

BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – OCTOBER 2024

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

FLOURISH

BY SHARLYN STARE, BTN EDITOR

DEFINITION: living organisms grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way, especially as the result of a particularly favorable environment.

What a great word—*flourish*. The first time I heard it actively used was at an early ECO denominational gathering. I said to myself, “That’s what I want— to flourish as a beloved of Christ and to glorify God forever.”

Mark Rayburn Patterson, the keynote speaker for the GLP meeting, became a Christian through Young Life, which his grandfather Jim Rayburn founded. Mark’s passion is sharing with laypeople, pastors, and seminarians *practical* resources and experiences to enable them to flourish where God calls them, and then to unleash them to influence others to flourish. Mark is President of ECO’s Flourish Institute: Graduate School of Ministry. Read more about Mark Patterson’s background on page 3—it’s exciting. No wonder he is *flourishing* and providing for others to do the same.

We are privileged to have Mark speak Oct. 11 (Friday evening), twice on Oct. 12 (Sat.), and preach Sunday, Oct. 13 at 9 and 10:30 AM.



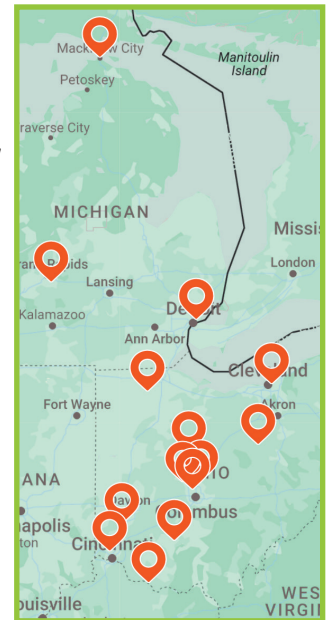
The Great Lakes Presbytery (GLP) is one of the 22 presbyteries that make up the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians—ECO, our denomination. Representatives of the GLP’s 14 churches, 3 church plants, and “micro expressions” of church will gather for the fall meeting at CHPC at 5:30 PM on October 11 and conclude by 3 PM October 12. Rev. Dr. Drew Smith is the presbytery’s 2024 convenor and moderator.

We expect 40-50 of our brothers and sisters to join us for this weekend. The meeting will start at 5:30 PM Friday and conclude by 3:00 PM Saturday. Friday will include dinner, worship in the Contemporary Worship space, and a teaching by our guest speaker, Mark Patterson. Saturday include coffee and donuts, a worship service with communion in the Sanctuary, a brief business meeting, lunch, and two additional teaching times with Mark Patterson.

Anyone may register to attend the Presbytery meeting and the teachings. Contact Janet Dumford at JDumford@chpc.org to let her know if you are available to help with the hosting, or you wish to attend all or parts of the meeting.

Want to know more about ECO? Today, ECO is a rapidly growing Presbyterian denomination that exists to serve the local church and reclaim a sense of covenanted biblical community. Website: eco-pres.org

ECO’s Priorities are #1 Lift up the centrality of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. #2 Grow with an emerging generation of leaders. #3 Prioritize a wave of church innovation. #4 Create an atmosphere of relational accountability.



GREAT LAKES PRESBYTERY FROM MACKINAW CITY, MICHIGAN TO RIPLEY, OHIO.

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING: IS IT SCARY?

BY JEANNE SCHNEIDER, MA LPCCS
DIRECTOR OF LIVING HOPE COUNSELING SERVICES

Over decades of counseling, I have sat with hundreds of people who indicated they didn't know what to expect and how fearful they were to start the counseling journey. I get it! Coming in to tell a stranger about places in your life that you may not have shared with another human being or even had the humility to admit that support is needed in a particular area is difficult. Some inquire what is different about Christian Counseling. There are a couple of factors at Living Hope we consider vital regardless of someone's faith background.

First, we see each person as being created in the im-



age of God. We don't see their identity as the external things done or done to but at the very core

made in our Creator's image. This provides a safe place that is without judgement and builds trust essential for the therapeutic alliance for the healing journey to begin.

