



COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH – PC(USA) DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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

Worship: 10:30 am or on Facebook at [College Hill Community Church - Dayton](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeHillCommunityChurchDayton) (Spanish interpretation available.)

DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 7 – Communion, First Fruit
Advent - PEACE

December 14 – **Advent - JOY**

December 21 – Youth Sunday – Christmas
Presentation, Christmas Joy Offering
Advent - LOVE

December 24 – **Christmas Eve** Service –
Lessons & Carols 7pm

December 25 – **Christmas Day**

December 28 -
Kwanza Observance – Fellowship Hall

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Chante' Johnson – 12/01
MackArthur Lakes – 12/16
Melanie Monzon – 12/16
Richard Martinez – 12/16
Carole Estelle – 12/21
Shirley Dixon – 12/23
Earl Thompson – 12/23
Michael Love – 12/28



Isaiah 9:6: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

FIRST FRUIT OFFERING THANKS!



Dear Friends at College Hill, On behalf of the thousands of families we assist each year in partnership with our 122 partner agencies, we extend our greatest gratitude for your recent contribution of \$201.35. Your belief in our mission to ‘Eliminate hunger and its root causes’ ensures that thousands of local families will have dinner on the table tonight.

In Partnership, Michelle L. Riley, CEO, The Foodbank

THANKS! FROM ROSA PARKS EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Dear Friends at College Hill Community Church,



Thank you so much for the generous donation of books and good behavior prizes for our students. We especially thank you for the donation of candy for our Trunk or Treat event! We had a fantastic turn out for Trunk or Treat with over 300 trick or treaters. We will send over pictures soon.

Thank you for always being in our corner!

Sincerely,
Celeste Hoerner, RPELC Principal

HARRIET MERRITT, Long-Time Member of College Hill

Deacons Marj Baker and Pat Townsel have shared that long-time member, Harriet Herritt, passed away on October 28th. While we had not seen Harriet in worship with us for a long time, she was never forgotten.

"I'm glad to have called Harriet a friend. She will be missed." Kathy Lakes

"Harriet has been one of College Hill's blessings and is truly missed. She participated in Older Kids and was our go-to-person for crochet. She was also instrumental in helping with financial counting of contributions on Sundays. She could always be found assisting with Fellowship activities at church and took great joy at being the Bingo announcer during Fun nights. I never heard her say no when she was asked for assistance. Rest in peace, Harriet." Carlyn Miller



December 2025 Worship Plans

Sunday, December 7, 2025: 2nd Sunday of Advent, Communion Sunday; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12. Sermon: "... full of the knowledge of the Lord," Communion, First Fruits Offering, Advent wreath lighting (Peace), Baptism.

Sunday, December 14, 2025: 3rd Sunday of Advent; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11. Sermon: "...it shall be called the Holy Way." Advent wreath lighting (Joy), Welcome of confirmation class participants to church membership. Moment for Mission on Christmas Joy Offering, which will be taken up next Sunday.

Sunday, December 21, 2025: 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Joy Offering; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25. Sermon: "...Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Advent wreath lighting (Love), Christmas Joy offering taken up, Youth Sunday, Time for Children in worship, Youth Christmas Presentation.

Wednesday, December 24, 2025, Christmas Eve: Lessons and Carols Service, with Communion. 7:00 pm A service of traditional Scripture readings and beloved carols, this year including communion. Organized by Social Justice & Peacemaking Ministry.

Sunday, December 28, 2025: First Sunday of Christmas; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23. Sermon: "...recount the gracious deeds of the Lord." Recognize December birthdays, Kwanzaa observance after worship in Fellowship Hall.

TWICE WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Weekly Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and Fridays at 1pm. The zoom link to participate may be found in your email or on our College Hill Community Church website. The study focus will be Advent. All are welcome to learn from the materials and to share your thoughts in the discussions!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING



Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, PCUSA lifts up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. The Christmas Joy Offering provides support for

Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. We ask you to give to the Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday, December 21.

Worship and Music Committee Highlights from November 2025

At last month's shortened meeting on November 11, your Worship & Music Committee:

--Approved its 2026 budget request.

