



The Belltower

October 2023

The Newsletter of the Clover Hill Reformed Church

Sunday, October 1, at 10:00 am

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Wide Communion

Exodus 17:1-17 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2:1-13

Sunday, October 8, 10:00 am

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 19 Philippians 3:4b-14

Congregational meeting

Sunday, October 15, at 10:00 am

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Reaffirmation

Exodus 33:1-14 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Sunday, October 22, at 10:00 am

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Sunday, October 29, at 10:00 am

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

1st Sunday of Stewardship Campaign

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

REAFFIRMATION SUNDAY - As a part of our congregational tradition we have once again invited about 20% of you, those who joined our church in years ending in “3” or “8”, to re-affirm your commitment to Christ and His church during our worship on October 15.

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.

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

Dear Clover Hill,

This fall season has been and will continue to be filled with a series of “theological reflections.” A theological reflection is any reflection that seeks to understand God as we encounter our everyday life. Our Methodist brothers and sisters have a unique model for theological reflection. It’s called the “Wesleyan Quadrilateral.”



Wesley believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason.

These past two weeks, several folks have gathered for this kind of discussion as they reflected on: Night by Elie Wiesel and “Recitatif” by Toni Morrison.

The next two weeks, you’re invited to join us as we continue more theological reflection of: “Tenth of December” by George Saunders and the Book of Job.

The third and fifth Sundays in October, we will host two more theological reflections. These will be around the subjects of gender and sexuality.

Since 1974, the Reformed Church in America (RCA, our denomination) has been in conversation over the “need for expression of pastoral care towards those who are rejected because of their homosexual identity,” while also calling for an affirmation of “the Bible’s teaching against the practice of homosexuality” and the “study of homosexuality as it relates to the life and work of the church.” These questions have continued to resurface over the last 46 years, with various overtures, papers, study teams, and dialogues attempting to answer them. In 2018, the interim general secretary Don Poest shared a critical observation, this conversation has kept us from mission for 47 years.

In 2020, it became clear that the denomination was not going to make a definitive decision regarding gender and sexuality but instead allow churches and each Classis to find their way forward. Since then a new denomination was formed called the Affiliated Reformed Church, and churches who identify as more conservative have been given “grace-filled separation” which means that a church can leave the denomination and maintain their property for a period of time. Two of the member churches in our Classis have left and are now part of the Affiliated Reformed Churches (ARC).

We, at Clover Hill, have not engaged in a conversation yet regarding gender and sexuality. The Consistory and the Search Team believe it would be helpful at this time for us to begin to have this conversation.

I hope you’ll join us October 15 and/or 29 for these theological reflections. I hope you’ll bring questions and an open loving heart toward one another. If you’d like to think about the subject ahead of time, I encourage you to read this article, the [Vision 2020 final report](#) and/or watch this video, [For the Bible Tells Me So](#).

www.bethscib.com

Peace,
Pastor Beth

Cell: 732-735-2112

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



Join us for
Theological Reflection about
Gender, Sexuality and the Bible
October 15 and/or 29
11am Nevius Fellowship Hall

In Pastor Beth’s letter above, she speaks about the journey the Reformed Church in America (RCA) has been on regarding gender and sexuality. We, at Clover Hill, have not engaged in this conversation yet. The Consistory and the Search Team think this would be helpful at this time.

All of us come with previous thoughts and experiences regarding gender and sexuality. Many of us have differing ideas and feelings regarding the subjects.

Let’s create a safe space to look at scripture together and ask our questions. Let’s discern together what we believe and understand as a community of faith.

Note: This is not planned as a two-part series; it is two sessions to give as many people as possible the opportunity to attend one or the other. Anyone wishing to attend both is, of course, welcome to do so. Different questions may be raised and different perspectives presented.

Nominations for Consistory

One of the strengths and signs of the good health of our congregation has been the turnover on Consistory. On its face, this may seem to be a strange and contradictory thing to say. But at Clover Hill, we don't have a small handful of people who have served and "run things" for long periods of time; we have a church family where many members have answered the call to participate in shepherding our congregation. When the ordination and installation of new Consistory members takes place and the members of the Great Consistory (all those who have ever been ordained as elders or deacons) are invited to come forward, it is wonderful to see how many have served in this role.



