



COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH PCUSA

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

1547 Philadelphia Dr.
Dayton, OH 45406
(937)278-4203

Web – collegehillcommunitychurch.org
Email collegehillcommunitychurch@gmail.com
Church Office Open – 10am – 2pm T,W,Th

Worship: 10:30 am or on Facebook at [College Hill Community Church - Dayton](#)
Spanish translation available.

Adult Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9:15 via zoom. Join in!

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82769720335?pwd=WEJxb1hPcENpb1JmL3VyT0lxOEVxdz09>

Meeting ID: 827 6972 0335

Passcode: 572995

One tap mobile +16469313860,,82769720335#,,,,*572995# US

DECEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR

Dec. 3: Rev. Dr. Charles D. Tinsley, IV

HOPE

Dec. 10: Rev. Tinsley

PEACE

Dec. 17: Ruling Elder Alice McCollum, former Moderator, Presbytery of the Miami Valley

JOY

Dec. 24: Rev. Tinsley
(Social Justice & Peacemaking Service)

LOVE

Dec. 31: Rev. Tinsley

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Dec. 3 – Harriet Merritt

Dec. 4 - Delfina Campuzano

Dec. 16 – Richard Martinez

Dec. 16 – Melanie Monzon

Dec. 16 – MackArthur Lakes, Sr.

Dec. 21 – Carole Estelle

Dec. 23 – Earl Thompson

Dec. 23 – Shirley Dixon

Dec. 28 - Angela Camacho



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

DECEMBER 3 – DECEMBER 24, 2023

The **Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

\$1.1 million in gifts from 2022 - are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need

272 individuals helped - assisted retired church workers and surviving spouses

223 recipients - Could afford to stay in their homes, assisted living, or long-term care

621 Emergency Assistant Grants - helped people facing economic hardship

Glve to the Christmas Joy Offering!



Poem Christmas greeting from NL Editors:

On a dark starry night so many years ago
A lowly babe was born destined as one the world would come to know
As Jesus our friend, brother, Savior and King
Of His life, teaching, love and sacrifice, through the ages His praises we yet sing.

May you have all the joys of the Christmas season as you honor Christ's birth in worship and celebration with family and friends,

Pat Townsel and Kathy Lakes, CHCC Newsletter Co-Editors

Services for our brother in Christ, Marvin Griffin, are Tuesday, December 5th

Visitation: 11:00 am

Service: 11:30 am H.H. Roberts Mortuary 38 S. Gettysburg Ave. Dayton, OH 45417

Interment will be at the VA National Cemetery- immediately following

A memorial service for our sister in Christ, Gerry Thompson, will be January 6, 2024. More details to come.



Stan Hirtle – Social Justice and Peacemaking

The Christmas season is often intertwined with peace. Isaiah says “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be

endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.”

Luke’s angels tell the shepherds ““Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among all” [The Greek word “eudokias” which follows, is sometimes translated “Those whom he favors!” which could imply there are some God does not favor and who don’t get peace. Or it may mean “with whom he is pleased” meaning that God is pleased because of peace. The King James Version just says, “peace to all men” and the New RSV refers to other ancient authorities saying, “peace and goodwill among people.” Whatever the translation, the angels are saying that God values and desires Peace.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus says, “blessed are the peacemakers”. John’s Jesus says “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. Paul says in Romans, “love one another with mutual affection . . . Live in harmony with one another; Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. “

Our image of Christmases in the Northern hemisphere often features the peace of a cold, silent night with stars overhead, calm and bright. However, the world of today’s headlines and internet news does not seem joyful or peaceful. Hurt, anger, conflict, payback and division are found in church congregations and denominations, political leaders and followers, the minds of mass shooters, and wars that are killing soldiers and civilians in Israel/Palestine, Ukraine and numerous other places in the world.

A song we have sung at Christmas time, in both English and Spanish, is “I heard the bells on Christmas Day.”

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men
And in despair I bowed my head:
“There is no peace on earth,” I said,
“For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor does he sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.”