--Made worship plans from November through February 2026. For details, see Worship Plans elsewhere in this newsletter. **College Hill has accepted the opportunity to host the Collaborative Congregations group in a Lenten Worship Service on February 22, 2026, at 2:00 pm.**

--Noted that we are continuing a search for a piano accompanist for our services. Advent began on November 30, and each of the four Sundays of Advent will feature an Advent wreath candle-lighting by a church family as well as seasonal music. The first Sunday of Advent featured a "Hanging of the Greens" focus, while later Sundays will include Communion, Baptisms, welcoming a group of confirmands to membership, a special offering, and a Youth Christmas presentation. **Christmas Eve on Dec. 24 will feature a Lessons and Carols** format with Scripture and songs, which over the years has been a valued tradition at College Hill. We hope this Advent journey will be spiritually deep and meaningful for you as we await the coming of our Savior.

Coming Soon--Bach Society Holiday Concert



Get ready now to attend the Bach Society of Dayton's "Sweet Sounds of the Holidays" concert on Sunday, December 7, at 4:00 pm at the Kettering Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 3939 Stonebridge Rd. This beloved concert again features seasonal favorites by the Bach Society chorus, the Kettering Children's Choir Chorale, and the Kettering Advent Ringers. There will also be world premieres of the two winning entries in the 4th annual Young Composers Competition. For information and tickets, see <https://bachsocietyofdayton.org/concerts>.

CHRISTMAS FOR MARY SCOTT NURSING HOME

Elam Public Relations Ministry will be sharing gift bags from College Hill Community Church on Friday, December 19, at 2pm at Mary Scott. **We have already purchased:** socks, ChapStick, toothbrushes, word search puzzle books, pencils, pencil sharpeners, blank journals, and a small bag of popcorn. The ChapStick will be personalized with College Hill information, and we will also include a signed Christmas card for each resident. There are currently 39 men and 36 women or 75 in total. If you would like to participate in the Christmas joy by donating, please consider **small personal hygiene items or candy treats**. Donations should be brought to the church by Thursday, December 18. Speak with Chairperson Brenda Peters with any questions.



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in various forms." 1Peter 4:10 (NIV)

God encourages us to be good stewards of the gifts that we have received. Our Stewardship Campaign began in November. In the coming weeks, you will hear more from us. We realize these are challenging times, but the Bible tells us: "you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2Corinthians 9:7).

From your Session

KWANZAA – Dec. 26 – Jan. 1

(information taken from officialkwanzaawebsite.org)

Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African-American culture from December 26, 2025, to January 1, 2026, culminating in a communal feast called *Karamu*, usually on the sixth day. It was created by activist Maulana Karenga based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of West, East, as well as Southeast Africa. Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966.

History of Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a holiday tradition based on the “first harvest” celebrations in Africa. In recorded history, these first harvest celebrations can be traced back to Nubia and Egypt and can be found in cultures all over Africa. While many of these first-fruit celebrations may differ from one society to another, they all have a few principles in common. These principles include people gathering together to celebrate, acknowledging the creator and thanking him for his blessings, a commemoration of the past, a re-commitment to African cultural thought, and a time to celebrate community.



The Seven Principles:

Umoja (Unity): Striving for and maintaining unity in the family and the community.

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination): Defining oneself and speaking for oneself.

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility): Building and maintaining a community and making our brothers' and sisters' problems our own and solving them together.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics): Building and maintaining our businesses for ourselves and each other.

Nia (Purpose): To build and develop our collective communities together.

Kuumba (Creativity): To do whatever we can to leave our communities more beautiful than when we inherited them.

Imani (Faith): To believe with our hearts in our people, our families, and the righteousness of our struggle.

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW - by José LaMont Jones

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?...



In this advent season...as we contemplate not only our need of a savior and celebrate God's gift to humanity in the person of Jesus the Christ, we must not over lament what is wrong with our current society. These wrongs are just part of the plan; the ultimate destruction of the life man has constructed (in his own image) leading to God's, new

Kingdom to come. Do not be discouraged. God is with us: Emmanuel!

