

# BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – APRIL 2025

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

## FORGIVENESS BEGINS AT THE CROSS

BY JEANNE SCHNEIDER,  
DIRECTOR LIVING HOPE  
COUNSELING SERVICES

As Good Friday and Easter approach, I am reminded of the incredible grace and forgiveness for our sin that Christ freely won for us by his death on the cross.

Throughout his time on earth, Jesus instructed us to forgive: “When you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too” (Mark 11:25, or as we pray the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus teaches, “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us” (MATTHEW 6:12). Two verses later, Jesus *promises*, “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins” (MATTHEW 6:14)

Over the years, I have witnessed the healing journeys of many

individuals. It has become evident that forgiveness is vital to experience healing on many levels. We all experience hurt. Forgiveness is a choice—a choice with serious consequences. Lent and Holy Week are perfect times to embrace new lessons and tools to grow in forgiveness.

Everett Worthington has conducted extensive research on forgiveness. In his *REACH Forgiveness* model, there are two areas of choice. *Decisional Forgiveness* is the choice (1) to forgive a personal offense of another (or even one’s self), and (2) to let go of angry and resentful

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



**AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, THERE IS GREAT COMFORT IN KNOWING THAT HE EMBODIED FORGIVENESS AND EMPOWERS US TO FORGIVE.**





**COLLEGE HILL GARDENERS** meets **FIRST Tuesdays of the month, February to November at 7 PM in the CHPC parlor.** If you have a “black thumb” come and meet neighbors who can help your garden bloom.

Have a “green thumb?” Enrich your gardening experiences and build relationships with fun folks. Great programs, *enrichment projects* like the Spring Plant Sale, College Hill Garden Walk, and the Wee-Patch Fall Festival for families.



**Tues, April 1 7 PM—TEA FOR TWO OR MORE**  
**A MULTIMEDIA TALK BY SAM & BARRY STARE**

What was discovered by accident;  
 Is internationally known;  
 Has caused empires to rise and fall;  
 Has led grown men to dress up in outlandish costumes to do unlawful deeds; and  
 Has transformed social norms and all our lives?

**ANYONE MAY ATTEND THE TALK.**



ON FEB. 23 FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH, JESUS UNIVERSITY'S TWO OLDER GROUPS OF BALLERINAS DANCED AT CHPC TO THE ICONIC SPIRITUAL “GO DOWN MOSES.”

**JESUS UNIVERSITY BALLET MINISTRY**

**SAVE THE DATE: May 10th at 4:00 pm**

at Landmark Baptist Church —anyone may attend

Helen Brooks, Director of Jesus University: The Jesus University dancers invites you to the annual City Gospel Mission's city-wide Princesses Ballet recital. The girls will dance to a 3-song medley. They will practice on both Fridays and Saturdays until the dress rehearsal. Please pray that the girls give a clear message about the one for which they dance.

## CELEBRATE COLLEGE HILL'S RENEWAL

The College Hill Community Urban Redevelopment Corp (CHURC) celebrated the Hollywood Theater's

100th Anniversary on February 21, 2025. CHCURC announced Phase 1 of



the theater's renovation. As weather permits, this phase focuses on restoring the exterior of the building, including: a new roof; marquee removal to make way for future enhancements; new windows and storefront glass for a fresh look; • tuckpointing & painting to bring the façade back



to life; and structural framing.

8K Construction Co. is CHCURC's partner and the City of Cincinnati is continuing support in revitalizing the College Hill Business District. Stay tuned for exciting future updates for restoring this local gem.



# AN AMAZING MEANS OF EVANGELISM



sanctity of human life, fostering meaningful discussions on these critical topics.

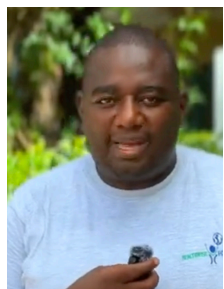
Over 280 girls received Dignity Kits ensuring their comfort and well being. Notably, two teachers also requested a Kit, underscoring the importance and need for such support within the Muslim community.

King David said, "It was a fulfilling experience, and we give all glory to God

MUSLIM SCHOOL GIRLS IN KENYA LEARN OF GOD'S LOVE FOR THEM AND THEIR NEEDS.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last month, the *Bell Tower News* reported on the difference the "Delivering Dignity" ministry was making in the lives of Maasai girls in Kenya. The washable, reusable sanitary pad kits enable girls to regularly attend school during their menstrual periods. Now, they are participating in the world's most popular sport, soccer. This month's story is even more amazing.

