

Additional Announcements

“Sunday Evening at Faith Community” will resume next Sunday, Sept. 17 at 5:30 p.m. It’s a time of fellowship, singing, testimonies, praying, and a brief study. We are studying “Knowing God” by J.I. Packer. Contact Larry Hiemstra (509) 969-7511 or Steve Martin (509) 643-1675 if you need a book. We are on chapter 6.

Prayer Retreat: You are invited to participate in Classis Columbia’s fall prayer retreat: *Ask the Lord of the Harvest* (Luke 10:2). We are gathering together to pray to the Lord of harvest that the churches of our Classis may be disciples who make disciples. **Such a time of prayer is greatly needed in a time such as this in which the Christian Church throughout our nation is in decline.**

Classis Columbia is asking for a group of people from each church in classis to attend our Prayer Retreat on **September 22nd at the Sunnyside Christian Reformed Church from 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** We will spend time worshiping and praying together, enjoying a meal together, and we will also hear from Pastor Scott Vander Ploeg, founder of 222 Discipling and a member of the Creative Team for the Center for Church Renewal. Pastor Scott has taken an aging congregation in Florida and God has helped him turned it into a growing, vital congregation. You can learn more about his church renewal team here: <https://churchrenew.org/222disciple>
Please prayerfully consider being part of this special night. To sign-up for this special prayer retreat please contact Duane or Cheryl Friend (duanecherylfriend@gmail.com).

September Memory Verse

Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

Prayer in the Spirit is Constant and Varied.

Paul says that in this spiritual war, we must pray “on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.” If we are going to win this spiritual battle, we must learn how to pray without ceasing. We must train ourselves to live in God’s presence, bringing every thought and concern before the Lord.

“Prayers” is a general term for various types of prayer, and “requests” are a specific type of prayer. Sadly, most Christians use only one type of prayer... request or petitions. They only come to God to ask for things. When the Spirit of God leads our prayers, He leads us into various types of prayer such as Thanksgiving and Worship, Intercession, Confession, Lament, and Corporate prayer, among others. All these types of prayer have the power to defeat the enemy. Jesus teaches that corporate prayer carries tremendous power, and that when it occurs, God is with us in a special way, (John 5:16). Some Christians never access this type of prayer because they never share their burdens with others or carry others’ burdens; therefore, they lack power. There are some things God does only when His people pray together.

We are not to limit our prayers to those things that we consider appropriate, but we are to pray about all things with every kind of prayer, in the same helpless dependence upon God, knowing that He is not only willing and all-powerful enough to answer all our pleadings, but we are trusting Him, in His wisdom, to do only that which is best for us.

If we would treat prayer like we treat relationships with those closest to us, prayer will be intertwined throughout all areas of our lives. It will connect the parts that we have disconnected from God. It will be an ongoing conversation we have with Him filled with moments of thanksgiving, praying for others, and even sharing our frustrations. Here is a thought...if our conversation is ongoing with God, then truly, is there even a need to ever say AMEN?

(Verse Cards are available on the bulletin board in the Narthex)