

CHERRY HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dearborn, Michigan

DECEMBER 2025

MISSION STATEMENT: *We are committed to discerning and doing God's will, Through worship, study, and mission. While becoming a more open, supportive community of neighbors. Welcoming everyone. Including all.*

The Rev. Dr. Frank Irvine, Founding Pastor



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025 AT CHERRY HILL

Sunday, November 30 – First Sunday in Advent

10:15 am – Worship & Lighting the First Advent Candle

Sunday, December 7 – Second Sunday in Advent

10:15 am – Worship with communion &
Lighting the Second Advent Candle

All donations for the Warming Tree are due **TODAY**.

Sunday, December 14- Third Sunday in Advent

10:15 am – Worship & Lighting the Third Advent Candle

11:30 am – Enhanced Coffee Hour hosted by the Deacons
& The Church Growth & Fellowship committee.

Sunday, December 21 – The Fourth Sunday in Advent

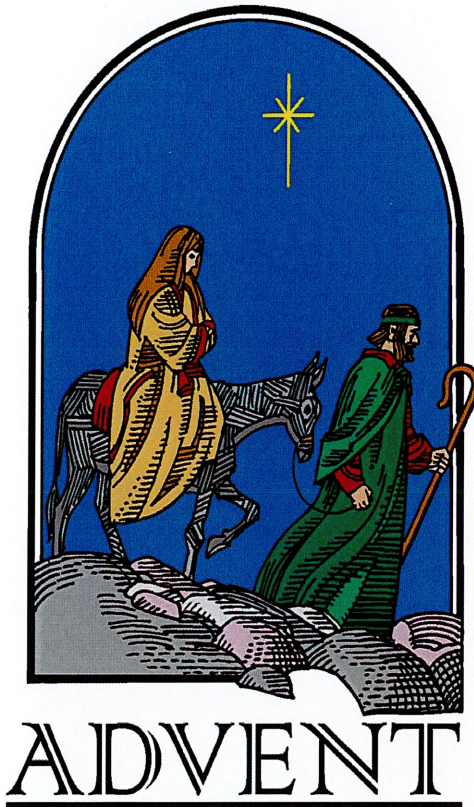
10:15 am – Worship & Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

6:00 pm – Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Featuring Vanguard Voices, G. Kevin Dewey, Director, &
Charles Miller, Organist

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 pm – Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

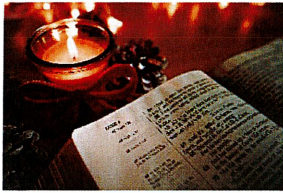


ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2025 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 30 – Advent 1:	“Fragile Virtue for a Fragile Age”	Isaiah 2:1-5
Sunday, December 7 – Advent 2:	“1700 Years of the Nicene Creed”	Romans 15:4-13
Sunday, December 14 – Advent 3:	“Wait. Brace. Let It Go!”	James 5:7-10
Sunday, December 21 – Advent 4:	“The Quiet Saint”	Matthew 1:18-25
Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 pm	
Sunday, December 28	Carol Sing with Their Story	

**THE STAFF OF CHERRY HILL CHURCH WISHES OUR WONDERFUL CONGREGATION
A BLESSED & JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND
A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH HOPE, PEACE, JOY, & LOVE**

Teresa Charles Kim John R. Michael John P. Olivia



This has been a very busy year for me and for many of you. There have been too many unexpected life matters which have popped up to be dealt with. Which brings me to now – not ready at all for the season of Advent.

This year I am going to need the Advent time to truly prepare myself for the coming Christ child. My heart's not ready; my mind is racing from one To Do list to another – Have I gotten everything done on the list? What have I forgotten? And on and on. I'm clearly not in a place of peaceful reflection and easing into welcoming the infant Jesus.

Not being ready is a big part of Jesus' story. Mary wasn't ready to be the mother of the promised messiah, but she stepped up anyway and found joy. Joseph wasn't ready to be the father of a child not biologically his, but he stepped into that role anyway and raised a son who followed in his father's footsteps as a carpenter. The shepherds, the Magi, Mary's cousin, Elizabeth and Zechariah – ALL were not prepared for the life events they found themselves living. And yet, we do not hear despair or sadness about what was happening. Rather we hear their response first as bewilderment and then profound humble gladness for an opportunity to be a part of a larger story. They did not know what challenges might lie ahead but they knew that God would be with them through it all – the good, the challenging. God brought them peace.