Since Delivering Dignity began in Kenya, over 30,000 girls, who have had no access to feminine care products, have learned of God's love for them in a very practical



way. "King David" (PICTURED) heads one of ministry partners, the Healthwise Foundation, that "delivers" free Dignity Kits (washable pads and panties), female health information, and hope for their

future. Last July, the *BTN* did a story about King David Mulatya's "Add a Room" project that was visited by members of the 2024 CHPC Outreach Team to Kenya. Through the CHPC Endowment Fund, you make David's ministry possible.

On March 19th, during the holy month of Ramadan (a time of fasting, prayer, and reflection until night fall), David and the Healthwise team went to a very special school for Muslim girls (11% of Kenya's population is Muslim.)

David said, "We shared insights from Second Corinthians 5:10, emphasizing the principle that our works follow us in judgment. We did not directly quote Scripture. The team conducted sessions on child development and the

for His guidance and provision. The Healthwise team has developed great video capability. To see video of the time in the school, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHNmIZ8LI7Y>, or go to YouTube.com and type in *Donating sanitary to girls at Kajjado school*. Come share the excitement that God made possible through *Delivering Dignity*. More at [Delivering-Dignity.com](http://Delivering-Dignity.com).



GIRLS EXCITEDLY EXAMINE THEIR NEW DIGNITY KITS.



7-SESSION BIBLE STUDY

When Faith Becomes Sight

VIDEO ACCESS INCLUDED

# Ladies' Bible Study

March 18 - April 29, 2025  
9:30 - 11AM

All women welcome! Childcare provided, reserve ahead.

[www.chpc.org/tuesday](http://www.chpc.org/tuesday)

## HEAVEN

JENNIFER ROTHSCHILD



**Heaven, who goes there?** Where is it? What will we do there? Questions like these arise when we consider an eternal future beyond this physical life. How can we know the truth about what comes next?

In this 7-session video-based study, Jennifer Rothschild explores Heaven from a biblical perspective. She will separate what's true about Heaven from what's based on legend, media depictions, and hopeful guesses.

Register online at [chpc.org/tuesday](http://chpc.org/tuesday) or contact Coord: Susan Koch, 513-444-4492. The study is in Fellowship Hall-Parlor just off the Atrium.

## THE BLESSINGS OF SHARING DEEP "CLASSICAL ROOTS"

BY CHRISTY ROEDIGER

On March 15th, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra directed by John Morris Russell gave the 24th Annual performance of Classical Roots – an exciting celebration of the African-American church community. Jason Alexander Holmes prepared the Classical Roots community chorus comprised of over one hundred singers from dozens of churches all around the Tri-State. This year dance groups and featured dancers interpreted the music, and at one point, flags and banners praising Jesus filled all three floors.

Singers from the College Hill Presbyterian Church's Chancel Choir were Barbara McMullen, Brenda Clark, Dave Snyder, and Christy Roediger. Here's why each chose to participate:

**BARBARA McMULLEN**—"I enjoy singing in Classical Roots and especially look forward to seeing old friends from different churches and backgrounds every year."

**BRENDA CLARK**—"I have



(L-R) BARB McMULLEN, BRENDA CLARK, DAVE SNYDER AND CHRISTY ROEDIGER SING WITH A MASSES CHRISTIAN CHOIR AND THE CINCINNATI SYMPHONY AT THE CINTI MUSIC HALL.

participated for several years. I enjoy the diversity of the singers coming together as one."

**DAVE SNYDER** - "Dr. M.L. King had a vision of a *blessed community*. I want to live into that. To get there, I've chosen to racially diversify my personal relationships and to

pursue genuine multiethnic unity within my local church. I've also come to believe that I must actively work to develop relationships with black believers across our city. Participating in the Classical Roots massed Choir was an opportunity to develop new relationships and learn more about Black Christian culture."

**CHRISTY ROEDIGER** – "I love to sing, so this is a great excuse to meet new people and get to sing some different music. But as a white American it is also a privilege to be invited into what is really a black space and get to experience things from a different cultural perspective. "

# FORGIVENESS BEGINS AT THE CROSS

(CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT COVER)

thoughts and feelings toward the one who has wronged you. *Emotional forgiveness* involves replacing negative emotions with positive feelings like compassion, sympathy, and empathy.

