



Opportunities for New Life

*“We are witnesses to all that (Jesus) did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.
They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;
but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,
not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses,
and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify
that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.
All the prophets testify about him
that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*
Acts 10:39-43

In this passage in Acts, Peter enlightens a Gentile (non-Jewish) audience who had been prompted by God to come see him. Today, this would be somewhat similar to welcoming unchurched people into full rights and privileges within the church, despite the fact they do not display the same traditions or culture of those already in the church. This is significant, because many who believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, believed he came only to save the chosen people of Israel. Therefore, those who were not Jewish had no claim to such a savior.

Yet Peter, having only been enlightened himself just prior to this visit, now claims that Jesus is not just the Messiah of the Jews, but that he is Lord of all, the living and the dead. Not only this, but “that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” For God in his infinite love and grace offered them and offers us, people who have no claim to righteousness, an opportunity to be born anew through faith in Christ Jesus.

This is particularly powerful coming from Peter. For Peter is the disciple who upon witnessing the arrest of Jesus, denied knowing him three times. This is likely Peter’s deepest shame that he who had: stood by Jesus, loved Jesus, dedicated his life to Jesus, and having been one of his strongest supporters, denied Jesus when he needed him most. Peter fell short. He let fear and doubt rob him of the strength, power, courage, and faith Jesus had been nurturing in him. How many times in our own lives have we fallen short of the glory of God? How many times have we: not been our best selves, squandered opportunities, failed to do something because of fear, or lived with regret over *what ifs*? How many times do we wish we had a do over?

(Continued on Page 2)



JOIN US EACH SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 AM (Bilingual Worship) - Inside and On
College Hill Community Church’s Facebook Page
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS 9:15 AM ON ZOOM

Opportunities for New Life

(Continued from Page 1)

Yet, this is the amazing, good news that comes through the resurrection of Christ. For if Jesus was unfairly judged, tortured, mocked and crucified on the cross until death, and lay buried in a tomb; then it seemed that the forces of evil could ultimately overcome good. That there were things more powerful than God. Yet, the Lord showed by raising Jesus with all power, that nothing--and we do mean nothing--is more powerful and grace-filled than the love of God. For "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you." (Romans 8:11) There is nothing we cannot do, through Christ who strengthens us!

In Acts, Peter is a living testimony not only to the life-giving power of God, but forgiveness through Christ which brings new life. Peter's witness was not weakened by his failure, but is made even stronger by a savior who refuses to hold our sins and our flaws against us. Thus, Resurrection Day is not only the resurrection of Christ, but reminds us of our new life through Christ each and every day. Through faith, we are not counted out. Through faith, we rise up over and over again. Through faith, it is never too late to accomplish whatever God has in store for us. God's power has removed the stone from our own self-made tombs and called us out to be living testimonies of the goodness and grace of God for all to see.

May this perpetual time of Easter bring new life and renewal to all of you who believe. And may the love of God touch and change the hearts of those who have yet to believe, that we may all experience the life-giving and life-changing power of God in our families, our churches, our communities and all the world. For it is through our faith-filled actions that people can experience God through us.

With Loving Blessings,

Pastor Worthen

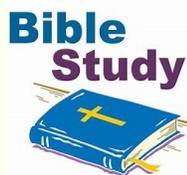
JOIN PASTOR WORTHEN FOR BIBLE STUDY

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7 PM

ON ZOOM.

Meeting ID: 848 8361 9102

Pass Code: 334762



COLLEGE HILL CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9 AM - 1 PM - Marlea Gaskins

Wednesday 10 AM - 1 PM Kathy Lakes

Thursday 11 AM - 3 PM - Paula Ewers

Spanish Language Bible Study Monday Nights at 7 PM 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)

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Robert (Bob) Davis	April 1	Mary Moorman	April 12
Shaquell Cooks	April 1	Sophia Robinson	April 14
Johanna Griffin	April 1	Josephine Laury	April 14
Bev. Holland	April 2	Marisol Boyd	April 15
John Salazar	April 3	Terrance Winfrey	April 15
Jane Beal	April 4	Patricia Johnson	April 18
Marjorie Baker	April 4	Karen Jones	April 19
Breia Watson	April 4	Marquita Knight	April 19
Helyn Waddell	April 7	Daniel Peters	April 21
Jeffrey Hawk	April 9	William Givens	April 24
Erin Jerae Foster	April 10	Reanna Dawson	April 30

