



“WWJD”

Greetings and blessings Brothers and Sisters in the name of Jesus Christ!

This newsletter is something I am often running toward in an effort to meet the deadline, causing me to perpetually vow to be earlier each month and still falling woefully short. Often, we are determined to do what we plan on doing, because order and preparation helps us to stay on task and create dependability. However, sometimes delays can be God intervening to get us on His schedule. I know that the plans were for the newsletter to be out earlier. However, thankfully the delay has caused me to prayerfully address in writing what has happened in our nation on January 6th and is still reverberating yet today.

I do not want to take this opportunity to preach. However, I do believe it is important to ask: “What is the Lord saying to us right now?” Yet, first it is important to note that things are complicated. The nation is divided in many ways: by race, by religion, by economics, by ethics, by culture, and perception just to name a few. If we do not work towards peace and reconciliation for all people, things will only get worse.

So, how can people of faith who may disagree, please God? Well, there was a movement years ago that was symbolized by the acronym, *WWJD*. It is shorthand for the question: “What would Jesus do?” While it became quite popular at the time, there were also many who laughed it away as just another gimmick to make God relevant.

However, when trying to determine how to please God when people have radically opposing points of view, rarely can both sides if ever, be right. Thus, in the face of division and opposition the question should always be asked: “What would Jesus do?” Which needs to be followed with two more questions. First, “Is our position or point of view in line with God, and therefore striving towards loving our neighbors, all neighbors?” If it not, then we need to recalibrate. We can disagree, but it should always be done in love.

Second, even if we feel our position is in line with God, the question remains: “Are we acting on it in a way that lives out God’s principles?” Regardless of race, nationality, sex, political affiliation, or any other differences, these questions need to be addressed as we consider: what we say, what we do, and what we condone.

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JOIN US EACH SUNDAY

**WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 AM (Bilingual Worship) - On College Hill
Community Church’s Facebook Page Until Further Notice
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS 9:15 AM ON ZOOM**

“WWJD”

(continued from page 1)

The Lord gives guidance through the prophet in Micah 6:8 saying:

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? (NRSV)*

The message version puts it like this:

*But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do,
what GOD is looking for in men and women.
It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor,
be compassionate and loyal in your love,
And don't take yourself too seriously —
take God seriously.*

God is watching us, and looking for people who take Him/Her seriously. Because by the way, God represents all of us. Where we stand in the face of turmoil and trial is a clear indication of where we stand with God. Where are you standing? And what are you standing for? Because standing with Jesus is always the safest place to be.

In the words of Paul,

*³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against Us
³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,
nor things to come, nor powers,
³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from
the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:31, 37-39

Pastor Worthen

Rock of Ages

On walks, I enjoy searching for heart-shaped rocks. One day in 2020, I spotted a broken heart, which seemed fitting as illness, racism and suffering dominated the headlines. I thought of Psalm 34:18, NIV: “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

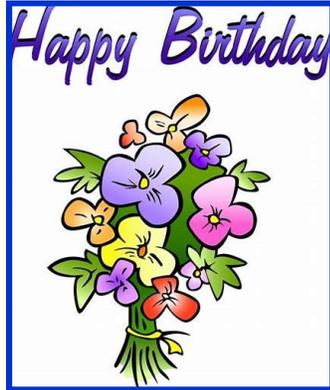
Humans can be hard-hearted — pointing fingers, assuming the worst and failing to extend compassion. We often reject people who look, think or act differently from us. All these things break hearts, including God's. Only with his help can we rise above hatred, learn to listen more than we speak, and express kindness, empathy and a willingness to learn.

Jesus, be our rock as we face life's brokenness. Stay near and start the healing. Amen.

Julie Lee (from Newsletter, Newsletter)

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| Queen Peters-Thorton | Jan. 1 | Harold Harris, Jr. | Jan. 28 |
| Michael Hulbert | Jan. 1 | Filomena Nicacio | Jan. 29 |
| Lisa Adegbile | Jan. 3 | Ethel Smith | Jan. 30 |
| Susie Grierson | Jan. 5 | Nicholas Zachary | Jan. 30 |
| Graciela Campbell McLaughlin | Jan. 7 | | |
| Elizabeth Olinger | Jan. 12 | | |
| Larry Jones | Jan. 13 | | |
| Irene Campuzano | Jan. 14 | | |
| Marcus Johnson | Jan. 14 | | |
| Andrea Hirtle | Jan. 15 | | |
| Virginia Day | Jan. 17 | | |
| Zola Priest | Jan. 19 | | |
| Rosalyn Givens | Jan. 20 | | |
| Kevin Bleicher | Jan. 20 | | |
| Solomon Avotri | Jan. 23 | | |
| Thomas Richardson | Jan. 27 | | |
| Diann Harris | Jan. 28 | | |



TEENS COLUMN

QUOTES ABOUT CHANGE

“Open your arms to change, but don’t let go of your values.”

