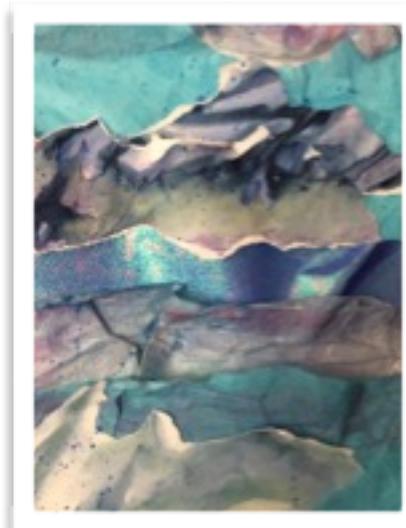
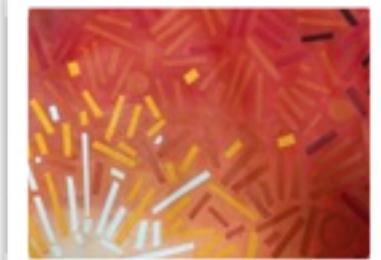


## The Comings and Goings of Pillar Church in May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 P3 10am	6 Faith and Politics 11:30am
7 Worship 9am & 10:30am Middle School 4-5:30pm High School 6-7:30pm	8 Bible Study 8:15pm	9 Noon Prayer 12:00pm	10	11 Noon Prayer 12:00pm	12	13
14 Worship 9am & 10:30am Middle School 4-5:30pm High School 6-7:30pm	15 Bible Study 8:15pm	16 Bible Study 10:30am Noon Prayer 12:00pm	17	18 Noon Prayer 12:00pm	19 P3 10am	20 Family Play Time at Moran Park 10am
21 Worship 9am & 10:30am	22 Bible Study 8:15pm	23 Bible Study 10:30am Noon Prayer 12:00pm	24	25 Noon Prayer 12:00pm	26 P3 10am	27
28 Worship 9am & 10:30am	29 Office Closed	30 Bible Study 10:30am Noon Prayer 12:00pm	31			

# The Cackle

May 2017



  
**PILLAR**  
 CHURCH

## From Pastor Jon Brown

I love what we heard on Sunday if you were able to worship with us. Jonathan and Stephanie Vail reflected for us on the benefits of Christ's resurrection. I was so moved by it I wanted you to read it again:

*"ever since that great resurrection day when the news started spreading to those early followers of Jesus, the people of God have been wrestling with and chewing on just what Jesus' resurrection means for us and for the world."*

One example of Christians trying to work out the depth and richness of God's grace and Christ's work is the Heidelberg Catechism. It's a document that comes from the corner of Christianity that Pillar of which Pillar is a part called the Reformed tradition. 129 questions and answers try to help the Christians grow in faith and the love of God, and there is one I want to read for you today...

Q&A 45 Q. How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

A. First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death.

Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life.

Third, Christ's resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.

There we have it. Three benefits of the resurrection....not an exhaustive list of course, but three reasons why Christ's resurrection is so world-shifting. These aren't benefits like insurance, time-off, or student discounts. These are benefits that draw us deeper into the life of God. Benefits that get at the type of life and light that Jesus is bringing into the world. A life of repentance and forgiveness, a life of denying ourselves for the sake of God and our neighbor, a life of hope that God is at work in the world.

## From Pastor Jon continued

These are the benefits...

- Jesus was raised so that we can be called righteous...even though we've done nothing to earn it.
- Jesus was raised so that our lives can be renewed....from the deepest core of our being.
- Jesus was raised so that we can hope in the resurrection of the body when Christ comes again.

And so I borrow this thanksgiving from 1 Peter..."Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!"



## From Pastor Jenna

Happy spring! Here we find ourselves again at the end of a season—a school year, a winter (which, depending on what kind of person you are, may have felt either very long or very short. For me, very long!), a Lenten season. And now, new life: resurrection, blossoming trees, fresh grass to mow and weeds to pull, vacation even for some ahead on the horizon, and of course, the front lawn of Pillar is open and Adirondack chairs are in session!

