



From Your Pastor....

Greetings College Hill Family and Friends!

As the cool weather ushers in a new season, we are grateful to God for his protection and provision during this pandemic, through natural disasters such as wildfires and storms across the nation, and a volatile time of civil and political unrest. As many people are suffering and/or struggling with how to cope with such chaos and uncertainty, we continue to lift up our nation and people around the world for healing, reconciliation and restoration.



We praise and thank God for being present with us in all that is going on, and being that calming and peaceful presence and strength that we can count on in the midst the storms and trials of this present age. In the words of 1 Peter 1:6-7 *“Rejoice in this, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”* Let us rejoice and bless the Lord for all that He has done, all that He is doing, and what He has in store. For

we are assured that God’s plan is still unfolding as His people continue to seek Him:

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.” Jeremiah 29:11-14

Thank you, everyone, for your faithfulness in this fast as we have sought after the Lord praying for guidance and discernment in our church, our families and our lives. As of today, there are just ten days left in our fast! We hope that this time of prayer and fasting has been a blessing to you and your families. And we are confident this time of prayer and dedication will make a difference as the leadership of our church begins to make plans for the future. Just some of the things we have witnessed and are witnessing:

- We have been able to have services outside every Sunday, come rain or shine since July 5th! We expect to continue outside every Sunday until the end of October. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

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JOIN US EACH SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 AM IN THE PARKING LOT THROUGH
OCTOBER 20220 (Bi-Lingual Worship)
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS 9:45 AM ON ZOOM

From Your Pastor.... (Continued from Page 1)

- Even as we speak, your leadership is preparing for the next steps in worship beginning in November. As we put plans in place to address concerns of Covid-19, we are prayerfully planning to move inside. With social distancing, masks and other provisions, we are doing our best to utilize many cautionary measures to guard against this virus. We welcome those who are willing and able to come inside, while encouraging those who are at risk due to health concerns to remain at home and continue to join us via live stream. Please contact the office if you need technological assistance. We will, however, need more help to pull this off! Please prayerfully consider volunteering as an usher/greeter during this time so that we can assure we have enough people to manage the many duties that are required to worship inside. You may contact Pastor Worthen or the office to sign up!
- What is incredibly amazing and uplifting, is that despite all that is going on in our communities and our nation, and while many churches are closed or only worshipping on-line, our church family has been safely worshipping and growing! We are welcoming former members who have come back, and are celebrating the addition of new members coming to join, as well as others seeking Baptism! We are planning an official church welcome for these new additions on Sunday, October 11th. Weather permitting we are planning for Baptisms via sprinkling and/or by immersion in a pool on the lawn! Look at what God can do with people who are open to His grace! We are truly thankful!
- And as a reminder.... **VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!** Stay informed on the issues. We encourage early voting to avoid any unexpected delays or occurrences.

Finally, please pray for your Session as they prepare for a leadership retreat with Pastor Worthen on October 17th. We are open to God revealing His vision for us and that He will bring us all to one accord as we plan for the future. Details coming out of this time to be shared with everyone in the coming months.

I thank God for each and every one of you, and close this letter in the words of Paul:

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is and he will do this.

Beloved, pray for us.

Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss (or an air-hug during Covid). I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Love,

Pastor

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Clark Cambell	Oct. 1	Francisco Pelaez	Oct. 15
Pat Townsel	Oct. 3	Carlyn Miller	Oct. 17
Kevin Furlow	Oct. 4	Michael Hefner	Oct. 17
Brenda Peters	Oct. 4	Dylan Vidal	Oct. 19
Bishop Richard Cox	Oct. 4	Cory Smith	Oct. 22
J.P. Stahler	Oct. 6	Gwendolyn Johnson	Oct. 23
Darlene Brookshire	Oct. 6	Evelyn Johnson	Oct. 23
Chad Page	Oct. 7	Jan Brecht	Oct. 23
Simon Mwhia	Oct. 8	Alyssa Drake	Oct. 24
Darryle Brown	Oct. 9	Bob Booker	Oct. 25
Matthew Lakes	Oct. 12	James Allen	Oct. 26
Travis Johnson	Oct. 13	Paula Ewers	Oct. 28
Joyce Daniels	Oct. 14	Larry Hollar	Oct. 29
Marva Gray	Oct. 14	Marco Comacho	Oct. 31

PRAYER LIST

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



TEENS COLUMN

FYI: IF YOU WILL TURN 18 ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 3, 2020, YOU CAN REGISTER AND BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THIS YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.



THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS THIS COMING MONDAY OCTOBER, 5TH.

