

Crescent Hill Baptist Church

October 2020

Life Together

Outdoor Gathering, Sunday, October 4

While we do not feel that it is wise to re-open the building for in-person inside worship yet, we know that it is difficult to not see each other and share fellowship. We will be offering our outdoor space for a gathering on **October 4 from 10:00 – 11:00 AM**. Darrell Adams and Fred Bogert will be providing musical entertainment for your listening enjoyment during part of our time together and we will be sharing communion together in celebration of World Communion Sunday. (Communion elements will be available in prepackaged containers.)

We know not everyone will want to attend, and we will respect whatever decision is best for you and your family. We will offer an online service as we have been doing during the pandemic; so if you are unable to join us in person, you can still connect with us through the online service. In order to host this event safely there are several guidelines we will put in place.

1. We will have chairs set up six (6) feet apart, and some small groups of chairs to accommodate households. We ask that you stay six (6) feet apart from all other households.
2. Masks will need to be worn at all times while on church grounds by those two (2) years and over. Please bring your own mask. If you forget, we will have some you can have.
3. We need everyone to register for this event. It will be most helpful to pre-register by calling the church office by **Friday, October 2 at 4:00 PM**. Or go to the church website and register online. You can click on this link for the online form <https://form.jotform.com/202585631273152>. We are asking for everyone to pre-register or register on the day so that, if necessary, in the event of someone testing positive within two weeks of the gathering, we can make sure you are contacted.
4. Please do not bring any food or drink to the gathering. Eating and drinking requires you to take off your mask, and we want you to keep your mask on at all times.
5. The building will be closed.
6. When you arrive, you can park in the courtyard parking lot, along Birchwood and Frankfort Avenues and in the library lot. There will be three check-in tables. If you have pre-registered, we will simply check you off the list and make sure you have a mask. If you haven't pre-registered, there will be a short form to fill out (name and contact information).

We look forward to seeing some of you Sunday, October 4.



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Mark Your Calendar for Events on These Dates

- October 4—Outdoor Gathering
- October 11 — Dr. Alton Pollard preaching
- October 13—EmpowerWest Book Club
- October 17—Donation Saturday

Before November 3

It is often said that topics to avoid around the dinner table are religion and politics. However, I do not believe that at this moment in time in our history we are afforded that luxury. When you receive this month's Crescent Hill Baptist Church Life Together publication, we will find ourselves a little more than one month away from perhaps the most consequential election in the United States in generations. There will be much on the line on November 3rd. I do not think it is hyperbole to state that the outcome of this election will significantly shape the course of our nation for years to come.

Furthermore, while glossing over political and religious matters might make a dinner party more pleasant, ignoring the relationship between politics and religion significantly limits the broad reaching implications of Jesus's life, teachings, death, and resurrection.

Jesus challenged power structures – both political and religious – of his day and age. For instance, Herod sought to end Jesus' life just after Jesus' birth because Herod feared that the baby born in a barn would threaten his political power. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on what we now refer to as Palm Sunday, some sang his praises because they thought he was going to ascend to the throne of the king. Others grew concerned about his presence because they feared he would disrupt mutually beneficial political and religious arrangements.

While maintaining separation of church and state and creating space for the free exercise of religion is imperative, it is nearly impossible for those who follow Jesus not to grasp that their religious and spiritual convictions have political ramifications. Because I respect the freedom and liberty of individuals to cast ballots for whom they choose, I am not going to suggest that anyone vote for one candidate in any particular race over another.

However, because Jesus' teachings have far-reaching political implications, I do want to take a moment to emphasize what I find to be core values for Jesus.

Jesus sought to care and uplift the least among us. The poor, the sick, the imprisoned. Matthew 25:35-39 reads:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”

Jesus despises when people in positions of power abuse their power and desecrate that which is holy for unjust and personal enrichment purposes. There's a reason Jesus overturned tables when he encountered money-changers at the Temple one Passover. The Temple was supposed to be a house of prayer where all were welcome. Instead, it had become more of a bazaar where people were using that time and space to line their pockets!

Finally, Jesus taught us to love one another as our gracious God showed God's love to us through Jesus Christ.

I do not believe it is too far-fetched a claim that the soul of our nation is at stake on November 3rd. As we approach that day and as we prayerfully consider for whom we will cast our ballots, I hope that we will bear in mind the values that Jesus espoused. Let us not the grow distracted by those things that people talk a lot about, but the Bible and Jesus say little or nothing about. Instead, let us make considerations through the prism that is Jesus's words, teachings, life, death, and resurrection.

Empower West Virtual Book Club

For the past several years, we have hosted Empower West's City Wide Book Club. They are planning a virtual book club on the book, *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*. The Book Club will take place on **Tuesday, October 13** from 6:30-8:00 PM. We will update with details on where to stream when they become available.