Dalai Lama

“The measure of intelligence is the ability to change” *Albert Einstein*

“Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.” *Leo Tolstoy*

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” -

Harriet Tubman

PRAYER LIST

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Family of Bill and Rose Allen | Carolyn Moore |
| Jane Beal | Filomena Nicacio |
| Terrence Boyd | Misael & Olivia |
| The Bragg Family | Margaret Oglesby |
| Joan Crabtree’s Family | Charles Peterson |
| Marco Antonio Camacho | Bernetha Pulliam |
| Derrick Daniels/Family | Dick Righter’s Family |
| Paula Drake & Family | Melanie Shoop |
| Vicki Eason | Ethel Smith |
| Doris Evans | Kiffany Stargell |
| Paula Ewers | Mary Steele |
| Janet Fahlen | Nelson Stone, Sr. |
| Don Gaskins Family | Dorris Thompson |
| Isabella Green | Gerry Thompson |
| Hilario Antonio Gutierrez | Jimmy/Sue Thompson |
| Diann Harris & Family | Ronals Todd |
| Obie Harris | José Vidal & Family |
| Andrea Hirtle | Pastor Darryll & Rev. |
| Chante Johnson | Karen Young |
| Jose Jones Family | |
| Karen Jones | |
| Michael Love | |
| Jackie McKenzie & Family | |
| Bob Moore | |



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” *Nelson Mandela*

“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”

Socrates

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” Mahatma Gandhi

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.” Mother Teresa

“Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.” George Bernard Shaw

“You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.”

C.S. Lewis

INDOOR WORSHIP PROTOCOL - Beginning January 10, 2021

We will continue to livestream our worship, so if you have concerns about returning indoors, please take part in worship from home.

In the building, we will all be masked, socially-distanced (6 feet), use sanitizing formulas, and wash hands regularly. There are no exceptions regarding masks. If you have a medical or ideological reason to not wear a mask, please stay home and experience worship by the livestream.

Before you leave home to come to Sunday worship, ask yourself the self-certification screening questions:

1. Do you have a Fever (temperature over 100.4 degrees F if measured by a mouth thermometer or 99 degrees F measured with a skin thermometer) without having taken any fever-reducing medications? (Please take your temperature before coming to service).
2. Do you have a Loss of Smell or Taste?
3. Do you have a Cough?
4. Do you have Muscle Aches?
5. Do you have a Sore Throat?
6. Do you have Shortness of Breath?
7. Do you have Chills?
8. Do you have a Headache?
9. Have you experienced any gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite?
10. Have you, or anyone you have been in close contact with been diagnosed with COVID-19, or been placed on quarantine for possible contact with COVID-19?
11. Have you, or anyone you have been in close contact with been diagnosed with COVID-19, or been placed on quarantine for possible contact with COVID-19?
12. Have you been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by a medical professional or a local public health official?

Enter the building from the front door that faces Philadelphia Avenue—which is not our normal entrance to use on Sundays. The only exception is if you need to use the chair lift; for that enter the side door off the parking lot nearest the lift. Ushers at each door will screen you for COVID as you enter—a temperature check plus symptoms questions, and log-in of attendees for potential contact tracing.

Ushers will seat you in designated, carefully-distanced seats in the sanctuary until it is full, and then in fellowship hall. No balcony seating. Please obey all usher instructions. Audio and visual live streaming of the service is provided in the fellowship hall for those in the overflow area.

One person is allowed at a time in each restroom on each floor; one related adult may accompany a child. Please sanitize the restroom when you are done. Other parts of the building are off-limits to worshippers.

Liturgists and musicians will be appropriately distanced and use protective devices.

Worshippers WILL NOT SING during the service until further notice!

Prayer concerns will be gathered by email or phone call to the church office prior to the service. No open microphone for prayers.

