



Welcome The Rev. Dr. M. Merritt Worthen Newly Called as Senior Pastor of College Hill Community Church

As we look hopefully toward the future determined to stand firm on our faith, we are proud to announce The Rev. Dr. M. Merritt Worthen as our new Senior Pastor as of July 1, 2020. Pastor Worthen is the daughter of Rev. Johnny Merritt and Mrs. Wanda Merritt. Upon graduating from John H. Patterson Cooperative High School, Dayton, she attended Ohio State University. Pastor



Worthen ultimately earned a B.S. Degree in Business Mgmt. from Franklin University, and later earned an MBA from Wright State University with a concentration in Project Management. She worked in various management positions including: Acquisitions and Project Management for over 10 years first with Banc One Leasing Corporation (Columbus), and later The Reynolds and Reynolds Co (Dayton). She has three lovely daughters; Dominique, Indigo, and Brooklyn.

After receiving her call to ministry, Pastor Worthen earned a Master of Divinity Degree from United Theological Seminary. During seminary she served as Associate Pastor at Grace UMC on Salem Ave. & Trinity Presbyterian Church on Lakeview. Upon graduation, following in her father's footsteps she was ordained as an Elder in the Presbyterian Church USA. She later joined the staff of United Theological Seminary serving as the Director of Student Services, where she oversaw: the International Student Program, the Intercultural Program, Introduction to Theological Education, served as Adjunct Faculty & managed the Student Services staff and programming until her appointment to McKinley UMC in July 2010.

After having faithfully served McKinley UMC for six and one half years, in November 2016 Pastor Worthen was moved to New Vision UMC and Calvary Hilltop UMC as part of a co-pastor team of these two churches. In March of 2017, Pastor Worthen was appointed as the sole Senior Pastor of New Vision UMC where she served until July of 2018 when she took a sabbatical to complete her PhD at Union Institute and University. Also, during this time, Pastor Worthen joined the Clergy Community Coalition (CCC) which fought against the closure of Good Samaritan Hospital. She is now the Vice President of the CCC which continues to fight the good fight, and is demanding the construction of a new hospital in place of the now demolished Good Samaritan.

In June 2020, Pastor Worthen earned her PhD in Ethical and Creative Leadership with a specialization in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. legacy studies. These studies have focused on examining the impact of religion and leadership on social and economic change and development in an effort to implement positive change, social justice and growth initiatives in areas and communities suffering from prejudice, racism, violence, poverty and other systems of inequity and oppression. The title of her dissertation: *Showing Faith through Work(s): Examining How Christian-Based Businesses are Practicing Faith in a Materialistic Society.*

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Dr. M. Merritt Worthen (continued from page 1)

Pastor Worthen is humbled, yet excited, to join College Hill as their new Senior Pastor and work alongside so many faithful and dedicated servants of God and the community. She believes that the Lord has prepared her over the years for a time such as this. She is excited and honored to be a part of the divine movement and work of God in and through the church and surrounding communities. Putting Faith into practice is the divine goal which has been set forth for those who are willing to accept this challenge.

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." 1 Corinthians 2.9

Brief History of College Hill Community Church

College Hill Community Church located on the corner of Philadelphia and Cornell held its first service in their present building on Palm Sunday, April 10, 1949. Since that time College Hill has been known as the neighborhood church that welcomes people from all walks of life in a continually changing urban landscape.



In the mid 1960's the area surrounding the church began to change as the neighborhood experienced an increase in the number of African American residents, while subsequently many white residents moved out of the neighborhood. Church membership declined sharply as the church struggled to adapt to the changing neighborhood and keep the doors open. Many thought it best to close the doors and relocate the church to the suburbs while others wanted to stay and welcome their new neighbors into the church family. After much discussion, a congregational vote was taken and in 58-54 margin College Hill voted to remain open and a new vision was born.

In 1971, the remaining College Hill Church congregation announced that it would seek a fully integrated ministry model with both black and white ministers serving the congregation. The goal was to become a church that is a "Racial Rainbow". The Rev. Kent Organ was called to College Hill Church in 1972, followed by The Rev. Dr. Robert E. Jones as a half-time pastor in 1977. In 1986, Dr. Jones became the Senior Pastor of College Hill Church

In January of 2006 as they continued to welcome new neighbors, College Hill Church landed on the front page of the Dayton Daily News with the headline: "Black, White, and now Hispanic." College Hill's Hispanic inclusiveness continues to evolve with a bi-lingual worship service aided by the leadership and Spanish translation of Elder Jose' Lamont Jones.

