leadership during an extraordinary time.

As is so often true within families, our circumstances have changed since our November congregational meeting to endorse candidates for Consistory. Debi Molinaro will not be ordained and installed as a Deacon at this time. We continue to lift Debi's daughter, Michelle Albanese, Debi, Steve and all of their family in our prayers.

Michelle Clover has resigned her position as Deacon, leaving a two year unexpired term to be filled. In true Clover Hill family fashion, those who are able step in to help. Barb Sarzillo will be installed to a one-year term as Deacon. We thank her for her continuing commitment. We also welcome Lori Voorhees and Gene Reinhardt to Consistory and offer our sincere thanks for their willingness to serve the Clover Hill family in this capacity. Please be with us on January 14 for their installation. (Please note that, as members of the Great Consistory, Gene, Lori and Barb will be installed for new terms of service. They are already ordained to their offices.)

And while we are expressing our gratitude, our thanks to the members of the nominating committee: Nancy Lane, Michelle Clover, Ann Cucchiara, Lynn– Totten and to Pastor Beth for their prayerful and persistent search to fill vacancies on Consistory.

As always, if anyone has any concerns or questions or suggestions, please feel free to speak to any member of Consistory at any time.



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.

**INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION**



Clover Hill Reformed Church Inclement Weather Policy

Should severe weather threaten our area, please check your email for a MailChimp announcement from Clover Hill Reformed Church or contact the coordinator of the meeting/event/activity you were planning to attend.

Sunday Mornings: In the event of inclement weather, the church will remain open for 10:00 am worship services and live stream YouTube - however, the programming may look different.

NOTE: In all cases, please use your personal discretion to determine if it is safe for you to leave your home and travel to church. Do not place yourself or your family in danger by driving outside your comfort zone.

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
frankfmlly@yahoo.com

Nancy Lane—Pastoral Care
nlane54@gmail.com

Kirsten Posselt—Health & Safety
kirstenposselt3@gmail.com

Deacons:

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

Dear Clover Hill,



You're receiving this newsletter in the middle of the 12 days of Christmas. (My favorite version of this song is by [Straight No Chaser](#).) It's the day that "my true love gave to me seven swans a-swimming." I always lament that Christmas music has ceased at this point. Folks have taken their trees and decorations down. The Magi are left to find the Christ child on their own, without fanfare or celebration. Honestly, I wish the world could hear us as we continue to sing Christmas carols and light the Christ candle. I wish the world might linger for just five more days of celebration.

There is this song that speaks about the decorations that come out once/year. It's called "Angel in the Attic." I offer the lyrics as a way to reflect not just on the Christmas season but also this last year and this next year.

*It's Christmas time again, feels like an old familiar friend
The angel on the tree is looking down at me
She's been sleeping in the attic for a year now
Waiting for this day to arrive
She's only got a short while, to shine her light just like us
You gotta shine while you're alive*

*It's Christmas time again feels like an old familiar friend
There's music in the air, songs are everywhere
They've been alone in silence for a year now
Waiting for somebody to sing
They haven't changed a note since they were played, not like us
Look at what a year can bring*

*It's Christmas time again feels like an old familiar friend
Gifts beneath the tree, I hope there's one for me
And the baby that we're all here to remember
The reason that the angel sings her song
Well the angels gonna fly away when the song is over
but the baby will be with you all year long*

For extra fun: [Here is the video by David Bailey](#). And [here is me covering the song](#) years ago.

It's still Merry Christmas!

Peace,
Pastor Beth

www.bethscib.com / Cell: 732-735-2112 / Use this [calendar link](#) to schedule time with me

Message from the Pastoral Search Team

Search Team Update:

In 2023, we addressed mutual expectations of a congregation and a part time pastor, and as a result, developed interview questions to ask potential candidates.

Several resumes have been received so far, as well as answers received from the candidates to questions we sent them.

As they come in, we consider them for interviewing and have been actively interviewing.

From **The Calling of a Part Time Pastor** by Warren Seibert pages 85 and 86:

“... Focus. It must be kept, first of all, on your mission as a church. This mission should be clear to the congregation, to the pastor being called... and to those directly involved in calling your new pastor. What do you plan to achieve together?”

