



November - December 2025 Programming



Table of Contents

3	A Message from our Pastor
4 - 5	Advent Sermon Series & Worship Highlights
6 - 7	Music Ministries
8 - 9	Advent Traditions
10 - 11	Youth and Family Ministries
12	Holiday Traditions
13 - 15	Mission and Outreach
16 - 17	Adult Education Programs and Small Groups
18 - 19	Sunday Faith Forward and Volunteer Opportunities
20	Stewardship 2026
21	Family Ministries Fall Day Snapshots

Dear Friends,

Holiday celebrations at the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township provide a wealth of opportunities for each of us to enrich our spirits and rekindle our joy. From heart-felt expressions of gratitude on Harvest Sunday to the solemn wonder that accompanies *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve, our upcoming worship services and seasonal events are designed to draw us close as a community of faith where, in the comfort of the church's embrace, each of us might tangibly encounter the Spirit of God who loves us beyond measure.



That same Spirit calls us out of solitude and into a place of belonging where, along with neighbors, friends, and loved ones, we can more fully become the kind of faithful people through whom the light of Christ shines. That is no easy task given all that we witness in the world around us, but together we can find the strength to be people of hope in the world. To that end, I share with you this quote I recently heard:

Hope is not something you find, it is something you practice.

We'll be looking for ways to do just that throughout this season. All along the journey, there will be signposts to help us find our way. The intention of this program guide is to help you know where to look, and to find what best fits with your schedule and interests. I look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks and to practicing our hope together.

With great anticipation,

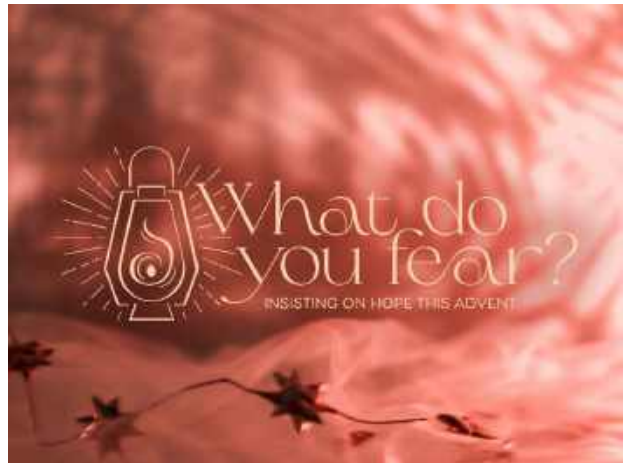
Pastor Tom



Worship with us!

Throughout Advent and Christmas, we will be exploring the theme “What do you fear?”

Luke’s Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: “In the time of Herod...” This seemingly minor detail reveals layers of information about the fearful world he was born into: one filled with rampant instability, uncertainty and oppression - a world, perhaps, not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ’s birth, we hear the whispers of angels delivering a surprising message: “Do not fear.” When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God’s redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, “Here I am, Lord.”



The question this brings up for us, is **“when we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope?”**

This Advent series takes seriously the angels’ message and trusts that Christ’s birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. Fear can divide and paralyze us, unless we learn to form a different relationship with it. Using resources developed by *A Sanctified Art*, LLC, we’ll be looking at ways to acknowledge fear without letting it rule us and consider whether naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work.

I do hope that you will make time to worship with us, in-person or online, that your sense of hope may grow more gritty and resilient. As we journey through this season we will practice hope together, trusting that good news is greater than fear.

Worship at-a-Glance



DINNER CHURCH

Wednesday, November 12

6:00 – 7:15 pm, *Mulford Hall*

Join us as the PCCT community gathers for an informal, interactive, and inter-generational worship service centered around a shared meal. Seasonally themed prayers, music, and a brief message will invite those who attend into the sustaining presence of God as a source of hope and strength. 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 dates for 2026 are: Jan 14, Feb 18 (Ash Wed), and May 6.

