



# BELLTOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – January, 2021

513.541.5676 | 5742 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45224 | [chpc.org](http://chpc.org)

# GOD

# JUSTICE

## COLLEGE HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**JANUARY 3 - FEBRUARY 14**  
VISIT US AT [CHPC.ORG](http://CHPC.ORG)

## God Loves Justice Sermon Series

This year we will kick off our first sermon series with an exploration of God's character. Specifically God's love for justice, his plan for it and his desire for us to live and prosper in his justice. Join us on Mondays for virtual discussion times as we go over last weeks sermon's and deeper into the messages.

January 3 Is God Just?-

Celebrate the character of God, who loves justice. From Creation until Jesus' return, God's Kingdom pursues justice.

January 10 God Hates Injustice – How do we respond to injustice. We cry out to God in

times of injustice because we know this is not God's ultimate desire.

January 17 A Plan for God's Justice – The year of Jubilee reveals to us God's heart for a just people.

January 24 All Flourish in God's Justice – The poor and the alien, get

lots of God's attention because they were quickly forgotten and oppressed.

January 31 Jesus and Justice – Jesus heart for justice continues to demonstrate and enact the righteousness of God's Kingdom.



COLLEGE HILL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# SECRET 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

by Sharlyn Stare, Researcher

In the past I have written about many holiday traditions. I especially love researching ones that have grown out of our heritage, particularly ones that are effective in passing along Christian teaching and history to the next generation. Here's how a song that delights children can be used by adults to pass along solid biblical "secrets."

In England during the Protestant Reformation (1558 to 1829), Catholics were prohibited by law from practicing their faith and teaching it to their children. Many died for doing so.

The 12 Days of Christmas are celebrated from Dec. 25 to Jan. 6 around the world. Each day has its own gift tradition. The Catholics simply added the common question/answer format to music to help all ages remember their catechism.

The words may seem nonsensical without "the secret keys." The teacher might sing, "On the first day of Christmas my TRUE LOVE gave to me, A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE," and ask, "What does this mean?"

The student should reply, "God is the TRUE LOVE who pursues us and shows his love to the whole world. He gives gifts to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE. Christ's sacrifice is like the mother partridge who protects her children by feigning injury to draw predators

away from her chicks. She willingly dies so that they may live.

The other secret keys have the following meanings:

2 TURTLE DOVES: The Old and New Testaments.

3 FRENCH HENS: Faith, Hope, and

the sick, marriage, and holy orders.

2-88 MAIDS A-MILKING: The eight beatitudes that Jesus taught in the "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5).

9 LADIES DANCING: The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22)

10 LORDS A-LEAPING: The 10 commandments—I am the LORD thy



Charity—the theological virtues.

4 CALLING BIRDS: The four Gospels and the four evangelists—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—the authors.

5 GOLDEN RINGS: The Bible's first five books, the "Pentateuch," are a record of man's fall from grace and God's faithful, redeeming acts of love and justice.

6 GEESE A-LAYING: The six days of creation.

7 SWANS A-SWIMMING: The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, or the seven sacraments—baptism, confirmation, the Eucharist, penance, anointing of

God, have no other gods before me. Have no graven images or likenesses. No taking the LORD's name in vain. Remember the sabbath day.

Honor thy father and thy mother. Thou shalt not murder, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness or covet.

11 PIPERS PIPING: 11 true Apostles.

12 DRUMMERS DRUMMING: The 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed.

NOW SING AWAY. Be sure to share the "secrets" with others!



# ALPHA ALIVE, ONLINE

by Elder Bonnie Mack, Member of the Alpha Team

Remember how we at CHPC began 2020—with seven weeks of the church in Fellowship Hall going through the Alpha course? That was an exciting time. We had plans to offer another Alpha right away, but God had other ideas that tapped our faith and creativity.

For our original seven Sundays of Alpha, we started with breakfast and fellowship around a table, followed by a moving video about Jesus, and finishing with a discussion around the video's topic. Another Alpha course was planned so that we could spread the Gospel to our friends and family members who might benefit from this opportunity.

After canceling Alpha twice because of the logistics with COVID-19, we decided to try an online format (Zoom.com). In mid-December we completed our first Alpha outreach.

Many of us wondered how effective this format would be: how the Holy Spirit could work through our computers, how we could bond through a screen. Just as Mary learned from the angel Gabriel, “nothing is impossible with God.”

We were both amazed and humbled by how the Holy Spirit moved in the lives and hearts of our group members. One unexpected benefit of “Zooming” was being able to invite family and friends from all over the country. I invited my siblings and their spouses and was unbelievably blessed sharing these



precious weeks and special spiritual times with them. We had participants from North Carolina, Arizona, Colorado and northern Ohio and we bonded beautifully through our ten weeks together.