2020 Ordination & Installation

2023 Ordination & Installation



What does it mean to serve on Consistory? The Book of Church Order states simply that, "A consistory is the governing body of a local church." It goes on to describe the office of the elder or deacon as "one of servanthood and service." A variety of talents, skills and perspectives are needed for us to serve well. In Clover Hill, members are installed for a three year term. Each member coordinates one of the teams and we rely on the teams to do the work to which they have been called. Our monthly meetings are typically 90 minutes. Routine business is approved as part of a consent agenda to ensure that our time is spent discussing matters that require and deserve our attention. Consistory members also handle the tasks associated with weekly worship on a rotating schedule. And members of the Great Consistory step in to help, as needed. Installation is for a defined term; ordination is forever.

Nominating Committee: Nancy Lane (elder) and Michelle Clover (deacon) are the Consistory members serving on the nominating committee. At this time, we are seeking two others from the congregation to join them in identifying members to fill three vacancies on Consistory: one elder to serve a three-year term, one deacon to serve a three year term and one deacon to serve a one year term. We will have a **brief congregational meeting on October 8** to elect members to the nominating committee. (The work of the committee begins on October 8.) And we will have a brief meeting on November 19 to accept nominations. Ordination and installation will take place next year.

Please prayerfully consider whether you may serve on the nominating committee or join the many who are part of the Great Consistory of Clover Hill. To those who already have served, thank you. And if you feel called to "re-up" at this time, welcome back.

Nancy Lane (nlane54@gmail.com) and Michelle Clover (miclover@gmail.com)

A New York Times columnist, Jessica Grose, recently did a series of articles on religion and church affiliation/worship attendance. She writes:

I asked every sociologist I interviewed whether communities created around secular activities outside of houses of worship could give the same level of wraparound support that churches, temples and mosques are able to offer. Nearly across the board, the answer was no.

Phil Zuckerman, a professor of sociology and secular studies at Pitzer College, put it this way: “I can go play soccer on a Sunday morning and hang out with people from different races and different class backgrounds, and we can bond. But I’m not doing that with my grandparents and my grandchildren.” A soccer team can’t provide spiritual solace in the face of death, it probably doesn’t have a weekly charitable call and there’s no sense of connection to a heritage that goes back generations. You can get bits and pieces of these disparate qualities elsewhere, he said, but there’s no “one-stop shop” — at least not right now.

FREE CPR CLASS:

Sunday, October 22

11:00 a.m.

Nevius Fellowship Hall

Clover Hill Reformed Church

890 Amwell Road Hillsborough NJ 08844 / 908369-8451 / chrc1834@gmail.com / www.cloverhillchurch.org



You will learn how to use an AED and perform hands-only CPR on adult victims of sudden cardiac arrest and how to help an adult who is choking.

This course is designed for family members, friends and members of the general community who want to learn CPR but do not need a formal course completion card.

Class size is limited to 16. **Preregistration is required.** (If there are more than 16 people interested, we will schedule an additional class.)

Contact David Gwin if you have any questions.

To register, go to www.HillsboroughEMS.com

Click on the TRAINING tab

Click on ENROLL IN A CLASS (right hand side of the page midway down)

Choose the October 22 Family and Friends class and click on ENROLL

Fill in the information (Birth date is not required)

For affiliation, put NONE

NO payment is required

Scroll to the bottom of the form, accept the terms and conditions and click on SIGN UP

Message from the Pastoral Search Team

Search Team Update:

With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. 2 Peter 3:8-9

Summer has come to a close. Some of us look back and think, where did the time go? Others see a respite from cramming so much activity into so short a time. In the past, as teachers, we had little choice but to spend the bulk of family-time in our car. Trips, long or short, surely ended in fun. But, countless hours and miles passed in close quarters, always accompanied by the back seat chorale's rendition of "Are we there yet? How much longer?" Our cry for patience mixed the girls' favorite TV show with their naive grasp of real time: "Just two more Barneys . . . One Barney more!" The gambit usually worked.

We at Clover Hill now find ourselves two years into our pastoral search journey, looking forward to success on the horizon. Are we there yet? Short answer: NO. But we have made significant progress on our trek. Perhaps a map of the Search Committee's itinerary can refresh and recharge us on our way.

The Committee has successfully:

- Familiarized themselves with the RCA's requirements and guides for a pastoral search
- Surveyed the congregation, twice, to determine how we view ourselves, our strengths, values, and goals
- Wrote a self-study, a mission statement, and our church profile for review by Consistory, Committees, Classis, and candidates
- Read and discussed, intensively, The Calling of a Part-Time Pastor
- Created an effective question list for candidate interviews
- Advertised for candidates and reviewed applicants' profiles
- Began interviews of viable candidates
- Re-examined chapter 5 of Part-Time Pastor, "Mutual Expectations"
- Encountered and discussed broader issues relevant to Christian church life

Are we there yet? No. Yet, let's take encouragement from our steady progress. We don't know the length of God's "Barneys", but we can make use of every day awaiting His guidance. Stay involved. Come participate in Pastor Beth's theological reflection sessions in October. Join upcoming opportunities for worship and study and conversation as we are guided to our destination in God's time.