It might also be fair to say that we now enter a season in which it may be easy to slip into patterns of idleness, as Christians. It's summer, and we live in a vacation destination town. So it might be easy to sit back, relax and bask in the sun. Your City Group might be on hiatus, your small group Bible study is at a lull; it might be pretty easy to turn the focus away from the kingdom, away from the city.

What will you do to stay the course, this summer? Truth be told, you'll probably find me at the beach, a time or two (or ten). But if that's the *only* place you find me, we should talk. I want to continue to love my neighbor, my city, my church. I hope you do the same. What will that look like for you?

Maybe you'll keep contact with the organization your City Group began building a relationship with. Maybe you'll step outside your comfort zone to invite a neighbor to your porch to get to know them. Maybe you'll volunteer with Pillar's Summer Bible Club or join us on the front lawn on Wednesdays for Christ in the City.

Stay the course. Enjoy the newness of this season and don't let it cause a pause in the kingdom-work of the Spirit, in you!



## Deacons' Corner

**May's special offering** is designated for Maple Avenue Ministries's youth enrichment program called NIA. NIA is a Swahili word for "purpose," a reminder to MAM of the responsibility the church has to participate with God to help young ones live into their God-given purpose. NIA is a week-long offering that includes homework assistance but also is an experience that includes choir, dance, college readiness, life skills and community service. The special offering will be received on Sunday, May 21, but at any time this month feel free to give and mark your gift as "MAM."

**May's distribution offering** is also designated for MAM's NIA program with the following items needed to support the ministry: pens, pencils, file folders, flash cards (math, time, etc.), mini dry erase boards and markers, snacks (fruit cups, protein bars, lemonade), index cards, reusable water bottles, plates, cups and napkins.

### Pillar Offering Update

Donations Received YTD=\$256,238

Budgeted YTD=\$252,667

Difference=\$3,571

## Refugee Care Update

### Mayom Family:

- Green Card paperwork is submitted: The Mayoms are now just waiting to be processed (which can take up to a year).
- Prayers for Flora: Flora is considering moving to Grand Rapids. She is not making much money at the hotel and believes she can find better work in GR. It is AWESOME that she is aware of her bills and wants to provide for her family, but we have a lot of reservations about her moving. The kids are doing very well here and have a lot of resources, and our help would obviously be limited in GR. Please pray for wisdom and discernment for all.
- An application has been placed for Flora to clean at Freedom Village. A new job would really enable Flora to feel good about staying in Holland, so we are praying that this works out if God wills it.
- Upward Bound for Josephine: Josephine signed the contract with Upward Bound, so she will be starting that for a large majority of the summer from 7am-4pm each day.

## Refugee Update continued

- Jado is blossoming: he previously struggled in school and has turned a corner and is thriving. He is doing REALLY well in school and is happy to help with the younger kids in the summer. On spring break with the Langejans, he was caught singing worship songs...even in the aisles of Walmart :) Praise God for this growth!!! He is eager to work which is hard with the family's schedule. The idea has come up that perhaps he can mow lawns this summer. If you live downtown and would like to have your lawn mowed this summer, let Kat know!

Blessing not Burden Signs: During Tulip Time as we celebrate our immigrant heritage of the town we love, we want to also celebrate the way we have continued this heritage by continuing to welcome refugees and immigrants. Help the CRC's Office of Social Justice spread the message that immigrants are a Blessing not Burden. The goal is to have 100 around downtown by Tulip Time. Pick up a yard sign for yourself or some to share with friends to decorate our beloved town for Tulip Time. Signs can be found in the Pillar offices and at the Faith and Politics sessions.