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INDOOR WORSHIP PROTOCOL - Beginning January 10, 2021 (continued from page 4)

No personal touching for Passing of Peace, Offering or Communion. No worship bulletins or hymnals—all information is via AV.

On Communion Sunday, you will pick up prepackaged communion elements as you enter the sanctuary or fellowship hall.

Children stay with families for worship except when there is children's Sunday school. No nursery service will be provided.

After the service ends, ushers will release worshipers row by row/table by table to exit immediately to the parking lot.



LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER



COLLEGE HILL CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9 am - 1 pm - Marlea Gaskins

Wednesday 10 am - 1 pm - Kathy Lakes

**JOIN PASTOR WORTHEN FOR
BIBLE STUDY EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 7pm ON ZOOM.**

Spanish Language Bible Study Monday Nights at 7pm via Zoom

Join us on Monday nights for a lively and informative Bible Study in collaboration with our sister church, the Presbyterian Church of artagena, Colombia. Pastor Angelica leads us weekly in a theologically grounded, practical, and participatory investigation of the scriptures.

We wrapped up our study of the Beatitudes in mid-November and are now delving into a new study of the Women of the Old Testament. This is a family-friendly, multigenerational, international gathering in which children, youth, and adults are all encouraged to participate!

Connect via internet: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89568392922>

Dial-in by phone: (301) 715-8592

meeting number: 89568392922 (then press # at the prompts, no password required)

REMINDER

College Hill Church is still collecting stamps, pop can tabs, eyeglasses, and old cell phones. Over a quart of pop can tabs was donated to the Ronald McDonald House recently. Let's recycle these items instead of throwing them in the trash.



Submitted by Darlene Brookshire.

Happy New Year!

I just wanted to drop you a line to let you know that I am well and still “sheltering in place” in the Democratic Republic with my wife. Our holidays went well, in spite of the new Covid restrictions. We are doing well!

I want to let you know that the Congo Mission Network Virtual Conference will continue with January session on education on January 16th and 23rd. I will be giving the welcome to the next session (Jan 16th) and invite you all to join in and see what I have been working on and with whom I'll be working when we are able to travel to the DRC. The session will begin at 10:00 AM EDT via Zoom. The link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84576096834pwd=Nkg3clVhZGhLUmFtZmdlOUUcOUU2FOdz09>

I want to also express my joy that Jorge Herrera is now a college graduate. I am sooooo very proud of him, his stick-to-it attitude and his accomplishments! Indeed, I am proud of all the students who are sticking to their studies, hunkering down and getting their educations...these are traits that cannot be taken from you and will take you far!

Have a great New Year...and King's Day (Epiphany). May all our eyes be open to the value of what God has given us...and continues to give us...and may we give of ourselves and our talents to make this world a better place. Please read the attached poem and meditate on how it speaks to your heart for the “journey” you will travel in 2021.

Go out and be a blessing!

Jose LaMont Jones

For Those Who Have Far to Travel:
A Blessing for Epiphany

*If you could see the journey whole, you might never undertake it,
might never dare the first step that propels you from the place you have known toward the place you
know not. Call it one of the mercies of the road: that we see it only by stages as it opens before us,
as it comes into our keeping, step by single step.*

*There is nothing for it but to go, and by our going take the vows the pilgrim takes:
to be faithful to the next step; to rely on more than the map;
to heed the signposts of intuition and dream;
to follow the star that only you will recognize;
to keep an open eye for the wonders that attend the path;
to press on beyond distractions, beyond fatigue, beyond what would tempt you from the way.*

*There are vows that only you will know:
the secret promises for your particular path and the new ones you will need to make
when the road is revealed by turns you could not have foreseen.*

*Keep them, break them, make them again; each promise becomes part of the path,
each choice creates the road that will take you to the place where at last you will kneel
to offer the gift most needed — the gift that only you can give — before turning to go home by
another way.*

—Jan Richardson from Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons

A friend of mine sent this to me Christmas Day. Her sister, who lived at the same Nursing Home my mother did, died in November. Even though Christmas has passed, the sentiment applies to a loved one's death at any time. Jan Brecht

Christmas in Heaven

*I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below.
With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.*

*The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away your tear.
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear.
But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.*

*I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,
For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.*

*I know how much you miss me. I see the pain inside your heart.
But I am not so far away, We are really not apart.*

*So be happy for me, dear ones, You know I hold you dear.
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above.
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.*

*For after all, "love" is the gift, more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories that Jesus told.*