THOUGHTS ON ELECTIONS

"Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters."
— Abraham Lincoln

"When widely followed public figures feel free to say anything, without any fact-checking, it becomes impossible for a democracy to think intelligently about big issues."
— Thomas L. Friedman

"Bad officials are elected by good citizens who don't vote."
— George Jean Nathan

Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country, and this world.

— Sharon Salzberg

You've got to vote, vote, vote, vote. That's it; that's the way we move forward.

— Michelle Obama

The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it.

— John Lewis

There's no such thing as a vote that doesn't matter. It all matters.

— Barack Obama

An Elder or Deacon will be available to pray individually with anyone who desires prayer. Those in need of prayer can come forward for prayer during prayers of the people after the sermon. Say a special prayer for our sick and shut-ins & those in need of improvement in their health.



EVERY VOTE MATTERS

In this highly politicized and highly polarized time, many social justice issues and the elected officials who will advance them or harm them, face uncertain futures. America has a complex system of making important political decisions, which is centered around voting. Officials who are elected periodically need to be approved by voters. Other officials who are not elected are appointed and maintained by those who are elected.

Voting is something every citizen can do. Still only slightly more than half of eligible voters have voted in recent presidential elections. Even fewer, more like 40%, vote in other elections that staff city and state governments and the US congress.



Today America faces many crises in health care, policing, education, justice in the courthouse, workplace and marketplace as well as international relations, climate protection and wars. Everyone needs to be treated as first class citizens. The Bible calls us to do justice, as well as to care for those who have less. One way to do so is to vote to elect officials who will do justice, and to vote against those who do not.

So why do so few voters vote, particularly those whose communities are harmed by the actions of the persons who have been elected?

Many feel that it is not worth the effort and emotional engagement. They feel betrayal by candidates who pretend to care during election time but don't otherwise. They feel that one vote doesn't make a difference, that the system is gamed by voter suppression, gerrymandering, and the corrupting effects of campaign donations. Or that candidates promise anything and don't have to follow through. Some may feel that they can't leave jobs or children to vote on Election Day. Some may have lost their picture IDs, or have moved and not updated their registration. This year there is the additional fear of catching coronavirus while standing in line at the polling place.

All of these problems are significant, but they require voting for better candidates who will then be willing to fix them. Not voting is actually a vote for all the bad things that happen, things we can and are called to do something about.

So check online before October 5 to be sure you are registered and haven't been purged from the rolls. Call the board of election at (937) 225-5656. You can also check the Montgomery county Ohio board of elections website at <https://www.montgomery.boe.ohio.gov/>. Click "find polling place by name" and type your name in.

Consider a prompt request for an absentee ballot, which you can take to the board of elections and drop it in a box to be sure it gets there. Or go to the Board of Elections for early voting. Check on the candidates' records before voting, with help from the League of Women Voters' guide. Study those at the "bottom of the ticket" running for local office, who can make important decisions now and later may run for higher office. Beware of manipulative advertising campaigns, name calling and falsehoods, particularly from internet sites.

Notify the church staff if you need a ride to the Board of Elections. If you wish to go to the polls on Election Day, check the website ahead of time to be sure it hasn't been moved. If you need transportation to the Board of Elections, feel free to contact the church office.

Democracy works if people use their voting power wisely. As a nation we will get good candidates and good government if we deserve them by being responsible in voting. This election poses particularly significant choices. Please be sure to vote.

Social Justice and Peacemaking Ministry Unit, Stan Hirtle, Chair



**JOIN THE COLLEGE HILL TEAM
SUPPORT THE DAYTON CROP HUNGER WALKER OCTOBER 4**

Hunger rages on in our nation and world during the corona-virus pandemic. That makes the life-giving work of Church World Service and the Dayton Foodbank more vital than ever, as they combat poverty and hunger among our neighbors near and far.

Our Dayton Area CROP Hunger Walk, focused on Sunday, October 4, will be all-virtual in 2020.

If you want to sponsor one or more College Hill walkers or the whole team, use this link to make a secure online payment: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/daytonoh>.

Donations by check (made out to CWS/CROP) or cash are also welcome. Contact me to arrange for ways I can receive your gift. I will be glad to gather checks and cash on October 4 or on the Sundays around that date.



Jose Jones, Mac Lakes, Josephine Laury

When you do celebrate the October 4 CROP Walk—by yourself or with others—check out the Dayton CROP Walk Facebook page for a “send-off” video encouraging you in your journey with and for people who are hungry. Post photos of your walk to our Dayton Area CROP Hunger Walk Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/daytonareacrophungerwalk>.

Three-quarters of the funds raised go to Church World Service, and one-quarter stay here in Dayton for our Foodbank. Please remember: Each step you take, and each dollar you raise, is a prayer for a hunger-free world. Thank you!

