

# BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – MARCH 2025

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

## MEET THE *REAL* SAINT PATRICK

BY MICHAEL A. G. HAYKIN, PROFESSOR OF CHURCH HISTORY AND BIBLICAL SPIRITUALITY, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

1. SAINT PATRICK WAS NOT IRISH. His full name was Maewyn Succat. Born around 385, he was part of the upper class who ran Roman-British society before the fall of the western Roman Empire in the fifth century. This means he was from either what is now Wales or England, or even possibly Southern Scotland.

2. PATRICK'S CONVERSION CAME AS A RESULT OF HIS BEING TAKEN AS A SLAVE TO IRELAND BY IRISH RAIDERS. He had been raised in a Christian home but tells us in his Confession that he had paid no attention as a youngster to what he had heard in church. He was sixteen when he was taken captive, and that would have been around AD 406 or 407.

3. PATRICK'S MISSION TO IRELAND (ABOUT AD 430 TO 460) WAS VIRTUALLY THE ONLY EVANGELISTIC MISSION IN FIFTH-CENTURY WESTERN

EUROPE. It would seem that many Roman Christians felt that the so-called "barbarians" beyond the Roman Empire were not worth evangelizing. People in his home church in Britain actually opposed



his mission to Ireland because they felt he was throwing away his life among the godless Irish.

4. DREAMS PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE AT KEY TURNING-POINTS IN PATRICK'S LIFE, BUT SCRIPTURE WAS THE CENTRAL FACTOR IN THE MAJOR DECISIONS

OF HIS LIFE. For example, he had a dream confirming his call to be a missionary to Ireland. But it was passages like Matthew 28:19–20, what we now call the Great Commission, that were decisive in his going to Ireland. His mission was centered on the northern half of Ireland and thousands of Irish men and women were converted under Patrick's preaching.

5. WE HAVE NO IDEA IF PATRICK READ ANY OTHER BOOKS THAN THE BIBLE, FOR THAT WAS THE ONLY BOOK HE EVER QUOTED. However, he did cite a creed, which may have been the confession of his home church in Britain. The creed shows the clear influence of the Nicene Creed from AD 381 that confesses the full deity of each of the three persons of the Godhead.

6. PATRICK'S LOVE FOR THE WRITTEN WORDS OF THE BIBLE WAS PASSED ON TO THE CELTIC CHURCH, WHICH BECAME THE MOST LEARNED BODY OF

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

## WHEN YOUR AVOCATION BECOMES GOD'S MISSION...



ELDER DAVE SNYDER (BACK ROW, CENTER) RECENTLY LEFT THE CORPORATE WORLD AND LAUNCHED “EMBRACING UNITY” — A MINISTRY THAT EQUIPS CHRISTIANS TO TALK RACE, PURSUE CHURCH UNITY, AND PUT THINGS RIGHT IN OUR COMMUNITIES. DAVE HAS BEEN COLLECTING TESTIMONIES ABOUT HOW THIS WORKS FOR PEOPLE FOR USE ON THE MINISTRY’S WEBSITE:

[www.embracingracialunity.org/about/module-5](http://www.embracingracialunity.org/about/module-5)

RECENTLY HE ADDED HIS OWN STORY OF HOW GOD USE DAVE’S AVOCATION — COACHING SOCCER—TO REACH OUT TO GIRLS AND FAMILIES IN THE COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY AND TAUGHT DAVE A LOT IN THE PROCESS.

BY DAVE SNYDER, CHPC ELDER

Two high school girls and I founded a soccer program for girls in grades 2-6 at Pleasant Hill Academy in College Hill (Cincinnati). The school had failing grades and was just five minutes from my home and church. The student population was 90% black or mixed race, 5% Hispanic, and 4% white. The State of Ohio offered vouchers for parents to send their children to private schools due to the failing state of Pleasant Hill Academy. This resulted in middle-class white families buying homes in College Hill and sending their children elsewhere for schooling. The students attending the school were disproportionately poor and disproportionately disadvantaged. I had participated in Wiz Kids, an effective reading and mentoring program at the school, but as a former youth soccer coach, I felt God

was nudging me to address the lack of access these students had to playing soccer.

In Cincinnati, some young girls have had a unique opportunity to play soccer, but not all communities have equal access. Unfortunately, the Pleasant Hill Academy families, predominantly led by single parents, struggle to make recreational leagues work. This is a common problem in majority black schools within the Cincinnati Public School system. Due to the lack of participation from elementary school students, there aren't enough soccer players to support high school teams in some schools. This is a stark contrast to economically challenged single mothers living in white school districts who have options to enter their daughters in soccer programs within the community.

