

	COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH – PC(USA) JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER
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1547 Philadelphia Dr. Dayton, OH 45406 (937)278-4203	Web – collegehillcommunitychurch.org Email - collegehillcommunitychurch@gmail.com Church Office Open – 10am – 1pm T & TH
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Worship: 10:30 am or on Facebook at [College Hill Community Church - Dayton](#)
(Spanish interpretation available.)

JULY CALENDAR July 5 – Communion, First Fruit Offering July 12 – Colombia Delegation July 19 – Youth Sunday July 26 - Celebrate July birthdays	JULY BIRTHDAYS Marlea Gaskins – 07/04 Judy McCray – 07/13 Lerone McKenzie – 07/15 Jose’ Jones – 07/16 Brenda Thompson – 07/17 Brenda Brown – 07/25 Debra Byrd – 07/25 Pam Byrd – 07/30 
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Safeguarding Your Mental Well-being (Gemini AI)

As our Independence Day approaches, many of us are wondering how to safeguard our freedoms. This difficult political environment can lead to fear, burnout, and a diminished sense of control. To protect your mental health, try to step away from the relentless news cycle and focus on community-level, positive-impact work. College Hill Community Church offers many opportunities to volunteer and to impact our neighborhood in a positive way. Remember, God is in control!

Colombia Partnership Celebrations—An Update:

The joyful celebration of 30 years of partnership between the Presbytery of the North Coast in the South American nation of Colombia, and our own Presbytery of the Miami Valley, has been taking place in June and July.



June visit to Colombia: A 17-person delegation from our presbytery and synod including Larry Hollar from College Hill visited Barranquilla and Cartagena, Colombia, from June 18-22. This included a grand celebratory worship service featuring both presbyteries on Friday, June 19, at the Colegio Americano in Barranquilla at which gifts were exchanged and Larry was invited to assist in celebrating communion. Larry also met with the pastor, Rev. Flor Cárdenas, and two session members

of the Presbyterian Church of Cartagena, Colombia, on Saturday, June 20, to discuss ways to revitalize our sister church relationship that is now more than a decade old. College Hill's session will now consider Larry's report and suggestions for next steps in reconnecting with our Colombian siblings in Christ in the months ahead.

Larry took part in worship and preached at the Cartagena church on Sunday, June 21, and met the families of several people who have visited Dayton and College Hill in years past. A wonderful homecoming! Ten years ago, a 6-person delegation from College Hill worshiped in that same sanctuary and met the congregation and its leaders to get our sister church collaboration off to a great start.

July visit in Dayton: a 13-person delegation from the Presbytery of the North Coast will come to the Dayton area from July 8-13. During days of meetings and touring, College Hill will host several events:

*Thursday, July 9, 5:00 pm—Vespers service in our sanctuary for entire Colombian delegation and the general public. All at College Hill are welcome. Dinner after the service in Fellowship Hall.

*Saturday, July 11, afternoon and dinner—Informal connection time for CHCC leaders with Germán Zárate, a long-time friend of our church, and possibly other delegation members, with dinner at a restaurant.

*Sunday, July 12, morning and afternoon—10:30 am worship service at which Elder Germán Zárate preaches, and with Hispanic music; all are invited to lunch and a presentation, which follow in Fellowship Hall. We then transport Colombia delegation members to the final celebration, worship, and BBQ at Springboro: Covenant

Presbyterian Church at 4:00 pm on July 12. Reservations are required.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & PEACEMAKING MINISTRY – by Elder Stan Hirtle

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” This is a paraphrase of the words that Martin Luther King said in a sermon in Selma following the police attack on civil rights marchers at the Edmund Pettis Bridge. He said “A man dies when he refuses to stand up for that which is right. A man dies when he refuses to stand up for justice. A man dies when he refuses to take a stand for that which is true.” King’s point was that people may hope to live longer if they do not protest injustice and thereby avoid being fired, beaten, bombed, or shot, but what happens to them is an early death of the spirit. Instead, King said “We’re going to stand up amid anything they can muster up, letting the world know that we are determined to be free!”