But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:25

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

News from the Stewardship Team

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

Updates from The Stewardship Team:

- **Carpet:** The carpet work has been completed! Flemington Department store stretched the carpet and removed all of the ripples from the sanctuary and upper meeting room. They also installed new carpet on the stairs to NFH and durable carpet squares in the Narthex. Total cost came in just under \$4,000. Many thanks to all of those who helped move furniture and items off of the carpet and then back again!
- **Parsonage:** We have had some issues with the well and the pipes in the parsonage. Work has been done on the well and we have a plumber coming in to do work on the pipes and drains in the house. Thank you to Pastor Beth and Jameel for their patience as we work through this problem!
- **Stewardship Campaign:** The theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign will be "Be Thou My Vision, Oh Lord of My Heart." We will kick off the campaign on October 29 and conclude the campaign with pledge dedication Sunday on November 12. On that last Sunday of the campaign, we will also gather for a pot luck brunch after church (information on the following page). As in the past few years, we will ask you to prayerfully consider what you might be able to give in 2024 and share that on a confidential pledge card. Having this information is crucial to building an accurate budget and keeping our expenses in line with our income. Pledge card information will be sent out later in October.
- **Future Projects:** We plan to have a brainstorming session when we gather for the pot luck brunch on November 12. We want to share and hear ideas about future projects for the church and parsonage. And we want to hear ideas about future mission projects that reach beyond Clover Hill.

News from the Stewardship Team, continued...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Stewardship campaign kicks off on Sunday, October 29 and ends 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. Watch your postal mailboxes mid October for your Campaign Letter and 2024 Pledge form for full details.

The letter will list ways to sign up for the potluck brunch starting Friday, October 20.

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)

GARDENING ANGELS

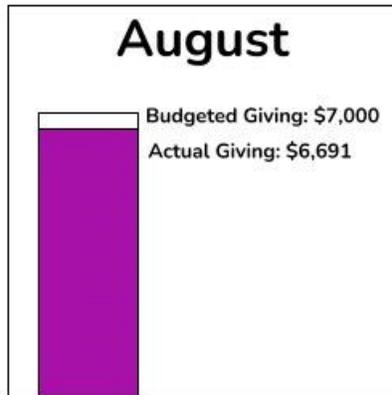
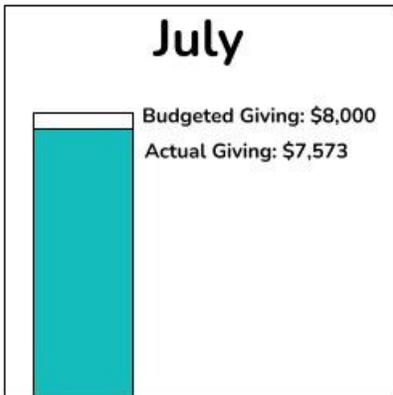
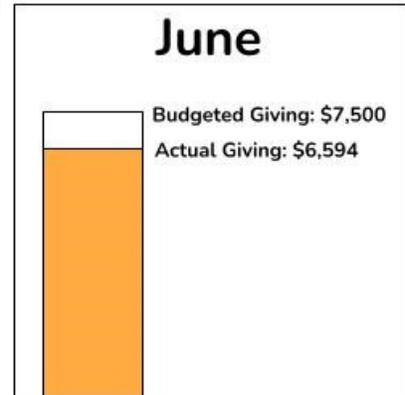
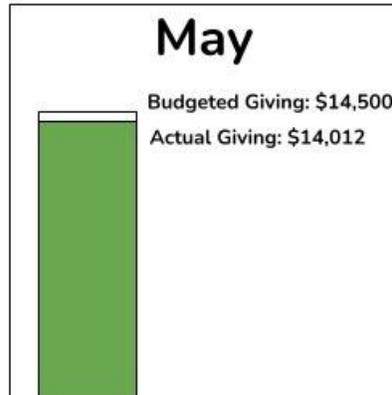
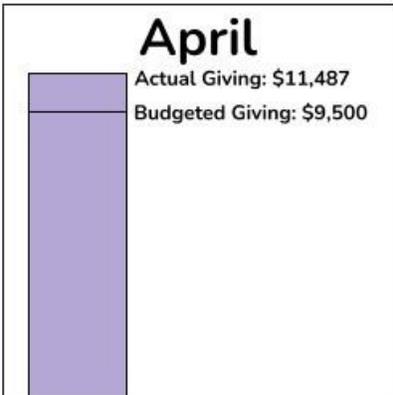
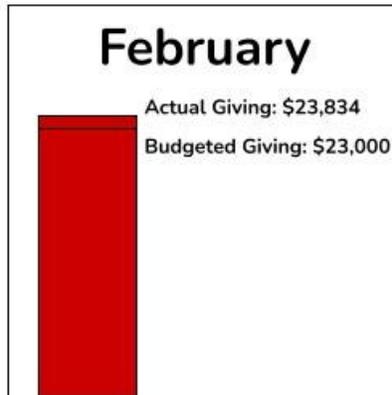
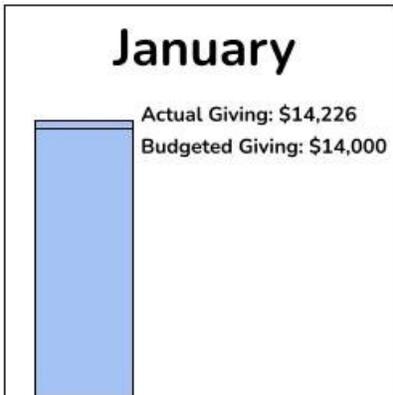
On October 11, at 8 am
the team will meet to work
in the church gardens.