Have a Blessed New Year

Wire Fraud is Real. Before wiring any money, call the intended recipient at a number you know is valid to confirm the instructions. Additionally, please note that the sender does not have authority to bind a party to a real estate contract via written or verbal communication.

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

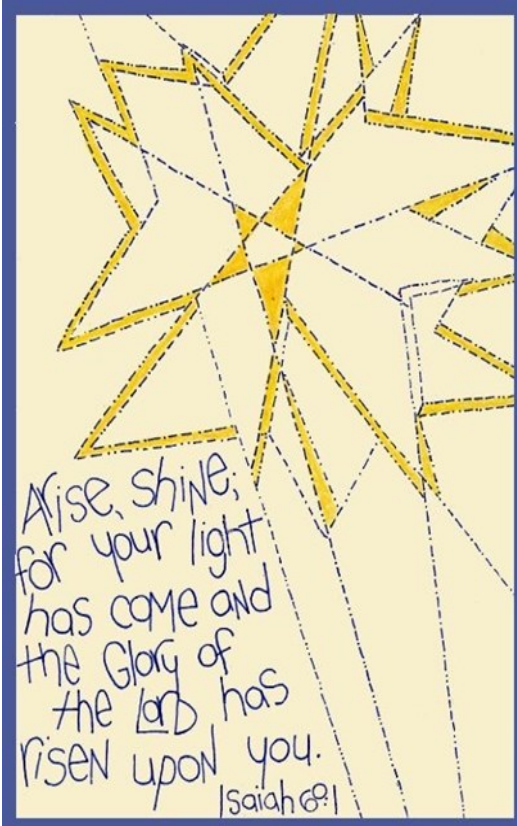
Pastor, Rev. Beth Scibienski pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com

Linda Santa-Lucia (Classis Supervisor)

News from the Spiritual Growth Team

Coordinator: Carolyn Keck (carolynkeck64@gmail.com)

Epiphany is a celebration of the arrival of wise men, also called magi, from the East who brought gifts to Jesus.



In spiritual terms, the word “epiphany” means an appearance or manifestation, especially of a divine being. In everyday life, we use the word “epiphany” to mean a moment when you had a sudden understanding. Think of this as those light-bulb moments when you get clarity or wisdom about a situation.

For many Christians, Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas season. **Epiphany is on January 6, after the 12 days of Christmas.** Epiphany is also called Three Kings Day. While tradition holds that three kings came to visit Baby Jesus in the stable (and the kings are even given the names of Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar), the truth is probably quite different. The wise men brought three gifts to Jesus which has led to the assumption that there were only three wise men, but in reality it was probably a larger group. Another false assumption, made more popular by nativity sets everywhere, is that the wise men came to the stable the night Jesus was born. **In reality, the visit of the wise men most likely occurred later, at least 40 days after Jesus’ birth and possibly up to 2 years later.** These men were traveling 800-900 miles to see Jesus, a long distance for that period of time. Likely the visit occurred six months to a year after Jesus’ birth. Scripture

tells us that a star led these wise men to Jesus. Today we refer to this as the Star of Bethlehem. On the night Jesus was born, a bright star shone above where Jesus was located.

These men were not technically “kings” as we often refer to them. They were priests and scholars. The term “magi” gives us information about the wise men. The Greek word used here refers to scholars likely from Persia in the specific priestly caste of Zoroastrianism. These scholars were astrologers, so it makes sense that they would have seen the miracle of the star above the place where Jesus was born.

Herod played an important role in this situation, too. This is Herod the Great, who ruled from 37 B.C. to 4 B.C. Studies of Herod show that he was a ruthless and paranoid tyrant. When the magi came to him inquiring of the child, Herod panicked. He ordered that all baby boys under the age of two be killed because he saw any future king as a threat.

The gifts brought by the wise men were expensive and significant gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and they bowed down and worshiped Jesus. Matthew is the only one of the four gospels to include this aspect of the Nativity. [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

Make an Origami Star:

https://youtu.be/ht5ti_yoZcs?si=3RgKeloJJgOtbbmY



News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

“Coming soon . . .”