Governments have a history of using violence and the threat of violence to intimidate people into silence and get their way. Jesus was killed by the Roman Empire which occupied Palestine and rewarded friendly leaders of Judaism. who Jesus challenged. Similar things happened in the American South when former Confederates used violence by law enforcement and the KKK, dealmaking and legal abuse to replace Reconstruction with Segregation in a way that preserved many of the economic and psychological underpinnings of slavery. In Nazi Germany, similar things were done to enable the delegitimization, persecution and eventual murder of Jews.

All these things took place in societies that were socially divided, where people valued fairness and justice somewhat, but also had other agendas and cared about their own well-being and that of their families. Government leaders recognized that they could use power to attain their ends by attacking the meaning and significance of justice, promoting the authority of the state and its leaders, promoting loyalty to themselves and also hostility to “enemies” who could be blamed for emotionally upsetting situations. They then rewarded friends and punished enemies. This would motivate people to appear to be loyal and supportive, and to silence their concerns.

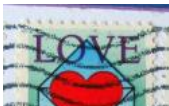
Some former Congresspeople warn that this is happening here. They describe a “rolling coup” through the gradual buildup of a similar program. This includes declaring people who are supposed to be “anti-American”, “anti-capitalist”, “anti-Christian” or “hostile to traditional American views on family, religion and morality” to be domestic terrorists. Then building and using government law enforcement agencies to track the funding sources and supporters of organizations suspected of doing this. And building detention

facilities, not just for immigrants, but for these people also. And seizing data from elections, investigating supposed election crimes in states where they lost, or where people are registering voters who might oppose them. All of this is framed in the legitimate-sounding language of national security or law enforcement, and is paired with a reassuring denial that any harm is taking place. The result can be to prevent recognition of what is happening. And by the time this recognition is understood, the moment to resist it has already diminished or even passed.

Martin Luther King warned that those who do not stand up for justice, right and truth, but choose to remain silent, suffer a death of the spirit. King of course suffered death of his body as well, as did many others.

One issue always is how long do you need to wait before you speak up. King also said “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” In other words, you cannot just tolerate some injustice and hope that when it becomes really serious, you and others like you will then be able to turn it back. Attitudes toward Africans in America and Jews in Europe did not just suddenly spring up to cause enslavement and the Holocaust. Instead, they developed and increased over time. People who could have set them back did not open their mouths to defend those in need. Today, ask whether injustices are happening, and if so, what should you do to prevent them.

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.

OLD CELL PHONES for ARTEMIS

The Artemis Center collects used cell phones as a “vital resource for survivors as they navigate their journey to safety.” Please give your old cell phone(s) to Gladys Turner Finney, and she will turn them into the Artemis Center.

FAITHFUL GIVING

Those worshipping online are welcome to send your offering by mail directly to College Hill Community Church Presbyterian USA, 1547 Philadelphia Drive, Dayton, OH 45406.

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

July 2026 Worship Plans (unless otherwise noted, Rev. Tinsley preaches each Sunday)

Sunday, July 5, 2026: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Communion Sunday; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. Sermon: "I do not understand my own actions" Communion with sealed cups; First Fruits Offering; Choir music each Sunday in July; special hymns for national commemoration; Moment for Mission on Colombian sister church relationship and 30th anniversary of presbytery partnership; presentation of gifts provided by Colombian partners.

Thursday, July 9, 2026: Vespers Service for Presbytery of the Miami Valley welcoming Delegation from partner Presbytery of the North Coast in Colombia; 5:00 pm Various Scriptural texts and music for the close of the day; all are welcome. Dinner to follow the service in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, July 12, 2026: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost; 10:30 am Scriptural Text: Mark 1:21-27. Sermon: "Our Authority Comes from God," presented by Ruling Elder Germán Zárate-Durier, member of delegation from Presbytery of the North Coast in Colombia. Special music in Spanish and presentations of gifts. Expected communion with sealed cups during this service. Lunch and discussion following service in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, July 19, 2026: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost; Youth Sunday; 10:30 am Scriptural Texts: Genesis 28:10-19a; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. Sermon: "...you have received a spirit of adoption." Youth Sunday; Time for Children in worship; Ian Hetherington is supply pianist.

