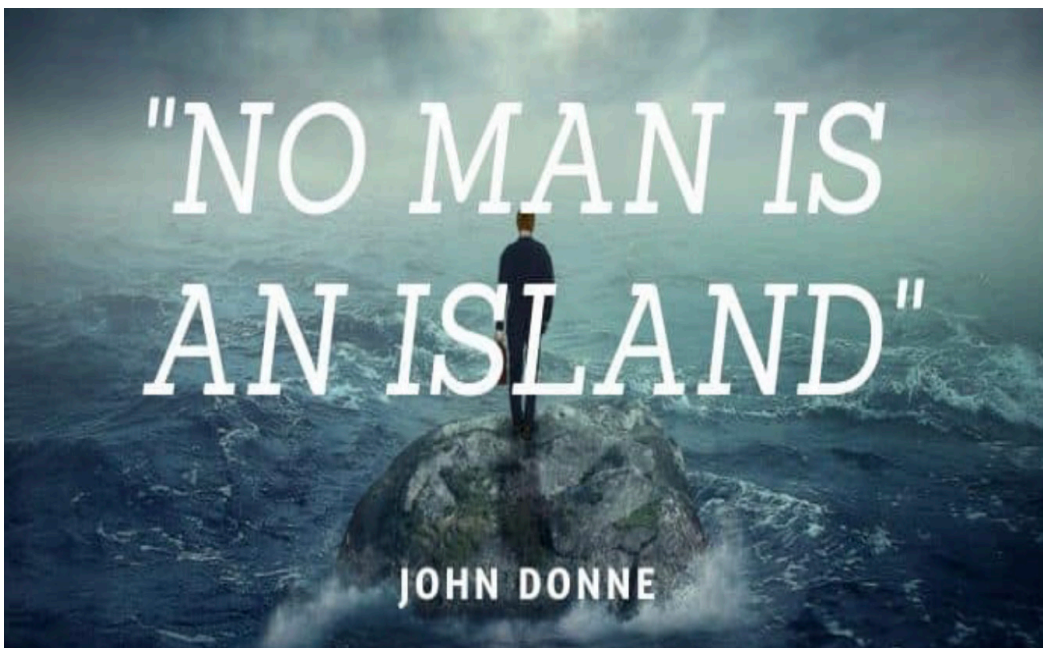


# BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – SEPTEMBER 2024

513.541.5676 | 5742 Hamilton Ave. | Cincinnati, OH 45224 | [chpc.org](http://chpc.org)



*No man is an island entire of itself,  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main.  
If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less,  
As well as if a promontory were,  
As well as any manner of thy friend's,  
Or of thine own were.  
Any man's death diminishes me,  
Because I am involved in mankind.  
And therefore never send to know for  
whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee.*

In 1624, English clergyman John Donne included this poem in what became his most famous Christian sermon. The previous year, a near fatal illness had severely limited his ministry, but he was inspired to write a book of meditations on pain, health, sickness, death, and hope in Jesus Christ.

God's eternal intention for human beings is that we would be "in intimate union" with him and in communion with each other. Those connections are for the well-being

and survival of each individual as well.

In Donne's day when a church bell was rung, it was a common practice to inquire who had died. For Donne, there was no need to ask—the death of any man (or woman) diminishes each of us. We are reminded of our common mortality and spiritual need. We grieve deeply, and share the loss. Even when we do not know the deceased, as Christians, we also share the hope of abundant eternal life through our Savior, Jesus Christ, now and forever.

The *Bell Tower News* does not typically report deaths. However, as the editor, I requested permission to reprint excerpts from documents that testify to a family's faith journey in Christ. Donne's poem was read by a father during the memorial service of his son.

I urge you to continue reading on page 4. *No one among us is an island.* Christ calls each of us individually to follow him and then be knit together by the Holy Spirit to "glorify God the Father and to enjoy Him forever!"

