

BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – JANUARY 2026

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

January is named after the Roman god *Janus*, protector of gates and doorways. He was depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other into the future. He is often referred to during changes and transitions and progress from the past to future, from one condition to another, from one vision to another, and from youth to adulthood.

Eons before *Janus* was imagined, God the Creator, The God of all gods, the Heavenly Father, the Lover of Our Souls, used the prophets and apostles to speak forth HIS-STORY:

All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. — 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

In essence, God's wisdom involves looking back as well forward. Although God is outside of time, both sacred and secular are under Christ's Lordship. An example is



THOSE WHO DO NOT REMEMBER THE PAST ARE CONDEMNED TO REPEAT IT.

God's *prevenient grace* that precedes human response, a divine initiative working in everyone's life to counteract sin's effects and enable us to respond to God's faithful call to salvation.

sign up for an online trial at www.bibleinayearonline.com. You'll be able to choose translations for your computer, phone, ipad, etc. This tool makes God's will clearer and can change our outlook on the future!

Little wonder that worldly thinkers have cautioned us to look back to prepare us to move forward wisely. *George Santayana*, (1902) first used the words in this article's headline in *The Life of Reason*. England's *Winston Churchill* often used the quotation. *Albert Einstein* (1923) made a related observation, "Children don't heed the life experiences of their parents, and nations ignore history. Bad lessons always have to be learned anew. Even "influencers" like *Stephen Colbert* (TV late show host) recently said, "I say, 'Those who ignore history are in for a big surprise."

NEW YEAR'S ADVICE: Read thru the *Bible* in a year—a portion of the Old Testament, New, Psalms, and Proverbs each day. Tyndale has a *Bible* on Amazon that makes it easy. Or

BY SHARLYN STARE, BELL TOWER NEWS EDITOR





BY JOANNE CORNELIUS,
CONGREGATIONAL CARE COORD.

Feeling alone, anxious, depressed, sick? Struggling with something in your own life or a need of someone you know? Been impressed to pray for the war in the Ukraine or some other concern? Want to share an answer to prayer or “Praise the Lord” with others? ePrayers is a way to share your burden with others and encourage others to pray.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ePrayer REQUEST? Send your requests or prayer updates to Joanne Cornelius jcornelius@chpc.org or complete the online form at chpc.org/prayer. Use this same means of contact to request being added to the ePrayers’ mailing list.

WHAT HAPPENS when you submit an ePrayer request? Joanne will send your request to those on the ePrayers’ mailing list. She may also include prayer requests from others, give updates on other requests, and announcements (births, deaths, etc., as appropriate).

THOSE ON THE ePrayer LIST join you in praying for and interceding with God for your need/concern. In this way, we “carry each other’s burdens, and you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:1).

WOMEN’S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

LOOKING BACK— During the Advent season, the Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible study was busy with Advent reflections about Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love. The ladies put that *Love into Action* by serving and blessing others. Each week of Advent, the ladies looked forward to creating or preparing gifts for others. Kit Carnes lovingly planned and organized them.



They created ornaments and decorated the Fireside Room Christmas tree; baked and gift boxed cookies to bless and show appreciation to the CHPC staff; (with the help of Thursday’s knitting group) gathered, wrapped, and labeled 110 sets of hats and gloves for the children at College Hill Academy;

and helped outfit the kitchen at new IHN Found House location. There were as many smiles on the faces of those who served as those who were being served! What joy there is in serving with one another as we serve Jesus whose birth we celebrate!



ALLELUIA!



LOOK FORWARD WITH US. Invite a friend and come try out the Bible Study (Jan 13 to March 3, 2026). It’s guided by the book “Matchless” authored by Angie Smith. **QUESTIONS?** Susan Koch (513) 673-3029 or frogstown54@gmail.com
REGISTER: CHPC.ORG/TUESDAY

Join us for this 5-session Bible Study!

Tuesdays 9:30 - 11am
Beginning January 13th*

register: chpc.org/tuesday
*child care available

3 OPPORTUNITIES TO FLOURISH IN 2026

#1



A lot that can enrich your physical and spiritual life is going on at CHPC each month. Explore happenings like a brand new Jr/Sr High Sunday School; the startup of once-a-month CPR courses, a 5K Challenge, Ordination Sunday and more. Easily find these and other featured events on the church website. To find each month's events . Just type in

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

#2



The group will meet on Sundays at CHPC January 4 to March 15 from 12:30-2:30pm and include a light lunch, teaching and group training (walking/running based on your entry level).

