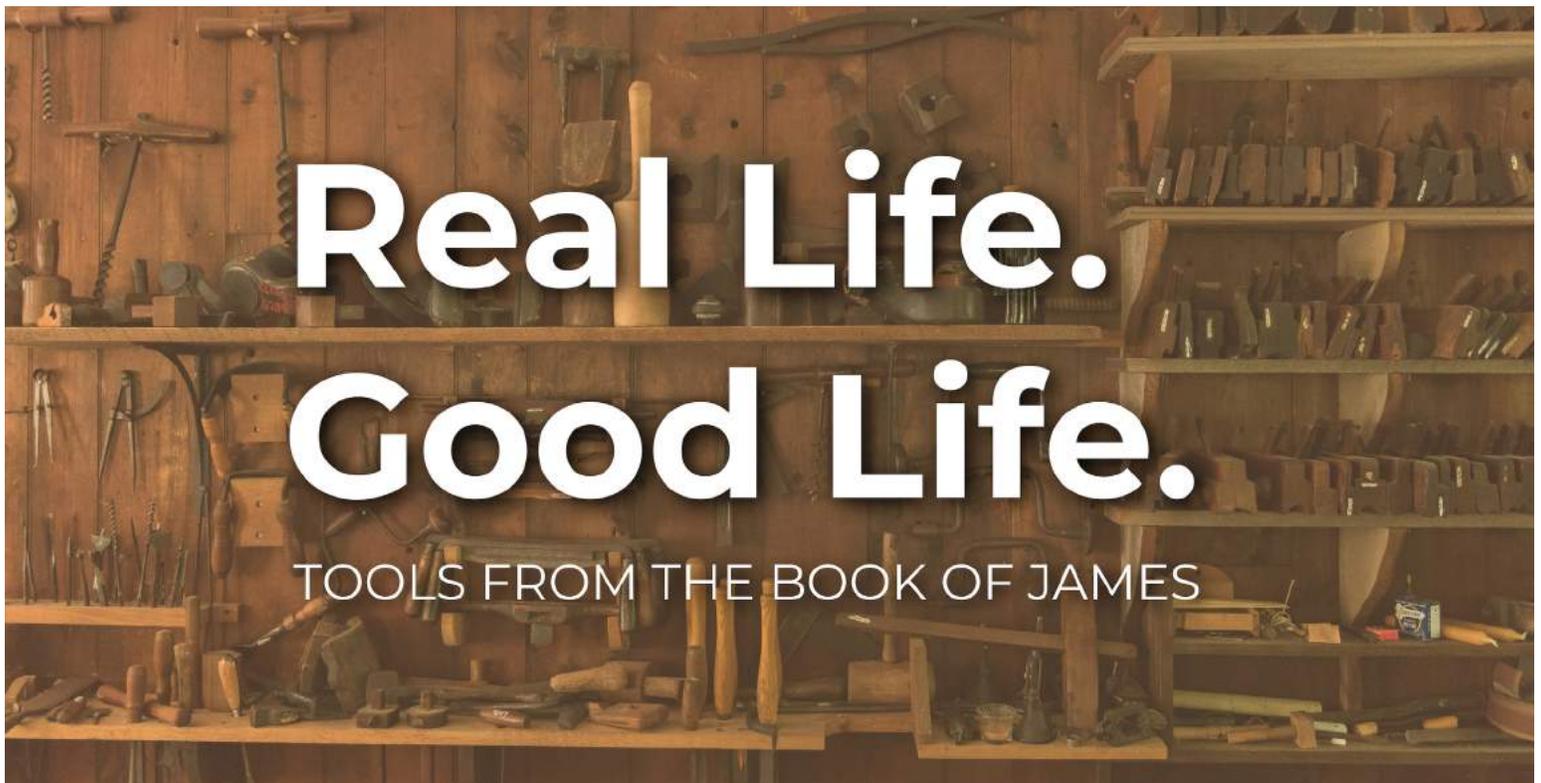


# BELLTOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – March 2019

513.541.5676 | 5742 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45224 | [chpc.org](http://chpc.org)

## LENT SERMON SERIES



Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on March 6 at 7pm. Our Lenten sermon series will be looking at the wisdom for life in the Book of James. ■

**March 6** – Ash Wednesday, 7pm

**March 10** – Know Good Do Good James 1:19-27

**March 17** – Good For All James 2:1-13

**March 24** – Good Words James 3:1-12

**March 31** – Good Friend Bad Friend James 3:13-4:10

**April 7** – Good Times Hard Times James 5:7-12

**April 14** – Palm Sunday

**April 18** – Maundy Thursday, 7pm

**April 19** – Good Friday, 7pm

**April 21** – Easter Sunday



COLLEGE HILL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Directions:** Fill in the missing words from Matthew to complete the story of Jesus' 40 days of temptation in the wilderness. A=Across and D=Down. (Answer on back)

**Matthew 4: 1-11**

**4** Then Jesus was led by the 23D into the 22A to be 21D by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After 20A forty 7A and forty 27D, he was 3A.<sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these 11D to become 1D."

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is 15A: '28D shall not 4A on bread 14A, but on every 6D that comes from the 24A of God.'"