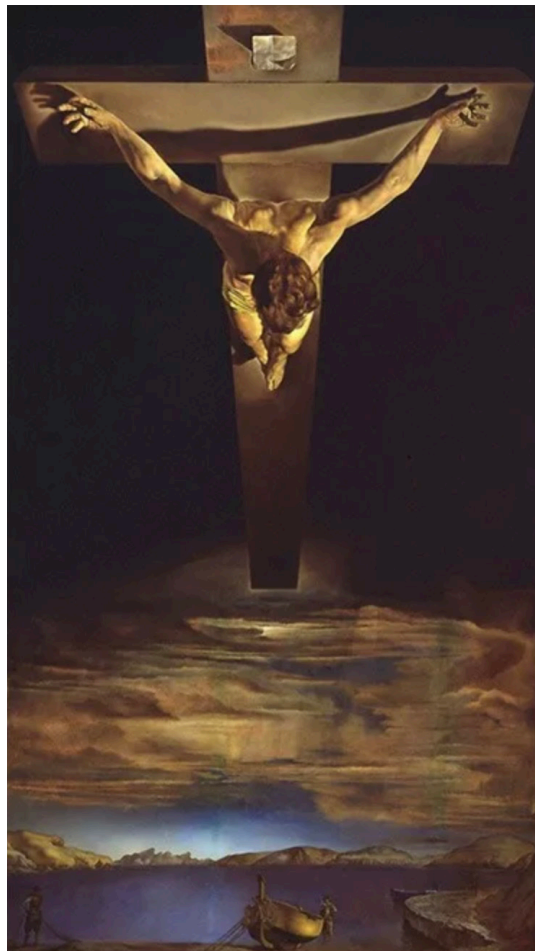
**FORGIVENESS IS A JOURNEY. TYPICALLY, *Decisional Forgiveness* BEGINS WITH IDENTIFYING THE PERSONAL OFFENSES AND THE RESENTFUL THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS.**

Recording those through journaling or on individual index cards can be helpful as you *choose* forgiveness. Forgiveness does not dismiss the other person's offense.

Writing helps to clarify the event and illuminate the root of the pain. There are times that we experience an event where we then create the narrative. Such as "I must be *unlovable* if that person did this to me." That is the narrative that only causes more pain and often grows the narrative. It can become more damaging when the event isn't healed.

***Emotional Forgiveness* involves empathy (trying to accurately understand from the offender's perspective), and altruism (considering a time when someone has forgiven you, and then you offered that gift of forgiveness to the person who hurt you).**

In identifying forgiveness, there is often confusion with reconciliation. There are times when a relationship will not be restored because the other person is unsafe or unwilling to take ownership of the offense. Reconciliation is about the restoration of trust in



SALVADOR DALÍ'S *Christ Of St John of the Cross*

© OCSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection

the relationship. Forgiveness is separate from reconciliation because it is a personal decision.

**As followers of Jesus Christ, there is great comfort in knowing that he embodied forgiveness and empowers us to forgive.**

Spend time asking Jesus to help you in both *Decisional* and *Emotional Forgiveness*. The book *Forgiving What You Can't Forget* suggested this exercise to help facilitate forgiveness:

- Record who you are forgiving.
- Identify the facts of what you are

forgiving, and the impact of the offense on you.

- Then, take a red piece of paper and place it over each offense, praying, "And whatever my feelings don't allow for, the blood of Jesus will surely cover."

I encourage you try this forgiveness exercise during the Lenten season. Pause and take inventory of unforgiveness toward others or yourself. "Decide" to forgive.

## HELP IS AVAILABLE

Again, growing in forgiveness is a journey—often with multiple layers to the journey. At times it is helpful to have someone accompany you on this journey.

If you or someone you know would benefit from counseling (that's all of us Jesus followers), reach out to Living Hope Counseling Services at [www.livinghopecs.com](http://www.livinghopecs.com) or 513-371-5135. Our trained and licensed counselors are equipped to support you through life's challenges. Living Hope is dedicated to providing affordable, quality counseling regardless of financial resources.

Living Hope needs financial support too, so we can provide the level of care needed for each client. Please consider partnering with Living Hope through contributions sent to: Living Hope Counseling Services, 5742 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45224 and praying for clients and clinicians.

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## JEANNE SCHNEIDER, MA LPCCs

holds a Master of Arts as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor with Supervisor Designation. Living Hope Counseling Services is a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit service at 1538 Groesbeck Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45224.





BY ELDER ANN KLUSMEIER

As Presbyterians, we have the right and opportunity to recommend fellow covenant partners (members) to guide and serve our church as we “honor God by growing a diverse community of Jesus followers.”

