



BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – NOVEMBER 2024

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

BE A MESSENGER AT THANKSGIVING

BY SHARLYN STARE, BTN EDITOR

Thanksgiving is one of those days that often “just happens.” The planning focuses on who’s bringing what and when the “big game” is broadcast. This year, consider some new options that may enable you to practice what we have been learning through the most recent *Messages* preaching series.

As pilgrims in life’s journey, who are the people with whom God might have you share Thanksgiving and life. For example, invite a person with no “in-town family,” a neighbor or an international student to join you.

Pat Durst has been a CHPC global worker and ministry partner for over 40 years. When she began working with Int’l Friendships at University of Cincinnati, she told us about a need for dinner hosts and friendship partners. She matches an international student or two with a local person/family to experience “Thanksgiving in an American home.” Pat says, “God has brought students right to our doorsteps, speaking our language, seeking friends, and curious to know about this culture! Singles, couples,

(CONTINUED PAGE 2)



Nearly all of what historians have learned about the first Thanksgiving comes from a single eyewitness report—a December 1621 letter written by Edward Winslow. He sailed from England aboard the *Mayflower* in 1620 and founded Plymouth Colony, MA. Just over 50 colonists are believed to have attended, including 22 men; 4 married women including Winslow’s wife; and more than 25 children and teenagers. These were the lucky ones who had made it through the first harsh winter.

An epidemic of disease had

swept through the colony, killing half the original group. 78% of the women had died. For the English, the first “thanks-giving” was a celebration of gratitude to God that they had survived their first year in New England. But they hadn’t survived alone. Their Native American guests outnumbered the colonists two-to-one. The “Indians” brought a bounty of meat, seafood, and native wild plants.

Though each group had their own traditions of giving thanks, God honored both and forged a new nation out of their gratitude for his providence.

BE A MESSENGER AT THANKSGIVING

(CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT COVER)

families, a Growth Group or groups of friends can all apply to be ambassadors for our country and Christ!

HOW DOES HOSTING WORK?

If you know the person(s), simply make contact and invite them for Thanksgiving dinner well in advance of Thursday, November 28. Determine a time that works for you and the guest(s).

If you're open to hosting an international student, call Pat Durst (513) 324-1268; for more information, Sam Stare, (513) 382-5902. Int'l Friendships often has more requests from students than available dinner hosts. The student(s) will be expecting a call from you. Some students have transportation; others may need to be picked up. Most students speak English well.

HOSTING HINTS (MOST ARE APPLICABLE TO ALL GUESTS)

Last Thanksgiving the two girls pictured arrived in time to help us cut out the pieces for "turkey hats." Our 7-year old niece gave us the first pattern. The only thing guests needed to do was add the eyes. Each one was distinctively different and made us all laugh. Notice the name tags. They're helpful for all guests.



HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING—When we first started having international guests, we wondered, "How do we explain Thanksgiving?" A friend sent us an internet link to a video in English. It tells the story of an "American Thanksgiving." We played the video and it provided a natural lead into sharing by adults and children. The 6.5-minute video showed the history of the "Pilgrims" coming to America and describes present day Thanksgiving celebrations.

The video is in English with English and subtitles: Go to [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BQSOkkoDjc) and type in "The American Thanksgiving Story." (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BQSOkkoDjc>)

The video has helped the young and old to understand American history and culture, improve their English

listening skills, and foster hearts of thankfulness. It can be used with any small group. The video ends with the question: "What are you thankful for from the past year? Health? Family? Good Education? Food? What? Tell about it, and why you're thankful.

For a bit deeper sharing, especially when strangers are present, it's often easier to talk during dinner. (Children and relatives may be on their best behavior.) We love to say, "Tell us about your name. What is your full name? What do you know about why your parents named you this? From what country does your family come? How did you feel about your name when you were younger? Now? How about nicknames? Any you're willing to share?" Be prepared to model what's expected, and help others remember the series of questions.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Depending on the amount of time you have, ask internationals to tell about something that might be like Thanksgiving in their country or tradition.

