



COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH – PCUSA

JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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Dayton, OH 45406
(937)278-4203

Web – collegehillcommunitychurch.org
Email - collegehillcommunitychurch@gmail.com
Church Office Open – 10am – 1pm T, W, TH

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

JANUARY CALENDAR

January 5 – Communion/First Fruits
Three Kings Celebration

January 12 – Ordination & Installation of
officers

January 19 – Youth Sunday
Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration

January 26 – Birthdays celebrated

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Michael Hulbert – 1/1
Queen Thornton-Peters – 1/1
Susie Grierson – 1/5
Clarissa Moore – 1/7
Marcus Johnson – 1/14
Andrea Hirtle – 1/15
Emilia Zagal – 1/16
Charlie Phillips – 1/18
Kevin Bleicher – 1/20
Rosalyn Givens – 1/20
Diann Harris – 1/28

The AC is holding an elder & deacon training session on Saturday, January 11, 2025 in Fellowship Hall – 9am-11am. Ordination & Installation of officers is on Sunday, January 12, 2025.

SPECIAL PRAYERS - Prayers for the Givens family, for Brenda Brown, for Pamela Byrd, for Shannon & Carole Estelle and Carole's brother, for Larry Hollar & his sister; prayers for Sandra

March, Harriet Merritt, the Monzon family, Nelson Stone, the Zagal family, and all of our members who watch from home for various reasons.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS



Adult Sunday School is back at College Hill-- 9:15 to 10:00 am via zoom. See the link below. The link is also found on our College Hill website collegehillcommunitychurch.org.

Hope to see you. Stan Hirtle

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82868405334?pwd=6dk0CSrALrm8JYSvqM3hUD3CecWNfA.1>



The 2025 wall calendar has been placed in the church office.

Please write your events, times, and area of the church to be used on the dates you would like to reserve. This helps other ministries plan. You may also call the church office and ask for the volunteer to pencil in items on this calendar. Building use is also reserved through Dan Peters, chair, Building & Grounds ministry.

Attention Ministry Leaders: Your ministry annual report is due to Gene Saunders by Sunday, January 19, 2025. The blank report form has been sent to your email and a paper copy is in the forms stand outside of the church office.

College Hill Community Church Online contribution link:

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/chcc-dayton-oh/member/login>. Sign In/Up and follow the prompts. Be sure to designate your payment method, preferably a checking account. Contact Ivy Young with any questions.

Please help yourselves to items on the Matthew 25 table in Fellowship Hall. Items are free for the taking, and are restocked weekly.



Kings Day Celebration on Sunday, January 5, 2025

Make sure you plan to be in worship on Sunday, January 5, during our Epiphany celebration and the special Three Kings Day (El Dia de los Reyes Magos) enactment welcoming the Magi visitors from afar bringing gifts to the Christ Child. This Hispanic observance will include a moment for mission during the service and an after-worship gathering in Fellowship Hall for traditional sharing of customary snacks and special gifts for the young people presented by the Magi themselves. Join us, everyone!

College Hill Community Church
peace 
social justice

January 19th

MLK Sunday discussion

What can we do, in light of the rhetoric of the entering administration, to promote peace and fight for social justice in America today?

CHCC Fellowship Hall, immediately following worship service.

THE FUTURE OF JUSTICE & WHAT TO DO IN THE COMING MONTHS – by Stan Hirtle

“Hear the word of the Lord, O king of Judah sitting on the throne of David—you, and your servants, and your people who enter these gates. 3 Thus says the Lord: Act with justice and righteousness and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place. 4 For if you will indeed obey this word, then through the gates of this house shall enter kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on

horses—they, their servants, and their people. 5 But if you will not heed these words, I swear by myself, says the Lord, that this house shall become a desolation.” Jeremiah 22, 2-5.

