



IN THIS FALL 2024 ISSUE . . .

We are so excited to welcome everyone back for a new program year! Throughout these pages you will find some old traditions, such as Welcome Back Sunday on September 8 (page 5) and some new programs, Dinner Church for all ages (page 3) and Pastor in the Pews! (page 15). Also be sure to Save the Date of Sunday, October 20 for the Installation of Rev. Thomas A. Brown as Pastor of PCCT! We have so much to look forward to and can't wait to see you!

Message from the Pastor, The Rev. Thomas A. Brown



Dear PCCT Members and Friends,

A new program year is now upon us and I am delighted to share with you this overview of our fall programs and activities. The Session, staff, and committees have been hard at work over the past nine months navigating the transition that has brought us to this point, and we are ready to launch into a new and hopeful season of mission and ministry together as a congregation.

Much will look familiar as we return to worship in the Sanctuary on Welcome Back Sunday (September 8), with music led by the choir, our Director of Music, Matt Zabiegala, and our choral scholars, followed by a picnic on the front lawn. Church School and Confirmation begin the following week and Yvonne Anderson, our Director of Children's Ministries, already has all kinds of fun activities planned for

the children. Our mission commitments have continued throughout the summer and will provide a number of meaningful ways to serve others in this and nearby communities. Before we know it, pumpkins will be dotting the front lawn, the Congregational Nominating Committee will start its work, and we'll be hearing kids sing in church again. Fellowship groups will begin meeting again soon and I will be leading a mid-week morning Bible Study on Wednesdays.

Be on the lookout for new initiatives as well, including an interfaith dialogue with friends from Congregation Beth Hatikvah in Summit and two new occasional worship experiences Session is introducing in response to the listening sessions held last spring.

DINNER CHURCH is an informal, all-ages worship service to be held around tables in Mulford Hall. Plan to join us Wednesday, September 11 at 6:00 pm and again on November 13.

PASTOR IN THE PEWS SUNDAY will take place quarterly and feature PCCT members leading all aspects of the service, including the sermon. Look for more information coming soon and consider joining the design team for a member-led service on October 13.

After reading through these pages and learning more about what's in store for PCCT this fall, it is my great hope that you will find something of particular interest and commit to being part of the new chapter that is before us. For Welcome Back Sunday, our theme is "Count Me In!" Come and see what that might mean for you. Alternatively, please call, text, email me, or stop by the office for a more personal and one-on-one conversation. I can't wait to see you!

God is good,

Pastor Tom



Save the Date of Sunday, October 20, at 4:00 pm for the Installation of Rev. Thomas A. Brown as Pastor of PCCT. This service of worship and celebration is led by a commission of elders and pastors from the presbytery and is open to the community and congregation. The service will feature our chancel choir and some special guests. A reception will follow the service.

Sunday Highlights at a Glance



Worship In-person and Livestreamed every Sunday at 10 am.

Sunday, September 8, Welcome Back Sunday! (See page 5)

Sunday, September 15, Church School Begins! Commissioning of Teachers and Confirmands

Sunday, October 6, World Communion

Sunday, October 13, Pumpkins Arrive! (See page 17)

Sunday, October 20, 4:00 pm, Installation Service of Rev. Thomas A. Brown as Pastor followed by a reception at 4:00 pm (See page 2)

Sunday, October 27, 3 pm, Thomas Keesecker Concert (See page 6)

Sunday, November 17, 3:30 pm, Service of Remembrance

Sunday, November 24, Harvest Sunday, Stewardship Sunday, Giving Trees

December 1, First Sunday in Advent

NEW! Midweek Dinner Church

Wed, September 11, 6:00 – 7:15 pm
Mulford Hall

Dinner Church* is an informal, all-ages worship service to be held on occasional Wednesday evenings. Come as you are for a casual dinner and time to center your week around the sustaining presence of God. This month's theme, "Cast your Cares upon the Lord" acknowledges the anxieties each of us carries, with a special focus on those starting back to school and facing new challenges. Through prayer, music, and a brief message, we'll together seek to relieve some of the burdens we are carrying through the week. There is nothing you need to bring. Expect to be fed in body, mind, and spirit and to be on your way home no later than 7:15 pm.