Secondly, the counselors are rooted in God's Word, standing on the promises of who God is and what he can do. This doesn't mean we believe that we can pray scripture over trauma in someone's life and immediate healing occurs. God can do it, but usually more time is needed. We trust God in the process that the truth of scripture will bring life, and God will redeem those painful and broken parts of our past. It is often a journey that requires much courage and moves at a pace



that is comfortable for the client.

The journey of counseling teaches much about who we are and the parts within that although not helpful in the present at one point served a purpose, often of protection. Walking the path of healing grows us to become more secure in our identity in Christ. As we understand that security, we influence and impact the world around us as a follower of Jesus.

Living Hope Counseling Services is honored to meet people along their personal path and to be a vessel of healing.

If you or someone you know is ready to begin the journey,



please reach out at 513-371-5135 or go to our website at www.livinghopecs.com. The counseling center is located on the campus of CHPC at 1538 Groesbeck Road, Cincinnati, OH 45224.

Living Hope is committed to continuing to be a training center for graduate students and offering affordable counseling. We appreciate the continued financial support to the ministry to continue our mission as people come to fully experience their identity in Christ.



LIVING HOPE
COUNSELING SERVICES





CHPC proclaims the gospel of Jesus in many creative ways. The CHPC Endowment Fund was established in 1975 to help fund organizations doing outreach in our community and around the world. It is separate from the church's operating budget.

YOU CAN HELP! You can urge high quality ministries to apply for our annual grants of amounts up to \$5,000. Please refer organizations to

www.chpc.org/endorment-fund

Applications must be submitted online by October 31st.

YOU CAN DONATE! The Endowment Fund is managed by an independent investment company that annually reports to the CHPC Trustee Administrators elected by the congregation. T.A.s are responsible for ensuring that the Endowment Fund is properly invested and income generated by the fund is wisely given away in the form of grants.



ADD-A-ROOM, KENYA

IN 2024, \$48,500 WAS DISTRIBUTED AMONG 23 ORGANIZATIONS IN 8 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES!

- Grants allow for Christian ministries to receive funding for special projects.
- Grants demonstrate the financial support of the CHPC body of Christ for the body of Christ around the world.

Giving to the Endowment Fund is a special opportunity for CHPC members and friends to give to ministries around the world today and for years to come through judicious estate planning!



THE FLOURISHING LIFE of MARK & LINDA PATTERSON

Mark Patterson was born in Boulder, Colorado but grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. He became a Christian through the ministry of Young Life, which was founded by his grandfather, Jim Rayburn.

He attended Whitworth University, where he studied theology. It was there he met his wife Linda, and they were married in 1982 following graduation. After two years in youth ministry, he and Linda moved to Princeton Theological Seminary.

Upon graduation, he served as an associate pastor in the Seattle area for eight years, during which time two daughters were born. In 1995, the family moved to Britain, where Mark began PhD studies in theology at King's College, London. In 1999 the family moved to Ventura, California, where Mark served as lead pastor for twenty-two years.

Mark served as chair of ECO's Standing Theology Committee for six years and is Chair of ECO's New Theological Document Task Force.

In August 2021, Mark joined the ECO national staff to help develop the Flourish Institute of Theology, ECO's new seminary, and now serves as its president.

Mark and Linda enjoy hiking; art and drawing; woodworking; and when time allows Mark loves to fly his paraglider. They live on the edge of the Cascade Mountains in Bend, Oregon with their yellow Labrador Mosley.



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. It will take 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.



JOY IS UNIVERSAL

August 22, 2024—Kathryn Council is a SonLight Power mission trip volunteer and daughter of SonLight Power team member, Jill Council. Kathryn was so impacted by her SonLight Power trip experience to Honduras that she made it the central theme of her college entrance application essay (below). She recalls the personal effect a Honduran mission trip had — not only on the remote community where she served but on herself as well. Kathryn's reflection earned her admission to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and even helped land a scholarship. She began classes this fall.

