

CHERRY HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dearborn, Michigan

THE MESSENGER - JANUARY 2026

9th ANNUAL SOUPERBOWL CHALLENGE

Our friends at St. Paul Lutheran are challenging Cherry Hill Presbyterian, Good Shepherd United Methodist, First United Methodist, and First Presbyterian, Dearborn, again this year. The challenge is to see which church can collect the most cans of food (soup, vegetables, fruit, etc.) between January 1, 2026, and Super Bowl Sunday, February 8, 2026.

Over the next month, Cherry Hill members and friends are asked to bring canned goods with them on Sunday mornings or at any time during the week. All donations are to be placed in the donation box in Weir Foyer. Or, if you would rather make a monetary donation, remember that **\$1.00 equals one can!** Please mark your donation as "Super Bowl Offering."

Cherry Hill hasn't won the challenge in several years. Will this be our year? Let's bring the coveted "Souperbowl Challenge Trophy" back to our church this year!

All of our canned goods and monetary donations will be given to our Helping Hand Food pantry.

Let the challenge begin!



POTLUCK DINNER & GAME NIGHT

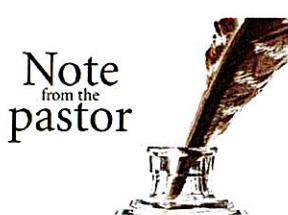
Saturday, January 17, 2026 - 5:00 p.m. Memorial Parlor

We had so much fun and great food and fellowship at our last Game Night, so 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 pm to 9:00 pm. 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 adults and children old enough to play games, and a wonderful way to spend a cold winter evening. Please sign up on the clipboard in Weir Foyer to let us know that you will be coming and what you will be bringing. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Brown.



A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Dear Bakers & Congregants of Cherry Hill: The Presbyterian Women would like to thank all of you who baked for our Bake Sale and all of you who purchased the goodies. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Because of your generous donations, PW was able to send a check for \$633 to The Second Mile Center. It would not have happened without you. That money will go a long way to help the center. Your generosity helps this vital, spiritually based mission continue its programs and provide food and meals for children, youth, and their families in an area of Detroit that very much needs this. Have a blessed and healthy holiday season.



Here we are on the threshold of a new year. It's hard to believe we are about to begin the year 2026! This is often the time we step back and reflect on the past year and then consider what we might like to strive for in the coming year.

As I looked at last year's January newsletter here at Cherry Hill, I saw that we were in the midst of getting the first report from Self Study and preparing to have small group conversations. We were considering what ministries and pieces of church-life which were important and what other aspects we might consider. It was a time of reflection and dreaming in midst of hopeful expectation.

Now, one year later, we are further along in that in-between time. We've done the dreaming, at least gotten a good start, and are now waiting for the next called pastor to come.

Waiting is hard. If we are not careful, we can slide into being ho-hum about church-life. Recently, there was a sermon in which we considered "active waiting". In James, the writer encourages us to be like the farmer who plants the seeds but then lives in hopeful expectation for the seeds to receive what they need to grow – nutrients and water. The writer is describing what it is like for followers as they wait for "the coming of the Lord." What is said next is one of the most difficult aspects of the process: "You also must be patient." Just as the farmer must have patience as the seeds grow to maturity for harvest, we, as followers of Christ, must be patient as we wait for Christ's return.

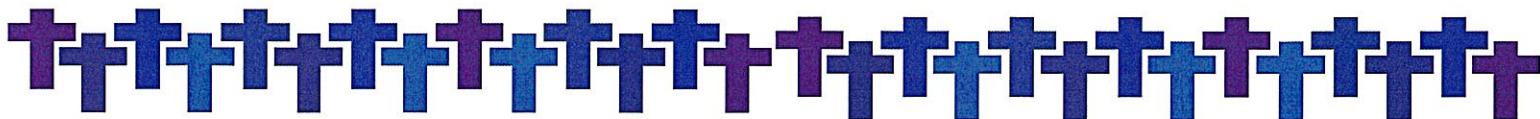


So, what are we doing with this in-between time as we wait for the next called pastor to come? My hope and prayer is that we will approach the new year and God with a sense of Sacred Curiosity, where we—as individuals and as a community—might dare to wonder what God is up to in our lives, our church and our world. We started that process last year. What might we learn now in this season of transition? How might we grow together? What work is God equipping us to do together? What need is God calling us to address? How might we love others and love God in new expressions? There are so many ways to engage "active waiting."