**Dinner Church is offered in response to feedback received during to last spring's Listening Sessions, and seeks to provide an alternative worship experience to anyone looking for deeper connections with their church family or who finds it challenging to attend worship on Sunday mornings. "Gratitude" will be the theme of our next Dinner Church gathering on Wed, November 13 at 6:30 pm.*

A Few Summer Highlights!



To name a few! Community Garden, Painting the Cross, Pride Vespers, Youth Mission Trip, Marla Drury Memorial Scholarships, Vacation Bible School, Thanksgiving in June and Backpacks!



Let's Kick-off the Program Year Together!

Welcome Back Sunday

Sunday, Sept 8

WORSHIP 10 am

Family Worship

Families will attend worship together.

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC 11 am

Front Lawn

Hot dogs and burgers

Side Salads and chips, an ice cream sundae bar, Bouncy House, Face painting, games, and fun for all ages!



Caring for the Community Concert

Saturday, September 21, 6:00—8:30 pm

Save the date for our “**Caring for the Community Concert**” on the lawn to be held on September 21 with music provided by **Blue Soul**, a beloved local band that will play a **two-hour concert from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**. The event is free of charge and we will be grilling hotdogs, offering chips, water, and ice cream. Bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets, and your favorite picnic foods, or appetizers and BYO beverages of choice. We want to celebrate our community, and especially lift up a mission partner that cares for the community with us. To this end, all attendees are encouraged to bring a donation item for the **Helping Hands of Chatham** non-profit charity that stores its donated goods in our church. We are grateful to the anonymous donor that made this free dinner and concert possible, and for all of our volunteers who will be helping that night. Please sign up to be part of the helping team on our sign up genius link on our website at pcct-nj.org.



Director of Music, Matt Zabiegala



It's been a wonderful summer of music here at PCCT! Many thanks to all of those who shared their musical gifts to further enhance our worship services and bring us closer together in faith.

We began the summer in June with a beautiful celebration of music and faith at our Pride Vespers service, surrounded by love and music. Throughout the summer we featured guest soloists; Choral Scholar singer Cameron Mustizer; Carol Wooldredge (cello); and Sandy Batten (piano) to enrich our worship services in Halldorson Hall. Many thanks to all of those who shared their musical gifts to further enhance our worship services and bring us closer together in faith.

Through the generous support of the Revitalization Fund, "Concerts@PCCT", our Concert Series, had a wonderful second year! We will continue our Concert Series with exciting concerts in our stunning Sanctuary. We are excited to announce a Thomas Keesecker Concert (see below); Lyrica Chamber Music, which has had a long-history here at PCCT, will continue to feature world-class artists; Summit Chorale and the Vocalo Professional Choir will also be hosted at PCCT. Stay tuned for dates.



SAVE THE DATE! Thomas Keesecker Concert, October 27, 3 pm, PCCT Sanctuary

Thomas Keesecker will share music from his bestselling piano collections in a 75-minute concert. Keesecker, a composer and church musician as well as performer, is known around the country for his sensitive, delightful, and meditative piano arrangements of hymns. At this concert, we'll be able to sing some of them together, as well as listen to his interpretations. The hymns will be interspersed with poetry by Mary Oliver and Wendell Berry, two of the most beloved and profound poets of the 20th and 21st centuries. CDs of his music will be available for purchase after the concert.

Tom retired in 2019 after serving as a church musician for over 40 years in Lutheran and Roman Catholic parishes in Virginia, Montana, and Maryland. His sacred music is published by MorningStar, Augsburg Fortress, Choristers Guild, Concordia, and GIA. He studied at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and the Catholic University School of Music in Washington, D.C. He mixes classical technique, jazz improvisation, Celtic and folk music influences in his arrangements. His music may be listened to on Amazon Music and YouTube.

