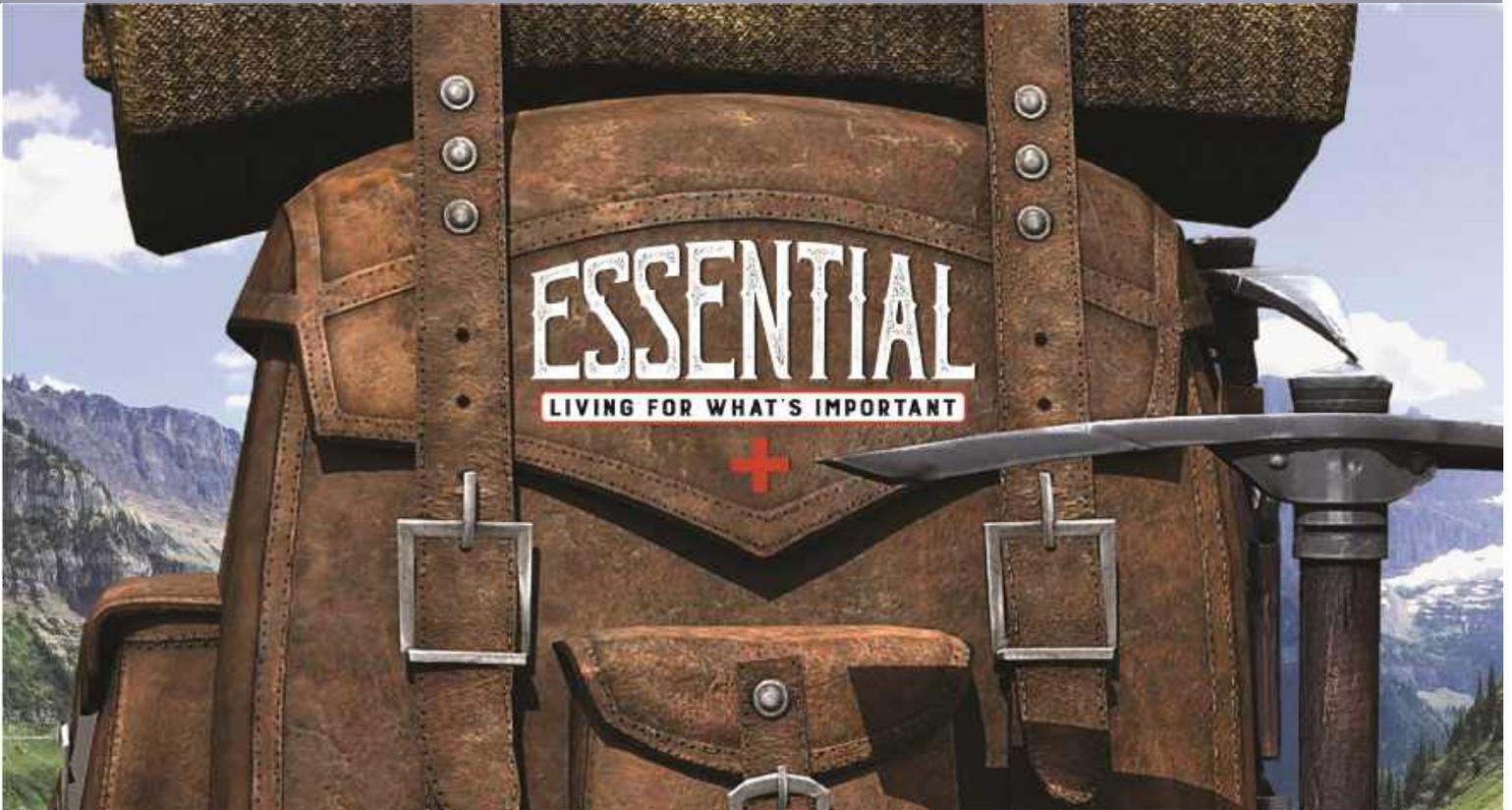




# BELLTOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – September 2020

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



## Essential Sermon Series - Matthew

To complete the Essential Sermon series we will unpack Jesus' final four statements about the end times. These are the quintessential essential words:

Sept. 6 – Matthew 24 –Perseverance

During trials and challenges, sometimes the only response is to hold on and keep the faith.