The 2024 election results were a blow to the reality of justice. Donald Trump won an undisputable victory, if with less than half of the votes cast. Trump has not been a candidate of justice. His personal history shows consistent untruth, self-seeking and abuse, conviction of crimes with little dispute as to the facts, and inciting a violent attack on the capital to prevent a previous loss. Trump himself is also part of a movement, funded by the richest of the rich, who are also owners of the most powerful news media, talk radio and internet sites, and which generate anger and anxiety over cultural differences and then divide to conquer, focusing attention on threatening enemies who they promise to dominate.

This movement also contains strands of Christian movements who have come to see Trump and his methods as the agents of a just and powerful God. The movement has studied and adopted tactics of authoritarian movements from the past.

Trump and his movement have made their desires and path clear. His movement is in power, chosen by a majority of the choosers. We all have the capacity to do good and to fall short, and many who selected this course had good intentions in doing so. Others not so much.

It is hard to attribute the votes and non-votes to particular reasons: The price of groceries, the memories of COVID, a loss of security, status and control, horrible wars, disrespectful elitist professors, the qualities of the incumbent President and his successor candidate, her gender and ethnicity, her smile, how she was chosen, fear of being overwhelmed by immigrants, trans-gender people and others who are different, a desire for an idealized past, pre-Covid, pre 1960s, pre 1860s. Perhaps something deeper: a libidinal desire to dominate one’s perceived enemies, or a long-standing human reaction to anxiety through tribal community, hope and submission. Or perhaps our desire “to shake loose the surly bonds of civilized conduct: to make science irrelevant and rationality optional, to render truth obsolete, to set power free to roam the world, to lift all the core conditions written into the social contract—fealty to reason, skepticism about instincts, aspirations to justice.” (Gary Greenberg). Trump has a special ability to reach these feelings, to persuade and to sell.

What does the Lord require of us in response? Micah says do justice, love kindness and walk humbly. Jesus and Paul say to love one another as God loves all of us, despite

differences and grievances. A majority of our community has chosen a leader who does none of these things. Instead to seek domination. Seek riches. Seek privilege. Seek submission and accommodation. Create anxiety. Create anger. Show arrogance. Reward obedience. Punish opposition. Say or do whatever it takes to get what you want.

What are we to do when, if as expected, bad things happen? Is there a pendulum to push back, and perhaps even get it to keep going further?

We can:

- Do the right thing, even if some others do not. Follow the golden rule. Do not be abusive, condescending, or degrading even if you feel others are. Pray on how to reach the good in others, often matters of feelings as well as facts. Seek to overcome evil with good. Study the examples of MLK, Ghandi and others.
- Speak truth, as you understand it, to power. Consider the risks and sacrifices and the need to accept some.
- Build and support positive institutions. Complex societies of easily abused people require guard rails to protect against abuse. Information should be vetted for accuracy. Excessive repetition, paid for by excessive wealth, should not create advantage. Support media that is honest, discusses differences respectfully, and shares truth wherever it is found. Work to oppose devices that value some people over others. Support a rule of law that applies to all and make it just.
- Support sharing wealth and responsibility without excess. Everyone should have enough. Housing, health care, food, economic security should be divided much more evenly. Do not accept corruption and economic injustice.
- Act with kindness toward those around you, whoever they are, whatever their social status and whoever they voted for.
- Feel any anger, disappointment, and depression. Care for yourself. Find beauty in people, art and nature. Find community with others. Seek hope.
- Study the actions and teachings of Jesus concerning love, goodness and power. Do your best to follow.

Social Justice and Peacemaking urges all to continue the discussion and to share their feelings and thoughts on these pages, and in to join in discussions of the future of justice starting on MLK Sunday.