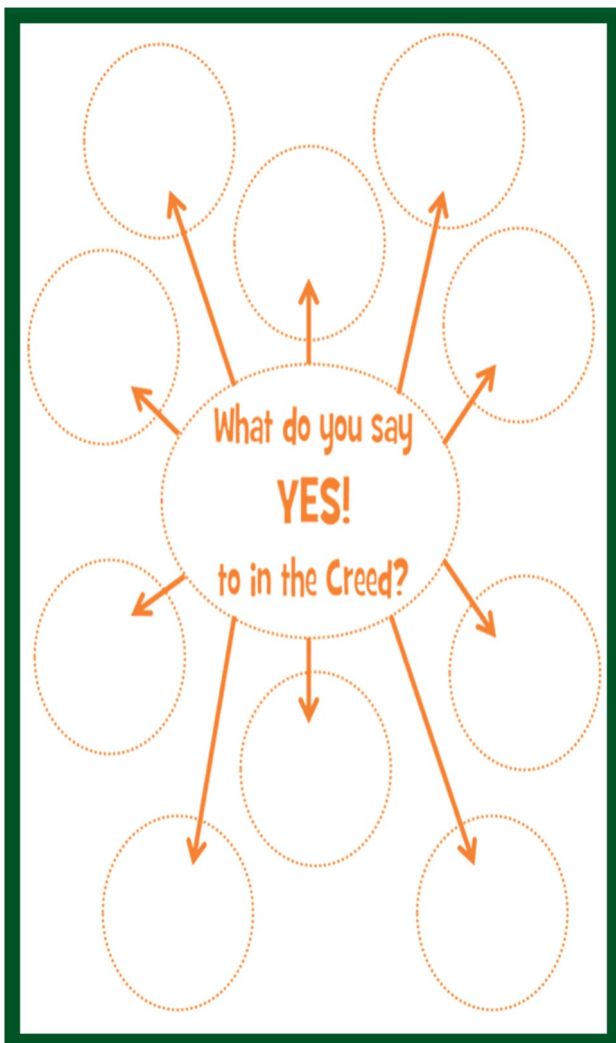


Creeds and Confessions: CHRC Adult Education Series during Lent 2024

Sundays during Lent following worship; led by Pastor Beth

Dates: February 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17, 24

Explore the multiple creeds and their meanings



The Reformed Church in America (RCA) is a confessional church.

This means that, as a denomination, we affirm specific statements of belief called creeds and confessions. These statements are biblically based and were written to respond to issues by explaining in detail what the church believes about those topics.

During Lent, we'll explore the theologies and histories of the:

Nicene Creed - the nature of Jesus

Athanasian Creeds - our understanding of the Trinity

Heidelberg Confession - how we teach our beliefs

Belgic Confession - a thorough expression of the Protestant faith

Canons of Dort - have you ever heard of T.U.L.I.P.?

Belhar Confession - our response to South African Apartheid

Song of Hope - a contemporary confession of faith

Explore the multiple creeds and their meanings

<https://www.rca.org/about/theology/creeds-and-confessions/>

News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...



And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. *Isaiah 54:13*

Thanks to all who readied us for His birth.



Sacrament of Holy Baptism

On Sunday, December 3, we celebrated Kyle and Meghan Vandenberg joining our church and the baptism of their two children. We welcome them all to our church family and extend our congratulations to our newest family of Clover Hill.



News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

Messy Church is an all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way. At Messy Church, today's busy households of all shapes and sizes are invited into a welcoming space to experience faith.



CHRC held their first Messy Church, "Advent-ure" on Saturday, December 2, with thirty participants from age 2 to 82. Advent wreaths were made, we sang, signed, and danced, solved the mystery nativity guests' identity, listened to readings from Isaiah and Matthew, lit the first candle and prayed for hope- and of course, we ate a light supper, laughed in fellowship, and made our own Nativity trail mix. The Spiritual Growth Team will explore more opportunities for this multigenerational alternative worship in 2024.

