

LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK

- M 6:30p Celebrate Recovery: Fellowship Hall
T 9:30a Coffee Break: Via Zoom
6:30p Divorce Care: Office in the Nursery
6:30p GriefShare: Fellowship Hall & Online
W 5:00p CR Women's Step Study: Office in the Nursery
6:15p Mid-Week @ PS
7:00p Prayer meeting @ Becky VA's home
Th 7:00p CR Men's Step Study: Office in the Nursery

CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER — "During a time when the world has been dealing with a virus our headlines have also been full of stories about another virus - the sin of racism and its attendant destruction. For some of us this has been "news" that we've not seen before. For others it merely highlights something we see everyday. For all of us it's been a lot to digest.

We invite you to use the following prompts to help as you name and process these events and what they mean for us as Christians and for the world that God loves. These prompts are by no means exhaustive.

We invite you to pray with us before God who made us, our King who rules us, and our Father who loves us:

We ask the Lord to prick us where we have become callous to violence; lest we mistake what is common for what is normal.

We ask the Lord to temper our rage where we are incensed by violence; lest we mistake our self-righteousness for righteous justice work.

We ask the Lord to help us to see the full humanity of black and brown persons in stories of officer involved shootings; not nameless "situations" that either did or didn't deserve what happened to them.

We ask the Lord to help us to see the full humanity of officers in uniform as people with families and fears; not heroes or villains in a culture war.

We ask the Lord to give wisdom for system reforms - both legal and police training - that are careful, just, and that allow for a safer and de-escalating police presence in our communities.

We ask the Lord to comfort the families of those who have lost sister, brother, father, mother, son, husband, or wife, to officer involved shootings and racial violence.

We ask the Lord to do justice in these situations.

We ask the Lord to make the church a place of refuge, welcome, healing, and empowerment for those who experience racism and racial violence.

We ask the Lord to make the church a sign-post of a kingdom of those gathered from every tongue, tribe, and language.

GROW — CULTIVATE YOUR FAITH

ADVANCE NOTICE — We will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Pleasant Street CRC during the weekend of October 2 & 3. Early plans include a banquet Saturday night, special Sunday morning worship service, and a commemorative booklet. In addition, former pastors will be invited to join us for this time of praise and celebration. Mark your calendar today and watch for further details in the upcoming months.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDY — Faith In An Anxious World High Schoolers are invited to a 4-week study on anxiety and faith on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm, starting tomorrow to May 7. This research-based study (produced by the makers of Sticky Faith and Growing Young) is a gospel centered look into the world of mental health, and will include small group discussions and reflections. Students are asked to commit to attending all four weeks of the study, and make their commitment known to Pastor Annika or Diane by today!

TUITION ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS — For families who have students attending WCS are available by the bulletins at the entrance of the sanctuary. Please put completed applications in Dexter Greens's mailbox by May 15.

A MEMBERSHIP CLASS — will be held beginning on Sunday, May 16 & 23 from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Lunch and childcare will be provided. Please contact Pastor Matthew if you are interested so that we can plan materials and coordinate COVID compliance.

SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES

COLLEGE CARE PACKS — All congregation members are encouraged to write a note to a college student or two — list of students and note cards available in the Fellowship. Please make sure your student & their information is on our list, and designate WHERE you anticipate them being on Friday, April 30.

REACH OUT — CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

WCS JOB OPENINGS — HR Director/Asst. Accounting Manager; full-time, year-round position. Also an opening for for a Director of Advancement; full-time, year-round position. Primary objective: fundraising, securing funds for operations, capital growth, and long-term financial viability. For more information, please contact Lillian Hackathorn at lhackathorn@whitinsvillechristian. or 508.372.3275.

Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church

508.234.5268 + Office: 8a–3p Mon-Fri

April 25, 2021 + 9:30 am

Welcome! We are so glad that you are here!



PLEASANT STREET
CHRISTIAN REFORMED
CHURCH

If you have been worshipping with us for a long time or you are entering the doors of a church for the first time, it is our hope that you will experience a kind welcome, a sense of genuine community, and the grace and truth of Jesus Christ that the Christian Church has celebrated for centuries. If you're asking questions about faith and spirituality, join us in our formation opportunities and ministry events to learn more and meet others. Help us get to know you or let us know how we can pray for you by filling in the Communication Card in the pew and putting it in the offering basket—we'll be in touch.

The Lord be with you!

Prayer of Preparation

Lord, our God, we trust your promise to be among us as we gather. We come in the name of Christ, drawn by your Spirit, eager to hear your Word. Fill our hearts with your Spirit and prepare us for faithful service. Amen.

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Let us worship the eternal God,

the source of love and life, who creates us.

Let us worship Jesus Christ,

the risen one, who lives among us.

Let us worship the Spirit,

the holy fire, who renews us. To the one true God be praise in all times and places, through the grace of Jesus Christ.

SONG: *Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)*

Prayer—based on Ephesians 1:3-18

All glorious God, we give you thanks:

in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. You chose us, before the world was made, to be your holy people, without fault in your sight. You adopted us as your children in Christ. You have set us free by his blood; you have forgiven our sins. You have made known to us your secret purpose, to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ. You have given us your Holy Spirit, the seal and pledge of our inheritance. All praise and glory be yours, O God, for the richness of your grace, for the splendor of your gifts, for the wonder of your love. Amen.

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

WORD

Morning Prayers

Acts 8:26-39 (page 890) +

"A Conflict, A Crisis, A first: The Gospel & the Ethiopian Disciple"

SONGS: *Not What My Hands Have Done*

Grace Flows Down

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

TABLE

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Tasting Grace

SEND

Dismissal

For your amazing sacrifice that has made us clean and forgiven and free,

We thank you, Jesus.

For this bread and wine that help us remember your amazing love for us,

We thank you, Jesus.

For making us part of your body, the church,

We thank you, Jesus. Amen.

Now, having been fed at your table, we long to show beggars where to find bread,

Send us, Jesus.

Now, having been set free, we long to show prisoners where to find release,

Send us, Jesus.

We have received, now empower us to give,

and teach us how to give thanks, Jesus.

We have been loved, now empower us to love,

and to proclaim you, who gave your life for us, Lord Jesus. Amen.

SONG: *Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me*

Benediction—2 Corinthians 13:13

Now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

[Sermon Notes](#)