

BELLTOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – February 2021

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

GOD 
JUSTICE
COLLEGE HILL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
JANUARY 3 - FEBRUARY 14
VISIT US AT CHPC.ORG

FEB 7 JUSTICE FOR ALL

Amos 1:1 – 2:8 The call to justice and human flourishing can be seen in all of creation. The call to justice is not only for God's people but for all people. Amos charges the pagan nations to pursue justice and thwart injustice. God's people have a responsibility to God to pursue justice for everybody upon the earth.

FEB 14 JUSTICE IN THE END

Isaiah 11:1-11; Matthew 25:31-46 God is just all the way to the end. Justice is eternal and injustice will be destroyed. What is done in accordance with God's just character has eternal impact and importance. In the end God will annihilate all injustice and only God's justice will continue. Let's live eternally today. Pursue justice!

DON'T LEND LENT TO ANYONE

Lent begins on February 17, Ash Wednesday. Many Christians have heard of Lent but not why it's worth celebrating or why they should be involved.

The purpose of all liturgy is to make the life of Jesus Christ more real and contemporary to the believer. Advent prepares believers to understand the miracle of God with us in Christ's birth. Likewise, Lent is a forty-day period set aside to ready

Christians to remember the last week of Christ's life, Holy Week, and the miracle of Christ's resurrection at Easter. These are times to grow in intimacy with God through genuine encounters with Jesus Christ.

The Lenten Preaching Series explores Jesus' face to face encounters with real people in Scripture. We'll see that Jesus doesn't give simplistic advice; he gets involved in each life.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



JESUS MOSIAC - LINDA CRANK

JESUS UNIVERSITY : A DANCE OF LOVE

By Helen Brooks, Jesus University Director



The Jesus University dancers led in worship during Christmastime. The group has grown in skills and numbers, and BTN asked Helen Brooks to share with readers about this exciting group and how to encourage and support it.

Jesus University is one of CHPC's Outreach Ministries that teaches ballet and poise with "an eternal difference." The group's first dance, organized by Helen and Joseph Brooks, was performed for CHPC's 2015 Christmas Eve Family Program.

In 2019, Jesus University merged with City Gospel Mission's Princesses

program, with a mentoring approach and a focus on success for each girl, helps girls build character, self-esteem, discipline, and a love of dance.

CHPC is currently one of the largest sites. Prior to Covid-19 pandemic, Jesus University participated in a city-wide ballet recital. It featured 500 dancers under the direction of Gordon Haven (pictured), founder of Princesses Ballet.

Jesus University is currently one



of the few sites still conducting practices and Bible study while ensuring social distancing and other safety protocols are in place. The girls can be seen practicing around our church campus every Saturday

and preparing for Sunday morning worship performances throughout the year. They are also required to participate in weekly Bible lessons and two community outreach events each year.

We believe in creating an environment where children can come and flourish in the Gospel and have fun doing so. It's like "a Sunday School with ballet slippers." Our mission is to develop, nurture, and build disciples for the Kingdom outside of the church walls. In fact, the ministry includes girls who attend CHPC and others who live in surrounding communities.

The Jesus University participants also learn how to apply biblical principles in their lives daily and during worship performances. Recently, guest speakers have included Darryll Davis (Making Good Decisions); Drew Smith (Spiritual Gifts); Aliyah Brandy and her husband (Marriage); Jennifer Cronk (Advent); and next month, Penny and Bart Sauer will be presenting on Being Good Stewards.

YOU'RE INVITED

We invite anyone who is willing to share how God's love transforms lives or to teach a Bible lesson to spend an hour or so on a Saturday as a guest speaker/teacher (see Helen or Joe Brooks 513-375-4230 for details).

This innovative ministry is definitely yielding good fruit. Just



Ballet program that began in 2003. The program serves girls ages 3-18 at 21 sites across Greater Cincinnati. The dancers are often from low-income families and could not otherwise afford private dance lessons. Princesses Ballet is provided for free, except a modest cost for dance wear.

this winter, two members of the Jesus University team were baptized, and one member rededicated her life to Christ. We are looking forward to having more girls do so.