Playing soccer had blessed my own daughters and their teammates and my vision was to give these girls that same opportunity to play soccer. However, finding scrimmage partners was our first major obstacle. Rec teams had little incentive to scrimmage once their season started and we couldn't recruit girls until after school started in the fall and the rec leagues were already in full swing. The school connected us with a sponsor that was launching a similar program at 18 Cincinnati Public schools. I had access to a church van, which allowed me to drive the girls to scrimmages without burdening their parents. I called each of the coaches and pleaded with them to play us. I remember that first year another coach saying, “this is our first year. Can we wait until next year to scrimmage?” Ultimately, we found creative ways to give the girls playing experience.

I recruited others to help. Together we developed relationships with these girls, shaped their character and brought them into the church, and witnessed multiple hearts being given to Christ. However, I was reminded of the importance of not stopping there. In the early 1800s, many American Christians committed themselves to evangelizing the slaves without fighting for their freedom. As Christians, we must hunger and thirst to put things right, following the example of *repair* provided in The Parable of the Good Samaritan. For me, putting things right includes addressing the inequities that prevent Black children from accessing the same opportunities as my own children.



# THE SOCCER MIRACLE IN KENYA



JUNE 2024, BOB SJOGREN ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF SOCCER TEAMS IN FOUR MAASAI SCHOOLS IN KENYA. GIRLS WHO USE “DELIVERING DIGNITY” KITS ARE FINALLY FREE TO PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL AND SPORTS YEAR AROUND.

Last year, Debby & Bob Sjogren of “Delivering Dignity” brought a team of supporters from the U.S. to experience several ministries among the Maasai in Southern Kenya. They brought more fabric to make washable sanitary kits and something special—soccer balls, uniforms to outfit four girls soccer teams, and a trophy (pictured above). You can see the response.

Why? Soccer is the world’s most popular sport. More than 250 million people play soccer regularly, and 43% of the world’s population considers themselves fans.

For these girls, however, being able to regularly participate in any sport is a miracle. They are part of the 30,000 girls who have received FREE Dignity kits—feminine care for the monthly periods. The kits allow the girls to stay in school and pursue their education. Plus,

the washable kits provide the protection they needed to play sports for the first time!

The 2024 Team included a woman who had coached world-class soccer in the U.S. She provided training for the girls and materials for the local coaches. The uniforms, supplies, and 4-school league did the rest.

This June, the U.S. “Delivering Dignity” team will get to see the effects of the competition, celebrate with the girls, and present the “official trophy” to the best school team. Next year, the plan is to expand the number of schools participating.



ONE OF THE MAASAI TEAMS IN THEIR NEW UNIFORMS



## IS GOD CALLING YOU TO HONDURAS JUNE 7-14?

“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.”

CHPC is partnering with SonLight Power (founded by Alan Rainey from CHPC) to provide solar power for people in an area of Honduras. Men, women and families are eligible to go June 7-14, 2025. A guardian must accompany all participants under 18. Team size for the trip is limited.

**Don’t delay. The cut-off date for the trip is very soon. Contact SAMUEL MOCK (tour leader) (513) 541-5676 extension 1130**

**PUT ON  
SAINT PATRICK'S  
BREASTPLATE  
EACH DAY**

This is a powerful prayer attributed to St. Patrick. He call it his "body armor" or "breastplate." It is believed to have been composed in preparation for his *spiritual battle*—and ultimate victory—over paganism in Ireland.

The prayer can be prayed daily in advance of the work day or whenever we face difficult situations, travel, encounter conflict of any kind, and face major life decisions. It is a powerful reminder for us to put on the armor of Christ each day. The *abbreviated version* is printed below:

**I bind unto myself today**

The strong name of the Trinity:  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three-in-One and One-in-Three.

**I bind this day to me for ever**

By power of faith, Christ's incarnation:  
His baptism in the Jordan River,  
His death on the Cross for my salvation,  
His bursting from the spiced tomb,  
His riding up the heavenly way,  
His coming at the day of doom.

**I bind unto myself today!**

Christ be with me,  
Christ within me.  
Christ behind me.  
Christ before me.  
Christ beside me.  
Christ to win me.  
Christ to comfort and restore me.

# MEET THE *REAL* SAINT PATRICK

(CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT COVER)

CHURCHES IN WESTERN EUROPE DURING THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES. When Patrick came to Ireland, he would have found a society that was mostly illiterate, but within two generations, the Celtic church was the most literate body of churches in Western Europe. One of Patrick's great gifts to the Irish was literacy.

