

Proclaiming the Excellencies  
of Him who called us out  
of darkness into His  
marvelous light



A CHURCH PLANT IN  
PITTSBURGH, PA

“But now, in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” - Ephesians 2:13

We have spent the last six months going through the letter to the Ephesians during our morning worship. Many texts from this rich letter have arrested our minds and filled our hearts with praise and joy.

The verse above is just one of those verses, but it has meant a great deal to our body. We are humbled to look at the Scriptures and realize that we once were a people without a Savior, without hope, and without God. Our hearts are further humbled to see that there is no remedy within to overcome this problem, and there is nothing in us to entice or merit favor from one who might provide a remedy. However, our hearts rejoice when we see that there is One who can and has provided a remedy. In

his sovereign love and mercy, God has brought near those who were far off by the blood of Jesus Christ! It is Christ that we praise, and it is Him we proclaim!

We trust that this letter finds you rejoicing in the person and work of Jesus Christ as well. God has indeed been kind to us, and He continues to build his church here in Pittsburgh according to his own sovereign wisdom. As the Spirit worked in the heart of Adam, our Teaching Pastor, He kindly moved Adam to lead the body here in a study through the letter to the Ephesians. Together we have grown in our knowledge and love for the grace and glory of God, achieved by the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross. We have also been challenged to walk worthy of the gracious call of God by loving

one another and striving for unity in our pursuit of Christ-likeness.

God continually teaches us that He will build His church. As we confront our own weakness and inability, our confidence in the power of the Lord grows. And with that truth, our conviction for a gospel-saturated, Word-driven ministry deepens each day. What a joy and privilege to be ministers of God’s holy and mighty Word here in Pittsburgh.

Our prayer and confidence is that God is also using the Word in your life and in your church. As we have looked at God’s plan accomplished in Christ for the church through our study in Ephesians, we rejoice that He is building His church in all parts of the earth. As we share God’s work at Redeemer, we know that He is also at work in your homes, churches, and communities.



Thank You to those who have faithfully supported us prayerfully and financially.

Your support has been greatly used of God for the establishing of and continued sustaining of Redeemer Community Church. God has faithfully provided for each need and has richly blessed us through the generosity of His people. We are deeply thankful for your obedience to God's leading and your kindness toward us. Please know that we keep a list of our supporters on our prayer list, and we regularly lift your names, your churches, and your shared requests before the throne of grace. Our prayer is that you might know the joy of God's Kingdom work in which you labor and share.

We have been meeting at our new lease, 5515 Penn Ave, since the middle of January.

The space has been a tremendous blessing to our body. It has served us well for corporate worship, midweek community life groups, different Bible studies, and more. God has blessed us with visitors on a consistent basis and our reach into the neighborhood is growing. We have a growing number of opportunities to use our building to connect with the community where we are located.

Our corporate worship has been a real time of joy and growth for our young body. God has added several people to our body who desire to serve in many ways. Each part of our worship has developed and grown. There is a consistent joy and passion to sing, to receive the Word, to encourage, to care for, to fellowship, and to give. It is a joy to see a group of people hungry for the Word and focused on Jesus Christ. As mentioned before, we have been studying the letter to the Ephesians. It has been a great study for our body.

Our community life group continues to grow. This summer, Andrew Hughes is leading the group in a study of God. It has been a very profitable study for each one. Almost all who join us for worship have

connected with the community life group. We anticipate launching a second group at the end of the summer, and trust that God will use this ministry to strengthen believers and give another outlet for inviting friends and family to attend.

Our New Covenant Kids ministry also continues to be a blessing. God has allowed us to minister to several neighborhood children, and He has given opportunity to connect with their parents as well. The Sola Sisters ministry continues to flourish to develop. Our ladies meet together on Saturday mornings for their current study of Psalm 119.

We are excited as new ministries get set to launch in the next weeks. We are expanding our young children's ministries that take place on Sunday mornings. God has blessed our body with many children. Our infant nursery is set to double in size over the next months, one of the blessings of the young couples that have been added to the church. A class for the two and three year old age group has just been launched. We treasure the children that God has entrusted to Redeemer, and we are excited for the growth of this part of our ministry.

We also are anticipating the start of a men's ministry. Our prayer is that God would strengthen the men in our church through spiritual discipleship, mentoring, and accountability.

God has used your prayers and the talents of many to grow these ministries. We thank the Lord for the prayers and labors of the saints.

On May 2nd, Redeemer Community Church had the joy of celebrating the work of God on our behalf as we officially chartered.

What a special weekend of praise and excitement for our body as we celebrated this much anticipated milestone. Pastor Stacy Potts of our sending church in Virginia Beach, Cornerstone Bible Church, challenged our body with the supremacy of Christ in his Church and over all things. It was also a joy

to have many other friends and pastors from our supporting churches present for this service.