Now is the time to check our status: bored—ho-hum—expectant. Where are you? How might you spark that sense of wonder, expectation and curiosity for what God is up to both personally and as the community of faith?

May 2026 be another year we experience the goodness of God. And may we continue to do our best to be engaged in being an active part of the ministry and mission at Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church.

Blessings to each of you,
Pastor Teresa



WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN!

Thank you from the members of the Worship and Music Committee and Presbyterian Women to all those who will stay after worship on **Sunday, January 11, 2026**. The job of “undecorating” the church of all the Christmas decorations is a big process. Also, a big Thank-You to the Growth and Fellowship Committee for providing pizza and salad! Many volunteers make light work!



CHRISTMAS THANK YOU FROM THE DEACONS

The warming tree collection of coats, hats, gloves, socks and other outerwear for needy children in our community has been an annual tradition for the Board of Deacons. This year's collection was nothing short of amazing! The CHPC congregation came through as always, showing their incredible generosity in support of the community. The tree was overflowing with items to be distributed to children in need. Dearborn Goodfellows and the Dearborn Police Department came to pick everything up and distribute these items where they are most needed. A big thank you to Kathy Kerr and Char Greco for overseeing the pick-up process and huge thanks to all of you, the wonderful members of Cherry Hill Church, for the many donations. **Note:** these pictures are from 2024. The amount under the tree was even more this year but we forgot to take a photo.



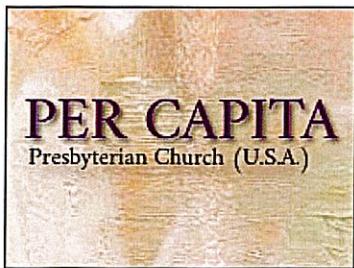
ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, February 1, 2026



The session has called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of The Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church for Sunday, February 1, 2026, immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting will be to review and receive reports from the committees and organizations of the church for 2025 and any other business that might come before the congregation. **The session will host an enhanced coffee hour that morning in Fellowship Hall!**

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Please note that all written reports are to be in the office by **Friday, January 16, 2026**. Copies of the Annual Report will be distributed on Sunday, January 25, 2026.

2026 PER CAPITA - \$41.00



Per Capita is crucial to the overall health of the PC(USA), because it binds presbyteries, synods, and congregations together in one church. Per Capita literally means “per person.” The Per Capita apportionment is an assessment paid to the General Assembly, Synod of the Covenant, and the Presbytery of Detroit for administrative costs at all three levels of the church. It is requested that each active member of all Presbyterian Churches pay the per capita apportionment, which enables churches to carry out the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ, locally and throughout the world.

Per Capita giving makes it possible for:

- ❖ Presbyterians to discern and live out God’s call in their lives
- ❖ Churches to connect with individuals seeking a call to ministry
- ❖ Staff support for General Assembly committees and commissions
- ❖ Management and coordination of General Assembly gatherings
- ❖ Presbytery and synod leaders to gather for training and discernment
- ❖ Counsel and support for churches in crisis (misconduct, legal matters)
- ❖ Presbyteries to address matters of inclusion, participation, and representation at all levels of church leadership and decision-making
- ❖ The denomination to build connections with ecumenical partners around the world
- ❖ Presbyteries and pastors to receive support on immigration issues
- ❖ Presbyterian history to be cataloged, preserved, and utilized by future generations

This year’s per capita is \$41.00 per member. Cherry Hill’s total 2026 per capita (based on our membership of 143 at the end of 2024) is \$5,863. Those who pay per capita help alleviate this financial responsibility of the church.

All members are encouraged to pay their \$41.00 during January (if possible) and place it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or pay online. While we and the presbytery greatly appreciate receiving per capita offerings in January, please be aware that per capita is accepted anytime during the year.



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The members of the Admin Committee would like to thank all who participated in the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. Even though a pledge is between you and God, it is beneficial to the church to know what this amount is so that proper financial planning can be done. Please know, no one knows your pledge amount except the Business & Church Administrator, Kim. If you have not turned in a pledge card yet and would like to, it’s not too late! Pledge cards and envelopes are available in the church office.

INITIAL OFFERING

Those who use offering envelopes will recognize the first envelope included in each box marked, “Initial Offering.” This is used to offset the \$6.00 cost per box.