The original whole-church version of Alpha ended with a retreat, so we included the weekend retreat for the online Alpha as well. It was an interesting challenge. Once again, the Lord was tenderly working in our midst bringing forth tears, peace, and a sense of his steadfast presence.

Before the weekend, we sent a care package to each guest with items that had been mentioned during our time together (some items pictured). We sent Graeter's ice cream toppings that were then enjoyed during our virtual ice cream party. Many of

our guests commented on the love they experienced through these gifts and during our time together. The most echoed sentiment was how the Alpha series “strengthened my faith.”

Janet and Chris Dumford deserve special kudos for managing all the details and logistics of making Alpha happen each week. Jinda Bowerman and Anne Clippard were wonderful group leaders. David Freas and my husband Tom and I looked forward to every week of this Alpha experience.

ONLINE ALPHA WILL BEGIN AGAIN FEBRUARY 18, 2021

We encourage you to pray about

- Who to invite (Who does God want to attend?), and
- Being part of the Alpha Team, (How will God equip YOU and use the gifts and talents he has given you to serve others?).

Questions? Contact Janet Dumford 513-541-8281 or [alpha@chpc.org](mailto:alpha@chpc.org) . ■





# GROWING IN THE FAITH

by Kelly Hibbett with Resources from Janet Dumford

## “After x years as a Christian, I’m still not perfect,”

Gene Gosselink noted with his usual understated humor when asked about his participation in a CHPC Growth Group. As the group members have gotten to know each other better and have become freer about sharing things, it has been encouraging to Gene to be able to express concerns about not living up to what he thought he should. “We recognize that we’re all human. We’re in this together,” said Gene, “and I appreciate that.”

Gene’s experiences in his Growth Group mirror something the Gospel writer Luke noted in Acts 5:42: “Every day, in the temple and from house to house, they [the early church] did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.”

Worship gatherings on Sundays (even virtually) are a big part of being “The Church,” but sometimes it is an over-emphasized part. In the early church most of life in Christ was lived out in the context of community, not in meetings or personal quiet times. Both our spiritual formation and our witness are dependent on life being shared with other believers in a very personal way. Our church leaders desire that Growth Group be the context for these types of relationships to develop.

CHPC’s Growth Groups provide an intentional place within our church for discipleship to happen. Discipleship is



NO ONE’S PERFECT, BUT THERE’S A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN BE REAL.

a natural product of us loving God and loving others. The groups grow out of our desire to be disciples of Jesus.

Growth Groups have leaders, not teachers. The leaders rely on the Holy Spirit as they facilitate discussions based on weekly sermon questions. Thus, Growth Groups serve to unify our congregation as they examine the same Bible passages from each week’s sermon.

Growth Group leaders specifically disciple 1-3 members of their group by connecting outside of church and sharing life. Discipleship is simply about helping each other grow in becoming more like Jesus and obeying his commands. This is life in community: building relationships.

### Purposes of Growth Groups I. To Grow in Christ

The great goal for the Christian is to be like Christ. The good news is that God uses all kinds of situations to form us into the image of his Son (Romans 8:28-29), and a key way he does that

is through community.

In Ephesians 4:12-15, the apostle Paul says that Jesus sends gifted people to the church “to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ....Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”

We grow in Christ through Growth Groups when: (a) We use our gifts to strengthen one another; (b) We speak truth in love into one another’s lives; (c) We study God’s Word together. We need the insights of others to get the fullest picture of Christ.

Gene Gosselink has experienced firsthand this kind of strengthening: “Sometimes we get into situations where someone says, I had that problem, but I found that X, Y, or Z helped, for example, reading Scripture or trying



other ways of praying or doing your quiet time.” He has also found great value in digging more deeply into questions raised by the sermon and Scriptures read in church.

Aarika Itodo, too, values the way her Growth Group is strengthening one another in their walk. She said, “In the beginning we prayed together to figure out what our direction should be, and that ultimately led us to start digging deeper into our gifts, our purpose.” Aarika’s group leader, Cheryl Schaeffner, had them fill out a questionnaire to uncover their spiritual gifts, and now the group is studying Parker Palmer’s *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. Aarika added, “I am getting a better understanding of what my gifts are and am figuring out how they connect to my purpose.”

## II. To Build Relationally

The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us, “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls

we certainly form relationships with each other in church on Sundays, those relationships deepen as we bond with one another outside of church. As the Growth Groups draw closer and feel safer opening up with each other, they are becoming valuable sources of support and encouragement that help them lead Christ-centered lives.