Sunday, July 26, 2026: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost; 10:30 am Scriptural texts: Genesis 29:15-28; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52. Sermon: "...the Spirit helps us in our weakness." Celebrate July birthdays.



HELLO FROM YOUR DEACONS

Hello and blessings from your Deacons-Mack, Diann, Pat, Marcus, Bernetha and Marj! We keep our congregation in prayer and hope you'll contact your deacon with any special prayers or celebrations. If you do not know who your deacon is, speak with Deacon Mack and he'll get back to you with that information. And we ask you to keep the deacons in prayer as we serve our shepherding lists.

SAFE "ROAD TRIP" COMPLETION

A heartfelt thanks is given to all of the many volunteers it took to help our youth and the youth from Believer's Christian Fellowship have a successful "Road Trip" Vacation Bible School. Many of the youth were transported in the church van each night, a meal was served every night, Bible stories were shared, crafts were made, and song & dance rehearsal occurred in the sanctuary. Clean-up of the church occurred every evening, too. Including the adult class, 40-50 people attended VBS that week. Youth Advisor Marcus Johnson had many volunteers to make this week possible whether they volunteered every night or when needed. It was the SPIRIT and ENERGY of the adults that made this a week of learning, creativity, and caring for the youth. The week ended with a Friday evening performance from each class and a song & dance performed by the youth classes for the parents and friends who attended. Everyone gathered in Fellowship Hall for a final meal together of pizza, vegetables, chips, and ice cream. Christian Education would like to thank Brenda Brown who has coordinated and/or volunteered at VBS for many years. Her spirit of love was missed this year, and we are keeping her in prayer.



YOUTH INVOLVEMENT TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW – by Pat Townsel



Have you even had a time when you are feeling really good about yourself and feel compelled to give yourself a pat on the back? Well, this article is a situation just like that. Firstly, our church was able to sponsor seventeen eager young people to attend Camp Kirkmont this summer. This was possible only through the collaboration of First *Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, MI (FPGH)*, assistance from our

friend and staunch supporter, Don Nowaak, The Synod of the Covenant, and several sources within our own local church family. What a blessing of family connection and support! Twelve of the younger children spent the week of June 22 thru June 26th at The Kirkmont Center Junior Campers Group E and returned filled with wonderful, inspiring

memories. Already, they are expressing joyful hopes for attending next year. Our older youth and teens will go in July.

The day following their return was Father's Day, and these same young people attended church, delivered a rousing poem to the fathers and fathering-persons in the congregation, and then helped to prepare for the fellowship celebration after the service.

Topping off those experiences was a week of Vacation Bible School which for several years has been conducted in partnership with Believer's Christian Fellowship. The children and adults came every evening from six to eight- thirty for bible stories, crafts, singing and dance, food and fun. On Friday, each group gave a creative demonstration of their experiences. Whew! June certainly was an intensive investment in enriching the lives of our youth and all those who work and worship with them!

The hours of prayer, planning, and carry-through doubtlessly were time and energy consuming. But as you might expect from the opening of this article, the results were more than worth it! In fact, all of us involved are entertaining visions of this success continuing for years to come.

We trust that when God's love, and our love for God work together, just as God promises:

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 NRSVUE

Worship & Music Committee Highlights from June 2026

At last month's meeting on June 9, 2026, your Worship & Music (W&M) Committee:

--Asked that session approve a special celebration of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, July 12, when members of the Presbytery of the North Coast delegation will be present with us in worship and Elder Germán Zárate will preach (this is in addition to the regular communion on the first Sunday of the month, July 5).

--At the request of CHCC Presbyterian Women, requested that session approve Rev. Ruth-Aimée Belonni-Rosario, associate executive for racial justice at the Synod of the Covenant, as guest preacher at College Hill on Sunday, October 11.

--Provided an update on the search for a worship pianist.