PRAYER LIST

Jane Beal	Margaret Oglesby
The Bragg 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.
Isabella Green	Dorris Thompson
Hilario Antonio Gutierrez	Gerry Thompson
Diann Harris & Family	Jimmy/Sue Thompson
Obie Harris	Ronalds Todd
Andrea Hirtle	Lee & Pat Townsel
Chante Johnson	José Vidal & Family
Jose Jones Family	Pastor Darryll & Rev. Karen Young
Karen Jones	
Michael Love	
Jackie McKenzie & Family	
Bob Moore	
Carolyn Moore	
Filomena Nicacio	



TEENS COLUMN

Presbytery of the Miami Valley Virtual Spring Youth Retreat

Registration is open for the Presbytery of the Miami Valley Virtual Spring Youth Retreat, to be held on Zoom, Friday evening, April 9, from 7:00 - 10:00 P.M.

Students in grade 7 through college and their adult advisors are welcome. There is no cost to participate, but registration is required.

The theme of this year's event is "Going Viral," & we are excited to welcome the Rev. Cliff Haddox as our keynote speaker.

Questions? Contact Nancy Hodgkins at nancy@westminsterdayton.org or 937-271-8099.

Encourage Wonder

For a new perspective on Bible accounts you've heard over and over, play "I Wonder" with children and adults alike. Similar to "I Spy," it encourages a deeper dive into familiar passages. Simply explore ideas that aren't detailed in the Bible, starting with the phrase "I wonder." For example:

- I wonder if any Roman soldier was standing in the back *not* mocking Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31). If so, what was he thinking as others threw about insults?
- I wonder how long it took Joseph of Arimathea to cut his own tomb out of the rock (Matthew 27:57-60). What did he think about as he worked?
- The day after Jesus' ascension, I wonder which disciple spoke first at breakfast — and what he said.

Scholars may have chimed in on some of these ponderings, but there's likely no right answer. Playing "I Wonder" can help you slow down to really pay attention and experience more of a Bible passage — especially one you seem to know by rote. Add meaning to this year's Easter celebration by letting your wonder wander during Holy Week. Then continue the practice whenever you're eager to gain new insights on the "old, old story ... of Jesus and his love."

-Janna Firestone

(from NewsletterNewsletter)

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Romans 12:12 NIV

FEMA Funeral Reimbursement Program

The FEMA Funeral Reimbursement Program will launch in a week or two. FEMA is reimbursing up to \$7,000.00 for COVID-19 funerals PLEASE PASS ON FOR WIDEST DISSEMINATION TO OUR BLACK COMMUNITIES.... to any family member who paid for a funeral. Please keep funeral documentation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We are dedicated to helping ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus.

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

We are working with stakeholder groups to get their input on ways we can best provide this assistance, and to enlist their help with outreach to families and communities. FEMA will begin to implement COVID-19 funeral assistance in April.

Additional guidance is being finalized and will be released to potential applicants and community partners as soon as possible. In the meantime, people who have COVID-19 funeral expenses are encouraged to keep and gather documentation.

We are working to set up a dedicated toll-free phone number that can be used to apply for funeral assistance. More information will be available soon.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

How to Apply

In April, FEMA will begin accepting applications. If you had COVID-19 funeral expenses, we encourage you to keep and gather documentation. Types of information should include:

- An official death certificate that attributes the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- Funeral expenses documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that includes the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses happened.
- Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. We are not able to duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

How are Funds Received

If you are eligible for funeral assistance you will receive a check by mail, or funds by direct deposit, depending on which option you choose when you apply for assistance.

Fraud Alert: We have received reports of scammers reaching out to people offering to register them for funeral assistance. FEMA has not sent any such notifications and we do not contact people prior to them registering for assistance.