Contact Diana Reinhardt
908-369-4362

All are welcome!

News from the Stewardship Team, continued...

2023 MONTHLY GIVING RECAP



Year to Date (thru August)

attributable & non-attributable gifts - excludes Memorial Gifts

Actual Giving:	\$90,360	
Budgeted Giving:	\$92,000	
Difference:	-\$1,640	

News from the Stewardship Team, continued...

**Next Stewardship
Team Meeting:
October 12
7 pm, Zoom**



New cleaners always welcome!

**Next Clean Team Meeting:
October 17, 8 am**

Contact Yvette du Fosse'
908-246-1966

Cash Financial Snapshot (as of 9/29/2023)	
Income Year to Date (excluding special gifts)	\$120,109.74
Expense Year to Date	123,247.71
Balance to Date	-\$3,137.97
<hr/>	
TD Checking Balance (Operating Cash):	\$17,366.84
TD Money Market Account (Savings)	\$37,696.13
TD Money Market Account (Restricted Funds)	\$16,783.04
Accessibility Fund	\$5,089.63
Benevolence Fund	\$1,194.00
Building Fund	\$2,005.22
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
Vanguard Savings as of 9/25/2023 (opened 5/2023)	\$218,250.24
Total of all Operating and Funds Cash:	\$290,096.25

Message from the Pastoral Care Team



Coordinator: Nancy Lane (nlane54@gmail.com)

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did to for Me.”

Matthew 25:40

SELF-CARE FOR CAREGIVERS

Last month we talked about the seven kinds of rest that people need to lead a healthy and productive life. This month, our focus is on self-care for caregivers. Being a caregiver to a loved one can seem truly overwhelming at times. For that reason, it is even more imperative that caregivers have opportunities for rest. The tendency is for caregivers to focus on their loved one so much that they neglect themselves in the process. Though it is not always possible to find a way to get away for a vacation, there are meaningful ways in which a caregiver can find “rest”.

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

Sources say that the caregiver must practice self-compassion without feeling guilty.

Constant, ongoing stress can lead to multiple health and emotional difficulties, which can diminish the ability to care for someone else.

Practice deep-breathing techniques, yoga, or meditation. A simple breath awareness activity or a few yoga moves can take less than 5 minutes but offer a sense of restoration.

Stay socially connected. Simply picking up the phone and calling a friend from time-to-time can give the caregiver a sense of connectedness. Invite a friend over for a cup of tea. Facetime a former colleague or relative. Join an online book club.

Pick up the Bible and read favorite passages or post meaningful scripture in a prominent place. (See “Cut and Post Activity” on the next page.)

Make eating well and getting enough sleep a priority.

Pray about it.

For more information on self-care for the caregivers, please refer to Dr. Marlynn Wei’s blog: [Self-care for the caregiver - Harvard Health](#)

The Clover Hill Church Pastoral Care Team is a great resource to help with transportation, health contacts, and meals. Even if you just need someone to talk to, please reach out by contacting the church office (908-369-8451 / chrc1834@gmail.com), Pastor Beth (pastorbeth.chrc@gmail.com), or Nancy Lane (nlane54@gmail.com). We are also looking for people who can help with the many needs of the Pastoral Care Team.