WELCOME NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS!

We welcome new and returning elders and deacons for 2026. This leadership in the church is vital to its ministry and mission. So, we say a special THANK YOU! to each of them for the extra commitment and willingness to serve.

Returning elders are: Carolyn Haury and John Matthews, Jr. First time elder is: Char Greco. New deacons are: Becky Jones, Elaine Filiak and Cathy Wensorski. Each of these have served before as a deacon but are now returning to "active" service.

We appreciate each one. May the year go well and God be glorified through our work and service. As part of the worship service on **Sunday, January 4**, we will ordain and/or install the elders and deacons who were elected by the congregation in November 2025. At the same service, we recognize and thank those whose term is completed: Elders: Phil Gibbs & Ray Greco and Deacons: Linda Guinn, Char Greco, & Bob Szwed.

CONSIDERING A COMMITTEE?

While committee meetings and work might not sound all that exciting to you, be assured that at Cherry Hill, serving on a committee is far from boring! All of our committees would welcome new members this year. You do not have to be an elder or a deacon to serve on a committee. For that matter, you don't even have to be a member of Cherry Hill. All that you need is some interest and passion to serve the church in a special way. Below is a list of our standing committees and the regular day and time of their meetings. If you would like to know more about a certain committee, please contact the person listed. We look forward to serving with YOU this year!



Property – Second Monday – 7:00 pm

Mission – Second Tuesday – 3:00 pm

Church Growth & Fellowship – Second Tuesday - 6:30 pm

Christian Education Committee – First Thursday – 7:00 pm, via Zoom

Worship & Music Committee – First Wednesday – 6:30 pm

John Kill

Deb Szwed

Sue Dalton

Anna Dewey/Kathy Kerr

Pam Hollingsworth

CONCERT SERIES 2025/2026 Sunday, February 1, at 4:00pm



Joseph Deller, one of Dearborn's most visible and beloved violinists and music teachers, is no stranger to Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church. He has performed in various ensembles, been a member of the Boar's Head Festival orchestras, played for countless Sunday morning services, and held his students' Spring recital in the Chapel. The Music at Cherry Hill concert series is pleased to feature Joe and two of his colleagues (cellist Ivana Biliskov and pianist Patrick

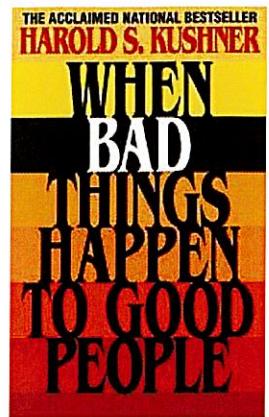
Johnson) in a concert in the Sanctuary on Sunday, February 1, at 4:00pm. The hour-long program will feature Prokofiev's gorgeous *Five Melodies* for violin and piano, selected movements from the joyous Violin Sonatas of J.S. Bach, and the three musicians will join together for Saint-Saëns' thrilling *Piano Trio in E minor* – music that will certainly chase away the winter blahs! A freewill offering will be taken at the door, with a suggested donation of \$15 per person. A light reception in Weir Foyer will follow the performance. Please join us for what will be a truly marvelous, edifying, and uplifting concert!

MONDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY RESUMES JANUARY 5
Monday Afternoon Study: *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*

Beginning Monday, January 5, at 1:00 pm, in Memorial Parlor, Pastor Teresa will lead a 6-week study discussing the *New York Times* bestseller, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Harold S. Kushner.

When Harold Kushner's three-year-old son was diagnosed with a degenerative disease that meant the boy would only live until his early teens, he was faced with one of life's most difficult questions: Why, God? Years later, Rabbi Kushner wrote this straightforward, elegant contemplation of the doubts and fears that arise when tragedy strikes. In these pages, Kushner shares his wisdom as a rabbi, a parent, a reader, and a human being. This classic book written in the 1980s still offers clear thinking and consolation in times of sorrow.

Expect great discussions as we learn together. This class will be offered in person and via Zoom. Please sign up to receive the link. Only class participants will receive the link.