In *White Too Long* Robert P. Jones draws on history, public opinion surveys, and personal experience to deliver a provocative examination of the unholy relationship between American Christianity and white supremacy, and issues an urgent call for white Christians to reckon with this legacy for the sake of themselves and the nation.

Dr. Alton Pollard to Preach October 11

Dr. Alton B. Pollard III, President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, will be our pulpit guest on **Sunday, October 11**. A scholar, author, consultant and speaker on the subject of African American and U.S. religion and culture, Pollard was previously dean of the School of Divinity and professor of Religion and Culture at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

In addition, Dr. Pollard has graciously agreed to lead a Bible study during the Sunday School hour that morning. Watch for Zoom details in church emails and newsletters.

Save the Date: CHBC Virtual Women's Retreat

Dates: **Friday, November 13**, 8:00-9:00 PM and **Saturday, November 14**, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Theme: How YOU Catch the Light

Details to follow soon.

Youth News

Sundays at 9:00 PM, our youth have been staying in touch by Zoom. If you know of any additional youth who would like to join this gathering, please contact Brittani Bair for the Zoom code.

This semester, our youth and college students are invited to read the book, *Inspired*, by Rachel Held Evans. Copies are available to CHBC youth by contacting Brittani Bair. Porch delivery available for students. Any adults who would like to read along with us are invited to do so; please obtain your own copy. Youth will discuss the book via an invitation-only chat group.

Outdoor size-limited social-distance coffee dates at Sister Beans' Coffee next to Iroquois park will be offered monthly when conditions allow this safely. Our next potential coffee date will be October 10 at 10:00 AM. Masks and advance sign-up are required. Limited to 9 youth per month. No transportation is offered. Contact Brittani Bair to participate.

Our youth are working on at-home volunteer recognition projects this semester. Crafts and cards in appreciation of our dedicated volunteers are in progress and will be delivered throughout the Fall.



UCHM Christmas Connection

This year's Christmas Connection program at United Crescent Hill Ministries is going to be different from years past. The goal is still to provide Christmas gifts and dinner for needy children and families in our community.

But instead of having sponsors shop to fill wish lists this year, they will be asked to contribute a \$100 VISA gift card and a \$25 Kroger gift card per sponsored child. This will: 1) keep sponsors from being put at risk for COVID when having to get out and shop, and 2) give parents a greater role in providing for their children.

More information about sponsor registration will be available soon. This is a program that CHBC has long supported. Individuals, families, and Sunday School classes are encouraged to participate.

Giving Saturday

The next donation drive will be **Saturday, October 17** from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We will be collecting for Scarlette Jasper, KRM, La Casita, & Medwater. This is also the last opportunity to turn in the Christmas Boxes for Appalachia or to donate financially to that project.

Items for Scarlette:

- * Cleaning Supplies
- * Sanitizer
- * Canned Goods (especially ones with "pop tops" for those experiencing homelessness)
- * Educational Games
- * Hygiene Items
- * Masks
- * Hats & Gloves for all ages

Items for KRM:

- * New or gently used coats (mostly needing kids sizes, but accepting adult sizes also, all used coats must be washed)
- * Hats, gloves, scarves

Items for La Casita:

Hygiene items:

- * bottles of shampoo (not travel-sized. These will be given to families)
- * bottles of conditioner (not travel-sized. These will be given to families)
- * toothpaste (not travel-sized. These are given to families)
- * bars of soap
- * deodorant (men's or women's)
- * toilet paper

Food items: *(please note that rice is not on this list. we have an overstock of rice at this time. That being said we will still happily accept rice, it is just not our priority need)*

- * boxes of spaghetti or other pasta
- * canned corn with pop-top lids
- * 1-2 lb. bags of dry black beans
- * jars of spaghetti sauce
- * canned tuna or canned chicken

Medwater: Donations can be made to Medwater through their website at Medwater.org/donate

Christmas Boxes for Appalachia

The Missions Response Team is once again sponsoring Christmas Boxes for Appalachia. These boxes will be sent to impoverished children pre-K through 6th grade in McCreary County, KY and Scott County, TN served by Scarlette Jasper, CBF Field Personnel. Our goal is 100 boxes.

Corrugated boxes are available by contacting Josh Bair at jdbair@gmail.com for pickup and delivery. Detailed instructions for filling, decorating and labelling the boxes are attached to each box concerning items needed and accepted, decorating and labeling.

If you would like to donate money, instead of putting together a Christmas box, you can send cash or check payable to CHBC with "Christmas Boxes" on the memo line by October 17.