Sept. 13 – Matthew 25:1-13 – Wisdom

In this parable about the end times, Jesus reveals to us what it means to live a wise life.

Sept. 20 – Matthew 25:14-30 – Faithfulness

We seek to live all of our lives faithful to God, who has given us such a great gift.

Sept. 27 – Matthew 25:31-46 – Compassion

Walking with Jesus means we join

in the suffering of others.

[www.facebook.com/CollegeHillPresbyterianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeHillPresbyterianChurch)

# TOOLS FOR ~~SCHOOLS~~ GOD

Bev Graves, Feast of Love Director & Barry Stare



wholesale in bulk made *God's money* stretch farther. We can serve even more kids. For example, packs of 150 sheets of lined 'filler paper' retail for \$1.15 to \$3.00. We paid 93¢ to the manufacturer and gave away over 7000 packs. We

School may look different this year, but students always need school supplies!

For 20 years, God has used Feast of Love's *Tools for Schools* as practical way of expressing Christ's love and care for children. This year over 83,000 supplies were given to 38 city schools, representing more than 18,000 students, whose families often live below the 'poverty line.' This is possible through grants and donations from individuals and through volunteers involved in the TFS distribution.

Bev Graves, Feast of Love Director, said, "In the past, we asked people to go out and buy school supplies. But we found that buying the same items



did the math. That's over a million sheets of paper — 4 pallet loads of paper!" PICTURED



Seven *basic supplies* are offered to the schools who provide them to students 'as needed' — the filler paper plus 17,000 2-pocket folders with prongs (to hold the paper); 9,000 ballpoint pens, 30,000 #2 pencils, 5,700 safety scissors (35¢), 11,000 washable glue sticks (10¢), and

THE 2-POCKET PORTFOLIO TEAM: JEREMY MC SWAIN AND ROB BECHTEL



boxes of crayons. The last item is always in high demand. They are expensive and can't be bought in bulk. 24 crayon packs are about \$2, except during Back-to-School 50¢ specials. Tools for Schools supporters collected 561 boxes this year. There were requests for 4000!

During the summer, Bev

Graves collects the schools' requests for school supplies. As the bulk shipments arrive, some prework was required such as counting and repacking glue sticks. Monday Aug 17, 2020 was "Distribution Day." 25 volunteers (individuals and families) met at CHPC to assemble each school's order.



THE CRAYON TEAM: PAM DOLLARD AND DEBBIE DUNCAN

GLUE STICKS ARE US: JUNE ELWOOD AND NATALIE MCSWAIN



Team members carefully counted and collected quantities of the seven supplies and staged them in each school's pickup area.

*broke my heart to see my students come to school and not even have a pencil.*

THE PENCIL TEAM: CHAI AND CYBELE RISMA



This year, Teams wore masks and practiced social distancing.



ONE OF THE LOADING TEAM IN ACTION: DAN SCHEID AND PAT DOLLARD

After lunch, schools arrived to pick up their order. TFS Team members loaded the supplies into cars. Then, the school representatives were asked if they would like prayer for their school, teachers and students. Prayer is often welcomed and the school reps may join in. Many people from ePrayers and other

• I would load my shopping cart during school supplies sales. Now, TFS does the shopping. I have the fun of giving things away and sending them with prayer.

*Tools For Schools* main focus is 'back to school' needs. God uses *Tools* as a vehicle for building

relationships with school principals and teachers. Doors open for other service opportunities year round — *Camp S'More* is an overnight camp experience giving urban children living in poverty the opportunity for fun and enjoyment of nature. — *Sleeping Sound* is a partnership with the Cincinnati Police Dept to provide beds and bedding to children living in poverty. School alert Feast of Love of students in need.