Let this song and these verses remind us, in the midst of a pain inflicted world and community, that God is not asleep, and that God calls us to keep our spirits up, filled with the beauty and love of the season, to share that with others, and to work to make a world of peace a reality.



OLD FRIENDS AND PARTNERS

At times interruptions in relationships cause a distance that is never overcome. Thankfully that is not the case between St. Margaret Episcopal Church and our church through Presbyterian Men. Yes, COVID caused us to cancel our joint Golf Outing fundraiser, but now with that obstacle weakened, our strong, long-lasting partnership is ready to strike the ball (golf ball that is) again.

At this point, we have just been testing the waters and have met only one or two times. Like us, they too have lost some of their volunteers. As for us, we only have two current volunteers, Nelson Stone and me. The question arises whether we can procure enough to justify our participation.

Generally speaking, we need people to help secure donations for swag bags for all participants, contacting prospective donors, helping to assemble the bags, and volunteering at the registration table the day of the event. Believe me, all of it is done in a spirit of friendship and fun so you have a treat as you get a job done.

Please contact me, Lee Townsel, if you have questions, or need more details before you commit to taking part. My contact information is 937-832-1293.

I look forward to hearing from you and guarantee you will not regret becoming involved.

Evening Bible Study - Wednesdays, via Zoom. - 6:30 pm

Rev. Charles Tinsley will lead us from the PCUSA Advent series, "Illuminating Advent."
Time: Every Wednesday - 6:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83351711401?pwd=b1NTVzRpL09pZVpGcmdNV3REdDIRUT09>

Meeting ID: 833 5171 1401

Passcode: 974153

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,83351711401#,,,,*974153# US

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR LIFE IN FAITH – a column for shared stories of faith walks

Most of us have experienced receiving an unexpected message of encouragement, love, and support at a time when we desperately need it. That increased heartbeat, that smile that spreads across your mouth, that sparkle that appears in your eyes, and that beginning of happy tears are so comforting, uplifting, and joyful. Also, those feelings are magnified if the source of the message is from someone unknown to you, but part of your family. In fact, the joy you feel can't be kept to yourself alone but cries out to be shared with as many others as possible. The letter that follows this paragraph certainly falls into that category. May the blessings that come with it be the ones that help strengthen and inspire you along your faith journey. Hopefully one of the greatest blessings will be the confirmation that PCUSA is not a creation of unrelated hierarchical entities, but parts of a body, a family, with some different functions, but still inextricably linked by God's greater commandment of love for God and for others.

Nov. 19, 2023

Dear College Hill friends,

We watched your online worship service of November 19 with interest and appreciation. In her sermon, the Rev. Angela Schenck told the congregation, "Praise God for that ministry and mission (of College Hill) and for the members of this congregation who continue to give of their first fruits of time, talent, energy, and financial resources." (Yes, indeed, praise God!)

In her excellent "Stewardship Moment" Pat Townsel said that the theme of this year's stewardship campaign is "Stewardship in a Time of Uncertainty." She went on to say, "Our stewardship campaign is based upon some certainties that we have. We know that God is in control. We know that God has our goodness plan for us. We know that God has expectations for us, and we know God gave us the responsibility, the opportunity, the privilege to be stewards."

This is a time of uncertainty for College Hill, but you can be strengthened by the faithfulness of your members who trust in God to help your church through this difficult time and into a bright new future.

As fellow Presbyterians we want to express our support and offer our encouragement. College Hill has a rich heritage as a significant Presbyterian church in the Dayton community and has long been a beacon of hope. Please accept our enclosed second gift of the year as a further expression of our confidence in you and know that we are praying for your church and its members.

Don and Jackie Nowak

Beavercreek, Ohio

CROP HUNGER WALK TOTALS EXCEED EXPECTATIONS – by Larry Hollar

The 17 faith communities that took part in the 2023 Dayton Area CROP Hunger Walk held on October 8 raised **\$10,230** to support Church World Service and the Dayton Foodbank. Of that total, **\$1,647** was received from College Hill members and friends, as our church topped the donor list once again this year. Among the College Hill walkers, Gladys Turner Finney raised the greatest amount again in 2023, with Brenda Brown following close behind and Darlene Brookshire, Mack Lakes, Susie Grierson, and Larry Hollar submitting admirable sums for the team's total. Thanks so much to all those who generously supported our wonderful CROP Walk effort again this year!

