



BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – August 2022

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

SIZZLING SUMMER SERMONS ON HOPE COME TO LIFE IN SUMMER MINISTRIES

The CHPC sermon series *Living Hope in the Real World* grew out of God's wisdom in 1st Peter. Our hope in Jesus fuels us to live everyday in the fullness of God's beauty and power. Hope from Jesus not only bring inspiration but also delivers power for our real-life circumstances.

This August edition of the *Bell Tower News* features summer ministries that have actively shared "Living Hope" through camps and experiences for many ages at home and overseas. In the process many have found that even in times of pain, chaos, and trouble, Jesus keeps them going and reveals God's love in the process...for God's Glory.



PHOTOS FROM SHANNON CATON,
DIRECTOR OF 3 C's

The Christian Cooperative Community Nursery School and Kindergarten, 3C's, provides students with an excellent foundation for school and life.

On August 1-4, 3 C's teachers offered *Living Hope* and lots of summer fun to children ages 3-8 and to their families.

3 C's is a community like no other. It has a reputation of being a supportive environment where parents and teachers equip and encourage one another. No wonder 3C's camp was a great success. sixty-five kids



experienced 4 days of *Jungle Fun*! Campers were current 3Cs students, future students, alumni, and many children from the neighborhood! All the campers learned of God's love for his creation and for them (even when they are wearing jungle animal hats and attire)!

Proceeds from camp go to the 3 C's scholarship and materials funds.



COLLEGE HILL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The AccuWeather meteorologists were warning of “one of the most significant heat waves in England and Western Europe in over 200 years, since a few decades before the Declaration of Independence was signed.” The long-duration, extreme weather greeted the CHPC London Mission Team with 100°F temperatures.

Living Hope was shared by six CHPC adult team members in partnership with a larger team from a church in urban London, England. The 5-day camp’s theme was “Make Waves—What you can do today can change the world around you.” In God’s timing, teaching about refreshing Living Water was perfect in the hot, hot weather.

TEAM REPORT BY KELLEY FORESMAN

Praise be to God for his provision and his goodness!

Thanks to the faithful prayers and financial support of many, we had a phenomenal experience spreading the Gospel in Southall, London. This neighborhood is referred to as “little India.” It is primarily made up of South Asian people from the Muslim, Hindu, and Sikh religions. The main purpose of our trip was to run a week-long Bible Camp for the kids of the neighborhood. The camp curriculum included a daily Bible teaching, a craft, and several games—all supporting the gospel theme of the day. We also had a fun mid-week movie night and a last day of camp pizza party for the kids and their families. Through the

camp, we connected new families to the local church and facilitated building relationships with those who have had some previous contact with the church.

We were blessed with over 40 children who attended the camp. They came each day excited to have fun, all the while learning about Jesus and his love for them. Outside of the camp, we spent time with people in the neighborhood, sharing the Good News of Jesus and connecting them with the local church. God used our time there to reach out to new families, to minister to the local youth who served with us, and to encourage and support the on-the-ground missionaries of the local church. In addition to all of this, God worked in each of us uniquely through this experience to deepen our own relationship with Jesus. Christ.



BEFORE CAMP, LEADERS GATHERED TO PRAY AND PLAN.



IN THE MIST OF A HEAT WAVE, GOD GAVE LIVING WATER!



LEFT: CHPC REV. JENNIFER CRONK AND KATY (THE LONDON CAMP COORDINATOR), DISTRIBUTE INVITATIONS TO FAMILIES AT A COMMUNITY PARK.
BELOW: LIZ & SAMUEL MOCK, KELLEY FORESMAN, PENNY SAUER AND JINDA BOWERMAN.



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AS THE TEAM SERVED, THEY DISCOVERED THAT GOD HAD BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER TO “CHANGE THE WORLD” FOR CAMPER, LEADERS, THE HOST CHURCH AND THE AREA.



N.N.O. PHOTO-ESSAY

PHOTOS BY KAREN PEACOCK

Living Hope was a neighborhood experience on August 2nd when teams of volunteers hosted National Night Out—the annual event to thank the “first responders” of College Hill —District 5 police and Fire House #51—and to build bridges between them and the community. The goal of NNO is to create a positive environment where police and the community can get together in a non-threatening atmosphere, have food and fun together, and get to know each other.



CINDY CARLSON, GWYN SPINDEL, SALLY AUBLE, AND JOANNE CORNELIUS SERVE UP SMILES AND FOOD GRILLED BY BART SAUER, DAVE FREAS, CHUCK MARIHUGH, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF “THE BAND OF BROTHERS” MEN’S FELLOWSHIP.

DISTRICT 5 POLICE OFFICERS TALK WITH JIM BODMER, LEADER OF CITIZENS ON PATROL.