Thanks to Pastor Beth, Diana and Gene Reinhardt, Nancy Johnston, Lynn- Totten, Janet Durborow, Nancy Lane, Marilyn Fineman, Amy Frank, Ginny DiMilia, Lori Vorhees, Gary and Carolyn Keck and all who lit the first candle together.

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.

Next Spiritual Growth Team meeting will be on Tuesday, January 23, at 4:30 pm in the Nevius Fellowship Hall.



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)

Lunch Bunch



Come - Be - Reflect - Share an hour of enjoying a meal, touching base with God and each other,

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42

An opening prayer, 15-minute discussion on Bible/religious topic, fellowship, closing prayer will be provided to deepen our experience together.

No need to RSVP, you do not need to attend each one, just show up!
If you need further information, please contact the church office.
(908-369-8451 or chrc1834@gmail.com)

Date: Tuesday January 16, 2024
Time: noon- about 1:00 pm
Location: we will meet in the CHRC Nevius Fellowship Hall or if inclement weather on Zoom
Bring: something to drink, your lunch or snack, and yourself

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.”
Oswald Chambers

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

We've turned another page in the calendar and have begun 2024! Thinking about this season of Christmas, which we're still in, I've been thinking about the story we heard on Christmas Eve of the shepherds visiting when Jesus was born. One verse stands out to me: Luke 2:19 We read: And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

I dare say, not just Mary, but all mothers do this: they store up memories of their children: to keep them, hold on to them, to treasure them. And not just mothers, but all of us do this. We all keep memories in our hearts, continuing to reflect on them as months and years and decades pass by.

I'm wondering in this New Year what memories of 2023 you and I are keeping, storing, holding in our hearts?

Was 2023 a good year or a hard year or both? Was it a happy year, a sad year, or both? Was it a healthy year, a year of sickness or some of each? Was it a year of gain or a year of loss? Was it a year of pain or a year of peace? Or was it all of the above? Did the year just seem to fly by or did it creep at a snail's pace?

My physical heart has only four chambers, but my soul's heart has many more than four. What memories of 2023 are we holding in our hearts? Am I holding on to some hurtful memories alongside the happier ones? Am I clinging to some resentments and grudges? Maybe a loss or some self-pity? Or have I let my heart be refreshed with forgiveness, healing, and acceptance; with the comfort of consoling memories?

In the past year did my heart enlarge to accommodate what came my way; peace and pain alike?
Did my heart expand to welcome joy when it came and God's gentle touch upon my hurt and loss?

Did I turn to God for God's strength when I was weak; for God's counsel in my doubt; for God's wisdom in my confusion; for God's companionship in my loneliness? Did I stall or isolate in my sadness or open my heart to moving on towards consolation and peace?

With the passing of time, Mary held in her heart not only joyful memories of a newborn and shepherds and angels, of a star and the magi, but she also made room for the painful memories of Jesus' suffering and death and loss.

So it is with us, too. Our hearts are the memory banks of all that has shaped us and made us the persons we've become and are becoming.

This New Year might be a good time for us to walk through the chambers of our hearts and, with God's help, to let go of what might better be left behind as a new year begins.

For sure, the year ahead will find its own share of blessings and sorrows filling our hearts, but with Jesus' help we can come to accept and even treasure them all and find His healing peace in good times and hard times alike.

Every time we come to the Lord's Table we keep the memory of Christ's incarnation, and we keep the memory of His suffering, death and resurrection.

We remember the One who suffered for us and who fills our hearts with the joy of His presence in one another as we join in worship.

Perhaps in this new year it's time to consider doing something new, like sing in the choir. We're a friendly bunch. We'd love to see our numbers grow. Even if you can't commit to every Sunday, how about every other Sunday or some other variation? Consider it. Reflect on it.

Pray that in the New Year we, like Mary, will keep and treasure our memories of burdens carried and blessings received and in them, and in Jesus Christ, find our peace. Amen!

In Christ Jesus,
George Farrell

News from the Service Team

Coordinator: Barbara Sarzillo (barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com)



*thank
you*

A heartfelt thank you to all who were able to donate to
the Fishermans mark Grandparents program.

