



COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH – PC(USA) MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

1547 Philadelphia Dr.
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.)

MARCH CALENDAR

March 1 – Communion Sunday, First Fruit Collection
Annual Meeting following service

March 8 – Celebrating the Gifts of Women

March 15 - Youth Sunday

March 22 – Guest sermon - José LaMont Jones (Rev. Tinsley will be elsewhere)

March 29 – Palm Sunday

April 5 – Easter Sunday

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jose' Vidal – March 19
Nancy Garner – March 26
Fay Day – March 30
Nelson Stone Sr. - March 30



TWICE WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Weekly Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and Fridays at 1pm. The current study is “40 Days of Hope-Six Bible Studies for the Lenten Journey.” 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!

Psalms 118 – Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

GETTING TO KNOW THEM - By Jose' Jones and Pat Townsel

Most of our now ex-confirmeds, now new members, are young people who have been attending our church for some time and in whom we may have only begun to see into the complexities of their personalities. Below are short paragraphs, accompanied by their photos, that hint at the new things that wait for us to watch evolve as we interact, learn, grow, and fellowship with them in the many years we hopefully are together. What a joy that joint journey portends for us all.

Tavutiya Balembere



Tavutiya Balembere is one of our newest members, confirmed on February 15, 2026. He and his family came to Dayton by way of Louisville, Kentucky, where they immigrated from Burundi. Tavutiya is 13 years old and a 7th grade student at Edwin J. Brown Middle School. He plays on the soccer team. Tavutiya has a friendly smile! He has sung for us in worship in English and Swahili, his native tongue. Get to know Tavutiya. He is a fine young man!

Precious Etoatia



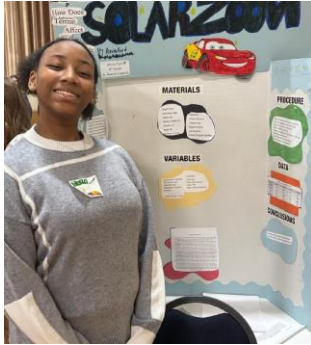
Meet Precious Etoatia...he is our newest member, confirmed February 22, 2026. Precious is shy but has a very helpful nature. Although shy, his goal is to play American football someday. He is 10 years old and is in the 5th grade at Louise Troy Elementary School. Immigrated from Cameroon in West Africa, Precious speaks English and French and is multi-talented, as he also likes art. Get to know Precious and welcome him to our family of faith!

Serenity Schiesser-Benson



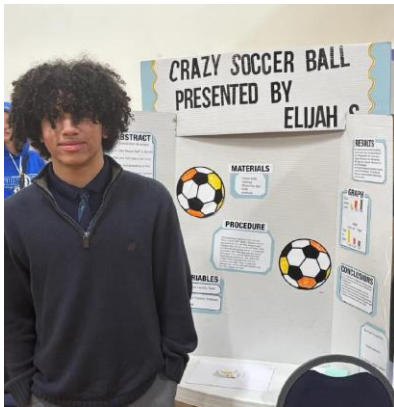
Meet Serenity Schiessler Benson. She is the granddaughter of Lee and Neva Benson and has been among us for years. On February 15, 2026, she was confirmed and is now a new member of our family of faith. Serenity is 12 years old and a 7th grade student at St. Patrick's Junior High School. Serenity likes to joke and have fun, but she also has her serious side. Strike up a conversation with Serenity and let's keep an eye on what God is doing in her life as part of this congregation.

Alivia Ford



Meet Alivia Ford, a very familiar face in our congregation as she has been coming to church for several years with her family. But as of now Alivia, after being baptized following finishing Confirmation Class, is one of our newest and youngest church members. She follows in the path of her two college-aged brothers Will and Ryan Ford. Alivia often displays her fun-loving, but still relatively shy side of her personality. However, there is much more lying beneath that surface. As an almost fourteen-year-old 8th grade student at St. Patrick Catholic School in Troy, Ohio, she has a wide range of interests from wanting to learn to play the drums, running track and competing in shot put, to- believe it or not- one day becoming an actress. She has all the right characteristics to achieve her goals as she loves a challenge, has self-determination/confidence and belief in God's will for good in her life. Oh yes, she wants you to know she likes being a part of our College Hill family. Seek her out sometime in Fellowship Hall to learn more about this interesting and promising young lady. Just look at her big, beautiful smile!

Elijah Schiessler-Benson



Meet Elijah Schiessler-Benson, brother of Serenity, and grandson of Lee and Neva Benson. One of the things Elijah has in common with Tavutiya is that they are both soccer enthusiasts. However, Elijah is a little less fortunate as his school St. Patrick Catholic in Troy does not have a soccer team. But that does not deter him; he practices drills, dribbling and kicks on his own to hone his skills, hoping to one day achieve his dream of playing when he goes to high school, college, and eventually to become a professional player.