PASTOR IN THE PEWS

Remembering the Saints

Sunday, November 2

Join us for this special worship service planned and led by members of the congregation. In honor of All Saints' Day on November 1, our theme will be "Remembering the Saints." As part of the service, we'll share stories of spiritual mentors and friends who have guided and inspired us.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, November 16, 4:00 pm, *Halldorson Hall*

Led by the Deacons and Pastor Tom this contemplative service of candlelight and music provides an opportunity to honor and give thanks for our departed friends and loved ones. During the service, we will take time to remember by name those who have recently passed and those long-missed during the holiday season. All are welcome to join us as we acknowledge our grief and claim the hope we share in God's eternal love.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday, November 25, 7:30 pm

Join with Chatham friends and neighbors across all faiths and traditions in a joyous celebration of the many blessings we share. The event is sponsored by the Interfaith Council of the Chathams and Green Village and will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 200 Main Street, Chatham. Offerings of non-perishable food items will be received for Chatham United Methodist Food Pantry; monetary donations will go to the Chatham Emergency Squad.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Nov-Dec Updates



A Message from Director Caitlyn Huetz

To all my PCCT families and PCCT members; I am so grateful to be stepping into the role of Interim Director of Choirs during this time of transition. It is my goal to continue to provide meaningful music during worship through my direction of the adult and children's ensembles, alongside our guest musicians Emma Liu and Chaequan Anderson through this upcoming Advent season. I am very thankful to my colleagues, the Chancel Choir and Sanctuary Ringers for their continued support and for entrusting me with this role. I look forward to filling the halls of the Sanctuary with joyful sounds, and to continue making music with many of you.

With gratitude, Caitlyn Huetz
Interim Director of Choirs, Director of Children's Music

The Search for New Director of Music

We have begun our search for the new Director of Music position, with hopes that we will continue to receive applications from willing candidates. Anyone with questions or knows of a qualified candidate are encouraged to speak with Pastor Tom.

Children's Music

The Youth Ringers will be ringing the Prelude on November 2nd for All Saints Day!

The Children's Choir will be featured during worship on November 23rd, in a combined anthem with the Chancel Choir.

Parents: Stay tuned for emails and information regarding rehearsal scheduling!

The Youth Ringers, Children's Choir and Chamber Singers will continue to have performance opportunities this Advent during the 3pm Children and Youth Christmas Service.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Nov-Dec Updates



Guest Musician Chaequan Anderson

We are pleased to welcome Chaequan Anderson as a regular guest musician beginning November 16th. Chaequan will be with us through the Advent season, providing accompaniment and musical offerings on piano and organ. He is an active choral conductor and music educator based in Central and Northern New Jersey. He has extensive experience directing school, community, youth, children's, collegiate, church, and professional choirs and previously held the position of Music Director for The First Presbyterian Church of Verona. He holds a BA in Music and Kodaly Levels I & II from Westminster Choir College and a MM in Choral Conducting from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. We are delighted to welcome him to PCCT and are grateful to him for lending his talents to us.

Guest Musician Emma Liu

We are also pleased to welcome Emma Liu back to PCCT as a guest organist and pianist. Emma will be with us on November 9th, and December 14th for our Lessons and Carols Service. We are especially grateful to Emma for serving as our rehearsal pianist for the Chancel Choir during the months of November and December.

Adult Ensembles

The Chancel Choir and Sanctuary Ringers will continue to meet weekly for rehearsals on Thursday evenings, and will continue to provide musical offerings during worship services. If you have any interest in joining either ensemble for the holiday season, please contact Director Caitlyn Huetz.

Advent Services

Dec 14th 10am - Lessons and Carols

Dec 24th 3pm - Children and Youth Service

Dec 24th 5pm - Christmas Eve Service with Brass

Dec 24th 11pm - Christmas Eve Service

Advent Worship Traditions



ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS: Sunday, December 14. 10:00 am

Join us for this special worship service blending music performed by PCCT music groups, along with youth and adult leaders sharing Scripture and featuring festive music and many "sing-a-longs." Don't miss this family friendly celebration of Advent and Christmas.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Children and Youth Christmas Service, 3:00 pm

Led by Elizabeth Monkemeier and Caitlyn Huetz (see more details on page 7.)

Candlelight Service, 5:00 pm

The Rev. Thomas A. Brown

Candlelight Service, 11:00 pm

The Rev. Kathleen Edwards Chase
Assisted by Thomas A. Brown

Children and Youth Christmas Service



Wednesday, December 24th at 3:00 PM

**All Children and Youth from Pre-K to 12th grade are
invited to participate in our 3PM Service.**

Ways to Be Involved

Choir
Handbells
Pageant Role
Worship Speaker
Planning Team
HS Volunteer

Mandatory Rehearsals

Sunday, December 7th
4:00–7:00 PM
Sunday, December 21st
4:00–7:00 PM
Wednesday, December 24th
2 PM call

**Please indicate your interest
by filling out this form!**



ELEMENTARY UPDATE

Upcoming Events!

Parent's Night Out

Friday, November 14th from 5:00 - 8:00pm

Your night out, kids night in for ages 4 and older! Bring your children to the church for games, dinner, and a movie.