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BY SHARLYN STARE, BTN EDITOR

# “THANK YOU” FROM JACKY KALUBI and over 1000 GIRLS & WOMEN IN THE CONGO

The August 2024 edition of the *Bell Tower News* carried the story of Jacky Kalubi, her daughter Isabelle, son-in-law Calvin, and grandson Trey Harper traveling “home” to visit family and then to take materials and training to the team providing Dignity Kits to girls in a remote area of Congo. The Harper family had never been to Congo. This article is Jacky’s “Thank You!” to all those who made the trip possible.



In 2013, while on a trip to the DRC (Congo) with SonLight Power, I felt a divine calling to help young women in Tshibombo (Jacky’s deceased husband’s family home area). After nearly a decade of searching, probing, and praying, I finally found my answer. In 2021, during a summer trip with Leja Bulela and the Christian Medical Brigade, I introduced period underwear and reusable pads as alternatives to rags and disposable period products.

These products are hygienic, comfortable, and sustainable, designed for long-term use. They provide significant economic benefits for poor families and have a positive environmental impact. My goal was to help young girls overcome the shame and stigma associated with the lack of access to proper menstrual products and empower them to stay in school.

When I shared my vision with the CHPC community, the response was overwhelmingly positive, leading to partnerships\* that have enabled me to pursue this calling.

The youth of Tshibombo have numerous needs but are full of spiritual vitality. To share the love of

Jesus with them, we need to deliver a *transformative* message of the Gospel, train leaders, and encourage young women to stay in school and acquire a trade. The goal is to inspire a generation that believes one good deed leads to another, promoting exponential growth in kindness and community development. Jesus said in Matthew 9:37, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” Girls are experiencing God’s love in a practical way. They are grateful to God and becoming workers for him.

Traveling to the DRC is not for the faint-hearted. My personal relationship with Jesus Christ, my time in the Word of God and prayer, and being led by the Holy Spirit daily, along with the support of the CHPC Global Prayer Team, made the difference between safety and danger. We were firmly in God’s hands, and he protected us every step of the way.

Hebrews 13:16 reminds us, “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Ephesians 2:10 states, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” The CHPC Endowment Fund Committee

members, the CHPC Global Mission Outreach Team, Sharlyn Stare and Jan Osborn (partners in Delivering Dignity), and other churches in Cincinnati, you have truly exemplified these verses through your actions and the love of Jesus Christ. You are a blessing from God. My family and I cannot thank you enough for your invaluable participation in this endeavor. Your generous gifts over 4 years have reached over a thousand girls and women who send you their heartfelt words of gratitude. Thank you!

- \* Partners: 1. CHPC’s Endowment Fund and Global Mission Outreach Team, including Sam Stare and Jan Osborn
- 2. *Unveiling Glory/Delivering Dignity* (Bob and Debby Sjogren) - [www.Delivering-Dignity.com](http://www.Delivering-Dignity.com)
- 3. Leja Bulela, Inc. - [www.lejabulela.org](http://www.lejabulela.org)
- 4. *Hami Imani Africa* (Maureen Kimani) - [www.hamiimaniafrica.org](http://www.hamiimaniafrica.org)
- 5. Emma Stober, who holds the pad patents - [emma@toolittlechildren.org](mailto:emma@toolittlechildren.org)
- 6. Lutheran Women in Mission – *Cincinnati Mission in Motion*.

YEAR	"Dignity Kits" delivered
2021	200 sets of period panties and reusable pads.
2022	200 "Dignity Kits" made in Kenya, shipped to Congo.
2023	300 kits delivered.
	Bought 3 sewing machines. Trained sewers. 100 pads (30 kits) made in the Congo.
2024	300 kits made in Congo or transported from the USA.
TOTAL	Over 1000 kits & period pants provided in 4 years.

