



BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – June 2021

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

HISTORIANS SAY THAT PANDEMICS typically have two types of endings: the *medical*, which occurs when the incidence and death rates plummet, and the *social*, when the epidemic of fear about the disease wanes.

On May 12th, Ohio's Governor DeWine announced the *medical* one. Due to wide access to the life-saving vaccines to help Ohioans stay safe and protected, he planned to remove the Covid-19 mask, social distancing, and related health orders on June 2nd.

On May 28, Rev. Drew Smith took a significant step toward the *social* one when he announced by email and robocall that College Hill Presbyterian's COVID-related restrictions (mask and distancing) would end Sunday, May 30 *for those who have been vaccinated*. Some CHPC ministries like Children & Families will have a phased relaunch. [See the process for registering children for Kids' Worship on page 8.]

As Pastor Drew noted: Let us give thanks to God for the vaccines, grieve with those who grieve, share our hope in Christ, and continue to pray for the broad dissemination of the vaccine and **God's Good News** to all the world.

PANDEMIC POSTLUDE

WELLNESS TIP

FROM JEANNE SCHNEIDER, M.A., LPCC's Executive Director, Living Hope Counseling Center

Some are celebrating. Some are anxious. Some are ready for "normal." Some are not ready for "normal."

At Living Hope Counseling Services we are seeing a gamut of mental health concerns as people have struggled through a year of a pandemic. The isolation, loneliness, anxiety, depression, and grief have taken their toll. Others report enjoying a time to reflect and reset. Some are ready to return to offices, and others enjoy working from home. We have seen a continuum of emotions and thoughts.

Perhaps you have found a new rhythm and identified those things that are important in your world through this time. Others may be struggling to step back into "normal." The following are a few suggestions as you begin to heal and move into a "new normal."

Acknowledge your feelings and thoughts. Take time to reflect on the impact this year has had on your mental and emotional well-being. Use the 3 P's: Perspective, Priority, and Permission.

PERSPECTIVE—Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us "there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Take time to identify your life season and perspective. For example, my perspective is focusing on the start up of Living Hope Counseling Services and caring for aging parents.

PRIORITY—Keeping your perspective on the seasons of life, you can begin to identify what is important in this season. In the example above

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“YOU TURNED MY WAILING INTO DANCING... AND CLOTHED ME WITH JOY.” PSALM 30:11

In the midst of the pandemic, God used dance to encourage the spirits and lives of young women. On May 24th, two ballet groups—CHPC’s Jesus University and girls from the LifeSpring Church—joined to celebrate and dance for the joy of God’s Glory. The recital in CHPC’s Sanctuary was a gift to the girls’ parents and families for their support during the COVID season.



With a blast from a *shofar* Gordon Havens, Director of City Gospel Mission’s Princesses Ballet, opened



an exciting evening of dance and worship. In the Judeo-Christian tradition, the *shofar*, a ram’s horn, was blown

to signify power and call listeners to attention. It was clear to all that something important and wonderful was about to happen. No one was disappointed!

Three members of CHPC’s Worship Team (Hope, Bernice, and Ken Davis) opened by singing about the fierceness of God’s love. Then the dancing began, and God’s fierce love did, indeed, fill the sanctuary.



The Jesus University followed dancing to with “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love,” a hymn from Ghana,

West Africa. The dance was so moving that it brought tears to more than a few eyes. As the girls danced, we thought about serving the neighbors God gives us. It felt like we were transported to a storybook land, only this story is a real one.

The candle holders lining the center aisle made a path of light that directed our attention to center stage, where the light of Christ



audience to erupt in applause. The most powerful moment was when half of the troupe gracefully turned their backs on the audience to face the cross. As they lifted their arms in praise, it truly caused attendees “celebrate God’s goodness.”



After a brief intermission, a trio of more advanced dancers from the Princesses Ballet Hub Site moved to “Jesus, I Love You.” They mesmerizing the younger

could be seen shining in the faces of the beautiful dancers.

ballerinas and audience as well. The three dancers filled the stage and our hearts, making us contemplate “Jesus, the joy of our salvation.”

Next, the Princesses Ballet Life Spring Site dancers performed “O Come to the Altar.” Their intricate weaving in and out caused the

Jesus University ended the evening with “Lay It All Down.” That’s what all

who attended wanted to do by the end of the performance. The girls' movements and the music spoke of deep sorrow and the "cares that have burdened many." The dance reminding people to "lay it all down at the feet of Jesus."