Sandy Gosselink noted how meaningful the Growth Group has been in this challenging season in their lives. Even though her group is meeting via Zoom because of COVID-19, Sandy still feels blessed at simply “being together with people any way [they] can.” In this time of social distancing and staying at home, Sandy says, “We feel like we’re separated, not seeing anybody in church or anything. Our Growth Group helps us keep connections.” Gene certainly seconds that, saying that through their Growth Group, they have “gotten to know people [they] didn’t know before and reconnect with those [they] did know in the past.” He looks forward to having time with them each week.



and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” (4:9-12). Although

## III. To Serve Others

The Apostle Paul wrote, “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10). As followers of Christ, we want to

be there for one another in practical ways. If there is a need among us, our hope is to be able to meet that need every time. The only way that kind of care can practically happen at CHPC is through Growth Groups.

We want to be there for each other, but we also want to serve and love those outside the church as well. We expect that in the future, groups can join together with other groups to serve greater needs in the surrounding community and thus “let brotherly love continue” (Hebrews 13:1).

CHPC currently has four Growth Groups led by a cadre of folks who attended training sessions taught by Pastor Drew, Janet Dumford, and Mark Evans last summer: Pam and Pat Dollard, Barb Rosen, Cheryl Schaeffner, and Jen Vinson. The groups are meeting for a defined time, after which members can reevaluate their commitment. The groups will then start up again after a short break.

It is expected that most members will continue in their groups, but some may leave and new folks may be invited to join. However, Growth Groups are intended to multiply. Over the course of time (12-24 months), leaders should be identifying and growing up leaders to start new groups.

The church leadership is currently planning for more Growth Groups and will be doing a leader training event in February 2021. Interested in leading or being in a Growth Group? Call Janet Dumford at (513) 477-3471, or email [janet3747@gmail.com](mailto:janet3747@gmail.com). ■



# ECO NATIONAL GATHERING 2021

Elder Sharlyn Stare, ECO Gathering Attendee Since 2012

A WEEKEND OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND A DEEP DIVE INTO GOD'S FLOURISHING NEXT STEP FOR YOUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

CHPC staff and elders have been participants at the ECO annual gatherings since 2012. In 2013, the College Hill Presbyterian Church transferred to the ECO (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians).

fun or humor and so-so worship with mediocre speakers with no sizzle or experience.

## WHAT THE GATHERING IS

A time to stop playing at being a follower of Jesus Christ and encounter God in a life-transforming way. A place to be encouraged, inspired, and challenged by some of the best Christian speakers and teachers from within and beyond



[ECONATIONALGATHERING.ORG](http://ECONATIONALGATHERING.ORG)

VIEW PAST GATHERING'S TALKS & PHOTOS



**NEW Deadline for Belltower News is the 15th of each month.**

Send articles to [starecvg@aol.com](mailto:starecvg@aol.com).

Questions or ideas for articles?

Call or text 513-382-5902.

Interim BTN Editor Sam Stare is seeking new writers, reporters, proofreaders, photographers, and users of In-Design and MSWord.

**FREE** 2021 VIRTUAL ECO NATIONAL GATHERING  
JANUARY 29-31 (Friday-Sunday)

INTO THE  
**LINKNOWN**

[info/register: econationalgathering.org](http://info/register:econationalgathering.org)

The mission of ECO is to build *flourishing* churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ. The name ECO is not an acronym. It describes the passion of strengthening the ecosystems of local churches. The Church is a living organism that needs life-giving resources to help it grow, thrive, and multiply. ECO is committed to cultivating a healthy, diverse, resource-rich ecosystem where pastors and congregations can flourish. The annual ECO Gathering is an example of that core commitment.

**WHAT THE GATHERING IS NOT**  
A dull boring church meeting with no

the denomination. Typically, only a small team of staff and elders can attend the annual Gathering. This year's virtual format allows ANYONE TO ATTEND *FREE* from his/her own computer by simply registering online.

Check out the schedule, speakers, FAQ, and swag on the website. Click on the speakers' names for full biographies.

Rosa Brinkman attended the Gathering last year. Ask her how God used that time to form her life: (513) 317-8336.