- **MUST BE 21 YEARS OLD WITH A VALID DRIVERS LICENSE**
- **MUST PASS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL TEST**

SEEKING TO HIRE SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

New signing bonus of \$1,500 (restrictions apply)

- **Paid while training for CDL at \$12.00/hr**
- **New hire starting pay of \$16.39/hr**
- **Split-shift schedules**

DAYTONPUBLIC.COM | 937-542-4044

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACEMAKING

College Hill Community Church PCUSA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Social Justice and Peacemaking College Hill Church

Every month on the 2nd Tues. until Jun 8, 2021 at 7 PM

Apr. 13, 2021 07:00 PM

May. 11, 2021 07:00 PM

June 8, 2021 07:00 PM

Meeting ID: 838 3655 9076
Passcode: 170476

Submitted by Stan Hirtle



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

At Southminster Presyterian Church

7001 Far Hills Dr.

Open for Holy Week

March 29 - April 2

Southminster Presbyterian Church, Centerville, will be hosting an interactive Stations of the Cross during Holy Week. The liturgy of the ten stations has been adapted from *A Sanctified Art* and Rev. T. Denise Anderson, former moderator of the PC(USA).

The stations take approximately 20 - 30 minutes to go through and everything is indoors and handicapped accessible. The stations are spread out for social distancing and masks will be required for all participants.

The Stations of the Cross begins at the sanctuary entrance of Southminster and will be open March 29-April 2 from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM. and 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Please contact the church at 937-433-1810 to signup.

We invite you to come by and prepare your minds and hearts for Good Friday and Easter Morning.

THROUGH ANOTHER LENS

Building Foundations for Authentic Discourse and Collaboration

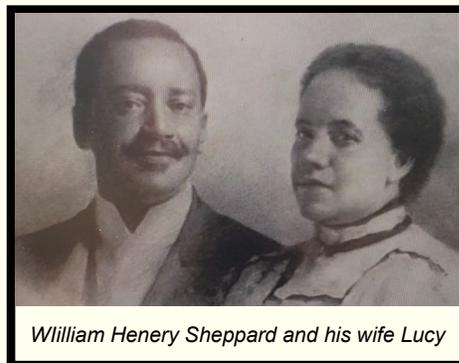
The Congo Mission Network's 2020 annual conference was held virtually, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the world's reaction to the murder by police of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, the conference focused on the legacy of white supremacy and racism, using the Belhar Confession as its guide. Born out of the struggles against apartheid in South Africa and approved by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s 222nd General Assembly (2016) in Portland, Oregon, Belhar and its themes of unity, reconciliation and justice call for holy action, transformation and new life.

Dr. Elsie Anne McKee, professor at Princeton Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian University of Congo, is a third-generation Presbyterian missionary. Her Nov. 7 presentation at the conference, "Evidences of Racism in the Early Presbyterian Missionary Circles, U.S.A. and Congo," is abstracted here and can be viewed on YouTube.

King Leopold II of Belgium carved out a fiefdom in central Africa, which he ruled as the Congo Free State from 1885 until 1908. Businesses such as the Compagnie du Kasai routinely employed Africans to compel other Africans to harvest prized natural resources, such as rubber. The most famous example was the use of the Zappo Zaps, people of the eastern Kasai region, to enforce rubber collection and to punish those who did not produce the demanded quota by chopping off their right hands.

William Henry Sheppard, one of the earliest African Americans to become a Presbyterian missionary, led efforts to expose this labor trafficking. Sheppard and fellow missionary William Morrison were sued, and later exonerated of libel, prior to the Congo Free State being turned over to Belgium as a colony in 1908. The Brussels government began to regard African American missionaries with suspicion after Sheppard's trial. By 1922, the colonial power refused to allow African Americans to be appointed as missionaries.

William Henry Sheppard, one of the earliest African Americans to become a Presbyterian missionary, led efforts to expose this labor trafficking. Sheppard and fellow missionary William Morrison were sued, and later exonerated of libel, prior to the Congo Free State being turned over to Belgium as a colony in 1908. The Brussels government began to regard African American missionaries with suspicion after Sheppard's trial. By 1922, the colonial power refused to allow African Americans to be appointed as missionaries. When Alonzo Edmiston retired in 1941, for the first time in 50 years, there were no African American Presbyterians in Congo, and no more were admitted until 1958. The white church leadership in the U.S. and the white missionaries accepted the Belgian policies without protest; they shared the underlying racist principles.