In school, his favorite subject is social studies. When I asked him if he was concerned about current events in the USA and the world, he responded. "No, I know I don't have to worry about anything. I know I am safe as long as I have my belief in God." Though spoken in his naturally soft tones, it was stated unhesitatingly, firmly and convincingly, from his heart.

On a lighter note, when asked what makes him happy, he replied, "God, games, soccer, reading, being with my family, my three best friends, and food." After all, he is a growing, active young man!

Celebrating the Gifts of Women in March – by Larry Hollar



Each Sunday this month, worship will feature liturgies, reflections, and songs written by women of faith of diverse backgrounds who have furthered God's mission in the world. Sunday, March 8, is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s special day to Celebrate the Gifts of Women, which we will observe with a Moment for Mission by Carole Estelle and worship materials prepared by the denomination. As examples of our weekly focus, on March 1 we sing the hymn "Lead Me to Calvary," by poet and hymn writer Jennie Evelyn Hussey (1874-1958). She was born into a Quaker family in New Hampshire and in her lifetime wrote more than 150 hymns. Her life was one of service, as she cared for a sister with physical challenges and endured debilitating arthritis of her own.

The Charge in worship that day includes words by Cuban-born Mujerista theologian and Drew University professor of ethics and theology Dr. Ada María Isazi-Díaz (1943-2012). Her Mujerista perspective lifted up Hispanic women, particularly those living in poverty, for ways they embody Christian faith in their daily experiences and struggles and create the context for interpreting and using the Bible. Her views on theology and the ordination of women challenged the institutional Roman Catholic Church.

Bach Society Sings of War and Peace on March 22



Later this month, the Bach Society of Dayton offers a musical reflection on war and peace for the Dayton Peace Festival on Sunday, March 22, at 4:00 pm at the Kettering Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 3939 Stonebridge Rd., Kettering. The concert features Joseph Haydn's *Missa in Tempore Belli* (Mass in Time of War); J.S. Bach's *Cantata 130*; Randall Thompson's renowned *Alleluia*; and Latvian composer Pēteris Vasks's haunting *Dona nobis pacem* (Grant us peace). The Bach Society chorus, featured soloists, and the Bach Society of Dayton orchestra are the artists for this concert. A concert preview lecture at 3:00 pm amplifies the themes of the music. For tickets or information, see <https://bachsocietyofdayton.org/concerts>.



March 19, 2026

**ACTIVE SHOOTER
PREPAREDNESS
WORKSHOP**

PRESENTED BY DAYTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

SPONSORED BY CHCC OLDER KIDS AND PMV THIRD THIRTY MINISTRIES

COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL
1547 PHILADELPHIA DRIVE * DAYTON, OH * 45406

10 AM - 12 PM
LIGHT LUNCH INCLUDED...

REGISTER TODAY!
<https://forms.gle/44dZsTyinwPyx1aE6>

ELECTRONIC GIVING

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

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.

SHARE YOUR CORRECT INFORMATION

If you need to share a new cell phone number, email address, or home address, please call the church office at 937-278-4203 and leave your information on the answering machine. Help us effectively communicate with you the wonderful things going on!

March 2026 Worship Plans

Sunday, March 1, 2026: 2nd Sunday in Lent, Communion Sunday; Beginning of Women's History Month 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17. Sermon: "Yet you do not understand these things?" Communion; First Fruits Offering; Choir sings two hymns; one hymn and Charge today are written by women. Congregational annual meeting after worship.

Sunday, March 8, 2026: 3rd Sunday in Lent; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-26, 39-42. Sermon: "Is the Lord among us or not?" Sunday to Celebrate the Gifts of Women; Moment for Mission by Carole Estelle on this topic from Social Justice & Peacemaking.

Sunday, March 15, 2026: 4th Sunday in Lent; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41. Sermon: "Ask him. He will speak for himself." Youth Sunday, Time for Children in worship. Continued recognition of women's gifts.

Sunday, March 22, 2026: 5th Sunday in Lent; 10:30 am Rev. Tinsley is away this week; José LaMont Jones preaches. Scriptural texts: Genesis 11:1-9; Isaiah 44:13-22; 2 John 1:7-12. Sermon: "The Name, the Knife, and the Knack: How Technology Shapes Our Identity." Continued recognition of women's gifts. Celebrate March birthdays.

Sunday, March 29, 2026: Palm/Passion Sunday; 10:30 am Scriptural texts: Readings from the Gospel according to Matthew 26:14—27:66. Sermon: "...the disciples deserted him and fled." Use of Eco-Palms; opening processional with children and other seasonal music; Continued recognition of women's gifts. More details on Holy Week services will be forthcoming.

THE PATH CHOSEN – author unknown

On a borrowed colt, He rides so free yet weighed by what's ordained to be.
His steps are set; the path is known, for the fate that's set in stone.

The palms wave high, a fleeting fame yet Jesus plays no earthly game.
He knows the cheers will fade away, like sunlight at the close of day.