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy 13D and had him stand on the 3D point of the 25D. <sup>6</sup> "If you are the Son of God," he said, "32A yourself down. For it is written:

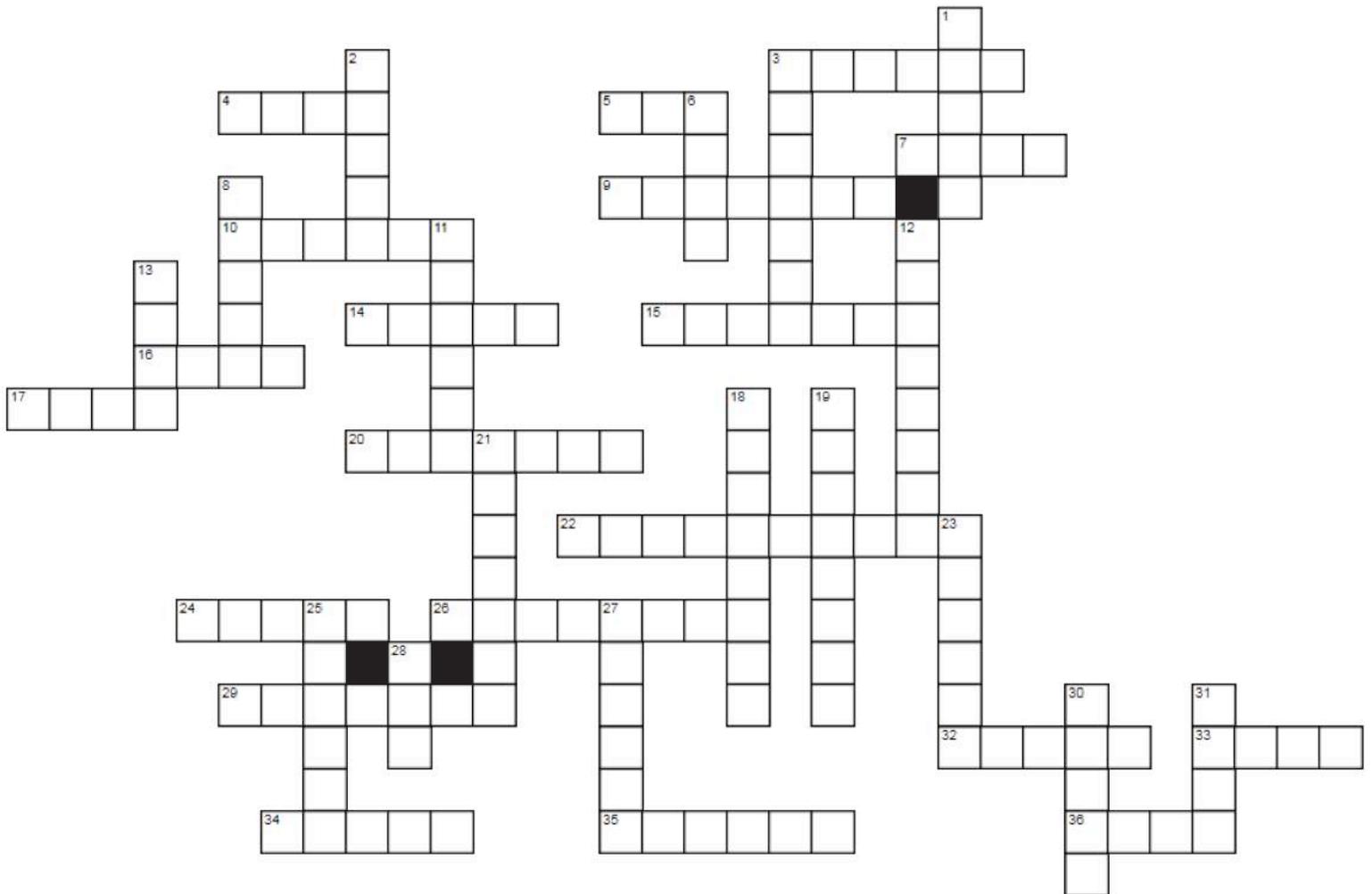
"He will 29A his angels concerning you, and they will 36A you up in their 8D, so that you will not 35A your 31D against a stone."

<sup>7</sup> 34A answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the 16A.'"

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high 19D and showed him all the 12D of the 30D and their 18D. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will 5A down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "17A from me, Satan! For it is written: '9A the Lord your God, and 2D him 33A.'"

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and 10A came and 26A him. ■



# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY UPDATE

*By The Session CYF Task Force*

Dear CHPC Families and Covenant Partners,

The Session has assigned four elders to a Children, Youth & Family (CYF) Ministry Task Force to work with, and in support of, Mike Jorgensen in his new role as Assistant Pastor of Discipleship. It is our privilege to serve you, Mike, and God in this way.

One of our first opportunities as a Task Force was to join Mike in talking with a candidate for the position of Interim Director of Children's Ministry. We believe an interim position will provide a temporary arrangement as the Session seeks God's will and discernment for the leadership and long-term vision for our CYF Ministry.

We are pleased to welcome Jennifer Cronk to our CHPC community as the Interim Director. You will be introduced

to Jennifer on Sunday, March 3, during the services. You can welcome her personally during receptions in the Club Room after each Worship Service.

Jennifer comes with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Carson-Newman College in Tennessee, and a Master of Arts in Educational Ministries from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. She has twenty years of experience in six different settings. She is a leader with a passion for children's ministry that includes creativity, communication, and relationship-building. We are excited to see how God will grow Jennifer as we come along side to support and encourage her in this new role.

We also ask you to join us in prayer and expectation for what God will do in the next few months. Children's Ministry will look different this summer. There

will be no Resident Camp. We are working and planning with Jennifer as she talks to our ministry partners and families to see what new programs and ideas might best fit your needs and desires for your families.

We look forward to the Holy Spirit's movement and renewal in each of us as we seek to share Jesus with the children of our congregation and our neighborhood and ultimately bring honor and glory to God!

If you have questions or want to show your support please feel free to contact us. With much gratitude,

The Session CYF Task Force –  
Helen Brooks, Janet Dumford, Bonnie Mack, Kip Mueller ■

Jennifer Cronk hails from Lexington, KY. She's a graduate of Carson-Newman University and Covenant Seminary. Jennifer grew up watching her teacher mom pour into the lives of kids. This, combined with a children's ministry internship during seminary, produced a natural love for teaching kids the Gospel.