The CHPC Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) needs your recommendation of names of potential officers: Elders, Deacons, a Trustee-Administrator, and the 2026 CNC members. This process includes not only getting names but privately interviewing each person nominated. Then, the CNC prayerfully selects a slate of officers to be elected in October.

The CNC asks the staff and the congregation to recommend individuals to be a church officer. **The Officer Roles & Responsibilities and the Officer Nomination Form can be found at [chpc.org/nominate](http://chpc.org/nominate). Paper forms are available** in the literature racks (Sanctuary front door and the Atrium entry).

You may contact any of the CNC members: Ann Klusmeier



(PICTURED), Jinda Bowerman, Brenda Clark, Greg Fischer, Bonnie Mack, Nate Smith, and Steve Telecan.

A Deacon will be appointed to the CNC soon. Please pray with us for the church, for the CNC, and for those whom God will choose.

## REGISTER APRIL 1 FOR A GREAT SUMMER



### Children / Teens Day Lessons:

10-11 AM; 11 AM-12 PM; 12-1 PM

at North Hills Swim Club

WEEK #1: June 23-27

WEEK #2: July 14-18

WEEK #3: July 28-August 1

### Adult and Evening Lessons:

6:00-7:15 PM

at Twin Towers' Connection Pool

Week A: July 7-11

Week B: July 21-25

The minimum age for students is 5 years old by the first day of class. Cost: \$80/week for one-on-one American Red Cross swim lessons. Limited scholarships are available.

**ONLINE APPLICATIONS OPEN ON APRIL 1st, 2025 at 12:00 AM REGISTER EARLY**

<https://chpc.org/SWIM/>

### WANTED: SWIM MINISTRY STAFF

Be part of God's miracles! Youth (at least 11 yrs old) and adults are needed—must (1) be growing as a Christian, (2) love children, (3) have a sense of humor, (4) enjoy the water, and (5) be teachable. Youths must swim at the American Red Cross Level 4 or above. Adults: a willingness to mentor teens is key; experience as a Life Guard or Water Safety Instructor is helpful but not required.

Contact: Katy Verhagen (513) 919-9658, [Katy.Verhagen@gmail.com](mailto:Katy.Verhagen@gmail.com), Sam Stare (513) 542-2442; [stare-cvg@aol.com](mailto:stare-cvg@aol.com) or visit the website for more info. Apply now.

## PEER-TO-PEER FUNDRAISER

Peer contact by phone, social media, and face-to-face contact raised \$9,866! These funds will be split evenly among the five family ministries. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Whiz Kids programs will purchase environment and equipment enhancements. Funds will supplement salaries for 3C's teachers and Jesus University (JU) ballet instructors and provide summer literacy tutoring for the JU girls. Every child, parent, and leader in our Family Ministries will feel your love. Thank you CHPC Family!

Blessings, Lex Bowerman-Coord.



Last October, CHPC hosted our Great Lakes Presbytery meeting. On April 5th, the spring meeting will be in Greenfield, OH, about 80 miles NE. The group be looking at Cultural Intelligence in the Church and have teachings and discussions facilitated by Keith Hileman (<https://www.wearethreaded.org/>). His organization's mission is to help inspire relationships, reconciliation, and collaborative action among the diverse body of Christ. *Pray for a fruitful meeting.*

## SUMMER FUN AT CHPC



### CHPC Connections Camp 2025

June 23-27, 9 AM-12:30 PM

Campers: K to GRADE 6

Apprentice camp staff

7th to GRADE 12

**ONLINE REGISTRATION OPEN NOW**

<https://chpc.org/CAMP/>



### 3C's Summer Camp 2025

July 28-31, 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

Age: 2.5 to 9 yrs. Held at 3Cs Nursery School at College Hill Presb. Church.

Cost: \$70/first child, \$10 discount for each additional sibling. All children must have emergency information on file before attending the camp.

FULL PAYMENT IS DUE AT REGISTRATION. Cancellations before May 31st will receive a refund less any processing fees.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW**

<https://chpc.org/3CS-CAMP/>



BY CHRISTY ROEDIGER

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 (NIV)

Here's the MESSAGE version:

*Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.*

But I find myself thinking, "Jesus, you didn't have to juggle a job and finances and family responsibilities. You were *God at heart* and understand better than I do. Surely your greater understanding made things different for you."

In Hebrews 2:17-18, the Apostle Paul declares that Jesus was made like us so that he could understand our experiences and needs—even things like the frustration of taxes. Matthew 17: 24-27 tells us that Jesus paid his (and Peter's) temple tax from a coin in a fish's mouth!