Two dynamic ballet instructors lead and teach Jesus University. Aliyah Brandy is our primary Instructor. She is classically trained through the



Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and was featured as Clara in the Cincinnati Ballet's *Nutcracker*. Nicole James instructs the older girls. She trained under Gordon Haven and City Gospel since she was eight years old. Favia Brooks Leary is the Asst. Director of Jesus University, and Joe Brooks secures the CHPC campus so the girls have a safe place to practice. Jesus University has flourished because of parent volunteers (Catherine Sanders & Kamico Adkins).

Jesus University has ministered and performed their dances throughout the community, including Twin Towers, Northminster Presbyterian Church, and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. We have continued to minister during the pandemic and believe that children should have a space to continue to enjoy fellowship with others their age.

Jesus University offers an open ministry to children of all races and ethnicities, following the vision of the church to become a diverse community, and we seek prayer to help us grow in diversity in order to look more like Heaven.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Prayer is always needed to undergird the ministry.
2. Donations provide dance scholarships and pay for our instructors. Parents pay a monthly tuition of \$20 for instructors, but scholarship money is also needed. If you would like to sponsor a child for a year as a part of the Jesus University ministry, the cost is \$240, which includes instructional fees and ballet attire.

To make a donation of any amount, please use one of the following ways:

- CASH—Fill out an offering envelope and write, "Jesus University" in the section for "Other."
- CHECK—To CHPC, write "Jesus University" on the memo line. Mail: to 5742 Hamilton Ave, Cinti 45224.
- CREDIT CARD—Go to chpc.org/give/ and choose "Online" and "General Giving." Put *Jesus University* in the Note.

Thank you from the Jesus University dancers!





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.

MASKS REQUIRED
SOCIAL DISTANCING OBSERVED.

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 & 3rd Thursdays, 6:15 AM. Worth getting up! CHPC Fireside Room/ Zoom.com. Info? Barry Stare, bzuthr@me.com

VALENTINE'S STORY

By Molly & Luke Verhagen



TANDEM FOR LIFE

Having grown up attending CHPC, Molly and Luke had known of each other for many years. However, it wasn't until 2019 that they really came to know each other as peers, friends and more.

There they were at the College Hill 2019 Block Party in August volunteering to serve at the aptly named "Jesus Tent." While cleaning up from an evening of Jesus-centered conversations with visitors, they found themselves in a conversation of their own. Molly had had a pretty quiet summer, working for her father and riding her bicycle. Luke had just quit his job 3 days prior and was excited at the possibilities of the near future—where was God going to take him next? The conversation was free-flowing, full of substance and

reality. Trust was formed naturally. God was laying the foundation for a friendship.

Together with their mutual friend Samuel Mock, CHPC's new Director of Student Ministries, Molly and Luke spent much of the rest of the summer in deep conversation interspersed with good times and light laughter. The three of them were fast friends,

but Molly was feeling that there was potential for more. She and Luke spent a fair amount of time together—going on day trips to nearby cities, visiting antique malls, and enjoying the local music scene.

Surely Luke wasn't so clueless that he didn't sense Molly's interest in him? Calling Luke "clueless" may seem a bit strong, but it was not far from the truth. Luke had found his own interest in Molly and shared his thoughts occasionally with Samuel Mock, but he had no clue how to broach the subject with Molly and felt almost no urgency to do so. (sigh) MEN!

Molly returned to school at Ohio University to finish her degree in Music Therapy. Luke made a point of keeping in touch via text messages and Molly came back to Cincinnati frequently to visit. Finally, Christmas break rolled around, and Molly was

home for the holidays.

As one might expect, she and Luke hung out often, enjoying each other's friendship. But something wasn't right, and Molly needed Luke to know. Molly would frequently ask Luke about himself, his day, what was good, what was hard? Luke, being something of an expert on himself, would freely answer. Luke rarely asked similar questions of Molly, and she had noticed.

It confused Molly. Here was this young man whose character she knew and trusted, whose desire for a life of integrity was no secret, and whose company she enjoyed. Why didn't he ask her more about herself? On December 22nd, Molly asked him that exact question.