Jennifer has been doing ministry for 20 years, and has been serving in children's ministry for 11 years. She's served in many different ministry contexts, including East Asia,

South Carolina, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, and Ohio.

Jennifer lives in North Avondale, with her adorable pound puppy Bentley. She loves reading and writing, photography, and traveling and exploring new places, and helping make her neighborhood a kinder place. ■



# A SUPPER CLUB MYSTERY

Marybelle Chapman

Join Queen City Gothic author JT Townsend as he takes us behind the scenes of the 1966 Bricca family murder investigation. . .

An investigation that became a sinister impasse when detectives were engulfed by a case beyond belief. . .

A prominent prime suspect who lived the rest of his life under a cloud of hideous suspicion. . .

And a community so obsessed with this grim and terrible crime that the rumor mill is still vibrant after 50 years. . .

This riveting program includes sealed information from the case file now being made public a half century after the crime.

Supper Club will meet **March 25** in Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be served

at 6:15 for \$12.00 (pay at the door). **You must make reservations by Thursday, March 23** by calling Sally Auble at (513) 741-3125. ■

## URGENT: IMMEDIATE NEED IN VENEZUELA

Venezuela is facing an unprecedented economic crisis. The average salary is equivalent to less than 50 cents a day. The inflation rate was the highest in the world in 2018. Due to the difficulties of finding food in the market, and unemployment estimated at 30%, doctors are seeing alarming rates of starvation.

As the country undergoes this severe economic crisis, the Presbyterian Church of Venezuela has defied political polarizations and undertaken an effort to serve meals and distribute groceries among the neediest individuals and families through most of its twenty-two congregations and three schools.

The meals, usually breakfast or lunch, are served to approximately 1,100 people monthly. Children, youth, the

elderly, and other vulnerable parts of the communities are given priority. Volunteers are committed to finding the best quality food available despite the difficulties created by frequent shortages. Attention is given to building respectful relationships with those that benefit from the efforts to present the message of Christ with those that may be open to it.

The Outreach Foundation has maintained communication with the top leadership of the Presbyterian Church of Venezuela. For the next 30 days, Outreach will be collecting gifts for the church in Venezuela to assist with providing those in need with nutritious meals. Donations of \$140 provide 100 nutritious meals for those in need.

Please consider making a donation to help the people of Venezuela who



are in dire need. You can give online or you can mail a check to The Outreach Foundation, 381 Riverside Drive, Suite 110, Franklin, TN 37064 designated for the Venezuela Appeal. ■



COLLEGE HILL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# PRAYER COVENANT FOR KIDS

By Candy Marballi and Sharlyn Stare

At College Hill Presbyterian Church in the 1970's and 1980's, God used Revs Jerry Kirk and Ron Rand to launch a life-changing resource — The Prayer Covenant. Over the years, thousands of adults prayed for one another one-on-one in specific ways for 30-days. God honored those prayers!

Fast forward to 2011. Jerry Kirk, now an international Christian leader, began re-envisioning the Prayer Covenant. He and Rev Stephen Eyre collaborated on the book: [The Prayer Covenant: Following Jesus Together](#). The Covenant and video resources provide a clear and practical way to pray, empowering an exciting world-changing mission as you experience the Lordship of Jesus Christ in new ways.

[The Power of the Prayer Covenant for Kids](#) was created by educator Candy Marballi and Rev Stephen Eyre. Its colorful award-winning illustrations are so engaging. The first half of the book is just for kids; the second half is a teaching guide for parents and educators.

Like wildfire, *The Prayer Covenant for Kids*, has spread to 47 countries around the world. The message in many languages is simple: God loves children. Kids praying will change the world.

Millions of copies of the prayer cards have been distributed. Candy Marballi reports this from a training event in Kuwait:



171 GATHERED IN KUWAIT TO PRAY AND LEARN TO TEACH KIDS TO PRAY!

Each morning I awoke to the Muslim call to prayer at 5 a.m. It served as a reminder of Muslims' commitment and dedication to prayer — a challenge to the 21st Century evangelical Church.

It was a joyful reunion to be with our leaders for the Middle East region. 171 came together from various churches and ministries including Awana, the Salvation Army, Rivers of Life Arabic Church, the Hindi Church, Al Salam and many others.

They represent a melting pot of nationalities and denominations who meet at various times throughout Sunday and during the week. These groups did an amazing job hosting our first *Kids Prayer Covenant* launch in the Middle East. The results were

overwhelming! Candy Marballi says that *The Kids' Prayer Covenant* is so effective “because it teaches children to pray *Christ-centered* prayers. Such prayers are so foundational for raising Jesus Followers because when one prays Christ-centered prayers, Jesus answers them and faith grows! Kids start sharing with other kids and praying for their parents, friends, neighborhoods. Jesus is glorified!

Watch Candy Marballi on YouTube. Type in *Introduction to The Power of the Prayer Covenant for Kids*. Find out how kids in India, Africa, the Middle East, etc are learning to talk to God each day, and are experiencing a deeper relationship with Him and discovering Jesus' transforming power. ■

# THE REAL CONNECTION

By Sharlyn Stare

## THE GOOD NEWS

We are chosen in Christ to become members of the community of the new covenant. This covenant, which God Himself guarantees, unites us to God and to one another. Already in the creation, we discover that we are made to live in relationships to others, male and female, created together in God's image. In Christ, we are adopted into the family of God and find our new identity as brothers and sisters of one another, since we now share one Father. Our faith requires our active participation in a covenant community — there are no lone-ranger Christians.

