

BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – May 2021

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

ECO RECEIVES REV. DARRYLL DAVIS

Pastor Drew Smith announces that Rev. Darryll Davis has officially transferred his ordination into ECO—the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. After his installation at CHPC on Sunday, May 2, he will be a member of the Great Lakes Presbytery and CHPC's Assistant Pastor of Outreach and Worship.



The Presbytery's Ministry Partnership Team, a group of ministers and elders from surrounding ECO churches, have examined Darryll and approved his denomination change. The team was excited to receive someone with Darryll's gifts, wisdom, and experience into the ECO.

Let's celebrate God's provision for quality leadership at CHPC. Darryll's areas of oversight are listed on page 8. For more personal information about Darryll, go to <https://chpc.org/leadership/>. Offer him congratulations at ddavis@chpc.org.

SPRING "TUNE UP" SERIES

The sermons in May continue the study of Romans (in reverse). Entitled *Harmony*, the theme verse is 15:5-6 — "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in tune with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

How do we live in harmony with one another and in tune with Jesus? It often seems like our differences and divisions continue to cause a rising level of discord. Things were not so different in Rome almost 2000 years ago. The Apostle Paul shows us how important it is to God for us to live in harmony with one another and with God. Jesus gave his life so that we could make beautiful music with God and one another.

The journey of applying the Good News of the harmony that Jesus brings to you, me, and the world is exciting.

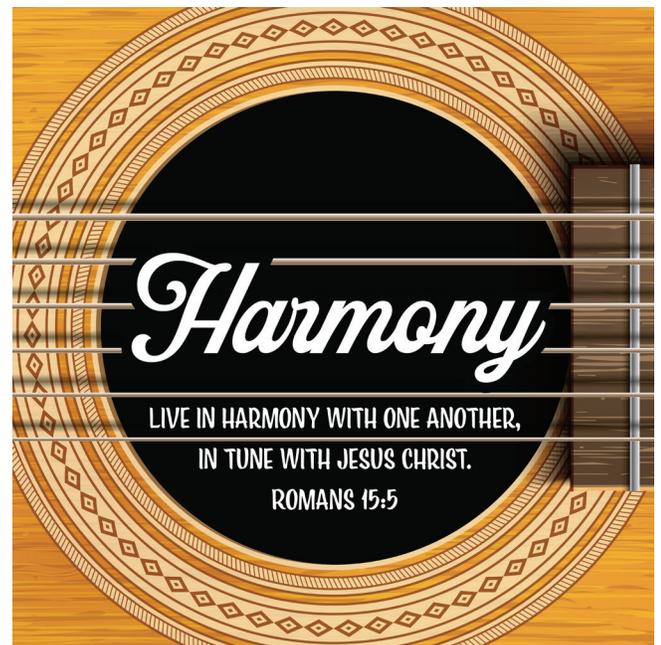
MAY 2 Romans 12:1-13 — *Play Your Part*. Everyone has a necessary part to play.

MAY 9 Romans 12:14-21— *Live in Harmony* (vs 16). How do we live with those who oppose us?

MAY 16 Romans 13:1-7— *Authority*. Lots of different people are telling us what to do. How are Jesus followers to treat our authorities?

MAY 23 Romans 13:8-14—*Now Is the Time*. Being God's people living in harmony requires our focusing on obeying God's truth in our lives now.

MAY 30 Remembrance Sunday. Romans 9—*God's Plan*. Want to know God's grand plan for the world? He's got one that is just right.



YOUNG LIFE RETURNS “HOME”

More than 50 years ago, Teen Breakfast Club, a ministry that began at CHPC morphed into what we now know as Young Life Cincinnati, where *thousands of adolescents have been introduced to Jesus Christ and have grown in living out their faith*. More recently, Greater Cincinnati Urban Young Life is fulfilling a new and exiting role in urban high schools in Northern KY and Cincinnati: Holmes, Newport, Hughes, Norwood, Walnut Hills, Clark Montessori, Western Hills, Gilbert A. Dater, and Aiken High.