Dinner Church!

Wednesday, November 12th from 5:00-6:15pm

The entire family is welcome to join us for this special gathering! We will have a brief Worship service, and dinner in Mulford Hall. Programming for children is available, and more info to come in eblasts!

Church School Volunteer Form



Breakfast Club Food



Midweek Fellowship

Chat & Chew

Join us for K-4 Fellowship on Wednesdays, from 5:30 -7:00pm.

Children will make a craft, have music time with Ms. Caitlyn, share dinner, and learn bible stories and games with Ms. Elizabeth. Older youth encouraged to volunteer!

Remaining 2025 Dates:

November 19th

December 3rd

December 10th



Nursery Care

Nursery Care is available every Sunday from 9:50-11:15am, and extended for our Faith Forward events that follow from 11:00am-12:00pm. Children from infancy to preschool age are invited to spend time during Worship in the Nursery. We have a changing table, pack n' play, and toys for children. Come visit Ms. Emma!

MS AND HS UPDATE

Upcoming Events!

Capture the Flag

Sunday, November 2nd, 5:00 - 6:30 pm

A time-honored tradition and great way to spend time outside! Join us to build teams and compete in Capture the Flag!

Friendsgiving!

Sunday, November 23rd, 5:00 - 6:30pm

Let's share our favorite thanksgiving food and gather to be thankful!

Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14th, 5:00 - 7:00pm

Secret Santa, Christmas treats, and more!



Have an idea for fellowship, or looking to get involved?
Use this QR code to email Elizabeth!



Youth Mission Trip

2026 Youth Mission Trip Planning Team

Next Meeting: November 30th, 7:00-7:45pm
on ZOOM

This team meets monthly to plan all aspects of the trip, including the fundraiser. Past Mission Trip participants interested in attending the 2026 trip are encouraged to apply. Contact Elizabeth for more details. Next Year's trip will be the week of June 21, 2026.

Upcoming Events

Top Golf Gathering

Sunday, November 16th, 4:00 - 8:00pm

Let's get together for an evening of friendly competition, great food, and fun at Top Golf Edison! Bring your friends and enjoy a relaxed night out with your church community.



Holiday Traditions

COOKIE WALK & SOUP TO SOOTHE SOULS

Saturday, December 13, 9:30 – 11:00 am, *Mulford Hall*

Your help is needed to make this ever-popular event a success! This is Women's Ministries biggest fundraiser of the year.

Cookie Walk: When you are baking your Christmas cookies, please add an extra batch of 2-4 dozen for this event.

Soup to Soothe Souls: Would you be willing to fill 4 one-quart containers with your favorite soup for our sale? This is a great family event and cannot happen without your support! Soup containers and labels can be picked in the church office or from the table in the Lounge. Please sign up to help through the link in our weekly eblasts. Thank you!

Cookies and soup can be dropped off at the church any time before Friday, December 12 between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Cookies and Soup sell out quickly!



Mission and Service



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 23

Since 1991, the Harvest Festival has provided us with a way to express our thankfulness through gifts of food and time. Please bring non-perishable food items (no glass containers) to worship and plan to stay after the service to help sort. Food will be delivered to the Interfaith Food Pantry of Morris Plains. Make this a family event - children of all ages can participate.

GIVING TREES

Sunday, November 23

Our Annual Giving Trees will be in the Upper Lobby. Help brighten someone's Christmas by choosing a tag or two. Additional online giving options are also available!



Mission and Service



COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF NEW JERSEY

November 15

9 am - 11 am, *Community FoodBank, Hillside, NJ*

Volunteers ages 12 and up are invited to join us 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.



nourish.NJ: BREAKFAST BAGS

before the 4th Thursday of every month, leave bags in *Church Office*

Purchase the items, assemble the bags at home and drop them off before the 4th Thursday. 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.



BRIDGES SUSTAINABLE LUNCHES

Thank you to everyone who donated supplies and joined us after worship on Sunday, October 26, to help pack 200 lunches for Bridges Outreach! Your time spent makes a tangible difference in the lives of hungry people in Newark and surrounding areas where the lunches are distributed.

Mission and Service



CHATHAM COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT CUMC

Food Collection Bin, Upper Lobby

In September PCCT collected 40 bags of food for the Food Pantry housed at the Chatham United Methodist Church (CUMC). We collect food for the CUMC Food Pantry quarterly as well as for the Interfaith Food Pantry throughout the year. Please place your donations in our "Food Collection Bin" in the Upper Lobby.