7. AT THE HEART OF PATRICK'S FAITH WAS HIS LOVE FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY. This love is found in a number of places in his Confession and actually was at the heart of his reasons for going to Ireland as a missionary. The Celtic church that he founded was also deeply trinitarian and in this regard is a great model for churches today.

8. LEGENDS ABOUT PATRICK ARE LEGION. For example, the reason that there are no snakes in Ireland is that Patrick kicked them all out

of Ireland. Or that Patrick taught the doctrine of the Trinity by means of the shamrock. Or that he regularly had showdowns with the leaders of Irish paganism, namely the Druids. There is no evidence he did either of the first two, and while he does tell us he was often in danger of losing his life because of opposition, he never mentions the Druids.

9. PATRICK'S MISSION TO IRELAND HAS BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO A NUMBER OF PEOPLE DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS. For example, it inspired William Carey in his mission to India and hopefully can do the same in our day!

10. ST. PATRICK WAS NEVER OFFICIALLY CANONIZED AS A SAINT BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. There wasn't a formal canonization process during his life. He is still widely venerated in Ireland and elsewhere today.

**"He eradicated paganism from Ireland and set the flame of the Gospel alight with such ardour that his apparently small field of action became a missionary hub for the West."**

Christ beneath me.  
Christ above me.  
Christ in quiet.  
Christ in danger.  
Christ in hearts of all that love me.  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

**I bind unto myself today.**

The strong name of the Trinity:  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three-in-One and One-in- Three,  
Of Whom all nature hath creation,  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word.  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation  
—Salvation is of Christ the Lord!  
**AMEN.**



Bell Tower News readers may remember the beginning of this story. Two years ago, Cindy Carlson was driving past Aiken High School. A large plastic jug rolled into the street and under her car bumper. She pulled off the road to take a look. She was surprised that a teenage boy offered to help her.

## “GOD SETS US IN FAMILIES”

—Psalm 68:6

BY “MOM” CINDY CARLSON

The young man was Victor, whose family immigrated from Burundi via Zambia. Our God-ordained encounter led to my meeting Victor’s wonderful Christian family, his parents, and three sisters. Now, they call me *Mom*.

Unrest in Africa had caused Victor’s parents to flee to Zambia. Three of the children (now 16, 17, and 20) were born there. The family waited many years to come to the U.S.A. legally through Catholic Charities. It’s my blessing that they settled in College Hill.

The first time I had them over for a meal, the mom made a short speech. She said they were not treated very well in Zambia, so she was appreciative on behalf of the family to be invited to my house.... that comment has stuck with me.

I wanted my interactions with them to be respectful. They are a strong Christian family. Dad works at the McAuley Convent of



THE KUBWIMANA FAMILY. PLEASE PRAY FOR VICTOR (LEFT) TO HAVE SUCCESS AT LASALLE HIGH SCHOOL.

the Sisters of Mercy in College Hill. Mom works in the kitchen at Good Samaritan Hospital when there is someone home to watch the baby. The oldest daughter is in nursing at Cincy State. The two teens work during the summer. All of them live in a 2-bedroom apartment on Oakwood Avenue across from Laurel Court. They are close to getting their “Green Cards,” (officially known as Permanent Resident Cards that allow a person to live and work permanently in the United States).

The Kubwimanas and I have shared milestones in the past two years— their baby daughter Carrie’s birth last year (a surprise), their oldest daughter finishing prerequisites to enter the nursing program at Cincinnati State, the loss of a grandparent back in Burundi, and most recently Victor’s transfer to LaSalle High School.

Victor had been in a difficult and stressful situation in his original high school. When his parents and



CINDY CARLSON & BABY CARRIE, VICTOR’S SISTER

I learned the details, it became clear that Victor would benefit from a change of schools, both physically and intellectually.

We contacted former LaSalle teacher, Kathy Moroney (who had worked at CHPC at one time). She was our “in” to help Victor be considered for admission mid-year. God gave the family a big blessing with Victor’s acceptance to LaSalle mid-year. He received the “Ohio Educational Choice” reduction on his tuition and a scholarship. Praise the Lord!

Victor’s first day of school at LaSalle was January 16, 2025. We prayed that he would become friends with a strong Christian believer his age, one who would enjoy Victor’s friendship.

Victor wants to attend college, and LaSalle will give him good preparation to meet his goals. I am grateful that God sent me to this family as a “Mom.” I love seeing the fulfillment of God’s promises in his Word (Psalm 68:6). Please pray for Victor’s success in school and for his whole family.