BACH SOCIETY HOLIDAY CONCERT COMING SOON!

The Bach Society of Dayton's festive holiday concert is Sunday, December 3, at 4:00 pm at the Kettering Adventist Church, 3939 Stonebridge Rd., Kettering. "Sweet Sounds of the Holidays" features the Kettering Children's Choir Chorale, the Kettering Advent Ringers, and audience sing-along carols joining in joyful seasonal music. To order tickets or for more information, go to <https://bachsocietyofdayton.org/concerts/de-c-2023>.

COLLEGE HILL CHURCH SEEKS CHOIR DIRECTOR/KEYBOARD PLAYER

The Session in November approved a search to fill a Choir Director and Keyboard Player position to provide musical support for our Sunday services and other church events. If you know of potential candidates, please talk to either Larry Hollar (Worship & Music) or Brenda Peters (Personnel) to receive a copy of the job description. We ask for your prayers that the Lord will send us quality candidates to play the piano and to encourage congregational and choral singing as together we lift lively voices in praise to our God.

Larry Hollar, Chairperson, Worship & Music

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS FROM REV. DR. CHARLES D. TINSLEY, IV

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

We celebrate and rejoice every day, each day that God has made and blessed in spite of all that is going on around us, despite our struggle to comprehend the vicissitudes of life. Still, more often than not, we come up short on an explanation of so much that is occurring in our midst.

We frequently, maybe routinely, wonder just how in the world things can seem so hopeless at times, given all the pain, the suffering and the disappointment around us. Through it all, even in midst of all the chaos and death and destruction about us, we hold fast on the word of God as shared in Isaiah 41:10. Even as we sometimes journey in this life up the rough side of the mountain, we know and trust in the very depth of our being that our loving God is right there with us.

That same omnipresent and omnipotent God carries us when we get tired and worn out from the struggle; toting us when we are weary from our walk through the storm. Jesus invites us in Matthew 11:28 to come when we are weary and carrying heavy burdens and he will give us rest.

Life is a wonderful and magnificent gift of God. Let us celebrate and give thanks to God for the opportunity to be here, and with God's divine and gracious help, to live life fearlessly and abundantly.

TWO WAYS TO GIVE TO CHCC

Servant Keeper Electronic Giving has been creating some issues. Until further notice, I&S asks you to give one of two ways to College Hill—in the offering plate on Sundays or mail your offering to CHCC, 1547 Philadelphia Dr., Dayton, OH 45406. Thank you, and we will update you as we work on the issues with Servant Keeper.

FROM OUR AV CREW

We have been experiencing technical issues during worship services. In order to address them we would appreciate it if everyone would turn their cellular devices off or place them in Airplane mode. The church's bandwidth is not capable of accommodating the additional services. Please see Ivy Young with questions.

SAVE YOUR STAMPS

Please save your Forever Stamps and stamps with postage amount from letters received. The stamps should be cut 1/4" on each side. **Stamps may be given to Gladys Turner Finney**

SAVE AND REUSE

Thanks to all who donated almost 2 gallons of pop top tabs to Ronald McDonald's House. Keep on saving! We continue to collect used eyeglasses, cell phones, stamps, can tabs, plastic tops/ lids and pill bottles (labels removed). We are beginning to collect old blankets and mattress covers (for sleeping bags), notepads/cards, 2024 calendars and egg cartons. **NO NEED TO WASTE. Give items to Darlene Brookshire**



STEWARDSHIP IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY – GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.

Remember that giving is not only a financial pledge, but a pledge of time and talent. Fill out a pledge card found in the church pews and place it the offering plate. And consider volunteering to help keep College Hill Community Church PCUSA vital and focused on serving God!