William Henry Sheppard and his wife Lucy

For the African Americans, there were many hurdles. The most basic was the conviction by white Christians that they must always be in charge. Sheppard petitioned for years to be sent to Congo, but the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) refused until they found a white man, Samuel Lapsley, to lead the mission. After Lapsley's death in 1892, Sheppard led the mission, to the considerable discomfort of the sending church.

When Sheppard spoke about Congo mission, the white congregation would listen, but when they sat down to eat, Sheppard was sent to take his meal in the kitchen with the servants. When he published the story of his early years in Congo, it was presented by the church as being led by Lapsley.

Medical missionary Althea Brown Edmiston's term of service in Congo — 35 years — is among the longest ever served by a Black woman in the U.S. Presbyterian Church. She first had to join the church to serve on mission in Congo. A Nashville congregation agreed to admit her to membership; however, its "whites only" policy meant that she could not enter the Sunday service or sanctuary but had to be sneaked into a Thursday prayer meeting. When she fought for her Bakuba grammar guide and dictionary, she had to wait 20 years and find her own subsidies because white missionaries insisted they only needed Tshiluba and weren't interested in Edmiston's linguistic studies. When the Edmiston family sought to return to Congo in 1911, there was a long delay because the PCUS was determined to find six "first-class people," that is, "white" missionaries; obviously trying to limit African Americans to accommodate Belgian prejudices.

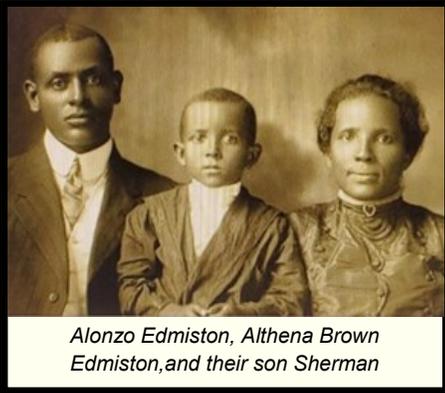
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THROUGH ANOTHER LENS

Building Foundations for Authentic Discourse and Collaboration

(Continued from page 6)

The climate of racism in the southern U.S. and the PCUS was an important factor in the attitudes toward the appointment of African American missionaries in the era of Jim Crow laws and lynchings. Having fully established the principle that white missionaries must be in charge, the PCUS accepted a number of African Americans to be appointed in the first 20 years of the American Presbyterian Congo Mission. It seemed that those of African heritage could better withstand the tropical climate.



Alonzo Edmiston, Althena Brown Edmiston, and their son Sherman

The standards for admitting African Americans to mission were somewhat contradictory. White leadership was uneasy with classically educated Fisk graduates like Althena Brown Edmiston, but they also excluded older or less well educated African American applicants like Maria Fearing, who decided to finance her own way, establish a ministry to girls and learn the language.

By the mid-20th century, African American missionaries returned to Presbyterian mission in Congo.

Looking at past relations through the lens of race helps bring out essential truths ... a past that must be reconciled with justice if we are to proceed with authenticity. This also is a practical step for a Presbyterian denomination living into its Matthew 25 vision to dismantle systemic racism and oppression. As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "There can be no peace without justice."

We walk this road in the hope that God will open our eyes to truth, our minds to wisdom and our hearts to understanding.

Born a slave, Maria Fearing achieved her lifelong dream of becoming a missionary in Africa in 1894. In 1894, when William Henry Sheppard recruited her to join a Presbyterian mission to Congo. She spent more than two decades teaching and caring for ill and orphaned girls at Luebo Station, where she was known as "Mother from far away."



This article was written by José LaMont Jones and appeared in the Mission Crossroads Magazine's Spring Edition. Jose is a member of College Hill Community Church and is a mission co-worker and educational consultant working alongside the Presbyterian Community of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Presbyterian Historical Society.

REMINDER

College Hill Church is still collecting 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

SAVE YOUR STAMPS

Please save your stamps from letters received. The stamps should be cut 1/4" on each side. Stamps may be given to **Gladys Turner Finney** who will forward them to the Sisters of the Holy Cross to benefit their ministry with the Poor Fund



Holy Hilarity!