Advent is a time to "prepare" – to get our hearts and minds ready to hear again the story of the promised messiah and how it came to be. I can see this year, I will need more intentionality to slow down and allow God to enter the too busy schedule.

When we prepare for various events in our lives, many of us make a list so we don't forget anything. As you prepare this year, what will be on your list? How will you get ready to receive the Christ-child as someone who is hearing this good news for the first time? I'm thinking of young children and their sense of wonder as they hear the story of how much God loved people from the beginning and wanted a closer relationship. I see the curiosity on their face and hear the questions as they try to understand.



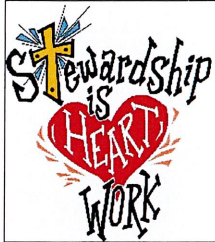
This Advent, leading into Christmas, be intentional in your preparation. Prepare not only your surroundings, but your heart and your mind. Pause and be present for God to help you hear new aspects of a story many of us have heard for decades and tend to skip over the miraculous aspects embedded in its telling. I take comfort in knowing that God has a history of bursting into the world whether we are ready or not - to be with us. Our Emmanuel: God with us.

Christmas Blessing to each of you,
Pastor Teresa



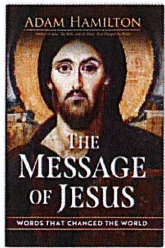
MUSIC AT CHERRY HILL PRESENTS
Vanguard Voices Lessons and Carols Concert
Sunday, December 21 @ 6:00 p.m.

Vanguard Voices, under the direction of G. Kevin Dewey, will present their Lessons and Carols concert on **Sunday, December 21, at 6:00 pm**. Patterned after the famed King's College, Cambridge Service of *Nine Lessons and Carols*, this concert by the 60+ voice ensemble will feature readings from the Christmas story paired with settings of anthems and carols by composers from around the world. The audience will join in singing several of their favorite carols, accompanied by Joseph Balistreri playing the Austin pipe organ. This is always a "full tilt" and full house experience, and you will not want to miss the roof-raising singing! Admission is a free-will offering taken at the door.



2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN – Live Generously

Many thanks to all who have returned their 2026 Pledge Cards. If you have not submitted your pledge, please remember to do so soon. Additional Pledge Cards are available in the church office. We greatly appreciate the many Pledge Cards that have already been received! Thank you!



MONDAY AFTERNOON STUDY GROUP – During Advent
Mondays @ 1:00 pm in Memorial Parlor

The Monday afternoon study group continues reading and discussing *The Message of Jesus* by Adam Hamilton. We have been discussing six major themes which Jesus taught. We will continue those final lessons December 1 and 8.

On December 15, "The Accounts of Jesus Birth", a study offered by *The Thoughtful Christian* led by Pastor Teresa, will be offered. We will contrast Matthew, Luke, and John with Mark, to understand how the other three gospels work with Mark's outline to produce their own narratives. Please feel free to join us for this timely conversation. We forget that each gospel writer has their own way of telling the story. We blend the stories together.

*Accounts
Of
Jesus'
Birth*

HELPING HAND SHOPPING LIST

We are currently seeking donations of our regular staple items: **healthy cereals, pasta, peanut butter, canned tuna, crackers, soup, rice, lentils, canned fruit and vegetables, canned spaghetti sauce, 1 lb. bags of dried beans and rice, and boxed mac n' cheese.** You may place your donations in the Helping Hand box in Weir Foyer. Remember: Helping Hand is open on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 9:30 am until 12:00 Noon. As always, thank you for your support!



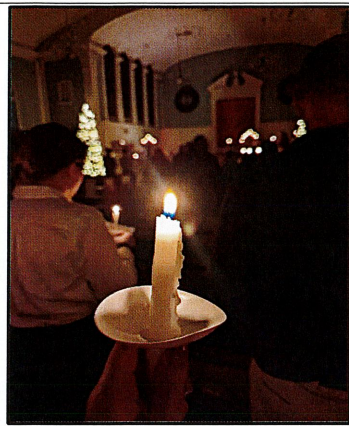


**WARMING TREE FOR DEARBORN GOODFELLOWS &
W.O.R.D. AFTERSCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAM
AT CALVIN EAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The Deacons once again are collecting items for our Holiday Warming Tree. We will be working with the Dearborn Goodfellows who distribute the items to families throughout our local community. The generosity of our congregation earned Cherry Hill Church an award from the Goodfellows last year! Let's see if we can do it again.