Message from the Pastoral Care Team... continued

CUT AND POST ACTIVITY: Please feel free to print this page, Cut the following verses out and post them in a prominent place. Refer to them when you are feeling overwhelmed.

<p>“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11</p>	<p>“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did it for Me.” Matthew 25:40</p>
<p>“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Matthew 6:34</p>	<p>I lift my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121: 1-2</p>
<p>“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:1-4</p>	<p>“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:12-13</p> 
<p>“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28</p>	<p>“Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.” Proverbs 12:25</p>

News from the Spiritual Growth Team

Coordinator: Carolyn Keck (carolynkeck64@gmail.com)

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

Happy Autumn- the leaves are changing, the temperatures are dropping and the combine harvesters are humming. It is harvest time. Mark 4 has some parables seen in other gospels: the sower (4:3-20), the lamp (4:21-23), and the mustard seed (4:30-33). Jesus adds a different kingdom parable – a story of the growth of a seed. During this Autumn season of change, we will look at the meaning of the seed parable and changes needed in our spiritual lives.



Most of Jesus' contemporaries were familiar with sowing seeds and harvesting crops. Thus, Jesus used agriculture in His parables. Although not all being farmers ourselves, worshipping at Clover Hill with its view of the green harvested fields along Amwell Road, perhaps helps us relate to these parables. Yet, I wonder if some hearers were confused, curious why Jesus spoke of seeds and fields and trees and harvest, but not about serving God, our hope, and God's word. Of course, He did speak on all of these things, but some may not have understood. In fact, even His own disciples at times did not understand (Mark 4:10-13).

When Jesus spoke in parables, they were sometimes confusing and difficult to put into relatable terms. However, in the case of the Parable of the Sower (also known as the Parable of the Four Soils), understanding the meaning is easier.

Jesus directly explained the meaning in the Gospels, so there's no guessing as to what He meant.

But still, how do we apply the Parable of the Four Soils to Christian life today? What type of soil are you? It's in the self-assessment of these questions that we have the opportunity to make transformative change in our lives.

I need to be ready to learn the teachings of Jesus ([Matthew 13:1-23](#))

After reading Matthew 13:1-8, where is your heart in this parable?

As we move through this season of autumn full of changes, consider the spiritual changes you need to make to grow in God's love.

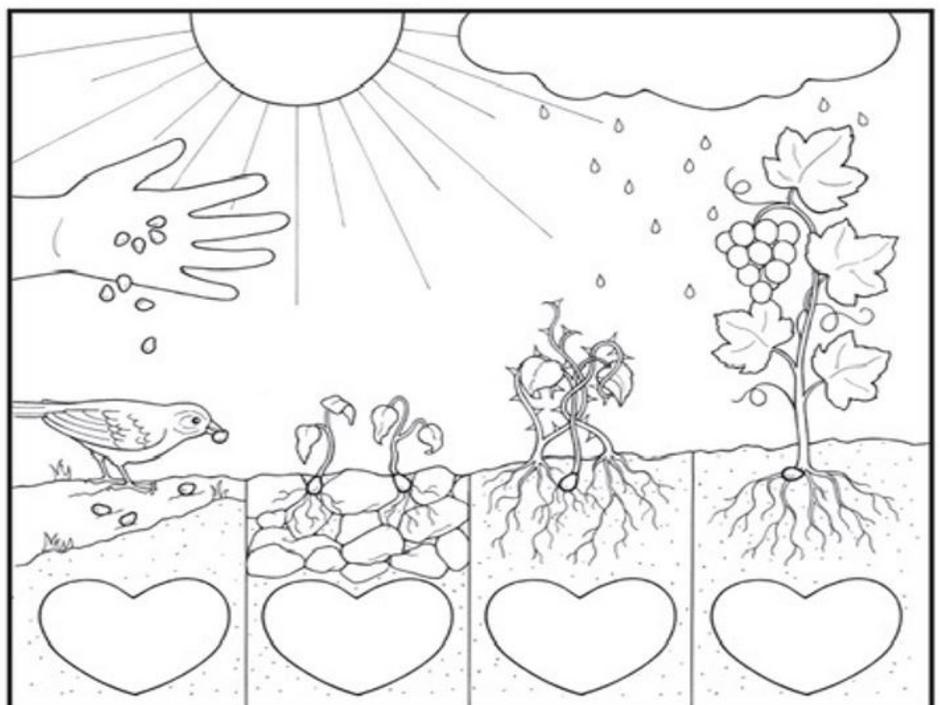
What soil are you?