AIKEN HIGH SCHOOL IN COLLEGE HILL

Since the school was rebuilt and opened in 2014, it is now known as “Aiken New Tech High School.” The name reflects the school’s focus on technological skills, as technology continues to advance in children’s lives. The school’s mission is *Empowering Students to Discover How to Be Successful Global Citizens*.

Offering grades 7-12, Aiken is the most “suburban” of the 15 urban high schools in the Cincinnati Public School District. The



enrollment is 488 (95% minorities), and it has a graduation rate of 80% (well below the state median).

Located at 5641 Belmont Avenue in College Hill, just northwest of the Hamilton Avenue intersection, it can be easily overlooked (literally). The modern campus is nestled in a valley west of Belmont Avenue.

Yohannes went off for a twenty-minute quiet time. Looking up at the stars, he called out to God, saying, “If you’re real, what they say about you is incredible.” Suddenly, he was compelled to forgive his father for not being in his life, and a total peace settled upon him. In that moment, he knew he wanted to live his life for the Lord. The next evening, there was a “Say So” based on Psalm 107. When the call was made to “let the redeemed of the Lord say so,” that’s just what Yohannes did.

Young Life completely changed Yohannes’ life. He hadn’t grown up in the church and didn’t know much about God or Christianity. Now he had a whole new life through God’s grace. By the time he went to Ohio University, he knew he wanted to do the same for someone else.

In April of 2020, Yohannes began working with two volunteer leaders, Rachel Stark and Lauren Croxson, to bring Urban Young Life to Aiken with the *goal of introducing teenagers to Christ and helping them grow in their faith*. However, with school closing because of the pandemic, it was nearly impossible to connect with students.

Through school sports, God provided them with a way. In September, Yohannes started volunteering to help out at football practices and eventually Lauren became team manager for the girls’ basketball team.

They haven’t been able to start YL’s traditional activities like Club (parties celebrating God’s love in a way teens can really understand) things are happening. One young lady asked Lauren to be her mentor, and Yohannes has recently started opening the Bible with guys. Campaigners (a weekly Bible study) just

URBAN YOUNG LIFE MOVES TO AIKEN

Meet one member of Aiken’s growing Young Life Team: Yohannes Berhane:

“There were only five white kids in my [high] school, so Daniel stood out like a sore thumb,” explained Yohannes Berhane, the



YL staffer charged with starting a new Urban Young Life ministry at Aiken High School. As a teenager in Columbus OH, Yohannes had always longed for something more;

he just didn’t know what.

Then this “strange white college guy named Daniel started showing up at wrestling tournaments and football practices.” Daniel had connected with some of Yohannes’ teammates, who then invited Yohannes to a Young Life (YL) meeting that changed everything. Becoming a friend and mentor, Daniel gave Yohannes someone in his life who cared about him and really came to really know him, someone who helped him find answers to things with which he struggled.

Then, during a YL Weekend, there were a series of talks in which the Gospel was shared with the teens. After a talk about the Cross of Christ,

began. A student asked Yohannes if he could help him with everything. "Football stuff?" Yohannes asked. The boy replied, "No. Everything."

The way Yohannes sees it is that "God put me here in his life, affirming that God really is God. And then he opens up the opportunity to talk about faith."

THE ROAD "HOME"

Young Life is a worldwide organization that works in partnership with local churches. CHPC has the opportunity to provide support for this much needed ministry in the neighborhood. Chuck Mingo, one of the pastors at Crossroads who supports Urban Young Life, believes that leaders do two things: provide a vision and clear the path.



At CHPC we can help clear the path for Urban YL at Aiken through giving our time, talent, treasure and influence:

TIME — Pray particularly for openness and trust to develop between school leaders and the Urban Young

Life team and for God to create more opportunities for YL staffers to connect with students in powerful ways.

Join an Adult Support Team and help out by providing rides to and food for events. Contact Jay Messner, Adult Support Team Coordinator, at (513) 312-0085.

TALENT—Join an Area YL Committee. These working committees support YL through their expertise in things like media and communications, fund raising, and spiritual discipleship and support for leaders. Contact Yohannes for more information at (614)843-6371.