Here are some other starter questions. (You can use "thanksgiving" or "being grateful" interchangeably.)

- Think about someone you know who reflects an attitude of thanksgiving and tell about him or her.
- Name a person or event before your time for which you are grateful (electricity, penicillin, birth of Christ).
- Name 5 gifts from God that you can see from where you are sitting right now for which you are grateful?
- What little things are you grateful for today?
- Describe something in your life that has taken time to develop for which you are grateful.
- Tell a story of one time when you expressed your gratefulness and why?

God has connected each of us with people from across the street and around the world to make it easy to share his love. Countries have also sent students to Cincinnati. You can play a part in God's global plan for those from every tribe and tongue and people and nation to worship God the Father for all eternity.

For more information call Pat Durst (513) 324-1268 or me, Sam Stare, (513) 382-5902.



“One of the world’s great tragedies is that about 1 in 5 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 for whom charging a cell phone can even 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.”

2025 IS THE YEAR FOR A CHPC SONLIGHT POWER MISSION TRIP TO HONDURAS

In preparation for the 2025 trip, our own Pastor Samuel Mock and his wife Liz will be working with SonLight Power in Honduras this Thanksgiving: November 23-30, 2024. Please pray for their trip!

Some of the mission team will be trained to perform tasks related to the well-designed solar power installation. Others will provide supporting roles like fun experiences for Honduran school children similar to those described in the October *Bell Tower News*. God might be calling you or someone from your family to be part of CHPC’s trip in Summer 2025. It will be a never-to-



be-forgotten experience. Volunteers need only to be reasonably healthy, able

to walk up to two miles in comfortable shoes and carry no more than 20 pounds. More details at <https://www.sonlightpower.org/join-mission-trip>. A passport is required to travel. Applying for a new passport takes 2-3 months.

An unusual Christmas gift— give or solicit “tax deductible financial gifts” this holiday. Give online at www.sonlightpower.org. Click on “Give Now.” Also pray for all those whom God will be calling to Honduras with the CHPC Sonlight Power 2025 trip.

Every gift makes a difference, and every prayer makes even more difference!



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! Pray for CHPC’s Trustee Administrators who will review the applications for Endowment Funds of up \$5,000 each. (Requests were submitted online by October 31st.)

AT YOUR SERVICE! The end of the calendar year is a great time to give to the church Endowment Fund. The Trustee Administrators elected by the congregation work with a highly successful independent investment firm which is responsible for properly investing the fund’s monies. The income from the fund is given away in the form of grants. In 2024, nearly \$50,000 was distributed among 23 organizations in 8 different countries.

WHEN YOU DONATE...

- Grants allow Christian ministries to receive funds for

special projects that enable them to serve Christ better.

- Grants demonstrate the financial support of College Hill Presbyterian’s members for the work of Christ across the street and around the world.
- Your donations to the Endowment Fund *today* make a statement about your wise stewardship of God’s money entrusted to you *now*. Donations through your will and estate planning will provide *a legacy for the future*.

ONE 2024 FUND GRANT ENABLED A TRUSTWORTHY

CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION TO FEED REFUGEES AND EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS IN CHRIST’S NAME IN IZMIR TURKEY— AIDING EVANGELISM AND COMPASSION FOR GROUPS OR PEOPLE “BEYOND THE WALLS” OF CHPC.





UNDER THE FAMILY MINISTRIES UMBRELLA

RECENTLY, THE CHPC FAMILY MINISTRIES RELEASED A “ROAD MAP TO FUNDRAISING” — A PLAN TO PROVIDE ADDED FUNDING FOR USE BY ALL THE MINISTRIES UNDER ITS UMBRELLA. UNLESS YOU HAVE CHILDREN OR TEENS OR YOU ARE INVOLVED IN ONE OF THE MINISTRIES, YOU MANY NOT REALIZE HOW BIG THIS CHALLENGE IS. SO WE’VE PUT TOGETHER THIS OVERVIEW.

SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR KIDS

NURSERY (6 WKS - 3 YRS)

Our Nursery is a warm, welcoming and safe place for your baby or toddler to explore, learn and grow. Your child will be well-cared-for by our background-checked and trained volunteer staff, who are devoted to giving your child an awesome first experience of church.

PRESCHOOL - FIRST GRADE

Our preschool through first grade is a great place for your kids to build a foundation of faith. Our teachers come alongside parents to explain the basic building blocks of faith, explore fun hands-on activities, and worship together with age-appropriate music.

2ND - 6TH GRADE

This class builds on foundations of faith and explores how Jesus is real and relevant to our lives. Kids begin to explore the Bible and learn more about the character of God, and why He is trustworthy. Parents are encouraged to keep the conversation going at home.

FAMILY WORSHIP ZONE

Our Family Worship Zone is a special, designated spot in our Sanctuary that offers a safe, kid-friendly space for families to worship together. There are a variety of activities provided for your children, from Kids’ Sermon Notes to books and story Bibles to quiet games and puzzles. We hope you’ll enjoy worshipping together as a family in this fun, made-just-for-you space!

YOUTH GROUP (4TH - 12TH GRADE)

Our Youth Group is designed to help students know that the Bible is true, reliable, and our guidebook for life. Kids are encouraged to dive deeper into their faith, asking and answering big questions and seeing that Jesus is truly sufficient for our every need. Our teachers walk with our parents in preparing these students to develop a more mature, personal faith.

WHIZ KIDS TUTORING

Whiz Kids Tutoring is a ministry providing fourth through sixth graders at Pleasant Hill Academy with caring adults to tutor them in reading and basic math, help them with homework, and model Christian character. Whiz Kids is made possible by committed Christian volunteers who are free on Tuesdays from 4:45 to 6:00 PM, who can clear a local criminal background check, and who love kids and can help them with reading, writing, and basic math.



Tim Walker, Pleasant Hill Academy Resource Coord. said, “Even after kids get just a little bit of extra attention, I can see a difference in their attitudes and their behavior.” Contact Colleen at scheidison@gmail.com

JESUS UNIVERSITY

CHPC’s Jesus University was started in partnership with City Gospel Mission in 2015 with 14 girls. Now it has grown to serve 43 girls in two separate ballet classes. Our dancers are mostly from College Hill, and the majority of our girls could not otherwise afford quality private



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

JESUS UNIVERSITY (CONTINUED)

dance lessons. While we make ballet accessible and affordable for the families we serve, the main effect is on the girls, who learn life skills and experience Christ's love in the process.

Through instruction and mentoring, we help girls build character, self-esteem, discipline, personal poise, love of dance, and an understanding of God's Word.

Pictured are helpers who prepare the bags of treats and study materials. We also strive to connect the dancers' families to Jesus, to CHPC, and to each other. Then, the girls can really dance for joy! Contact Helen at terrycharyse@yahoo.com



3CS PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN (Christian Community Cooperative)

3Cs serves about 80 student and provides them with an excellent foundation for both school and life.

Not only is it an excellent preschool and kindergarten for the students, but it is a loving community like no other. It is an environment in which parents and teachers support one another. 3Cs also offers a summer day camp.

It has been proven that the most successful schools are those with parent involvement. Because it is a CO-OP, families are involved in the school life.

Parents are encouraged to help in the classroom once a month, invited to help organize class parties, and participate in fundraising. We also welcome other family members to help with these duties.



For more about 3Cs, go to <https://chpc.org/3cs>

SEE PAGE 8: GINGERBREAD SHOPPE ADVERTISEMENT.

nmckenna@chpc.org; rrussell@chpc.org

FAMILY MINISTRIES LEADERS

NICOLE MCKENNA, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES AND (RIGHT) ROBYN RUSSELL, ASSISTANT.



