



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

**1547 Philadelphia Dr.
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](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeHillCommunityChurch/) (Spanish interpretation available.)

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

November 2 – Communion, First Fruit
Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers

November 9 -

November 16 – Youth Sunday

November 23 – Christ the King Sunday
Communion served by Intinction
Youth Sunday

November 30 – First Sunday of Advent -
LOVE, Hanging of the Greens Service

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/10 - Lee Townsel
11/12 - Lee Benson
11/12 - Elizabeth Johnson
11/20 - Linda Jones
11/24 - Marvella Lambright
11/28 - Shannon Estelle
11/29 - Jameca Jones
11/20 - Karen Cassedy-Hollar



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – Sunday, November 2

Plan to remain following worship for a short congregational meeting on November 2 to elect officers. The slate being presented by the Nominating Committee is: Elders – Brenda Brown, Jose’ Jones; Deacons – Mack Lakes, Bernetha Pulliam; 2026 Nominating Committee – Darlene Brookshire, Judy McCray, and Earl Thompson.

RIDE TO VOTE OFFERED

Social Justice and Peacemaking will drive anyone who requests it to the polls to vote either on Sunday, November 2 for early voting at the Board of Elections after the service, or on election day Tuesday, November 4 at your precinct. Contact Stan Hirtle after church or at 937-278-2483. If you would like to review the candidates and the issues, go to <https://www.montgomery.boe.ohio.gov/candidates-issues/>

DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



You are invited to come to the church on **Tuesday, November 25, at 10am** to help prepare the sanctuary for the Advent Season. College Hill celebrates the first Sunday of Advent with the Hanging of the Greens during service.

Hanging of the Greens is based on the tradition of decorating the church with wreaths, garlands, and evergreens for Advent and Christmas. On Tuesday, November 25, we will do much of the decorating and will set up items for the Hanging of the Greens service. Many hands make for light work, so we should be done by noon. Contact Kathy Lakes with any questions.

STEWARDSHIP TIME & TALENT SHEETS

If you have not yet done so, please turn in your completed Time & Talent sheet to the church as soon as possible. These sheets were first distributed with an explanation by the Interpretation & Stewardship Committee on Sunday, October 19. Now we need you to first pray on how you may give your time to the mission of College Hill, then checkmark the items in which you are interested, and return the form. Forms may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays, may be given to an I&S member, or may be turned into the church office. You shared your ideas...now share your talents! ***“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” – 1 Peter 4:10*** From your I&S Committee – Ivy Young (chair), Marlea Gaskins, Kathy Lakes, Carolyn Miller, and Pat Townsel,

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Weekly Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. The zoom link to join in may be found in your email or on our College Hill Community Church website. Currently, we are studying the book of James.

ADULT IN PERSON & ON-LINE SUNDAY SCHOOL



Adult Sunday School will begin meeting in person in the Prugh Lounge and via zoom following worship service on Sunday, November 2. The Zoom link to join in following service may be found in your email or on our College Hill Community Church website. Speak with Elder Stan Hirtle for more information and to get the study materials. See you in the Prugh Lounge for Adult Sunday School!

CHCC Older Kids Ministry: the Key to Better Living and Socialization in our later years by Gladys Turner Finney

Are you older than 55 and interested in maintaining activity and helpful relationships in your senior years? Well, the CHCC Older Kids Ministry may be the option for you!



The Older Kids (Seniors) Ministry is dedicated to the social, spiritual, and emotional well-being of older members and friends of CHCC.

We meet monthly for lunch on the third Thursday and other times as planned. This past year, we have implemented programs for the entire congregation to educate on the Presbytery of the Miami Valley Third-thirty (Seniors) Ministry and another on Estate Planning. We gather on the third Thursday of the

month to celebrate the birthdays of our members and to socialize. Additionally, we support other ministry efforts of CHCC. Membership is open to friends and members of College Hill Community and/or our church. Dues are \$60/year per person or \$90/year per couple.

