

BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – APRIL 2023

513.541.5676 | 5742 Hamilton Ave. | Cincinnati, OH 45224 | chpc.org

EASTER GIFTS ALL YEAR 'ROUND

BY FR. SAL PUTZU FOR CBCP NEWS

THE disciples had locked themselves in the Upper Room for fear of the Jews. They had every reason to be afraid. And their hearts were locked, too – locked with the chains and bars of confusion, disappointment over what had happened to Jesus, and remorse for their cowardice when they deserted him. They knew they had not put up a great show of solidarity in the face of their Master's arrest. And now that he had been humiliated, killed, and buried, their lives had been plunged into an abyss of shame, meaninglessness, and discouragement.

But all of a sudden, unexpectedly, Jesus appeared in their midst, in spite of all those locks, both material and spiritual. Nothing could stop him. He was not there to show off or to get even with the disciples who had deserted him. In his mercy and love he had come to offer gifts–

the gifts/fruits of his resurrection: his presence, his peace, his joy, the participation in his mission, and his Spirit. These gifts were the tangible signs of his enduring and forgiving

Room but also for all because his love encompasses every human being and endures for ever. No one is excluded by Jesus, not even the greatest sinners.

But gifts are gifts. They are not impositions. They can be accepted or ignored or even disdainfully rejected. All that Jesus can do is offer them and encourage all

to accept them with grateful appreciation.

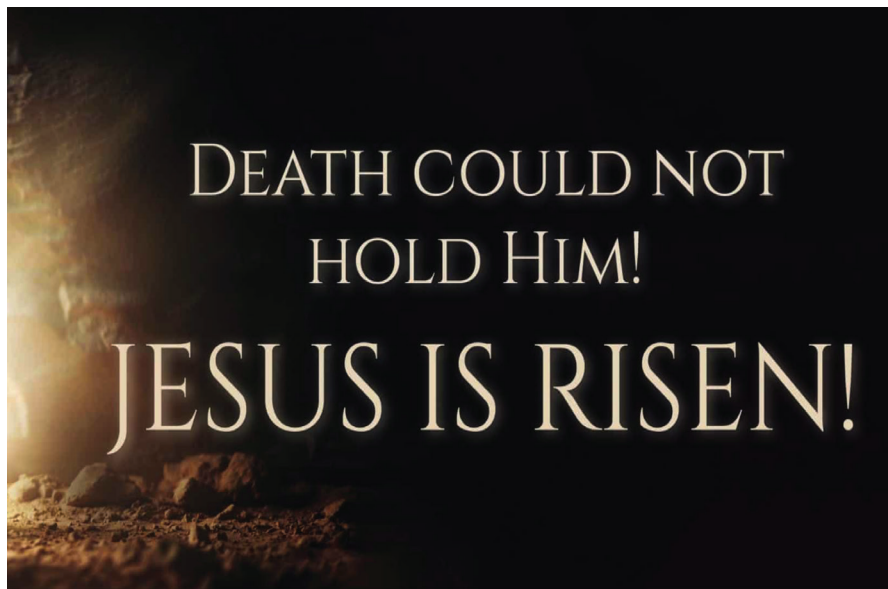
On our part, we must have a clear idea of the immense value of the gifts, the great difference—for the better—that they can make in our lives. By making us share in his mission, the Risen Christ raises us to an unprecedented dignity: the honor of being sent to all mankind as signs

love. They were plenteous and most precious gifts. They were meant for each and every one of his disciples, including the latecoming and slow-to-believe Thomas.

Christ's gifts are not only for his disciples gathered in the Upper

and bearers of God's love and of the Good News. By receiving from Jesus the gift of the Spirit's holiness, we become the privileged instruments of God's forgiveness and sanctification. We should also

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



COLLEGE HILL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA,
AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (ACTS 1:8).

The College Hill Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund enables donors to fulfill Christ's world-changing commandment during and after their lifetime. Becky Allf, Chris Dumford, Charlie Lethander, Cedric Lowe (chair), and Kip Mueller—Trustee Administrators—tell us how.

WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT?

Endowment funds are established to fund charitable and nonprofit institutions such as churches, hospitals, and universities. The initial capital and ongoing donations are tax-deductible. Well-managed funds will generate funds without touching the “principal” donations.

The College Hill Presbyterian Church's Endowment Fund was established 48 years ago as a vehicle to support appropriate efforts at Christian “good works” (outside the CHPC budget). It has provided \$1 million dollars in grants.

The fund is managed by five Trustee Administrators approved by the congregation. The Trustee Administrators establish and maintain an Endowment Fund Investment Policy and an Endowment Income Distribution Policy. They also choose an outside investment advisor.

At regularly scheduled meetings the trustees review the established policies; review the investment returns; and determine, in accordance with the distribution policy, the specific funds available for withdrawal from the Endowment Fund for the following year. After determining the withdrawal amount, the Trustee

Administrators inform the CHPC Grant Committee of the amount available. For year 2023, the determined amount for withdrawal was \$48,000.

The Grant Committee is separate from the Trustee Administrators. In October the Grant Committee reviews the applications from local, national, and international organizations seeking funding. The committee recommends who will receive grants and the respective dollar amounts and presents the information to the CHPC Session for final approval.

RECIPIENTS OF 2023 GRANTS

This year, 19 Christian organizations are receiving grants. Funds were awarded for evangelism, alleviating hunger and poverty, cross-cultural ministry, Christian worship and arts, plus equipment and building repairs not part of the CHPC budget. The locations of recipient organizations range from as far away as India, North Africa, Kenya, Uganda, and two Middle Eastern countries to Downtown Cincinnati and College Hill.

BEING CHRIST'S WITNESS

From a donor: “Jesus hasn't called me to GO and be his witness, but he has enabled me to send others by giving to the Endowment Fund now, and later through my will. I talked with one of the Trustee Administrators who helped me set it up. Whenever I read the list of the grant recipients, I am thankful to see where my donation made me a witness. Year



after year, the other Endowment Fund donors and I “evangelize the unreached, serve the needy and hungry, translate God's Word and develop Christian art and worship.” The best part is that I've built a legacy that will continue because I've donated to the Endowment Fund.”

A REMINDER

The Trustee Administrators enthusiastically invite and encourage giving to the Endowment Fund. However, such donations should not be viewed as a substitute for regular church giving. The annual CHPC budget—staff salaries, maintenance of buildings and grounds, and other church functions—are not supported by the Endowment Fund.

GRANT LIST IN THE MAY BTN
A detailed list of the 2023 Endowment Fund grants will be available next month.

To donate to the Endowment Fund or apply for funding for a 2024 grant, go to:

chpc.org/give/endowment-fund.

Interested in talking with a Trustee Administrator? Contact Heather Lethander at 513-541-5676 extension 1119 or hlethander@chpc.org.

TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO BIND UP THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES, AND THE OPENING OF THE PRISON TO THOSE WHO ARE BOUND (ISAIAH 61:1)

“Delivering Dignity” Kenya-Congo

a caring ministry partnership
made possible through a CHPC
Endowment Fund grant

Early in 2022, three Cincinnati women wrote a grant request to do a feasibility study related to providing for monthly feminine-care needs of girls in Congo. They partnered with other women who had the same passion and who had successfully delivered free kits of washable pads to over 12,000 girls in Kenya in two years. Two hundred “Dignity Kits” were manufactured in Kenya, and shipped to three distribution sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The response of the girls was overwhelmingly positive.

The need was clear, especially in areas where commercial “feminine care” products are not available and not affordable. Around the world the same need exists.

“Period Poverty” is an international concern devastating the lives of girls, their attendance in school,

ability to care for their families or have gainful work, their status in their communities, their health and hopes for the future, for generations.