The littlest dancers held up signs listing some of the sorrows the girls had known—loneliness, bullying, abandonment, and hurt. The older dancers moved from hugging themselves—isolated in their pain—to lying their cares at the feet of Jesus. Then the girls wrapped their arms around each other. The dance served as a poignant reminder of the great hope we have in life together in Christ.

CHPC's Pastor Drew Smith closed the evening, noting that we were all different people from when we arrived." We had worshiped our Savior Jesus Christ through music and dance and had been touched by Him.

The girls from both Princess Ballet sites had worked hard and trained in spite of the pandemic. They practiced outdoors and inside, in heat and cold. The culmination of their efforts, a joint recital of two Princess Ballet groups, was a first in Greater Cincinnati. They had *come together*



in Jesus' name and it showed during the recital.

The evening ended with thanksgiving to God for...

- The dancers', who had encouraged and supported them during the pandemic.
- JESUS UNIVERSITY—Helen Brooks and Joe Brooks (Director and Site Facilitator), Aliyah Brandy (Instructor); Donyell O'Neal and Favia Leary (creative geniuses).
- The wonderful team of folks from LIFESPRING CHURCH—Nickie Dinkelacker(Director), Lisa Townsend Everingham, and Amy Battoclette.
- .HOSTS: Gordon Havens. Director of Princess Ballet of Cincinnati.

CHPC Pastor Drew Smith and LifeSpring's Rev. Tim Dunn.

Cathy Smith (CHPC Event Planner); Allen McKinney and Nicolas Dumford (A/V Team); ushers, ticket-takers, photographers, and others.

Knits & Pearls
come and unwind

Thursdays, 10 AM at CHPC

June Elwood (513) 205-7991
or Gwyn Spindel (513) 761-7185

for weekly details

A fellowship group of social knitters and fabric arts women who use their talents for the benefit of others. In its 11th year. Open to the community. "A great place to go and unwind during this virus season." A caring group.

NO MASKS FOR VACCINATED BUT YOU MAY WEAR A MASK IF YOU WISH.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE WORLD ASKED ORDINARY MEN TO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS.
BAND OF BROTHERS

That time is now! Exciting men's fellowship. Bible study and discipleship. 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 6:15 AM. Worth getting up for! Live in CHPC Fireside Room or via Zoom.com. Info? Barry Stare, bzuthr@me.com .



Dear Drew,
Thank you and the leaders of College Hill Presbyterian Church for remembering my 90th birthday [May 11th] with a very, very special bouquet of flowers. They are still very beautiful a week later. Please express our deep thanks for this gracious gift.

Yours because of Christ, Jerry Kirk
PASTOR EMERITUS CHPC





TWENTY YEARS AGO THIS MONTH, CHPC member Allen Rainey envisioned a ministry to transform lives with love and solar power. The church will celebrate the birth of that vision this month. Next year, others will celebrate the founding of the SonLight Power Company.



Allen (on the far right) put his degree in practical theology to work: "One of the world's great tragedies is that about one in five people on the planet lack access to basic electricity. That's 1.4 billion people who live without the convenience and safety of lighting, who cannot refrigerate their food or medicine, who still pump water by hand and where charging a cell phone can be a day's walk."

Allen believed that change would come through the combined efforts of the private sector, governments, philanthropists, entrepreneurs, inventors, charitable organizations and committed individuals to attack this problem. It will also take the loving power of Jesus."

Learn about the rest of the story. Go to <https://www.sonlightpower.org>

3C's Nursery School And Kindergarten

END-OF-YEAR CAR PARADE

3C's is a Christian Cooperative Community ministry that provide students with an excellent foundation for both school and life. It is a loving preschool and kindergarten and a "community" like no other. It is a supportive environment where parents and teachers support one another.

On May 27, CHPC's pastoral staff gathered to hand out small end-of-year gifts to the 3C's students as they drove through the parking lot in a "car parade." It was a great chance to connect with both students and parents. Some of the kids remembered the CHPC pastors since the pastors have been taking turns helping out



3C's this spring with their drop-off's and pick-up's. We were surprised how many of the kids remembered and were happy to see them!

On June 6th at the 10:30 AM outdoor service, CHPC will honor kids graduating from 3C's, as well as our high school and college graduates.