Three of our charter members shared testimonies of God's grace and leading in their lives. It was a testimony to the work of God to hear how some had prayed for a church to belong to for many years or to hear how others were providentially moved to the city at the same time the earliest efforts at Redeemer were taking place. We were blessed with 32 charter members. We wish that each one of you could have been with us to hear the testimony of God's work here at Redeemer and to celebrate his kindness to us as we chartered. God has used many people in many ways to build His church for His glory.

There are some new and exciting things in the works. God has given us some opportunities to increase our outreach into the community.

The summer has proven to be a good time for us to increase our outreach efforts. Those in our body have been very intentional to build relationships with people in our community. Our hope and our prayer is that God would open the eyes of the blind and shine His gospel light into their hearts. We have organized several events throughout the summer with the goal of creating new contacts, telling many about Redeemer Community, and opening the door for gospel evangelism.

A small group of teens from a church in Iowa are coming in the middle of July to help with our outreach this summer. The group will be helping us run a community picnic with some activities for the kids. They are also going to serve alongside of us as we work with some of the urban neighborhood corporations in order to be a blessing to the community by demonstrating the love of Christ through acts of service and kindness. We ask that you pray for God to once again give the increase according to His wise and gracious will.



Another exciting ministry soon to launch is the Redeemer Community Book Stop.

We have planned for and prayed about this aspect of Redeemer's life, and God has opened doors and led us in a very clear path. The plan is to use our facility throughout the week as a community book stop. We say book stop because it will be not only a unique Christian bookstore, but also will be a place to come and relax, visit, or study. We are also seeking creative ways to use our space to connect with the large arts community that runs all along Penn Avenue where we are located. The church is located in a unique neighborhood, and we trust that the book stop will be a unique way to reach further into the community.

Our goal is that the facility would be used creatively as a blessing for our body and as a blessing for the community, in order that we might build genuine relationships that would provide many opportunities for gospel witness. A vital part of evangelism is planning to have regular and meaningful contact with the lost. We are praying that this ministry will give us many of these opportunities. We are also confident that it will allow Redeemer an opportunity to be a blessing and influence to the other businesses and groups that are in the immediate area.

Please pray for Jeff Joyce and the many people in our body who are thinking and working hard to realize some of these goals. It takes careful planning and Divine wisdom, and we would ask for your prayers on our behalf for both.

So how might God continue to use you in his work here at Redeemer in Pittsburgh.

Many of you have financially supported us for one or two years now, and we offer you deep thanks. Your faithful kindness and generosity have been an important gift from God for us. God has blessed us mightily and our people give faithfully. However, we are not yet able to carry the entire cost of the ministry here. By God's grace, every need has been met, and we are confident that they will continue to be. We would ask you to pray about joining with those who are giving to the ministry or to consider continuing your giving for another year as God might lead.

For those who are currently giving, you can just continue in the same manner and process. If you would like to pledge for another year and like having the monthly giving slip, we will provide that. A giving form is included with this letter, and we will send you the slips if you would just send the giving form to the address provided. We will make sure to provide you with all the information to make the process as simple as possible, and you will receive your charitable giving statement for tax purposes. We simply ask you to pray about the matter and see how God might direct you to continue your part in the work at Redeemer Community.

Thank you all for your prayers, love, and support. We cherish your friendship and faithfulness, and we thank the Lord for each of you.

- The Redeemer Elder Council

#### PRAYER REQUESTS:

##### 1. OUR CHURCH BODY

- THAT CHRIST WOULD BUILD HIS CHURCH ACCORDING TO HIS GOOD PLEASURE
- THAT GOD WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE US UNITY AND JOY IN THE GOSPEL
- THAT THE EPHESIANS SERMON SERIES WOULD CONTINUE TO DO A WORK IN OUR HEARTS
- FOR OUR COMMUNITY LIFE GROUPS AND NEW ONE THIS FALL
- FOR THE MINISTRIES TO THE CHILDREN OF REDEEMER
- FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR MINISTRY NEEDS

##### 2. OUR COMMUNITY

- DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF THE BOOK STOP
- BOLDNESS IN EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITIES AND SUCCESS IN OUR OUTREACH EVENTS
- SALVATION OF SOULS IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF PITTSBURGH

##### 3. OUR LEADERSHIP

- PERSEVERANCE IN THE FAITH AND PROTECTION FROM EVIL
- UNITY AND WISDOM
- FOR THE PASTORS TO EVENTUALLY BECOME FULLY SUPPORTED BY THE CHURCH

##### 4. PRAISES

- GOD'S DAILY BLESSINGS BEYOND MEASURE TOWARD US
- THE SPIRITUAL AND NUMERICAL GROWTH OF OUR BODY
- GOD'S PROVISION AND SOVEREIGN CARE FOR REDEEMER

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