## Children's Ministries

Pillar Parents Playgroups: Upcoming Dates

Friday Mornings: 10 am - 12 pm @ Pillar Activity Center

May: 5, 12, 19 and 26<sup>th</sup>

Summer Meetings 10 am

June 9

July 7

August 18



Monday Mornings: 10 am at Laura Hilton's home

Email Amy Deur if you would like to join this group or if you are interested in hosting your own! [amy.deur@gmail.com](mailto:amy.deur@gmail.com) or 47-452-9207

Family Play Saturday Mornings at the Park: 10 am

May 20 - Moran Park

July 29 - TBD

## Children's Ministries continued

Infant Nursery for babies up to 12 mos. or walking: The infant nursery opens at 8:45 am prior to the 9 am service and at 10:15 am prior to 10:30 am worship. Please pick your child up at the conclusion of the service.

Toddler Nursery for Walkers - 12 - 36 months: The toddler nursery opens at 8:45 am prior to the 9 am service and at 10:15 am prior to 10:30 am worship. Please pick your child up at the conclusion of the service.

Summer will soon be here! *Please note the following changes, which occur in the Children's Ministries regular schedule.*

Sunday School (9:15am) and Little Lambs (10:30 am) conclude on May 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be our final day of classes and teaching until September.

Children and Worship will continue to meet until the end of June during the 10:30 am service.

For the months of July and August there will be a summer kids program that will take place during the 10:30 am service. Children 4 years - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are welcome to meet in the narthex at the passing of the peace and then head down stairs for a time of worship and activities. If you would like to volunteer to teach one or two of these lessons let Shanna know at [shanna@pillarchurch.com](mailto:shanna@pillarchurch.com). At present we need to fill all of the Sundays of July and August. The curriculum will be easy to follow and all of the activity supplies will be provided. What a great opportunity to get to know the children of Pillar and to fulfill the baptismal promise to nurture the faith of His covenant children. The Children and Worship program will begin again in the fall.

Keep these opportunities in mind as you plan your summer activities: Kids in the City Wednesdays beginning June 14 (while parents meet for Christ in the City), and The Family Summer Picnic in July with the Farm on the Go from the Critter Barn. More information and dates to follow!

## Student Ministries

Summer is approaching fast and it has a lot in store. I have the unique job of telling students in our community and church about Jesus and showing them what it looks like to live, move and breath Jesus. We all have this job as Christians and I am excited to see how Jesus enters into this summer.

Middle schoolers will be meeting in separate girls and guys weekly Bible studies on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm starting June 13th. These Bible studies will focus on learning the Catechism during the teaching part of Christ in the City. Three other dates this summer on June 25th, July 23rd and August 20th will be focused on missional engagement and parents are invited to attend these dates as well on Sundays from 4:00-5:30pm.

High School students will meet on Thursday nights for a weekly Bible study focused specifically on Biblical social justice followed by hanging out in downtown Holland for street performers. This will start on June 14th. High school students will also be going to Detroit this summer for a week to work in the inner city. It should be a great week to learn and then come back to Holland with new tools to serve the city of Holland.

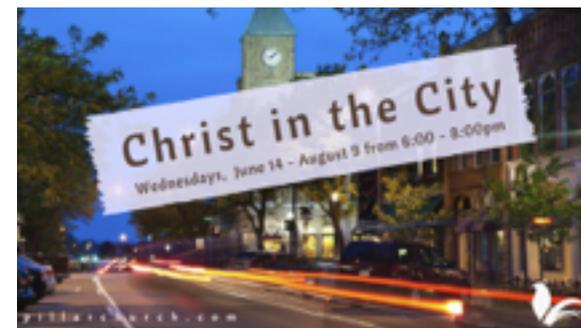
On May 23rd I fly out with my wife Erin to China and we return on June 12th. This will be vacation for me in the sense that I will not be at Pillar working but will be working with missionaries overseas at a special needs orphanage, doing some community outreach, and discipleship training. During this time feel free to reach out to me with any Pillar questions but I ask you to use my personal email which is [lucasgjohnson@icloud.com](mailto:lucasgjohnson@icloud.com). I will not be able to access Google Mail in China which is what my Pillar email is. If you need something quickly or it's an emergency contact Cathy Dreyer at [cathy@pillarchurch.com](mailto:cathy@pillarchurch.com).