Into Jerusalem's streets so grand, He rides toward what God has planned.
He feels the weight of coming strife yet chooses still this path of life.

Gratitude for Collaborative Congregations Worship Service at College Hill Community Church – by Larry Hollar

College Hill was pleased to host the special worship service for our presbytery and its smaller collaborative churches on February 22, drawing on themes related to the beginning of Lent and on the musical heritage of Black History Month. The service was meaningful to many people both from our church and several other churches represented by leaders and attendees that day. Thank you to the many people who helped in planning and carrying out the lunch, music, liturgy, and fellowship for this special service.

Distributed at that worship were Lenten journals for you to write in and some prompts for questions you could consider during the season of Lent. If you would like a journal or a prompts sheet, please see Larry Hollar.

Following the worship, 18 people from several churches remained to participate in the first of three training sessions relating to Christian Nationalism that the presbytery's Committee on Representation and Diversity is sponsoring. For more information on those training events, see <https://miamipresbytery.org/series-on-christian-nationalism/>.

Worship & Music Committee Highlights from February 2026

At last month's meeting on February 10, your Worship & Music Committee:

--Noted plans for five confirmands to join the church in the weeks ahead (Precious Etuatia; Tavutiya Balembere; Elijah Schiessler-Benson; Serenity Schiessler-Benson; and Alivia Ford).

--Discussed steps taken so far to expedite the worship service.

--Celebrated that a volunteer choir has been singing adaptations of one hymn each Sunday when there is no other special music.

--Communion in March will continue to be with sealed communion cups due to flu concerns. Committee will evaluate where we are on that issue at our March meeting

--Discussed final plans for the special Collaborative Congregations worship service on Feb. 22 at 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall, followed by a 3:00 pm training on Christian Nationalism.

--Made general worship plans from February 2026 to April 2026. No Ash Wednesday service at CHCC, but encourage members to worship elsewhere that day; Black History Month celebrated weekly; March 8 is Sunday to Celebrate the Gifts of Women with Moment for Mission, and each March Sunday will include recognition of those gifts; approved Rev. Tinsley preaching at Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati Presbytery on March 22, with José LaMont Jones preaching at College Hill; continue use of Eco-palms on Palm Sunday; Rev. Tinsley is looking into organizing a Good Friday Seven Last Words of Christ service on April 3; we will promote the West Dayton Caravan of Churches services during Holy Week, as usual. Easter Sunday will be festive and includes taking One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

--W&M meets next on Tuesday, March 10 at 5:00 pm via Zoom.

Announcements:



The College Hill Circle of Presbyterian Women (PW) invites all women and girls to an informational gathering on Sunday March 8th to fellowship and learn more about PW at all levels. We will meet in Fellowship Hall following the morning worship service.

The **Deacons** will meet Saturday March 14th at 10:00 AM in Rm 104

Presbyterian Men will meet on March 19th at 12 noon in Rm. 104. Please mark your calendars

Christian Education will meet March 15th in Rm 104 following the morning worship service

SESSION REPORT - Mission Statement: “Serving the God who loves and values all.”

Session approved AI Proposal – Jose’ Jones – How we can use AI. In the next six (6) to eight (8) months the committee will learn, discuss and evaluate our community needs, then propose the action/classes we could offer to take advantage of the benefits.

Vital Statistics: 69 active members as of 12/31/2025

Correspondence: Elder Brenda Brown Resignation from Session

Pastor Tinsley will preach on 22 March 2026 at Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church, in Cincinnati.

Per Capita Cost = \$54.66/member

Nomination Committee: Session designated Hirtle from Session to serve on this committee, and the committee present the nominees to complete the Session Members role by the Annual Congregation Meeting. Current Nominating Committee: Earl Thompson, Judy McCray, and Stan Hirtle.

Building/Grounds representative has been invited to the next Session Meeting.

Regarding the financial review. The Clerk will check with Mr. Scarr on the status of the review and will advise Session via email and/or by our next Session meeting.

CHCC is investigating how to use our space as a source of income.

Action Items:

1. Ordination/examination/installation of Deacon's Bernetha Pulliam- Nju and MackArthur Lakes, and Elder Jose' Jones. Class of 2028
2. Selection of a new Elder for Session to replace the incomplete term of Brenda Brown.

Proposed Session Meeting Dates: 4th Tuesday of each month at 9:30am with noted exceptions:

2026 Dates: 24th March, 28th April, 26th May, June No Mtg, 28th July 25th August 22nd, September 27th, October, 8th December

Boundary Training: Required every three (3) years. Training is available on the PMV website, a four (4) hour module, password:bound25. A certificate is provided at the end of the training session.

Recommendation: (Jose') Ministry Units meet after the congregational meeting to establish a calendar of events.

CHCC will seek Commissioners and alternates for upcoming Presbytery meetings.

CHCC will annually take up three approved PCUSA special offerings in calendar year 2026.