**NEW FEATURE  
BEGINNING THIS MONTH**



Christy Roediger retired from a corporate career in Human Resources (HR). She prayed for God to “direct her steps in his service.” Little did she know that would include a *front-row seat* in the medical community as she trains to be a hospital chaplain. Share in the drama and opportunities for ministry she experiences—the joys, losses, laughter, and “prayer lessons” that show God’s love and faithfulness to all generations at all times.

*The Lord’s Prayer reminds us that God longs for His people to communicate with Him, not just in church on Sunday but wherever we are and whatever our need.*—David Jeremiah

I have experienced some sweet moments during my training to become a chaplain—someone who comes alongside a person going through a difficult time to provide emotional or spiritual support. My training has been “in hospital,” so my work is primarily with patients and their families. Sometimes we also serve staff.

A chaplain is not an evangelistic role, so I’m not telling people about Jesus and encouraging them to make a commitment to Christ. My job is to accept everyone I meet where they are and help them from the place where they are. I quickly learned that the Holy Spirit is eager to meet

people who are open to God. So it’s fun to see what God does. These are a few of things I’ve observed from my “front row seat” watching God at work.

- When ministering to one lady who was a believer and very sick, I asked God to give her a special gift, something just between the two of them (a word, a picture, scripture or something that would remind this dear woman that God is with her and loves her). As we prayed, her countenance changed and so I asked her what happened. She told me that he gave her his fragrance. He walked past her and allowed her to breathe his very essence. I asked her what God smells like, and she laughed, saying, “He smells more clean and fresh that you can imagine.” I never dreamed he would give someone his scent – what a sweet gift to that dear lady.

- I was asked to see a woman who was part of a denomination that was unfamiliar to me. I didn’t know what to expect. When I met her, she looked hard into my face for several moments and then said, “O.K., you’re the real deal. Close the door—I get a little loud.” So, I closed her door. When I went back, she grabbed my hand and prayed for me for some time. It was the sweetest prayer – she asked for God’s blessing on me and my ministry. It was a wonderful, unexpected gift. Then she let me pray for her!

- An elderly man who was sick for the first time in his long life was looking at the question of mortality for the first time. He was struggling with his situation and his Protestant theology. He looked me in the eye and said, “What do you think of heaven?” We had the most wonderful conversation. He had some weighty things to wrestle with, and it was a privilege to be part of his health journey.

- One patient was sad, lonely, and isolated. She told of a terrible trauma

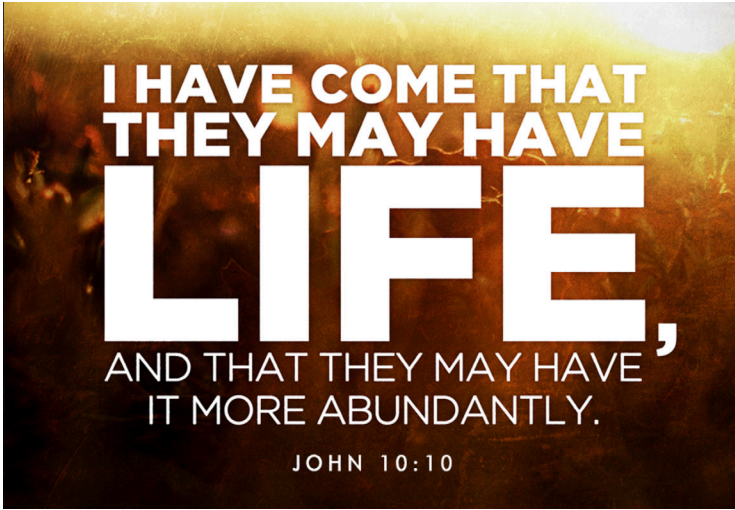
she’d experienced and the guilt she felt about it though she didn’t cause it in any way. During our time together, I felt led to ask her if she was ready to let go of that guilt. She thought about it and said, “Yes.” We prayed and she laid down that guilt. The next day she was totally different. The sad woman that I’d first met was gone. This lady told about getting a great night’s sleep, reaching out to her friends, and finding a new enthusiasm for life that she’d not had. It was amazing to see what God’s touch had done for her.

