



COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH – PC(USA)

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

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Dayton, OH 45406
(937)278-4203

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](#) (Spanish interpretation available.)

JANUARY CALENDAR

January 4 – Communion, First Fruits offering.
Three Kings (Día de los Reyes)

January 11 - Baptism of the Lord

January 18 – Youth Sunday
MLK Discussion – Fellowship Hall following
worship

January 25 - Celebrate January birthdays

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Queen Thornton – 1/01
Susie Grierson – 1/05
Clarissa Moore – 1/07
Marcus Johnson – 1/14
Andrea Hirtle – 1/15
Emilia Zagal – 1/16
Rosalyn Givens – 1/20
Diann Harris – 1/28



TWICE WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Weekly Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and Fridays at 1pm. January's study comes from "*In Response to the Call of Christ – A Bible Study and Reflection Guide.*" The zoom link and reading material are in your weekly email or may be found on the church website. All are welcome to attend either session!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – by Ivy Young, Clerk of Session



“For those who have pledged, THANK You! For those still evaluating their financial positions, please help us meet our Goal for 2026.”

Session has approved a twelve-month (12) contract for pastoral services for 2026 with Rev. Dr. Charles Tinsley, IV.

MLK – Ullery/Elam Public Relations Committee has purchased tickets (10) for the MLK 2026 Celebration banquet on 19 January 2026 at the Carillon Historical Park (6:00pm). Let the committee members know if you would like to attend.

Building & Grounds – Chairlift has been inspected. It is “Out of Service” until further notice.

Connectional Support – Our church family pays an annual fee for membership in the Presbytery USA (PCUSA). At the rate of \$54.66 per member, our cost for membership in 2026 is \$6,450.00. This figure is based on the number of members previously submitted, not our current number of sixty-eight (68), which Session approved at our last Session meeting.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School is now meeting immediately following worship on Sundays in the Prugh Lounge and via Zoom. Elder Stan Hirtle is the leader, and the class is currently studying the Gospel of Mark, using Kerygma Materials.



January 18th **MLK Sunday discussion**

What would Martin Luther King, Jr.
do to counter the current attacks
on the right to vote?

CHCC Fellowship Hall, immediately following worship service.

Peace & Social Justice Ministry invites you to attend an MLK discussion on Sunday, January 18, in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship service. What would Martin Luther King, Jr. do to counter the current attacks on the right to vote? Come share your thoughts!

CHCC OLDER KIDS CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



Thanks to Dan and Brenda Peters for opening their home to host the Older Kids Christmas Party in December 2025. They were gracious hosts, and a good time was had by all.

Be on the lookout for other social and informational sessions and more in 2026! Dues are only \$60/yr. individual or \$90/yr. couple ... open to all 55+ y/o individuals.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

This first 2026 issue of our church newsletter is one you will probably need to read in spaced time. There are many articles containing very important information that you can't afford to miss. **Some of them have exciting announcements, request responses/ actions to perform, or provide enlightening explanations to our worship service elements such as Communion. So, plan time to relax, read, consider, and follow through.** You will be helping yourself, our church, our community and most of all serving God.

Pat Townsel, CHCC Newsletter Co-Editor

P&SJ Needs YOU! MLK Sunday is January 18th, 2026

The Peace and Social Justice Ministry wishes you all a very Happy New Year! Our ministry strives to develop awareness of important affronts to the rights of the poor and disenfranchised of our community, state and the world. Join us in this important ministry which allows us to act out our faith in concrete ways!

This year has been particularly troublesome as the many attacks on the social gains made over the last 70 years have pushed back our society and threaten American democracy itself.

However, the passage of the Public Hospital Ballot Initiative is BIG NEWS!

Our Annual Martin Luther King Sunday discernment this year will focus on the topic of voting. As several states have engaged in gerrymandering, voter suppression and virtual repeal of the protections codified in the Voter Rights Act of 1965, we are asking TWO things of you:

1. Encourage your children and friends to remember/research what the Civil Rights Movement, and specifically Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr, did for voting rights and registration. Talk to them about the impact of those activities. On January 18, 2026, we will remember those things as we discuss what MLK would do to counter the current attacks on voter rights.
2. Purchase the Steve Phillips book, "How We Win the Civil War - Securing a Multiracial Democracy and Ending White Supremacy for Good" (also on Audible) to join the Peace and Social Justice Ministry during our Black History Month Virtual (Zoom) Book Discussion the first three Tuesdays of February. That is February 3rd, 10th and 17th, 2026!