PLAN FOR UNIFIED FUNDRAISING FOR FAMILY MINISTRIES OCT. 19 to MAY 6

#1 "POP-UP" SHOP for selling Double Good's award-winning popcorn Oct. 19-23. \$8365 was raised from popcorn sales and \$1250 in donations. Top sellers and the winners of the \$50 and \$25 gift cards were from 3Cs:



the Buxbaum and Neichter families.



#2 3C's GINGERBREAD CRAFT SHOPPE & LUNCHEON

Nov. 23 from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM is the biggest fundraiser of the year. (SEE DETAILS ON THE BACK COVER.)

#3 PEER-TO-PEER CONTACT March 16, 2025.

#4 GIVING TUESDAY MAY 6, 2025.

WHY IS FUND-RAISING IMPORTANT?

All the ministries listed are in the CHPC budget, but, God keeps doing "new things." Fundraising events allow God to reveal *his* goals. The events are such practical tangible ways to see God providing "up close." He stretches and strengthens our faith, individually and collectively. Fundraisers also open our eyes to reach others who share our passion outside the church.



CHPC HOSTED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES AT PATRICK'S PARK. KIDS SHOWED OFF THEIR COSTUMES, ENJOYED GAMES, TASTED KONA ICE AND LISTENED TO MUSIC.



THE PRESBYTERY EXPERIENCED GREAT TEACHING ON "SABBATH REST" BY DR. MARK PATTERSON, AND TIMES OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP LIKE RINGING THE CHURCH BELL.



WHAT'S UP AT CHPC?

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW, BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO ASK.

Prepared for the Congregational Meeting on Oct 20th, the CHPC Annual Report for 2024 is a compact summary of ministries—Worship, Family, Congregational Care, Adult Discipleship, Local and Global Outreach, Facilities— plus Session's Goals and the Financial Report.

GET YOUR FREE COPY in the rotating literature rack by the main Atrium entry doors, or ask at the Atrium Welcome Desk.



"CHPC SAFE" FIRST AID TRAINING IS BEING OFFERED PERIODICALLY BY NIKKI MCKENNA. WATCH FOR UPCOMING DATES. STAFF AND OFFICERS WERE SOME OF THE EARLY PARTICIPANTS. BE PREPARED TO HELP YOUR SPOUSE, CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, NEIGHBORS, AND OTHERS. YOU'LL THANK GOD FOR IT.



"CHPC Safe," a 5-hour class, teaches the latest life-saving skills to respond to and prepare for emergencies, and help you provide assistance in situations like cardiac or breathing emergencies. *CHPC Safe* exists because it is important to equip individuals with life-emergency preparedness skills. Classes will be hosted by a certified American Red Cross (ARC) Instructor, Nikki McKenna, and are intended for anybody 8 years or older who wants to learn how to save a life. The course is free. However, if you are able, we suggest a \$50 tax-deductible donation to CHPC Family Ministries to offset costs. Upon completion of the course, you will receive a 2-year certification in Adult & Pediatric CPR, First Aid, and AED from the ARC. More info? Contact Nikki at nmckenna@chpc.org



The public squares and beaches of Beirut are crammed with people who have been displaced from the south of Lebanon and the city's southern suburbs. The lucky ones have mattresses and blankets to sleep on. Thousands of shocked families have lost their homes.

As you pray for peace in the Middle East, you may wonder how you could, in Jesus' name, help innocent victims of the violence. Consider donating funds to a trusted Lebanese Christian nonprofit organization that ministers practically and spiritually to refugees and displaced people: Merath Lebanon.

Lucas Shindeldecker has been director of that program for many years. He is the son of John and Laura, who have been CHPC ministry partners for over 40 years (they developed *Peace Pursuit*).

Please pray for the safety of Lucas and his family.

There is a specific donation link for the USA: <https://mebo.org/merath-give/>. That link takes you to Middle East Bible Outreach, which is the USA representative office for Merath Lebanon. It is a US 501(c)(3) nonprofit, so your gifts are tax deductible.