Your generosity was overwhelming and appreciated.



The Service Team will be collecting
new hats, scarves, gloves and socks
to be donated to the Rescue Mission of Trenton
Please drop off your donation in the Narthex
by January 14th

News from the Fellowship Team

Coordinator: Barbara Sarzillo (barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com)

Sunday afternoon, December 17, we brought the spirit of Christmas to five homes in our community. The joy of Christ's birth, shared through music, was felt by both Carolers and Carolees alike. Having several choir members with us enhanced the experience for all!

Each person was absolutely delighted to receive a lovely bag of delicious baked goods, homemade by one of our church members.



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 – Church office (chrc1834@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 the church office (chrc1834@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 February issue, to the church office (chrc1834@gmail.com), by Thursday, January 18, 2023.

News from the Stewardship Team

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

Finance Update:

As we write this page of the Belltower it is still mid December, so we cannot yet share with you the full results of 2023. But here is how things stand as of right now:

- Giving for 2023 through November was very close to what we expected, only \$1,118 behind our plan through November. Thank you all for working so hard to fulfill your 2023 pledges!
- Initial indications for 2024 are not as rosy. The total dollars pledged for 2024 (as of mid-December) are \$90,692. That is over \$20,000 less than in 2023.
- **The first draft of the budget indicates that we may be looking at a \$24,000 income deficit in 2024.**
- The budget will be constructed and approved during the first half of January and will be presented to the congregation after worship on February 4, 2024.

2023 Property Recap:

As usual, it was another busy year maintaining the church properties. Here are some of the highlights of the things that were accomplished this year:

- Paint and repairs for the steeple
- New LED steeple lights installed
- Replaced carpet in narthex and stretched carpet in sanctuary
- Power washed parsonage and church front
- Repaired the parsonage well and added a UV light filtration system and arsenic filtration system based on water test results
- Cleaned pipes and drains at the parsonage
- Replaced dishwasher for the parsonage
- Many thanks to the Clean Team for their ongoing work keeping the church building clean on the inside!
- We also thank the Gardening Angels for their work making the garden areas look pretty throughout the year!

News from the Stewardship Team, continued...

2024 Denominational Assessment:

Each year we have to pay a per member assessment to the Reformed Church Classis of Delaware-Raritan. This money covers the overhead of the Classis, and helps with things like minister support and loans to Classis churches. You may recall the discussion last year that Classis needs to raise the amount of the assessment significantly to fully balance their budget. As membership among ALL Classis churches declines, the per member cost continues to rise. The actual per member number to balance the Classis budget is currently at \$163.44! There was a lot of push back from the member churches last year and a larger discussion has begun about how to assess churches and how to stop the decline in membership. **For 2024, Classis decided to keep the assessment at \$100 per member while the larger discussion continues. For Clover Hill, that means we owe the Classis \$7100 in 2024.** Some church members choose to make an extra offering to cover the cost of their assessment (or even a part of that cost). If you would like to do this, just mark your check "assessment" and it will be used to help pay what we owe to Classis.

***Next Stewardship
Team Meeting:
January 11, 2024
7 pm on Zoom***

Final Deposit for 2023

The final deposit for 2023 was on December 29th. Any gifts received after that date will be credited toward your 2024 gifts.



New Cleaners Always Welcome!