The partners in this effort were CHPC’s Jacky Kalubi (born in the Congo), Jan Osborn and Sharlyn Stare (Cincinnati OH); Nimo Kimani of Hami Imani Africa (Nairobi, Kenya); and Debby & Bob Sjogren (Mechanicsville/Richmond, VA) founders of Delivering Dignity, a ministry of *UnveilingGLORY*.

The next step is to bring together a broad coalition* of women to share the vision of Delivering Dignity:

“women who care” helping other
women in small ways
that make a big difference.”

SATURDAY, MAY 13th at 2:30PM

The Cincinnati team is hosting a tea for 200 women at the Cincinnati Woman’s Club in Clifton. Interested? Request an invitation: email Sam Stare, starecvg@aol.com.

* *Partners of diverse social, racial, ethnic, faiths and economic circumstances.*



FIRST Tuesdays of the month, February to November at 7 PM, the College Hill Gardeners meet at CHPC. They will plant the CHPC entry pots, restore the 3C’s Nursery School playground gardens, and beautify the whole community.

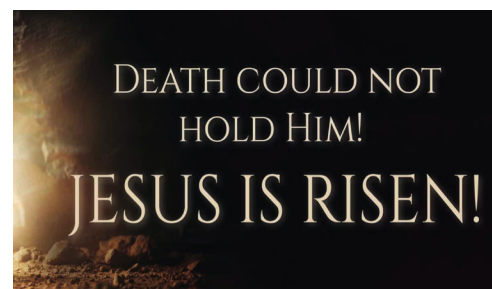


SAVE THE DATE

CH GARDENER’S PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 6th, 9 AM-1 PM
Patrick’s Park, 5943 Hamilton Ave.

◀ herbs, perennials, and annuals ▶
at great prices!



(CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT COVER)

become aware of the immense loss we will inflict on our- selves if we refuse them. The choice between accepting or rejecting Christ’s gifts is not like the choice between colors or what shoes to wear. Rather, it is a choice between life and death. So much is at stake.

Christ’s gifts are forever. They are for us, today, as they were for his disciples on the first Easter Day. And they will be for all believers till the end of time. His Spirit makes them alive and present in every generation. In this way, all feelings of dejection, confusion, anxiety, and fear are banned and are replaced by that sublime peace and joy which the Risen Christ alone can give. Thus, Easter becomes always and everywhere the lasting season of a renewed mankind. All we have to do is stretch out our hands in acceptance and proclaim, “Thank you, My Lord and my God!”



COLLEGE HILL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHILDREN'S/TEENS' SWIM LESSONS: 10, 11, 12 noon, North Hills Swim Club, 6346 Daly Road in Finneytown.
 Week #1 June 26-30;
 Week #2 July 17-21;
 Week #3 July 31-Aug. 4.



ADULTS' LESSONS: 5:45-7 PM, Twin Towers' Wellness Connection Pool, 5343 Hamilton Ave. in College Hill.
 Week A July 10-14 Week B July 24-28.

DETAILS & REGISTRATION: CHPC.ORG/SWIM
 FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF.



NEWS 3/28/23: The CHPC Swim Ministry was one of only 35 programs across 24 states to receive a grant from the USA Swimming Foundation for a new initiative: **Adult Learn-to-Swim** lessons. Nationally, nearly 2500 adults will have the opportunity to learn how to swim.



DETAILS & REGISTRATION: CHPC.ORG/KIDSCAMP
 June 5-9. For kids who have completed 2nd through 6th grade. CHPC is joining kids from across our region at CentriKid camp at Cedarville University (Cedarville, OH). Loads of fun games, discovering treasures in God's Word, amazing worship music, and plenty of time to make new friendships. Limited scholarships.



DETAILS & REGISTRATION: CHPC.ORG/3CS-CAMP
 August 7-10, 9:30 AM-12 PM. For children ages 3-8 at CHPC 3C's Nursery School. Kids will enjoy the loving environment to experience "out of this world" fun. Scholarships and sibling discounts are available. Blast off!