SCISSOR TEAM: BOB AND SUSAN FAUL, JOEL MC SWAIN WITH TFS COORDINATOR BARRY STARE



groups are praying as well from their homes.

QUOTES FROM TFS VOLUNTEERS:

• *I was glad TFS wasn't cancelled. I look forward to being involved every year. Even though we looked like a bunch of bank-robbers with our masks, I loved working with others to help kids have the tools to learn. I was a public school teacher. It*

Feast of Love (FOL) is a Non-Profit 501 (c)(3) ministry that can receive contributions of money, talents and time all year. FOL has recently joined with CCCH (Christ's Community in College Hill) to form "Heatbeat of the City." For more information on this, go to *Facebook*; [feastofloveministries.org](http://feastofloveministries.org) or call Bev Graves at (513) 541-5676 ext 1167.



# SUMMER SWIM MIRACLES

Elder Sharlyn Stare, CHPC Swimming Ministry

FAITH IS the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.  
HEBREWS 11:1

The CHPC Summer Swimming Ministry is the largest continuous Summer Ministry of the College Hill Presbyterian Church. Plans for our 44th summer seemed straightforward until the March arrival of COVID-19. On April 1st, instead of online registrations forms, our website carried the Hebrews 11:1 graphic above.

We trusted God, not circumstances — prayed and sent our brochure to swim families and applications to potential Staff. People prayed for the Ministry, the volunteer Board of North Hills Swim Club, and the civil authorities to open the pool so we could teach.

By May 17 God had arranged a staff of experienced teachers, swimmers needing lessons, the Ohio governor OK'd pools to open, and the swim club was getting ready for summer. Now, we needed \$3400 for 3



weeks of pool rental and salaries!

WISDOM OF MANY COUNSELORS — On May 21, twenty-two Swim Ministry leaders met via internet to consider "How is God is calling us to adapt in this virus season." May 30th, our Swim Ministry website declared: *WE'RE OPEN! God has answered many prayers. Continue to pray. For 43 summers, safe and trustworthy relationships have been at the heart of all we do. As we navigate these COVID-19 times and new government regulations, we need you, your understanding and your support as never before.*

NEW OPPORTUNITIES — The Center for Disease Control was clear — we were safer in the water than on land. But for everyone's sake, we accepted only 20 students per hour to enable social distancing in the water. Our minimum age for lessons was 6 yrs old. To



help parents of children we couldn't teach, our Staff created "Water Orientation for Young Children." The FREE 3-page guide with video links gave adults some of our 'secrets' so they could work with their own



family members. [For a copy, email [starecvg@aol.com](mailto:starecvg@aol.com).]

AMAZING RESULTS — Our 52 Staff taught 202 lessons to children and teens during three one-week ses-



# BIG SPLASH, BIG DIFFERENCE!

sions during June and July. The weather was perfect. The only day when it wasn't the water was warm and the swimmers laughed about swimming lessons in the rain.

WHEN ASKED why we were so confident that the Swim Ministry would happen, we said: (1) For 43 summers, God has provided for our every need; and (2) We believe that every child should be water-safe. Each year drowning is the #1 cause of death for children ages 1 to 4; the #2 cause for children under 14. It accounts for more than 500 deaths and 9000 emergency room visits in the USA and 300,000 deaths worldwide.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS recognizes the Swimming Ministry as an Authorized Learn-to-Swim Provider — one of the largest and most successful swimming programs in Greater Cincinnati. Certified Water Safety Instructors mentor other teachers as young as 11 who teach swimmers *one-on-one*. The Ministry has skill goals and awards so that students have a sense of accomplishment at all skill levels.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED — Most people think we are in the business of teaching swimming. It's a by-product. *Our Mission is to raise up the next generation of Christian leaders within the context of teaching swimming each summer to children and adults so that they might reflect the Glory of God all of their lives.* In 2020, God showed Staff

'inter-dependence' and spiritual warfare in new ways. The weeks we taught were challenging, exhausting and life-transforming as we 'delivered the joy of Living Water.'