JOIN HER ON THIS SPECIAL JOURNEY AS SHE ENCOUNTERS THE JOY OF JESUS THROUGH THE EYES OF HONDURAN CHILDREN.

Joy Is Universal . . . Breathing in the air of the most alluring country I've ever seen, I enter my true happy

place. The vegetation along beautiful mountain sides masks the poverty-stricken nation of Honduras.

My feet submerge into the red, thick, drippy, beautiful mud. I stare down at my shoes, expecting to see my still new, still a little big, still white Nike shoes. But instead, I see a red-brown layer camouflaging their existence. There are no longer any feet at the end of my legs. Just white shoes covered in a new sense of joy.

I overlook the absence of my shoes, past the ongoing miles of uninhabited fields, to the standalone building beside me. The illuminating green paint reflects the sun, shining as a haven for the families gathering together as a harmonious community. One classroom. One window. All they have ever known.

An almost 3 year-old kid flashes across my line of sight, running so fast I would miss him if I blinked.

He rushes towards me. His legs come to a screeching halt. He looks at me. His laughter is contagious. He continues running, almost as if he is chasing a destination.

So, I do the only rational thing. I mimic him, flinging mud up my calves with every quick step like a stampeding elephant.

So many eyes dart toward us as we race around. I catch up to him as he belts out the loudest, most joyful belly laugh I've ever heard.

I spin him around as he continues to giggle uncontrollably; I involuntarily laugh right back.



Regardless of the language barrier, laughter becomes our great connector.

I start to notice more than his joy as I examine his smiling face. His mouth, filled with brown, rotten teeth. The same mud as on my shoes, dries in the hot sun, cracking in the seams of his jeans. His ears,



sticking out far from his head resembling mine. His nails, almost claw-like, are filled with dirt and grime. A scar sits on his forehead, the residue of a deep, painful injury.

I realize he has been through more adversity in his three short years than I have yet to experience. Even still, his beaming smile — the most wonderful smile I had ever seen — never leaves his face.

He shoots his tongue out at me, lets out another deep belly laugh, jumps out of my arms, and bolts away. I take a second to contemplate what just happened, laugh to myself, and run after him again.

He is holding a cross necklace we had given the kids. “Jesús en mi corazón!” he belts. “Jesús en mi corazón!!!” louder this time. “Jesús en mi corazón!!!” His lungs must have filled up his entire torso. He repeats the only phrase I completely understand in Spanish: *Jesus is in my heart*. He continues to scream. “Jesús en mi corazón!!!”

He knew. He knew on his own. He showed me what I was inept at knowing myself. The joy I have always felt isn't meant to be hidden. The faith I build my life on shouldn't be a secret. The love of the Lord is

meant to be shared, shouted from mountains, from valleys, from the streets, and from my mouth. The joy of the Lord is meant to be expressed over family, over friends, over strangers, and over adversaries.

With his big bright smile, deep belly laugh, and my big ol' pointy ears, he was an exact representation of what I was capable of being: The girl who is overflowing with the joy of Jesus; the girl who is willing to take on any challenge, even traveling to a third-world country for the sake of the gospel; the girl who is always ready to meet someone new and learn from them. But most importantly, the girl who loves herself and the Lord with her whole heart. Joy spilling forth.

THE ERECTION OF THE SOLAR PANEL IS CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION. WHEN THE LIGHT IS TURNED ON EVERYONE CELEBRATES “JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.”



FIND OUT HOW YOU, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR WORKPLACE, AND/OR YOUR CHURCH CAN PARTNER WITH SONLIGHT POWER ON “PURPOSE-DRIVEN TRIPS” THAT GENERATE

THE KIND OF UNIVERSAL JOY KATHRYN EXPERIENCED.