The Warming Tree will be in Weir Foyer **through Sunday, December 7**. It can be adorned with coats, gloves, scarves, and hats in a variety of sizes for children and adults. It is requested that ALL items be NEW!

PLEASE NOTE: All donated items must be on the tree no later than Sunday, December 7.



**CHRISTMAS EVE AT CHERRY HILL
December 24, 2025 – at 5:00pm Only**

Amid the warm glow of candlelight and the company of treasured family members and friends, we will gather for **ONE** traditional Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm. This service will take place in the sanctuary and will include the choir and a brass quintet, leading beloved Christmas Carol settings under the direction of Charles Miller. The service will close with the lighting of candles and the singing of "Silent Night."

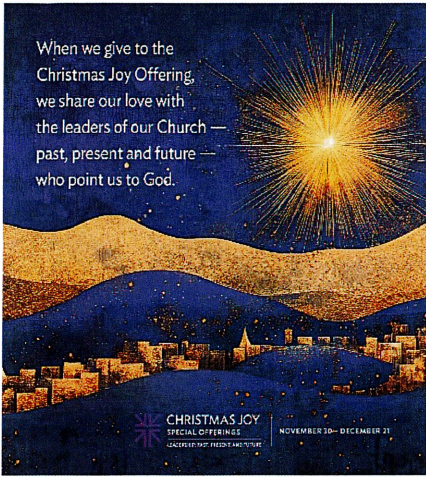
Come home this Christmas to Cherry Hill Church as, once again, we go, "in heart and mind, to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass."

**POTLUCK DINNER & GAME NIGHT – Saturday, January 17, 2026
5:00 pm – Memorial Parlor**

We had so much fun and great food and fellowship at our last Game Night, we've decided to have another one! Please join us at 5:00 p.m. to share a potluck dinner followed by games from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Dress casual. Bring an appetizer, salad, main dish or dessert, and your favorite games. We'll provide paper products and beverages. This is a fellowship event for both adults and children who are old enough to play games, and a wonderful way to spend a cold, winter evening. Please use the sign-up sheet in Weir Foyer beginning December 28. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Brown.



A Presbyterian Women Christmas Gathering is planned for Wednesday, December 10, at 1:00 pm, at First Farmington Presbyterian Church. To reserve tickets (\$5 each), email Sue Carlson at srdcarlson@me.com or call/text to 248-330-7188. It will begin with a musical program in the Sanctuary, followed by a play, "Operation: Whispering Pines" presented by Presbyterian Players. The play is about a group of feisty retirement home residents who outsmart the devious owner who plans to evict them. The theme of the play is "don't mess with old people". It should be hilarious. There will be light refreshments following.



2025 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING PREPARE THE WAY: THE PERFECT GIFT

Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30 through December 21, we will receive the annual “Christmas Joy Offering,” one of the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect on God’s perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us – past, present, and future – who have pointed us to God. Your gifts combine with those from thousands of congregations throughout our denomination to do our part to repair the world and to ensure our siblings have the tools they need to flourish.

The prophet Isaiah gives those listening to him a very particular task to prepare the way for the coming Messiah, the person we know as Jesus.

Isaiah proclaims that to prepare the way is to make highways easily navigable, fill in valleys, flatten hills, level the ground, make the earth smooth. Then, and only then, will God’s glory be revealed, and this will cause all humanity to see that God has spoken to us.

We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers, and their families who have faithfully guided us and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need because of changing health or emergency circumstances. Our gifts restore hope and stability through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

We honor and celebrate emerging leaders, like students in schools and colleges, equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education to prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much. Our gifts support a bright future with enhanced opportunities for students to grow and build lives of faith, honoring talents and skills to serve God, the Church, and the world for years to come.

Your gifts prepare the way for the God we know in Jesus Christ, the child whose birth we celebrate. More information on the work of the Christmas Joy Offering will be shared throughout Advent and special offering envelopes will be in the bulletin on Sunday, December 14 and on the Mission Board by the office.

Bring back the envelope on Sunday, December 21, for the blessing of the collection. Thank you for your generous gifts – for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

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CHRISTMAS DONATION TO MISSIONS

The deadline to donate poinsettias for Christmas Eve has passed.

However, don’t despair. Christmas donations to Cherry Hill’s Mission Benevolence Fund will be **accepted through Sunday, December 14, 2025.** This money is used throughout the year by our Mission Committee to aid local, national, and international mission causes.

Simply complete the form below and return it to the church office by December 14.