Interested in having your child attend 3C's next year?

Contact 3C's Director, Shannon Caton, at 3Cnurseryschool@gmail.com.

BY SHARLYN STARE

The *May Bell Tower News* included an article about my spiritual preparation for cataract surgery. For my May 20th wrap-up exam, I wanted to be sure to expressed my gratitude to the three doctors and eight nurses who served me so well. I brought copies of the *BTN* article, boxes of Graeter's chocolates and personalized Thank You notes.



The notes were headed "BIDDEN OR NOT, GOD IS PRESENT." My surgeon (for whom many have prayed) seemed most surprised that I remembered to thank all his team. I simply said, "I know that God used each person whether they realized it or not....and the candy and notes are more acceptable than running in the halls yelling, *I once was blind, but now I see!*"

SURPRISE! YOU'VE GOT FLOWERS

Have you seen the three pots of “bloomers” at the entrance to the CHPC Atrium? They are a *love gift* to the church from the College Hill Gardeners (CHG)—the garden club for our community.

The Club used the church’s facilities during the pandemic. By following CHPC’s pandemic protocols the group was able to gather to prepare for the CHG May Herb & Plant Sales, the beautification of public areas in College Hill, learning from professional speakers, and the October fun Fall Festival, Pumpkin Patch.

Beth McLean, CHG President, orchestrated the “pot planting.” Tony Thompson of College Hill CURC secured donated plant materials from the Cincinnati Parks Dept (which otherwise would have ended

up in the compost heap). The pots were also recycled.

CHPC member Mary Kaufmann has been a leader in CHG



for many years. Beth McLean said, “Now, she can enjoy the Gardeners’ handiwork in her home church.” Bouquets to the resourceful folks who responded to the church’s call for help. Thank you CH Gardeners!

CHG meets the first Tuesday of each month. Email collegehillgardeners@gmail.com to receive more information. Also, check out CHG’s Facebook page.

CUT OUT FOR FAMILY FUN ✂

FAITH FORWARD JUNE

Pray for each other. Times 5:0

SUNDAY

- 6 Pray for your pastor.
- 13 missionaries.
- 20 Pray for your city.
- 27 Pray for your nation.

MONDAY

- 7 Pray for people who are poor.
- 14 Pray for first responders.
- 21 Pray for the President of your country.
- 28 Pray for someone who is having a hard time.

TUESDAY

- 1 Pray for someone who attends your church.
- 8 Pray for your teachers.
- 15 Pray for local farmers.
- 22 Pray for widows.
- 29 Pray for people who don't know Jesus.

WEDNESDAY

- 2 Pray for your presents.
- 9 Pray for your friends at school.
- 16 Pray for foster care families.
- 23 Pray for someone who believes in you and encourages you.
- 30 Pray for someone in your neighborhood.

THURSDAY

- 3 Pray for someone who hasn't been nice to you.
- 10 Pray for your grandparents.
- 17 Pray for people who protect our country.
- 24 Pray for someone who makes you laugh.

FRIDAY

- 4 Pray for someone who is sick.
- 11 Pray for someone who is in jail.
- 18 Pray for orphans.
- 25 Pray for persecuted Christians.

SATURDAY

- 5 Pray for the people of Jerusalem. (See Psalm 137:1-6)
- 12 Pray for someone who is expecting a baby.
- 19 Pray for local business.
- 26 Pray for someone whose name starts with the letter J.

JACOB

God is always listening. Keep on praying.

EXERCISING GOD'S CREATION ORDINANCES WITH JOY MORE INFO ON PAGE 8

As a church reaching out and serving the College Hill community, we seek to be a "welcoming place practicing hospitality" on Sun-



days; during special events and outreach programs; and when hosting weddings, funerals, meetings, etc. Many people from the community walk through our campus during the week. Some stop to rest and interact with people from the church.

The appearance of our church grounds can help or hinder. When our grounds are inviting, they speak volumes. Their beauty wordlessly



testifies to our love of God's Creation. They are an invitation to the weary and thirsty to rest and drink,

honoring Jesus' own words: "I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35).

God has given "Green Team" members/partners opportunities to greet, have brief conversations or, in some cases, pray for someone who requests it. Being willing to stop in the middle of a task for the more important work of touching someone's life brings its own joy.