BALLOONS AND FACE PAINTING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY MADE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT THE “FUNNEST.”



WOW! A REAL POLICE SWAT TEAM “UP CLOSE.”

JEANNE SCHNEIDER & MONICA MATTIUSI FROM “LIVING HOPE” COUNSELING STAFF



COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY GROUPS PROMOTED THEIR SERVICES; AND KIDS OF ALL AGES RODE THE TRACKLESS TRAIN.



BY SAMUEL MOCK, DIRECTOR
OF NEXT GEN AND STREAMING
MINISTRIES

Living Hope was experienced by a team of 18 leaders and 6-12th-grade students, thanks to the prayers and financial support of College Hill Presbyterian Church. The group attended the Youth Mission Trip June 6-10 — *Fuge Camp* in Louisville, KY—and stayed on the campus of Boyce College. (Fuge short for centrifuge with God at the center.)

The two goals of the Youth Mission Trip were (1) that students would grow in their understanding of their need for God and feel comfortable sharing the love of God with others in practical ways they can also do at home; (2) that we as a group would grow closer to one another, developing deeper relationships so that we could allow for more authentic relationships. God provided both.

The Youth Mission Trip certainly had its ups and downs. During the mission trip, we shared God's love by playing with kids in the park, face painting and sharing the Gospel. Some students were shocked at their ability to be personable and relate to people they did not know.

Our students also learned a lot about the love Christians share. This love was most evident through the "trials of racism" our group faced from one church. The camp staff worked hard to de-escalate this situation and to hold the other church accountable. We were very sorry the students had to experience that and even more sad the other church's leadership did nothing and allowed one problem student to continue. Although the racism



THANKS CHPC! TOP ROW: LEX BOWERMAN, LUKE VERHAGEN, KYLE WILLIAMS, TIY GRAHAM, IZZAYYAH MONTGOMERY, CHRISTIAN LANDERS, JAMES PAUDEL, JAMILL FOWLER. MIDDLE ROW: CORA HOLLAND, KEYARRAH MONTGOMERY, JANIYA JACKSON, JASMINE JACKSON, ELIZABETH MOCK, MOLLY BROWN. BOTTOM ROW: NARHTEY MADDY, BRIAWN JAMES, SAMUEL MOCK, AND SANIYAH KELLON.

our students experienced was a low point, other churches came around us, loved us, and encouraged us. That helped our students see that we truly are a family under God.

Another memorable moment was when one of our group became overwhelmed. She was frustrated with herself. A leader took the student aside and shared about how she, too, got overwhelmed...and that it was okay. From that point on, they were a "safe space for one another." When either felt overwhelmed, they would go somewhere calmer and invest in their friendship with one

another.

A student, James Paudel, said, "I had an amazing time at the mission trip. Our mission was to go to a park and hang out with kids and be a friend to them and talk to them about God. Samuel Mock told us, 'People need to know that God-followers are not just people in suits and ties. We want them to know that just normal kids who do the same stuff as they are also followers of Jesus.' I have felt real close to God since I have been spending most of my day worshiping him, reading the Bible, and having quiet time with him."



CHPC TEAM AND FUGE CAMP COUNSELOR

The trip leaders were happy to hear that the students found the mission trip to be very fun and rewarding. Many want to return next year. God moved more than half of the 13 students committed to more regular prayer and daily Bible reading.

Pray that the leaders and students are faithful and God empowers them to continue following Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord all the days of their lives.

Jesus at the Center of **centrikid** Camp

BY REV. JENNIFER CRONK, PASTOR OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

On the weekend of June 24-26, CHPC did a different kind of “kids camp”—a camp of *Living Hope*. Nine urban 2nd-6th-grade kids and five adults went to Campbellsville, KY to take part in CentriKid Camp, run by Lifeway.

The camp theme was that God is infinite—infinite big and powerful and yet infinitely personal and loving. God made every star, but he also knows us each by name.



Each of the campers was reminded of the wonder we can feel when we truly see God as he is...infinite and infinitely loving. Each child walked away knowing of God's infinite love.

For more details and photos, see the *July Bell Tower News*.

Growth Groups at CHPC are self-selecting and meet in a variety of fashions (live and online) and places. Preaching pastors generate discussion materials to aid in discussing facets of the Sunday sermon and applying them to life.



A picnic for Growth Groups was held in Mark and Chris Evans' backyard on Sat., July 30. People gathered to enjoy the beautiful setting, lovely weather, good food, and fellowship.

Attendees were asked, “What is your favorite thing about Growth Groups?” Here are some replies: “Everyone taking turns and no one dominating the discussion.” “Community.” “Heightens spiritual awareness and interest.” “Digging into Scripture together.” “Learning new perspectives.”

