

DECEMBER 14, 2025

9:00 AM ORDER OF WORSHIP

Song Leader
Tom Ritchie

Awesome God
Firm Foundation

Jesus Paid It All
Christ, We Do All Adore
Thee

**Favorite Scripture &
Prayer**
David Allen

What the Lord Has Done
In Me

Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Communion & Contribution
Warren Casey

Jesus Let Us Come To Know You
Wonderful, Merciful Savior
Children's Worship Dismissed

I Love to Tell the Story

"The Story God Tells"
Jordan Guy

Bring Christ Your Broken
Life

Announcements
Garison Money

Shepherd's Prayer
Sam Billingsley

THE CONNECTION.

INTENTIONALLY CONNECTED TO GOD,
HIS WORD, HIS WORLD AND EACH OTHER.

HEALING STORIES: MEMOIR AS TESTIMONY IN THE CLASSROOM

In my English and Medical Humanities class, I include Christian writers who have faced death and written well about it, and found students receptive to the experience of reading and discussing the subject. The physician-writer Paul Kalanithi's memoir, *When Breath Becomes Air*, beautifully illustrates the power of language and literature to help face issues of loss, whether loss of faith or loss of one's life.

Paul loved literature in both undergraduate and graduate school, but also was drawn to medicine. The day came when he heard a calling to put his learning into direct practice, specifically that of healing. As a medical student and resident surgeon who saw his work as ministry, he cared deeply for his patients.

However, having left the study of literature to immerse himself in practicing medicine, he returned to it when he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. Reading literary works helped him endure the heavy emotional weight of caring for his patients as he battled his own disease. He writes, "Torn between being a doctor and being a patient, delving into medical science and turning back to literature for answers, I struggled, while facing my own death, to rebuild my old life—or perhaps find a new one."

While facing the prospect of his own death, Paul also confronts his loss of faith. Though his younger years in a Christian home had been filled with a nightly ritual of prayer and scripture reading, he gradually exchanged his early faith for a more scientific, materialist view. He succumbed to the temptation of believing only those things that can be seen, felt, or measured.

Eventually, with death drawing near, he reclaims his former faith: "I returned to the central values of Christianity—sacrifice, redemption, forgiveness—because I found them so compelling." Though Paul eventually exchanges his own "breath for air," meaning he loses his fight with cancer, it was faith and a love of literature and language that helped to give him a solid framework for facing mortality.

Paul died while working on his unfinished manuscript but left us a memoir that has enriched our classroom with its spiritual and emotional power. By reading texts that grapple with the heaviest of subjects—loss—students can experience the power of literature to strengthen their faith.

Kathy Dillion

This concludes the series "Teaching Literature as Discipling."



SHEPHERDING GROUP

Jim Carr & Keith Cronk's

Shepherding Group will meet for a potluck in Room 121, THIS Sunday, December 14, following Bible class. Please bring sandwiches, chips and dip and easy desserts like cookies or brownies.

GRIEF SUPPORT

The Seniors Ministry will host a 13-week support group that will offer valuable guidance for the grieving on how to find relief, comfort, and peace of mind. Beginning January 5th and running through March, the group will meet on Mondays from 3:00-4:30 p.m. More details will be passed out in adult Bible classes and sent by email.

FAITH STORY

Here's the link - [click here](#) - for the instructions and worksheet for writing and sharing your Faith Story in 30 minutes or less. Complete it as a family, individually, in a Bible class or small group, or with a person you hope to reach with the gospel.

DIRECTORY PHOTOS

You should have received an email if we are missing your directory photo. Please upload a family or individual photo to [this link](#) or email it to the church office (ccoc@collegechurchofchrist.org). We would like to have as close to 100% of the directory complete by January of 2026.

You can also upload a photo directly through the Instant Church Directory app:

- Go to the Instant Church Directory app;
- Tap the three lines in the top left;
- Tap Edit My Info;
- Tap Add or Edit Photo.

PRAYERS, PRAISE & SYMPATHY

Cleve Brooks, The Springs; **Katherine Boone**; **Janice Castleman**; **Ann Dixon**, St. Vincents Rehab; **Robbie Dunning**; **Edna Nichols**; **Peggy Shaffer**, Unity Health 3302; **Gary Smith**, South Campus Rehab 424; **Danny R Wood**.

We rejoice! College student **Reese Shepard** was baptized Sunday, December 7, by student member **Grayson Thomas**.

Billie Finley would like to announce the arrival of a new great-grandson, Beckett Reaves, born December 2, to Anthony & Malorie Reaves of Ward, AR. He joins two sisters, Blakely and Saylor.

Richard & Cyndi Denney would like to announce the arrival of a new grandson, Peter James, born December 10, to Harley & Karleigh Halliburton. Proud great-grandmother is **Billie Boustead** and big brother, Thomas.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 21:
NO Children's Worship

Monday, December 22:
NO Caring & Sharing

Wednesday, December 24:
NO Bible Classes

Sunday, December 28:
NO Bible Classes
NO Children's Worship
NO Church Bulletin

TUESDAY, December 30:
Area-Wide Worship 6:30 p.m. at College Church

Wednesday, December 31:
NO Bible Classes

December 24-January 2:
Church Office Closed

FAMILY CONCERNS

Briarwood: **Ellen Brown** 104; Providence: **Harold Norwood** 316
Providence Memory Care: **Beverly Blickenstaff**; Maydean Jones, mother of **Rhonda Landis**
The Crossing: **Rick Boutell** 308; **Maxine Morton** 204A; **Eloise Muncy** 115B