The plants recently install are perennials and low maintenance. Mulch was used to reduce weeding. Nevertheless, Cincinnati summers require attention to their watering needs.

BE PART OF THE "GREEN TEAM"

For more information, contact Kelly Hibbett at hibbettkelly@gmail.com or 513-482-1624. The Green Team meets the 3rd Saturday of the month through September—8:00 till 11:00 AM. Others with limited time may volunteer to water the new plantings each week (as needed). Invite a friend to join you and make it a fun day together.



MEET THE PLANTING TEAM: CARL BRYANT — director of the handbell choir and avid gardener

ART & ELAINE STATTMAN



PAT & PAM DOLLARD



DAVE BUTZ AND CINDY CARLSON.



WOVEN WOMEN'S MINISTRY — June 2021

BY JANET DUMFORD, CONVENER

WOVEN is the Women's Ministry of CHPC, a diverse community of women committed to living out Colossians 2:2-3.

Our *Creative Community* event on March 27 included a teaching from Sharon Holland on Jeremiah 29: we have gifts to offer in restorative work coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic and quarantine. She admonished us to look for ways we could establish beauty as part of God's Kingdom on earth. Then attendees chose to participate in one

of three sessions: gardening (pictured), creative journaling, or drama.



Nineteen women enjoyed this encouragement to create.

Every other month is a *Ladies Night Out*—an evening to connect at a restaurant or in someone's home. In April, we met at Krimmer's Italianette Pizza restaurant in North College Hill.

We have more events scheduled:

- Ladies Night Out—Weds., June 23
- Tea & Flowers—Saturday, July 17.
- Ladies Night Out—Thurs., Aug 26.
- A Retreat at *The Springs* (overnight in Indiana)—Friday & Saturday, September 24-25.

If you'd like your name added to our email or text list, please email your name and contact info. to:

woven@chpc.org or

text WOVEN to 513-854-1604. ■

SESSION UPDATE

BY JANET DUMFORD, CLERK OF SESSION

June 2021

Session continues to work on the goals set during the annual Ministry Audit. This month the focus was on evangelism goals for the areas of Worship, Connections, and Children & Families Ministries.



Drew introduced the Session Elders to flourishmovement.org, an online resource site for our denomination, the ECO. The *Flourish* site offers ECO church leaders tools for ministry assessments and training courses via videos and podcasts. Much of the information is free with registration.

The elders are studying the *ECO Leadership Training Series*, "Intro. to the Core Competencies." Elders have been asked to watch two videos each month and then come to the Session meeting ready to answer questions and discuss them. This training was designed by the ECO to help church leaders learn to be more effective in their roles. It will also be of use in the annual job performance review of our Head Pastor Drew. Core Competencies include *Maturity of Faith, Personal Call & Integrity, Biblical Knowledge & Application, Theological Knowledge, Sacramental Knowledge & Practice, Preaching & Teaching, Polity Knowledge & Application, Missional Engagement & Evangelism, Disciple Making & Leadership Development, and Team Leadership.*

For more information contact Elders Mark Evans (evansmd1@gmail.com) Bart Sauer (bart.sauer@siemens.com).

PRAY FOR YOUR SESSION.
Next meeting: Wed., June 16, 7 PM.
WATCH for information on Laura Smit's JUNE 26 Podcast.

Mulch Madness!

Thanks to all who prayed for and bought garden mulch from the CHPC Swim Ministry. With the support of the College Hill Gardeners and the CH Forum eNewsletter, *The Currents*, many from the community joined in. CHPC member Roger Williams and his team of young men delivered and spread mulch...and received "rave reviews" and income for their services. Nearly 25 pallet-loads of mulch were sold. The last 4 bags of black mulch were donated to CHPC's landscape beautification.

The \$1400 raised for the Swim Scholarship Fund helps children be water safe and enjoying the *Living Water*.

WELLNESS TIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I am sensitive to the impact of bringing the best me each day to the office. I desire to be fully present, meeting the needs of those we serve in the Living Hope Counseling Center. I also desire the capacity to love and care for parents. Therefore, I've become more aware of ways that I need to care for myself. That way I have the emotional and physical bandwidth (and energy) to manage other activities outside of those two main roles.

PERMISSION—So in keeping the perspective and priorities in focus, I am able to recognize what to say "yes" or "no" to doing. The reality is there are many wonderful opportunities in which to invest energies.