DETAILS & REGISTRATION: CHPC.ORG/YOUTH
 JUNE 12-16, Southern Seminary (Louisville, KY). The theme will be "In His Image." Staying in the newly remodeled dorms with access to the Louisville University's pool, basketball and other courts, game room, cafeteria, snack shop, and more.

EACH SUMMER MINISTRY NEEDS DONATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP
 FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK WITH THE MINISTRY AREAS.

A MODERN-DAY PARABLE
OF COINS, SHEEP, PRODIGALS...AND DOGS

BY CHRISTY ROEDIGER

EDITOR'S NOTE: Christy usually writes the "Prayer Corner" column for BTN. This month we asked her to share a parable. Luke 15 has three from Jesus, delivered with little explanation because the situations were so familiar. As you read, imagine <prayed earnestly> being added in the spaces between paragraphs.

Haven't we all lost something and searched for it? Some of you may remember when my dog Sophie was lost one spring. I had to travel for business, and Sophie was staying with a College Hill friend that she didn't know extremely well. During the second day of her visit, Sophie lifted her head and took off up the street and across Hamilton Avenue during afternoon rush-hour traffic. The first miracle of her journey was getting across that busy street! The people chasing her couldn't get across the street in time and lost her in the neighborhood. That began a week-long saga of searching for Sophie.

My mother and aunt drove the neighborhood looking for her. I wasn't able to get home for another four days, and when I arrived back in town I went directly to the ASPCA on Colerain to register her as lost and look through the dozens of kennels, hoping that she'd been rescued. My cousin helped me make posters, and Andrea Brown helped me post about 80 of them all over College Hill. I trekked through the woods near my home in hopes that she was waiting for me somewhere.

It was so frustrating – she had to be somewhere! People were so kind – one "dude" in the neighborhood



SOPHIE IS LOST

SWEET DOG, NOW A SENIOR CITIZEN
AND MUCH LOVED

approached me as I nailed a poster at Hamilton and Cedar Avenues. He asked if Sophie was my dog. When I said yes, he told me that he was looking and everyone he knew was looking for her. He encouraged me!

Finally, a wonderful woman named Susan found Sophie in her Mt. Healthy neighborhood. She had rescued Soph and called the ASPCA, who then called my parents. My mom and dad actually left their dinner half eaten to go to Sophie. When Sophie and I were reunited at my home, she just laid her head on my leg and fell asleep. She was filthy, the pads of her feet were worn, she'd lost a bit of weight, but otherwise was perfect. She had traveled about five miles during her six-day adventure.

After Sophie came home, I continued to receive calls and inquiries about her. People wondered if she'd been found and wanted to hear her story. Someone told me about the afternoon Sophie spent in the North College Hill schoolyard with the kids—she had

always liked children. Someone else told about having seeing her walking on the sidewalk on Hamilton Avenue under the Ronald Reagan Highway overpass. That person said that Sophie stopped with the lights, her tail was up, and she totally looked like she knew what she was doing.

Finding Sophie was a gift, and I wonder if that is a shadow of how God feels when we turn to Him? He's always seeking and continually hoping that we will turn our hearts toward what he values. Perhaps as this spring comes, we will allow his love to sprout in some new way within our hearts.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS: Three thoughts: (1) Sophie decided to wander and was "lost;" (2) it took a team using the resources they had to find her; and (3) she survived her journey and returned rejoicing and changed.

Luke 15:9-10 in *The Message* says, "Celebrate with me! —that's the kind of party God's angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God." We who know Christ "once were lost, but now are found." Keep praying for family, friends, and strangers to be open to receiving God's love in Jesus Christ. Jesus want us to understand the urgency for action and uses the Sophies in our lives as reminders. Join God in the search and experience the exhilaration in the finding.

Every morning IS Easter Morning from now on. Good-bye guilt, good-bye fear, good riddance! Hello, Lord, Hello, sun! I am one of the Easter People. My new life has begun. I am one of the Easter People! My new life has begun!

Deadline for Bell Tower
News submissions is the 15th
of each MONTH to Sam
Stare starecvg@aol.com.