POWERED BY PRAYER & HOPE — We were sustained by our daily Staff Bible studies and the 40-Day Prayer Covenant, and by doing Phil 4:13 with hand & body motions with swimmers. As we focused on our love for each other, the students and the *Living Water*, God changed 'the cir-

cumstances.' Jeremiah 29:11 says, *The LORD declares: For I know the plans I have for you, to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

This summer the Swim Ministry Staff, the Swimmers & their families and hundreds of prayer supporters shared that HOPE.

We thank GOD that He allowed us to experience FAITH IN ACTION!



was a 2020 Swim Ministry initiative made possible by two major

grants: The Greater Cincinnati Foundation's *Summertime Kids* and the Church's Endowment Fund. Together with donations from Swim Staff and ministry prayer partners, more than \$2900 in scholarships went to *under-served* youths from the community — Pleasant Hill Academy students tutored or mentored through Whiz Kids; the girls of Jesus University Ballet; area foster care teens, and students whose family income was affected by

the pandemic. Of the 202 lessons taught this summer, 41 (20%) were for *Big Splash* swimmers.

Scholarships are an investment in the community and the future of the ministry. Pictured is a 2018 scholarship recipient whose Whiz Kids tutor brought him to swim. He taught this summer and is shown presenting an American Red Cross award to 'his student' — a 2020 'Big Splash' swimmer.



# A LOTT TO LOVE

Jane Lott

Just in time for this season in which so many folks are feeling isolated and out of touch with each other, Jane Lott, former CHPC member for 50 years, has printed a lovely collection of her poems and watercolor paintings to share with us via a “lending copy.”

The book is entitled *Ode to Joy*, and that describes it perfectly. Readers cannot help but savor these love poems to our Savior and feel joy bubbling up as they touch our hearts.



Most of Jane’s creations are inspired by nature, through which God reveals Himself to all. One of my favorite poems from the collection is “God Speaks Through the Waterfall.” In it, the voice of the Spirit speaking through the cascading waters says,

Come, be alone with me;  
Hear my still small voice,  
The water of my Word,  
Deep calling unto deep.  
My Word, like the water,  
Brings vibrant life and peace;  
From burdens and toil  
It brings release.

Jane’s love of the natural world also bursts forth in “Convent Woods Prayer”:

The birds sing of Resurrection life  
In melodies sweet for all to hear,  
Lord your peace comes, my soul re-

stored

In the silence of these woods so  
dear.

Even at home, just looking out her window, Jane stands in awe of her Father showing Himself to her through the beauty of His creation. In “Transformation,” for instance, the old maple tree in her yard becomes a thing of glory:

Its dull bark has become brilliant  
white;

The tree has become a thing of  
beauty;  
What was very dark lacking form  
and grace

is now transformed; I gaze and see  
my Master’s face.

Jane has known Jesus at one level or another all of her life. She recalls that when she was a young girl, her grandmother taught her about Jesus and God the Father. Ultimately, she asked Jesus into her heart. This was a real turning point for Jane. Before, her belief had been one of intellectual knowing, but now it became a deep personal relationship. She began to walk and talk with Him and then to tell others. In her twenties, she felt called to minister to neighborhood children and organized a College Hill Children’s Bible Club. They would meet on the back porch of one of the children’s houses and learn about Jesus. Many of the children’s families lived in poverty, and the children often came to Bible Club with physical as well as spiritual hunger. They would ask Sister Jane if they could come to her house, where they shared PB&J sandwiches and the Word of God.

Love and gratitude fill Jane’s voice as she tells of all the youngsters who came to know Jesus through the Bible Club. Jane recalls two

boys who weighed heavily on her heart because they were always in trouble, and sadly, one of them, Larry, ended up in prison. But God wasn’t finished with him, and the seeds Jane planted all those years ago finally sprouted. After being a member of CHPC for fifty years, God led Jane to join the House of Joy, where she found a new home. At that time, House of Joy’s Bishop Todd O’Neill was leading a choir in a prison. One day, Bishop Todd enthusiastically shared the story of an inmate who had joined the choir and become a Christian. His name? Larry!