We are called to defend the defenseless, oppressed, hungry, naked, and disenfranchised. We must discuss, plan and ACT to better the plight of our siblings in need. Please plan to join us both January 18th, 2026, for the MLK Sunday Discussion and February 3rd, 10th & 17th, 2026 for the Black History Month Book Discussion: How We Win the Civil War by Steve Phillips.

OUTREACH AND EVANGALISM UPDATE

by José LaMont Jones

Happy New Year College Hill! I am encouraged by the well-attended Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service and worship services during the Advent Season. Whereas we may, indeed, be this neighborhood's best kept secret; the HOPE we have for a bright future and the JOY we get through sharing God's LOVE and PEACE is encouraging!

We appear to be well on our way to bridging the breach of our post Covid woes. Presbytery jurisdiction has ceased; we have elected a new session; and we have dedicated ourselves to being a blessing to this community.

No one can deny that the world needs Jesus and all that "the way" inspires us to be selfless, mutually respectful, and community minded. The Outreach and Evangelism ministry hopes to have your cooperation inviting friends to live our mission of "serving the God who loves and values all".

Each week of January 2026, you are asked to address two postcards to friends and acquaintances who need love and/or a church home. Elam Public Relations and Outreach will collect and send them out. Just be ready to share your testimony about how God has blessed you being part of this family of faith.

Additionally, in response to anticipated food shortages and continued price hikes, we continue our Community Preparedness workshops. Our Spring Garden Preparedness Seminar will be held January 22, 2026, in the Fellowship Hall from 6 - 8:00 pm. Tia Stewart from the Agraria Center for Regenerative Practices will present on garden planning and prep. Other local producers will be present. **Don't be left without food if the geopolitical infrastructure should go further South. Knowledge is power!**

MARY SCOTT NURSING HOME CHRISTMAS

The Ullery-Elam Public Relations committee thanks everyone who donated items to the gift bags given to the residents of Mary Scott Nursing Home. They were excited for the gift bags and grateful to have been remembered during this joyous season.

January 2026 Worship Plans

Sunday, January 4, 2026: 2nd Sunday of Christmas, Communion Sunday; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18. Sermon: "... his own people did not accept him." Communion, First Fruits Offering, Three Kings (Día de los Reyes) observance related to Epiphany.

Sunday, January 11, 2026: Baptism of the Lord; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34- 43; Matthew 3:13-17. Sermon: "...truly understand that God shows no partiality." Moment for Mission, Social Justice & Peacemaking; Possible officer installation.

Sunday, January 18, 2026: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42. Sermon: "...Where are you staying?" "Come and see." "Youth Sunday, Time for Children in worship. (Dayton-area MLK activities this weekend)

Wednesday, January 25, 2026: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany; 10:30 am Scriptural texts: Isaiah 9:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23. Celebrate January birthdays.

Worship and Music Committee Highlights from December 2025

At last month's meeting on December 2, your Worship & Music Committee:

--Agreed to a motion to request that session approve a stated supply pastor contract with Rev. Tinsley for 2026, addressing his pastoral duties and compensation to more fully reflect what he has been providing to the church.

--Made worship plans from December 2025 through February 2026. Evaluated communion by intinction done on Christ the King Sunday and agreed to do intinction format again on Christmas Eve. The "Hanging of the Greens" service went well. We will have two baptisms on Dec. 7 and welcome a new church member later in December. The confirmands' welcome will come in January. The youth plan a special presentation on Dec. 21.

--W&M began planning for hosting the Collaborative Congregations group in a Lenten Worship Service on February 22, 2026, at 2:00 pm. College Hill will not do its own Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 18 but will encourage our members to attend services at other churches.

--Noted that we are continuing to search for a piano accompanist for our services.

Two College Hill Young Adults Have Roles in 227th General Assembly Next Summer

Adriano Herrera, son of Misael Zagal and Olivia Tellez, has been elected to represent the Presbytery of the Miami Valley as our Young Adult Advisory Delegate (“YAAD”) to the 227th General Assembly (“GA”) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which will be held online and in person in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from June 22 to July 2, 2026. Adriano has been a College Hill member for more than 6 years and has been active in youth, worship, and Colombia Partnership ministries.