**Next Clean Team Meeting:
January 10, 8 am**

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

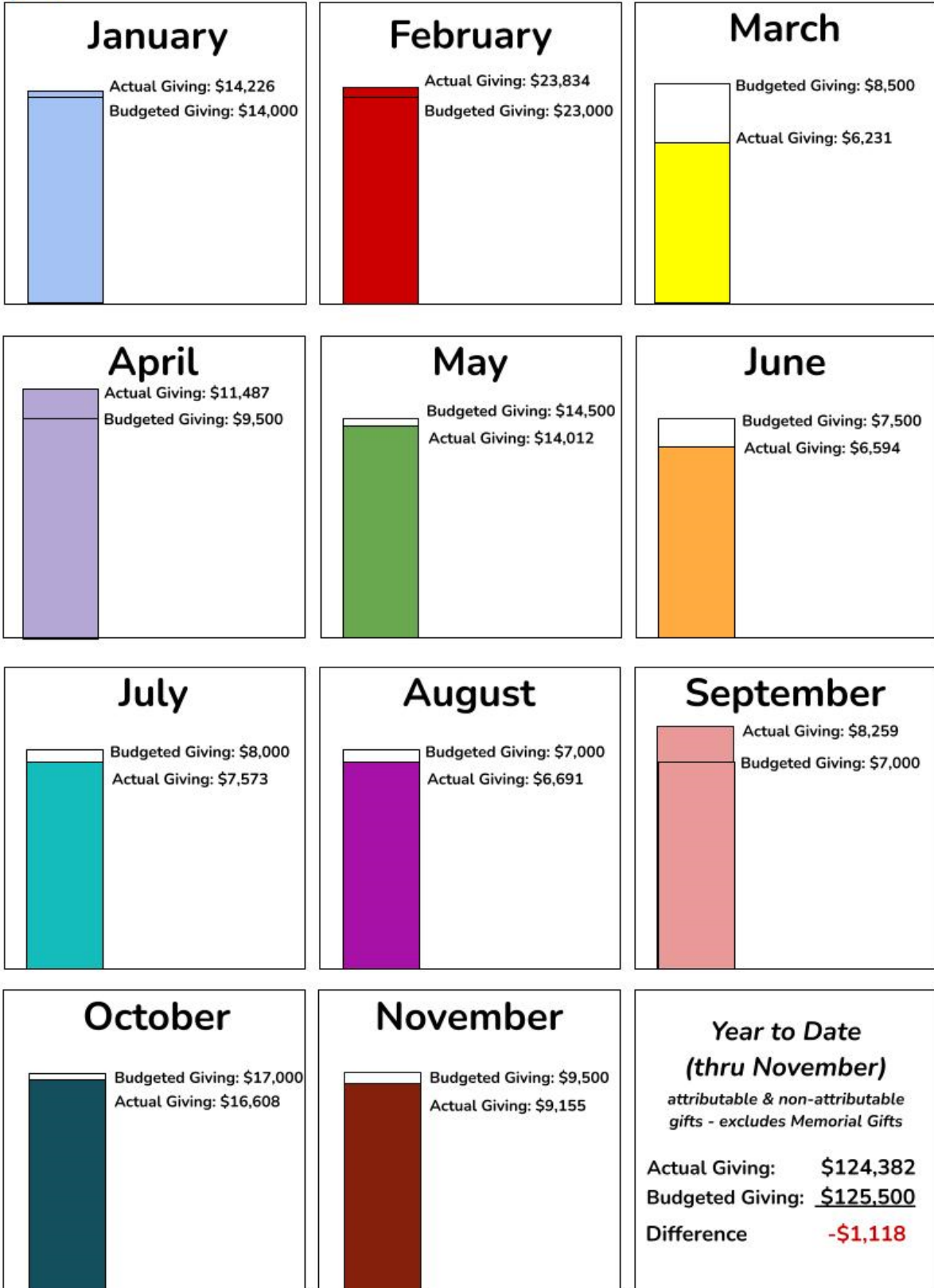
Offering Envelopes for 2024

There are books of offering envelopes available for anyone who would like them. Please contact the church office or the financial secretaries, Mark and Carol Levitt (malevitt@gmail.com), and we will make sure to get a book of envelopes to you.

News from the Stewardship Team, continued...