TREASURE—Yohannes and his team expressed heartfelt appreciation for the church supporting Aiken YL through the CHPC Endowment Fund. Right now they have the financial support they need to get started.

However, if you would like to donate for future endeavors, including scholarships to YL's summer camp, which costs \$600 per participant, go to gcuyl.giving.younglife.org or text OH166 to 55678. To learn more about YL camp, go to <https://youtu.be/38QiDVVLs1A> or search for "Timber Wolf Lake" online.

INFLUENCE— Know someone who has been touched by Christ through Young Life in the past? Or someone who wants to make an eternal difference in the lives of kids today? Share this exciting video about Urban Young Life in Cincinnati: Search online for "2020 Greater Cincinnati Urban Young Life Virtual Banquet."

PRAY and follow up. Contact Yohannes Berhane at yohannes.berhane12@gmail.com. ■



Knits & Pearls
come and unwind

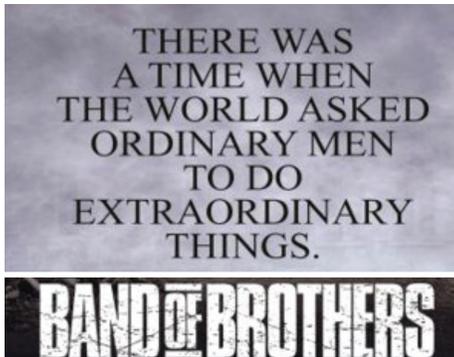
Thursdays, 10 AM at CHPC

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 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.

SPRINGFEST 2021

A handful of children timidly entered the church parking lot, Easter baskets in hand. Within an hour the balloon man's line stretched across the lot, and kids eagerly searched through a thick thatch of straw in search of "golden Easter eggs" (laid by the petting-zoo chickens roosting there?). Pastor Drew and other volunteers made a splash at the "Dunk-the-Pastor" booth. A patient horse and pony circled the lot giving free rides. Folks enjoyed island cuisine provided by "Taste De Caribbean" while dancing, singing along with, and enjoying two live bands and the Jesus University dancers. SpringFest didn't look like other "Vigil Saturday before Easter," but Jesus did show up!

Phil Cotter's band opened the afternoon with their unique blend of funk and soul that roused adults and children to dance in the street ("bop in the lot?"). The Cotter band, a new collaboration, does about one gig a month at various venues, including weddings. Judging by their reception at SpringFest, we'll be seeing much more of them. Later, the CHPC Worship Band took the stage, touching hearts and raising spirits. Attendees could be seen and heard singing along from across the parking lot as they made their way to the stage to join in the worship on a beautiful Saturday afternoon.



The kids' favorites? For Jeremiah, riding the horse was the most fun because "it was big and kind of scary." Saniyah chose the "dunking booth." Snickering, she exclaimed she loved "throwing sponges at Pastor Drew. It was funny!" And who could forget a somehow familiar-looking Easter Bunny on horseback?

They see our church's Vision embodied."

Two hundred+ visitors and a host of supporters—Band of Brothers,

the Worship Band, Mark Evans and his trusty camera, and other volunteers—agree: The first SpringFest was a success! It wasn't a "churchy" event, but Pastor Darryll believes that some of the guests saw Christ in us. He was definitely heartened "to see many of those who attended SpringFest on Saturday show up for worship the next day on Easter Sunday—Mission accomplished!" ■

SpringFest 2021 was organized by Pastor Darryll Davis and the CHPC Outreach Team. Darryll explains, "It is an outwardly-focused event. We invite 'outsiders' into a fun, safe space. They connect with CHPC people coming together in love for each other and the commu-



HOPE DAVIS
HDAVIS@CHPC.ORG

CONTEMPORARY (10:30 AM)
WORSHIP LEADER

Hope is a Cincinnati native and currently lives in Forest Park. She spent five years of her childhood living in Montego Bay, Jamaica as a missionary kid, which has given her a heart for sharing God's love with those who are underserved.



After returning to the USA and completing high school, Hope went on to study vocal performance and songwriting at Berklee College of Music (Boston, MA) and worship arts at Hope International University (HIU) in Fullerton, CA.