The plan that God put in motion by sending Jesus, transcends time, language and culture. The true miracle of God's message to us is that the truths of the Gospel are forever and for all. There are those who can separate culture and place from the message of the Gospel...I am **NOT** one of them. As I said: the truth of the Gospel is forever and for all; relevant and applicable to all.

The day after Christmas begins the celebration of the cultural holiday of Kwanzaa. While not a religious holiday, Kwanzaa emphasizes that we meditate on those best-practices that have allowed African peoples to not only survive but thrive around the world in the diaspora. Many of these pre-biblical ethical standards are found in the Old and New Testament texts. Oh that today's "Christians" would work toward UNITY, COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY, PURPOSE AND FAITH, to name a few of the principles of Kwanzaa. The world would be a much better place!

As you celebrate the arrival of the baby Jesus, ask yourself what that means to you. How should you react and respond to such a valuable gift from God? My exhortation is that you do not divorce the faith you proclaim from your words, your actions and your thoughts. God is watching...God is protecting...God is caring for us according to the promises of God's word. May we dedicate the year 2026 to living out the precepts of the scriptures by focusing, at least, on the principles of Kwanzaa. May we be a germ of hope and an example of Godly living for the same.

His eye is on the sparrow...and I know God watches me and you!

UPDATE ON DARLENE BROOKSHIRE – by Deacon Diann Harris

On Saturday, November 22, I once again visited long-time member Darlene Brookshire at Miami Valley Hospital. When I got there, Darlene's daughter, niece, and granddaughter

were visiting. Her daughter Myra asked her, “Mom, do you know who this is?” Darlene answered, “Yes, that’s my deacon, Diann Harris.” As I visited, Darlene told me she liked my new haircut (which I had gotten cut that morning) and said that she preferred her hair cut short, too. Every time I visit Darlene, she clearly continues to show positive progress. Visiting Darlene was a joyous moment!

REMINDER FROM OUR TREASURER

College Hill Community Church Treasure, Ivy Young, kindly reminds you to please deposit or cash a check you receive from CHCC soon after you have received it. There is a 90-day limit on checks, and the check will not be accepted by the bank if it is presented to the bank after the 90-day date.

Dayton CROP Walk Again Reaches Great Results!



The Dayton Area CROP Hunger Walk, raising funds for Church World Service and the Dayton Foodbank, achieved its second highest donation total in at least the last ten years during the October 12, 2025, walk at Shiloh UCC Church in Dayton.

The 2025 walk overall raised a total more than \$14,200, with some donations still arriving as of this date. Twenty churches and faith groups took part in the walk, sending walkers to step out and/or providing checks, cash, or online donations to support the effort. College Hill Community Church did its usual fantastic job raising funds, with more than \$1,600 credited to our church, ranking College Hill third among the participating churches. Gladys Turner Finney again led the way at our church with some \$700 in individual and group donations credited to her hard work. Each of the other walkers—Mack Lakes, Darlene Brookshire, James Allen, and Larry Hollar—also did well in receiving hundreds of dollars in life- giving donations to help combat global and local hunger and poverty. Thanks to all who took part this year!

THANK YOU FROM LLOYD JONES - Long-time, and almost 100-years-old, CHCC Lloyd Jones would like to thank everyone who has come to visit him. The visits are appreciated!



May spirits of hope, peace, joy and love be as a wreath encircling you and yours during this season of reverence, and celebration of God's precious gift -the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior our, King.

Merry Christmas! from Presbyterian Women

Darlene Brookshire, Paula Ewers, Kathy Lakes, Carlyn Miller, Pat Townsel

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.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Those worshipping online are welcome to send your offering by mail directly to College Hill Church, [1547 Philadelphia Drive, Dayton, OH 45406](#) or On-Line contributions are available as follows:

Website:

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/chcc-dayton-oh/member/login>. Sign In/Up and follow the prompts.

SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS



Worship & Music has ordered 10 poinsettias for the sanctuary. If you would like to purchase one or more of these poinsettias to take with you on December 21 they are \$14.45 each. Speak with Kathy Lakes if you would like to purchase one. Checks are made out to College Hill Community Church with "poinsettias" noted.