2023 MONTHLY GIVING RECAP



News from the Stewardship Team, continued...

| Cash Financial Snapshot (as of 12/31/2023) | |
|--|---------------------|
| Income Year to Date (excluding special gifts) | \$158,213.60 |
| Expense Year to Date | \$172,874.24 |
| Balance to Date | -\$14,660.64 |
| TD Checking Balance (Operating Cash): | |
| | \$3,424.02 |
| TD Money Market Account (Savings) | \$39,193.20 |
| 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 12/14/2023 (opened 5/2023) | \$221,675.85 |
| Total of all Operating and Funds Cash: | \$278,777.67 |



Message from the Pastoral Care Team

Coordinator: Nancy Lane (nlane54@gmail.com)

**Join us January 28 after worship
to learn about resources that help with
End of Life issues.**



This month, the Pastoral Care Team would like to provide resources for our congregation that assist with end of life topics. Advanced Directives/living wills, hospice care and caregiving will be discussed.



*We know -
we would all rather not talk about this.
It's sad and uncomfortable.*

We know how much we love one another in our community of faith. We think that together we can provide a loving, safe environment to explore some issues that are often difficult to talk about with our family. We'd like to give it a try!

We have two wonderful resources:

- The first is called "[Five Wishes](#)." It is an advanced planning guide for families. We like it because:
 - * It's written in everyday language, making it easy to understand and complete.
 - * It covers personal, spiritual, medical and legal wishes all in one document.
 - * It allows your family or caregiver to know exactly what you want, so they don't have to guess
 - * It's legally valid in NJ to serve as an advanced directive/ living will.
- The second resource is called [The NokBox](#), short for "next of kin" box. "The Nokbox is a complete system that helps you organize all of your accounts, possessions, social media presence, communities, kids, pets, personal history, and estate plans (even if you don't have estate plans yet!). It's an estate planning tool AND a home organization system: if you have a household, you need a Nokbox."

We hope you can join us after worship on January 28 when we will not only explore these two resources but better understand the role that hospice care can offer for those in need.

Grief Support Group for Widows, Widowers and Life Partners



The Hunterdon County Senior Center offers this group to support those who have lost a loved one and are grieving that immense loss.

This group, led by two wonderful facilitators, will provide information about the grief process as you share experiences in a safe space and will alleviate the feeling of being alone. If you know someone who can benefit from the group, please bring them!

The group meets every Thursday from 10:00 AM- 11:30 AM in the Conference Room, Human Services, 8 Gauntt Place, Building #3.

To sign up and for more information, call the facilitator Nancy Dominiani at 609-238-8039 or email: Nusre2001@yahoo.com

Open to Hunterdon County residents aged 60 and over who are enrolled members of the Senior Center. Donations are appreciated. Please see a Senior Center staff member if you would like to donate.

JANUARY 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|---|-----|--------------------------------------|
| | 1 11:30 am Wedding in the sanctuary | 2 11am-2pm NFHall in Use 7:00 pm Search Team meeting Zoom | 3 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 Zoom | 3 11:30am sanctuary use by organist | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Epiphany Sunday 9:00 am Vocal Choir 10:00 am Worship & School / Communion | 8 | 9 11am-2pm NFHall in Use 7:00 pm Search Team meeting Zoom or NFHall | 10 7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 7:20 am Pastoral Care Team meeting Zoom 8:00 am Clean Team will meet 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in Use | 11 11:30am sanctuary use by organist 7:00 pm Stewardship Team meeting Zoom | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:00 am Vocal Choir 10:00 am Worship & School / Ordination & Installation Consistory Members | 15 | 16 11am-2pm Upper Room in Use 12noon Lunch Bunch NFHall 7:00 pm Consistory meeting Zoom | 17 7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in use | 18 11:30am sanctuary use by organist 8:00 pm Skeins of Hope meeting Zoom Belltower Deadline | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9:00 am Vocal Choir 10:00 am Worship & School 11:00 am Narthex & sanctuary decorations take down and store away | 22 | 23 11am-2pm NFHall in Use 4:30 pm Spiritual Growth Team meeting NFHall | 24 7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in use | 25 11:30am sanctuary use by organist | 26 | 27 9:00 am Stated Classis Session |
| 28 9:00 am Vocal Choir 10:00 am Worship & School 11:00 am End of Life Issues discussion NFHall | 29 | 30 Prayer "Refresh" 11am-2pm NFHall in use | 31 7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in use | <div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Consistory The Consistory will meet Tuesday, January 16, at 7:00 pm Zoom</p> </div> | | |