CONNECT WITH INFO@SONLIGHTPOWER.ORG OR (513) 285-9960. VIDEO CLIP AT [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=WCK66AE7X8E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCK66AE7x8E)

WATCH FOR INFO ON CHPC'S HONDURAS TRIP FOR ADULTS & FAMILIES NEXT SUMMER. PLAN AHEAD—NEW PASSPORTS FOR ALL AGES TAKE 2 TO 3 MONTHS.

PRAY-N-PAY FOR YOUR BLOOMIN' NEIGHBORHOOD

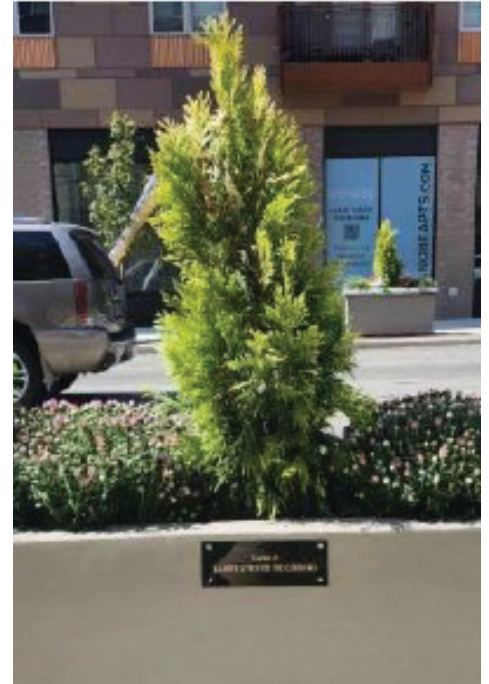
Learn what's going on and receive fun, regular updates via email. Send your name and email to CHCurrents@gmail.com to receive the easy-to-read C.H. Forum's *Currents* edited by Gail Finke. Also, check www.CHCURC.com for updates on what's happening on *The Avenue*: new businesses, upcoming events, building changes and streetscape improvements like these new planters and seating units. Plantings will change with the season.



Each of the planters and seating units was "adopted" by streets, groups or individuals in the community who are identified by a small plaque. Planter benches were provided for \$500 and planters for \$250.

The ones pictured (right) was provided by the residents of a single street.

CHCURC Chief Executive Emmanuel KariKari wrote to donors to the street-scape project: "I wanted to take a moment to personally thank you for all the incredible support you've shown College Hill Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation. Your dedication to our community has made a profound impact, and we are truly grateful for your ongoing commitment. [The support] is a testament to the strength and unity of our community. We sincerely appreciate your willingness to step up and make a difference. Your contributions not only help us achieve our goals, but also inspire others to get involved and support our efforts. On behalf of CHCURC and the entire College Hill community, thank you for your continued support and for being such a vital part of our success.



CONSTRUCTION OF TWO RAISED PLANTERS AND LANDSCAPING HAS BEEN COMPLETED OUTSIDE OF THE RUTH-HELEN BUILDING SOUTH OF THE FORMER HOLLYWOOD THEATER. THESE PLANTERS NOT ONLY PROVIDE BEAUTIFICATION FOR OUR COMMUNITY, BUT ALSO SEATING FOR RESIDENTS TO RELAX AND ENJOY THE NEIGHBORHOOD.



GREATER CINCINNATI PRAYER CANOPY

CHPC participates in the Greater Cincinnati Prayer Canopy as a congregation. This is a regional effort to blanket Greater Cincinnati in prayer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Different churches and other praying Christian organizations commit to praying one day in the month, with the goal of scheduling prayer in hour-long chunks for that 24-hour period.

We pray for our community and entreat God to intervene. Together, we pray for *God's Kingdom to Come to Cincinnati NOW*. CHPC's day is the 3rd Tuesday of the month, so in

OCTOBER, our day is Tuesday, Oct. 15th. Find the free monthly prayer guide at www.gcprayercanopy.net

MARK YOUR CALENDER:

Saturday, October 26 - 6:30-8 PM. Community Prayer with local congregations at Lifespring Christian Church, 1373 W Galbraith Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231.