Jane’s love of the Lord has seen her through some difficult times of her own, too. In the late 1990s, Jane began to suffer from depression. She explains, “I don’t know what I would have done without Jesus and the gift of poetry to express my feelings. When I would get very down, I would go to God and poems would just come to me.” Eventually, God blessed one of her doctors with the wisdom to find a medicine that worked for her. Overnight, she became a brand new person. In *Ode to Joy*, Jane chronicled these dark times and how God held her hand through them. In “Dark Night of the Soul,” for example, she cries out,

O Lord, my God,  
your presence is far from me.  
The fears that plague me,  
the darkness in my soul  
are more than I can bear.

But the poem ends in the light of the Lord:

Then peace and rest shall I truly  
know,  
for your love and grace make me  
whole.

# THE BIG SPLASH

Sharlyn Stare - Swim Ministry Admin



Ohio Living Llanfair has been home to Jane since she had a stroke ten years ago, and her role as a sower of seeds has continued there. She

absolutely loves living at Llanfair and leading other residents to the Lord. Soon after arriving, she organized a prayer group that started with four members and grew to forty-four. Their answered prayers bring Jane tremendous joy. One of her favorite memories is of a young woman who had had one miscarriage after another, most recently losing twins. The group began praying for this mother-in-waiting, and before long, God blessed her with healthy, beautiful TWINS!

At ninety years young, Jane lives every day to its fullest, thankful for what God has given her, especially her beautiful children, grandchildren, and great grands. Every day is full--soaking in the Word, praying, writing poetry, and discovering new gifts from God, like art. Throughout her life, Jane couldn't draw so much as a straight line, but then two art teachers at Llanfair helped her uncover a new talent: painting in watercolor. Now she has yet another way to share her love for all things God has made.



If you would like to borrow a lending copy of *Ode to Joy*, it will be

kept at the front desk of the church through September. It is Jane's hope that reading it blesses you as much as writing it blessed her. ■



I find that I often get a better understanding of how God works by taking time to reflect on and give thanks for what He's already done.

In 2018, Cindy Carlson, Chris Evans and Claire Snyder came to the Swim Ministry seeking scholarships for the young people they were tutoring through WhizKids at Pleasant Hill Elementary School. They donated half the swimming lesson fees and their time to bring students to classes. The dream of intentionally providing lessons for 'under-served' youths was born.

The next summer, the women invited their WhizKid's family members. One swimmer, Jaylen Williams, qualified by skill and maturity to be on Swim Staff. Cindy Carlson and Henrietta, his grandmother, helped with his training. Colleen Scheid (WhizKids coord) and Helen Brookes (Jesus Univ Ballet) agreed to recruit potential students.

We applied for grant money and got it — a clear sign to 'move ahead' in spite of COVID-19 obstacles. The Big Splash was a BIG success bringing joy and a time of 'normalcy' to new and former swimmers. Some swimmers have a real aptitude and may teach others; many more are set free from a fear of drowning. I thank God for this team of women who enabled a 'dream' to become a reality... and wonder how to encourage more women & men to listen for and act on God's calling? ■

# TUTORING IS ON AT CHPC

Colleen Schied

If you visit church on Tuesday afternoons from September 29 on, you will see around a dozen masked elementary students sitting at distanced tables, each about six feet away from a masked tutor. It may not be the ideal set-up but it's much better than no tutoring at all!

Our tutoring programs, Whiz Kids for grades one to three, and Treehouse for grades four to six, have met for years at Pleasant Hill Academy, but during the pandemic, no after school programs are allowed in the school. So we moved tutoring to our church campus, where we can

keep everyone distant and safe in our large spaces.

Our tutoring focuses on reading fluency and understanding, setting students up to do well in all their subjects. Pleasant Hill's leadership has often expressed gratitude for the academic help we give their students. But we have a wider agenda. Through relationships with caring tutors, videos of Bible stories and prayer at the end of every session, we want our students to feel the love of God and understand the story of Jesus.