Requirements/Costs/Details at <https://chpc.org/events/>

#3 Some jobs require First Aid and CPR training. People previously trained may need a refresher. We never know when God will use such skills to save the life of a child or adult. That's why CHPC will be offering this valuable training by a professional

Red Cross trainer to equip those in the church and community. The ARC certification takes 4 hours on a Saturday. Encourage family and friends to be trained—you could be the one in need!

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Adult & Pediatric

First Aid and CPR / AED certification in 4 hours one Saturday.

2026 Options: 12-4 PM

SAT. Jan. 17, Feb. 28, Mar. 14, April 18, May 16, June 13, July 11 or Aug. 22.

REGISTER

www. CHPC.ORG/CPR

DONATIONS RECEIVED BENEFIT THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



A SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY held at College Hill Presbyterian Church, 5742 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45224



BY CHRISTY ROEDIGER, ELDER

“Son, why have You treated us like this? Listen, Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.” “Why were you searching for me?” [Jesus] asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

Luke 2:48b-49 (NIV)

We think being a Christian is being called to peace and reconciliation – and so it is. And yet, sometimes people whom we love, and who may dearly love us, don't see how God is calling us. We are called to follow Jesus, and the truth is that following Jesus might not always be either popular or what our loved ones want for us. They want us to be safe and secure. Following Jesus isn't always safe nor secure. Jesus was only a 12-year old boy, and yet God beckoned Him to the temple to question and talk with the Rabbis. His earthly parents were frantic with worry – yet Jesus was doing what God called him to do.

Almighty God, guard us and guide us as we follow You. Jesus, you promised that your people would recognize your voice. Give us ears to hear you and the courage to follow you – no matter what that means in our world. Give us the words to speak to those we love – not to miss life but to express our deep fulfillment in walking with you. Be glorified in each of us in Jesus. Amen.



BY PASTOR DREW SMITH

Have you ever been part of a team at work or in sports that succeeds in accomplishing a goal together? Maybe it was a sports team that wins the championship or a team at work that pulled together during a crisis to correct the errors and complete the project on time?

God has made us part of His team to participate in His wondrous work to rescue all of creation. God saves us so that we can contribute to what the Spirit is doing today in our world. He has called us to be contributing members of the team. Yes, we may be surprised and even reluctant, but God will get it done even through resistant and shocked people—like Esther and Jonah.

Let's begin 2026 by learning about the joys and the challenges of participating in God's eternal plan.

JAN. 4 God Calls — Jonah 1
God empowers us to share His love with others. Even though we may be reluctant and resistant, God will make use of us to share and show others His great love for them and the world.

JAN. 11 God Leads —

Jonah 2,3 (Ordination Sunday)
God will lead His rescue mission to success. Even in our disobedience and rebellion, God will continue to shower his grace and mercy. We, in our stubbornness, will experience God's salvation so that we can share it with others.

JAN. 18 God Cares —Jonah 4

(Martin Luther King Weekend)
God cares so much for all people that He will continue to teach and form us according to Jesus' love so that we will share in His passion for the world. Never underestimate the steadfast power of God's saving love.

JAN. 25 God Prepares —Esther

Bob Sjogren, Guest Preacher
God works through unlikely men and women to reveal his love and divine providence and their to faith and courage. Esther and many others risk their lives to fulfill what just might be their purpose in life.

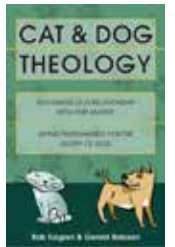
This series continues through Feb. 18. Lenten preaching begins on Sunday Feb. 22)

WELCOME BOB SJOGREN JAN. 25

GUEST PREACHER

Bob Sjogren is the president of *UnveilinGLORY*, a ministry geared toward awakening the church around the world to a new awareness of God's glory in all areas of life and to see that glory go to all peoples of the world. Bob has been instrumental in starting the *Caleb Project* (an organization geared toward mobilizing the body of Christ toward the Great Commission) as well as *Frontiers* (an interdenominational faith mission agency geared toward church-planting in the Muslim world.) Currently, Bob and his wife Debby also a speaker-writer, live in Richmond, VA.

Google Bob's books and you'll find *Cat Dog Theology* [living for God's glory], *If I'm Saved By Grace, Why Bother With Works?*; and an extensive portfolio of home schooling & adult resources; and his newest series on Amazon: *Wilson's Wisdom* (theology in a novel form)



with questions for small group study. Bob is in Cincinnati annually to teach the *Perspectives* courses. He equips widely through his YouTube.com

channel, i.e., *Maturing the Bride—the Church*. *Delivering-Dignity in Kenya* is also one of Bob & Debby's int'l ministries. Be prepared to enjoy and learn from Bob on Jan. 25