Please drop-off completed boxes to the church office. Please call the office in advance. All boxes must be returned by the next **Giving Saturday, October 17.**

Theology of the Cross Discussion Group

The next book selected for the Theology of the Cross Discussion Group to read and discuss is David Gushee's *After Evangelicalism: The Path to a New Christianity*. This is a new book and is on order through Carmichael's with a 20% discount for \$15.20 +tax. The discussions will be via Zoom on **Sundays @ 5:00 PM for 6 weeks beginning October 4 and ending November 8**. To participate, email brittani@chbcky.org. Reading and Discussion topic schedule:

10/04-- Introduction & Chapter 1- Authorities: Listening and Learning

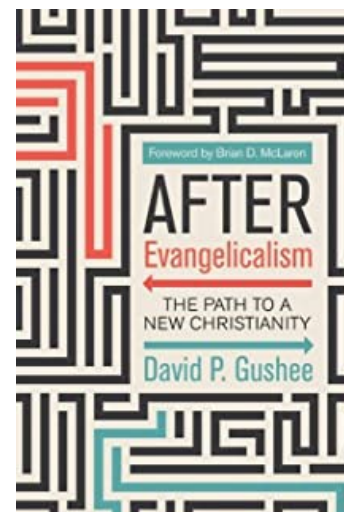
10/11-- Chapter 2- Scripture: From Inerrancy to the Church's Book & Chapter 3- Resources: Hearing God's Voice Beyond Scripture

10/18-- Chapter 4- God: In Dialogue with the Story of Israel & Chapter 5- Jesus: Apocalyptic Prophet, Lynched God-Man, Risen Lord

10/25-- Chapter 6- Church: Finding Christ's People & Chapter 7- Sex: From Purity to Covenant Realism

11/01-- Chapter 8- Politics: Starting Over after White Evangelicalism's Embrace of Trumpism

11/08-- Chapter 9- Race: Unveiling and Ending White-Supremacist Christianity & Epilogue/Appendix



A Letter to the Kids

Dear Kids,

It has been over SIX months since we were able to be together in person. A few of you I have been able to see at least once or twice when I have dropped off activity kits, but I miss seeing your smiling faces. When I do get to see you again, I know you will be taller, you will have learned much, you will have lost teeth and grown new ones, you will look more mature (that means you will look older), you will have new experiences to tell me about and we will enjoy our time together so much more because we now know what it is like when we can't see each other.

I was very sad this summer when we didn't get to go to Ms. Roxann's house for our campout and when we didn't get to have VBS and when we didn't get to go to PassportKids! camp and when we didn't get to have Messy Art Camp. That was very disappointing for many of us.

Now school has started again. Most of you are at home, on your computers learning new things. And while you get to see your teachers and your classmates, I know it is not the same, and it is not good enough. Here is what I promise you – This WILL NOT last F-O-R-E-V-E-R. It may feel like forever. We may all look totally different when we can get back together. But we WILL be able to get back together one day. We (the grownups) are doing our best to make the safest decisions for when we can get back together. We want to make sure you are safe, your families are safe, and our community is safe.

So until then, I will keep offering take home boxes so you have something to do at home instead of just school. We did art boxes and story-time boxes this summer. The Lego Kits are FINALLY finished! And most of you have already received yours. The next boxes that will be ready later in October are craft boxes. These boxes will have crafts for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Make sure your mom or dad call or email me so I can make sure to put together a box for you.

We haven't tried Zooming in a while, so we will again. We will try a monthly time, instead of a weekly time. We will meet on the **second Sunday of each month at 1:00 PM**. Tell your parents to watch their emails for the Zoom link. So **October 11 at 1:00 PM** join your friends on Zoom.

So until we can see each other in person, have fun playing with your Lego kits, reading your story books, making your holiday crafts and we will "see" each other on Zoom.

I miss you all,
Ms. Andrea

An Update on the Church Facilities

Occasionally it is good to step back and take in the larger picture. In regard to the church facilities, it is important to remember that we are talking about a building of almost 100,000 square feet. The sanctuary and two education towers were built in 1926. The education building that includes the chapel, fellowship hall and kitchen, gym, church office complex, church parlor and classrooms was built in 1956. As a part of the Together We Build campaign in the mid 1980's, the Birchwood entrance was added. The church has three parking lots and a prime corner lot on Frankfort and Birchwood.

To tend and care for all this is both a grand privilege and a great challenge. Many persons are responsible and for each and all of you, I say thank you.

Because of persons who have left monetary gifts to the church, we have been able to establish and maintain a building endowment fund. Interest earned from the endowment principal has allowed us to make many and continued improvements to the facilities. For this we are very blessed and grateful. Over the last few years, because of this endowment fund, we have been able to replace the heating boilers in the 1956 and the 1926 buildings. We have replaced the air conditioning system in the sanctuary and the heating and air conditioning system in the church gym. All of the bathroom renovations and remodeling completed last summer were funded by the building endowment.