REMINDER: WINTER BUILDING USE

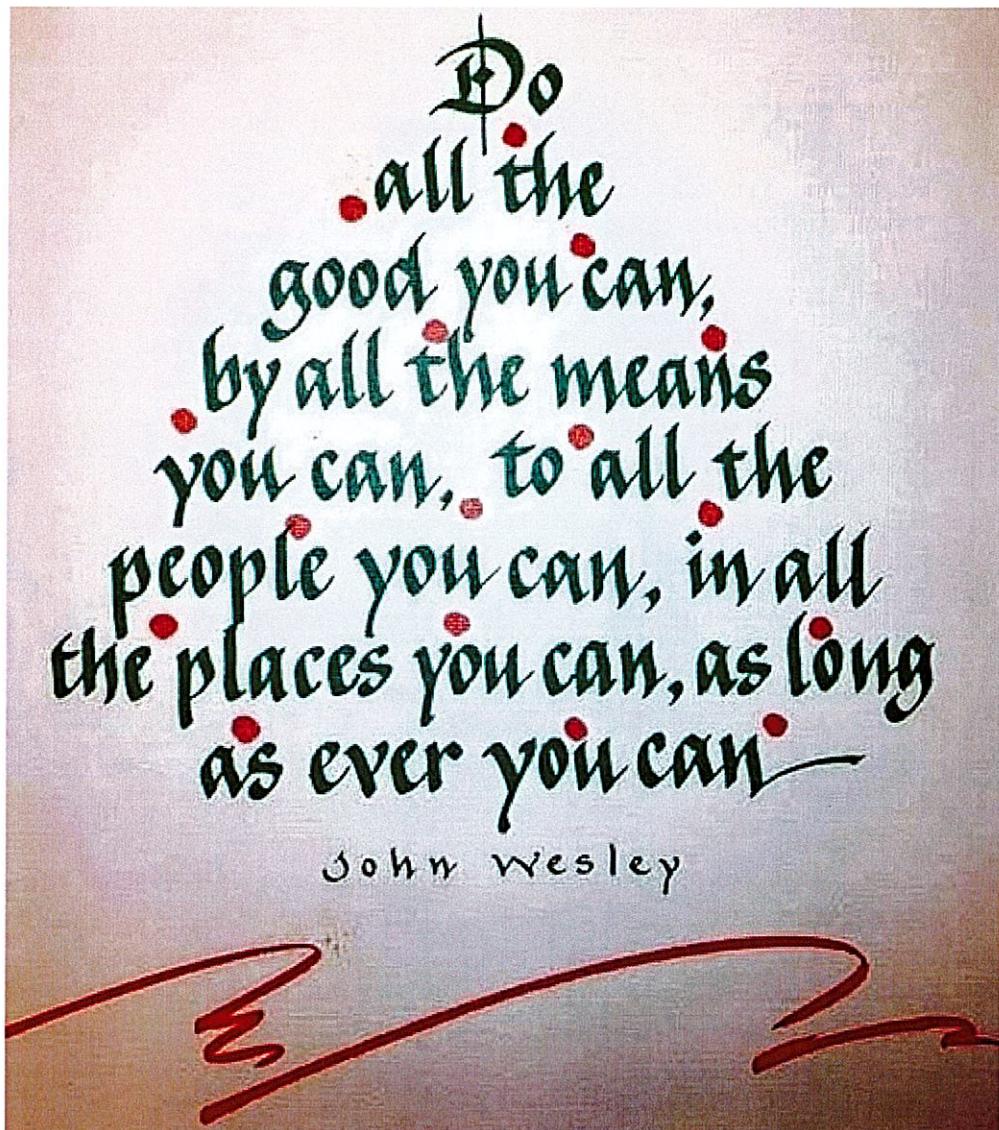
If Dearborn Public Schools are closed due to weather, Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church offices will be closed as well. Staff is not required to come into the office. There are times they will choose to come in.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS - December 17, 2025

- The Ecclesiastical Report reflected the following: Received Walt Seigl and Kay Greene into membership and celebrated that membership during worship December 14.
- The 2026 Budget for Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church was reviewed and approved.
- The PNC continue to do their work, reading pastor discernment documents, listening to sermons and following up with interviews.
- Discussed adjustments needed for next year's decorating for Advent/Christmas and relocating where the decorations will be stored.
- Changed the date in which the decorations will come down to January 11 following worship.
- Was updated on the building security questionnaire and follow up steps being taken and to pursue.
- Seated Elders and Deacons examined the incoming Class of 2028 members prior to the December 2025 Session meeting. Consensus was reached that all incoming members were qualified.
- Next Stated Session Meeting- January 20, 2026.