♡ Heard God's word but did not understand (Matthew 13:19)

♡ Heard God's word but was offended (Matthew 13:20-21)

♡ Heard God's word but became worldly (Matthew 13:22)

♡ Heard God's word and understood it (Matthew 13:23)



News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

Clover Hill Reformed Church welcomes all to attend the Autumn Reading/Conversation Group

890 Amwell Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844 / Nevius Fellowship Hall
908-369-8451 / chrc1834@gmail.com / www.cloverhillchurch.org

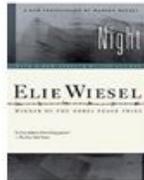
How does an author tell an “untellable” story? How do accounts capture our harsh world of increasing controversy? How do we respond when societal values clash with religious teachings? Why has art become contentious?



How do YOU respond when you read?
If you would like to join a conversation group responding to short, challenging realistic works, please express your interest to the Clover Hill church office, 908-369-8451 or email chrc1834@gmail.com

Readings

- Session 3: October 1: “Tenth of December” by George Saunders
- Session 4: October 8: The Book of Job



Week three will be copied and provided, if requested. Bibles can be borrowed from CHRC for reading, The Book of Job.

Please read the selection for participation or come and listen to the conversation.

Facilitator: Gary Keck



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.

**"Prayer should not be regarded as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty."
- E.M. Bounds**



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

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

Matthew 18:20 (NLT)

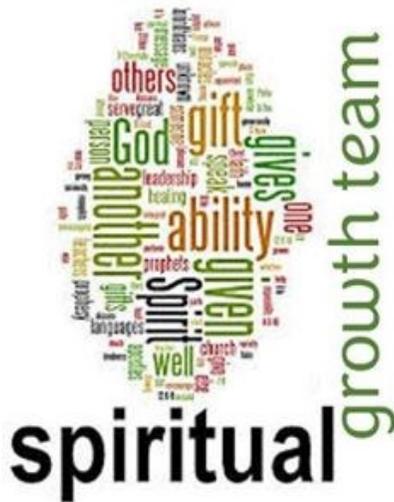
For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."

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** – PJ's allowed!

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

News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...



Do you have an interest in our church worship, education and music?

Come, join the team –your interest, ideas, and gifts are needed and welcomed!

The Spiritual Growth Team (SGT) meetings occur quarterly on Zoom or in-person and as needed for advisement for decision making or recommendations for these areas of our church life.

The team members welcome and encourage you to join them in being a voice in the growth of our church.

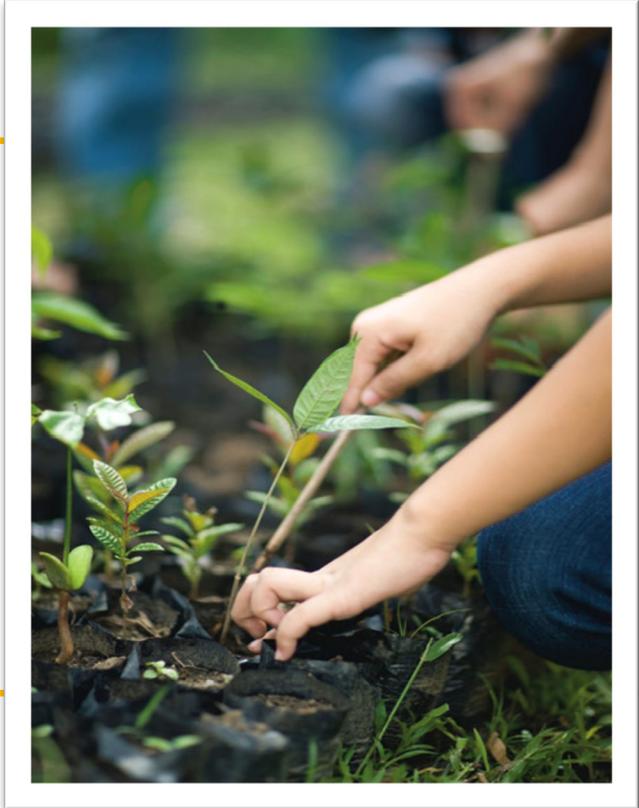
Please contact the church office (chrc1834@gmail.com/908-369-8451) or Carolyn Keck—SGT coordinator- (carolynkeck64@gmail.com/732-715-1886) if you would like to join the SGT for the coming year.

Coming Soon in mid-October

Grains of Gratitude

The Family Resources page on the Clover Hill Church website offers all configurations of families, intergenerational friends and neighbors, the opportunity to learn with music, games, writing, crafts and videos. Explore the harvest parables of Jesus and the gratitude we have for God’s love and one another.

Have you thanked someone today?