The Older Kids Ministry is recruiting members for 2026. Talk to Elder Gladys Turner Finney or Elder Jose LaMont Jones for more information. Consider joining this important ministry in the life of our church. We look to restore low impact, senior exercises and other opportunities for socialization/fellowship in the new year. Don't delay! Join TODAY!

What to do? By Stan Hirtle, Social Justice & Peacemaking Ministry

Today we are seeing a flood of serious changes in our political system driven by the President. How are we to respond?

We have seen the destruction and defunding of government programs, and firings of government employees who carry them out. We see intimidation of companies, colleges, law firms, entertainers, and individuals who disagree or oppose. The federal military has been sent to various US cities, supposedly preventing crime, and bombing countries whose leaders oppose him. We see the removal of civil rights protections and embracing a discriminatory past. He uses verbal abuse and bullying as a power tool. He has claimed legal powers on a scale that American presidents have not claimed previously.

The President is not alone but part of a movement composed of many very wealthy people who own business, finance and media, as well as activists, but also others much less wealthy. Our country is highly divided.

While his movement had a narrow if broad election victory, he did not campaign to do the actions we now see are different from what he did in his first term. Also note that what we see is not just happening here. Around the world, several nations have autocratic leaders, often originally elected but who then manipulated their system to silence or disempower the opposition.

While the President's movement has loyal supporters, he also has loyal opponents, millions of whom protested at the recent "No Kings" events. Others oppose many or all his actions but are not sure how to safely and effectively do so. Many struggle emotionally with feelings of shock and powerlessness.

While most Americans believe in some kind of democracy, there is no agreement over what the details should be, and the proverbial devil is in the details. Serious issues include the funding of elections by private donations, where the wealthiest can prevail in exchange for getting their way. Another is replacement of community by privately owned social media. This allows replacing community, circulating falsehoods and generating anger, fear and anxiety. These result from feelings of powerlessness created by shrinking opportunities, loss of labor unions and universal education, crises from the environment, wars and pandemics, and social changes in class, gender, religion and racial roles that challenge people's status and life's meaning. Leaders then target "others", often those with the least power, as enemies. Some see the need for a strong unrestrained leader to be

on their side and exercise power over those who stand in their way. The traditional constitutional limits are being pushed.

Christians have been as divided and confused as anyone else. So what are we called to do as Christians? The primary commandments are to love God, to love one another and to do good to one another. God values everyone. The Bible calls for social justice and protection of the excluded (“the least of these”). The wealthy are called to be good stewards of their wealth and power for God’s purposes, not just their own. Rulers are called to rule with justice and wisdom and not to abuse their power for selfish ends. To the extent that our institutions are democratic, we all share in these duties and must exercise them for the good of all. To the extent that they are not, we are called to speak truth to power. Early Christians modeled this in their willingness to share, commitment to serve rather than be served, courage to confront, and even to pay a cost if required.

How are we to do this at this time in the context of American democracy here in Dayton? Some fear the consequences. Some fear that the powerful will use long existing biases against them to make things worse if they participate. Some feel others should fix this. Some can and do choose not to participate in voting. They may feel that the system is rigged, that their vote doesn’t matter, or that their votes will be suppressed. They may feel that politicians they vote for betray their promises, that emotional energy spent on voting is wasted, and that they are lied to, disrespected and taken advantage of.

Democracy requires more than laws. We need extensive social networks with high levels of trust and participation, strong institutions with social norms committed to integrity and democracy, willing to give up some power, and shared stories based on peoples’ common experiences.

So what are we going to do? We must look with openness and prayerfulness at the situation. Think about what others have done in the past, particularly about situations of injustice. We must build community across lines of diversity. We should understand that many suffer loss and injustice, making it easy for us to be pitted against each other. It is not a contest over who has suffered most, but a call to prevent suffering through empathy and understanding of others. People need to speak honestly and respectfully to each other, not seeking advantage through abuse. We need to work together to devise solutions to our many problems. We also need community to take care of needs of others that the political and economic systems are not meeting. We need to relieve each other’s anxiety and share happiness and sadness together.

