



Christ Presbyterian Church in The Hill

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“. . . we have tried to tell you the truth—the uninteresting, unromantic truth . . . The work is not a pretty thing, to be looked at and admired. It is a fight. And battlefields are not beautiful.”
~Amy Carmichael, missionary to India~

“Let us use the treasures God has given us in such a way that when we come to that day we will have treasures laid up in heaven and people eagerly waiting for us.”
~Francis Schaeffer~

September 13, 2022

My co-workers and partners in God’s field:

In a sermon last year at a supporting church, I preached on the Book of Acts, particularly the last scene where Paul is under house arrest awaiting trial (28:17-31). I pointed out that many read the Book of Acts and pray, “*We want that! God, do it again!*” Yet, that’s not necessarily the right takeaway. We can get enamored with almost every scene . . . but, using Amy Carmichael’s words, ministry isn’t pretty, not a thing to be looked at and admired. Luke didn’t hold back, didn’t paint a rosy picture. He presented *a battlefield* and *a battlefield is not beautiful*. The mission of the church is an impossible task. Ministry is messy, especially in a community like the Hill.

This past year has been a blessing to watch God at work. Still, there is heartache and plenty of mess to go around. Before coming to the Hill, I participated in or led about six funerals. Since March 2020, I have participated in or led eight funerals. Some from tragedy. All filled with heartache. While we are now serving 30–40 or so people at our Saturday Sidewalk Breakfast each week and 15 (and sometimes more) are gathered for the Sidewalk Church Service (yes, on Saturday!), we interact with lives that are broken, many with addictions, all with severe effects of poverty. We rejoice, nonetheless, seeing many come back each week. We worry about the once *regulars* who are missing or we haven’t seen in a while. *Your prayers and support keep us present in these people’s lives.*

The ministry to Hill children at Maxine’s, the weekly Kids Read Out Loud, is also a blessing. Kids show up in the rain and even snow! Each week they all have prayer requests for their families, moms and dads. For most, life at home is tough, dealing with things kids shouldn’t have to experience. The kids we’ve been ministering to after 8 years are now teenagers. Many just hanging out on the streets. Many getting into things that will lead to, not only a tough adulthood, but tragic outcomes as well. Teens surround our ministries—at the Summer Park BBQs, the Saturday Breakfasts, and the Outdoor Friday Night Movies (which run from June through October). Yet, I worry about them. Home lives. Disinterest in school. Dropping out. Hanging with the “wrong crowd.” Few, if any, have positive role models to follow. *Pray we raise the support to be able to call a youth minister to live among, reach, disciple, and worship with these Hill teenagers (that’s an extra 30k for starters).*

It’s a battlefield . . . and battlefields aren’t beautiful.

I am privileged, because of the kind support we receive, to be a hands-on, present pastor to many in the Hill—in our congregation and on the streets. Also, CPC in The Hill works hard to reach out to its neighbors and community. Our congregation continues to do a lot of outside, on the street, and in the community ministries. I’ve said it before: I have never seen a small church like ours have such a good impact and ministry to its community. While we depend on outside support, our people take great advantage of it and work hard to reach out with God’s love through our many ministries. *Your prayers and support would enable us to reach out to our neighbors with the Gospel and with ministries that meet some of their needs.*

The following pictures will give a good display of our 2022 Winter, Spring, and Summer ministries.

Would you consider joining us as a financial partner in this ministry and mission of CPC in The Hill? Thank you.

Your co-workers in God’s field,

CPC in The Hill, Pastor Chip, & Lisa Anderson

Ways to donate—monthly payments or as one annual sum

- By check to “CPC New Haven”; memo “Hill/CA”; send CPC New Haven, 135 Whitney Ave, New Haven, CT 06510
- Online at CPCintheHill.org > Donate > Donation Applied > **“Hill Church Planter–Rev. Chip Anderson”**



Sunday mornings Ava Sky comes up to the table with her grandma, Maxine—she wants me to give her a blessing; and Jerry joins me as we serve communion together. A number of folks came out for a series on “*What We Believe*” as a part of our leadership and spirituality training. And, that’s the ladies eating together on their final Bible Study & Prayer time for the year—and they did the study right there in the restaurant!



