



Christ Presbyterian Church in The Hill

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NEWS FROM CPC IN THE HILL — SUMMER 2020 (RECAP)



moved out back to the patio for an outdoor, more accommodating in-person gathering (still, FB Live); and, now, we have transitioned back inside for our in-person gathering at 158 Davenport Ave. Because of social distancing protocols, we can only accommodate up to 25. No one has had to do this before—a shutdown and then a transition back to gathering—yet we are slowly trying to get back to some form of normalcy.

ADJUSTING MINISTRY & CHURCH SERVICES TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS—A tsunami hit us when State after State began closing down, schools closed, gatherings banned, and Stay-at-Home policies established. No church gatherings. Wow! Every pastor and session (i.e., elders) scrambled to respond. I was able to keep in touch with CPC in the Hill families through the phone and dropping off basic household items and groceries, especially during the shut-down period. Live streaming became the *goto* for online services. We started with a Facebook Live service; in May, moved to the front steps of our worship site for an outdoor in-person and FB Live; in June we



THE SATURDAY SIDEWALK BREAKFAST STILL GOING STRONG—As a result of the COVID-19 shutdown, we turned our Saturday Sidewalk Breakfast into a Grab’n Go—and kept right on serving our neighbors. We’ve added scrambled eggs and turkey bacon, and tissues and soap as well. About a month ago, Lisa made a good connection with someone who distributes “Day Old” items from Whole Foods and Trader Joe’s. Weekly we now get a SUV full of food Maxine and we can give out to our neighbors. We are grateful for the outside support and in-kind donations we receive.



SATURDAY SIDEWALK CHURCH SERVICE—We began a Saturday Sidewalk Church service Easter Weekend in the middle of our Sidewalk Breakfast. Not only do I get to preach to those who aren't going to church and probably will never go, CPC in The Hill began this church service—with a Call to Worship, Bible reading, a sermon, community prayers, and a benediction—with a threefold purpose: 1) to give our neighbors an opportunity to see that God is present and shows up even on our sidewalk; 2) to give our unchurched neighbors an opportunity to draw near to Jesus and follow him; and 3) to develop Jesus-followers and a caring community of believers from among those living on the Hill margins.

MAXINE’S FRIDAY MOVIE NIGHTS AND SATURDAY READ OUT-LOUD FOR NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS

Maxine started this last year, a Free Movie Night for neighborhood kids. For a small cost she has a concession stand and utilizes her hot dog cart (e.g., Maxine’s Mercy Stand) to make it feel like a real evening at the movies. On Saturdays Maxine huddles neighborhood children under a backyard tent, has designated readers, and children listen to a Daily Bread essay and a few chapters from a book—then they are asked comprehension questions about what was read. Kids get to record the books for their summer reading and to practice their reading comprehension skills. This is an Amazing ministry!



THE 2020 “IN HIS MIDST” PARK BBQ GRAB’N GO—It took a bit of doing, especially obtaining approval from the City and the Health Department, but we persevered and were, still, able to provide a Wednesday evening meal for 8 weeks this summer,

but as a Grab'n Go. With the necessary COVID-19 protocols and safe distancing, we began serving 50+ people a night and saw an increase to an average of 70 with the last evening 80+. I still did some park preaching each evening and on the last evening, as in the past, we handed out school supplies. This summer individuals from our anchor church Life Groups gave us a hand in setting up and serving our Hill neighbors. We are grateful for all the outside support to make this ministry possible.



The FY21 Goal: \$48,991—We are grateful to our financial partners for their support. We are at the start of a new year, FY21, and at a new, slightly higher goal, \$48,991. We are thankful for those who will continue to partner with us, yet, we need more financial partners to maintain and even increase our ministry presence here in the Hill. We need at least 50% of our goal in new support (given or pledged). Per month, we will need \$4,082. We know many of you pray for us and have enjoyed watching (e.g., on Facebook) the Hill church and ministry; still, please consider also becoming a financial partner as well. Help us reach our goal and enable us to continue our Hill

Please consider being a financial partner—Partners enable us to continue doing ministry and build a Hill congregation. Your support will allow us the freedom to build and increase our outdoor church sidewalk service and food ministry on the street where Lisa and I live. Our partners help us to show the love of Jesus during this very difficult time.

Thank you.

OUR HILL MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray that all the good contacts we make—the breakfasts, from this past summer’s Park BBQ, the Movie Nights, and our Hill involvement—draw people to Jesus and to our church.
- Please pray for our Ladies Group and for Maxine’s leadership, especially they find an in-person space to meet.
- Please pray that our transition back to in-person Sunday gatherings progress well and that everyone begins to return and that we use wisdom in how to include our CPC in The Hill kids, many of whom do not have parents that attend.
- Please continue to pray for our rather crazy, out-of-the-box idea outdoor sidewalk church service; pray we find someone to do music and someone to start a kids “Saturday School” during our Sat-Sidewalk Church Service.
- Please pray that we find a musician and someone to development a youth ministry at CPC in The Hill.
- Please pray that my discipleship and elder training with one of our men goes well and he perseveres and grows.

Ways to donate—monthly payments or as one annual sum

- Checks: “CPC New Haven”/in memo “FY21 Hill/CA”/mail: CPC New Haven, 135 Whitney Ave, New Haven, CT 06510
- Online at <http://www.cpcinthehill.org/> > Donate > Donation Applied > “Hill Church Planter–Rev. Chip Anderson”



Jerry, one of our leaders stepping up to help each Sunday, setting up, reading scripture, helping to serve communion (sets of self-contained individual wafers and juice). Jerry has also begun the steps for elder-shepherding training as well.

One of the nice ladies who drops off each Saturday at our Sidewalk Breakfast “Day Old” food from Whole Foods and Trader Joe’s. Our Breakfast is a catalyst for meeting the needs of our neighbors, which gives us opportunities to share the gospel.