In our denomination, ECO [The Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians], those who join the church enter into a two-way 'covenant' with the congregation, explained in ECO's Constitution:

## The Benefits of Covenantal Partnership

Becoming a covenant partner is important not only to the congregation but even more importantly for the covenant partners, as they are positioned to receive encouragement, support, and correction that the Lord promises to those who share spiritual fellowship. In committing to the cause of a life lived in and through Jesus Christ, covenant partners grow in Christian community together to become more Christ-like. In Christian community, we realize the fullness of life together and life in Christ, and discover our unique place

in a common mission and narrative of God's work. The covenant partner and the congregation are both blessed and become a great blessing as they covenant together, intentionally, in Christ's work.

## The Congregation's Expectations of Covenantal Partnership

Each covenant partner shall strive to be faithful to Christ by participating in the congregation's worship, fellowship, and service on an ongoing basis. Faithfulness in Christ as a covenant partner, involves a commitment to growth into spiritual maturity as a disciple of Christ and dedication of time and talents to the congregation's mission and ministry, in accordance to the gifts that God has bestowed upon him or her.

Faithfulness also involves the stewardship of finances. As each covenant partner grows in the grace of giving, financial support of the congregation's mission and ministry should grow, along with tangible support for other ministries that advance God's Kingdom. Those who are invited to take significant leadership roles in the congregation should be spiritually mature, carefully selected, trained and/or mentored ordinarily be covenant partners for at least a year, and shall agree and adhere to the Essential Tenets of the ECO.

## "So how's that working for you?"

There are many 'connection points' on this 2-way street throughout the

week...personal needs/ counseling, the Gospel Project studies, small group ministries and equipping events, men's and women's groups, special events, mission opportunities, etc. But for most people, Sunday Morning Worship is a common place to 'connect.'

## Connection Card

Welcome to College Hill Presbyterian Church  
Thanks for worshipping with us today!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Service Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

I am a first time guest

I'm interested in serving

I would like a phone call

Prayer request

Interested In:

Children's Ministry

Men's Ministry

Women's Ministry

Young Adult (20's/30's)

Youth Ministry

Please place this card in the offering when it is passed.  
Learn more about us at [www.chpc.org](http://www.chpc.org)

### Contact Information

(only fill out if the church does not have your current information)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



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## REASONS TO FILL OUT THE SUNDAY 'CONNECTION CARD'

- 1) REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP — As a member, you fulfill your membership vows to be "active in the work and worship of the church." If not a member, you can record your presence or if you're new to the church/neighborhood.
- 2) PROVIDE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION TO THE CHURCH — An easy way to update address/ phone/ email/ name to ensure helpful communication. This information is used to follow up with church visitors.
- 3) SOLICIT PRAYER — You may indicate if a prayer request is private or if it can



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be shared with the e-Prayer group of prayers.

4) NOTE WHEN REGULAR ATTENDERS ARE MISSING OR ATTENDING — Each week, attendance is recorded. Is someone sick? On vacation? If a person does not fill out card, an absence is assumed. Attendance records are audited along with Giving Records for 'active participation' in the life of the congregation, and when church leaders are being selected.

Why is it important to be active in the church? Again the ECO Constitution speaks: "Before the foundation of the world, God set a plan of mission to reconcile the world to Himself and chose to use the Church as His instrument of reconciliation. It is incumbent upon all members of the body of Christ to participate in the work of building one another up in Christ and be deployed for His work in the world."

God is expecting His church to be in a two-way covenant partnership, to upbuild one another, practice discipline in order to help one another along the path to new life, speaking the truth in love to one another, bearing one another's burdens, and offering to one another the grace of

Christ. That's real 'connection!' ■

## REQUESTING PRAYERS

By Kelly Hibbett

Bernice P. Davis knows first-hand the value of making prayer requests. From a very young age, Bernice had faith that prayer works. At nine years old, she was singing with a Christian rap group, God Squad, and answered the call to become a follower of Jesus. She immediately noticed herself changing as the Holy Spirit worked in her, giving her a new sense of calm and patience. Then, throughout her life, she found herself in situations in which she had to have faith, and prayer is what saw her through those situations.



One of those difficult times was when she became a single mother, still in high school and planning

for college. She was very young and completely unprepared for motherhood. She had things she wanted to do with her life and didn't know how a baby fit into those plans. So, she turned it over to God, through prayer, and He gave her the maturity and wisdom to be a mother and the assurance to know that they were going to be alright.

These days, Bernice regularly uses the Connection Card to make prayer requests because, she explains, "The more people know about what's happening in my life, the more prayers will be said." ■

### Prayer & Praise

Use this space to share prayers and praise from your week.

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I would like a phone call  Share request on email prayer chain



COLLEGE HILL  
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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

By Cheryl Schaeffner

Rosa Brinkman and Helen Brooks are two visionaries in our midst who have brought their visions into reality, immeasurably blessing us with a glimpse into what heaven will be like. Both women share a passion for the welfare of children and a desire for each child to know Jesus and develop life skills to prosper. Out of their love, they both spend hours behind the scenes to bring us very special worship experiences.

## JOYFUL NOISE

When Rosa Brinkman came to our church several years ago, she immediately began observing Robin Hubbuch's work with the children. She volunteered at summer camp to be with her grandson and to get to know the kids. In those early months, she was given the vision of bringing the children into the sanctuary as a

children's choir. Brenda Clark shares the vision and has given much time and effort with Rosa to develop the choir.

Rosa and Brenda are always on the look-out for opportunities to take the children to concerts. Last year, they enlisted the help of volunteers and took the children to The Nutcracker. In spite of the fact that Rosa does not read music, she finds music online and sends it to the children to learn. They practice on Saturdays, singing along with CDs. She says the children love to sing, and she sees music as an avenue for them to easily learn scripture.

They began with 14 children and now have 7 regular singers. Their hope is to have more children representing the racial and ethnic diversity of the families in our church and community.

They sang for Taste of Honey on February 23 to celebrate Black History Month and will begin practicing in March for Easter Sunday. Rosa plans to attend Sunday school classes every six weeks to teach songs and scripture with the hope the children will catch her love of music and will want to be part of the choir.