Larry Hollar

ELECTION DEADLINES

Monday October 5th - deadline for voter registration and for updating your registration due to change in name or address.

Saturday, October 31st - Applications for absentee ballots for the November 3, 2020 general election must be received by the Board of Elections by noon (3 days before general election)

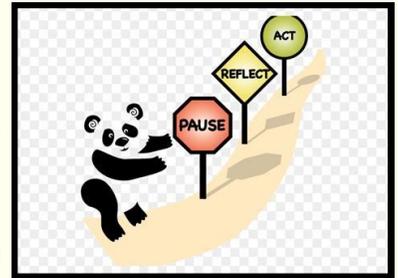
November 3rd - Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. Mail, must be received by the Board of Elections by the close of polls (7:30 PM). **VOTE!**

November 13th - Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail **must be postmarked no later than November 2nd** and received by the Boards of Elections by this date to be counted (10 days after general election)



Fast Reflections

Before beginning the special fall Lenten 40 fasting days, I had a conversation with one of my church friends regarding the choices of giving up something versus “taking on something.” Further thought on the subject led me to an understanding that in actuality there really is not a choice between the two. In fact, either choice involves something of the other. Forgoing something that brings you pleasure, or even trying to eliminate a bad habit, necessitates taking on stronger self-discipline, spending more time in prayer/Bible reading, and perhaps even meditation. And, of course, taking on a new endeavor or renewing a former commitment involves those same actions. Realizing this was one self-debate I didn’t need to continue freed me to focus my fast on seeking guidance for direction for our congregation as Ezra sought guidance in Ezra 8: 21-23. One series of my thoughts took me backwards to our declaring our church as a Matthew 25 church. Another to how we could become a greater active partner with Jose’s missionary work in the Congo, or wherever his eventual assignment is. Yet another to how we could re-intensify our involvement with elements of the Poor People’s Campaign, or how we could become more active in the current, ever so important, social-political issues rampant in our community and entire nation.



I am eager to hear from any of you who would like to share some of your pondering. Perhaps some of your thoughts might help me to discard, or refine my own. Please feel free to email or call me using the contact information in our church directory.

Co- Editor Pat Townsel

COLLEGE HILL CHURCH OFFICE HOURS



Monday 9 am - 1 pm

Wednesday 10 am - 1 pm

Thursday 11 am - 3 pm

NEED A RIDE TO VOTE?

If you need a ride to the polls on election day or to the Board of Elections to vote early, call Darlene Brookshire at (937) 654-7488

or

Jan Brecht at (937) 572-3706

or call the Church Office

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.



Join Us For World Wide Communion Sunday, October 4th.

Because we are in the middle of the Covid 19 pandemic, please bring your own juice and bread to the service.



Relief

One of the things I miss from our weekly printed worship bulletin is our “**Food For Thought**”. **Since I’m missing it, I suppose some of you might be doing the same. Therefore I am sharing with you a comforting reminder I received just this past third Sunday at the end of our youth Sunday School lesson.**

We have only had three youth Sunday school lessons since the beginning of the Pandemic, but all of the Pastor’s sermon, the teen lesson, and children’s lessons have coordinated without any preplanning or communication among the leaders involved. To me this is not just coincidence, but a reminder of something I firmly believe, and was relieved to apply to some of my current concerns. Greater reassurance was obtained by turning to scripture.

“Great leaders of nations have reigned and have been dethroned. And all the while, God has been in control. David prayed to the Lord, “Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reigns over all” (1 Chronicles 29:12). With the rise and fall of every world ruler, God has been in control.

May this anecdote be a blessing to you as well.

Co- Editor Pat Townsel

JUST BE — AND BE STILL

Various versions of the following sentiment are posted online: “I am a human being, not a human doing. It’s okay to just be sometimes.” Many of us get anxious if we think we’re not doing enough, but peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh insists it’s not a waste of time to just be: “To be alive, to be peaceful, to be joyful, to be loving ... is what the world needs most.”

During the pandemic, when people were urged to stay home to slow the virus’ spread, we had to think hard about how to continue being the church while limited in what we could go out and “do.” Yet church leaders reminded us that we were actually loving our neighbors by staying home — by being less active.

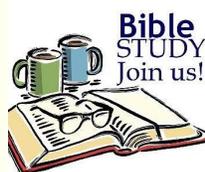
It’s sometimes okay — ideal, even — to just be. In quieting our bodies, minds and hearts, we may find ourselves more often in prayer, more aware of God’s presence and more nourished for when the time is right to again take up more active forms of ministry, peacemaking and love. “In quietness and trust is your strength” (Isaiah 30:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann, NewsletterNewsletter

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

You are encouraged to join
Pastor Worthen in Bible Study
every Wednesday at 7:00 PM
on Zoom

Meeting ID: 836 6634 1725
Passcode: 488366.



PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY - SUNDAY OCTOBER 11TH.

Pastor Appreciation Day occurs during Pastor Appreciation month (October). It celebrates the contributions of priests, pastors, reverends and ministers in the U.S

Even though Pastor Worthen has only been here for 3 months, you can celebrate her hard work in a number of different ways. Each member of the congregation can deliver the pastor a handwritten note; or create a video presentation made of pictures of the pastor in action over her first three month, or you can simply give one a heartfelt thanks. Of course, one of the most important ways to show you care is by assuring that you attend the service on this day and every Sunday. We are very thankful to have you at College Hill Pastor Worthen.



DEALING WITH GRIEF

Most of our church members have been contacted by now to complete a Communications Survey. If you have not, your call will be coming by the end of this week. Pastor Worthen wants to be certain the church has the correct contact information for our church members and friends, and the most effective ways of communicating with each one. She is grateful for all those who volunteered to help with this project.

One of the persons I contacted was Gaye Gerren. She and I had not spoken for a long time, so we had some catching up to do. One of the things she shared was that she has had a lot of stress this year due to losing her mother earlier, going through the Pandemic like all of us, and most recently having an auto accident where she was rear-ended by a hit and run driver. In our conversation, she mentioned the five stages of grief, and that all of us are probably going through myriad loss impacts of the COVID- 19 Pandemic. We discussed so much, but I was particularly moved by a statement regarding her mother, & requested permission to share it with our readers.

“My mother went through the 1918 Pandemic and experienced the current one before she died. In between, even with the various wars and depression and other difficult times, she had a wonderful life filled with joy. Thinking of my mother, I realize all things on this side are temporary. What we need to do now is recognize that we probably are in one or more stages of grief, but we do not have to stay stuck there. Instead, we should strive to get to the last stage of “acceptance,” and work on positively preparing ourselves to get to the other side of whatever we are experiencing. We do have choices, and one of those is “moving positively forward.”

I pray her thoughts prove helpful to you. You can find out more about grief stages at the website below.

Pat Townsel

Website for the Five Stages of Grief: <https://www.healthline.com/stages-of-grief>

GRIEF

DENIAL

ANGER

BARGAINING

DEPRESSION

ACCEPTANCE



Help us, the loss of Good Samaritan Hospital was never about too many beds, especially in the age of Covid-19, it was about race. It was about money. Premier Health Partners, Mayor Whaley and the City Commissioners, County Commissioners Rice, Lieberman and Dodge were all part of the continued divestment in West Dayton. Food desert, healthcare desert, housing desert. How can people have an opportunity to live a fulfilled life when they do not have the social structure that other communities are provided.

HELP US GET OUR HOSPITAL BACK!!!

NEW MONTHLY SCHEDULE:

Week 1: October 2nd
 Good Samaritan Hospital
 Corner of Salem and Philadelphia
 Friday 11:30am – 12:30pm

Week 2: October 7th
 Dayton City Hall
 101 W. 3rd and Ludlow St.
 Wednesday 6pm

Week 3: October 16th
 Premier Health Partners
 Downtown Dayton
 Corner N. Main St & 2nd St. Friday 11:30am – 12:30pm

Week 4: October 20th
 Montgomery County Administration Building
 451 W. 3rd. St. Tuesday 1:30pm

Week 5: Vote Early!

For more information contact:
 Bishop Richard Cox
 (937) 287-9353
 Nancy Kiehl
 (937) 422-4391

MEETINGS AND EVENTS DURING OCTOBER 2020

REGULAR MEETINGS

Every Sunday at 10:30 AM - **Church Service** (currently in the parking lot through the end of October. Or, join us for live-stream worship on our FB page – College Hill Community Church – PCUSA.

Every Sunday at 9:15 AM on Zoom. **Adult Sunday School**

Second and fourth Sunday during church service - **Children and Teens Sunday School**

Every Wednesday **Bible Study** – 7:00 PM on Zoom.

First and Third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM - **Session** – PM on zoom

Thursdays at 6:00 PM weekly - **Building and Grounds Committee Reopening of the Church Committee** – on zoom

SPECIAL EVENTS

Hispanic Heritage Month - September 15-October 15

October 4th **World Wide Communion**

Oct 4th - **Crop Walk**

October 5th - **deadline for voter registration**

October 5th - Board of Elections starts **mailing Absentee Ballots**

October 31st - **last day Absentee Ballot may be requested**

November 2nd - **last day Absentee Ballots may be post marked**. You may drop them off at the Board of Elections on Election Day

November 3rd - **VOTE**



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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.