Two other reliable organizations with close relationships in Lebanon that you may wish to support are:

- *The Outreach Foundation*, which has worked closely with churches in Lebanon for decades: <https://www.theoutreachfoundation.org/middle-east-crisis-support>.
- *Call of Love Ministries* is a local Christian organization whose workers in the country of Lebanon serve a mostly online church of Muslim background believers in Christ. Many of their contacts' homes have just been destroyed. Contact 1-832-220-4040, <https://www.calloflove.org/contact>, info@calloflove.org.

PRAY FOR THE PEACE THAT ONLY CHRIST CAN BRING!



BY CHRIS ROEDIGER

Thank [God] in everything – no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks; for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will].

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (Amplified)

'Tis the season for "thanks" in our country, and perhaps the Body of Christ ought to be leading the way in the "thankfulness department." As Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians, he tells them to give thanks in all circumstances for that it is God's will for them. He doesn't tell them they have to thank God FOR all things, but IN all circumstances. For me, that helps. I have a tough time thanking God for everything – nor do I see everything as a gift from God's hand. However, I can thank God for my life in Christ, I can thank God for His unending work in all things, and I can thank God for being with me every step of the way – even when the way is difficult.

Almighty God, in this season of thanks, please grant me a new and deeper awareness of all the reasons I have to give thanks. Thank you for provision, for people who are part of my life journey, for the challenges that keep me on my toes, and the endless opportunities to be Jesus' hands and feet in this world. Please, Jesus, live through your church and make us the thankful people you dream that we will be. We pray always in Jesus. Amen.

youth
MENTAL HEALTH summit
DECEMBER 14 (9-1)
AGES 4TH-12TH GRADE
(LARGE & SMALL GROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS)
LUNCH INCLUDED
REGISTER-WWW.CHPC.ORG/YOUTH-MH

The Youth Mental Health Summit will cover various mental health topics affecting youth. It will provide practical tools and resources for daily use. There will be large and small group breakout sessions. This will be led by *Living Hope Counseling Service* at CHPC. Lunch will be served. This is a ministry of CHPC's Family Ministries.



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 6 - Nov. 3: *Who Are You Carrying?* —Mark 2:3-11.

Who is in your life that needs an encounter with Christ. We have the beautiful opportunity to bring others into the presence of Christ.

Week 7 - Nov. 10: *The Meek Messengers* —1 Peter 3:8-22

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for your hope.

Week 8 - Nov. 17: *How Will They Know?* —Romans 10:8-15

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in...how can they hear without someone preaching to them,..or sending them.

Week 9 - Nov. 24: *We've Been Given the Ministry of Reconciliation*

—2 Corinthians 5:5-21

Paul is letting the church of the day know that those who have been reconciled now have been given the ministry of reconciliation until we are taken home with Christ and he redeems all of creation.

- Train rides
- Live performances
- Santa's Workshop
- Pictures with Santa
- Real reindeer
- A scavenger hunt
- A life-size snow globe
- Holiday-themed activities hosted by some of College Hill's well-known businesses

Light Up College Hill is a **FREE** event presented by the College Hill Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (CHCURC). The event will include a tree lighting ceremony in Patrick's Park, as well as free activities and events throughout the College Hill Business District. For the first time ever Light Up College Hill is hosting a Winter Market, located in the West Parking Lot behind Brink Brewery.



The CHPC 3 C's Pre-School and Kindergarten's biggest fundraiser is the Gingerbread Craft Shoppe and Luncheon the Saturday before Thanksgiving. It includes more than 50 crafters and vendors, raffle baskets, a famous chicken salad

lunch, a huge bake sale table, and crafts for children to do. The \$3 entry cost includes a raffle ticket. This year, Star 93.3 radio will be on-site from 2-3 PM! Stop by and win prizes! **Spread the word and bring your friends and family!**