One thing everyone can and should do is vote in all elections. Next year's elections will be particularly crucial, but this year's local elections matter too. The small elections determine what gets to the big elections. Low voter turnout is habit forming and allows bad things to happen. High and knowledgeable turnout keeps elected officials in line.

Do the work to know who and what you are voting for. Know their record, their views and their plans. Look to who has given them money. Look beyond advertisements, slogans and attacks on opponents. Talk to your neighbors and friends. Take part in organized action. See what the other side says too. Encourage your friends, neighbors and community members to get to the polls too. America is closely divided on many things, so more votes can make a real difference for good.

Afterwards, keep an eye on your elected officials. Be sure they know you are watching. Write to them. Circulate and sign petitions that will make things better. Watch out for possible organized attacks on the people's will and be prepared to respond.

The corruption, abuse and ugliness in our public life can generate anger and a desire to withdraw, but we are called to help make things better. And not to participate is to participate in making things worse.

Election Day Voting – Vote yes for Issue 9

Voting is November 4, 2025. Polls open 6:30 A.M. Polls close at 7:30 P.M.

Excerpt from WKEF News - "We used to have 11 public hospitals in Ohio. Now you only have one that's Metro in Cleveland," said Bishop Richard Cox, president of the Clergy Community Coalition. The Dayton public hospital initiative, also known as Issue 9, is just one of the things you'll see on your November ballot. The Clergy Community Coalition is hoping to pass this issue to bring back a public hospital to the City of Dayton and Cox said this is desperately needed, especially after the closure of Good Samaritan. People who lost that hospital have no transportation if you're poor, can't get to the doctor like they're supposed to, so they don't go at all," said Cox. This hospital would raise taxes for residents. For example, it would be an extra \$35 a year per 100,000 dollars of property ownership. However, Cox is encouraging the community to think about the long-term benefits of this hospital. "A public hospital is a hospital that will bring adequate healthcare to the disenfranchised, to the low income, to those who are underinsured and to those who have no insurance," said Cox.

REFLECTIONS ON THE OCT 26 TH SERMON/PRESENTATION

By Jose LaMont Jones, Outreach and Evangelism Ministries leader

Twelve (21%) of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, in 1776, were Presbyterian. Eleven (20%) of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention, in 1787, were Presbyterian. The Presbyterian Church is a denomination democratically organized to embrace the faith common to all Christians following the Word of God. In the New Testament, the word Presbiteros means “elder”, selected from among the wisest members to lead the congregation. The governmental structure of the Presbyterian Church is mirrored in our national government of the United States of America (USA).

Reflection on the sermon and presentation of Rev. Ruth-Aimee Belonni-Rosario, on October 26, 2025; I appreciate how important a foundation communal discernment is to our denomination and this country. Rev. Belonni-Rosario is the recently called Associate Executive for Racial Justice to the Synod of the Covenant (our Synod). Why do we need an Associate Executive for Racial Justice, you ask?

Well...as she explained, and just in case you have been asleep these past few centuries, the construct of race has seriously inhibited the USA from living up to the values espoused in its creed: that all men (and women) are created equal; endowed with the inalienable rights of Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. Among the struggle to liberate this country from the stronghold of American Enslavement, the Presbyterian Church has an ambivalent past.

In 1818, the denomination condemned American enslavement, only to later split into two denominations, along secular lines, in 1861! Even after the reunification of many of the congregations separated for more than 120 years...racism, among other differences of opinion, has been an obstacle for “believers” to come together and live in harmony. If church folk cannot come together...who can?

I recommend we all lean into learning more about the way we do church but also reflect on the way our beliefs as Christians is evident (or not) in our daily living. We must look at how we communicate, how we share...how we love. Not only on things directly related to race relations, but also those indirect stumbling blocks that challenge our ability to see others as brothers and sisters in the family of God. We still need the SUPPORT, the EDUCATION and the CONNECTION of Rev. Belonni-Rosario’s office to facilitate the discourse we need, as Presbyterian brothers/sisters, to appreciate the intrinsic value of each other, understand our diverse points-of-view and fully participate in communal discernment.