- Sometimes I work with a family who is in the process of saying goodbye to a family member who is dying. Recently, I met with a family struggling to let a dear wife, mother and grandmother go. There was underlying conflict between some of the family members, so we met together. This provided time to talk through the situation. Praying together created a space that allowed them to come to a decision they could all agree upon. It was a difficult situation, but having a chaplain, a calm presence, helping them through it made a difference.

- A couple of weeks ago, I was meeting with a patient and his wife. They are Christians. After a conversation, we decided it was time to pray. As we prepared to pray, the patient held up his hands and said, “Wait!” They explained that they do something special in their prayer and needed to tell me about it. Truthfully, I was a bit nervous about what they were going to say. They said that they end their prayer with Amen, Amen, Amen – three times for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So, we prayed and at the end we said together, “Amen, Amen, Amen.” I thanked them and told them I’d like to adopt that ending and they laughed saying, “Of course.”

So, “Amen, Amen and Amen!” to all of you reading this new column. I hope you are encouraged by it.





Jesus' words in John 10:10 above are incomplete. He prefaced his promise with a contrasting reality, "The thief [Satan] comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." In the past month, Paul and Karena Moncelle's family and hundreds of others come to understand this Scripture to a new depth.

It began with a prayer alerts:

MISSING: AIDAN MONCELLE — Last known location 8/4/24 5PM EDT, Dos Cabezas Railroad Station/ Water Tower in Anza-Borrego Desert near Julian, CA. May have headed to or away from Goat Canyon Trestle Bridge. Also may have come off the trail and gone elsewhere with car. Driving Dark Blue 2020 Honda Civic with Ohio license plates.

UPDATE: 8/5/24 - 2PM EDT - his car was found without him. It had a note from 8/4 on it that said he was headed to the trail. So seems like he did NOT make it off the trail. Today's temps are 111°F. He's by himself.

LAST UPDATE: 8/5/24 - About 3:30 PM - we received a call no parent ever wants to receive. Aidan was 1/4 mile away from his car. We're not sure if he was on or off trail. His body was taken over by the heat and elements. He has his angel wings. Thanks for all the prayers, support, messages, and love! Our family will take some quiet time to be together, and figure out all the logistics....

The shock and finality of that LAST UPDATE was unnerving. There was an emptiness and sense of deep loss experienced by those who knew Aidan and his family deeply or at all.

The Moncelle family put into

words what many felt: The "thief" had come and stolen, killed and destroyed! Yet Aidan's life was a testimony to Jesus' *abundant grace*, that naturally overflowed to others. Even his obituary was written to reflect this.

"WE'RE MAD, AIDAN! We're mad that you were taken from family and friends far too soon! You entered the world quickly on October 28, 2024 and left quickly, doing what you loved (on August 5, 2024). Those 21 years were not enough time. Our house will be so quiet without your musical talent. Some of us will miss your toe tricks. No one else will be sitting on their knees at the dinner table. No one else will save the ants that we find in the house or be excited for the arrival of the soldier flies in the compost bin.



We won't see you finish your last semester at 'Bama (University of Alabama) and do amazing rocket science. No one else will climb up tall buildings....Oh wait, your brother Addison will help keep our hearts pounding with that. You and he have so many inside jokes

left, so many concerts and bands left to experience, so many hikes you were both dreaming about, so many unfinished plans left to live together. Your sister Wisdom wants to play brave soldier with you until the end of time, wants you to push her higher than anyone else on her swing, wants to do art with you and be silly with you. We, your parents, have a gaping hole in our hearts too. We've lost our breath and have a hard time catching it. A part of our hearts has died as we continue to lose our minds. Our souls are screaming for you. We love and miss you for who you will always be—smart, funny, kind, goofy, adventurous, humble, curious, optimistic, and positive. . . You touched lives that we know about and lives that we'll never know about....Your thoughtful impact in this world will continue to ripple across time and space...