PCCT COMMUNITY GARDEN

Craig, Lisa and Natalie Duke's Property

PCCT's Community Garden is tended by volunteers who donate the produce to support the efforts of Helping Hands and the Food Distribution at Chatham United Methodist Church each week. This year, we delivered over 300 pounds over the course of the summer! There is always room at the garden for more helpers!



AMERICA'S GROW-A-ROW

On October 2 a crew from PCCT traveled out to Pittstown, NJ to volunteer with [America's Grow-a-Row](#)! Our youth volunteers used their school holiday to help stock local food shelters with fresh produce. As a group, over 18,000 lbs of potatoes were harvested!! That means 72,000 servings of fresh, nutritious food will be delivered to families in need, who otherwise would not have access to it.

Weekly Bible Study

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Wednesday Mornings at 9:30 am, Theos Room

Members and friends are invited to join us for an informal, conversation-based study of the book of Acts. Written by the same author as the Gospel of Luke, it traces the development and growth of the early church from Jesus' small band of disciples to established congregations throughout Asia Minor from roughly 30 to the early 60's CE. "Acts prompts its readers to regard themselves as members of a dynamic, inclusive, and prophetic community that was from the beginning, called into being by God's Spirit and sustained by God's faithfulness," says New Testament scholar Matthew L. Skinner. All are invited to join us on this journey through the early years of church history.



CIVIL DISCOURSE AND CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM – Facilitated by Rev. Kathleen Edwards-Chase

Mondays Nov. 3, 10 & 17 from 7 – 8:15 p.m. (Zoom)

Join us for a three-week online class/discussion on "Civil Discourse and Christian Nationalism," exploring how faith invites us to engage with others with humility, understanding and grace. This class will provide practical tools for listening deeply, speaking truthfully, and staying calm when potentially divisive conversations occur. We will also examine the growing influence and implications of Christian Nationalism in our culture today. **Register [HERE](#).** The registration confirmation email will have the Zoom link.

New Group Opportunity!

MEN'S GROUP MEETING

Saturday, November 1, 7 am, New Parlor (A10)

We are delighted to announce that a newly reinvigorated PCCT Men's Group will gather for its first meeting on Saturday, November 1. All men of the church are invited to join us for coffee and a light breakfast at 7:00 am. Casual conversation will be followed by a more focused topical discussion on matters of faith and life. Monthly meetings will be supplemented by occasional social and fellowship events during the evening and/or on weekends. Please RSVP to Pastor Tom.

Small Groups

A NEW DAY

November 3, December 1

11:30 am - 1:30 pm, *Halldorson Hall*

All PCCT widows, and senior aged single women are welcome to join our monthly meetings for Lunch, Conversation and Friendship. Meetings are the first Monday of the Month.

Coordinator: Barbara Dunne



THE NEXT ACT

Monday, November 3, 17; December 1, 8; January 5 Holiday Brunch

9:30 am-11:00 am, *New Parlor*

This group meets twice monthly to navigate the next phase of our lives through prayer, fellowship, discussion, and healthy doses of laughter. Any woman is welcome to join us!

Coordinators: Lisa Boles and Deb Ahsler pcctoffice@pcct-nj.org



MILESTONES

"Milestones, embracing grace in the middle place"

Future monthly dates to be announced in eblasts and bulletins.

This group of PCCT midlife moms meet monthly for an evening of fellowship and topic discussion. Contact Stacy McCann swmccann@optonline.net for more information.



PRAYER SHAWL

Monday, November 17, December 15

7:00 pm, *Griswold Parlor*

Calling all knitters and crocheters - beginners, experts, and anyone in between are welcome! The prayer shawl ministry meets on the third Monday of each month during the program year. Refreshments will be provided, so we can sip, stitch, chat, and learn to knit. Yarn and needles will be provided if you're a beginner or don't have a project in the works.

Coordinators: Anne Fields annekfields@gmail.com and Patti Montefusco atov@aol.com



Faith Forward: **Serve.** **Connect.** **Learn.**



The Empty Chair at the Holiday Table –
Presenter is Lucy Deutsch, Retired Geriatric Manager
Sunday, November 16
11:15 am, *Halldorson Hall*

Join us for this gentle and thoughtful presentation and conversation about grief during the holiday season. When someone we love is no longer with us, holidays can stir deep sorrow alongside cherished memories. We'll talk about how to honor that empty chair, navigate the emotional complexities of the season, and find meaningful ways to cope and connect, whether your loss is recent or long-standing. We'll talk about how you can adapt holiday celebrations to ever-changing family dynamics and how to find joy and peace amidst the sadness.