“Deep, thought-provoking conversations.”
“Support!”
“Getting to know people better and how to pray for them.”
“Learning from the insights and perspectives of others.”
“I think about the sermon 2-3 more times, and I retain more when I discuss it with my Growth Group members.”
“I love the opportunity for growth and fellowship.”
“Developing friendships.”
“Connection!”
“Doing life with others.”
“Love connecting with church family outside of Sunday morning.”
“Sharing life with others.”

Look for new group sign-up in Sept.

CHPC SWIM MINISTRY

Watch for an article in the September *Bell Tower News* about how this ministry provided real *Living Hope* to hundreds of “underserved” kids through swim lesson scholarships funded by grants from these donors:



SESSION UPDATE

Please be praying for your Session.

Session has been in prayerful discernment about the 2022-23 fiscal year's budget. Staff is preparing their plans as well. Ministry audits inform these actions, as do the ministry areas' goals for outreach, prayer, and spiritual growth. Revisit your own goals. Session will be asking for your results in September to share at the October congregational meeting. How many people did you invite to a CHPC event? Praying for God's leading and blessing of CHPC? In a Growth Group to grow?

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

BE PART OF THE TEAM
Have something you'd like to write about? Have an idea for a future feature? Email starecvg@aol.com.

On August 7th, Jeanne Schneider, Executive Director of Living Hope Counseling Services, preached on "Hope Suffers." She promised some helpful resources. Here they are:

HOPE SUFFERS

When Pastor Drew Smith asked me to preach on *Hope Suffers*, I immediately shared how much I disliked the title. *Hope In Suffering* seemed better to me. However, as I began to sit with the scripture and ponder the sermon direction, *Hope Suffers* began to take shape.

If we believe God is our Hope, the *Living Hope*, then hope and suffering go together. It is so often the pain of our world that distorts hope. We begin to develop an either/or attitude rather than an both/and perspective.

Let's take, for , a disappointment or painful news. Our human tendency may lead us down paths of hopelessness rather than hope. We begin to notice those thoughts that say, "If God were really good , this would not be happening. If God really loved me, this pain would go away." Do you notice how those thoughts become *either God is good and loving or he is not* when difficult things happen in our lives?

Now consider the perspective of the both/and. Life is filled with suffering and God is still good. His is still our hope. There is both pain and hope. It can be both, not either/or. This may be a new way of thinking about the struggles of life. How do you



stay grounded in God's truth when it is so easy to have the truth twisted?

Some resources mentioned in the August 7th sermon include the following:

Resilience by John Eldredge
One Minute Pause App (specifically, 30-Days to Resilient,
Waymaker by Ann Voskamp.

There are many resources currently available as we have seen such an increase in anxiety and depression the last couple of years. Find those that will help renew your mind and restore your soul so that you can be grounded in the truth that...

GOD'S CHARACTER NEVER CHANGES, AND THE SUFFERING ENDURED BY CHRIST LEADS US TO THE KNOW: HOPE SUFFERS.

If you find yourself needing support in the suffering and finding hope, contact Living Hope Counseling. We can be reached at 513-371-5135 or online: livinghopecs.com.



LIVING HOPE
COUNSELING SERVICES

GUEST PREACHER SUNDAY, AUG. 28 STEVE STEPHENSON

This guest preacher is passionate about helping women and families with unplanned pregnancies.

Through his work with *Life Forward*, Pregnancy Care of Cincinnati* the last eleven years, he's is engaged in both the material and practical support needs for clients as well as the spiritual support offered through the Gospel of Jesus.

Steve is also a seminary student, attending Kairos University out of Sioux Falls, SD, and a U.S. Army Reservist in a military intelligence unit located here in Cincinnati, where he is in training to become a military chaplain. He, his wife Evonne, and three children live in the Loveland area.



* FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LIFE FORWARD, go to <https://www.lifeforwardcincy.org>. Life Forward helps women and their families make life-affirming decisions through God's love.

Offices in CLIFTON-2415 Auburn Ave. LOVELAND-11020 S. Lebanon Rd., 45140 SPRINGDALE - 11345 Century Circle West. Text or call 513.961.7777 to connect with someone who can help.

SHARON HOLLAND'S JULY 3rd "HOPE SERVES" reference — an English translation of the letter of Pastor Wang Yi: <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/>

stories/read-pastor-wang-yi's-powerful-letter-to-authorities-written-15-months-before-9-year-sentence/
A couple of great quotes:
"If I am detained for a long or short period of time to help those in pow-

er reduce their fear of my faith and my Savior, I am happy to help them in this way."

"The person who interrogates me will eventually be interrogated by Christ."