More churches lately have been resurrecting (pardon the pun!) the early-church tradition of celebrating the second Sunday of Easter as Holy Humor Sunday, affirming the season's joy. Need some jokes for April 11? Try these:

Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.

Knock knock. *Who's there?* Hatch. *Hatch who?* God bless you!

What should you do after eating so many Easter treats?

Eggs-ercise!

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? *It might crack up!*

An irate subscriber called the newspaper, demanding to know where her Sunday edition was. "Ma'am," said the employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper isn't delivered until Sunday." After a brief pause, the caller spoke with a ray of recognition: "So *that's* why no one was in church today."

From NewsletterNewsletter



POP-UP PATIO

With Spring in the air, it seems appropriate to send a message to our Neighborhood Association and Business Association presidents about the City's extension of our Pop-Up Patio program. This program was launched in 2020 to help restaurants, taverns and other businesses across the city add temporary outdoor customer service areas while meeting health and safety requirements. As the community continues to recover, the City is offering the program's services past the original March 1 deadline to the end of 2021.



If you know of a favorite neighborhood business that is looking for a way to serve more customers while meeting social distancing requirements, please help us spread the word. The program provides businesses with guidance on planning, installing, and operating new patios and customer seating on private property or in public right-of-way areas, including sidewalks or curbside parking zones. City staff members are here to assist businesses with the application and permitting process.

For more information, please visit daytonohio.gov/patio. Interested businesses may contact the City of Dayton at susan.vincent@daytonohio.gov or 937-333-3683.

College Hill/Harmony Creek Book Group

The group is studying the book, "How to be an Antiracist" by Ibram Kendi

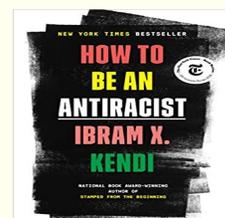
Apr 15, 2021 07:30 PM

May 20, 2021 07:30 PM

Join us on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 854 1864 3647

Passcode: 852766



WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

By Jan Brecht

As many of you know, I worked at Stillwater Center for 33 years, six as a nurse and 27 as the Quality Assurance Coordinator. For those of you who don't know, Stillwater is a residential facility run by Montgomery County. It is currently home to 100 children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities. The majority of the people who live there are diagnosed in the profound range of Mental Retardation.

When I was a nurse on the children's unit, I use to orient student nurses who did part of their clinical experience at Stillwater. Some of the children had large heads and some small heads. Many were unable to move their arms and legs and others had severe spasticity. I guided the students on a tour their first day and every time when I was finished, at least half of the students were crying because of what they saw. I told them 'you just see their physical disabilities now but in a day or two you will see each child as an individual with his or her unique & loving personality. They may not be able to talk but they can communicate with their eyes and facial expressions and if you open your heart you will see how truly special each child is.'



Some of the children I admitted were less than a year old and I watched them grow to become adults. They became part of my family. I accompanied them to county fairs, proms, & other activities. I ran a summer camp one year and we took the children on a hayride. We were exhausted because we had to lift everyone on and off the wagon and let them lean against us in the wagon.

I learned it wasn't what you said, it is the way you said it. Whenever I read a book to them, I made up my own story and showed them the photos, sometimes acted out the parts, and would identify colors in the story with the clothing they wore and objects in the story with objects in the room. They didn't understand the words but they did understand my facial expressions and actions.

April 2nd is World Autism Awareness Day.

I worked with several residents with autism. I want to share some Autism quotes with you.

- "Every day should be World Autism Acceptance Day" - *Finchley Central Tube Station*
- "Autism is like a rainbow. It has a bright side and a darker side. But every shade is important and beautiful" - *Rosie Tennant Doran*
- "I've learned that every human being, with or without disabilities, needs to strive to do their best, and by striving for happiness you will arrive at happiness. For us, you see, having autism is normal—so we can't know for sure what your 'normal' is even like. But so long as we can learn to love ourselves, I'm not sure how much it matters whether we're normal or autistic." - *Naoki Higashida*
- "Children with autism develop all kinds of enthusiasms...perhaps focusing on one topic gives the child a sense of control, of predictability and security in a world that can be unpredictable and feel scary." *Barry M. Prizant*
- "Some people with autism may not be able to speak or answer to their name, but they can still hear your words and feel your kindness."
- "I am different. Not less." - *Dr. Temple Grandin*
- "I might hit developmental and societal milestones in a different order than my peers, but I am able to accomplish these small victories on my own time."
- "The difference between high-functioning and low-functioning is that high-functioning means your deficits are ignored, and low-functioning means your assets are ignored." - *Laura Tisoncik*

(Continued on page 11)

WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

By Jan Brecht

When I heard of the mass killings in Boulder, Colorado, I once again felt anger that Congress has not passed more gun regulations and automatic weapons are still legal. My heart went out to the victims and their families and I asked myself “how many more people have to die before this country does something about gun control.”