In 2014 following Dr. Jones' retirement, The Rev. Dr. Darryl Young became the next Senior Pastor and was later joined by his wife The Rev. Dr. Karen Young. Although College Hill thrived during this time, Dr. Young's tenure was unexpectedly ended when he stepped down for medical reasons in January 2020. Yet in the midst of change and uncertainty, College Hill has remained focused on diversity, mission, social justice, and reliance on the leading of the Holy Spirit. They remain an anchor of faith and stability in uncertain and trying times. Refusing to become complacent even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, they have continued to offer worship services on line and continue ministry to the community however they can.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Herman Burrell	July 2	Brenda Thompson	July 17
Katrina Augustin	July 4	Sandra March	July 18
Marlea Gaskins	July 4	Debra Byrd	July 25
Kelli Gray	July 5	Angela Griffin	July 25
Erika Dixon	July 7	Brenda Brown	July 25
Anthony Hueston	July 11	Marlene Hopper	July 27
Albert Watson	July 12	Ariana Campuzano	July 28
Judy McCray	July 13	Pam Byrd	July 30
Bruce Johnson	July 16	Darryle Brown	July 30
Jose Jones	July 16	Jason Lambright	July 30
Lerone McKenzie	July 17		

PRAYER LIST

Family of Bill and Rose Allen
 Jane Beal
 Terrence Boyd
 The Bragg Family
 Betty & Jan Brecht
 Joan Crabtree's Family
 Marco Antonio Camacho
 Derrick Daniels/Family
 Paula Drake & Family
 Vicki Eason
 Doris Evans
 Janet Fahlen
 Don Gaskins Family
 Isabella Green
 Hilario Antonio Gutierrez
 Diann Harris & Family
 Obie Harris
 Andrea Hirtle
 Chante Johnson
 Jose Jones Family
 Pastor Robert E Jones Family
 Michael Love



Jackie McKenzie
 Bob Moore
 Carolyn Moore
 Filomena Nicacio
 Misael & Olivia
 Margaret Oglesby
 Charles Peterson
 Bernetha Pulliam
 Melanie Shoop
 Kiffany Stargell &
 Parents
 Mary Steele
 Nelson Stone, Sr.
 Dorris Thompson
 Gerry Thompson
 Jimmy/Sue Thompson
 Ronals Todd
 José Vidal & Family
 Pastor Darryll & Rev.
 Karen Young
 Young

TEENS COLUMN

TIPS TO COPE DURING COVID-19

- ◆ Recognize that your anxiety is completely normal
- ◆ Maintain a daily routine with consistent sleep, activity and study patterns.
- ◆ Stay virtually connected with others, and try to find moments of humor.
- ◆ Relieve times of high anxiety with physical activity; engage in regular aerobic exercise (e.g., walk, jog, yoga, dance).
- ◆ Limit the amount of time you spend talking about or watching/ listening to news media or social media if you are finding information about the COVID-19 situation overwhelming or distressing.
- ◆ Create distractions - watch a favorite movie, talk to friends on the phone or text, play a game, read a book
- ◆ Acknowledge what you can and cannot control

TIPS TO PREVENT SPREADING VIRUS

- ◆ Wear a mask when out in public
- ◆ Wash your hands regularly
- ◆ Keep a social distance from others
- ◆ Stay home when you're sick.

Remember you can have the virus without symptoms but are still contagious. Keep your family, grandparents, friends, and yourself healthy by practicing the above.

An Elder or Deacon will be available to pray individually with anyone who desires prayer immediately after the worship service at the front of the church in the choir stand. Say a special prayer for our sick and shut-ins & those in need of improvement in their health.