GRATITUDE

Gratitude, subtly or noisily appearing as we live out our day

But in November's its importance prominently is on display

To God enthusiastically we offer thanks for blessings born of His love and grace

Gathering in churches, homes, shelters, or centers with joy in heart and on our face

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN,

Darlene Brookshire, Paula Ewers, Kathy Lakes, Judy McCray, Harriet Merritt, Carlyn Miller,
And Pat Townsel

FAITHWALK: THANKSGIVING THOUGHTS - By Pat Townsel

In this time where most of us look forward to a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration to thank God for His blessings, we have a table bountifully filled with food and surrounded by family members and maybe even some friends. Oh, and surely it is appropriate for us to have this special highlight. However, along with that, we are, more importantly, called to demonstrate our gratitude by sharing/ caring for those less fortunate--opening the barndoor of the excesses many of us enjoy. Especially is this true when many of our private and governmental institutions addressing the needy are underfunded or even eliminated.

So, as we celebrate, let us spend some time seriously considering the actions we can take to help. Let the questions of "What can I do?" and "What can we do?" be supported not by a sense of hopelessness, but by the expectation God has for us to find meaningful ways to be the difference to make a difference. **The satisfactory fruit of our discipleship is shown by the combination of our thoughts, words, and deeds! Amen**

My prayer this Thanksgiving is that each of us remembers the charges we had from our Congregational Gathering and while we are enjoying giving thanks, also continue praying for ideas for expanding or improving our blessing-sharing with others.

May this excerpt from Rev. Tinsley's recent Bible Study article, "Faith-in-Action: An Ethic of 'Perfection'" by Patrick J. Hartin be an inspiration for your prayers. "Believers should be a sign to the world of the consistency between faith and action that defines their lives. James's stress on the importance of actions is always to be seen as a unity with one's faith. He calls us to be people of faith-expressed-in-action. "



“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 will begin this month. 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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

College Hill’s Covenant - “Care for one another; Pray for one another; Respect for one another; Everyone has a voice; and open communication. Also, speak up if something is uncomfortable.”

- Elder Jose’ Jones to officiate the Memorial Services of Bruce Johnson (08 November 2025). He will also create a Resolution for the occasion.
- Approved 2024 Minutes. (Gene Saunders) Attachment part of September 23, Minutes. Approval ratified.
- Letter to Inactive Members-mailed on 27 October 2025. L Hollar will create a Spanish interpretation
- Clarification being sought on CHC connection to the Black Presbyterian Caucus (BPC)
- **APPROVED:** To host the Active Shooting Seminar at College Hill Community Church ... organized by the Older Kids. -**Approved**
- **Stewardship Campaign** – Session reaffirms a stewardship campaign for 2026. Bible Verse: 1 Peter 4:10 to serve as anthem.
- **Strategic Planning** –meeting to discuss on Friday, 7 November from 2:00 – 4:00pm.

- **Social Justice & Peacemaking** – Approval for letter to be sent regarding gerrymandering to political representatives.
- **Social Justice & Peacemaking** – will be providing transportation to the polls on election day.
- **W&M** – Approval to serve the Lord’s Supper on the first Sunday of each month in 2026. The other days are Lord’s Supper in services on Maundy Thursday (April 2, 2026); on Christ the King Sunday (November 22, 2026); and on Christmas Eve (December 24, 2026).
- CHC has received an invitation to host the Collaborative Congregation Group.

I&S – To send out communication about deadlines for proposed 2026 Budget by December Session meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Ivy Young, Clerk of Session

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, 2026 calendars, and egg cartons. Give items to Darlene Brookshire.
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ELECTRONIC GIVING TO COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH Those worshipping online are welcome to send your offering by mail directly to College Hill Church, [1547 Philadelphia Drive, Dayton, OH 45406](https://www.google.com/maps/place/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.