## CONNECTIONS FOR A GREAT SUMMER



### **CHPC Connections Camp 2025** **June 23-27, 9am-12:30pm**

Campers K to GRADE 6? Apprentices 7th to GRADE 12? Come one! Come all! Step right up and see the marvelous wonders waiting for you at our FREE carnival!

More than a place for entertainment, carnivals are a place of *something extraordinary*. This 5-day camp allows kids to explore how Jesus calls out to show us something wonderful. Teen Apprentices will discover how Jesus can use the gifts God gave them to show his love to someone new; thank God for forgiveness; and share God's story with everyone. . .and have lots of fun.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION OPEN NOW**  
<https://chpc.org/CAMP/>



### **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 is 5 yrs-old by the first day of class. Cost: \$80/week for one-on-one American Red Cross swim lessons. Limited scholarships are available. Adults: use your love of swimming by applying to teach this summer.

**ONLINE APPLICATIONS OPEN ON**  
**APRIL 1st, 2025**  
<https://chpc.org/SWIM/>



### **3C's Summer Camp 2025** **July 28-31, 9:30am-12:00pm**

Summer Camp will be held July 28-31 from 9:30-12:00 PM each day at 3Cs Nursery School at College Hill Presbyterian Church.

Age: 2.5 to 9yrs. Cost: \$70/first child. \$10 discount for each additional sibling (\$60, \$50, \$40). Discount is calculated at bottom of the Registration Form. All children must have emergency information on file before attending the 3Cs' Summer 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 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 Nom-

inating 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 nominees. Then, the CNC listens to the Holy Spirit to select a slate of officers to be elected in October.

The CNC depends on the staff and the congregation first to pray and then consider whom they know who might be qualified to be an officer. The Officer Roles & Respon-

sibilities 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 entrance). You may contact any of the CNC members—Ann Klusmeier (CNC chair), Jinda Bowerman, Greg Fischer, Brenda Clark, Nate Smith, and Steve Telecsan. A Session Elder and a Deacon representative will be appointed to the CNC soon. Please pray with us for the church, for the CNC, and for those whom God will choose.



# NO HATE IN JESUS' NAME

The Greater Cincinnati Prayer Canopy was formed as a partnership of churches and individuals to provide 24/7 prayer to seek the Lord's will for our city and region together. CHPC has been actively involved since its inception.

On Friday, February 7th, a dozen people displayed swastika-emblazoned flags on an overpass over I-75 near Evendale and Lincoln Heights.

## The Prayer Canopy leaders issued the following news release on Sunday, February 9th

The Church decisively said, "NOT IN OUR CITY" Sunday afternoon to the evil hatred that showed up on Friday the 7th. Hundreds came out to pray and lift the name of Jesus over Greater Cincinnati.

We, as members of the Greater Cincinnati Body of Christ, want to make it clear that Cincinnati is a city on a hill, set apart, holy, and sanctified for God's Glory. We belong to Jesus. He is our King!

We joined together today with many throughout the city in solidarity with a higher call—the call to be the Light of *Yeshua* (Jesus in Hebrew) in the midst of darkness. We reject and refuse the message of the Neo-Nazi group that invaded Lincoln Heights and hung up swastika banners.

Instead, we lift up our Banner of Victory-*Jehovah Nissi* (the Lord is our banner) over our city. We bless our Jewish and our racially diverse brothers and sisters with deep love and say, "We are here with you." We stand as the Kingdom of *Yeshua*—every tongue, tribe, and nation: One body, grafted into the same root, Jew and Gentile.

We pray God would lead the per-



BY CHRISTY ROEDIGER

But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

—Matthew 6:17-18 (NIV)

Do you ever read the back of the book first? Perhaps to see who did it? Or who ends up with whom in the end? Or who is still alive when the story is complete? I have. Sometimes I just can't stand the suspense, and somehow knowing the end makes it easier to read the story. That's a bit like Lent.

We who are in the Church know the back of the book. We know that Jesus rises from the dead and that even our sin didn't keep him down. Jesus rose then and lives now. We know that. We live with

petrators of this evil to repentance as Greater Cincinnati grows in love and unity. Cincinnati, *arise and shine, for your Light has come!* (Isaiah 60) - Let's go!!!

**JOIN THE PRAYER COVENANT AT**  
<https://gcprayercanopy.net>

For more info. and a montly prayer guide, contact Christy Roediger, BTN monthly columnist and CH-PC's Prayer Canopy contact:

chrisroediger1014@gmail.com

His presence – so we know the end of the story.