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 / (deuscaritasest@aol.com) or cell number (732) 599-4077

From “Sweet Caroline” to “We Will Rock You,” raucous crowds of thousands never have any hesitancy about singing along at sporting events. When it comes to Worship, however, it can be hard for a music minister to lift every voice. Everyone has their own preferences when it comes to music and some people just aren’t drawn to singing, but music at Worship is more than just music. It’s a Christian exercise in prayer.

I think it’s important that the music contain a beautiful expression of prayer. This is not to say that the music itself must be beautiful, but rather the beauty is found in the expression of the prayer. Like most aspects of our faith, it’s the intention that matters most. If one intends on raising one’s voice to sing glory to God, the song becomes beautiful in its own right.

We’re called as Christians to bear witness to Jesus Christ, to participate in the Worship of God, and to be in communion with one another. Singing in one voice with our community fosters unity and brings us closer to God. It harkens back to the direction of Jesus when He said, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Sacred music is the language of prayer. It merges beautiful melodies, symbolic of prayer, often with the words of scripture. St. Augustine goes so far as to suggest that, “If there be praise, and it be not of God, it is no hymn: if there be praise, and God’s praise, and it be not sung, it is no hymn. It needs then, if it be a hymn, have these three things, both praise, and that of God, and singing” (from Augustine’s Exposition on Psalm 73). St. Augustine was not just trying to get the whole congregation singing. He was explaining that the value of music was so deep that adding it to prayerful words makes the prayer even more powerful.

We can clearly see the value of singing at Worship and what it can add to a prayer, but these can be small comforts to unconfident singers as the new hymn approaches. Fear not, for I have some tips to make your Worship-singing experience less stressful and hopefully more pleasurable.

What if I don’t know the song and can’t read music?

Learning hymns is a common problem. Maybe you feel like Mr. Bean in his famous “Hallelujah” skit. Check out the link. It’s worth the watch!! https://youtu.be/Y_mz1Uqjaog?si=XkfZol7Dgzl7zQQu

In the scene Mr. Bean hums along with “All Creatures of Our God and King,” only to loudly sing at the “Alleluia” sections. The skit is funny because it’s a real-to-life scenario that many of us have faced. If you don’t know all the words to a hymn, no one will deduct points from your performance for only singing what you know. You go to Worship with the intention of singing and every little bit that you can contribute to the prayer counts.

What if I don’t like my own singing voice?

Whether you have a voice that’s meant for American Idol or not, your voice was placed in this world by our Creator. Singing at Worship is not a matter of pride, but a chance to lay ourselves bare to Jesus Christ. Once this is understood, it actually takes a lot of the pressure off.

What if I just don’t like singing?

Some people just plain don’t like to sing. There’s nothing wrong with this. I would say, it’s wise to acknowledge that this is your cross to bear. This is a chance for you to take an uncomfortable moment and, as your mother may have instructed you, “Kiss it up to God.”

God made every voice and He wants to hear them all; the good, the bad, and even the ugly.

In Faith and Song,
George Farrell

News from the Service Team

Coordinator: Barbara Sarzillo (barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com)

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

In the Spotlight

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.



What Does 211 Do?

No matter the situation, the specialists at 211 listen, identify underlying problems, and connect people in need with resources and services in their community that improve their lives. In 2018 alone, 211s in the US answered almost 11 million calls and almost 1 million texts, chats and emails, helping millions of people with life-changing support.

Why Does 211 Matter?

211 does more than “patch people through” to agencies. Instead, 211 specialists are trained to identify root causes of a client’s problem – and connect them with a wide range of available resources that meet all the underlying needs, not just the one that prompted the call, text or email. No other program has its “finger on the pulse” of America’s greatest needs. It’s a vital part of United Way’s efforts to build stronger communities and fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. 211 makes the social services ecosystem/network more efficient by ensuring people in need are connected to agencies that can help them.

For free and confidential information and referrals in New Jersey, contact **NJ 211**:

CALL : 2-1-1 or 877-NJ2114U (877-652-1148)

EMAIL : info@nj211.org

WEB : www.nj211.org

TEXT: Text your zip code to 898-211

News from the Fellowship Team

Coordinator: Barbara Sarzillo (barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com)

Fellowship and Service Teams meeting will be on Tuesday, October 10, at 1:30 pm in the Nevius Fellowship Hall.

Skins of Hope Zoom meetings will be on Thursdays, November 2, 2023, 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)

Communications Team meeting Tuesday, September 5, at 3:30 pm in the Nevius Fellowship Hall.

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 to 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, 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 November issue, to the church office (chrc1834@gmail.com), by Thursday, October 19, 2023.