It was at HIU that Hope discovered her love for worshiping God and connecting with Him through music. She traveled as a background singer for Christian recording artist Nicole C. Mullen for almost two years. This led Hope to the International House of Prayer (Kansas City, MO) for a worship arts internship. There she was able to connect with God and with underserved people in the inner city through outreach activities.

Hope enjoys writing songs and short-stories, taking nature walks, hanging out with friends, going to coffee shops, and reading.

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CUT OUT FOR FAMILY FUN ✂

FAITH FORWARD

MAY 2021

Did you know that you can talk to God anywhere? This month, try to pray from as many places mentioned in the calendar as possible. Which of these places do you think you will enjoy the most?

SATURDAY	FRIDAY	THURSDAY	WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY	MONDAY	SUNDAY
1 Watch the sunrise & pray.	7 Pray on the top of a mountain or a hill.	6 Pray by the window.	5 Pray in the park.	4 Pray on the playground.	3 Pray at the kitchen sink (while washing or drying dishes).	2 Gather around the fire for s'mores, stories, & prayers.
8 Pray in your backyard.	14 Pray in a grocery store.	13 Pray in the library.	12 Pray on the school bus.	11 Pray at the doctor's office.	10 Pray in the bathtub or shower.	9 Pray while kayaking.
15 Pray by a lake, ocean, river, or stream.	21 Pray underneath the stars.	20 Pray while lying on the grass.	19 Pray in a parking lot.	18 Pray in the car.	17 Pray in the rain.	16 Pray at church.
22 Pray while sitting on a tree branch.	28 Pray at a cemetery.	27 Pray at a car wash.	26 Pray at the foot of a mountain or a hill.	25 Pray under the table.	24 Pray in a tent.	23 Pray while walking.
29 Pray in a restaurant.					31 Pray in your bed.	30 Pray while riding your bike.

PRAY. ALWAYS, EVERYWHERE, ABOUT EVERYTHING.

I have worn glasses since high school when I could no longer see the Latin exams written on the blackboard. As I came to know Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord in my 20's, the hymn "Amazing Grace" put into words the spiritual meaning of seeing: "I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see." This March 6th and 31st, I experienced a renewal of sight and spirit. It was a bold reassurance that Jesus is most assuredly still in the miracle business.

I was referred to surgeon Michael Nordlund of the Cincinnati Eye Institute for cataract surgery. In contrast to my parents' and grandmother's experiences, my two

surgeries with PanOptix lenses were quick and painless. The staff was personable, professional, and efficient.

What I found most disconcerting was that the patients and staff seemed to operate as if what was happening was so routine that God wasn't involved. Or, if he was, it was "no BIG deal."

In contrast, I felt like running through the halls of CEI shouting, "I once was blind, but now I see!" I

wanted to declare, "'Bidden or not bidden, God is present.' He guides the surgeon's and nurses' hands. He brings healing and changes lives for all eternity. "Alleluia. Glory to God."

My reaction didn't happen instantly. I had prepared for my eye surgery all during Lent. Read the story below.



To prepare for my eye surgery:

- I recruited a team to pray—for Dr Nordlund and his team, for the Cincinnati Eye Institute, and for wise choices by Barry and me.
- I did a word study on what Scripture had to say about blindness and seeing—nearly 1400 references to "see," "saw," and "seeing," and only 106 to "blind." It was fun reading familiar passages from Genesis to Revelation and realizing the role that sight plays in God's redemption story.
- The text of "Amazing Grace" continued to captivate me. So I chose

to research the author and the hymn text and discovered that the lyrics came from the personal experience of Englishman John Newton (1725–1807).

Newton grew up without any particular religious conviction. He was born in London, England to a active Puritan mother who died two weeks before he turned seven. John went to sea with his father, a ship's captain, at age eleven. Voyage followed voyage until after a night of drinking, Newton was conscripted into the British Navy. Life was so harsh that he tried to desert. He received eight dozen lashes, was

demoted to the rank of common seaman, and discharged. The crew of the *Pegasus*, a ship carrying enslaved men and women, abandoned Newton in West Africa. There a slave trader arranged a marriage for him with Princess Peye, an African royal who treated him like her other slaves. He became deeply involved in the brutal Atlantic trade triangle: enslaved Africans taken to the New World; sugar, rum, and cotton sent back to England; and trade goods returned to Africa.