Luke was dumbfounded. He had been unaware of his inaction. He felt convicted by his friend's curiosity. He could not leave the question unanswered. Right then, right there, he sat silently to reflect, seeking to find the truth through self-examination. He did. Luke realized that he needed to tell Molly about his growing romantic interest in her—if only to set his own mind and heart at ease.

So, he told her, and before getting much further than "Molly, I'm interested in you...," Molly interrupted and confessed her own interest in him. Thus began the story of on-going growth and excitement and commitment that Molly and Luke are living out today—first as friends, as girlfriend and boyfriend, then as fiancée and fiancé, and finally, on Dec 12, 2020, as wife and husband. ■

From Rev Jennifer Cronk, Pastor to Children & Families

PHILLIP COTTER WORSHIPADMIN @CHPC.ORG

Media Specialist: Website, Worship Slides, Bulletin & Announcement



Phillip's face may be familiar. You may have seen him playing the drums in the CHPC worship band since 2018. This month he has taken

on the role of Media Specialist as well.

In 2012, Phillip responded to a *Craigslist* ad for a drummer. Darryll Davis had placed the ad for his newly launched "Pathways Christian Church." Phillip has been playing in worship bands with Darryll ever since.

Phillip grew up in the Cincinnati suburb of Wyoming and currently lives in Northside. He is a graduate of the College-Conservatory of Music, majoring in Commercial Music Production with a minor in Entrepreneurship. He is a multi-instrumentalist with a passion for writing and recording various styles of music, like soul, folk, and rock. When he isn't making music, Phillip is usually enjoying the great outdoors.

THANKS TO SAM COFFEY for his service as the previous Media Specialist.

cut out for family fun ✂

FAITH FORWARD FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>7 Discuss: Could we be an answer to someone's prayer this week?</p>	<p>1 Talk to God about something that made you feel good today.</p>	<p>2 Tell God about things going on in the world that make you feel sad.</p>	<p>3 Tell God what you like about February.</p>	<p>4 Pray for someone who is feeling sad or lonely.</p>	<p>5 Tell God five things that you like about your church.</p>	<p>6 Talk to God about something beautiful that you saw today.</p>
<p>14 Take turns talking about what makes you FEEL loved.</p>	<p>8 Tell God about your favorite teacher at school.</p>	<p>9 Pray for someone who is feeling sick.</p>	<p>10 Discuss as a family: What do you think is missing in our family?</p>	<p>11 Tell God about the worst thing that has ever happened to you.</p>	<p>12 Tell God five things that you like about your house.</p>	<p>13 Tell God about your friends and ask Him to watch over them.</p>
<p>21 Ask 5 people for their best life advice to you. Record their answers in a journal.</p>	<p>15 Talk to God about your least favorite chore.</p>	<p>16 Tell God what you are most thankful for right now.</p>	<p>17 Pray for your family members, each by name.</p>	<p>18 Tell God about the best thing that has ever happened to you.</p>	<p>19 Tell God five things that you like about yourself.</p>	<p>20 Pray for someone whose name starts with the letter E.</p>
<p>28 On this day, February 28, read Psalm 28. Turn parts of it into your own prayer.</p>	<p>22 As a family, read Proverbs 22. Have everyone draw/sketch one verse from there.</p>	<p>23 Talk to God about something you have a hard time understanding.</p>	<p>24 Tell God about something you want to do, but you can't yet.</p>	<p>25 Tell God what you want to accomplish by your next birthday.</p>	<p>26 Tell God five things that you like about your town.</p>	<p>27 Tell God about one place where you'd want to travel one day.</p>

**A PRAYER IS NOT HOLY CHEWING GUM.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE HOW FAR YOU CAN STRETCH IT.**

COME, BRING A FRIEND

By Susan Koch, Bible Study Facilitator



TUESDAYS AT 9:30 AM COME JOIN US AT CHPC

I'm Susan Koch, the facilitator for a weekly study for women of all ages. In this season, wear your masks and be prepared to social distance, but come! You will encounter God through a video-based Bible Study.

Feb 2nd, a new verse-by-verse study of the Book of Hebrews began. Teacher/author Jen Wilkin's passion is to see women become articulate and committed followers of Christ with a clear understanding of why they believe what they believe—by being grounded in the *Word of God*.