Treehouse students use the Bible as their reading text, and process it with the same curriculum we use for Sunday School, so they are getting three years of grounding in God's truth.

Please pray for us:

- For protection from Covid and other illnesses
- For gifts of teaching, wisdom, knowledge and mercy for our tutors
- For children's minds to focus on reading and understanding
- For children's hearts to be drawn toward God
- For barriers to attendance such as transportation to be overcome

If you would like to become involved by donating snacks, tutoring, driving or setting up and tearing down tables, please email Colleen Scheid, [scheidison@gmail.com](mailto:scheidison@gmail.com). ■



# AN EXHORTATION

Samuel Coffey



13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh ; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Galatians 5:3 NIV

With love and encouragement I reach out to you brothers and sisters spreading the good news that we have freedom in Christ Jesus! Freedom from bondage, freedom from sin, freedom from fear, and all other hosts of afflictions maligned against us. Above all else we have freedom to be in relationship with God our Father, experiencing the truest love, and sharing that love with others. So go, go out into the field and do the work of Christ, teaching, caring, and working in the Kingdom of God,. Do this with joy because of your freedom, because of your relation to God and because you go not alone.! Already many of your family here at CHPC are hard at work, come join us, and let not your pride or your personal desires keep you! Turn off your TV, put down the phone, put your food in a bag, and tell your friends you will see them next week! For now, and forever come and Serve Him! ■

# CHPC BACKPACK OUTREACH

THERE WAS  
A TIME WHEN  
JESUS CHRIST ASKED  
ORDINARY MEN  
TO DO  
EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

**BAND OF BROTHERS**

That time is now! Exciting men's fellowship, Bible study & discipleship. 1st & 3rd Thursdays - 6:15AM  
CHPC Fireside Room. Info:  
Barry Stare - BZUTHR@me.com  
513-382.5897



Join us in providing 600 New Backpacks and School Supplies for EVERY student at Pleasant Hill Academy.

## TOGETHER

We're showing God's love to those in our community!

### How can you get in on the fun?

Donate School Supplies

Donate Funds to purchase backpacks

Pack the Backpacks *Sunday Sept 13<sup>th</sup>. 12-1 pm*

Meet at PHA on Saturday Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. 12 – 2pm Pray,

Pass out Packs, Encourage, Repeat

Have you tried giving online? It is quick, convenient, and mobile friendly! You can set up a one time or recurring gift.  
[www.chpc.org/give](http://www.chpc.org/give).

# OUTSIDE WORSHIP

Let's worship outside all together. Invite your friends too!

Space will be provided for you to be outside of your vehicle but distanced from others. We will have some chairs provided, or you can bring your own. You can also remain in your car if you are more comfortable staying put. The sound will be broadcast on speakers for those outside and on an FM transmitter for those in your vehicles.

All are welcome to sing. The band will present a variety of hymns, choruses, and current worship songs. We ask that all who sing wear masks when singing. You can take them off when are not singing.

It helps if you rsvp at [www.chpc.org/rsvp](http://www.chpc.org/rsvp). Just let us know if you are coming so that we can be prepared.

We will also have special surprises for the kiddos. Bring the whole family!

Afterward, we will pack up the book bags for the students at Pleasant Hill Academy. What a meaningful morning to worship God in song, fellowship, and service!