*Attend, pray, and expect your spiritual batteries to be charged!!*





A CHPC Session Elder brightened the Christmas season of the Newport Aquarium's shark tank visitors. With his elf fending off sharks and a wayward turtle, "Scuba Santa" checked his Magic Book for the naughty and nice. In his off season, Santa is also a volunteer diver at the aquarium. ■



## Expressing God's LOVE at Christmastide

CHPC members and ministries expressed God's love in creative ways. Pictured is one of the Outreach Ministry's cookie deliveries to four area police and fire departments. Here's a listing of some of the other ways:

- Choir member and others sang

## Aiden Moncelle Received Trail Life USA's Highest Award

The Moncelle family, invited guests and his troop watched as 18-year-old Aiden was presented with Trail Life's most coveted Freedom Award on Dec 14. One leader said, "It is like the Boy Scouts' Eagle Scout Award, but with many added dimensions. Aiden's father Paul presented the award which was the culmination of many years of demonstrated capabilities. CHPC's attendees were Bart Sauer, SonLight Power Int'l mission trip Coordinator, and Sam Stare for the Swim Ministry [Aiden provided 194 hours of service 2015-2020]. Trail Life USA is a national Christ-centered, boy-focused mentoring program that engages boys in local and national service and outdoor adventures to develop godly and courageous leaders. Local troops may serve as an *outreach* ministry to boys in the community and an *in-reach* ministry to the families or members of a local church/ organization. For local troop inquiries call Paul Moncelle: 513-319-7437. Trail Life FAQs are at [traillifeusa.com](http://traillifeusa.com). ■



PAUL, AIDEN, WISDOM, ADDISON, & KARENA MONCELLE



carols outside residences at Ohio Living Llanfair's campus, and houses in the College Hill community.

- Gift cards were emailed to 21 missionary families around the world.
- Deacons & Christ's Community in College Hill provided hams to needy families. Teams also delivered hams and food to senior adults in the area.
- Students involved in *WhizKids Tutoring & Mentoring* received gifts.
- The Ministry to Children & Families developed an online *Interactive Family Christmas Eve* worship service.
- The Worship Ministry led traditional and contemporary worship

services during the four Sundays of Advent and a communion service on Christmas Eve.

- The Outreach Ministry, Worship Band, Cincinnati Opera vocalist, community and CHPC singers & instrumentalists, and the church's audio and broadcasting crews joined to give two Winterfest concerts to the community.

## THE WINTERFEST CONCERT AND ALL WORSHIP SERVICES

are available for viewing at [www.facebook.com/CollegeHillPresbyterianChurch](http://www.facebook.com/CollegeHillPresbyterianChurch)

# COUNSELING MINISTRY INCOGNITO? NEW YEAR RESOLVE

Jeanne Schneider



**LIVING HOPE**  
COUNSELING SERVICES

The counseling ministry is now a new entity, Living Hope Counseling Services. We are still located in the Care Center (aka the white house) and still providing hope to all who desire healing and transformation through quality mental health counseling that address the whole person – body, mind and soul. In addition, we continue to be an equipping center for graduate students completing their counseling internships. The counseling services are available to all and we offer affordable rates. We can be reached at our new number 513-371-5135. Also, our website is livinghopecs.com which is currently under construction but will be unveiled soon. We covet your prayer covering as we embark on this new journey. Specific prayer requests include – pray for the student interns and counselors to be anointed in their work, pray for clients to experience the love of Christ and his freedom, pray for our tax-exempt status to come through this month and for God's provision. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to me at [jeanne@livinghopecs.com](mailto:jeanne@livinghopecs.com) or 513-371-5136 or to any of our board members including Anne Clippard, Rod Crider, Jan Johnson, Dr.

Norm Townsel, and Joanne Cornelius. ■

Samuel Coffey

After serving the CHPC family for these past nine months of madness it has been my distinct pleasure to see the effort and dedication shown by those working behind the scenes. Especially so for those who work to prepare for the sermons every Sunday and to create the Bell Tower News every month.

There is the intelligence and commitment Sam Mock brings to live streaming the services and the skill with which Alan McKinney works the sound board. Sam Stare's professionally finished articles, Drew Smith's promotional pieces, Kelly Hibbett's classy reports of the local goings on and so many more! A discerning eye and a sharp memory may even recall the few filler pieces I have done over the months to balance out the paper! But not today, today it is my joy to contribute a small editorial piece to the BTN on New Years resolutions. (NYR hereafter).

It is my experience and expectation that any NYR that waits to start till after the New Year is doomed to fail in short order. A person with not enough will to start/stop now will not have enough will then. That said I have a special love for NYR's but not for any change they have ever wrought but the reflection they invite. The mindset of growth is a beautiful thing to be cherished in every human heart. I bless you in your growth, I bless you in your heart. ■

## Have an idea for Belltower News?

Belltower News has a writing team that meets monthly to write, collect, and edit articles so that we can make the best publication possible. If you'd like to be included, submit an article and send it to

**[worshipadmin@chpc.org](mailto:worshipadmin@chpc.org)**

The submission deadline for the February edition is noon on Wednesday, February 3rd.



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