COFFEE HOUR UPDATE FROM THE DEACONS

- ❖ There is a new Coffee Hour sign-up sheet for 2026 in Weir Foyer. Pick your date before they fill up!
- ❖ Birthday celebrations will be scheduled one Sunday each month and hosted by the Deacons. Please watch the bulletin and Save the Date inserts for dates.
- ❖ To help ease the cost of hosting a coffee hour, the following is provided to the host by the Deacons: coffee, tea, creamer, juice, plates, cups, napkins, cutlery, and now, CHEESE AND CRACKERS.
- ❖ If you wish to host and would like a Deacon to assist, please check with your Deacon.





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



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Knoop 01/02
Brad Garber 01/05
Ray Scoboria 01/05

John Whitfield 01/09
Char Greco 01/20
Anna Santieu 01/27

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

Olivia Gee, Childcare Provider

Rev. James P. Russell, Associate Pastor Emeritus

Happy New Year ♦ *Happy New Year* ♦ *Happy New Year*

9th ANNUAL SOUPEBOWL

St. Paul Lutheran

Challenges

Cherry Hill Presbyterian, Good Shepherd United Methodist,

First Presbyterian, and First United Methodist

Prize – “The Trophy”

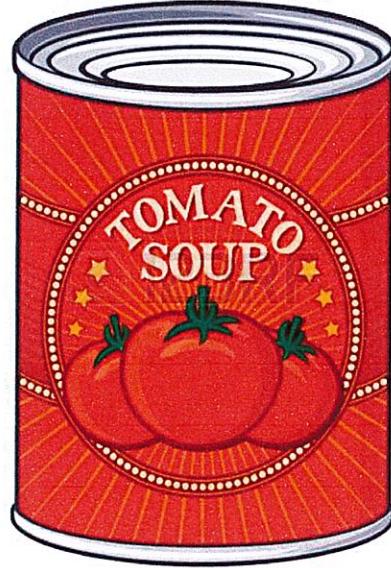
Benefit – Stocking the Pantry* for Needy Families

So, what is the CONTEST?

To bring the most cans** of food to your church

Starting January 1, 2026

Ending Super Bowl Sunday (February 8, 2026)



*All cans will be donated to the churches' food pantries

**Monetary contributions count as well, \$1 = 1 can, AND

we are accepting cans with any type of food

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
* Happy New Year *				1 New Year's Day Building Closed	2	3
4 Communion 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Worship/GP 11:00AM OLP Church	5 DHS DPCC CHUP 10:00am Sew What 10:30am Violin Rehearsal 1:00pm Study Group 6:30pm PNC Mtg	6 DHS DPCC CHUP 10:00 am Peace Circle 11:30am PWCT Mtg 9:30am-noon Helping Hand 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7 DHS DPCC 9:30am-noon Helping Hand 7:30pm W&M	8 DHS DPCC CHUP 9:30am Quilters 6:00pm Tatty Dancers 6:30pm Deacons 7:00pm Christian Ed	9 DHS 5:00 pm Game Night	10
11 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Worship/GP 11:30am January Birthdays 11:30am Pizza/Undecorate 11:00AM OLP Church 1-4 pm Youth Event	12 DHS DPCC CHUP 10:00am Sew What 1:00pm Study Group 6:30pm PNC Mtg 7:00pm Property	13 DHS DPCC CHUP 3:00pm Mission 6:30pm CG&F	14 DHS DPCC 6:30pm W&M	15 DHS DPCC CHUP 9:00am Men's Breakfast at Rex's 6:00pm Tatty Dancers	16 DHS 5:00 pm Game Night	17
18 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Worship/GP 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:00AM OLP Church 12:00pm Tatty Dancers	19 DHS MLK Day Building Closed	20 DHS DPCC CHUP 7:00pm Session	21 DHS DPCC 9:30am-noon Helping Hand 7:00pm CHUP General Meeting	22 DHS DPCC CHUP 11:00am Colony Club 6:00pm Tatty Dancers	23 DHS 5:00 pm Game Night	24
25 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Worship/GP 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:00AM OLP Church	26 DHS DPCC CHUP 10:00am Sew What 1:00pm Study Group	27 DHS DPCC CHUP	28 DHS DPCC 6:00pm Tatty Dancers	29 DHS DPCC CHUP 3:00 pm Game Night	30 DHS 6:00pm Tatty Dancers	31