This summer we had three major projects: remodel the youth lounge, refurbish the church parlor, and replace all the air conditioning units in the Birchwood tower. Since we had to replace the nursery AC unit last summer, we only had to replace three AC units this summer. Because we were able to do them all at the same time, we saved \$7000.00! As I write this, the youth lounge is almost complete including new flooring, new lighting, adding ceiling fans, fresh paint and a weathered-board wall. The church parlor has new carpet, fresh paint, reworked and improved lighting.

We are grateful to Janet Miller and Jo Forest, who oversee the tending of the church landscape, flowers and plants.

As of August 25, the Highlands Latin School resumed classes in the church facilities. The school has been very intentional in following all the prescribed guidelines pursuant to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are 259 students at CHBC plus faculty and staff. Everyone is working diligently to make it happen. We are only able to house the school here today because of all the improvements and updates we have made in the past.

We have much to be both proud of and thankful for regarding our church facilities. In its own way it is, indeed, the house of the Lord. Thanks be to God. BJ

Bread for the World

The Missions Response Team asks that you take a moment to engage in this year's Offering of Letters for *Bread for the World*.

Bread for the World is a cooperative, Christian organization that promotes a world without hunger by urging our country's leaders to end hunger across the globe. The organization's annual Offering of Letters initiative brings together communities of faith through the writing of letters to Congress, requesting them to support legislation that will help those wrestling with hunger and poverty. This year's emphases are on hunger and the coronavirus, nutrition, and migration & immigration. While you can write an actual letter, you can also email your representatives through the *Bread for the World* website at bread.org/write-congress. All of the information you need to write your letter can be found on the website.

Important Updates! - Be Ready to Vote on November 3

October 5 at 4:00 PM is the deadline to register to vote! It is easy!

- You must be a U.S. citizen 18 years old (18 by November 3) or older
- Decide if you want to be a Democrat or Republican.

If you registered once, you do not need to register again.

But, if you moved since you registered, you must turn in a change of address.

All you need is:

- Social Security number
- Address where you live now

Register: www.govoteky.com Ask for help if you need it to register!

Other important dates:

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is **October 9** (You can use COVID 19 as your excuse.) Request online at www.govoteky.com.

Ballot must be postmarked by **November 3** and received by **November 6**.

Instead of mailing, ballots may be taken to secure Drop Boxes from **September 21-October 13**. Secure Drop Box locations are:

- Kentucky Expo Center, 937 Phillips Ln.
- Kentucky YUM Center, 201W. Main St.
- Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, 1701 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.
- Jefferson County Election Center, 701 W. Ormsby Ave. Room 301;
- one more site to yet be determined.

Someone chosen by the voter can return a ballot for them.

Early in-person voting: Recommended! Every work day and Saturday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM **between October 13 and November 2**.

- Kentucky Expo Center, 937 Phillips Ln.
- Kentucky YUM Center, 201W. Main St.
- Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, 1701 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.
- one east end location to yet be determined

Election Day, November 3 In-person voting 6:00 AM-6:00 PM: There are **eight (8) Super Centers**. Anyone from any Jefferson County, KY. Can vote in person at one of the locations listed:

- **Kentucky Expo Center**, 937 Phillips Ln.
- **Kentucky YUM Center**, 201W. Main St.
- **Kentucky Center for African American Heritage**, 1701 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.
- **Thomas Jefferson Middle School**, 1501 Rangeland Rd.
- **Ballard High School**, 6000 Brownsboro Rd.
- **Shawnee High School**, 4001 Herman St.
- **Valley High School**, 10200 Dixie Hwy.
- **another east end location** to be determined.

Please plan to vote and help and encourage others to do so!

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CHANGE SERVICE
 REQUESTED

October Birthdays

21	Eh So	12	Paw Wah
22	Pat Scott	13	Chad Johnson
24	Liam Cox (11)	14	Eh Ku Soe (11)
	Mitz Nabekura	16	Alice Adams
	Kay Shutt		Paw La Htoo (8)
25	Sean Bailey		Say Gay Moo (8)
26	Grayson Carter (16)	18	Plar Law Eh Paw (15)
27	Janet Cole	18	Amelia Debusman
	Mary Cook	19	Kio Baw
	Moo ku Paw (9)	9	Paw Law Eh
	Moe ko Toe	10	William Holt (12)
	Duncan Twyman	20	Eh Htoo Htoo (12)
28	Liz Bennie		Thar Tin
	Julia (7)	11	Ella Diehl (16)
29	Melinda Stricklen		Kie Thu Po
	George Walton	12	Oliver Payton (20)
	Steve Wilson	21	Judy Pessolano
			Angela Klueber

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