Please contact me if you have questions. I pray that God the Holy Spirit will move in and that you may take delight in praying with Jesus and the Prayer Canopy each month!

Blessings, *Christy Roediger*
chrisroediger1014@gmail.com

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV)

One of the things that is amazing in our culture has been the peaceful transfer of power. While we can think of rare instances when this didn't happen, generally the newly-elected assume their posts with not much fuss. I can even recall reading notes that one outgoing President of our country left to the next President coming in who wasn't of the same political party, wishing him well.

In our church, every year a few officers finish their terms, a few are ordained or installed, and the business of our faith community chugs along. While our officers are not generally very heavy-handed with us, they do make decisions on our behalf, they pray for us, and they consider the future of our church. Let's appreciate them and support them as they serve Jesus for us.

"Almighty God, thank you for those who have said YES to your call in our midst. Bless them as they serve and make our faith community fruitful in You. And Lord, as we continue in this election season, make us ever mindful of how we are to treat each other and those we meet. May your fragrance be sprinkled throughout our community because of your spirit living through each of us. Thank you in Jesus. Amen."

CHRISTY ROEDIGER





PREACHING SERIES — FAITH SHARING —

Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side. The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

John 20:19-21

Week 1 - Sept 29: *The Message*

— Romans 5-21.

The message we as disciples are entrusted with is the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Week 2 - Oct 6: *From Messiah to Messengers*

—Matthew 28:16-20.

Jesus graciously invites us into a life-giving relationship with himself, entrusts us with the Great Commission, and remains with us forever.

Week 3 - Oct 13: *I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel*

—Romans 1:16-17

Guest Speaker

Mark Patterson, ECO's Flourishing Institute of Theology.

Week 4 - Oct 20: *Modeling Christ to Share the Message*

—1 Cor. 9:19-27.

The Apostle Paul, a model servant of all in the power of Christ.

Week 5 - Oct 27: *Rescued to Reconcile!*

—Mark 5:1-20.

Those touched by Christ's amazing redemptive powers are witnesses who give him Glory. . . even pigs.

WHAT'S YOUR PICTURE OF "CHURCH?"

BY WADE MANTLO, CRU *

Whether online, offline or some kind of combination of the two, new believers in countries with limited access are finding ways to get connected to God's family! Believers are called to go to where people are. In today's world. That includes digital spaces.

In many places around the world, gatherings of Jesus followers are illegal or highly restricted. What does it mean to "go make disciples" in these places? Well, part of the answer recently has been *virtual church*. One of our Middle Eastern volunteer staff, Ezzat, said, "People in Europe and the US think about Sunday live-streaming. But *virtual church* is a community of believers who can only meet every week online— for worship, prayer, taking the Lord's supper, even eating together. They are a real community. "The heart of *virtual church*", says Ezzat, "is reach-

ing and equipping people with no local church in their community and providing a way for them to belong to the family of God." For example, Fatima lives in one of the North African countries closed to the gospel. She fell very ill and while searching on the internet, she found Ezzat's webpage about needing healing prayer. As Ezzat and his wife talked with Fatima and ministered to her through a virtual community, they found out that she was in a city where they had a group of believers who meet regularly to worship the Lord together. Not all cases work out this way, but Fatima was able to connect with other underground Christians in her hometown and worship the Lord with great joy.

Pray for the growing tech networks and "messengers" like Ezzat. God's Word and love will not be contained!

* CRU IS THE INTERNATIONAL NAME FOR CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST BEGUN IN 1951
BY BILL AND VONETTE BRIGHT:
WWW.CRU.ORG FOR MORE INFO.

WEE PATCH

& Small Fall Family Fest

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12th / 11 - 3

PATRICK WOLTERMAN MEMORIAL PARK / 5923 HAMILTON AVE

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

- live entertainment
- children's nature crafts focused on pollinators
- treat bags
- mums, gourds
- nature education stations & activities
- honey
- natural salves and balms
- native plants

@COLLEGEHILLGARDENERS
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