Come join the fun at the Readington River Medieval Fair & Market!

The Readington River Buffalo Farm in collaboration with Stanton Reformed Church will hold a Festival with a magical, Medieval Fair on Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 10am to 9pm (rain date October 21.)

The festival will include an amazing 4-acre walk-through corn maze, hayrides, food court, a saloon serving craft beer and hard seltzer, live music, and craft vendors. A Medieval Magic Castle will include a Mysterious Forest Walkway, Fencing Demonstrations, Hair Braiding, Rune stone painting, photo booth with costumes & Medieval Spellcasting Class. Hand-crafted magic wands, princess jewelry & other items will be available for sale in the castle. Everyone entering the castle will receive a free arm cuff! A special family friendly Witch's Brew non-alcoholic Punch will also be offered for sale.

"This is going to be an extraordinary family event!" says farm owner Scarlett Doyle, "We invite you to wear your medieval costumes if you have them. Come ready to have a good time!"

Event organizer Donna Herb says, "I'm really excited about the activities like Rune stone painting, fencing demos and the Medieval Wands and Spells class where kids get to join in and cast magic spells to float feathers and turn on a light together!"

Entrance for Parking is at 42 Woodchurch Road, Flemington, NJ 08822, about 1 mile off Route 523). Parking is \$3 per car.

For more information contact njbison@icloud.com (Buffalo Farm)



Caption: Farm owner Erick Doyle plans all summer to create a one-of-a-kind, Get Medieval Walk-Thru Corn Maze. The maze spreads over 4-acres and offers family fun for all ages.

Come join us for our
**Chicken Cordon Bleu
Dinner**

**Saturday,
October 14, 2023**

4:00-6:30pm

at

South Branch Reformed Church
870 River Road, Hillsborough

**\$20 per
ticket**



Menu:

Chicken Cordon Bleu
Noodles Romanoff
Broccoli
Braised Red Cabbage
Dilled Cucumber Salad
Fruit Cup
Dinner Rolls
Coffee, Hot Tea,
Iced Tea, & Lemonade
Assorted Desserts

For more information or reservations, please call 908-369-4956,
or purchase your tickets in advance on-line at:
app.gopassage.com/events/cordon-bleu

OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 am Choir rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am Worship & School World Wide Communion</p> <p>11:00 am Autumn Reading/ Conversation Group in the NFHall</p>	2	<p>3</p> <p>12noon-1:30pm Classis Clergy luncheon in the NFHall</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom</p> <p>8:00-11:00 am Prayers</p> <p>11am-2pm NFHall in use</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11:30am sanctuary use by organist</p>	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 am Choir rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am Congregational meeting</p> <p>10:00 am Worship & School</p> <p>11:00 am Autumn Reading/ Conversation Group in the NFHall</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>11am-2pm NFHall in Use</p> <p>1:30 pm Fellowship & Service Team meeting NFHall</p> <p>7:00 pm Classis meeting off-site</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom</p> <p>8:00-11:00 am Prayers</p> <p>8:00 am Garden Angels meet</p> <p>11am-2pm NFHall in use</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11:30am sanctuary use by organist</p> <p>4:30 pm Spiritual Growth Team meeting in the NFHall</p> <p>7:00 pm Stewardship Team meeting Zoom</p>	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 am Choir rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am Worship & School Reaffirmation Sunday</p> <p>11:00 am What the Bible Says About Gender & Sexuality in the NFHall</p>	16	<p>17</p> <p>11am-2pm NFHall in use</p> <p>8:00 am Clean Team</p> <p>7:00 pm Consistory meeting NFHall</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom</p> <p>8:00-11:00 am Prayers</p> <p>11am-2pm NFHall in use</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:30am sanctuary use by organist</p> <p>12:00 pm Pastoral Care Team meeting Zoom</p> <p>Belltower Deadline</p>	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 am Choir</p> <p>10:00 am Worship & School</p> <p>11:00 am CPR Course in the NFHall</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>11am-2pm NFHall in Use</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom</p> <p>8:00-11:00 am Prayers</p> <p>11am-2pm NFHall in use</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11:30am sanctuary use by organist</p>	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 am Choir</p> <p>10:00 am Worship & School / Beginning of 2024 Stewardship Campaign</p> <p>11:00 am What the Bible Says About Gender & Sexuality in the NFHall</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p>Prayer "Refresh"</p> <p>11am-2pm NFHall in use</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Consistory</p> <p>The Consistory will meet</p> <p>Tuesday, October 17, at 7:00 pm in the</p> <p>Nevius Fellowship Hall.</p> </div>			