Amount: _____

Given By: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

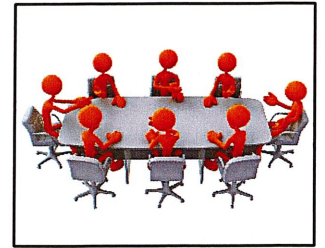
In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

___ In Celebration of Christmas

All flower and monetary donations will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS - November 18, 2025



- ❖ To receive Walter Siegl, by re-Affirmation of Faith, as a new member of CHPC.
- ❖ To approve Rev. Teresa Peterson's Interim Pastor Contract and Terms of Call for 2026.
- ❖ To elect David Hollingsworth as Church Treasurer and Deborah Szwed as Clerk of Session for 2026.
- ❖ To approve the Wedding Fee Schedule for members, and that the documentation for both members and non-members be approved as presented.
- ❖ To approve the selling of a silver communion set, with the proceeds to go to the Organ Fund.
- ❖ To approve the CHPC Christmas Eve service to be 5:00 p.m. only (no longer have an 11:00 p.m. service) and that the service be held in the Sanctuary.
- ❖ To approve the creation of an updated, informal church directory.
- ❖ To increase the contribution to the Presbytery General Mission Fund for 2026 to 1% of the CHPC Income Budget.
- ❖ To establish a Security Evaluation Committee tasked with conducting a self-evaluation of the CHPC building.
- ❖ To extend the existing contract with Our Lady of Peace through the calendar year 2026.
- ❖ To allow Our Lady of Peace to use wine for their communion.
- ❖ For the Session to have a joint meeting with the Deacons, current and new, and the newly elected Elders. The meeting would take place on December 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., with dinner, followed by a Session meeting.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICERS!

The following persons were elected by the congregation at a special meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2025. They will be ordained and/or installed on a Sunday during the worship service in early January.

Elders, Class of 2028

Char Sobieski-Greco
Carolyn Haury
John Matthews, Jr.

Deacons, Class of 2028

Elaine Filiak
Becky Jones
Cathy Wensorski

At the same meeting, Leslie Garber, Linda Guinn, John Kill, and John Whitfield were elected to serve as congregational members of the 2026 Nominating Committee.

Thank you to those who are completing their respective terms of office on December 31. Those faithful members are Elders, Phil Gibbs & Ray Greco and Deacons, Char Sobieski-Greco, Linda Guinn, & Robert Szwed.

YEAR END GIVING & 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

As we come to the end of the year, please verify if you have fulfilled your pledge and paid your per capita (\$38) for 2025. For those making year end gifts, please remember the church in your giving. **All donations must be received no later than December 28, 2025**, to claim a charitable deduction for 2025.



2026 Offering envelopes, for those who requested them, **will be available on Sunday, December 7**, in Weir Foyer. Boxes this year were determined by requests and giving patterns. There are some extras, so if you wish to have a box, please let Kim know. Please wait to use them until the start of the new year and please do not use previous year's envelopes as the numbers may have changed.

We started our 2026 Stewardship drive in the middle of November. Pledges are steadily coming into the office. We hope the income for 2026 mirrors the 2025 income!



YOUTH GROUP WITH THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

Cherry Hill has joined the Presbytery-wide youth collaborative spearheaded by Geneva's pastor, Rebeka Fergusson-Lutz. About 15-25 youth from middle school through high school meet on the second Sunday of each month. The youth get to know one another, play games, do activities and engage in spiritual conversation. It's a wonderful opportunity for churches (like us!) that may have just a few kids in their congregations. We rotate between churches, this year we have been to First Presbyterian (Northville), Geneva (Canton) and even an alpaca farm near Grosse Ile Presbyterian.

On Sunday, January 11, from 2pm-4pm, Cherry Hill will host the Second Sunday youth gathering. We will be doing a service project, making care packages for the homeless. The kits will contain supplies like socks, lip balm, bandages, granola bars and other items that our Cherry Hill kids have brainstormed during Sunday School. Each church group that attends will go home with several kits that they can pass out in their neighborhoods.

All youth ages middle school to high school are invited to join us. So, if you have grandkids or neighbors that you'd like to invite, please do. There will be food, fellowship and fun. Contact Anna Dewey if you'd like to participate.

Kroger Rewards

Do you shop at Kroger? Did you know that Kroger, Inc. has a program that gives back to non-profit charities? They are committed to community engagement, positive social impact and charitable giving at the national and local levels. Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church is a designated charity with Kroger.