A FESTIVE FAITH FORWARD! Carols and Coffee

Sunday, December 21
11:00 am, *Mulford Hall*

Join us for a fun and festive holiday songfest with PCCT's own Sandy Batten! Stop in to sing a few of your favorite Christmas carols and enjoy seasonal refreshments after worship in Mulford Hall. All ages and voices are welcome as we sing well-known and much loved tunes.

Sunday Opportunities

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 calling the church office.

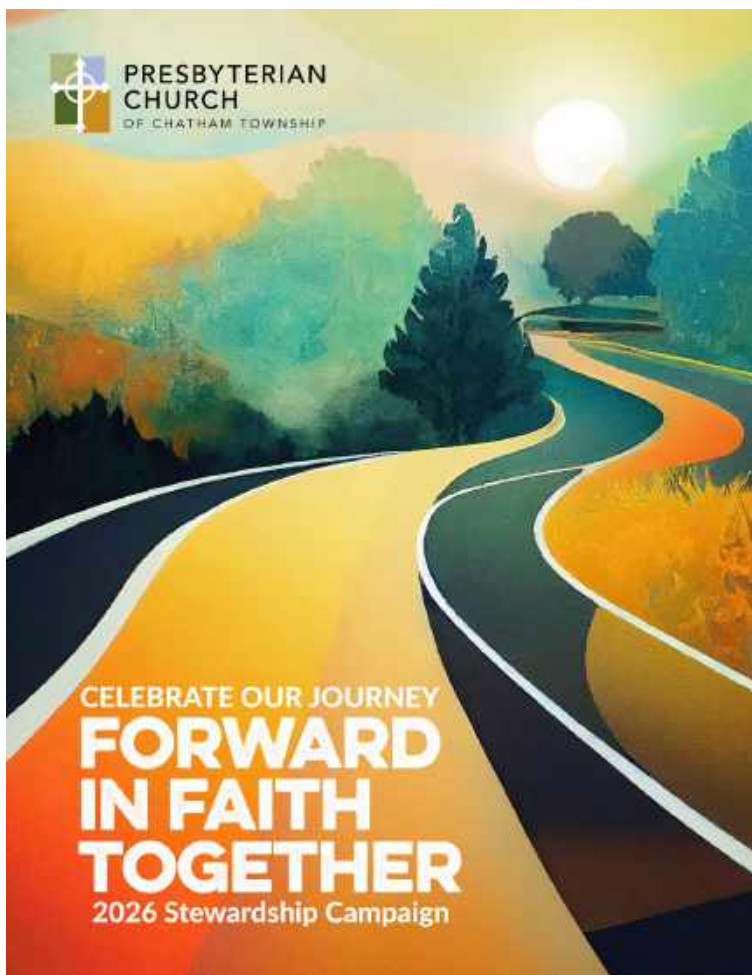
USHERS: We have an immediate need for more people to serve as ushers each week. New ushers will be placed on a team and be part of a rotating schedule. We will provide you with all the instructions and details. We also need elders and deacons to serve on our communion usher teams on the first of each 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 call the church office to sign-up or sign-up [HERE](#).

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

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.





Stewardship 2026

2026 Stewardship Campaign, Celebrate Our Journey: Forward in Faith Together.

We are so grateful for the generosity and commitment shown by this congregation in recent years. Your faithful support has given PCCT the financial stability we need to build momentum and continue growing as a vibrant, welcoming church community. Now, as we celebrate our journey, we look forward together with hope, gratitude, and excitement, knowing that with your partnership, we can build on the foundation we began last year.

Our Stewardship goal is **\$720,800**. We met our goal last year, and we can do it again!

Stewardship Sunday will once again coincide with **Harvest Sunday on November 23**, a day of celebration, giving, and support. Let's continue the journey together, stepping forward in faith to keep PCCT strong and vibrant for years to come. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

Snapshots from Some Family Ministries Fall Days

Chat & Chew, apple picking at Riamede Farm, America's Grow-a-Row and bells! Thank you to our volunteers and members who turn our dreams into reality.



STAFF

The Rev. Thomas A. Brown, Pastor, tbrown@pcct-nj.org

The Rev. Kathleen Edwards Chase, Interim Pastoral Assistant, kchase@pcct-nj.org

Elizabeth Monkemeier, Director of Youth & Family Ministries, emonkemeier@pcct-nj.org

Caitlyn Huetz, Director of Children's Music & Social Media Coordinator, chuetz@pcct-nj.org

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