



SPRING FORWARD FOR HANDBELLS 2026

A Handbell Workshop for the Individual Ringer

Saturday, May 09, 2026
from 9:30 am to 1:15 pm

Medford United Methodist Church
2 Hartford Road
Medford, NJ 08055

Announcing PHE's handbell workshop for the individual ringer!

The Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble is pleased to be hosting our annual Spring Forward for Handbells Workshop once more. This year, we are presenting the workshop in Medford, NJ.

This workshop is designed for those of you who are handbell ringers looking to improve your ringing skills. Participants will have the opportunity to take three classes taught by members of the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble, a local auditioned community group.

The workshop is not an event for massed ringing or an event where you need to prepare any music in advance. This workshop is designed to improve ringing skills for individuals.

But wait – yes, there's more! That same afternoon at 4:00 in the same location, **PHE will perform a complete full ensemble concert.**

What to Bring:

Gloves – that's it! All bells, tables, foam, equipment, music, mallets and chimes will be provided for you.

Class descriptions and registration information are provided here, as well as on our website at www.phillybells.org. Questions may be directed to workshop@phillybells.org

The registration price is **\$25 per ringer**. The registration price includes class materials and refreshments. Ask us about full choir group discounts. ***Each ringer will need to register individually.***

Each **ringer** should select three classes for enrollment. The schedule of classes is shown on the registration form. Please select one class for each time slot.

Two Ways to Register:

1. Register online at www.phillybells.org and pay with PayPal or credit/debit card, or
2. Complete the attached registration form and mail it with your check (payable to Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble) to the address at the bottom of the form.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 18, 2026. Space is limited, so register early! We will not be able to exceed maximum capacity.

Schedule:

9:30 – 9:50 Registration and Welcome
10:00 – 10:45 Class Session 1
10:55 – 11:40 Class Session 2
11:40 – 12:00 Refreshment Break
12:00 – 12:45 Class Session 3
12:45 – 1:00 Break
1:00 – 1:15 Concert preview and workshop wrap-up*

***Be sure to come back at 4:00 for the full concert!**



CLASSES FOR “SPRING FORWARD FOR HANDBELLS 2026”

Intended for the newer ringer

1. **Basic Ringing** – This class will cover how to hold bells and chimes with proper ringing technique - both to avoid fatigue and to promote musicality; how to damp the sound; timing and how to coordinate with neighboring ringers.
2. **How Do I Count That?** – This class will provide instruction on the distinction between rhythm, tempo, and meter. Participants will learn essential rhythms and an introduction to syncopation and dotted rhythms, all in various simple meters and compound meters.
3. **How Do I Mark My Music?** – This class will make your pencil your best friend in learning to ring bell music. How do I write the beats? How do I write the bell changes? How do I note the dynamics, tempo changes, and articulations? What is that Italian stuff? Your Bell Director will be so-o-o impressed!

Intended for all experience levels

4. **Bass Bell Techniques** – This class will introduce ringers to the mystery of handling the large bronze, demonstrate how to balance and how to perform various techniques, and provide considerations in making assignments for bass ringers.
5. **Change Ringing for Recruitment and Worship** – This class will introduce you to the mathematical ringing of tower bells and will provide ideas for using change-ringing to recruit new bell ringers in your church.
6. **Complex Rhythms** – This class will delve deeper into the world of rhythm: exploring unusual meters, mixed meters, polyrhythms, 3-against-2, and duplets in 6/8 or 9/8 meters.
7. **An Introduction to Dendrology, the Study of Trees** - Is solo ringing a little beyond your reach right now? Are you looking for an alternative way to feed your bell hog appetite? This class will introduce bell trees - equipment, music and setting up. Participants will have lots of time to practice on some simple arrangements.
8. **Handling Chimes, Mallets, and Bells with Only Two Hands** – This class will help you understand how to arrange equipment so that you can manage to hit your notes AND feel confident and appear poised.
9. **Pluck, Sing, Mart, Swing, Echo, Lift, and More** – This class provides an overview of Martellato, Mart-Lift, Plucks, Mallets, Suspended Mallets, Table Echo, Tower Swings, Singing Bell, and so forth, with emphasis on proper execution.
10. **Treble 4-In-Hand** – This class will teach how to hold two bells in each hand, how to pick up and drop extra bells while ringing, and how to execute individual bell and combined bell strikes.
11. **Weaving Bells Through Sharps and Flats in a Natural Way** – (See what we did there?) If you think bell changes and weaving are some sort of great mystery, then this class is for you. This class will demystify the handling of chromatic sequences without getting your arms hopelessly tangled.
12. **Solo Ringing** – Are you tired of sharing your toys? This hands-on class will cover a wide variety of techniques applicable to solo ringing including table damping, weaving, multiple-bell techniques and displacement of bells. Warning: participation in this class may lead to addiction, and possible sentencing to mandatory attendance at BHA (Bell Hogs Anonymous) meetings.



Registration Information (make a copy for yourself before mailing)

SPRING FORWARD FOR HANDBELLS 2026 - A Handbell Workshop for the Individual Ringer

Saturday, May 09, 2026 from 9:30 am to 1:15 pm at Medford United Methodist Church

Each individual ringer should submit a separate registration form.

Fee: \$25 per ringer ☐ Check enclosed

Name _____ Telephone: _____

Address _____

Email _____

Current Group _____

Director _____

Emergency Contact (name and number) _____

Please let us know if you are unable to go up and down one flight of stairs so we can do our best to arrange an accessible classroom for you (circle one): Stairs are fine for me Stairs are an issue for me

Class Selections (please select one class for each session).

<i>Class Session 1 from 10:00 - 10:45</i>	<i>Class Session 2 from 10:55 - 11:40</i>	<i>Class Session 3 from 12:00 - 12:45</i>
☐ Basic Ringing	☐ How Do I Count That?	☐ How Do I Mark My Music?
☐ Bass Bell Techniques	☐ Change Ringing	☐ Intro to Dendrology
☐ Treble 4-In-Hand	☐ Treble 4-In-Hand	☐ Handling Chimes, Mallets...
☐ Weaving Bells	☐ Complex Rhythms	☐ Weaving Bells
☐ Solo Ringing	☐ Pluck, Sing, Mart, Swing...	☐ Pluck, Sing, Mart, Swing...

Additional Information Required if Under Age 18 (Minimum age is 14):

*****Parent/Guardian or Chaperone must accompany each participant under the age of 18*****

Age of Participant _____ Accompanied by Parent/Guardian or Chaperone (circle one)

Parent/Guardian/Chaperone Information:

Name _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

I authorize my child to participate in the Spring Forward Handbells 2026 Workshop.

Signature

Print Name

Date

Mail registration form and check to:

Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble • c/o Becky Landon • 1608 Howe Ln • Ambler, PA • 19002