Once you have a Kroger Shopper Card, you link your card number to Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church under the Kroger Community Rewards section of their website. Every time you shop at Kroger and give them your Shopper number (whether by a card or digital account), Kroger will give a certain percentage of your total to us. Once per quarter, Kroger will then cut a check to us for the total in our account. Right now, our church averages between \$35-\$45 per quarter from the 18 households registered to us.

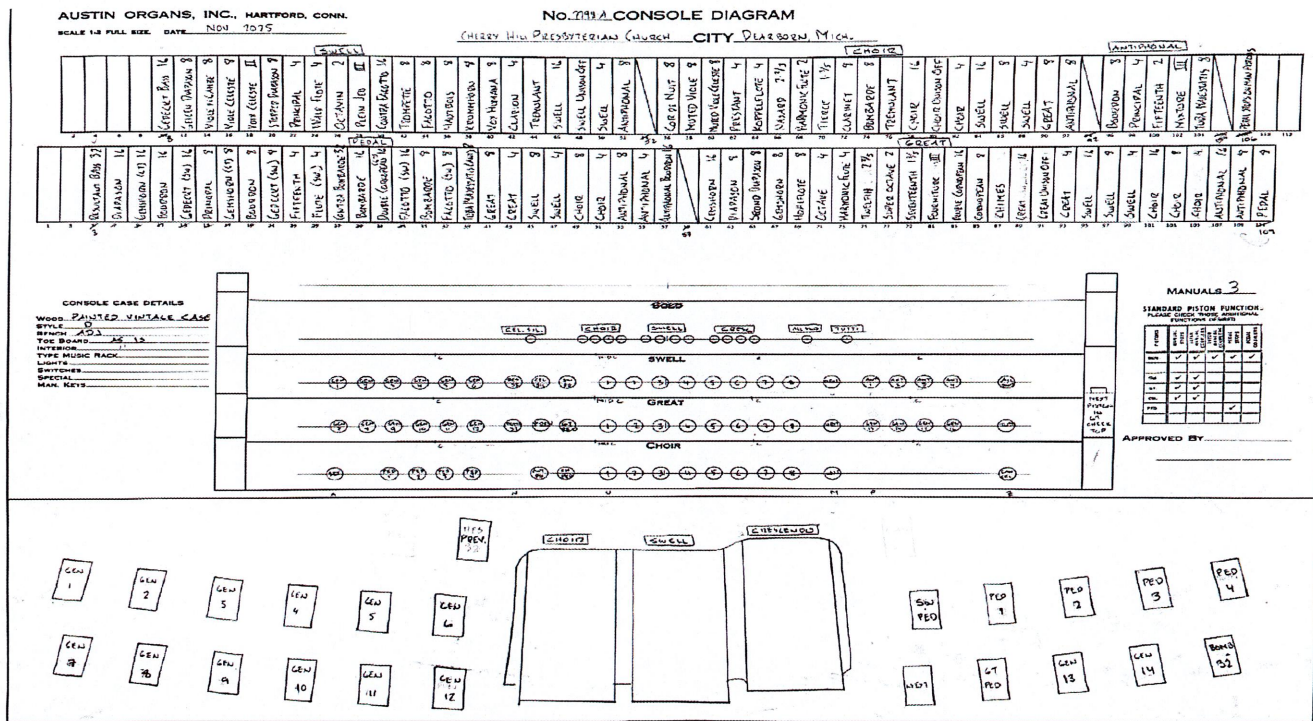
If you have any questions, you can go to their Community Rewards website or email Kim McDonald.

PIPE ORGAN CONSOLE PROJECT UPDATE

A Christmas present arrived a bit early this year, in the form of the final draft of the design of the new organ console's interior features (keyboards, stop controls, etc.). Approval was given to the Austin Organ Company (Hartford, CT) to go ahead and begin construction. Floyd Higgins, the company's senior designer, will be here in January 2026 to take a look at the pit in which the current console now sits, inspect the organ's pipe chamber for the installation of the new 32' bass pipes, and to also take a small section from an old pew so that the factory can match the color for the new console shell. Our second payment of \$30,000 was made at the end of November.

We are thrilled to report that as of this writing, of the \$190,000 needed for this project, \$176,000 has been raised – with a little over \$10,000 coming from the October 11th Bach Organ Marathon. Gratitude for this phenomenal support truly goes beyond what words can convey!!

