The Church Bell

September 2025

PH. 330-823-3439

office@sciencehillcc.org www.sciencehillcc.org

12316 BEESON ST NE
ALLIANCE OH 44601
SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:30am
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 11:00am

Strength in Weakness?

"Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."

(II Corinthians 12:10)

I was talking recently with one of our church elders about the trials and tribulations my family has been experiencing over the last few years. We've had a rather full plate: Cancer, the loss of two parents and a brother-in-law, my mom's precarious health, panic attacks, worries about our grandson's heart, and general concerns for all of our kids. I was beginning to feel that all of the troubles were threatening to become a drag on the congregation. "I just don't want my problems to be a distraction," I said. "Our focus needs to be on Christ."

"I think you're looking at it the wrong way," he suggested. "Those things make us able to relate to our pastor more. You are demonstrating how to walk with faith through the stuff that life throws at all of us. We appreciate your example of staying close to Jesus in the midst of it."

That encouraged me. I freely admit that, even after being in ministry for over thirty years, I still don't have a fully satisfying answer as to why we go through so much suffering. But one thing I do know: the ills of life are made more bearable through a relationship with God in Jesus Christ. "I don't know what I would do without my faith in Jesus," is something I have often heard expressed over the years. I agree. It is a sentiment I share. I sometimes feel like God may not make life easy, but He does make it possible.

If you are struggling and feeling overwhelmed by the cares coming your way, I don't have any easy answers or quick fixes to offer you. But I can share a testimony that life is infinitely better with God in the thick of the mess *with* you. Our problems don't disappear when we come to Christ – indeed, we may still walk through the valley of the shadow of death, but we never do so alone. We need fear no evil, for God is with us; His rod and His staff shall comfort us. He is our Shepherd through all of life's trials. Amen!

Pastor Jon

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

Thank you kindly for your continued support and generous tithes and offerings.

WEEK OF:	WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	<u>OFFERING</u>	
	In person + Online		
July 27	48 + 13	\$2,971.00*	
August 3	50 + 19	\$3,539.00	
August 10	50 + 15	\$1,475.00*	
August 17	48 + 13	\$3,094.70	
August 24	50 + 11	\$755.00*	

As of 7/31/25

General Fund Income: \$88,505.21
General Fund Expenses: \$95,177.04
Year-to-date difference: -\$ 6,671.83

Budget for 2025: \$158,019.00 Needed weekly is \$3,039.00*

MISSION OFFERINGS FROM THE CONGREGATION:

July Mission: Marlin & Minnie Snyder Foundation \$395.00

(In 2025 our church budget gives an additional \$100 monthly to the mission(s) of the month.)

September 2025 MISSION: MOUNT UNION CRU

CRU's purpose is to connect students with one another as a part of a larger community that follows Jesus. CRU is open to all students regardless of their faith background and all students are always welcome to attend. (Formerly called Campus Crusade for Christ.)

Local college students can contact Lisa Wyss at 330-581-9998 or <u>LisaSmithWyss@gmail.com</u>. She will be our mission guest speaker in worship on Sunday, September 14th.

GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS: If you are not able to be in worship on Sundays, you can mail in your offering donations at any time to: Science Hill Community Church, 12316 Beeson St. NE, Alliance OH 44601. Thank you for your contributions.

A PayPal option is also available for those wishing to give electronically. Just visit our church website: www.sciencehillcc.org. THANK YOU for your support of our church!

If you watch our service online, please let us know so we can add you to our virtual attendance count.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Items for the October 2025 newsletter should be submitted to the church office by Monday, September 22nd at noon. You can bring them in or send them in at any time to office@sciencehillcc.org.

THERESA'S OFFICE HOURS: Mondays and Thursdays 8am-3pm.

PASTOR JON'S DAY OFF: Pastor Jon's weekly day off is Wednesday.



"Our mission is to joyfully share the good news of Jesus Christ and lovingly care for others."

"HIGHLIGHTS" OF THE CONSISTORY MEETING: Monday, August 11, 2025

Present: Elders: Derek Swegheimer, Jan Raber

Deacons: Ray Courtwright, Rose Wade, Richard Berube

Secretary/Treasurer Theresa Marks Absent: Pastor Jon, Craig Reay, Jim Hornyak, Ben Favazzo

This meeting was conducted by Head Elder Derek Swegheimer in the absence of president Craig Reay and vice president

Jim Hornvak.

DEVOTIONAL/PRAYER: Rose Wade

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Consistory meeting Monday, July 14, 2025 were reviewed and placed on file.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ending July 2025 was reviewed and placed on file.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT: For August of \$13,278.03 for the General Fund and \$21.20 for the Youth checkbook were approved with motions by Richard and Rose.

MISC. REPORTS: 1.) Building and Grounds by Rose: a.) Church work day is set for Saturday, October 11th from 8am-noon. b.) Estimates received for repairing the basement flooring. However, we will contact our insurance company for a possible claim first. c.) A parking lot blacktop estimate was received for resealing, We are waiting on another quote. It should be done this fall. d.) Another quote was received for security cameras inside and outside of the building. Final vote is pending probable funding approval. e.) Does anyone want the large wooden church that was part of our previous parade float? See Rose Wade. f.) Discussions took place and tabled till next spring about stone landscaping around the pavilion and walkway from the pavilion to the parking lot. 2.) Outreach by Ray: a.) Our church float won the Queen's Award. Candy and carnations were mostly donated to hand out. b.) Escape Room is being planned tor November 8th. c.) Trip to Amish Country tickets still available for November 1st. 3.) Family Life Committee by Ray: a.) church picnic is Sunday, August 24th with the committee supplying hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages and table service. A pot-luck will round out the food. b.) Other upcoming events being planned: Halloween in Barcus Acres, Marlboro Christian booth in November, and a December Cookie-Walk.

OLD BUSNESS: n/a NEW BUSINESS: n/a PASTOR'S REMARKS: n/a

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:08pm with motions by Richard and Jan. The next scheduled Consistory meeting is Monday, September 8, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Derek Swegheimer, Head Elder Theresa Marks, Secretary/Treasurer

SUNDAY MORNINGS THIS SUMMER

9:00am Prayer Time in the Prayer Room 9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary

"TWO MINUTE TESTIMONIES"

Keep in mind that we are including Two Minute Testimonies on Sunday mornings at Science Hill. Have a praise to lift up or a thanksgiving to offer to God? Multiply your blessings by sharing them with your church family! If you would like to share anonymously or without public speaking, you may write your testimony down and give it to Pastor Jon before the service begins.







Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our church float in the Carnation Parade a beautiful success. We won the Queen's Award!

<u>Small Wooden Church Building for Sale:</u> We are disposing of the little church building made by David Floyd that was <u>previously</u> used on the church float. It measures 43-1/4" wide by 61-14" high and 55" deep with 18" wide doors on both ends. The roof is hinged and can be lifted on both sides. With some modifications it could be repurposed as a chicken coop, large dog house, small playhouse or used for storage. We're asking \$150 before offering it on marketplace. Please let Rose Wade know if you're interested or call the church office.



Katie Stiver's Bible Study for Moms on Friday mornings will pick back up on Friday, September 5th and take place on the first and third Fridays of the month. With the large number of kids who attend, child care sign-ups for the fall will be needed. See the clipboard in the narthex if you can help. We appreciate it.

September 5 & 19 October 3 and 17 November 7 and 21 December 5 and 17

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Commissioning is Sunday, September 21st in worship.

Leaders: Pastor Jon, Debbie Truax, Alan Stiver

Schedule for this month

September 21: Commissioning of Confirmands in Worship

Chapter 1 – Welcome to Confirmation

September 28: Chapter 2 – Creation





We are excited for you to join us on Sunday, September 21st

Science Hill Community Church RALLY DAY!

9:00am: Prayer Time

9:30am: Worship and Commissioning of new Confirmation Students

10:45am: Refreshments and Fellowship time. "Simple Snacks" will be provided each week by volunteers –

see the sign-up sheet for available dates if you'd like to help provide.

11:00am: Children's classes will be taught by Lynn Penturf and Cindy Casto.

Confirmation studies for youth will be led by Pastor Jon, Debbie Truax, and Alan Stiver.

Adult Bible Fellowship Class is offered by Derek Swegheimer in the Upper Room.

Adult study continues with "The Chosen" (seasons 3 and 4) videos led by Jim Hornyak

in the downstairs double classroom (also known as "the Red Quarter").

We hope you will join us for a MIDWEEK SPRITUAL LIFT this fall at Community Connection!



Community Connection will return on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 pm.

New this year will be a schedule that starts on September 23 and then continues on the first and third Tuesdays of the month for October, November and December.

October 7 and 21 November 4 and 18 December 2 and 16

We will try this as an experiment in the fall to see how it works. We will start with a pizza supper on September 23 and then run our usual menu of hot dogs, sides and desserts the remaining months. Classes for children, youth and adults are being planned. Pastor Jon will resume teaching the Bible Study on the Gospel of John. Help is being recruited for the children and youth areas - please see Katie Stiver for information.

TRIVIA: Who said: "Believe you can and you're halfway there": Theodore Roosevelt

Abraham Lincoln

Moses

(see answer on last page)

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

As our regular programming starts up again this fall, we are in need of people to help with children's and youth ministries:

- On Tuesday evenings, starting September 23, and occurring on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, we need one person to help with nursery/preschool/elementary kids, and one volunteer to help with the youth kids from 6:45 to 8:00pm. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please consider picking one day out of the seven this fall to serve.
- Our Friday morning Mom's Bible study will be starting up again on September 5. These will occur from 10 to 11 AM on the first and third Fridays. We have a large group of children, ranging in age from 18 months to middle school that needs adult supervision. Please consider picking one or two Friday mornings to help out if you are able.



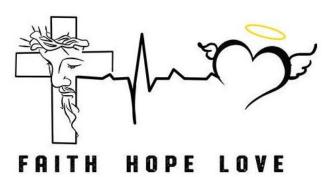
"Faith, Hope and Love"

Science Hill Community Church, 12316 Beeson Street, is pleased to offer a free Teen "Escape Church" on Saturday, November 8. This all-new experience builds on last year's successful event.

Over the course of an hour, youth and young adults will be challenged to work together to solve a series of fun puzzles leading them through three separate escape rooms. Along the way, they will learn about the enduring biblical qualities of Faith, Hope, and Love.

At the conclusion, free refreshments, including pizza, will be served. Staggered start times will run from 6 to 9 p.m., but timed reservations are required in advance.

Contact the Science Hill Community Church office at 330-823-3439 or office@sciencehillcc.org to sign up and reserve your time. Escape Church is geared for middle school and high school students.



In the biblical text of I Corinthians, "faith, hope, and love" refer to the foundational, enduring virtues of Christian life, with love being the greatest. Faith is trust and belief in God, hope is the confident expectation of future promises, and love is a selfless, patient, and enduring godly affection for God and others. While faith and hope are essential and will continue, love is considered the supreme virtue because it is the very character of God and the ultimate fulfillment of His will, binding all things together eternally.

THANK YOU NOTES IN THE MAIL AND MISC. INFO ...

CAREGIVERS GATHERING: Their next gathering will be Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

<u>THE TOOLBOX: A Men's Ministry:</u> Area men are invited to gather and enjoy breakfast, fellowship and a program on the first Saturday of each month from 8:30-10:00am. Meet them at Robertson Heating & Supply, 2155 W. Main St., Alliance. The next dates are September 6th and October 4th. For more information, please see Craig Reay or Pastor Jon.

DONATE YOUR POP TABS: This initiative is good for Ronald McDonald House families, local organizations and the environment. We can all do a little to make a big difference in our community! *Our container is in the area where the food is collected for the Salvation Army.*

How do pop tabs help the Ronald McDonald House?

They are taken to be recycled in exchange for dollars for our Family Fund, which provides items for families that use RMHC NEO programs. They offer assistance in emergencies, lodging, travel, clothing, hygiene and help to give families special moments – like providing small birthday gifts for children.

NEW ADDRESS: Dorothy Oyster, Crandall Medical Center, Room 267, 800 S. 15th St., Sebring OH 44672

CONGRATULATIONS! to Jimmy and Bethany Campbell in the birth of their son, David Everett Campbell, born on August 2, 2025. Grandparents are Pastor Jon and Debbie Truax. What a miracle and a blessing! We will keep praying for him!

A NOTE FROM YOUR CUSTODIAN: Elizabeth Courtwright

I appreciate the opportunity to serve Science Hill Church. Generally speaking, this congregation does a great job keeping things tidy, which is well appreciated. We have a challenge with waste, however, which I'm sure is not the intention of anyone! Thank you to whoever manages the recycling bins! As a reminder, they are located under the tables in the Science Hill Room for plastic bottles, cans and paper. These items should not be placed in the trash cans, please. One area the church could easily reduce waste is to use real dishes. The kitchen is well stocked, and/or potlucks could perhaps include the reminder to bring one's own tableware to be washed at home. In three months, the church threw away over 150 plates and bowls, over 100 plastic cups, and many plastic table covers. Let's see how Science Hill can improve their stewardship of this wonderful world we live in! Thank you.

BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ...

- 1. Of what wood was Noah's Ark made of? (Genesis 6:14)
- 2. How long was the ark? (Genesis 6:15)
- 3. How long did the flood rains fall? (Genesis 7:12)
- 4. How many days did the flood cover the earth? (Genesis 7:24)
- 5. What mountain did the Ark settle on? (Genesis 8:14)



MOWING and FLOWER BEDS

Thank you to the following for volunteering to help keep our church grounds beautiful.



Mowing: September 1-10 NEEDED!
September 11-20 Ray Courtwright
September 21-30 Mark Haidet

<u>Flower Beds:</u> Jenny D.; Janet Favazzo; Mary Jo Myers; Bob & Connie Poto, Erma Hastings

"THANK YOU" FOR VOLUNTEERING ON SUNDAYS

DATE	REFRESHMENTS	LITURGIST	BELL RINGER	PRAYER ROOM	
September 7	n/a	Marsha Graham	Theresa Marks	Theresa Marks	
September 14	l n/a	Jan Raber	Lynn Penturf	Connie Poto	
September 21 Christian Ed. Committee					
September 28					
September	USHERS	GREETERS A		ACOLYTE	
	Mark/Debbie Haidet, Bob Poto	Randy and Ryllis Chandler		ailey Courtwright	

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

1st: Labor Day

5th: Mom's Bible Study 10-11am

6th: Men's Toolbox Ministry 8:30am at Robertson's

7th: 9am Prayer Time; 9:30am Worship

8th: 10am Finance Committee; 2pm Tech Committee; 7pm Consistory

14th: 9am Prayer Time; 9:30am Worship

15th: 6:30pm Worship Committee; 7:30pm Christian Education Committee

19th: Mom's Bible Study 10-11am

21st: BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY 9am Prayer Time; 9:30am Worship and commissioning new Confirmation students; 10:45am Refreshments; 11am Sunday School classes resume

22nd: NOON-newsletter deadline for October info; 6:30pm Outreach Committee; 6:30pm Girl Scouts

23rd: 6pm Community Connection begins

28th: 9am Prayer Time; 9:30am Worship; 10:45am Refreshments; 11am Sunday School/Confirmation

SEPT. BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1st: Gary Casto; M/M Ben Favazzo

3rd: Blanche Moore; Mike Wilks

7th: Nancy Peters

8th: Kyler Todd

9Th: Jeff Church

11th: Connie Flynn

12th: M/M Jim Hastings

13th: M/M Terry Weese

16th: Jan Raber

21st: M/M Mike Wilks

22nd: Mary Jo Myers; Mary Steckel

24th: Lucas Carper; Katie Farnham; M/M Bob Farnham

26th: M/M Robert Digiantonio

27th: Jenny Digiantonio; Jacob Weese

28th: Dave Harding

29th: M/M Doug Haidet

30th: Steve Owen; M/M Craig Reay

· · · PLANNING AHEAD · · ·

It's that time of year again to have another <u>CHURCH WORK DAY</u>, so please mark your calendars for Saturday October 11th from 8am to 12 noon as we focus on buttoning up the church for colder weather.

And of course... donuts, coffee and cider will be provided.



A TRIP TO AMISH COUNTRY

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Dutch Valley Restaurant buffet, and matinee of "The Road to Damascus"

Cost: \$70 per person includes both buffet and show***

Deadline to purchase tickets: September 30th

There is a limit of 50 tickets available.

We will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m.

You can car-pool or drive separately.

We will travel to Sugarcreek to have a lunch buffet at the Dutch Valley Restaurant at 11:30am and the show starts at 1:00pm at the Ohio Star Theater.

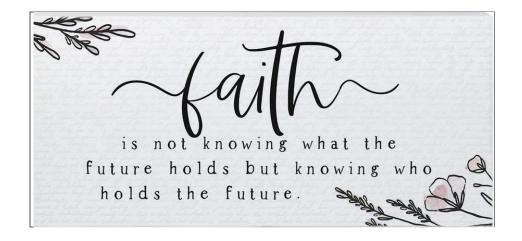


There are yellow sign-up forms available. See Theresa Marks or put your form and check in the offering box on Sunday.



<u>The Road to Damascus</u> A Musical Journey Through the Book of Acts

This spectacular matinee show offers a vibrant look at the transformative story of Saul to Paul. It is a powerful narrative of redemption, faith, and inner boldness.



September 2020 – The parking lot project was completed. New blacktop and striping make it look great! Derek Swegheimer headed up the contacts for the project. God continued to bless us with good Sunday morning weather so we could worship outdoors together. Hymn singing was added back to the service late in the month at the end of the service.

** 10 Years Ago | September 5th, 2015 – First gathering of the newly formed Euchre Club with 12 couples attending.

September 12th, 2010 – 8:00am Pancake Breakfast to kick off Sunday School Rally Day "Food for the Soul". Sunday School begins with an opening, then classes were offered for adults. "Integrity" & "Sermon on the Mount" as well as classes for youth, elementary and preschool. New members were taken in during morning worship. They are Kim and Jon Ameser and Kazuko Shields, who was also baptized. Jan Raber was liturgist and worship choir provided special music.

September 11th, 2005 – Jim Hastings was this morning's liturgist. Special offerings were taken for the victims of Hurricane Katrina through the EOA and for the Hattie Larlham Foundation. There was also a moment of remembrance for 9-11-01. Sunday School Kick-off!

** 25 Years Ago | September 10th, 2000 - Promotion Sunday

September 24th, 1995 – During the morning worship service, four Science Hill United Church of Christ members were recognized as 50-year members of the church. They were: Norma Hoover, Robert Hoover, Beverly (Oyster) Karlen and Jay Karlen. A reception for them was held following the service. Katie Elizabeth Farnham was born to Robert & Shirley Farnham.

September 22nd, **1990** – The church sponsored the refreshments for the auction of the home and farm belonging to Pearl and Raymond Hoover.

September 1985 – Special Sunday School Class – "Pray, God is Listening" – led by Charlene Boyce.

September 6th, 1980 – The annual Fall Fellowship was enjoyed with a wiener roast starting the activities. A pine tree was planted by the Sunday School in honor of the 200th birthday celebration. Rev. Ed said a blessing and everyone had a chance to put a shovelful of dirt in. Volleyball was played until time for the program by Donna and Donald Hoover. The Hoovers showed slides of their trip to Mexico to visit missionaries. The evening was topped off with pie irons roasted in the campfire. Several campers spent the night and in the morning Rev. Ed and his crew supplied sausage and pancakes for breakfast. Everyone enjoyed sharing in fellowship.

** 50 Years Ago | September 16th, 1975 - A bundle of joy - a daughter Annalisa was born to Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Snode.

September 13th, 1970 – Annual Church picnic.

September 19th, **1965** – Harvest Home services were held.

September 24th, **1960** – Several cars of members of the congregation attended the dedication services for the hospital addition to the Home for the Aged.

September 4th, 1955 – Linda Garner and Robert Hoover were united in marriage at the parsonage followed by a reception in the church basement.

** 75 Years Ago | September 10th, 1950 – Melvin Oyster and Dorothy May were united in marriage at the First Evangelical & Reform Church.

September 9th, 1945 – The church was appropriately decorated for Harvest Home Festival with special services morning and evening.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Calvin Beck Jill Black
David Campbell Travis Davis
Eli Fackler Jessie Frank
Donna Grubb Jason Haws

Laura Keyes TJ, Kate, & baby Lindquist

Dean Oyster Mark Reay

Danielle Sadler Kassi Karlen Smosarski

Sharon Stroup Susan Thomas

Carol Wearstler For the family and friends of Jordan Steckel.



HOMEBOUND/CARE FACILITIES

Dorothy Oyster, Crandall Medical Center Peggy Hawkins, home June Truax, St. Luke's - N.Canton Craig & Carol Datz, Bel-Air Audrey Wood-Clayton, Green Meadows

COLLEGE

Cayden Monk, University of Mount Union Becky Hornyak, University of Rio Grande

CONSISTORY

ELDERS: Craig Reay Jim Hornyak Jan Raber

Derek Swegheimer DEACONS: Richard Berube

Ben Favazzo Ray Courtwright Rose Wade

MILITARY

Nick Marks, Air Force Daniel O'Neil, Air Force Brandon Rock and Carova Rock, Navy Ryan Brown, Marines Jared Azemopoulos, Space Force Matthew Cicero, Marines

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Jonathan Truax

Secretary/Treasurer: Theresa Marks

Pianist: Nancy Springer

Family Ministry Director: Katie Stiver

Custodians: J & D Cleaning / Elizabeth Courtwright

Junior Church and the Nursery

Junior Church class will take place on Sunday mornings after the Children's Message in worship. Those Pre-K to 5th graders are invited upstairs in the educational wing for a lesson and craft.

FLOCKNOTE: We love having you as part of our Flock! Keep in touch with us via email and text. Text SHCC to 84576 or connect at: sciencehillcommunitychur.flocknote.com. No passwords or app download necessary. Choose the ministries (including prayer chains) and committees you would like to connect with.

Answer: Theodore Roosevelt

SCIENCE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

12316 Beeson Street NE Alliance, OH 44601

(Address Correction Requested)

September 2025



all who labor
AND ARE HEAVY LADEN,
and I will give you rest.
MATTHEW 11:28