The week prior to Boulder, eight people were killed in Atlanta. The day after the massacre in Dayton, twenty three people died and twenty three were injured in El Paso, Texas. Thirty three people were killed and seventeen injured at Virginia Tech. Seventeen people were killed and seventeen injured at Stoneman Douglas High School. Nine people died and three were injured at a Bible Study at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston South Carolina. Twenty seven people were killed and twenty injured in church in Sutherland Spring, Texas. Fifty people died and fifty three were wounded in Orlando, Florida. Sixteen people died and twenty two injured in San Bernadino. Twelve people were killed and seventy wounded in a movie theater in Aurora Colorado. Twenty eight people were killed (including 20 five and six year olds at Sandy Hook in Newtown, Connecticut. And here in Dayton, nine people were killed and seventeen others injured in the Oregon District. Those 26 people were shot in just 32 seconds before the gunman was fatally shot by police officers. That is one person shot every 1.23 seconds and one person killed every 3.5 seconds. Forty one rounds were fired into the crowd in 30 seconds. **WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR CONGRESS TO ACT? HOW MANY MORE PEOPLE HAVE TO DIE?**



I am totally against guns as much as the NRA supports them. If it were up to me, no one would own a gun. I grudgingly acknowledge that citizens have the right to own guns – but to me, it should be a gun that shoots one bullet at a time. If you have a gun to hunt, you don't need an automatic weapon to do so. My feelings toward guns came at a very early age. When I was seven, my sisters and I were playing with cap guns in the backyard. Two young Korean girls visiting their grandparents next door were outside and as we pretended to shoot at them, their faces turned to terror and they started screaming. Mom explained to me that they were adopted from Korea where a war had occurred a few years before. To them, the guns were real. I never want to see the terror that I saw on their faces again. A few month later, my best friend, also age seven and his nine month old baby sister were shot and killed by their mother who was mentally ill. From that time on, I've hated guns. Guns were no longer a toy to play with or an object to make you feel powerful.

Think of how many deaths would not have occurred if guns that fired one bullet at a time were the only ones people owned. Americans need to value each other as individuals. Mental Health services need to be increased and people not feel stigmatized if they admit they need help . People need to learn how to deal with their stress. How many people have died because two people - sometimes friends, sometimes family - got into a heated argument and because one person had a gun in their pocket, the other person was shot? How many teens have snuck into their home late at night and been shot by a parent who thought they were a burgler? How many kids have shot themselves or another child by playing with a gun the parents thought was secure in the house? Guns make it to easy for someone who would never hurt another person to lose their temper and in the heat of the moment shoot someone.

People need to learn that having a gun doesn't make them a “big person”. No one wins when a gun is used just as no one wins a war – deaths occur on both sides. People need to learn how to discuss problems; how to listen and hear the other person and how to present your opinions respectfully.

These shootings not only affect the victims' families and people wounded, but witnesses and those who see the coverage on the news as well. I watched part of the trial of the police officer who knelt on George Floyd's neck causing his death. I cried along with the 61 year old man who witnessed the event and sobbed on the stand when he viewed the video of Mr. Floyd's death. The witnesses will have to live with that memory the rest of their lives.

My sister posted on Facebook a photo of Michelle Obama with the following quote: “I'm heart-broken by these recent mass shootings and I just keep thinking about all the leaders who won't take a stand to save lives and yet line up to pass bills that make it harder for us to vote”

(continued on page 11)

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

- “If they can’t learn the way we teach, we teach the way they learn.” - *O. Ivar Lovaas*
- “A child with autism is not ignoring you; they are simply waiting for you to enter their world.”
- “Autism is not a tragedy; Ignorance is the tragedy.”
- “There needs to be a lot more emphasis on what a child **CAN DO** instead of what he can not do.”

