



Belltower News

College Hill Presbyterian Church – March 2018

What is Lent?

Last month we encountered an unusual intersection on the calendar. February 14th is recognized in our culture as Valentine's Day. This year, it also happened to be Ash Wednesday. The two observances created a unique juxtaposition. On one hand, we feel the need to send cards, buy candy, and spend time with those we love. On the other hand is a call to remember that "you are dust" and contemplate the weight of your sin.

As the pastor of worship, I spent a lot of time thinking about how we would handle this tension. After reflecting, I opened one of my favorite books from recent years, "Liturgy of the Ordinary" by Tish Harrison Warren. In it, she explores the Christian life and in particular the formative effects of worship and the church calendar. In one chapter, she contemplates the notion of "time" wherein she says,

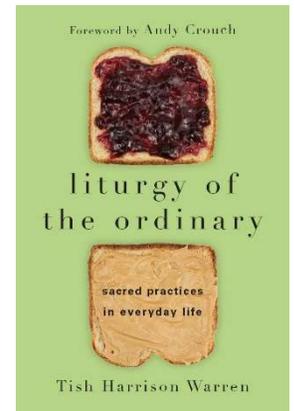
Discovering the liturgical (church) calendar felt like discovering real time. It gave transcendent shape to my life. Time was no longer arbitrary-an academic calendar, a marketing ploy, a back to school sale, a Labor Day blowout, a national holiday, a sports season. Now time was sacred. It was structured by worship. It marked the church as a global, alternative people. Time had shape and meaning. All of a sudden, time was a story. And I could live in a story. In the church calendar we learn the rhythm of life through narrative.

She goes on to say,

In the liturgical year there is never a celebration without preparation. First we wait, we mourn, we ache, we repent. We aren't ready to celebrate until we acknowledge, over time through ritual and worship, that we and this world are not yet right and whole. Before Easter, we have Lent. Before Christmas, we have Advent. We fast. Then we feast. We prepare. We practice waiting.

One of the beautiful things about her observation are that Christians are really a distinct people group. We have our own observances and our own calendar. Christians around the world and throughout time have been bound by this common culture of liturgy.

As I read her words it occurred to me that there is no better way to illustrate the uniqueness of God's people than by having a group of people spend their Valentine's day getting ashes on their heads. As we gathered at CHPC, Christians around the world also gathered to observe the same tradition. I urge you during this season of Lent to dig a little deeper into the meaning of this time. I also invite you to participate both with CHPC and Christians around the world and throughout time in our observation of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.



Rev. Mike Jorgensen

Stained Glass Work Nearing Completion

As part of Regeneration project, all of the stained glass windows on the campus are being restored. Phase 1 of this process involved removing the most deteriorated units for off-site re-building. This phase is nearly complete. Within the next few weeks crews will be on site preparing the openings for re-installation after which the restored window will arrive on site. All stained glass windows are expected to be re-installed this Spring. Phase 2 of the process (in-place restoration) will then commence for the remaining windows.

Other Regeneration projects are progressing as well. You may have noticed new TV monitors recently installed in the Atrium, Parlor, and Fireside Room. Replacement windows for the Fireside Room are on order. Way-finding signage has been designed and will be installed throughout the campus this year. Upgrades to the sanctuary technology are in the works. And remodeling of the Ministry Center Basement is currently being designed.

Finally, we are happy to report that the pavement and drainage work performed last year proved to be invaluable in protecting the campus from flooding over the past few weeks. Without these recent improvements, the Choir Room, Atrium, and Ministry Center Basement would have experienced significant water infiltration. It is a blessing to see the benefits of Regeneration in such a tangible way.



Thank you for your continued support of the Regeneration Campaign. If you would like to add support to the Regeneration efforts, please contact Heather Lethander in the church office.

Look for more updates from the Regeneration Implementation Committee.



Lent Worship Schedule:

Prayer and Praise:

Every Wednesday night from 6:03 – 6:33 pm

Palm Sunday:

March 25th, One service at 10 am

Maundy Thursday Service:

March 24th, 7 pm

Good Friday Service:

March 25th, 7 pm

Easter Sunday:

April 1st, 9 am (traditional) and 11 am (contemporary)

Developing Resiliency

Life is Hard! Jesus even reminds “In this world you have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33). Jesus brings the promise of his peace in the midst of trouble. Earlier in John 16, Jesus tells the disciples the Spirit of truth will guide into all truth. So what gets in the way of living in the peace Christ promises?