EGG-CITING SERMON SERIES

BY THE CHPC PREACHING TEAM

The Preaching Series during Lent, “More Than Words,” and Pastor Drew’s challenge to read all the Gospel of Matthew, a chapter a day, were designed to enable the congregation to “respond to the life and teachings of Jesus.”

April 2 **Palm Sunday: Cry for You**
Luke 19:29-44. Jesus weeps for those who miss his great love that brings peace. Jesus longs to bring peace to his people, and it breaks his heart when we miss his loving kingship. When we miss what he is doing, it leaves us destitute.

April 9 **EASTER: Words to Live By**
Luke 24:1-8. After going to the Jesus’ tomb, the women remembered his words—he said he would raise to life again. They remembered that Jesus is in the business of bringing dead things to life. Jesus challenges us to remember that too. What are the dead areas of our lives into which Jesus wants to bring life?

After Easter, the new sermon series leads us through the Book of Acts: How it started, how it’s going, and what happened after Jesus’ resurrection? The fifth book of the New Testament describes the origin of the Christian Church. Jesus ascends into heaven and passes the baton to God the Holy Spirit, who indwells the people of God—those who confess Christ as Lord. The transforming news of the resurrection spreads throughout the world. From the initial group of 120 disciples, God powerfully multiplies the early church.

Dive into these early stories and discover how they impact us today. Explore the Holy Spirit’s ministry then and now. Be sure the message we share today is directly tied to the

church’s message then. What a grand opportunity to remember how it started and reflect on how it’s going now.

April 16 **Where Is Jesus Now?** Acts 1. A look at the ascension, Jesus rises into the heavens.

April 23 **Who Is the Holy Spirit?** Acts 2: 1-13. The Spirit of God started with a group of 120 and empowered them to take the good news of Jesus’ resurrection to the whole world.

April 30 **The Church’s Message** Acts 2:29-41. From its beginning, the church has had the same message: God the Father loved his whole creation so much that he sent his only son Jesus Christ into the world to reveal God’s love and intention for his Creation. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead is God’s sign that the Kingdom of God is come, and all can be right with him—through Jesus.



PASTOR DREW’S EASTER THOUGHTS
I didn’t like Easter growing up because my siblings and I would get new clothes for church. Then mom would

make us line up outside in the Alabama heat for pictures. I chuckle whenever I see the pictures of my brother and me in front of the rose bushes squinting and pouting in the bright morning sun.

It may seem wrong to make a choice, but I like Easter more than Christmas because I think Easter does not have as much competition from outside influences. The jolly elf seems to cast a much bigger shadow than bunnies.

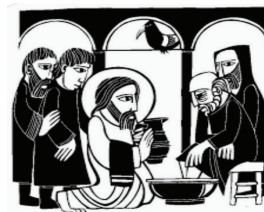
HOLY WEEK AT A GLANCE



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

WORSHIP 9 AM AND 10:30 AM

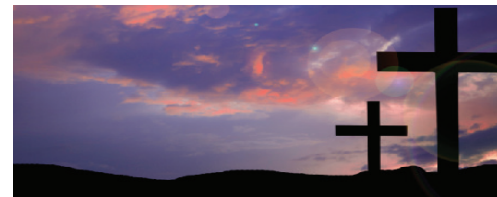
All four gospels tell of Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem with the waving of palms and “Hosannas.” It marks the first day of Holy Week.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 6, 7 TO 8 PM

Jesus meets with the disciples in the Upper Room, washing their feet and sharing the Passover supper with them. He gives his mandate to “love one another as I have loved you.”



GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 7, 7 TO 8 PM

The most pivotal event of eternity Christ’s Passion—trial, mockery, crucifixion, death, and entombment.

PRE-EASTER COMMUNITY EVENT APRIL 8, 1:30-3 PM

Egg hunt & the story of Easter for kids.



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

WORSHIP 9 AM AND 11 AM

Celebrate Christ’s RESURRECTION