William Ford III, grandson of Neva and Lee Benson, Sr., has been nominated as alternate Young Adult Advisory Delegate, meaning if Adriano cannot serve as YAAD for any reason next year, Will assumes his place. If he does not serve in 2026, Will is first in line for consideration to be elected a YAAD to the 2028 GA. Will has been a College Hill member for more than 9 years and has been a regular reader in worship and part of other youth activities.

YAADs, who are between the ages of 18-23, are elected from presbyteries to serve as full members of General Assembly committees, with voice and vote, during GA deliberations. During later floor debates and votes, YAADs have voice to express opinions and are polled for their advice to voting commissioners prior to formal commissioner votes on proposed GA actions. YAAD views often help shape the discussion about issues and impact the final outcomes of GA votes. The YAAD experience has been a powerful and life-changing one for many young Presbyterians, as they see the wider church at work and develop friendships and connections with other younger Christians active in our denomination.

Two elected commissioners, one a minister of the word and sacrament (Rev. Cynthia Holder Rich) and the other a ruling elder (Elder Alice McCollum of Dayton: Trinity), will also be part of the presbytery’s delegation taking part in the General Assembly next year. Let’s keep Adriano and Will, and our presbytery’s commissioners in prayer in the months ahead as they do the important work needed to prepare for GA 227 in 2026.

ONE CALL NOW

Occasionally, College Hill communicates information to members and friends of the church via One Call Now, an automated notification system that allows us to reach everyone quickly. If you are **not** receiving these messages, please call Kathy Lakes at 937-212-5776 and verify your phone number is correct, or if you have questions about how One Call Now reaches your phone, Kathy will do her best to answer them.

RECENT CHANGES IN COLLEGE HILL COMMUNION – by Larry Hollar



The Worship & Music Committee (“W&M”) several months ago approved some changes to the way we celebrate Communion at our church that this article seeks to explain, for those who might have been surprised or confused by these changes. **Timing—Why is Communion So Often?** For a number of years College Hill Community Church has celebrated Communion on the first Sunday of each month, and that continues. Many other churches also celebrate Communion on certain special days of the church calendar: such as on Maundy Thursday during Holy Week; or on Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday, the last Sunday of the liturgical year before the Advent season begins; or on Christmas Eve. W&M voted to add those three dates to our Communion calendar for 2025 and will consider doing so again in 2026 as worship planning happens.

The Presbyterian Church’s Book of Order does not prescribe exactly how often a church should hold Communion—it must happen at least once every quarter of the calendar year, and in fact Communion is appropriate every Sunday as part of the Lord’s Day Service (W-3.0409). But different churches make different choices. W&M’s feeling is that the first Sundays of the month, plus a few select important worship services as approved by W&M, represents a good balance for our church. Your feedback on that timing is welcome!

Format: For many of us, taking Communion by “intinction” was one of the common ways the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was served in our earlier days at College Hill. Intinction involves people being welcomed to leave their pews, guided to come forward to the front of the sanctuary, receive bread and the opportunity to dip that bread in a chalice of juice, and then return to their seats by side aisles. Those for whom walking is a challenge have always been served in their pew seats by the elders in a dignified way. [Another common way to serve Communion at College Hill has been to pass plates of bread and cups of juice across the pews from one side to the other, but hygiene concerns and the awkwardness of handling and passing heavy plates has made this approach less common in some churches].

More recently, especially responding to the COVID pandemic, College Hill and many other churches began handing out sealed cups with a small wafer and juice as the Communion elements that were opened during the Communion liturgy. Despite expressions of concern that these wafer and juice packets lacked an element of warmth and reality for the sacrament as a shared communal activity, the packets did provide health and safety for our community, and College Hill continued to use those packets during Communion until late in 2025. At that point,

seeking a more communal, shared experience, we began to experiment again with the older practice of intinction, but with safeguards:

--Gluten-free bread is provided

--Minimize contacting elements other than your own. Make dipping the bread in juice optional

--Provide pathways and instructions to return to seats that minimize congestion in the center aisle (this is still a work in progress as we all gain more experience with intinction)

--Elders bring elements to those remaining seated immediately after all those moving forward have been served

As we have more opportunities to serve Communion by intinction, W&M is considering how to move forward with serving Communion in the future, and we always welcome feedback. W&M members to talk to are Larry Hollar (chair), Brenda Brown, Ivy Young, Judy McCray, Susie Grierson, Mack Lakes, Kathy Lakes, and Rev. Tinsley.