So as the summer approaches fast and the end of the school year dies down let's press into what Jesus is doing. I have a job to share Jesus with students and so do you. My goal is to be at ever Pillar event this summer. I believe in what Jesus is doing at Pillar. Not what we are doing but our Heavenly Father. I hope you and the rest of your family sets a goal to get messy and dive deeper into everything that is happening at Pillar this summer as we continue on our journeys together.

## Adult Formation

Thank you for those of you who have been interested in participating in the Adult Sunday School hour. We're excited about some really good changes that are taking shape, but in order to do it well we're going to take the rest of this semester off. Please stay tuned come fall for what's to come!

Please save the your Wednesday evenings (June 14-August 9) from 6-8pm this summer for Christ in the City!



## Events and Announcements

The church office will be closed Friday May 26 and Monday, May 29, due to the holiday.

**WANTED: BABY FOOD JARS AND LIDS!** Parents of babies: Help support a local arts and culture project by saving your glass baby food jars and lids! If you use these please save them and bring to Pillar where we will collect them through July! Pj Maske, mom of Aaron & Eliza, runs an arts organization called Urban Garden Performing Arts She is planning an event at the Holland Area Arts Council called The Bread Show, in celebration of Anglo European and Latin American bread baking traditions on August 4. They will use the baby food jars for a couple of hands-on projects at the event. (Our very own Anna Gabhart is also working on this project as a writer.) Thanks for your support! For more information about the event feel free to email Pj at [pj@urbangardenpa.org](mailto:pj@urbangardenpa.org).

**Mission Trip Fundraiser:** The high school students are going to Detroit this summer for a mission trip. As a fundraiser they will be selling parking spots for the Tulip Time Parade on May 13 in the Fifth Third and Pillar parking lots. The cost per spot is \$10. If you want prime parking and would like to support the students of Pillar please park with us on May 13.



## May Birthdays

Day	Name	Day	Name
1	Josh Bauman	18	Marcia Mansaray
3	Sean O'Keefe	18	Aren Phillips
3	Juliana Steensma	19	Cindy Joldersma
4	Meribeth Diekema	20	Kristyn Brown
4	Stan Kleis	21	Laura McMullen
4	Nora Woolsey	22	Chad Creevy
5	Chuck Bakker	22	Madalyn Deur
6	Gwen Hoekstra	23	Ashlynn Laarman
7	Rhys Franken	23	Judy Steggerda
7	Ben Van Faasen	23	Waverly Dokter
8	Sandy Bruischat	24	Pat Oetman
9	Amira Chavis	24	Lynn Vanderveen
9	Michael Compagner	24	Dan Heyns
10	Mia Berarducci	25	Jonathan Vail
10	Stacie Post	25	Al Nykamp
10	Anna Vonk	27	Karen Lawson
11	Beanie Dykema	27	Stephanie Vail
11	Ella Johnson	27	Scott Vander Ploeg
13	Kara Bakker	27	Glen Houting
15	Dean Marsman	28	Ryan Dokter
16	Harry deRoo	28	Willa Pearson
16	Judy Witteveen	28	Jan DeBoer
17	Rick VanderZwaag	31	Carolyn Ockerse
18	Ian Chavis	31	Lisa Vredevoogd

### Building Update

We are excited to proceed to the next phase of the proposed Pillar Church Expansion Project. Design development (DD) services take the initial design documents from the schematic phase and move them one step further along. This phase begins to lay out additional details with regard to architectural, structural, and systems details. This work is done in order to give us a better idea of how the project can be developed, provides an opportunity for more specific cost estimates, and ultimately results in another level of approval. The next phase to follow, then, would be the actual preparation of construction documents.

Meetings with all those connected with Pillar are being set up with Pastor Jon in order to "see" the project, as well as to have the opportunity to ask questions, share hopes, and gain clarity as the project proceeds. This will be a significant undertaking but an important step in order to gain valuable input.