The Springs: **Alice Bell**

Ongoing Prayer Requests: **Brian Altmiller**; **Fannie Amy**; **Gary Smith**; Amy Qualls, daughter of **Cheryl Riggs**; **Shannon Spears**; David Mathews, grandson of **Darren & Kim Mathews**, return of cancer; Jason Roberson, son of **Gary & Shauna Vodehnal**

ELDERS MEETING SUMMARY NOV 2025

This month the elders

- Prayed for specific needs in the church family, including those dealing with grief and difficult health issues;
- Asked God to bless the new elders and their families, our families and children, and our efforts to be evangelistic;
- Approved
 - * Three motions for revised guidelines for the Foreign Missions Ministry;
 - * A congregational meeting in early 2026 to present an updated plan and architect's rendering of the building project and to offer options to the congregation;
 - * Hosting Jon Rowe, minister for the Southwest Church of Christ in Phoenix AZ, to lead a soul-winning workshop on Feb. 7;
- Were updated on
 - * The Building Proposal meeting held on Sunday, November 2;
 - * The holiday class schedule;
 - * The elders meeting schedule, devotional and prayer leaders schedule, and the shepherd's prayer and response schedule for 2026;
- Welcomed **Greg Brooks, Keith Cronk, Alan Hardison, Don Hood, Paul Pollard, John Reese, John Stone, and Charles Underwood** to their first meeting as elders;
- Heard reports that
 - * There were 23 baptisms in the jail ministry last month;
 - * Nathan Wheeler, a preacher and minister from Del Norte CO, will direct the Avanti Italia program beginning early next year;
 - * The new elders have been assigned to work with Shepherd-ing Groups as follows:
 - ♦ **Alan Hardison** with **Bob Reely**
 - ♦ **John Reese** with **Tom Alexander**
 - ♦ **John Stone** with **Charles Ganus**
 - ♦ **Keith Cronk** with **Jim Carr**
 - ♦ **Don Hood** with **Sam Billingsley**
 - ♦ **Paul Pollard** with **Byron Howell**
 - ♦ **Charles Underwood** with **Darren Mathews**
 - ♦ **Greg Brooks** with **Rick Harper**
 - * His House served 1,297 in October and 200 families during two special openings in November.

LADS TO LEADERS

L2L puppet practice will be in the 4th grade classroom THIS Sunday, December 14, from 3:00-3:50 p.m.

L2L Bible-Bowl practice will be in the 4th grade classroom THIS Sunday, December 14, from 3:50-4:45 p.m.

NEW CORE LESSON 4

"The Story I Tell" is now available: [Click here](#). Everything you need for your December 7th adult Bible classes, small groups, family studies, and individual studies is included. We will be learning how to write out and share our faith stories in 30 minutes or less. For additional materials, consult the original Lesson 4 on our website under **"CORE"**.

THANK YOU

From **Ellen Walker**

So many of you reached out and offered food, transportation, prayers, texts, and visits! I appreciate each one so much. Being "housebound" isn't much fun, but you made it better. What a blessing to have such a loving, caring church family.

CHINESE CHURCH

The Chinese Ministry has invited Dr. Michael Williams to preach at Cone Chapel THIS Sunday, December 14, at 7:15 a.m. After the church service we will provide a Chinese style breakfast. All College Church members are invited. We would like to request any member attending to RSVP by emailing henry.li@collegechurchof-christ.org or texting **Henry** at 571-250-9838.

60TH ANNIVERSARY

We are excited to invite you to join us in celebrating the 60th wedding anniversary of **Jim & Kay Gowen**. We will celebrate with a come-and-go party on Saturday, December 20, 2:00-4:00 p.m., at The Venue, 2225 W. Beebe-Capps Expressway. We hope you can join us! No gifts, please.

5:00 PM WORSHIP

Song Leader
Brandon Lowe

Welcome
Dan Newsom

Restore My Soul

When the Roll Is Called Up
Yonder

Firm Foundation

Prayer
Dale Manor

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Luke 23:33-38
Arthur Mock

Worthy is the Lamb

"View From the Cross"
Noel Whitlock

Boundless Love

Paradise Valley
Lord's Supper in Room 102

Closing Prayer
Ed McMullen



HIS HOUSE

Donation Requests:

Queen sheets & blankets
Towels
Baby diapers, sizes 3-5
Women's hygiene



COLLEGE
CHURCH of CHRIST

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Morning

7:15 AM | Chinese Church in Heritage Room 210

9:00 AM Worship

10:30 AM Bible Class

Sunday Evening

5:00 PM Worship

Tuesday

9:30 AM Ladies Class

Midweek

4:00 PM Early-Bird Bible Class in Room 100

5:00 PM Women's Intergeneration Study | 8 Franklin Circle

6:30 PM Women's Bible Class Room 234

6:30 PM "What Happened to the Church?" Paul Pollard | Room 236

6:30 PM Textual Bible Class in The Family Room

6:30 PM 23:6ers | Room 102

6:30 PM SH and JH Meeting

6:30 PM Study of David | Harry Riggs | Harding Place

7:15 PM Chinese Church in Heritage | Room 210

FINANCES FOR 12/7/25

Budget for 12/7/2025 - \$57,994.00

Giving for 12/7/2025 - \$68,490.60

Budget - Week 14 - \$753,918.01

Giving - Week 14 - \$734,630.81

ATTENDANCE 12/7/25

9:00 AM Worship - 1136

Bible Class - 851

Children's Worship - 48

5:00 PM Worship - 257

Sunday Small Groups - 139

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Office Hours - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Closed daily from 12-1 p.m. for lunch

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If you have a request for the bulletin, please submit all information by noon, Thursday prior to service.