However, by recognizing that your season of life may have changed since the start of the pandemic, what you might have said "yes" to in the past may be "no" for this season or vice versa. So take some time to reflect and seek God's wisdom in this season.

EXERCISE—Some reports show an average weight gain of 29 pounds during the pandemic as people were more sedentary and consumed more calories while at home. Start slowly but find ways you enjoy to exercise whether it is a walk with cicadas crunching under your feet, stretching, or an exercise video.

COMPASSION FOR SELF AND OTHERS—Allow space to re-enter life at the pace that works for you and others. Stay grounded—breathe, meditate and stay in the moment. Reach out

for help if you find yourself needing that extra support, Living Hope Counselors are available to provide help. Schedule an appointment: 513-371-5135 or go to www.livinghopecs.com.

We are grateful to CHPC and the many supporters who make it possible to offer affordable fees. As we continue to see an increase in those reaching out for help, consider a contribution. Checks can be sent to Living Hope Counseling Services 5742 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, OH, 45224.

WATCH FOR OUR SUMMER GROUPS that will provide tools for moving into your next season of life.



LIVING HOPE
COUNSELING SERVICES

EXERCISING GOD'S CREATION ORDINANCES WITH JOY



If you only come and go through the Atrium on Sunday morning, you may have missed an amazing transformation. It was far from an overnight achievement. It is the result of prayer and vision, hard work, and wise planning. As the pictures reveal, God is using a diverse group of men and women to give Him Glory and to open a new entrée into the College Hill community. You too can join the "Green Team."

CHPC's campus clean-up and beautification began in earnest in May 2020, when a small group gathered to pick up trash and debris. Afterwards, masked and socially distanced, they joined in a Unity Walk—praying for forgiveness, and for healing of the College Hill community and the world. Within three months, the world changed as did our vocabulary and behavior: pandemic, shelter-in-place, virtual schools and churches. Businesses closed, loved ones died, isolation took a toll and our national conscience rebelled at the killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and others.

Amidst the change and turmoil, thirty brothers and sisters in Christ continued to come together to maintain the church grounds. While the church buildings were mostly empty, the "Green Team" *believed*

God and not the circumstance. They trimmed hedges, pulled down vines, edged lawns, and tidied overgrown and neglected flower beds. Working together to care for their "CHPC Family Home" buoyed their spirits. There was great joy in being good stewards of "this little plot of earth with which we have been blessed."

Special thanks are due to the team of folks with willing hands, feet, hearts, backs and knees, who



beautified the CHPC grounds this spring. They prepared, planted and mulched seven new garden beds with hostas and other perennials. Most of the plants were donated by members of the congregation. In more than 50 person-hours they created islands of beauty that draw attention to God, the Creator, and welcome visitors and members alike.

MORE PHOTOS & INFORMATION ON PAGE 6



FROM REV. JENNIFER CRONK

To phase back into our Children's Ministry, in June and July we are offering an in-person worship option for children! CHPC Kids will be an in-person kids' worship class *at the 10:30 service only*. Kids will join their parents for worship, then they'll be dismissed before the sermon. Cathy Lowe, Cathy Smith, and I will be leading them in lessons on Romans, and some music and fun activities.

We're limiting the class to 10 kids on the weeks we're indoors, so that we can maintain COVID safety protocols. You can pre-register your kid(s) at

www.chpc.org/kidsummer

We won't meet 8/1, 8/8 and 8/15 to get ready to fully come back on 8/22, in our brand-new and totally-remodeled kids' spaces.

BEGINNING ON 8/22, we will be offering all of the following classes: 9:00 SERVICE- Nursery (birth to 4 years old); Children's Worship (5 years old to 3rd grade; 4th grade and up will sit with their parents in worship).

10:30 SERVICE- Nursery (birth to 3 years old); Preschool & Kindergarten (4 yrs old to Kindergarten); 1st-3rd Grade Sunday School; 4th-6th Grade Sunday School.

Questions? Please don't hesitate to contact me. All our kids' volunteers have missed your kids like crazy. We are so excited to be seeing them (and you) again!

513-541-5676 x 1123; jcronk@chpc.org
www.chpc.org

DEADLINE FOR THE BELL TOWER NEWS
15TH OF EACH MONTH TO STARECVG@AOL.COM