*Please love, support and help each other, as my Father said to do.
For I can't count the blessings or love He has for each of you.*

*So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.
Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I can't tell you of the splendor, or the peace here in this place.
Can you just imagine Christmas with our Savior face to face?*

*I'll ask Him to lift your spirits, as I tell Him of your love,
So then pray for one another, as you lift your eyes above.*

*So please let your hearts be joyful, and let your spirits sing,
For I am spending Christmas in heaven, and I am walking with the King.*

~Author unknown

A NOTE OF THANKS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM CARTAGENA COLOMBIA FOR OUR SISTER CHURCH COLLEGE HILL

Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

We have just finished the journey of 2020, a journey that was not easy but one in which the hand of God sustained us. As a church we are deeply grateful for the different displays of love towards us.

With joy we share that it was possible, thanks to your support, to offer more than 40 boys and girls who are members of PAZES and our Church a Christmas gift and a Christmas dinner that were brought and delivered to their homes, after having completed a course that was created to remind them of the hope that is born together with our Savior Jesus.

Their faces reflected the joy of the baby Jesus, the hope that better times will come, and the very humility with which Jesus came into the world wrapped in swaddling clothes, reminding us of the humanity present in Him; perfectly divine. Thank you because our ministry with these boys and girls is an extremely important ministry to us and contributing so that these actions and these moments full of faith could take place is one more sign of the clear understanding we have of what our sister church partnership is made of.

We begin 2021 with the same faith, and perhaps even more, with which we walked in 2020, an immovable, powerful hope that makes us certain that God will change our sorrow into dance. With that same faith we, once again, express to you that we are waiting for you, looking forward to the new delegation that was postponed last year that, in faith, we believe will be a reality this year. Our homes, our arms, our church and our hearts are prepared to receive you, and we assure you that it will be an unforgettable experience.

With love,

REV ANGELICA MUNERA, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CARTAGENA
PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTH COAST



REMEMBERING REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Martin Luther King Day Monday, January 18, 2021



March on Washington - August 28, 1963



"IF YOU CAN'T FLY THEN RUN,
IF YOU CAN'T RUN THEN WALK,
IF YOU CAN'T WALK THEN
CRAWL, BUT WHATEVER YOU
DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP
MOVING FORWARD."

Martin Luther King Jr.

If you can't fly then run, If you can't run then walk, If you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence.



At Home With Family



Selma to Montgomery March - 1965

JANUARY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

REGULAR MEETINGS

Every Sunday at 10:30 AM **Worship Service** College Hill Community Church – PCUSA. Also lived streamed via Face book live. Go to collegehillcommunitychurch FB page. Previous recordings of services available on our FB page and Youtube.

Every Sunday at 9:15 AM on Zoom. **Adult Sunday School** Meeting ID: 812 9453 9963 Passcode: 759784

Every Wednesday **Bible Study** 7:00 PM on Zoom with Pastor Worthen (*Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27*) Meeting ID: 836 6634 1725 Pass, code: 488366

Monday *Jan. 11* - **I&S Meeting** at 3PM on Zoom

Tuesday *Jan. 12* - **Worship & Music** on Zoom

College Hill - Harmony Creek Book Group
Jan. 18 at 7:30pm on Zoom. Meeting ID: 854 1864 3647 Passcode: 852766

Third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM
Session on zoom *Jan. 19*

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fri. Jan. 1 - **New Year's Day**

Sun. Jan. 3 – **Second Sunday of Christmas**

Wed. Jan. 6 - **Epiphany**

Sun. Jan. 10 - **Indoor Worship Services Resume**

Sun. Jan. 10 - **Baptism of the Lord**

Mon. Jan. 11 – **Human Trafficking Awareness Day**

Sat. Jan. 16 - **Religious Freedom Day**

Mon. Jan. 18 - **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

Mon. Jan. 18 - Mon. Jan. 25 - **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Wed. Jan. 20 - **Inauguration Day**



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Marva Gray - Clerk of Session
Jan Brecht - Newsletter Co-Editor
Pat Townsel - Newsletter Co-Editor
Ruth Bragg, Jacqueline McKenzie - Deacon Co-Moderators

THE MISSION STATEMENT FOR COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

We are a family of Christians who intentionally include all God's children as we live in faithful obedience to God's command to love one another and seek justice, using Jesus as our example. We strive to serve God's people and connect to each other personally, spiritually and socially.