Announcement Coming Soon! New Director of Children's Music.



Director of Family Ministries, Yvonne Anderson



Welcome back PCCT Family! While the summer months provided a great time for outdoor fun and vacationing, I'm excited for the fall programs we've planned!

This year we have many engaging and fun things in store including Church School, Breakfast Club, Wednesday Chat and Chew and NEW! Dinner Church.

We also have some "Family Event Dates" so be sure to mark your calendars. See pages 8 and 9 for our full schedule.

See you on Welcome Back Sunday, on September 8th. Following worship at 10 am, we will have food, face painting, an ice cream sundae bar and a Castle Bouncy House on the front lawn!



VBS 2024

Nursery Care, Makenna Waller



Our nursery care teacher, Ms. Makenna makes sure all of our little ones are safe and cared for while their parents are in worship.

Nursery-care is for infants through pre-K.





CHURCH SCHOOL SY 2024-2025

Welcome Back Sunday- September 8, 2024
(Picnic, Face-Painting, Ice Cream Social)

September

- 15th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 22nd-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 29th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care

October

- 6th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 13th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 20th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 27th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care

November

- 3rd-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 10th-** ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE- Wear Pajamas
- 17th-** Extended Church School (12:00pm), Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 24th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care

December

- 1st-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 8th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 15th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 22nd-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 29th-** No Church School or Nursery Care

January

- 5th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 12th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 19th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 26th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care

February

- 2nd-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 9th-** Extended Church School (12:00pm), Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 16th-** No Church School, or Nursery Care
- 23rd-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care

March

- 2nd-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 9th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 16th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 23rd-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 30th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care

April

- 6th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 13th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
PALM PARADE
- 20th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 27th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care

May

- 4th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 11th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 18th-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 26th-** No Church School, or Nursery Care

June

- 1st-** Church School, Breakfast Club & Nursery Care
- 8th-** Last Day of Church School, Breakfast Club
*Nursery Care will continue through end of June

Family Event Dates

- September 11-** Family Dinner Church & Craft (6pm)
- September 21—** PCCT Concert Night
- November 13-** Family Dinner Church & Craft
- November 16-** Family/Friends Bowling Event
- December 24th-** Christmas Eve Play & Children's Church
- February 12-** Family Dinner Church & Craft (6pm)
- March 15-** Family Craft Night (5pm)

CHAT & CHEW

SY 2024-2025

September
18th, 25th

October
9th, 16th, 30th
*(Halloween Party-
Invite Friends)*

November
6th, 13th, 20th

December
4th, 11th, 18th

January
8th, 15th, 22nd

February
5th, 19th, 26th

March
12th, 19th, 26th

April
2nd, 9th, 30th

May
14th, 21st, 28th

June
4th (LAST DAY)

Family Event Dates

September 11- Family Dinner Church & Craft
(6pm)

September 21 - PCCT Concert Night

November 13- Family Dinner Church & Craft

November 16- Family/Friends Bowling Event

December 24th- Christmas Eve Play &
Children's Church

February 12- Family Dinner Church & Craft
(6pm)

March 15- Family Craft Night (5pm)

Middle School Youth Fellowship & Senior High Fellowship

As we are actively looking to hire a Youth Director, we anticipate sharing more news about our Middle School and Senior High Fellowship Groups later this fall. Be on the look out for more information in our eblasts and bulletin announcements!



Confirmation Class

Confirmation at PCCT is a nine-month program of learning, service, and participation in the worshipping life of our congregation. Targeted to ninth grade youth, but open to anyone in high school, the program is designed to prepare young people to become adult members of the church; enable them to make a public profession of faith; and invite them to complete the vows made by their parents at the time of their baptisms.

Classes, which bookend Sunday worship, are taught by members Scott Heller and Stacy McCann. Students arrive at 9:15 am, attend worship at 10, and return to class from 11:00 to 11:45 am. For more information, please contact Rev. Tom Brown



Confirmation Orientation & Commissioning

Sunday, September 15

Orientation: 9 am in Halldorson Hall

Commissioning: 10 am during worship

2024 Youth Mission Trip Reunion

Sunday, Sept 22

6:00 - 8:00 pm

All trip participants are invited to join us!