--Made general worship plans from June to September and beyond, in 2026. Discussion included Juneteenth information to be distributed on June 14; Recognition Sunday and Father's Day on June 21, including prayers for Adriano Herrera as he serves as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 227th General Assembly of the PC(USA) from June 22-July 2; July 5 worship includes specially-chosen music at time of national commemoration of US 250th anniversary, and also Larry Hollar Moment for Mission on his Colombia visit; Plans for two worship services at College Hill, on July 9 and 12, with presence of members of Colombia delegation visiting our church from our partner Presbytery of the North Coast (see separate article); also see two motions to session above for further actions. W&M will consider in the future a request from the Ullery-Elam Committee for a Blue Christmas service in December for those experiencing grief or loss at the holiday time, to enhance our church's outreach to the community.

--Planning is beginning for College Hill hosting the in-person meeting of Miami Valley Presbytery on Saturday, November 14, starting at 9:00 am and including lunch. Session members will lead the planning team and quite a few volunteers will be needed. Nearly one hundred visitors are likely to come that day.

--Judy McCray reported on the task force created to advise session on what to do next in developing a safety team for the church, as a result of the Active Shooter training.

--Prayers were extended for our colleague Brenda Brown as she approaches surgery.

--W&M meets on Tuesday, July 7, at 5:00 pm via Zoom. W&M members are Larry Hollar (chair), Kathy Lakes, Mack Lakes, Judy McCray, Susie Grierson, Brenda Brown, Ivy Young, and Rev. Tinsley.

Taking Community Mental Health to the Streets by Elder Jose' Jones



Willis Blackshear Jr., Ohio Senator for the Sixth District, took to the streets in May 2026 to raise awareness for mental health. His 72-mile walk was from downtown Dayton to the State Capitol in Columbus. Senator Blackshear highlighted two pieces of his legislation: Senate Bill 121, which would designate April as Counseling Awareness Month, and Senate Bill 330, the Student Wellness Act. Speaking at the Zion Baptist Church's Community Mental Health Initiative monthly meeting, Blackshear spoke candidly about the need

to "check in on one another" and confided that "it is okay to not be okay." "We can make or break someone else's life by the grace we share in dealing with them...there is no community without UNITY."

The Zion Baptist Community Mental Health Initiative is the brainchild of Dr. Georgia Alexander, a Zion parishioner and mental health counselor. Her goal is to garner unity and support of this community around protecting our neighbors who suffer from mental health issues. Helping others helps us all! For more information or to join this growing initiative, call Dr. Georgia Alexander at 937-723-1578.



The Zion Baptist Mental Health Initiative team poses with Senator Blackshear.

COLLEGE HILL CC ELDERS AND DEACONS

Listed below are the names of our currently ordained/installed leaders at College Hill Community Church. Contact any of them with questions or comments concerning CHCC. Please check the Church directory for the contact information.

SESSION:

Class of 2026

Stan Hirtle
Jacqueline McKenzie

Class of 2027

Obie Harris
Larry Hollar

Class of 2028

Jose' Lamont Jones
Ivy Young (Clerk of Session)

DEACONS:

Class of 2026

Diann Harris
Marcus Johnson

Class of 2027

Marjorie Baker
Pat Townsel

Class of 2028

Mack Lakes, Moderator
Bernetha Pulliam

CHCC MINISTRY MEETING INFORMATION

<u>MINISTRY</u>	<u>MEETING DAY</u>	<u>MEETING TIME</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Building & Grounds	2nd Saturday	2pm	Dan Peters
Christian Education	3rd Sunday	Following Worship	Pat Townsel
Deacons	2nd Saturday	11am	MackArthur Lakes
Interp & Stewardship	2nd Monday	2 pm	Ivy Young
Older Kids	Thursdays	TBA	Gladys Turner-Finney
Social Justice & Peacemaking	2nd Tuesday	7pm	Stan Hirtle
Ullery Elam Public Relations	TBA	TBA	Brenda Peters
Worship & Music	2nd Tuesday	5pm	Larry Hollar

COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH MEDIA CHCC's website is collegehillcommunitychurch.org and our Facebook page is College Hill Community Church PCUSA. Check out the good news from College Hill!