College Hill Outdoor Worship Begins Sunday, July 5, 10:30 AM

Important Details on College Hill Worship Starting July 5

- We will worship safely outdoors until protocols have been put in place to safely use the sanctuary. All worship leaders outdoors will be masked and gloved unless speaking on microphones.
- We welcome on July 5 our new Pastor, Rev. M. Merritt Worthen, along with her family.
- We want to thank and say goodbye to our colleague Ruling Elder José LaMont Jones, who has been accepted to be a Presbyterian mission worker in the Congo.
- The outdoor service will also be livestreamed on Facebook, for those who choose to continue to worship from home. (Although we are doing our best to minimize risk, those considered vulnerable or who have underlying health conditions are encouraged to stay home until they feel comfortable coming out).
- Worship leaders will be stationed on the lawn. You can worship either:
 - ◊ from your car parked in the south parking lot by tuning in to an FM station on your radio which will be provided by that Sunday (please bring a mask and gloves in the event you need to leave your car); OR
 - ◊ from a lawn chair that you bring, and sit at least 6 square feet apart, masked and gloved on the south lawn (please park your car on the street if you plan to use this option, leaving parking lot spaces for others who will remain in their cars).
- There will be no hugging and no shaking hands. We will maintain social distance with others of at least six feet at all times.
- The service will be shortened so that it will not last more than 90 minutes. It will be a bilingual service.
- An hour's notice (via One Call & website) will be given if the service must be cancelled due to adverse weather.
- Please bring your own communion elements on July 5 - bread and juice and cups to avoid sharing of food and drink.
- An offering will be taken, or you can use the church's online options.
- Parents with children should plan to worship in their cars as there will be no childcare or free outdoor play time for children. We encourage you to bring your own safe play items.
- There will be limited, monitored and safe access to restrooms in the church which we are asking to be wiped down after each use with wipes that the church will provide. Children using the restrooms must be accompanied by an adult. However, for everyone's safety, we ask that everyone be prepared to minimize restroom use as much as possible.

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Important Details on College Hill Worship Starting July 5 (continued from page 1)

- ◆ No other parts the church building, aside from the restrooms, will be accessible before, during or after the worship service.
- Please observe all posted requirements in the church for cleaning and sanitizing after yourself, and make use of sanitizing supplies the church will provide. We need your help to maintain a safe space the church building, aside from the restrooms, will be accessible before, during or after the for all our community.
- For information, call the church office, 937-278-4203 or email collegehillcommunitychurch@gmail.com.

Submitted by Larry Hollar

Happy July Church

It's summer again. We couldn't wait and we're starting to complain. Too hot, too humid, too much rain, not enough rain. This summer is different than others. We can't run out into nature at the lake and beaches. We can't attend outdoor concerts as usual. Family reunions and gatherings have to be different now. Human nature is making us feel cheated. We are church folk so let's remember everyday is a blessing and say thank you instead of grumbling. It's hard, it's like our biases, it takes practice to overcome. Daily practice.

We're in another transition. We will be holding church service in the parking lot. It's a big change. Let's be Thankful we can come together again. It's going to be a challenge, College Hill does so well with challenges.

Here is our latest, we hope and pray we will be able to come back into our church again soon. Our new Pastor and Session are working to be sure we stay safe and healthy as we give thanks together again.

God bless our families and members and help us to show patience with each other as we begin our new journey in worship.

Submitted by Carole Estelle

Hello Friends,

As you may remember the St. Margaret and CHCC annual golf tournament had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. **Presbyterian Men, Larry Jenkins, Nelson Stone and Lee Townsel have tickets to sell for a fifty-fifty raffle that will help generate some funds for to off-set the loss of the funds due to the cancellation. The tickets cost \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00. Presbyterian Men have voted that CHCC'S share of the proceeds are to go directly to the general funds of the church's 2020 budget.**

Thank you for your support.

Salute to Jose' Lamont Jones

Submitted by Elder Gladys Turner Finney

Chosen One, Elect of God:

When I think of Jose' LaMont Jones and this occasion, I am reminded of the Scripture from Isaiah 6-8: "I heard the voice of the Lord, saying Whom shall I send, and who will go for us. Then said I, Here am I; send me."

Jose' for the past seven years, you have shared with College Hill Community Church, PCUSA your faith, your multiple talents, as Hispanic Ministry Director, Spanish Teacher, Youth Leader, Pianist/and Music Director. You have volunteered in many other roles where there was no one else to fill, or was merely asked.

You have bonded with many of us as family and friend, our dearly beloved. How did this bonding occur? Because you have ministered to us in our needs, our joys, and our sorrows. As a Gift from God, you have shown us love and compassion.

The first time I saw you, you had volunteered to lead the Adult Sunday School Class shortly after your arrival. I learned that whatever you wanted to be successful, you should consult or involve Jose', that included the food.

It was apparent that you were a proven leader, prepared, ready and willing to work in God's vineyard. It was like God had chosen you to be a replacement for Francisco Pelaez.