When I was the QA Coordinator I orientated new staff about State & Federal regulations we needed to meet. I always ended by saying - “Do not focus on what you think a person can or cannot do because if you do, it will be a great injustice to the person”. Then I shared the following story. ‘When I was a nurse, if I had time after my med pass, I helped feed the residents. One boy of ten was in constant motion. When he’d hold still for a moment I’d put a spoonful of food in his mouth and he’d put his fingers in his mouth and flicked the food out all over my top. He had an eating program to tell him “hands down” while he ate. I never thought in a million years he would ever hold still to be fed or actually help. I kept saying hands down. All of a sudden I realized he had started covering my hand with his hand. I thought, why am I telling him hands down when he’s keeping his hand on my mine until the food is in his mouth. I suggested to the person in charge of his programs that they change his eating program to “he will put his hand on top of your hand to take food to his mouth. (Usually the program is the resident holds the spoon and you put your hand on their hand and guide the spoon to their mouth). He is now feeding himself with assistance and for the most part sits still when he is eating. It took him years to get there but he accomplished it and it taught me a lesson as well. I realized never be certain what a person can or cannot do - they haven’t read the book on what they should be able to accomplish. I always said “good job” when a resident did something positive no matter how small it was. To you and me it may have been small but to the person it was huge.



I hope my memories and these inspirational autism quotes have made you think. Each person is different. What defines a person is not how they look or how smart they are - to me it’s how they respond to and treat others. My favorite musical is Les Miserable. One of the last lines from it is “to love another person is to see the face of God”. At my Retirement Party I ended my talk with that quote and said everytime I hear that line I think about the people I have provided services to. In the eyes of the world they aren’t famous, but to me I love them and see the face of God when I look at them. They taught and gave me unconditional love.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE? (continued from page 10)

It is way past time for Congress to stand up against automatic weapons and support stricter gun regulations. They need to stop being a Democrat or a Republican and be an American who cares about each other and what is morally right for the country. What ever happened to the Commandment “You shall not murder” (NIV) or the Beatitude “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (NIV)? Do people no longer believe the teachings in the Bible?

I encourage you to call, write or email your opinion to your Congress person and Senator. Think of how many deaths would not have occurred if guns that fired one bullet at a time were the only ones people owned. Before the 2022 election, review the candidates opinions on gun control. Know who you are voting for and what they believe. Think of how many deaths would not have occurred if background checks were stricter – if people convicted of violence in the past were not permitted to purchase a gun. Think of how many deaths would not have occurred if automatic weapons were banned. I’m not advocating (although I would like to) for guns to stop being manufactured, I am advocating for common sense to be used regarding guns. Just imagine a world where people treated each other with respect even if they have different opinions - where people don’t judge a person by the color of their skin - where they came from - how much money or education they have. We are all brothers and sisters - we need to start acting like a family.



BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR FAITH LEADERS

Led by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

April 13, 2021 10:00 am - 11:30 am

If you are a Minister, CRE, Ruling Elder, Deacon, Educator, or member of a congregation in the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, this **Building Resilience for Faith Leaders** is designed for you!

This program is designed to increase participants' understanding of their own signs of stress and to teach in-the-moment tools to engage the relaxation response in body and mind.

A panel of presenters will offer tools for self-care and resilience and respond to questions and comments from participants who are engaged in responding to the fires of 2020 in the midst of the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We will include the framework of recovery from a disaster and the trauma that can accompany it.



Those attending will build on their experience while practicing new tools that have been shown to be effective in sustaining our capacity to serve in the midst of challenging circumstances.

Register for this meeting by April 10. Go to 'Presbytery of the Miami Valley' and click on 'Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, **Building Resilience for Faith Leaders**' then click '**Learn More and Register**'. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Executive Presbyter Terry Kukuk at 937-258-8188 or at ep@miamipresbytery.org.

KETTERING HEALTH NETWORK'S GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



Wednesdays, 5 pm Join by Zoom or by phone (312) 626 6799
Meeting ID: 946 9744 7087 Passcode: 424241

After the loss of a loved one, comfort and support are very important to the healing process. Join Kettering Health Network's Grief Support Group, an online community of caring listeners providing a support system for you and your loved ones.