We're thankful that with God's love, over time our madness will soften, and we will be comforted. Our faith will lead us through. The Lord will heal us, the broken-hearted, and will bind up our wounds. HE will allow us to walk by faith. We will continue to pray that our hearts will not be troubled or afraid. We will pray that your short life will be used for HIS goodness and HIS glory."

THE CELEBRATION OF AIDAN'S LIFE was held at CHPC on August 17, 2024. Be encouraged. Watch the online YouTube video of the service: [www.youtube.com/live/W8OPrbH8-Sk](http://www.youtube.com/live/W8OPrbH8-Sk) . Thirty minutes into the service, Paul Moncelle spoke. He closed by addressing two questions: "Where is Aidan now?" and "Why was Aidan called home?" Paul's comments are not only profound, but an authentic witness to the family's relationship with Christ. Take time to see the video and share it.

# RESPONDING TO LOSS AND GRIEF

BY REV. DR. GARY R. SWEETEN

WE ALL STRUGGLED WITH WONDERING WHAT TO SAY AND DO, BUT WE SAW THERE WERE NO SPECIAL THINGS TO SAY, FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE WITH OTHERS IN THEIR TIME OF LOSS.



The loss of a beloved friend or family member leaves us in grief and confusion. The chaos and denial fill us with all kinds of concerns and questions about our faith in God as well as why he has allowed such a terrible thing to happen.

Over the years, in my church and counseling ministries, many people have asked me what to say to those who have lost a loved one. The questions are always motivated by a genuine concern for others and a desire to say, 'The Right Things.'

My parents were very good at caring for grieving friends and neighbors—their unnamed ministry began because of the loss of their first child. My eldest brother, Thomas, lived only three days after an accident during delivery, but his passing had a long and significant influence on our family's compassion for others.

In our small village, a public visitation was held at the Johnston Funeral Home for people in the community to pay their last respects. The tradition allowed us to be with others gathered to support and comfort the grieving family. My brother and I joined the other children and learned how to interact with compassionate sympathy.

As we gathered, we learned to look people in the eye, offer a hug, and weep with them. Many times, the family remember a special time we had spent with their loved one. They wanted to share it to remember their loved one's life rather than focus on their death. Such times were emotionally uplifting, bringing all of us to laughter.

My childhood and ministry experiences remind me of some precautions that are appropriate to take:

- Avoid mentioning to a grieving

person why you think God took their loved one. We do not know the mind of God and ought not to say that we do.

- Avoid saying too much and staying too long. We will always have more time later.
- Avoid being personal and drawing attention to yourselves.

FINALLY — OUR PRESENCE IS ALWAYS WELCOME. OUR HUGS AND TEARS HAVE A MORE SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE RESULT THAN ANY WORDS WE CAN MUSTER.

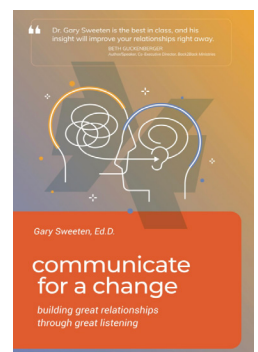


DR. SWEETEN IS THE FORMER PASTOR OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AT CHPC. HE IS

THE FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF RELATIONAL PEACE UNIVERSITY AND AUTHOR OF A NUMBER OF BOOKS AVAILABLE THROUGH AMAZON.COM—HIS LATEST IS *COMMUNICATE FOR A CHANGE*. THE UNIVERSITY'S



MATERIALS ARE BEING ADAPTED FOR A VENTURE IN TRAINING MATERIALS FOR CLERGY AND LAY PEOPLE IN WARTORN AREAS, LIKE UKRAINE.