Now that the hour of separation has come, our hearts are heavy and full of sorrow. Chosen One, Elect of God, you have heard "The Call" and responded, "Here am I Send Me as Mission Co-Worker to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Separation is painful. It is painful to let you go. But, "Our love will not bind you or our needs keep you."

We know you will minister to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the same energy, imagination compassion, passion, and love that you have ministered to us. That you will be mindful of their unique culture and history.

Prayer: **"Thank you God for your servant Jose' Jones. Thank you for the seven years he labored in the vineyard of College Hill Community Church. The Holy Scripture teaches us that we are known by our fruits. We thank you for your guidance and leading him concerning your will, your plan and purpose for his life. We pray for his safety and are reminded of your assurance that "Withers over thou goest, I will be with thee. I will not leave thee or forsake thee."** And, we pray that the fruits of his ministry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will abound.

Godspeed, My Friend.



KEEP THE FLAME OF LOVE BURNING...AND PASS IT ON!

When I first advised, in late January, of my being offered and having accepted a Mission Co-Worker position to the Democratic Republic of Congo, I did not anticipate the Covid-19 pandemic or sheltering-in-place until now. In fact, the moratorium on mission co-worker travel and in-person meetings had certainly thrown me for a loop! However, the limitations as a result of the pandemic and my subsequent prolonged stay in Dayton, while disappointing, have been accompanied by blessings for which I must give thanks.

The time has come that I now must say farewell. Effective Sunday, July 5th, I resign my posts as coordinator/liaison of the CHCC Hispanic Ministry and as church musician. All in all, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve and leave knowing I have put my best foot forward and strived to give honor to God and to this congregation of believers. I trust that history will fare me well as having made a positive impact, recruited others to the harvest and left footprints along the way that others might follow.



With respect to multiculturalism, in general, and the Hispanic Ministry, specifically, I pray that you all recognize how unique and special CHCC truly is! The Covid pandemic has shown light on opportunities and possibilities hitherto unimagined: on-line worship and Bible study which joins participants across land and sea. I pray that as our new normal is established it will be very different from our old normal. I hope that the advancing technologies for cross-cultural and multilingual engagement be pursued to further communication, not only with our Spanish speaking brothers and sisters but also with the growing numbers of foreign nationals who now call Dayton home. Of course, our sharing of God's love and extending forgiveness (humbly recognizing our own need of mercy and grace) will need to continue. By our love we have been recognized as children of God...by our love we will continue to be known.

It is that same love that characterizes our worship. Worship is a community event. Believers use their talents, offer of their treasures and devote their time to the adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God. My heart is warmed by the way our worship has, over the years, been a discipling and leadership development ministry where our members and youth learn commitment and service through worship. I pray that this will continue and that when I return to visit, I will see those who have developed their gifts in music, public speaking, dance, poetry, art, ushering, etc. continue to serve and grow.

My season of service has been both an honor and a pleasure. My current work, done via Zoom meetings, phone and e-mail is not limited to any particular place in the world. I go, therefore, to be with my wife in the Dominican Republic and to close down our household there in preparation for our departure for Africa. I go...lifted on the shoulders of those who have participated in my spiritual development and maturation. I love you all and carry your collective impact to far away lands and to people unknown. I tell you...the impact of College Hill's faithfulness has not only been a blessing to me and this community, but to this state, this nation and, indeed this world! It only takes a spark and our spark has grown to be a great blaze. My prayer for us all is that we continue, with God's help and blessing, to pass it on.

Respectfully submitted,

Jose LaMont Jones

The first-ever virtual 224th General Assembly concludes



from **Lament to Hope**

Lamentations 5:20-21

More than 400 commissioners, over 180 advisory delegates, and hundreds of staff, churches, and spectators tuned in to take part in the first-ever, fully online 224th General Assembly (2020) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held June 19-20 and 26-27.

The Presbytery of the Miami Valley delegation to GA 224 was Ruling Elder Commissioner **Bruce Saunders** (Wilmington), Minister of the Word and Sacrament Commissioner **Michael Isaacs**, and Young Adult Advisory Delegate **Anne Paquette** (Dayton: Westminster).

Elona Street-Stewart and **Gregory Bentley** were elected co-moderators of the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and **J. Herbert Nelson** was elected to serve a second four-year term as stated clerk of the General Assembly. Street-Stewart and Bentley were the only co-moderator team seeking election from which both candidates were persons of color. Ruling Elder Street-Stewart, the synod executive for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, is the first Native American to serve as moderator. Minister of the Word and Sacrament Bentley, pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Alabama, is African American.