Worship and Music Committee Highlights from October 2025

At last month's meeting on October 14, your Worship & Music Committee:

--Made worship plans from November through January 2026. Discussed several special activities on Nov. 23 (see Worship Plans elsewhere in this newsletter), as well as Advent and Christmas activities. Those include a youth Christmas presentation and the denomination's Christmas Joy Offering taken up on Sunday, December 21, and a Lessons and Carols service with Communion on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24.

--Noted that a Collaborative Congregations Thanksgiving service is planned for First Presbyterian Fairborn on Sunday, November 23, at 2:00 pm.

--Discussed the committee's 2026 budget request.

Bach Society Holiday Concert



Make plans 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>.

November 2025 Worship Plans

Sunday, November 2, 2025: 21st Sunday after Pentecost, Communion Sunday; 10:30 am
Scriptural Texts: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10.
Sermon: "... 'seek out and to save the lost.'" Communion, First Fruits Offering, Moment for Mission from Building & Grounds, Congregational meeting after worship to elect officers and the Nominating Committee.

Sunday, November 9, 2025: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Haggai 1:15b—2:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38. Sermon: “...take courage...for I am with you.” Possible Moment for Mission, Social Justice and Peacemaking; Special music.

Sunday, November 16, 2025: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19. Sermon: “...the former things shall not be remembered.” Youth Sunday, Time for Children in worship; Special music.

Sunday, November 23, 2025: Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43. Sermon: “...and shall execute justice and righteousness.” Final Sunday of church liturgical year; Youth Thanksgiving presentation; Communion by intinction; November birthdays recognized in worship. Collaborative Congregations Thanksgiving service at 2:00 pm at Fairborn: First.

Sunday, November 30, 2025: First Sunday of Advent; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44. Sermon: “...that he may teach us his ways.” Advent banners and decorations; Advent wreath lighting/litany.

BRUCE JOHNSON MEMORIAL SERVICE

The family of long-time member Bruce Johnson invites you to celebrate his life with them on Saturday, November 8, 1:30pm, at College Hill Community Church. There will be a light reception following the service in Fellowship Hall. Contact Deacon Pat Townsel with any questions.

Bible Study Impact by Pat Townsel

Although I was unable to attend Rev. Tinsley’s Wednesday Night Bible Study, I did read and study the advance material, which was very meaningful to me. In fact, it inspired my initial ideas for my contribution to our church newsletter “Faith Walk” section. However, trying to edit my first draft became more difficult as I realized that the article was aimed at the notes in my own eyes, especially as I reflected on some of the things we used to do as a congregation. Many years ago, the teachers in my school even made Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to leave on the doorsteps of some families instead of having gift exchanges for ourselves. Here in our church the Deacons assembled Thanksgiving baskets to give away, or at times we bought turkeys or hams. Currently the deacons have had a difficult time meeting because of intervening circumstances preventing at least two

of them attending, thus creating a problem for an official meeting since there are only four of us.

Self-reflection and discussion with another deacon led to a change, hopefully creating better congruence of our behavior with who we say we are—loving, caring shepherds. With that in mind we have decided rather than automatically buying gift cards to distribute for Thanksgiving, we will first seek from members and friends what might please them most. We will be contacting our friends whom we know might need a helping hand to see what we can do. Also, if you have a need we have not become familiar with your needs, please feel free to contact one of the four of us:

Marj Baker, Diann Wright Harris, Marcus Johnson, Pat Townsel. Our telephone numbers and email addresses are in our church directory, copies of which are in the church office. Also, there will be a Deacon Contact list available at the Ushers stand in the church entry way.

May this quote from Rev. Tinsley recent Bible Study article “Faith-in-Action: An Ethic of ‘Perfection’” by Patrick J. Hartin be inspirational to you as it was to me.

“Believers should be a sign to the world of the consistency between faith and action that defines their lives. James’s stress on the importance of actions is always to be seen as a unity with one’s faith. He calls us to be people of faith-expressed-in-action.”