A poster sized copy of this diagram will soon be on display on the wall near Memorial Parlor.





The Board of Deacons and Growth & Fellowship committee will be hosting an enhanced Holiday Coffee Hour after worship on **Sunday, December 21**. We invite the congregation to join us for this festive and fun gathering featuring lots of delicious goodies, both sweet and savory.



Cathie Wensorski 12/01	Jim Thorpe 12/05	John Renaud 12/17
Fred King 12/03	Janet Reickel 12/06	Gary Crosbie 12/20
Jane Stockton 12/03	Cheryl Herman 12/06	Elaine Filiak 12/25
Bruce Yinger 12/05	Katie Garber 12/08	Lew Sequin 12/26
Elaine Terrell 12/05	Martha Whitfield 12/09	Jeffery Wensorski 12/31

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members to Remember (Those Unable to Attend Worship)

Evelyn Poti Lewis Sequin Winnie Murphy
Judy Ewasuk Ekanem Ekpenyong Pam Thorpe

Health Concerns & Support

Bob Stead John Haury Marv Oberdier Sharon Cloney John Nichols
Pamela Moore Judy Tisdale Yvonne Parks (Pastor's cousin)

All those who serve as caregivers to the ill and infirmed

Cherry Hill Church Pastor Nominating Committee

Pastor, Staff, Elders and Deacons of Cherry Hill Church - The Presbytery of Detroit



Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church

24110 Cherry Hill Road, Dearborn, Michigan 48124 - 313-563-4800

office@cherryhillchurch.org www.cherryhillchurch.org

A Member of the Presbytery of Detroit of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday - 8:30 am - 2:30 pm - Friday - 8:30 am - Noon

Church Staff, Email & Direct Dial Phone Numbers

Rev. Teresa Peterson, Interim Pastor - pastor@cherryhillchurch.org - 313-768-5904

Charles Miller, Director of Music & Organist - charles@cherryhillchurch.org - 313-768-5905

Kim McDonald, Business & Church Administrator - kim@cherryhillchurch.org - 313-768-5907

John Renaud, Facilities Manager - facilities@cherryhillchurch.org - 313-768-5913

Michael Sellers, Social Media Manager - michael@cherryhillchurch.org

John Peterson, Custodian **Olivia Gee, Childcare Provider**

Rev. James P. Russell, Associate Pastor Emeritus

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 CHUP DPCC DHS 10:00 am Sew What 1:00 pm Study Group	2 CHUP DPCC DHS 10:00 am Peace Circle	3 DPCC TOTS DHS 9:30 am-12:00 pm Helping Hand 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4 CHUP DPCC TOTS DHS 6-10pm Tatry Dancers 7:00 pm Christian Ed	5 DHS	6
7 Communion 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship/Play 11:30 am Dec Birthday Cake 11:45 am Bible Study 11:00 am QAS Church	8 CHUP DPCC DHS 10:00 am Sew What 1:00 pm Study Group 6:30 pm PNC Mtg 7:00 pm Property	9 CHUP DPCC DHS 6:30 pm Church Growth & Fellowship	10 DPCC TOTS DHS 6:30pm Worship & Music Comm Mtg	11 CHUP DPCC TOTS DHS 9:30 am Quilters 6-10pm Tatry Dancers	12 DHS	13
14 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship/Play 11:30 am Coffee Hour 11:45 am Bible Study 11:00 am QAS Church	15 CHUP DPCC DHS 10:00 am Sew What 1:00 pm Study Group 6:30 pm PNC Mtg	16 CHUP DPCC DHS 6:00pm Joint Session & Deacons meeting and dinner 7:00 pm Session 7:00pm Deacons	17 DPCC DHS 9:30 am-12:00 pm Helping Hand	18 CHUP DPCC DHS 9:00 am Men's Break-fast @ Rex's 6-10pm Tatry Dancers	19 DHS DHS Secret Santa Potluck	20
21 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship/Play 11:30 am Holiday Coffee Hr 11:45 am Bible Study 11:00 am QAS Church 6:00pm Vanguard Voices Lessons & Carols	22 DPCC 10:00 am Sew What	23 DPCC	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00pm Worship 8:00pm QAS Church	25 CHRISTMAS	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship/Play 11:30 am Coffee Hour 11:45 am Bible Study 11:00 am QAS Church	29 DPCC OFFICE CLOSED	30 DPCC OFFICE CLOSED	31 DPCC NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFICE CLOSED			