## JESUS UNIVERSITY

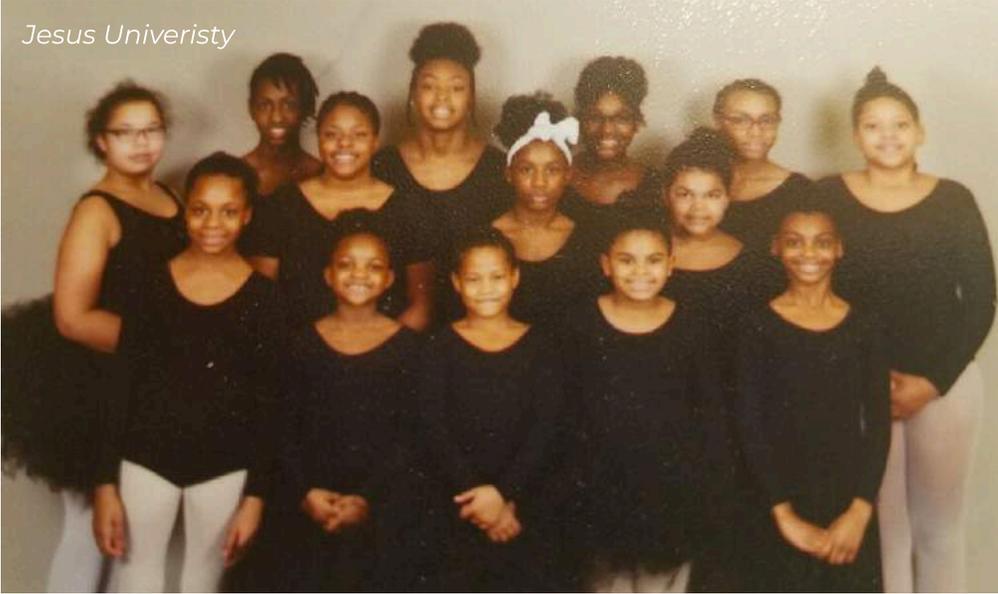
Soon after coming to our church, Helen Brooks began to gather children to form a liturgical dance team as a way to teach core Christian values and provide a safe environment for children to develop trusting relationships and release their creative energies. Currently, she has 21 children with ages ranging from 8 to 15 years. They meet Saturday afternoons for "Jesus University." Helen has recruited Nicole James, a 17-year-old Walnut Hills student, to teach ballet to the older girls. Helen works with the younger children on liturgical dance. The younger and older children practice together to lead us in worship through dance on Sunday mornings.

This is quite a time commitment for the students, as well as parents who come to help supervise and provide snacks. Each Saturday session begins with stretches to prepare for practice. They then settle into a Bible lesson and snacks before the actual dancing begins.

Like Rosa, Helen sees Jesus University as a ministry to the community as well as within our church. From the



Jesus Univeristy



beginning, she has taken the group to nursing homes throughout the city. I had the opportunity to accompany the early ministry group and witnessed the enthusiastic response of the residents. The children and the music bridged loneliness and despair, bringing tears and smiles and many requests for repeat performances.

Jesus University will be dancing at the Supper Club in April and Twin Towers in May. They will also join other dance groups under the auspices of City Gospel Mission in a recital April 6. Watch for details of these upcoming events.

Donations are greatly appreciated

for both ministries. For Joyful Noise, the money will help defray the cost of music and trips to concerts. For Jesus University, donations will help to provide dancing gear for the students who do not have resources.

Contributions can be given on Sunday morning in the offering plate by designating them "Joyful Noise Choir" or "Jesus University." The donations can also be given to Heather Lethander.

These two ministries have proven dynamic in building self-esteem and giving hope and the Word of God to children. Let's come alongside Rosa and Helen, not only with donations, but getting to know the children. Greet them on Sundays. Most likely you will get a shy response, but I've been told it means a lot to the children to be kindly noticed and acknowledged by us adults. They are most precious in the Lord's sight. ■

## LOOKING TO HELP OUT?

CHPC has some great opportunities to volunteer and we need all kinds of skill sets! Here are three to consider:

**1. Church Photographers** – With a new website, brochure, and social media activity, the church has great need of a library of high-quality pictures. If you own a nice camera (or can borrow one) then you can help us out! We need people who are willing to show up to church events, including Sunday worship, and take lots of pictures.

**2. Printing** – The church spends hours printing every week whether it is for worship bulletins, newsletters, or Gospel Project material. If you have time in the middle of the week then this could be a great way to help the church out! Printing, like most things, is better with a friend so feel free to sign-up as a group.

**3. Social Media Team** – Do you spend hours each week on Facebook, Instagram, Yelp or other social media

platforms? If so, then you may be able to use that time to help people find our church. We're looking for folks who can help in keeping the congregation up-to-date about what is going on as well as create content that will reach new people.

If you're interested in any of these opportunities or just want to learn more then contact Rev. Mike Jorgensen ([mjorgensen@chpc.org](mailto:mjorgensen@chpc.org)). ■

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH POEM TOUCHES HEARTS

By Kelly Hibbett

Last month, Rosa Brinkman shared a Langston Hughes poem called “The Negro Mother” during Sunday morning worship, and it obviously touched hearts as Rosa received many requests for a copy of it.. Written in 1931, the poem resonates even today with its message of strength and hope. Langston Hughes, a leader of the Harlem Renaissance, wrote “The

Negro Mother” in a unique juncture in history when an older generation of a formerly enslaved people bore witness to their grandchildren reaching for the stars, free in name yet still living in a segregated world in which their talents and worth went largely unrecognized. The mother speaking in the poem identifies with the Israelites, who, like her, “crossed the red sea/Carrying

in [her] body the seed of the free.” Strengthened by God, who “put a dream like steel in [her] soul,” she inspires the children to “march ever forward, breaking down bars/ [to] Look ever upward at the sun and the stars,” a message as relevant today as when Hughes wrote it. May we, too, lift each other ever upward as sons and daughters of our Glorious Father. ■