In addition, the Assembly worshiped together and discussed and considered a variety of docket items. The Assembly adopted a unified budget and a small increase in per capita, passed the resolution "Responding to the Sin of Racism and a Call to Action," updated the child/youth/vulnerable adult protection policy, affirmed the need to help those impacted by COVID-19, took action toward supporting Native American concerns, and more. The Assembly also elected our **Ruling Elder Larry Hollar** to serve a six-year term on the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission.

For more details about the 224th General Assembly, check out news from [Presbyterian News Service](#) and [Presbyterian Outlook](#). The 225th General Assembly is scheduled for July 2-9, 2022, in Columbus, Ohio. [Story provided by Presbytery of the Miami Valley]

Submitted by Larry Hollar

THOUGHTS FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY



"Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future"
John F. Kennedy

"We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it." William Faulkner

"I'd like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free and wanted other people to be also free."
Rosa Parks

"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves." Abraham Lincoln

CONGRATULATIONS JOEL AND DANITA

Elder Joel Carson and Danita Gibson were married Saturday, June 27, 2020 at College Hill Community Church, Pc USA.

We would like to thank our College Hill family and friends, for prayer's, gifts, and well wishes.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, our wedding was extremely modified. We thank you for being supportive. We will share pictures in the August newsletter. Blessings,

Mr. and Mrs. Joel and Anita Carson



CROP Hunger Walk Goes Virtual on October 4

This year's Dayton Area CROP Hunger Walk to support Church World Service and the Dayton Foodbank will be different from other years. Rather than more than 120 walkers gathering on Sunday, October 4 at Island MetroPark, the Walk this year will be VIRTUAL and flexible. College Hill will develop its own plans for safe and distanced walking, but the key thing is to maintain our exemplary commitment to giving--especially online or by check or cash. Let's plan to again be among the leaders of area churches in CROP Walk donations.

Watch for more CROP Walk information starting in the August church newsletter. Questions? Larry Hollar (937-643-3168) can answer them.



The donated eyeglasses were given to the Lion's Eye Bank. Please don't throw away old eyeglasses, give them to someone who can benefit.

We are no longer collecting box tops for education, however, we are still saving old cell phones.

Submitted by Darlene Brookshire



I'm ready to lead the parade



Who says we can't get along?

MY MOST MEMORABLE FOURTH OF JULY

By Jan Brecht

My most memorable fourth of July occurred in 1964 when I was 16. I was threatened because I attended a church work camp where we helped people who lived at the Desoto Bass Courts. I'm going to begin my story earlier - when I was about 5. My grandfather owned a construction business and employed a black hod carrier named Joe. Dad was the project manager for Grandpa and Joe often dropped things off at our house. One day I must have asked Joe why he was so dark and I remember Joe said "that's just the way God made me" It made sense to me. He then touched my hand and I touched his hand and he said "see it doesn't rub off". I really liked Joe and as shy as I was, felt very comfortable talking to him.

I remember when I was about 10, my family went to New Orleans and I saw two drinking fountains. One said 'white' and the other said 'colored'. Never seeing anything like that I wanted to drink from the 'colored' fountain because I thought the water was a different color. I remember how upset I was when my parents explained why there were two drinking fountains.

In 1963, with the rest of the world, I was devastated when the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham was bombed resulting in the death of four young girls - ages eleven to fourteen. In Look magazine, there was a photo and an article about one of the girls, Denise McNair. I read it, cut it out and still have to this day. I could not fathom that someone hated people of another color so much they would bomb a church. I imagined what it must have been like for those four girls.

Also in 1963, I was very angry and upset when George Wallace stood in the doorway of the University of Alabama preventing two black students from entering. Medgar Evers was killed the day after that. I kept wondering why people were so prejudiced just because of the skin color - most of the time the reply I received was 'that's just the way it is'. I wanted to do something but didn't know what.

A couple of weeks later I went to church camp in Germantown, Ohio for a week. During camp the counselors asked if anyone was interested in attending a work camp which started the following week, to help improve race relations. I thought as least that was something I could do and so signed up. I got home from church camp on Saturday, washed my clothes and was off to work camp the following Monday. During the week we were housed at the United Theological Seminary on Cornell Drive. Each day we drove to the Desoto Bass Courts complex. In addition to working, we went swimming at the Mallory Pool and visited a black church in West Dayton. At Mallory, I felt what black people must have felt like when they went swimming in a pool with all white people in the 1960s. I was' t afraid, but I felt everyone was looking at me because I was a different color. At the church, I was surprised to see a painting of a black Jesus. I guess I always considered Jesus to be white because of the painting in the church where I grew up. At that moment it dawned on me that no one knows what color Jesus was. He could have been, black, red, brown, yellow or white. He could have had blue, brown or green eyes. His eyes may have been round or slanted. His hair could have been blond, black, brown or red. None of it mattered. What mattered was what he taught us and the sacrifice he made for us.

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MY MOST MEMORABLE FOURTH OF JULY (continued)

At the DeSoto Bass Court, we picked up glass and trash from the play area and then played kickball, tug of war, four square, and softball with the kids that lived there. We also washed down walls in apartments of elderly people who were unable to do so for themselves. I was assigned to work for the oldest resident, Mrs. Walton. She was very pleasant and so interesting. While I worked, we talked about what it was like for her growing up and what I wanted to do with my life. The Dayton Daily News came and did a story about our mission and because I was the only camper from Dayton, took a photo of Mrs. Walton and me together and interviewed us. I said that I hoped people would see there was no difference between black and white people except the color of their skin - it's what's on the inside that matters.

The article appeared in the paper July 3. On July 4th, Independence Day, the day we celebrate the Declaration of Independence - that "all men are created equal", I received a phone call. A man with a gravelly harsh voice asked "are you the one that went and helped them 'nig....s'. I was so shocked I just said "yes". He said "you'd better stay away from them or I'll slash your face". As scared as I was, it made me very angry. We called the police and they said they couldn't do anything unless the person did something to me. I had a rude awakening that day. I thought prejudice and discrimination were mostly practiced in the South. I realized the North was no different from the South - it just wasn't as apparent.

About a week later, I received a piece of trash in the mail that was in the form of a letter. It was from the "Keep America White" committee and outlined on one page the differences between a black person and a white person. It said black people don't have real hair - they have sheep hair and that the black man's skull was thicker than a white man's - that is why they are better boxers - they could take beatings better. The second page told me how all black men wanted to rape white women. As I read it, I sat in disbelief with my mouth opened. I thought how could anyone be so ignorant as to believe these lies. I wanted to write them but my parents talked me out of it. They were concerned about the threat and wasn't sure what the "Keep America White Committee" might do.

In my senior year for civics, I did a presentation on Prejudice and Discrimination. The school was beginning to integrate with teens from Shawn Acres at that time. I shared the stories of Joe, Denise, church camp, the threatening phone call and piece of trash I received. I presented the facts to disprove the lies. I explained that people aren't born with prejudice. I ended with words from a song from South Pacific called 'You've Got to be Taught'. Part of the song goes "You've got to be taught to be afraid of people whose eyes are oddly made, and people whose skin is a different shade you've got to be carefully taught. You've got to be taught before it's too late, before you are six or seven or eight, to hate all the people your relatives hate, you've got to be carefully taught.

When dad was in the army during WWII he wrote a letter to my sister who was a baby at the time. He wrote 'when you grow up, don't call people of other colors bad names or treat them with any less respect than you do a white person. If it wasn't for a black soldier, your daddy wouldn't be alive today and as you grow, many of your friends daddies wouldn't be alive either'. I think the most important lesson my parents taught me is that it doesn't matter what color skin a person has, how much money, how many degrees behind their name, how big of car and house they own - none of that is important - what is important is how we treat others. I'm hopeful with the Black Lives Matter movement change will occur. Unlike the protests in the 1960's, the protestors are a mixture of color, and nationalities. The entire world is involved in the protest. It is my prayer that by July 2021, all people will be treated with respect.

Missed Opportunities

By Jason Prepin

If you're lucky, opportunity will come knocking and doors will open for you;
If you're smart, you won't hesitate when opportunity presents itself;
But if you're me, you won't do any of those things.
Too dumb to see the greatness before you,
Too lazy to take a chance,
In a world where opportunities are few,
you stand before greatness and spit in its face.
Do you not want to wear the white hat?
Shape the world in your image?
You do? ...

So, why do you continue to make things extraordinarily difficult for yourself?
Is it because you're a masochist?
Seeking so much desolation and conflict in the world,
Believing that you can overcome it all like the tragic hero you are.
But you won't.