This gentleman knew we’d still be out in the Blizzard and single digit cold, so he didn’t want us to have no-one show up. We still ended up with 12 folks (and we hand delivered a few meals as well). Our kind supporters supplied us with some blankets that we gave to our homeless Saturday regulars—we have amazing partners! All through the cold winter, we still had a good number join us for the Saturday Breakfast & Church Service.



The “Kids’ Christmas Eve” event is in its second year—the kids make the ornaments and decorate an outdoor tree and on Christmas eve they and their parents come out for a meal, some hot chocolate, and each child gets a present to take home. Such a great way to spend Christmas Eve. And, after winter is over, the ladies gather a few of us on the water’s edge for a Sunrise Easter Service. That’s Lisa and Maxine.



Maxine and some of our teens have a table at the Hill community Arts & Ideas event—activities for kids, water, and of course church info. And, at a kids event, Maxine passes out quilted blankets hand made by one of our supporters.





Friday Movie Nights begin in June and run through the end of October. Maxine works hard to set up her yard to host the kids—free movie and popcorn, and a concession stand and hot dogs from Maxine’s Mercy Stand. Maxine also gives some of the older kids the opportunity to “work” the stand, learning how to prepare, serve, and handle money, giving them “on-the-job” experience and a nice reference on their future resumes and job applications.



What a great KIDS IMPACT READ OUT LOUD this summer! For 5 Saturdays in July and August, we expanded Maxine’s regular Saturday Kids Read Out Loud (which is year-round, in all sorts of weather) to include a snack, a Bible Story, and a craft activity. We partner with our sister CPC churches in SW CT, who step in with the snack and the craft activity. The Read Out Loud component is a time where one of the older teens (upper middle picture) reads through a chapter book and asks each child an age-appropriate reading comprehension question (this part happens year-around). There is also a prayer time—all the kids give prayer-requests (which also happens all year).



The kids loved the craft activities at the KIDS IMPACT Saturdays. We are so thankful for those who came from our sister Christ Presbyterian Churches (in SWCT). Special thanks to Sharon & Rick Varrone, who fellowshipped with us in the Hill before they retired to the south, who came up for a week to lend us a hand and minister with us. This, along with the year-round Kids Read Out Loud and the Jun-Oct Friday Outdoor Movie Night, we have a small but growing core of kids at the Saturday Sidewalk Breakfast (the pic on the right). We need someone to join us with Children Evangelism/Teaching skills and the skills to develop a kids ministry at the Sidewalk Breakfast & Church Service (see next page for pics). *This will require a bigger budget and an increase in our support—something to pray about and maybe even to consider.*



Summer 2022 was our 9th annual “In His Midst” Park BBQ. We are so grateful to all who supported the Park ministry this summer, enabling us to serve and love on our neighbors. We were amazed at the numbers that came out each Wednesday evening (avg 75—for many of the evenings, 50 meals were handed out in the first 15 minutes after the sermon). The bulk of them were present at the beginning for my Park Preaching (the summer theme of God/Jesus as Shepherd). And, the kids were so happy, on the last Wednesday evening, to receive some school supplies and a string backpack. Some neighborhood teens even showed up on the one rainy evening we had to help set up. And, it is good to see that some of those who came to the Park BBQs have started to come to the Sidewalk Breakfast & Church Service.



We are now in our 4th year of the Saturday Sidewalk Breakfast & Church Service. Food is often all given away in 35 minutes. We can serve up to 40 meals and can see 12 to 18 folks stay for the church service, and many, at this point, are regulars. We are seeing more children come. And, teenagers are regular, as well—even asking for prayer. The middle picture below is of a moment where one homeless man shares a passage from one of the Gideon NTs we hand out to another homeless man who is broken, crying, and down on his knees out of humility that God would be so kind to him. What a wonderful and powerful ministry. *We are so grateful to those who give to us out of their resources so we may be living here in the Hill and be able to have these sidewalk ministries to the lonely, broken, addicted, and forgotten.*



We are so grateful for everyone who partners with us to make these ministries happen each week. Continue to pray that God uses us to minister to our Hill neighbors so that they would be drawn to follow Jesus. Thank-you.