## THE NEGRO MOTHER

By Langston Hughes

Children, I come back today  
To tell you a story of the long dark way  
That I had to climb, that I had to know  
In order that the race might live and grow.  
Look at my face—dark as the night—  
Yet shining like the sun with love’s true light.  
I am the child they stole from the sand  
Three hundred years ago in Africa’s land.  
I am the dark girl who crossed the wide sea  
Carrying in my body the seed of the free.  
I am the woman who worked in the field  
Bringing the cotton and the corn to yield.  
I am the one who labored as a slave,  
Beaten and mistreated for the work that I gave—  
Children sold away from me, husband sold, too.  
No safety, no love, no respect was I due.  
Three hundred years in the deepest South:  
But God put a song and a prayer in my mouth.  
God put a dream like steel in my soul.  
Now, through my children, I’m reaching the goal.  
Now, through my children, young and free,  
I realize the blessings denied to me.  
I couldn’t read then. I couldn’t write.  
I had nothing, back there in the night.  
Sometimes, the valley was filled with tears,  
But I kept trudging on through the lonely years.

Sometimes, the road was hot with sun,  
But I had to keep on till my work was done:  
I had to keep on! No stopping for me—  
I was the seed of the coming Free.  
I nourished the dream that nothing could smother  
Deep in my breast—the Negro mother.  
I had only hope then, but now through you,  
Dark ones of today, my dreams must come true:  
All you dark children in the world out there,  
Remember my sweat, my pain, my despair.  
Remember my years, heavy with sorrow—  
And make of those years a torch for tomorrow.  
Make of my past a road to the light  
Out of the darkness, the ignorance, the night.  
Lift high my banner out of the dust.  
Stand like free men supporting my trust.  
Believe in the right, let none push you back.  
Remember the whip and the slaver’s track.  
Remember how the strong in struggle and strife  
Still bar you the way, and deny you life—  
But march ever forward, breaking down bars.  
Look ever upward at the sun and the stars.  
Oh, my dark children, may my dreams and my prayers  
Impel you forever up the great stairs—  
For I will be with you till no white brother  
Dares keep down the children of the Negro mother. ■



# PARENTING WITH PRESENCE THROUGH THE PRINCIPLES OF EMOTIONAL COACHING

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Join Licensed Clinical Counselor, Patricia Kuykendoll, for this faith-based workshop focusing on parenting from a position of emotional safety and presence. Parents, grandparents and caregivers will learn principles of emotional coaching, practical ways/activities to connect with the child and

ways to address discipline. Information covered will be appropriate for all ages from preschool to teen. Class will meet for four weeks on Mondays (March 25-April 15). 6:30-7:45 PM Cost: \$50/person or \$70/couple (partial scholarships available). Child care available with advanced notice.

Interested in learning more? Contact Jeanne Schneider -jschneider@chpc.org or at the church x1160. Class size limited so register early at [chpc.org/events](http://chpc.org/events) ■

## CHURCH WIDE PRAYER NIGHT TUESDAY, MARCH 26 7-8 PM

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The words of the psalmist says:

*Let my cry come before You, O Lord; Give me understanding according to your word. Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me according to Your word. Let my lips utter praise, For you teach me your statutes.*  
(Psalm 119:169-171)

The Care Deacon Team invite you to a night of prayer as we reflect on Psalm 119 through prayer and praise. The team invites you to join in one of the several locations throughout the city as we seek God together in this season of Lent. For a complete list of

host homes and sign-ups, stop by the table in the atrium on March 17 & 24 or go to [chpc.org](http://chpc.org). ■

Did you know you can find registration forms, listen to sermons, and pay your tithe online?

**It's easy! Visit [chpc.org](http://chpc.org)**

Now you can also text **(513)854-1604** to give!!

# HOSTING THE HOMELESS

By Dave & Cyndy Butz

## HOW WE BECAME INVOLVED

Cyndy and I have been married 40 years now and one thing we know about one another is that we don't have the same point of view on much of anything. If she turns left, I turn right. If I say up, she thinks down is better. But there is one part of our lives that is common. We both feel called to support the homeless in their search for housing and efforts to get their lives back on track. We both see the issues of homelessness in the richest country on earth as a painful reality that just should not be. This calling was one of the reasons we chose CHPC as our new church home. We're so thankful that we are part of a congregation that supports such a noble cause.

## HOMELESS FAMILIES

Homelessness is an intractable problem in our society. The word "homeless" conjures images such as what was in the news this past summer in our city. Tents on the sidewalk. Protests. Rumors of diseases. The homeless families we host bear little resemblance to these images. Families we host have children going to school. Diapers to change. Often times jobs to get to. They sometimes have existed by couch surfing – staying with one friend or relative after another until their welcome is worn thin. Or something happened in their lives that landed them in this situation. It doesn't make much difference. They are homeless and need help to get out. That's where we come in.

## CHPC HAS HOSTED HOMELESS FAMILIES FOR 10 YEARS!

College Hill Presbyterian Church (CHPC) has been hosting homeless families for 10 years now! As with most community efforts like this there has been many hands to make it work the way it does today. 10 years ago Jan Osborn organized a group of College Hill churches to get the ball rolling. The College Hill group of churches has today grown to 10 (11 if you count CHPC). That's another reason we love hosting – we get to work shoulder to shoulder with volunteers that share our concern for the homeless. Hosting these families is one way our community is able to show love to our neighbors and to our God.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

The first way you can assist in pouring out this love is purchasing supplies for the breakfasts, lunches and other items necessary for hosting. On Sunday of the hosting week CHPC provides the evening meal – you can assist by helping prepare or serve that meal. Our greatest ongoing need is for overnight hosts which is actually a very simple thing to do – just sleep. The overnight host arrives around 8pm – spends the night in an overnight host room then makes coffee and sets up breakfast in the morning. Guests leave at about 6:30am – so your day is free after that. Overnight hosts work in pairs – so you would never be alone.