Sometimes the struggle of living in peace involves the struggle of living with ourselves. The internal dialogue may create the doubts and anxieties. Self-beliefs rooted in shame can wreak havoc in our worlds. Shame is the felt experience of being something wrong. For example, if you make a mistake or fail at something, shame messages will say “**you are a failure**” or “**you are defective.**” Shame often leads to self-destructive behaviors such as perfectionism, addictions, people-pleasing, pride and isolation.

The good news is Jesus never intended for us to live in shame. There is hope to be free from those self-condemning messages and to walk daily in the truth. The Care & Counseling ministry is offering a group to identify the negative messages and to learn to walk in the freedom God promises. *Developing Resiliency* (based on the work of Brené Brown, researcher and author on shame) will meet on Tuesdays, beginning April 10 from 7-8:30 PM for 12 weeks. Watch the bulletin for more details and registration information.

*Jeanne Schneider,
Director of Care and Counseling*

The ECO National Gathering 2018 – Houston, TX

For me, the National Gathering has become an encouraging annual event both spiritually and relationally. I am uplifted by the corporate worship, the keynote speakers and the conversations and interactions with other ECO Covenant Partners. It also brings opportunity for time outside of our usual routine with friends from CHPC. I look forward to this event

every January and this year was my best experience yet.

The worship band offered a variety

of musical styles all done with excellence. They introduced me to unfamiliar worship choruses. They shared a newly commissioned piece, composed by the pianist, that was a jazzier, choir-sung version of “The Solid Rock.” One day the worship band included a horn section, the next day a string quartet. I enjoy corporate worship and in a room with 1,800 or so it transports me to the foot of God’s throne. There were excellent speakers encouraging us to humble ourselves before God, to not be satisfied with dying slower as a church but to be bold in discipleship, leadership development and church planting. Ed Stetzer had us repeating (and therefore remembering) that we have each been called, to all kinds of peoples, with a message, empowered by the Holy Spirit. It was an honor to hear Condoleezza Rice remind us to nurture the life of the mind as well as the life of service and that our best witness to the millennial generation is to do both well.

For the last year I have been doing contract work for ECO as a coach/ liaison for their resource, “Becoming A Flourishing Church.” I have spoken with pastors of 18 different congregations and was able to meet a few of them in Houston face-to-face. I was also able to have lunch with ECO staff members that oversee the resource and a couple of other coaches. It was good to share my experiences and hear from them as well. These gatherings are thoughtfully put together and I consider it a privilege every year I am able to attend. I highly recommend them to all our leadership and any others that are even slightly interested in our denomination and the resources they offer for CHPC to become a flourishing church that makes disciples of Jesus.



Janet Dumford

World Mission News: Global Worker Updates

Join us on Sunday, March 18 to hear updates from Drew and Cathy Smith, and Barry and Sam Stare on their visits with Abdel and Olivia Hdija, Jorg and Lisa Schmidt and John and Laura Shindeldecker this past fall during their Reformation Tour. Potluck Lunch will be at Belwood dining room (1776 Larch Ave, 45224, back entrance) after second service. Speakers will begin their update about 1:30 pm. All are invited! Call Robin 675-4375 with any questions.

To learn more about College Hill Presbyterian Church visit our new website at:
www.chpc.org

There you can find an event calendar, registration for classes and events, sermon audio, online giving, sign up to receive emails and prayer updates, and much more!

Children, Youth, and Family Updates

Children, Youth & Family Summer Internships! CHPC hires interns each summer who are challenged and trained to become fully equipped disciples of Jesus who make disciples of Jesus, while they challenge and train children, youth, and their families to do the same. Young adults who are at least one year out of high school are eligible to apply for full-time positions. High-schoolers who have completed 10th-12th grade and who have worked with kids at CHPC or been part of CHPC's youth group in the past year are eligible to apply for part-time positions. Applications are available online at chpc.org/summer2018 and are due March 15th!

Summer 2018 Youth Mission Trip! All current 7th-12th graders are invited to join our team June 10-15 for a 6-day cross-cultural experience where we will show God's love to families and kids through home repair and day camp ministries with Alabama Rural Ministry in Tuskegee, Alabama. Applications are online at chpc.org/summer2018 and are due March 25th!



COLLEGE HILL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH