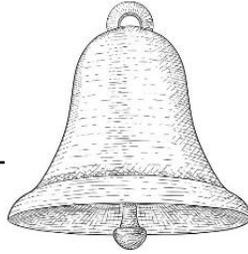


The Church Bell

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

JANUARY 2026

PH. 330-823-3439
office@sciencehillcc.org
www.sciencehillcc.org



FINDING YOUR BURIED TREASURE

“But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.”
(II Corinthians 4:7)

Isn't it amazing that God chose ordinary human beings to serve as the vessels of His Holy Spirit? I mean, I have moments – and I'm sure you do, too – when the Christian life seems like more struggle than success. We all experience times when the world beats us down and we feel like we don't have anything left within us to resist evil and keep trying for even one more day. But disciples of Jesus Christ do indeed have an incredible resource that we carry inside us that makes all the difference. Though we are but “jars of clay,” we hold a great treasure!

That is why Paul can say, in the following verses, “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.” Life in this world can be a mess, and even though we just celebrated Christmas and are about to enter a sparkingly bright new year, we know that our spiritual mileage takes a toll. Disappointments, griefs, losses and afflictions add up. Yet we find that we can keep going on, with a joy and a cheer that defies explanation, because we understand that the love of God burns within us. Like buried treasure, the Holy Spirit is there, underneath the surface, giving us strength.

If, on those difficult days, you can remember that God placed within you the means to go the distance, you will not only find your own spirit fortified, but you can serve as an inspiration to others. Our lives can be a testimony not because of how great they are going, but because of how much we are overcoming and remaining faithful to God. Let your life speak, for there are others around you who need the buried treasure of God's Spirit within them just as much as you do.

Just a clay jar? Yes, maybe so. But what it holds has the power to change the world – and that power lies within you like buried treasure.

Pastor Jon

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

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

| <u>WEEK OF:</u> | <u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u> In person + Online | <u>OFFERING</u> |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| November 23 | 54 + 7 | \$3,039.00 |
| November 30 | 52 + 12 | \$4,244.00 |
| December 7 | 58 + 12 | \$3,228.00 |
| December 14 | 48 + 15 | \$2,230.00* |
| December 21 | 58 + 15 | \$2,559.00* |

As of 11/30/25

General Fund Income: \$142,072.84

General Fund Expenses: \$145,191.12

Year-to-date difference: -\$ 3,118.28

Budget for 2025: \$158,019.00

Needed weekly is \$3,039.00*

MISSION OFFERINGS FROM THE CONGREGATION:

November Mission: Emergency Food Assistance \$498.00

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

January 2026 MISSION: Alliance Community Pantry & Alliance of Churches

The Alliance of Churches is an association of Christian congregations, businesses, and individuals in the Alliance area committed to the ministry of Jesus Christ in a united effort of faith and service. The office is located in the basement of Christ United Methodist Church, 470 E. Broadway Street. Free bread and sundries are available during office hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. A free community meal is served every Tuesday at Christ UMC at 5pm provided by our partner churches. Science Hill will assist in serving the meal several times throughout 2026. SARTA bus pass vouchers are available for those needing help to get to other areas of Stark County for medical or legal reasons. The Alliance of Churches also sponsors community worship services throughout the year, such as Sunday evenings during Lent, the National Day of Prayer, and the Praise Team Concert at the Caboose in late summer. Their goal for 2026 is to begin an annual Community Thanksgiving Service. The Alliance Community Pantry provides food assistance to clients every other week after registering. They are located at 215 E. Market Street in Alliance. Call for more details at 330-680-8130. Thank you for supporting the Community Pantry and the Alliance of Churches.

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.

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.*****



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Items for the February 2026 newsletter should be submitted to the church office by Thursday, January 22 at NOON. You can bring them in or send them in at any time to office@sciencehillcc.org or sciencehillcc.org@gmail.com.

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, December 8, 2025

Present: Elders: Craig Reay, Derek Swegheimer, Jan Raber

Deacons: Ben Favazzo, Rose Wade, Ray Courtwright, Richard Berube

Pastor: Jonathan Truax and **Secretary/Treasurer:** Theresa Marks

Guest: Jeff Hahn – New Deacon elected for 2026

PRAYER/DEVOTION: Theresa Marks

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Consistory meeting Monday, November 10, 2025 were reviewed and placed on file.

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

BILLS FOR PAYMENT: For December of \$15,322.04 for the General Fund and \$0 for the Youth checkbook were approved with motions by Derek and Richard.

CORRESPONDENCE: n/a

MISC. REPORTS: 1.) Rose and the Building & Grounds Committee: a.) A small stand under the microwave and a shelf for Nancy were made by Ray Boyce. b.) The parsonage front porch railings are completed. c.) The sub sale and soup sale fundraisers will be done by the Building and Grounds Committee this year and the proceeds will go into the new Roof Fund account. d.) The proceeds from the Santa visits will also benefit the Roof Fund. e.) They are working on goals for 2026. 2.) Outreach Committee: a.) Consistory approved the recommended missions for 2026. (Please see that listing in this newsletter.) b.) They have new ideas planned for 2026 that include a book club, serving more community meals, free lunch & learn series, prayer walk and our church website testimonials. They are partnering with the Church Life Committee on special events.

OLD BUSINESS: 1.) The ad-hoc committee to review and recommend a Security Camera Policy was discussed. That committee consisted of Pastor Jon, Derek Swegheimer, Jan Raber, Cindy Casto and Lynn Penturf. 2.) The Family Ministry Director position was split back to two positions: Children’s Ministry Director and Youth Ministry Director. Holly Swegheimer applied for, and was offered the position of Children’s Ministry Director. She will begin January 1, 2026 part time. 3.) A new office computer was purchased and installed and we thank the private donor for that generous donation.

NEW BUSINESS: 1.) The next Consistory meeting will be held on Monday, January 5th instead of the 12th.

PASTOR’S REMARKS: 1.) Installation of new church officers will take place in worship on Sunday, January 4th. 2.) The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, January 25th. There will be no refreshments or Sunday School that day. 3.) A folded brochure is available on the welcome table to read through the Bible in a year for 2026.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:40pm with motions by Jan and Richard. The next scheduled Consistory meeting is changed to Monday, January 5, 2026 at 7:00pm.

Craig Reay, Consistory President
Theresa Marks, Secretary/Treasurer

EPHIPHANY
Sunday, January 4, 2026

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, January 25, 2026
Following Worship
No Refreshments or Sunday School

Congratulations To Our New Confirmands

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Brad Stiver . . . Bailey Courtwright . . . Luke Stiver

Bailey was also baptized and joined the congregation as a new member.



SCIENCE HILL BOOK CLUB

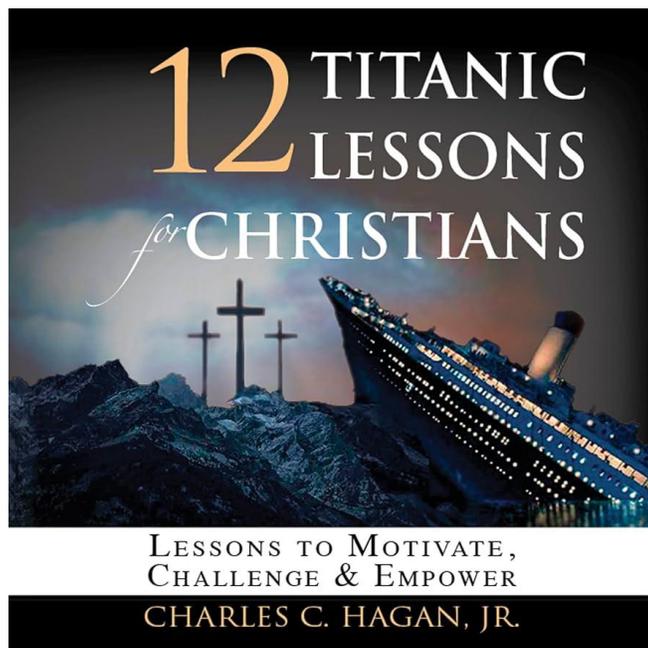
Like to read?

Join us for our 1st gathering of the Science Hill Book Club on March 19th from 6-9pm by reading our first book:

12 Titanic Lessons for Christians: Lessons to Motivate, Challenge and Empower

by Charles C. Hagan Jr.

Books are available on Amazon (paperback or audiobook), Audible, thrift stores, or a copy will be ready to borrow in February. Open to family, friends, and the public. Start reading now! Contact Laura Courtwright.



COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

All Committee chair people are asked to submit a yearly report for 2025 to the office at the very latest by **Monday, January 5th at 8am** (or sooner would be very much appreciated!)

Please send them to this email: sciencehillcc.org@gmail.com.

-Thanks, Theresa

Science Hill Church Missions for 2026

These were recommended by the Outreach Committee and accepted by Consistory.

January: Alliance of Churches/Alliance Community Pantry

February: Men's Toolbox Ministry

March: NAMI

April: Hammer & Nails Home Ministry

May: Alliance Pregnancy Center

June: Challenge Ministries

July: Marlin & Minnie Snyder Foundation

August: Mission Marlinton

September: Mt. Union CRU

October: Clothed In Righteousness

November: SAM Center/Legacy of Honor

December: Alliance of Churches



IT'S A MIDWEEK SPIRITUAL LIFT

Community Connection meets first & third Tuesday evenings 6 to 8 pm.

This month: January 6th and 20th

We gather and share a meal at 6pm with our usual menu of hot dogs, and attendees bringing sides and desserts. Classes for children, youth and adults begin at 6:30pm. Pastor Jon teaches a Bible Study on the Gospel of John. If you can be a helper for the children and youth areas - please see Holly Swegheimer.

GAME, FOOD and FELLOWSHIP NIGHT!

Friday, January 9th

6 – 9pm

Bring your favorite game(s)
and an appetizer to share.

What a fun night for everyone of all ages!



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

We would like to thank Katie Stiver, Family Ministry Director, for her service to our children and youth over the last year. She is moving on to another chapter of her life with her husband Alan, and children Brad, Luke and Isabelle. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Keep the faith!

We would also like to welcome Holly Swegheimer as the new Children's Ministry Director. She has been involved in the life of Science Hill Church and the children for many years now. She will begin her role as an employee beginning January 1, 2026.

"Thank you to my ABF Sunday School class for the awesome and thoughtful gift you gave me! I was very surprised and humbled. You are a great class and it is a joy and honor to teach our ABF. May the Lord bless you in return for your kindness."
-Derek Swegheimer

Thank you so much for your support of Legacy of Honor and those we serve. We couldn't do what we do without you! God Bless, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. -Dan Riggs and the Legacy of Honor Board

NEW ADDRESS: Ray and Laura Courtwright, 8756 Cook Rd., Salem OH 44460

UNDECORATING THE CHURCH will take place the week of January 5th. More details on days and times to be announced in worship. Any help you could give will be much appreciated!

THE TOOLBOX: A Men's Ministry: 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 **January 3rd and February 7th**. For more information, please see 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.

There is a **BIBLE READING GUIDE** on the table in the narthex if anyone would like to read through the Bible in a year, on your own, as we have done a few times in previous years. Your choice ... you can read the Old and New Testament passages or just the New.

HELP SERVE A COMMUNITY MEAL THROUGH THE ALLIANCE OF CHURCHES



Science Hill Church will help on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 from 4:30-6:30pm at Christ United Methodist Church, 470 E. Broadway St. in Alliance. Please contact Pastor Jon or Laura Courtwright if you can help.

“THANK YOU” FOR VOLUNTEERING ON SUNDAYS

| DATE | REFRESHMENTS | LITURGIST | BELL RINGER | PRAYER ROOM |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| January 4 | Schroeder Family | Craig Reay | Jenny Digiantonio | Connie Poto |
| January 11 | Jon & Debbie Truax | Theresa Marks | Autumn Digiantonio | |
| January 18 | | Jan Raber | Bailey Courtwright | Theresa Marks |
| January 25 | Congregational Meeting | Marsha Graham | Bob Poto | June Truax |
| | | | | |
| January | USHERS | GREETERS | ACOLYTE | |
| | Ray & Laura Courtwright | Gary & Cindy Casto | Bailey Courtwright | |

JANUARY CALENDAR

1st: Happy New Year!
 3rd: 8:30am Men’s Toolbox Ministry at Robertson’s
 4th: Epiphany: 9am Prayer Time; 9:30am Worship; 10:45am Refreshments; 11am Sunday School for all ages
 5th: 8am Committee reports due; 7pm Consistory
 6th: Community Connection 6pm meal then classes for all
 9th: 9am Blessing Bags; 6-9pm Game & Fellowship Night
 11th: 9am Prayer Time; 9:30am Worship; 10:45am Refreshments; 11am Sunday School for all ages
 12th: Tech Committee meeting 2pm
 13th: Serving a community meal at Christ United Methodist Church 4:30-6:30pm
 16th: 9am Blessing Bags
 18th: 9am Prayer Time; 9:30am Worship; 10:45am Refreshments; 11am Sunday School for all ages
 19th: Martin Luther King Day; 6:30pm Worship Committee meeting; 7:30pm Christian Education Committee meeting
 20th: Community Connection 6pm meal then classes for all
 22nd: 8am February information due for the newsletter
 23rd: 9am Blessing Bags
 25th: 9am Prayer Time; 9:30am Worship; Annual Congregational Meeting
 26th: 6:30pm Outreach Committee meeting; 6:30pm Girl Scouts

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1st: Debbie Haidet, Peggy Hawkins
 4th: Sara Schroeder
 5th: Carolyn Snode; Steven Courtwright
 8th: Jamie Maendel
 9th: Julie Szekely
 11th: Tami Theisler; Tyler Reay; Holly Swegheimer
 12th: Pam Boone; David Maendel
 13th: Erma Hastings
 15th: Nicole Scafidi
 16th: Pastor Jon Truax
 17th: Nancy Harsh
 18th: Quentin Rock
 20th: Dorothy Oyster
 21st: Nick Marks
 24th: Giulia Verlezza
 26th: Brittany Murray
 28th: Sarah Farnham; Liam Monk
 29th: Abby Schroeder



CHURCH MEMORIES *-Tami Theisler, Church Historian*

January 24th, 2021 – (During the Covid era) Livestream church, then at 11:30am – our Annual Congregational Meeting was held in the parking lot on the radio at FM 107.7. After the meeting, we celebrated Karen Wolfe's retirement after 12 years of conscientious service as church secretary to Science Hill Church. Pastor Jon expressed how he has enjoyed working with Karen sharing a few highlights from over the years including her monthly "Happy Dance" when the books balanced, family news, her "male" computer, "Monday's with Marsha" comparing notes on trips, her trustworthiness and no complaining. Cars drove behind the church for a picture with Karen and well wishes were shared from the cars. A box lunch was then given for all to take home and enjoy.

**** 10 Years Ago – January 25th, 2016** – A son, Weston Eric, born to Kevin and Janna Gowen. He is a brother to Cason and grandson of Chris and Sharon Stroup.

January 16th, 2011 – Debbie Haidet was liturgist and Herb Oyster played his harmonica for morning worship. Pastor Jon continued his series on the "God of Oz". Mission speaker and offering for Alliance Visiting Nurses and Hospice was taken. Thirteen youth and 3 adults participated in a Youth "Overnighter" at the Y.M.C.A.

January 1st, 2006 – New Year's Day! Special guest pianist, David McClintock offered special music selections. Jan Berube led the service and delivered the message – "The Lesson of the Christmas Box". Richard Berube gave the Children's Sermon. Refreshments followed the service and gave members a chance to greet David and purchase his C.D.s.

**** 25 Years Ago - January 14th, 2001** – The Majesty Gospel Quartet provided music for the morning service.

January 14th, 1996 – Special offering taken during morning worship service for Kaley Hoffman (granddaughter of Earl and Mildred Cribbs and niece of Jim and Pat Dearth).

January 10th, 1991 – Brenda Zaleski was named chairman for 1991 for the Caring and Sharing Committee.

January 21st, 1986, - Nicholas Allen born to Theresa and Chris Marks. Five days later, on January 26th, Brittany Jo born to Brenda and Mark Zaleski.

January 24th, 1981 – The Annual Deerslayers Dinner was enjoyed by 175 people. Jay Karlen served as M.C. and Carolyn Dickey spoke on behalf of the wives. Jean Moore, with Theresa Baughman's assistance, prepared the venison. The deerslayers returned with 8 deer this year with Ron Dickey holding the trophy for the largest buck again.

**** 50 Years Ago - January 11th, 1976** – A girl, Tami Noel was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Poto.

January 3rd, 1971 – James Hastings delivered the sermon in the minister's absence.

January 30th, 1966 – Melvin Snode was presented a large globe for his devotion as a teacher for 30 years of service. Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Penrod celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

January 20th, 1961 – A casserole supper was enjoyed in the basement after which the Annual Congregational Meeting was held. A large crowd was present. Russell Newburn explained the start of the new youth fellowship class.

January 13th, 1956 – After a casserole supper the Annual Congregational Meeting was held in the basement around the tables, attended by a large number of members and children. Mrs. Kenneth Snode lead in singing many songs and rounds much enjoyed by everyone. Election of officers of the Sunday School and Deacons and Elders was held, followed by reports from all organizations of the church.

**** 75 Years Ago | January 7th, 1951** – Regular church service with communion and installation of Elder Clair Glass and Deacon Harry Newburn and officers and teachers of the Sunday School.

January 13th, 1946 – Holy Communion was observed at the morning service.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Ricky & Rachel Beach
Calvin Beck
Kathy Boyce
David Campbell
Olive Eick
Ben Favazzo
Donna Grubb, Valerie Grubb
Erin Haws
Sharon Kennedy
Laura Keyes
Steve Marshall
Janice McCallister

Jill Peterson
Craig & Lori Reay
Danielle Sadler
Dianne Schuette
Stephanie Shealy
Jessica Starr & Daughter
Paul Sullivan
Rich Summers
Lynne Thomas
Wade Unkefer



For the families of Jill Black, Ilene Masters, Dorothy (Truax) Archer
Dennis Buchs, Crecia Huey, Patricia Elliot, Mary Ellen Lipely

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

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

COLLEGE

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

CONSISTORY

ELDERS: Gary Casto
Mark Haidet
Jan Raber
Derek Swegheimer
DEACONS: Ray Courtwright
Ben Favazzo
Jeff Hahn
Rose Wade

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Jonathan Truax
Secretary/Treasurer: Theresa Marks
Pianist: Nancy Springer
Children's Ministry Director: Holly Swegheimer
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.*

SCIENCE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

12316 Beeson Street NE

Alliance, OH 44601

(Address Correction Requested)

January 2026