## HOSTING DATES THIS YEAR ARE:

- The week beginning March 10
- The week beginning July 14
- The week beginning October 6
- The week beginning December 1

## IN CASE YOU'RE INTERESTED THE SUPPORTING CHURCHES ARE:

- St. Clare Catholic Church on Cedar Ave
- First United Church of Christ on Belmont Ave
- Bread from Heaven on Springdale Rd.
- Good News Church of God in Christ on North Bend Rd.
- Truth and Destiny on North Bend Rd.
- Grace Episcopal Church on Hamilton Ave
- Resurrection Community Church on Belmont Ave (meeting in First UCC's building)
- St. Paul United Church of Christ on Old Blue Rock Rd
- First Baptist of West College Hill on Betts Ave
- Second Baptist of West College Hill on Betts Ave ■



# LENT: MARDI GRAS vs ASH WEDNESDAY

By Sharlyn Stare

'Fat Tuesday' Mardi Gras and Good Friday are bookends for a special season of the year called Lent. If you come from a church tradition that has ignored the Church's Liturgical Year, you have a treat in store. You can discover your 'roots' and a heritage that God has given to enrich the whole Church, and deepen your personal relationship with Christ.



The Apostle Paul declared that the Church is the living 'Body of Christ' — no debate about it. Over the centuries, the Church has identified rhythms or patterns that are helpful to its life, much like other organisms. Liturgical seasons are a perfect example.

How? The purpose of liturgy in worship is "to have the life of Christ be more real and contemporary for believers." It's how God equips *His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up*. Ephesians 4:12. God can do that individually, but He prefers to reveal His will when 2 or 3 are gathered in His name.

An historic rhythm of the Church is God's pattern of fasting and feasting. Today few ask God to provide their daily bread. Outside the Church, fewer still talk about, let alone practice the biblical concepts of delayed gratification or sacrifice. The contrast between the World and the Church is especially obvious

during liturgical times like *Advent* [the preparation for the entry of Christ into the world] and the 40 days of *Lent* [the revelation of Jesus' earthy ministry and our preparation for His crucifixion and resurrection].

Lent 2019 is *Ash Wednesday*, March 6 to *Maundy Thurs*, April 18. People worldwide, celebrate the time just before Lent — Mardi Gras. Envisioned by the Catholic and Anglican traditions as a modest celebration of eating special sweets or rich foods before the more reflective time of Lent, Mardi Gras has become badly distorted. In New Orleans, Rio de Janeiro and beyond, Mardi Gras is a huge tourist draw. Participants hide their faces with masks, wear scandalous costumes, overturn social conventions, and behave decadently. By contrast, for Christians the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, can be a gateway to intentionally drawing believers closer to Christ. In the Bible, Jews regularly fasted and prayed to God. Ashes marking

MARDI GRAS' IS SYMBOLIZED BY GLITZY MASKS AND 'FEASTING GONE VERY WRONG.' ASH WEDNESDAY'S SIMPLE ANOINTING BEGINS LENT AND IS A GATEWAY FOR US TO LISTEN FOR GOD'S VOICE AND BE TRANSFORMED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.



the forehead let others know that a person was grieved over their own sin.

This year, try receiving ashes on your forehead in the sign of the cross — there Christ *fully paid* for the Sin of the whole world. The vertical mark is for God's personal relationship with His creation; the horizontal one, our unity with all those for whom Jesus died.

Unlike Mardi Gras, Lent declares *no masks are allowed. God knows everything about you and me and still loves us*. Surrendering the 40 days of Lent to God to listen for His voice allows us to respond to His grace in new ways, and to give Him the Glory He is due. ■

# ECO NATIONAL GATHERING

By Nitha Elu

I had the privilege to attend the 2019 ECO National Gathering with the group from CHPC. Colorado Springs was a beautiful setting for my first large conference of the Presbyterian Church with people from all over the world – Europe, Africa, Asia, Middle-East, and the Caribbean. It was also my first experience flying in an airplane.

The Gathering was a celebration of our existence, common identity, heritage, ministries and relationships. Each of our main speakers touched on topics that addressed us as a family of faith and a locally growing, flourishing community. Rich Stearns, one of the speakers, shared with passion how the church can be the Jesus everybody loves. One way is to fulfill the Lord's command to make disciples of all nations. The disciple is a believer who is learning obediently to follow and serve Jesus as their master. It is an enduring, long-term commitment to discover what it means to be devoted to Jesus. We do this through constant

exposure to scripture, commitment to communities of faith, and direct involvement of mature believers in our lives.

I was challenged to connect with others by spending time getting to know people who come to church, those we meet in our small groups, and in our community of faith. I encourage you to take five minutes to introduce yourself to someone you are meeting for the first time in the church, then you give them five minutes to do the same without interruption, but just listening. From this, you can connect and develop a relationship with each other.

The joy I experienced connecting with people I met for the first time was awesome. I felt the warmth everybody showed to each other. There was a powerful unity among us as children of God gathering in brotherly and sisterly love. Like Jesus said in Matthew 18:30, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in their midst." ■

By Sharlyn Stare

Each year, our denomination, the ECO, holds a National Gathering that brings together God's resources from within and beyond the ECO. CHPC's Session authorized a team of Elders and Lay people to attend. The 2019 Gathering was held Jan 29-31 at First Presbyterian, Colorado Springs.