Presbytery of the Miami Valley

January 2025 Prayer List

5 January Jamestown Presbyterian Church, 61 West Washington Street, Jamestown. Pastor Michael Helling.

12 January First Presbyterian Church, 2910 Central Avenue, Middletown. Pastor Justin Miller

19 January St. Luke Presbyterian Church, 280 North Breiel Blvd., Middletown. Pastor Richard Sedgwick

26 January One Community Church, 57 West Elm Street, Monroe. Pastor Steve Copeland and Pastor Vaughn Lewis

2 February Honey Creek Presbyterian Church, 212 West Jefferson Street, New Carlisle. Pastor Lynn Bova

The Presbytery group we ask you to pray for during the month of January is the Presbytery staff:

The Rev. Terry Kukuk, Executive Presbyter; **The Rev. Lynn Bova**, Stated Clerk; **Ivy Young**, Treasurer; **Kat Millhouse**, Bookkeeper; and **Don Nowak**, Website and Communications.

Lord God, You alone are worthy of all our praise. Before the world began, You were in every moment and every place. You are, and always will be. As we stand at the beginning of a new year we need Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future. In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love. Thank you for making all things new and giving us the grace of fresh starts and new beginnings.

– Billy Graham

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

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.**

The Usher Team Can Use Your Help

If you are interested in volunteering on Sundays at College Hill, the Worship & Music Usher Team can use your help. Ushers are asked to report at 10 am on the date they have signed up for, and will be properly trained beforehand by Larry Hollar, ministry chair. Speak with ushers Judy McCray, Mack Lakes or Linda Jones if you would like to serve as an usher.

1 Peter 4:10 - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

December Highlights for Worship & Music Committee

At our Dec. 17 committee meeting, we:

--Learned that Rev. Tinsley is willing to continue to preach for us on a month-to-month basis into 2025, for which we are very grateful. We also learned that session is planning an ordination/installation service for new officers on Sunday, Jan. 12, during worship.

--Began worship planning for the period through April 2025, covering Black History Month, recognizing women's contributions, as well as Lent and Easter. Details will follow. Anthony Davis is planning music programs, including forming a choir that sang in Advent.

--Are actively working to rearrange the sanctuary, including moving the piano.

Worship during January 2025

Rev. Tinsley continues as our preacher each Sunday in January

January 5, 2025 2nd Sunday of Christmas

John 1:1-18, Sermon: “All things came into being through him”; Communion, First Fruits Offering,

Epiphany Three Kings traditional celebration during and after worship

January 12, 2025 Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, Sermon: “Beloved, with you I am well pleased”

Possible ordination/installation service for newly-elected officers

January 19, 2025 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Sermon: “Varieties of gifts but the same Spirit”; Observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday and legacy after worship

January 26, 2025 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Sermon: “...body is one and has many members”

Recognize January birthdays

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY RETURNS

Weekly Bible Study lead by Rev. Tinsley will return Wednesday, January 8, 2025, from 6:30-7:30 pm. All are welcome to join in! The zoom link is on our church website and will be sent to your email each week. Why study the Bible? To receive direction, to find answers to prayer, to be strengthened and to be nourished in your faith.

A NOTE FROM DIONE BENSON, DIRECTOR OF DAYTON SCHOLARS

Dear Leaders of College Hill Community Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of the Dayton Scholars Program, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you and the congregation for opening your doors and allowing us to operate our afterschool program at College Hill Community Presbyterian Church. Your generosity in sharing your space has been

instrumental in creating a safe and nurturing environment where our students can learn, grow, and thrive.

Your church has provided more than just a physical location—it has offered a welcoming and supportive atmosphere that embodies the spirit of community and service. The impact of this collaboration has been profound, as it has enabled us to provide essential resources such as homework assistance, enriching STEM activities, socio-emotional learning projects, and nutritious meals to the children in our program.

We are inspired by your commitment to serving the community and deeply appreciate your partnership in helping us empower the youth of Dayton. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of these students and their families.

Please extend our thanks to the entire congregation for their support and prayers. We look forward to continuing this meaningful partnership and exploring new ways to positively impact our community.

Thank you once again for your kindness and for believing in the mission of Dayton Scholars.

With gratitude,

Dione Benson, Director, Dayton Scholars Program