In 1748 at the age of 23, his ship was caught in a violent storm off the coast of Ireland. The vessel was foundering despite his best effort. He finally called out to God for mercy and was saved. He left the slave trade and began studying Christian theology. Newton was ordained in the Church of England in 1764.

He wrote "Amazing Grace" in 1773 to illustrate a New Year's Day sermon on spiritual blindness. Few in England took notice of it. In the fledgling United States of America it was sung extensively during the Second Great Spiritual Awakening. Today, it is performed about 10 million times a year and is one of the most recognizable songs in the English-speaking world.

Newton's lyrics do reflect his own life—God's forgiveness and redemption are possible regardless of the sins committed through the love and mercy of God and Christ's saving work. Newton's eyes were useless when his mind was blind. Once he could see, he became an active abolitionist working passionately with Wilberforce to pass laws which ended England's slave trade in 1807 (just before Newton himself went physically blind).

God's amazing love sent His Son Jesus to bring LIFE and *recovering of sight from all forms of blindness* (Luke 4:18) That's Good News worth sharing! ■

SESSION UPDATE

BY JANET DUMFORD, CLERK OF SESSION
March-April 2021



CHPC's Director of Finance & Human Resources, Heather Lethander, visited Session to share an overview of the software the church uses. Since the Borden Transformation Prescriptions were accepted in October 2019 and the onset of Covid-19, the church has greatly increased its use of technology to reach people outside the church and covenant partners within the church. From records keeping to live-streaming to our social media presence, the church continues to adapt and make the best use of our

resources. Heather walked elders through several of the products available and gave examples of how the system can benefit leaders and make consistent messaging and mass communications much easier.

April 2021

CHPC is one of 14 churches in the Great Lakes Presbytery (GLP) of our denomination, the ECO. The GLP meets twice a year, typically each April and October. CHPC was asked to host the April 24th meeting. Though the meeting was attended via Zoom.com, Drew, Darryll & Hope Davis and the CHPC Worship Team led worship at the beginning of our time together. Though the Presbytery's mics were muted, we could still see lips moving and people worshipping all across Ohio and Michigan. Drew offered a time of confession and pardon, then gave a short teaching on Romans 15. Our tech-savvy team made this possible!



John Terech, CFO of the ECO, led a session titled, "What Does A Flourishing Church Look Like Coming Out of a Pandemic." He

gave practical advice to churches "relaunching" church as restrictions from COVID-19 are lifted

Two other breakout sessions were offered: Rev. Dr. Jerry Kasburg of Bethel PC (Columbus)—"Reuniting, Reigniting, and Reinviting Our Communities;" and national consultant, Christen Kinard—"Examining Our Social Media Presence." Want more info? Darryll Davis (ddavis@chpc.org) or me (janet3747@gmail.com).

PRAY FOR YOUR SESSION. The next meeting is Wed, May 12, 7PM.

[See info on Nominating for Church Office on page 8 of this issue.](#)

WELLNESS TIP: SEEK HELP

BY JEANNE SCHNEIDER

Did you know...

- 1 in 5 American adults struggle with mental illness at some point in their lives?
- nearly 30% of adults aged 18 to 25, the age of most American college students, are diagnosed with a mental illness?
- only 44% of adults with mental illness and about 50% of children with mental illness receive mental health treatment each year?

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. With this celebration, the conversation about mental health prevalence and treatment is super important. Chances are you or someone you know has wrestled with mental health or will wrestle

with mental health in your lifetime. Maybe you are wrestling right now as you read this.

That's why our Wellness Tip for this month is simply to seek help. We know that seeking help can come with lots of baggage including anxiety, stigma, and financial concerns. We strive to decrease fears about reaching out for help by providing compassionate, affordable mental health care to you and your loved ones, so anyone can become healthy emotionally, mentally, physically, relationally, and spiritually. So far this year, *Living Hope* has



LIVING HOPE
COUNSELING SERVICES

made tremendous steps toward increasing access to mental health care through our practice, such as receiving our official tax-exempt status from the IRS and seeing client sessions nearly triple since the start of 2021.