## HELLO, I'M LEX BOWERMAN

"I've found the annual Fuge camps to be especially beneficial because of the spiritual atmosphere they provide. It was a week away from the distractions of everyday life, and a time to interact with other Christians and non-Christians from around the country. The leaders there always do a great job of trying to get people excited. The pastors and music crew made it seem like a

music concert. FUGE always helps to remind me of what is truly important—God.

Over the course of this FUGE trip to Lakeland, FL, I took on a larger role as a leader. This came with its ups and downs, as everything in life does. I particularly grew in Christ by learning to let him take the reins. Sometimes you just can't account for everything. When unexpected adversity comes up, sometimes you just have to listen to God and let him take the lead. I learned to be more of a servant—both to God and to our CHPC youth as they experienced God.



IT'S ME, LEX (LEFT) WITH JAMES PAUDEL

This fall, I will be working at CHPC as Family Ministries Coordinator. I will be helping to set up and run various family ministry programs: the Nursery, Sunday School, Youth Group, and Whiz Kids.

The biggest thing that attracted me to this ministry opportunity was the chance to further my involvement with my church, its community, and God. It was like a sign from God that this was something I should pursue."



A "SIDE TRIP" TO UNIVERSAL STUDIOS WAS A BONUS opportunity was the chance to further my involvement with my church, its community, and God. It was like a sign from God that this was something I



CHPC'S Day Camp was a big success and made *discovering Jesus* great fun for the Leaders and Campers.



# COLLEGE HILL CURC Newsletter

IF YOU DON'T  
RECEIVE THIS EACH  
MONTH. . .

You may not know about new restaurants or street planters and seating or new small businesses, including an award-winning book store coming to College Hill.

To receive the *free* newsletter from College Hill Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation,

CALL (513) 681-1551



## CHPC HOSTS THE GREAT LAKES PRESBYTERY

ARE YOU AVAILABLE to greet or help serve meals for the two-day fall meeting of the Great Lakes Presbytery (GLP) of our ECO denomination? The meeting will start at 5:30 PM Friday and conclude by 3:00 PM Saturday.

AVAILABLE? CONTACT JANET DUMFORD, JDUMFORD@CHPC.ORG



Hello CHPC,

As you probably know, CHPC participates in the Greater Cincinnati Prayer Canopy as a congregation. This is a regional effort to blanket Greater Cincinnati in prayer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days of the year.

Different churches and other praying Christian organizations commit to praying one day in the month, with the goal of scheduling prayer in hour-long chunks for that 24-hour period. We pray for our community and entreat God to intervene. Together, we pray for *God's Kingdom to Come to Cincinnati NOW*. CHPC's day is the 3rd Tuesday of the month, so in September our day is Tuesday, Sept. 17th.

The Greater Cincinnati Prayer Canopy provides a prayer guide, but it is just that – a guide. Plus, you may pray for our city any way that the Holy Spirit leads you—with the Prayer Guide or any other way. Some of you have said that you love praying with this guide, and some of you prefer to go it on your own – either is fine. I do hope that you will pick an hour, though, and pray for Greater Cincinnati for that hour. It may seem like a long time, but once you do it, you'll see that the time goes quicker than you may expect once you get started. Why not just give it a try!

When I get myself upset about one

thing or another, the thought of praying with Jesus just takes the wind out of all of my stress and annoyance. I hope you take some time to pray with Jesus and give the Prayer Canopy a try. Each month's copy of the Prayer Guide may be accessed online at:

[www.gcprayercanopy.net](http://www.gcprayercanopy.net)

For September, the focus for the Prayer Canopy is *Purity & Repentance*. At the end of the Prayer Guide, there is a listing of coming prayer events throughout Greater Cincinnati... you are invited to attend! For example,

On Thursday, September 26, the Prayer Canopy meets to pray together at Anderson Hills Church, 7515 Forest Road 45255; 6:30-8 PM.

Saturday, September 28 - Community Prayer with other local congregations at CHPC; 6:30-8 PM.

Thursday, October 24 - Prayer Canopy meets to pray together at Heritage Fellowship, 7216 US 42 in Florence, KY 41042; 7- 8:30 PM (note the later starting time).