In her study of Hebrews, Jen Wilkin explores how God "provided something better for us" in the person of Jesus Christ (Heb. 11:40).



Jen will show why the author of Hebrews believes that the new covenant is superior to the old and how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God's promises. Explore familiar verses in context of the entire Bible.

Comments from attendees of previous Bible studies:

- "I was blown away by discovering Christ in the Old Testament."
- "I'm seeing continual growth in knowing Scripture—not just storing God's Word, but understanding and living it out."
- "I came to grow in spiritual maturity by being centered and focused on Jesus! I really need that in these pandemic days!"
- "I was concerned about the class being for best friends who hang out together. But there were "newbies" like me and even some are from other churches. This group sincerely cares for one another. They take what they study seriously and pray for and support each other."

MORE INFO? Contact me at (513) 444-4492 or frogtown1@TWC.COM



"SURELY YOU JEST. DON'T YOU REALIZE THERE'S SNOW ON THE GROUND?"

The first call for 2021 Swim Ministry dates came the day after Christmas, pandemic or not. The North Hills Swim Club (NHSC) has approved dates for lessons for children and teens. We've applied for grant money. Please join us in praying for staff, swimmers and scholarships. There are still many unknowns.

SWIM LESSONS DATES

Children/Teens lessons — mornings 10 AM, 11 AM or 12 Noon at North Hills Swim Club.

Week #1 June 21-25; week #2 July 12-16; week #3 July 26-30.

Adult lessons —6-7 PM location to be determined. Week #A July 5-9; Week #B July 19-23

Mature teens, ages 11+ who swim at American Red Cross Level 4 may apply to serve on the Swim Ministry staff. STAFF TRAINING is planned for June 10-12 — Thursday & Friday 6-9 PM with dinner, and Saturday, June 12, 9AM-4PM.

April 1, 2021 is our target for having registrations for swimmers and staff online at CHPC.org. Questions? Contact Sam Stare, starecvg@aol.com or (513) 542-2442.

**DEADLINE FOR THE
BELL TOWER NEWS
15TH OF EACH MONTH.**
Articles to BTN Editor Sam Stare
starecvg@aol.com.

Questions or ideas for articles?
Call or text 513-382-5902.
Interim is seeking new writers,
reporters, proofreaders, photographers,
and users of In-Design and MSWord.



to opera. The three communities will play the video multiple times over their in-house broadcasting system February 8-14. Produced by Darryll Davis, the concert featured the CHPC Worship Band with pianists Ken Davis and Jill Drewyor, vocalists Eric Heatley (Cincinnati Opera),

The CHPC Outreach and Music Ministries teamed up to make a special “love gift” for residents of Ohio Living Llanfair and the Twin Towers & Twin Lakes Life Enriching Communities. The gift is a videotaped concert designed to *unlock the memory box of the listener’s mind*—fun and serious music, jazz

folk favorite Dave Hawkins with violist Peg Buchanan (Arts Revival of College Hill), Darryll & Bernice Davis, Andrea Brown, Cedric Lowe, and Daven & Malea Roberson. Many thanks to Alan McKinney and Nicholas Dumford of the A/V Crew and Anne Klusmeier for making the recording possible.

DECKING THE HALLS: THE BACK STORY



PHOTO CHRISTMAS 2019

Q: The CHPC Christmas decorations appear on the first Sunday of Advent and disappear by the Sunday after the 12th Day of Christmas. Where do they come from and to where do they return? Who does the “decking?” Here are the answers:

A: *The Sanctuary Guild* guided by Avril Warren and Sharlyn Stare, designs and maintains the decorations. Most are stored in the church’s “undercroft”—the area under the Sanctuary. Ron Bredemeier employed his carpentry gifts to create a safe, dry location for many of the perishable materials.

Each year men and women from the church are recruited to unpack, carry, assemble, fluff and light the 9-foot to 12-foot trees, and hang the greenery high in the arches.