If you or someone you know is interested in counseling services, please contact Living Hope Counseling Services* at (513) 371-5135 or visit our website (www.livinghopecs.com). Also, help increase the awareness and affordability of mental health services during Mental Health Awareness Month. Donate to Living Hope by sending a check to 5742 Hamilton Ave Cincinnati, OH 45224.

* A NON-PROFIT COUNSELING & COUNSELOR-TRAINING CENTER OFFERING AFFORDABLE COUNSELING IN INDIVIDUAL, COUPLES, FAMILY, AND GROUP SETTINGS. WATCH FOR NEXT MONTH'S WELLNESS TIP. ■



WHO LEADS CHPC?

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MAY 31 ONLINE NOMINATION FORM

The link can be found at
chpc.org/events/

A distinctive trait of the Presbyterian form of government is that the congregation chooses its leaders. This has been true since John Calvin's day, the mid-1500's. This representative form of governing was even adopted by the founders of the USA. Calvin described "orders" or offices

of the church: two types of *Elders*—teaching ones (pastors and preachers) and governing ones (lay leaders)—and *Deacons* (who serve and care for the needs of the congregation). The online form has more details on how officers serve inside and beyond the church.

Your Church Nominating Committee (CNC) is asking for you to submit the names of "covenant partners" (members) you would like considered. You may even nominate yourself. The CNC will pray earnestly, interview all submissions, and recommend a slate of nominees for the October Congregational Meeting.

For more information, contact Elders Tom Dryer (tom.dryer@gmail.com) and Sharon Holland (sharonbakerholland@gmail.com).

REV. DARRYLL DAVIS

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

Areas of oversight:

WORSHIP—Traditional and Contemporary Worship Team, plus Communications (website, slides, bulletins, etc).

THE CONNECTIONS TEAM—Welcoming visitors and regular attenders and connecting them to CHPC.

JOYFUL NOISE—Worship choral training for young children.

JESUS UNIVERSITY chapter of City Gospel Mission's Princess Ballet—Providing dance and character-building training to underserved girls, 3-18.

WHIZ KIDS /TREEHOUSE—Tutoring/mentoring outreach in conjunction with City Gospel Mission.

PLEASANT HILL ACADEMY AFTER SCHOOL—Student care and nurture.

SUMMER SWIMMING MINISTRY—Greater Cincinnati discipleship ministry, raising up the next generation of Christian leaders and delivering *Living Water* for 45 years.

GLOBAL MISSIONS—Actively fulfilling the Great Commission across the street and around the world.

ALPHA—An eleven-week course that creates a space, online or in person, where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about faith, life and God.

IHN—Interfaith Hospitality Network. Begun in 1991, it includes over 100 congregations which provide overnight shelter and meals for homeless families in the IHN Emergency Shelter program.

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

GREAT PRICES —ANNUALS & PERENNIALS



ANNUAL
PLANT SALE
SAT. MAY 8
9 AM TO 1 PM

CH Coffee Co
parking lot at North

Bend at Hamilton Avenue.

Wear a mask and social distance.
Come early for a good selection.



Answer to prayer: The City Gospel Mission's expansion plans for a women's ministry facility required rezoning. The City Planning Commission, the Economic Growth and Zoning Commission and finally City Council all voted "YES" *unanimously*. The June BTN will have pictures and info on what prayers (yours and many others) and a lot of hard work are making possible. It's exciting!



Thanks to all who bought mulch from the Swim Ministry. Our Scholarship Fund helps children be water safe and enjoy in the Living Water.

IN THE JUNE BTN

Photos and stories from 4/24
"A Night Of Worship & Dance"

COLLEGE HILL STATION
Development at North
Bend and Hamilton Avenue

A WORLD OF GREAT EATS
in College Hill

FREE MOVIE

FRI. MAY 28

SUNSET. CHPC PARKING LOT.

BYO CHAIRS/BLANKET/CAR
DETAILS: JCronk@CHPC.org