So, I laugh a bit and am reminded that God always provides for me, and I can trust that he always will.

*Almighty God, still my rushing heart. Remind me of your faithfulness yet again and how you have provided for your people – even me – for centuries. Help me to breathe, to pray, and to bring my frantic pace to you. Cause me to receive your peace and live like I am yours and you are mine, always. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## GOOD NEWS

In the March BTN, Cindy Carlson wrote about Victor Kubwimana and his family, immigrants from Burundi via Zambia. God is answering prayers for Victor and the family. They received their "Green Cards" that serve as proof of lawful permanent residence in the United States. They can live and work in the U.S. permanently and can also apply for U.S. citizenship after meeting certain requirements, typically in 3-5 years. Alleluia!!

## Have an idea for Bell Tower News?

Questions? Want to submit an article/ photo of an event? Request an update about \_\_\_\_? Contact the BTN Editor, Sam Stare, 513-382-5902 or email [starecvg@aol.com](mailto:starecvg@aol.com).

LOOKING FOR BACK  
ISSUES OF BTN?  
GO ONLINE TO [chpc.org/BTN](http://chpc.org/BTN)

**Deadline for BTN submissions  
is the 15th of each month.**



BE PART OF THE FUN!



BY SAMUEL MOCK, ASST. PASTOR

BY PASTOR DREW SMITH

**2025 LENT & HOLY WEEK  
PREACHING SERIES**

We are walking through the Beatitudes— Matthew 5:1-12 —in order to marinate in the character of Jesus. In each of his statements, Jesus highlights a particular character trait or skill that pays huge heavenly dividends. Jesus shocks us with His “Blessed List.”

What Jesus calls blessed, we typically seek to avoid. He is showing us the ways of the Kingdom of God are not the priorities of this world. As we soak up Jesus, we will gain a security of soul for this life and a deeper hope for the life to come. Let’s be blessed according to the words of Jesus this Lent and Easter.

**JESUS’ BLESSED LIST**

**April 6—Blessed Are the Merciful**  
MATTHEW 5:7

COMMUNION – Jesus extended grace and forgiveness to all. He loved not because we deserved it, but because he was love. (SEE THIS ISSUE’S COVER)

**PALM SUNDAY, April 13 —**

**Pure In Heart** MATTHEW 5:8

Jesus maintained his pure adoration for the Father when the crowd loved him and when they betrayed him.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY 7PM, April 17—**

**Peacemaker** MATTHEW 5:9

COMMUNION in the Contemporary worship area. A reminder of Jesus’ last passover with his disciples and giving of the mandate to “Love one another.”

**GOOD FRIDAY 7PM, April 18—**

**Persecuted** MATTHEW 5:10

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE in the Sanctuary. A reminder of Jesus’ Passion— his torture, crucifixion, death on the cross and burial in a borrowed tomb for the redemption of the world.

**EASTER SUNDAY, April 20—**

**Rejoice!!** MATTHEW 5:10

Jesus Christ’s resurrection from 3-days of death gives us joy in all of life because we know that the way of Jesus leads to victory! We can suffer and die following Jesus, but every step with him on our journey leads to an eternal relationship with him, the Holy Spirit, and our Heavenly Father. Come and celebrate!

**SUNDAY FUNDAY 10:30 AM, April 27—**

**Appentice to Jesus** This is one of the “single service” Sundays where there is only one service at 10:30 AM. Worship will be followed by a prayer walk or ride in CH neighborhood, followed by lunch. Don’t miss it.

The Magic of Easter is a fun event held on the campus of CHPC at 5742 Hamilton Ave, that includes an Easter-egg scramble (by age) and a pre-Easter show by nationally-renowned Brad Brown.

Brad returns for his 4th year. Expect sleight-of-hand, making objects appear/disappear, card magic, and lots of “impossible” tricks. Brad’s



unique humor creates a fun experiences for kids and adults. His most amazing “magic” is when he tells the story of Easter through illusions—the Gospel account reveals the true wonder of Easter.

This event is made possible by the faithfulness of our congregation to give plastic eggs, candy, and money. **Please bring eggs and candy to the Atium desk by Sun., April 6th.**

To donate, serve, or help with the event in many ways, **register online at [chpc.org/magic](http://chpc.org/magic)**. Invite friends and family to attend and serve our community. We’re looking to you to make this fantastic event a success again.

Jesus is RISEN. He is risen, indeed!