This year’s team was Pat Dollard, Mark Evans, Bob Faul, David Freas, Mark Klusmeier, Chuck Marihugh, Dan Ott, Joe Robinson, Cathy Smith, Sam & Barry Stare, Art Stattman, Avril Warren, and John Wendt. Dave Freas brought a tool that saved climbing tall ladders. The “undecking” took less than 90 minutes. Great job!

A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION

CHPC member Chris Goodman was a music teacher in Cincinnati when God called her to be part of a Christian music group touring Europe. In 1987, she moved overseas with the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship and later the Presbyterian Church(USA). After she was ordained, in 1995, her husband Rev Greg Callison joined her as a mission mobilizers with the Frontier Fellowship. Together they shared a love for the Kurds people in Berlin and later in the Kurdish

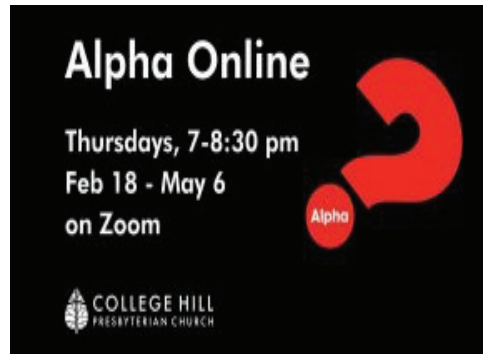


homeland. Offered an early retirement, they have joined “The Antioch Partners” (TAP). The Callisons plan to keep building a team that can continue loving Kurds for Christ long after their years of service are done.

INVITATIONS

ALPHA ONLINE STARTS FEBRUARY 18

Where questions create community. You're invited to explore life's big questions. Alpha is a place to explore the Christian faith with others. It's a series of conversations focused on the questions of life, faith, and meaning. Each session includes a time to connect with others, hear a talk on some element of faith, and then a chance for people to share their own questions and perspectives with the group. Thursdays, February 18-May 6, 7:00 - 8:30PM. We'll meet on Zoom.com.



MORE INFO—Janet Dumford (513) 477-3471 or go to CHPC.org/events/.

BTN Readers please pray in preparation for the Alpha course. At 11:02 AM each day for 21 days (set an alarm to remind you). Pray for our city and for three people you know to come to know Jesus.

LENTEN PREACHING SERIES BEGINS FEB 17

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

During the 40 days of Lent, worshipers may experience Jesus in new ways, and discover how he intersects each life with God's love, compassion and truth.

Lent can be a helpful and meaningful time. May it lead to times of personal reflection, repentance, spiritual growth and serving others. May we each glimpse the deep, intimate relationship Jesus has with the Father, and how Christ's obedience allowed God's amazing Glory to be revealed at Easter.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB 17, 7PM *PREPARING TO MEET JESUS FACE TO FACE*

Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. The day is one of the most important holy days in the liturgical calendar.

SUNDAY, FEB 21, 9 & 10:30AM *JESUS MAKES THINGS NEW*

Jesus has a life changing night-time encounter with Nick, who was stuck on religion instead of a revolutionary relationship with the Living God.

SUNDAY, FEB 28, 9 & 10:30AM *JESUS MAKES YOU WELL*

A blind man experiences an unusual healing from Jesus. When Jesus intersects our life he will bring healing.

The March Edition of the *Bell Tower News* will have details on the rest of the Preaching Series, and a preview of Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday, March 28 and ending Easter Sunday, April 4th.



ALPHA ALUMNI TRAIN TO LEAD OTHERS

Pray about helping those who want to explore the big questions of life, faith, and purpose. Training takes place on Thursday, February 11th. (See MORE INFO above.)

TAKE A PERSONAL STEP TOWARDS RACIAL UNITY "UNDIVIDED"

For six Tuesday evenings, April 6 to May 11 (7:00-9:30PM) join in the *national rollout* of UNDIVIDED, an online experience within a diverse group designed to help you learn the intricacies, challenges, and hopes for addressing the racial divides in our city and nation. CHPC officers have been part of the "test market" for the past three years. UNDIVIDED.COM for details.

REGISTER BY MARCH 14. Contact Drew Smith (dsmith@chpc.org) or Dave Snyder (513-706-5666) if you have questions. *Invite others interested in racial unity. justice.*