Hosted by the Zehner Family

Join us for a fun and relaxed evening hosted by the Zehner family as we relive highlights and tell stories from our week in North Carolina. We'll have photos to share and a delicious dinner. Hope you can be there - it will be so great to see everyone!



Opportunities for All! Get Involved!



GREETERS: It is wonderful to be able to warmly welcome and greet members and especially visitors on Sunday mornings to our worship services. You can easily sign up by clicking on the link [HERE](#) or by calling the church office.

USHERS: We have an immediate need for more people to serve as ushers each week. New ushers will be placed on a team and be part of a rotating schedule. We will provide you with all the instructions and details. We also need elders and deacons to serve on our communion usher teams on the first of each month, and whenever communion is served. Please reach out to the [church office](#) if you are interested.



COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: Everyone enjoys time after worship services to be able to greet and talk with friends and enjoy a cup of coffee or glass of lemonade in the summer months. If you would be interested in hosting one week, everything you need is provided, along with written directions. To learn more please contact the Welcoming Committee or call the church office.

TABULATORS: Tabulators work in teams to process donations and other income in a structured way to ensure gifts are recorded properly and deposits are made in a timely fashion. The process takes less than an hour and each team tabulates 6-8 times a year. Training & Instructions are provided. Please contact the [church office](#) if interested.



TECH TEAM: Volunteers are needed to join the Tech Team to run the livestream equipment each Sunday. This group is responsible for managing the audio, camera angles, livestream connection, and overall production for each service. The Team's work is critical in offering high quality, easily accessible services so everyone can worship from home. Groups of two to three volunteers per Sunday will be formed on a rotating schedule to ensure coverage. NO experience is necessary; training is available to learn how to run the equipment. If interested, contact the church office pcctoffice@pcct-nj.org

Count Me In!

What would it mean for you to set aside 2, 5, or even 10 hours a month and offer that time as a gift to God and in service your church? There are all sorts of things you could do, either as an ongoing commitment or simply by signing up to help on a schedule that works for you.

This fall, as we emerge from a period of transition, a new chapter is waiting to be written, and there are more reasons than ever to jump in and get engaged in the many things we are doing to change lives and support one other along life's journey. As seasons change in your own life, with the kids getting older, a recent retirement or an empty nest, the conclusion of other volunteer commitments, or simply from a renewed interest, please consider making a renewed investment of your time and energy in this beloved congregation.

In just a couple of hours each month, you can...

- Make a lasting difference in the lives of our children and youth as a Church School teacher, assistant, or Confirmation leader.
- Join the tech team and help make our worship services available to members via livestream. Our current team provides helpful on-the-job training and coaching with a smile!
- Help feed hungry people by harvesting produce in our Community Garden, assembling (from home) Breakfast Bags for Nourish.NJ, or repackaging non-perishable items at the Community Food Bank in Hillside.
- Host fellowship time (and learn how to use the coffee machine), serve as a worship assistant, or learn to be a tabulator.
- Assist with special projects around the church, help out in the office, or spruce up the grounds.
- Join a fellowship group or help start a new one!

Need more flexibility? We have all sorts of opportunities that are sign-up based, so you can find specific times that work for you or help out on a seasonal basis.

Have more time to give? Consider serving on a committee, joining the choir, or responding affirmatively to an invitation to serve as a Deacon or Elder. You could also choose a variety of smaller opportunities.

With a new program year set to launch September 8, the truth is we need you. With new staff still coming on board, and our new model for pastoral leadership, your time will be a gift that contributes in tangible ways to the ongoing vitality of PCCT.

The place to start is by filling out our Count Me In! Interest Form [HERE](#)

Our current needs:

Volunteers for [Welcome Back Sunday](#) (Sign-up [HERE](#)) on Sept 8

Set up and serving help for Dinner Church (see page 3) on Sept 11. Contact the church office.