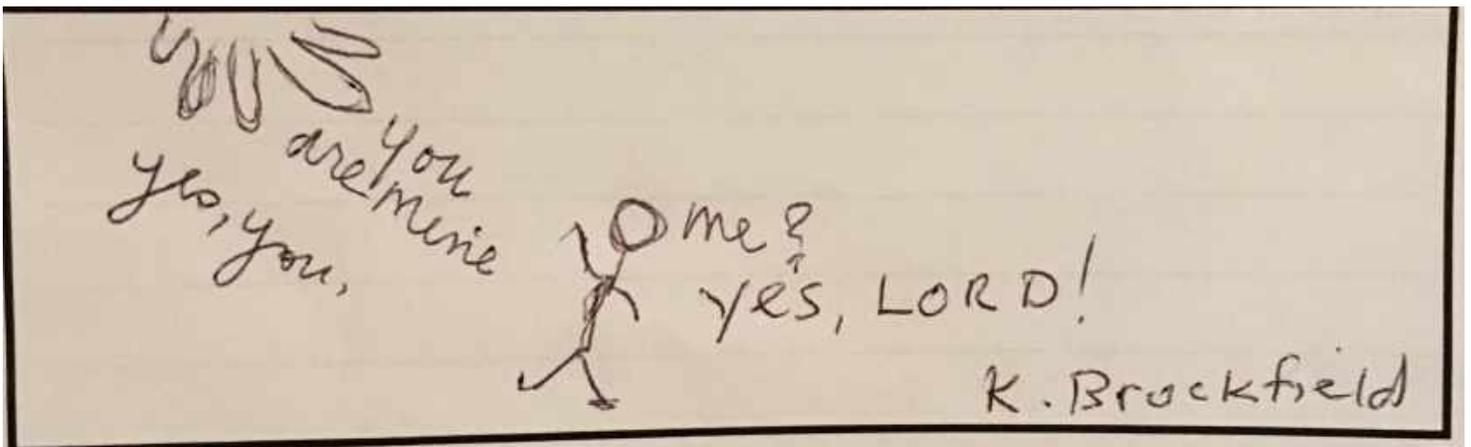
OUTDOOR  
Worship  
AT CHPC  
9:00-10:30am  
SEPTEMBER 13  
OCTOBER 18

*A Diverse Community of Jesus Followers*  
COLLEGE HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 5742 HAMILTON AVE. CHPC.ORG

The poster features a blue sky background with white clouds. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a diverse group of people with their hands raised in worship. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout, with the event title in large, stylized green letters.

Rain Plan: In case of a storm, we will move the service to the sanctuary, maintaining distancing and wearing masks. The service will also be available online for those not comfortable worshipping indoors. We will announce the change by 7:30 AM Sunday morn-

ing and post it on the church web page. ■



# GOING BACK TO SCHOOL IN A PANDEMIC

Rev. Jennifer Cronk – Assistant Pastor of Children & Families



Please be in prayer for our students, teachers and school administrators, as kids return to school (online or in-person) during a strange and challenging time. Here are some things you can be praying each day...

-for teachers to have creativity, positivity and supernatural energy as they teach through a screen or shield

-healing for children who have experienced trauma as a result of the pandemic

-physical and psychological protection and healing for children in dangerous or chaotic home situations

-wisdom for parents as they make impossible decisions and learn how to live into those decisions

-grace upon grace for parents who are trying their best to juggle home-schooling, parenting, and working from home

-actual learning, growth and thriving for students throughout this year

-holistic wisdom for school boards and administrations as they make further decisions about schooling this year

-provision for childcare, rides, learning pods, and e-learning help for single parents and dual-working households

-encouragement and perseverance for parents as they juggle many new things and wear many new hats

-support, encouragement and gratitude for teachers and school administrators as they learn & troubleshoot new technologies and address many frustrations

-strong tech support and creative solutions for those doing e-learning (or working on the tech side for schools)

-for God to tenderly care and provide for this generation of school-children

\*\*most importantly, for God to use this situation to show children, parents, teachers and school employees their need of a Savior, God's generous and full provision in Christ, and for many to come to faith for the first time, or anew if they have grown cold; pray for God to grow His Kingdom and its values, for His own glory and our own good! ■

## Have an idea for Belltower News?

Belltower News has a writing team that meets monthly to write, collect, and edit articles so that we can make the best publication possible. If you'd like to be included, submit an article and send it to

[worshipadmin@chpc.org](mailto:worshipadmin@chpc.org)

The submission deadline for the October edition is noon on September 30th.