Life is not some fairy tale where the heroine always wins.
The world is ripe with hypocrisy where the few good men fall,
And even greater men become martyrs.
You live in a world where people kill for the '*opportunity*' to get ahead,
Some die trying.

But here 'we' are, living for the sake of the systems obliteration.
The funny thing is that just because you spit in the face of greatness,
Does not make it any less great.
Though your path may be righteous,
It will surely fail.

If you want to do real good,
Change the system from the inside out.
Be the leader that changes the world,
Not the martyr the made the issue relevant.
So, when you hear the call to greatness do not resist.
Engage yourself in superior thought.

Because you are smart, you won't hesitate, you will become proactive.
Because you are a hard worker, you won't be afraid to take a chance, and risk it at all for the
greater good.
But most of all, because you are '*you*',
You will not miss 'any opportunities.'

Submitted by Jose Jones

Dear Siblings in Christ throughout the Presbytery of the Miami Valley,

We continue to live with much stress and uncertainty. Weariness has set in for some. Impatience is on the rise. We struggle to listen deeply to the person in front of us, not to mention the Spirit's still, small voice, waiting for us in silence. We can feel the sandpaper in the words we speak, and the razor's edge of words spoken to us.

First came the Covid-19 pandemic. All that we had taken for granted, such as worshipping in person, meandering grocery trips, and visiting with family and friends came to a grinding halt. These interruptions continue as we seek to love our neighbors by being mindful that Covid-19 is still among us.

Now, we are confronted again by the ever-present reality of Systemic Racism. Systemic Racism feeds on practices and prejudices that value or devalue people based on skin color and ethnic identity. The protests happening in our towns and throughout our nation are full of holy lament as rising voices call attention to the fact that our neighbors of color live lives that are constantly interrupted due to its presence.

Our calling as God's people requires us to ask again: "What does our witness to Jesus Christ look like in a time such as this?" Perhaps this season of Pentecost is not accidental; may it turn our attention to the work of the Holy Spirit! Paul reminds us in Galatians 5:22-23 that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, and self-control. How is this fruit evident in how we listen, and work, and play? How is our ministry marked by this fruit? How have you seen the Spirit move?

The presbytery webpage contains two "toolboxes" to help you find ways to be Our Lord's Church during this time. Resources related to Covid-19 and Racial Justice have been gathered. It is our prayer that you might find among these tools the words, the conviction, the Spirit to provide you with energy, information, ideas, and compassion that will help your mission and ministry thrive even in these lean times. Perhaps you will find a new asset that will make your work easier. You might find yourself reacquainted with an old "tool" that is still helpful. If you notice that you have an idea we haven't made available, please share it with us! One important "tool" we would like to draw your attention to is the 21 Day Racial Justice Challenge. It provides some first steps to engage over an admittedly challenging topic. Maybe you use it to supplement your own devotional life. Maybe you invite your congregation to go through it together over three weeks and invite some discussion.

Galatians 6:2 tells us to bear each other's burdens, for in doing so we fulfill Christ's call to love. We know some of you are tired, stretched in ways you could not have anticipated. We want these resources to help ease your load, even as you look to ease the burdens of the ill, at-risk, and all-too-often marginalized in your community. Call it "planning," call it "self-care," call it whatever you need to, but please take advantage of these assets. You do not have to go it alone. We are with you and are for you.

With affection, your partners in ministry,

The Leadership Council

Bruce Saunders, Leadership Council Chair

Alice McCollum PMV Moderator

Ben Beres, PMV Vice Moderator

Donna Courtney

Ted Dennis

Stan Gockel

Cliff Haddox

Kim Hamilton

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Jan Brecht - Newsletter Co-Editor
Pat Townsel - Newsletter Co-Editor
Ruth Bragg - Deacon Moderator

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 4 - Independence Day
July 5 - First Drive in Worship Service in
College Hill's Parking Lot

Please send stories of your most memorable vacation for the August newsletter. Articles will be due by July 30.
Thank You.

I want to thank everyone who contributed an article to this month's newsletter. It is very much appreciated.
Thank You - Jan Brecht

Our web site at collegehillcommunitychurch.org is updated regularly, and our FB page - College Hill Community Church - PCUSA - is being used to announce Zoom Bible Study, Zoom Adult Sunday School and other events. We encourage you to check them regularly.

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.