Saturday, October 26 - Community Prayer with local congregations at Lifespring CC.

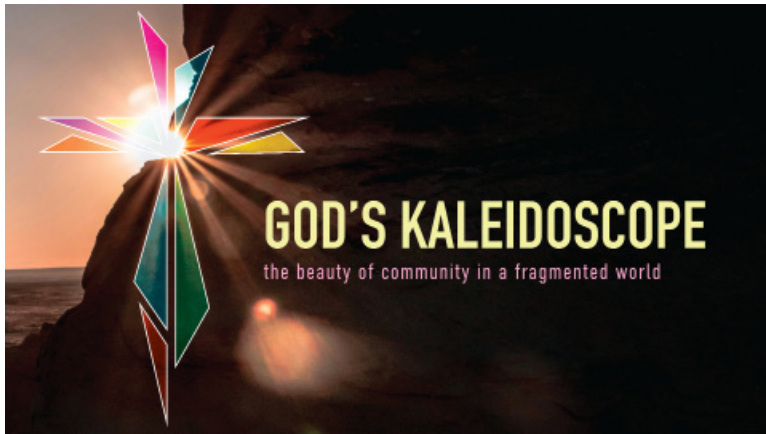
Saturday, November 23 - Community Prayer with local congregations at Fleming Road UCC

Saturday, December 21 - Community Prayer with local congregations at The Warehouse.

Please contact me if you have questions about the Greater Cincinnati Prayer Canopy. I pray that God the Holy Spirit will move in and that you may take delight in praying with Jesus and the Prayer Canopy. each month!

Blessings, *Christy Roediger*





## PREACHING SERIES

BY REV. DR. ANDREW SMITH, PASTOR

God has created the church as a unified group committed to following Jesus in all areas of life and sharing his love and truth with the world. Unity does not mean uniformity, and agreement about Jesus does not mean we agree on everything. We believe that the power of the cross has destroyed what divides us, and the power of the Holy Spirit will strengthen us and demonstrate Jesus' powerful love, which binds us together.

We are wrapping up our summer series, but there will be numerous opportunities to apply what we have learned—especially as Election Day approaches. Let's stay diligent and focused as we follow Jesus together and be His beautiful community.

September 1: ***The Trip Hazards of Conflict*** — Ephesians 4:25-32  
Several common pitfalls in conflict can cause relational harm and severely limit the opportunity for understanding and peace. We will explore the most common slips, trips, and falls on the journey of honoring God in our conflicts.

September 8: ***When We Hurt Another***—Romans 12:18. Guest Preacher John Schindeldecker

We are privileged to hear from an

expert on Christians pursuing peace together. John and Laura have spent their missionary career serving global workers by leading them in the power of the Spirit toward Biblical recon-

ciliation. The question is not, "Will we hurt one another?" The question is, "What do we do to honor God and follow Jesus when we hurt one another?"

September 15: ***Tend the Common Ground***—Ephesians 5:15-21, 6:10-20

One of the best ways to prevent weeds from growing in the garden is to have strong and healthy plants growing in fertile soil. Maybe one of the best ways to avoid unhealthy conflict with one another is to build

strong, healthy Jesus followers by focusing on our shared mission and purpose to make disciples of all nations. Let's focus on our deep, fertile common ground in Jesus.

September 22 ***Celebrate and Keep Practicing***—Rom. 14:19, Eph 4:11-17

God has called us to be a unique community who practice Jesus' ways together. Let's celebrate how God's Word teaches us to be a beautiful collection of fragmented people who, by His power, form into a glorious multi-colored expression of Jesus' love and goodness.

September 29 ***Growth Group Season Sharing The Good News***—Matthew 28:18-20

All are invited to join a Growth Group this fall. If you are already in one, invite others to join with you. If you aren't in a group, find one to join. If your group has been in hibernation, now is the season of rejuvenation!