Continuing Our Collective Work: Invitation to the Human Rights Alliance Meeting

Dear Friends and Community Partners,

Thank you again for joining us at the *Dayton United for Human Rights Volunteer Celebration-Human Rights Impact Awards*. The space we shared was powerful, rooted in collaboration, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to advancing human rights in our community. The conversations, connections, and collective energy in the room reminded us that meaningful change happens when we come together.

As a continuation of that collaborative space, we invite you to attend our upcoming **Dayton Region Human Rights Alliance Meeting**. This gathering is an opportunity to deepen the relationships formed at the celebration and to continue working together as we reflect, align, and plan our collective efforts as we move into 2026. *Our first gathering will be hosted by the Dayton Tenant Union at Gem City Market.*

When: Saturday, January 10, 2026

Where: Gem City Market Community Room

324 Salem Avenue, Dayton OH 45406

Time: 12:00p-1:30p

RSVP: By responding to this email so we may prepare materials and food

Purpose of the Human Rights Alliance:

The Human Rights Alliance brings together grassroots organizations, community leaders, advocates, and residents to strengthen collaboration, share resources, and coordinate action.

The Alliance serves as a space to:

- Build and sustain relationships across organizations and movements
- Identify shared priorities, community needs, resources, gifts and talents
- Support collective advocacy and action grounded in human rights
- Co-create strategies that advance dignity, equity, well-being and justice for all
- Shared community calendar to support one another's events and avoid schedule conflicts
- Collaboration on events, grants, projects, initiatives, and more
- Stay informed on local government policies, practices, resolutions and decisions

Your voice, experience, and perspective are important to this work. We hope you will join us as we continue building on the connections we've made and work collectively toward a more just and accountable community. Furthermore, if you did not attend the celebration and you are receiving this email because you have been identified as a potential partner.

We look forward to seeing you in the new year and please feel free to reach out with any questions! There will be a reminder email sent from Daytonhralliance@gmail.com.

With gratitude and solidarity,

Tara Campbell

Executive President

Dayton United for Human Rights

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 worshiping online are welcome to send your offering by mail directly to College Hill Church, [1547 Philadelphia Drive, Dayton, OH 45406](https://giving.servantkeeper.com/chcc-dayton-oh/member/login) or On-Line contributions are available as follows:
Website:
<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/chcc-dayton-oh/member/login>.

WHY HAVE A PRAYER LIST? By Kathy Lakes

Recently, a comment was made, and I paraphrase, that the same people are on the prayer list every week on our Sunday announcement page. This prompted me to share why many of the names remain the same from week to week. Simply put, some people have a complex illness or a complex problem that is not going to be resolved easily and may take much time to resolve, if ever. A member of the congregation may not know specifically what that person is experiencing, but their continued prayers are appreciated by these individuals. Many times, a person's name may be on the prayer list, and yet they are in attendance that Sunday. One of our senior members who has received cancer treatment for several years expressed to me that they are happy for the Sundays they feel well enough to be in attendance.

Here is an excerpt from an article entitled, "9 Reasons You Need to Keep a Prayer List," by Dr. Darryl Burling:

1. A prayer list will help you pray with integrity
2. It will help you keep promises to pray for people
3. It will help you pray meaningfully for people and things
4. A prayer list will help you encourage people
5. It will help you keep your commitment to be a praying person

Let us not look at our prayer list as the same names being listed every week but remain prayerful for our church family for as long as they need and desire.

SEVEN NEW YEAR'S SPIRITUAL RESOLUTIONS –

by [Linda Lyle](#), BibleStudyTools.com

Biblical New Year's Resolution #1: Meditate

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it." ([Joshua 1:8](#))

Biblical New Year's Resolution #2: Attend Church Regularly

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." ([Hebrews 10:24-25](#))

Biblical New Year's Resolution #3: Be Transformed

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (**Romans 12:2**)

Biblical New Year's Resolution #4: Seek Wisdom

“Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore, get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.” (**Proverbs 4:7**)

Biblical New Year's Resolution #5: Pursue Holiness

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” (**Hebrews 12:14**)

Biblical New Year's Resolution #6: Forgive

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” (**Ephesians 4:32**)

Biblical New Year's Resolution #7: Be Without Offense

“This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.” (**Acts 24:16**).