For more information call (937) 723-3883 or email dead-ra.griffeth@ketteringhealth.org

"The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies." — Kate McGahan

"The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances." — Robert Flatt

"The great gift of Easter is hope." — Basil Hume

"He knows the way because He is the way." — Jeffrey R Holland

REGULAR MEETINGS APRIL 2021

Worship Service - every Sunday at 10:30 AM at College Hill Community Church. Also live streamed via Face book on collegehillcommunitychurch FB page. Previous recordings of services available on our FB page and Youtube.

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

Bible Study - every Wednesday 7:00 PM on Zoom with Pastor Worthen (*April 7,14,21,28*) Meeting ID: 848 8361 9102 Pass, code: 334762

Spanish Language Bible Study - Every Monday at 7 PM via Zoom (*April 5, 12, 19, 26*)

I&S Meeting – 2nd Monday (*April 12*) - at 3 PM on Zoom

Worship & Music – 2nd Tuesday (*April 13*) – at 5:00 PM on Zoom

Social Justice and Peacemaking – 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 PM, (*April 13*) on Zoom, Meeting ID: 838 3655 9076 Passcode: 170476

College Hill - Harmony Creek Book Group (*April 15*) at 7:30 PM on Zoom.
Meeting ID: 854 1864 3647 Passcode: 852766

Session – fourth Monday of every month at 6:00 PM, March 29 on Zoom
Special call meeting, Monday, April 5 at 6:00 PM

Deacons – third Monday of every month at 6:00 PM, April 19 via Zoom

Indoor Worship Committee – every other Thursday at 6:00 PM, (*April 8, April 22*)

SPECIAL DAYS/EVENTS APRIL 2021

Good Friday: April 2 at 2:00 PM – Good Friday Drive-in Service at Saint Luke MBC, 2262 N. Gettysburg Ave, Dayton, OH 45406. Theme: *Unity at the Cross*. Seven Last Words proclaimed by:

Pastor Corey Cunningham, Inspiration Church
Pastor Karl Penn, Fort McKinley United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. M. Merritt Worthen, College Hill Community Church
Rev. Dr. Gerald Cooper, Wayman Chapel AME Church
Rev. Dr. Rockney Carter, Zion Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Brian Law, Christ United Methodist Church
Pastor Jarvis Ellis, Sr., Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church

World Autism Day: Friday, April 2

Easter Sunday: April 4, Sunrise Service 6:30 AM at Carillon Park

Presbytery of the Miami Valley Virtual Spring Youth Retreat: Friday, April 9, 7:00 – 10:00 PM

(continued on page 14)

SPECIAL DAYS/EVENTS APRIL 2021

(continued from page 13)

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, April 11, at College Hill Community Church immediately following the 10:30 AM service

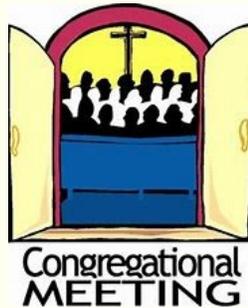
Building Resilience for Faith Leaders: Tuesday, April 13, 10 AM – 11:30 AM

Earth Day: Monday, April 22

If you have a heart/mind for serving God, your church, and/or the community, consider being a Deacon. No one I know considers themselves good enough or has time to serve, but I found that being a Deacon is just an ordained way of reaching out to others with a card, a phone call, a visit, or a hug (after Covid). Give it some prayer or thought, College Hill Community Church needs you. If interested call me Darlene 654 7488, the pastor, or leave a message at church.

Submitted by Darlene Brookshire

Join us at College Hill
Community Church for
the annual
Congregational
Meeting, Sunday
April 11th
immediately following
the 10:30 AM service.



EARTH DAY - APRIL 22



COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH
1547 PHILADELPHIA DRIVE
DAYTON, OHIO 45406

PHONE 937-278-4203 • **FAX** 937-278-2606
EMAIL: collegehillcommunitychurch@gmail.com
WEB SITE: www.collegehillcommunitychurch.org/

Rev. Dr. M. Merritt Worthen - Pastor
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.