A way to enjoy and share videos of the Gathering is to go to <http://econationalgathering.org/2019ng/> If you only have time to only watch one video, for me, it's a toss-up between the first video: Dana Allin/Will Mancini [Vision and hope] and the final one: Albert Tate [side-splitting wisdom around racial diversity]. Also check out the short video from CHPC's sister church in Cleveland (New Life at Calvary) and Easy Yoke - an irreverent look at Christian life, plus photos from the 3 days of the Gathering.

Want to know more about your denomination? Go to [eco-pres.org/essential-tenets/](http://eco-pres.org/essential-tenets/) ... "What we believe compels how we live." ■



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ECO is committed  
to growing and planting  
flourishing churches  
that make disciples  
of Jesus Christ.



COLLEGE HILL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# MLK SERVICE AWARDS

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By Rev. Drew Smith

The College Hill Ministerium annually grants awards at the Martin Luther King, Jr service. This years recipients are:

**College Hill Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (CHCURC)** seeks to redevelop our neighborhood. The ministerium recognizes the effort made by CHCURC to include all citizens of the community in their work. We all work together to pursue justice and equality.

**Linda Krebs and the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)** has been faithfully working in College Hill with many of the churches to care for families that do not have housing. IHN provides the only program in the city where families can stay together as they look for suitable housing. This is the tenth anniversary of IHN working with the ministerium in College Hill.

**Ralph and Lisa Williams** lead the ministry of **Christ's Community** in College Hill with great compassion and strength. So many in our neighborhood have been blessed by their service to our community. They have followed in the footsteps of Rev. Willie Strayhorn and Rev. Chappie Chapman to love the whole neighborhood. ■

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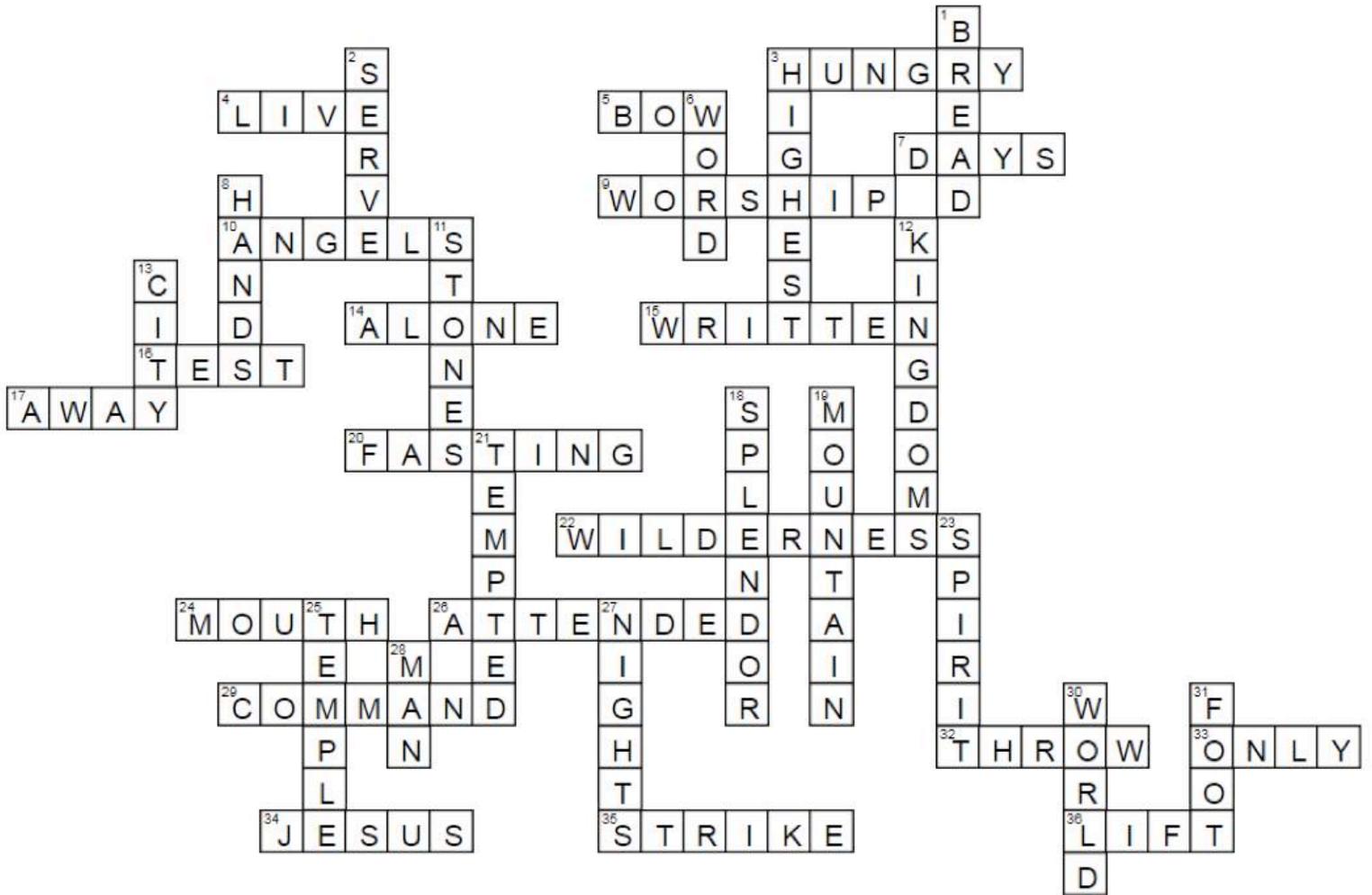
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### Have an idea for Belltower News?

Belltower News is forming a writing team that will meet monthly to write, collect, and edit articles so that we can make the best publication possible. If you'd like to be included, call Mike Jorgensen or if you want to submit an article send it to [worshipadmin@chpc.org](mailto:worshipadmin@chpc.org). Deadline for April is noon on March 30th.