Additional opportunities will be shared in weekly e-blasts and other announcements.

It's a great time to be the church – we hope you'll join us for the journey with an enthusiastic "Count Me In!"

Women's Ministries

Your generosity is so appreciated with our announcement of the Marla Drury Memorial Scholarship this year. Congratulations to Natalie and Kai.

Created by the Women's Ministries, the scholarship is awarded to any current high school senior or college student who is an active PCCT member and exemplifies the same generous, giving spirit as Marla did. We know Marla would be proud of Natalie and Kai for their many volunteer hours and for selflessly serving their community throughout high school and college.

All women of the church are part of Women's Ministries and we want you to become involved! Read about the additional small groups that are a part of WM, and join them if you are interested. If you would like to get involved or have any questions, please contact the church office.

A NEW DAY

Widows' Group
11:30 am Halldorson Hall

Monday, September 9
Program: New Beginnings

Monday, October 7
Program: Craft Project

Through friendship and understanding this group of caring women provide opportunities to share and discuss mutual concerns. Please join us on September 9 for fellowship and discussion as we make plans for the Fall Season.

Watch for news of a new group venture for mature women of various life experiences.

We meet on the first Monday of each Month (except when pre-empted by a Holiday) Please bring your lunch—Beverages and Dessert will be provided.

For further information please contact
Coordinator: Ann Meyers

THE NEXT ACT

9:30-11:00 am, Theos
September 16, 30
October 14, 28
November 11, 25
December Cookie Baking and Brunch dates TBA.

Have you wondered what God is calling you to do next? Please join us as we navigate the next phase of our lives through prayer, fellowship, discussion, and healthy doses of laughter. This group also occasionally does church-sponsored mission projects.

Coordinators: Deb Ahsler and Lisa Boles.
Contact the church office for additional information.

MILESTONE GROUP

Women's Evening Fellowship Milestone's Group (Date TBA)

Please join other PCCT midlife moms for "Milestones, embracing grace in the middle place". We gather at someone's home for an evening of fellowship and book discussion. Even if you don't have time to do the reading, please join us for a relaxing evening of conversation.

Coordinators:
Julie Bliemel, Stacy McCann and Carlene Pruitt

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Learn to knit at PCCT!

Calling all knitters and crocheters — beginners, experts, and anyone in between are welcome! The prayer shawl ministry will be meeting in Griswold parlor at PCCT on the third Monday of every month through June. Please join us on Monday, September 16 at 7 pm for our first session of the fall. Refreshments will be provided, so we can sip, stitch, catch up, and learn to knit or crochet. Yarn and needles will be provided if you're a beginner or don't have a project in the works - let us know if you need supplies.

Coordinators:
Patti Montefusco and Anne Fields

Fall Adult Education Opportunities

Interfaith Dialogue to Begin this Fall

Do you like talking with people of different faiths? Are you interested in dialogue with your neighbors? PCCT is starting a new interfaith partnership for discussion, learning, and growth with members of Congregation Beth Hatikvah, a Reconstructionist Synagogue with several ties to our church. As a first step, we are looking for anyone who might be interested in joining a small group meeting later in the fall to meet with Pastor Tom and Rabbi Allyson Zacharoff to talk about the project and get to know members of the other community. **Please hold the evening of Saturday, Nov 16, as a likely first gathering and [email Pastor Tom](#) by Sept 15 if you are interested, regardless of availability for that particular date.**

Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday Morning 9:30 am, beginning September 18

Members and friends interested in an opportunity for regular bible study are invited to an organizational meeting on Wednesday, Sept 18 at 9:30 am in Halldorson Hall. We'll discuss format, topics, and planning for the fall. Led by Pastor Tom, this group will meet regularly on Wednesday mornings.

PCCT Financial Update – Sunday, September 22, 11:00 am, Halldorson Hall

As part of its ongoing efforts at transparency and keeping the congregation informed, Session members will share a financial update to the congregation in early September followed by a special Faith Forward presentation on Sunday, Sept 22. Topics will include a report on current year finances, a preview of the 2025 Stewardship Campaign "Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow" and financial goals for 2025, and plans for addressing significant building infrastructure needs over the next 6 to 9 months. A Q&A session will follow the presentation. (A letter will be sent out via email in early September to share a financial update prior to this informative session.)

Pastor in the Pews – Church led by You!

Sunday, October 15

Be sure to join us Sunday, October 15 for the first in a quarterly series we're calling "Pastor in the Pews," when church will be led by you, the members! All aspects of the service, including the sermon, will be planned and led by members of PCCT. If you are interested in being part of a 4-5 person design team to work – with Pastor Tom's assistance – on developing the service, please contact the church office or Pastor Tom. **An organizational meeting will be held Sunday, September 15 at 11:15 am in person or on Zoom.** Pastor in the Pews, along with Dinner Church are new occasional worship experiences Session is introducing in response to the listening sessions held last spring.

Community Support Group

The following group meets at PCCT and is open to all members of the community. Pre-registration is not required. Please contact the church office if you need additional information.

Compassionate Friends

Third Sundays (Second Sundays in June and December)

7:00 p.m., Halldorson Hall

Compassionate Friends provides comfort, hope and support to families experiencing the death of a child and helps others better assist the grieving family. Website: www.compassionatefriendsnj.org

Join Us! Mission and Service at PCCT (and beyond)

PCCT is committed to addressing the needs of our local community and beyond as we feed the hungry, provide disaster relief, house the homeless, work to alleviate poverty, and care for the environment.



Community Food Bank of New Jersey

Volunteers ages 12 and up are invited to join us on (Oct 19, Nov 16 & Dec 7) from 9-11am at the Community Food Bank, located in Hillside. Depending on the day, we may end up assembling food boxes, sorting donated items, or repackaging bulk food for distribution to local warehouses. We never really know what's in store until we arrive! Participants must sign up in advance through the PCCT website or by contacting Joslin Ruffle. Carpooling can be arranged for those who need it.



Annual Market Street Mission Coat Collection

We will be collecting gently used, clean coats, new handmade or purchased warm winter hats, scarves and gloves for the Annual Market Street Mission Coat Giveaway. Look for the large collection box in the Upper Lobby from 9/8-10/23.



nourish.NJ: Breakfast Bags

Purchase the items, assemble the bags at home and drop them off at Mulford Hall before the 4th Thursday of every month. You can sign up on the board in the Upper Lobby. Contact our PCCT member liaison Story Savage with any questions. This is a great way for the whole family to help someone in need.

Chatham Community Food Distribution at CUMC During the month of September



PCCT will be collecting food quarterly for the Food Pantry housed at the Chatham United Methodist Church. We will be collecting food throughout September. Please place your donations in our "Food Collection Bin" in the Upper Lobby or bring to church with you on **Sunday, September 29**. Bags and a list of most wanted items will be available inside the glass entranceway. Future collection dates will be communicated through weekly eblasts and bulletin announcements.

Annual Pumpkin Patch and Community Garden



2024 Pumpkin Patch

Pumpkins arrive Sunday, October 13. Save the Date!

This October PCCT will hold its 18th annual Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser to help address hunger in our area. Pumpkins of all sizes and a variety of colorful gourds will be on sale. PCCT buys them from the Navajo Indians in New Mexico, and the net proceeds from the sale are divided equally between Nourish.nj and the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Hillside. Help us to make 2024's Pumpkin Patch an even greater success by volunteering to work at the Patch and through the purchase of pumpkins and gourds. Sign-ups will be available on our website and on the board in the Upper Lobby. New Hours during the week, the patch will be open 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm.

Pumpkin Delivery and Patch Setup Sunday, October 13 - Save the Date!

All Hands on Deck! Your help is needed getting ready for the Pumpkin Patch! The pumpkins are scheduled to arrive Sunday, October 13, and we need your help unloading the truck and setting up the tent. The PCCT Pumpkin Patch is a major mission fundraiser with all proceeds going to local hunger relief efforts. Additional details and timing will be shared in e-blasts and other announcements - stay tuned!

PCCT Community Garden

The fruits of our labor! Hard work pays off. Thank you to all of the volunteers and to Craig, Lisa and Natalie Duke for making our Community Garden a reality! We have donated a total of over 750



pounds in the 3 years we have been up and running! Many thanks to all our builders, shovelers, and gardeners for making our third season a resounding success! God Bless.

In September we will be picking lots of vegetables and also preparing beds for fall planting. Please sign-up [HERE](#) to help. We will help out anyone who signs up. Gardening is more fun when you do it with others and we can definitely use more help during the fall.

"Total Garbage"

Plastics are everywhere. This ubiquitous component of our every day products and packaging has created an enormous plastic waste stream of more than 400 million tons a year worldwide, and growing. "Almost every piece of plastic trash ever made still exists in some form. With only 9 percent of plastic trash recycled and, at best, about two-thirds safely ensconced in landfills, that still leaves a lot of plastic waste to find its way into oceans, rivers, soil, animals, and us."¹

Edward Humes the author of the book "Total Garbage" takes you on an environmental journey from 1924 when there were no plastics until today when we are at a saturation point. The amount of plastics we have pumped into the air, land, and oceans is now a global plague that is affecting everyone.

Micro plastics are turning up everywhere. The average American ingests the equivalent amount of one plastic credit card a week. US drinking water is more polluted with microplastics than other countries because we produce and buy more plastic bottles.

Plastics out in the wild or in our oceans do not become fertilizer or soil or food for living things like most natural materials. No, plastic waste will become smaller and smaller particles due to sun, wind, waves, and other natural forces (even unfortunately some types of plastic recycling). This is how plastic has infested our soil, air, water, food, and even our bodies.

In "Total Garbage," Humes talks about many forms of waste and how much of it is about choice; he tells us "How We Can Fix Our Waste and Heal Our World." This is a very readable book that will make you angry but will also make you see. It exposes the many wasteful habits that have become commonplace in modern society. Humes elicits hope and promise in stories about States like Maine tackling the idea of extended product liability or an innovative entrepreneur that collects plastic films. A recycler from Seattle collects plastic films like wraps, bags, bubble wrap, shipping pillows and grocery bags and sends them to a company in Virginia, Trex. Trex makes decking, furniture and other outdoor items. This saves trees and keeps a formerly unrecyclable plastic out of our environment.

For a good read and more information on how individuals, colleges, schools, and communities can come together and replace waste with abundance, you must read Edward Humes's "Total Garbage".

¹ *Total Garbage* Edward Humes.

Earth Care

PCCT has been certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Environmental Ministries of Presbyterian Church (USA) for more than ten years. A church earns this distinction by tracking its commitments to earth care in the areas of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Learn more about Earth Care at presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment.

*Environmental awareness column presented by the Mission and Outreach Committee as an EarthCare Congregation. Comments or suggestions should be addressed to Linda Naskret, Chair of the Environmental Subcommittee of M&O.

STRENGTH FOR TODAY, BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW

We are excited to announce the launch of our 2025 Stewardship Campaign, **Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow**. Inspired by the hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, this theme reflects God's constant presence and underscores the vital role our church plays in our lives and community.

The stewardship campaign is crucial for sustaining our operating budget—ensuring our worship spaces are maintained, our staff is supported, and our programs continue to make a meaningful impact. Your contribution is vital to keeping PCCT a welcoming place for all and investing in the future of our church.

As we look ahead, our goal of \$700,000 will build a strong foundation that will allow us to expand our ministries, support our children and youth, and explore new ways to worship together. By pledging your support, you help secure a vibrant future for our church and community.

Pledge cards for the **Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow** campaign will be mailed in early October.

Stewardship Sunday will once again coincide with **Harvest Sunday on November 24**, a day of celebration, giving, and support. Together, we can ensure that PCCT thrives for years to come. Thank you in advance for your support.





PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

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