We are eager for Easter and to live as Easter people. Yet, every year we pause to consider Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and walk a Lenten journey for 40 days together. Some people give something up – a food or a regular meal or a habit. Some people adopt a practice during Lent – perhaps a different devotion or prayer experience. What we do know is that Jesus practiced fasting while he lived on earth, and the early church talked about fasting as a part of their regular practice.

As you prepare for Lent and your own journey to Easter, please consider that there is no Resurrection Day without Good Friday, and perhaps Lent is what we need to get us to Good Friday.

*Almighty God, the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross sometimes seems more that we can bear. Please grant us the courage to dig deep this Lent and allow you to speak to us in ways that will glorify your name, cause your kingdom to come in our world, and transform us according to your pleasure. Amen*

## Have an idea for Bell Tower News?

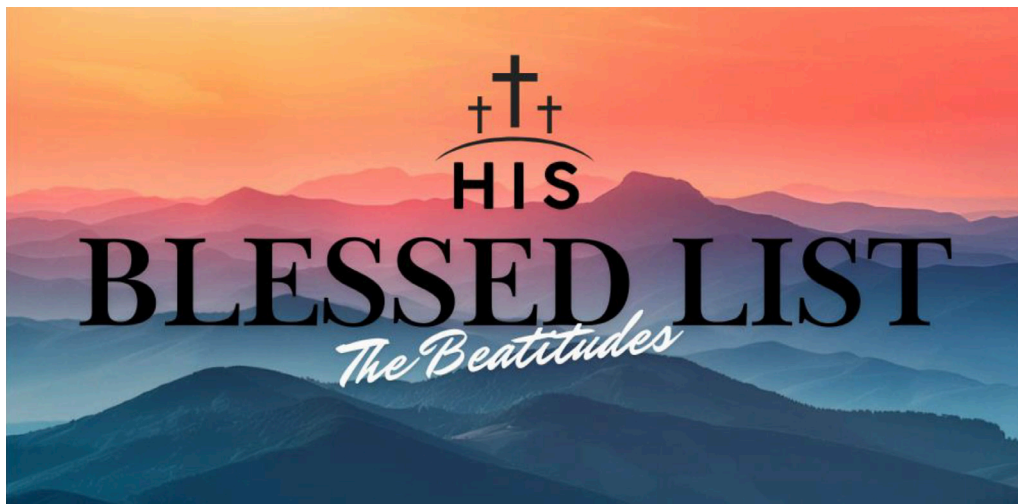
Questions? Want to submit an article/ photo of an event? Request an update about \_\_\_\_? Contact the BTN

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.**



BY PASTOR DREW SMITH

**March 2—Love The World**

John 3:16,17; Mark 12:31; James 1:22-27

*This is the final sermon in the pre-Lent series, “A Clear Resolution.”*

“God so loved the world that he sent his only Son” . . . God loves his creation. We commit to demonstrating that love to those around us by sharing God’s good news of salvation, sacrificially giving to the vulnerable in our community so that all have what is needed to flourish, and inviting any and all to join with us on this journey.

**THE LENT 2025  
PREACHING SERIES**

We will walk 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**

**March 9—Poor In Spirit**

MATTHEW 5:1-3

The Beatitudes are Jesus’ definition of “blessed.” We live on Earth according to the ways of Heaven, not the world. The way of Jesus is upside down. The poor in spirit are blessed because they know they need help and only God can help them.

**March 16—Those Who Mourn**

MATTHEW 5:4

Jesus calls those who mourn blessed because they see the good-ness of God and the evil of the world. They don’t deny either and weep at our brokenness, seek God’s comfort in prayer, and continue to live according to God’s goodness.

**March 23—The Meek**

MATTHEW 5:5

Jesus introduced the way of humility in a world that despised meekness and applauded power and arrogance. Jesus did not draw attention to himself but always glorified the Father.

**March 30—Those who  
Hunger for Righteousness**

MATTHEW 5:6

Jesus applauded ambition for the Kingdom of God, the way of love, and the pursuit of justice.



**CLASSICAL ROOTS  
CONCERT**  
**SAT., MARCH 15, 7:30 PM**  
**CINCINNATI MUSIC HALL**

For over two decades, what started as a small concert series has grown into a diverse community of music lovers united in celebration of the rich legacy of African American music. John Morris Russell directs the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the Classical Roots Community Choir (including several from the CHPC Chancel Choir), the Nouveau Program, and dancers from around the Queen City in an evening of joyful song and dance.

BUY TICKETS: call the Box Office at 513.381.3300 or at <https://www.cincinnati-symphony.org>. Priced at \$10 to \$55, tickets are selling fast. CHPC has a “Promo Code” — 16309—that will benefit the church. Be sure to use the code!