



BI-MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

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**CONSERVATIVE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHRISTIAN  
CONFERENCE**

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**CM COMMENTS**



... AND ON EARTH



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

One of the most familiar Christmas Scriptures comes from Luke 2:11-15.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

CM COMMENTS (cont. from pg 1)

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

**THE LIFE OF  
FAITH IS A  
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BETWEEN  
HEAVEN AND  
EARTH.**

The message of the angels demonstrates the fullness of the message of the incarnation of Jesus, the Messiah. They declare glory to God while speaking words of peace on earth. The perfect holy God fulfills the plan of salvation for sinful broken people and becomes Immanuel, “God with us.”

The life of faith is a constant interplay between heaven and earth. As mortal beings, we put our faith in a loving Savior and receive the promise of eternal life (John 3:16). We receive heavenly strength to endure the trials and temptations of this world (Ephesians 3:16). By faith, we “are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory.” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

“...and on earth.” Meditate on these words in this Advent and Christmas season. The God who created you comes to do a work of new creation in you. The God of glory comes to purify you. The God who has always existed gifts you with eternal life. Jesus has bridged the gap between heaven and earth.

Thank you God, for this indescribable gift.

## SHARING OUR RESOURCES: LOOKING FOR SPECIFICS

The **CCCC Resource Sharing** program is looking for churches to submit helpful documents they’ve created to [ccccresourcesharing@gmail.com](mailto:ccccresourcesharing@gmail.com). Please send anything your church feels comfortable letting other churches adapt. We’re looking to compile examples of the following:

- by-laws,
- child protection policies,
- membership applications,
- church covenants,
- discipleship documents, and
- anything else you find helpful.

Also, if you created a presentation or handout for previous CCCC Annual Gatherings please send those along too. We already have one set of slides from the 2019 Prayer & Vision seminar and would love some more.

The point is to save us all time by combining resources and sharing. Your documents don’t have to be perfect. None of them are. Please send as PDF or Word Doc.

And if you haven’t joined the CCCC Resource Sharing Dropbox Folder please send a request to join to the email address listed above.

Thank you! Working together benefits us all!



# OUR CONGREGATIONAL HERITAGE

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE THEN AND NOW

## FROM CONFERENCE HISTORIAN



ALWYN YORK, CONFERENCE HISTORIAN

### MAYFLOWER 400TH ANNIVERSARY

2020 will bring the most important anniversary in Congregational history. On November 11, 2020 it will be 400 years since the Pilgrims arrived on the shores of Cape Cod. As biblical Congregationalists this anniversary has particular significance for us. It marks the beginning of our denomination's history in America. This will be a wonderful occasion to remember and celebrate our heritage. The anniversary will provide an incentive for us to reflect upon what it means to be a Christian following the Congregational way. An intense commitment to follow Jesus Christ led the Pilgrims to make the hazardous journey across the Atlantic and found a new colony. As we claim to be their spiritual descendants, it will repay us to deepen our understanding of them as we seek to follow in their footsteps.

Of course the arrival of the Mayflower has wider significance than just being part of our denominational history.

## AROUND THE CONFERENCE



SCOTT NICE,  
PASTOR CHRIST REFORMED CHURCH,  
TELFORD, PA, CCCC BOARD MEMBER

### PREACHING THROUGH THE SEVEN GUIDING VALUES

I took the opportunity [in 2019] to preach through the Seven Guiding Values of the CCCC. Each Sunday for six consecutive weeks (I combined the third and fourth into one sermon) we examined in a topical fashion:

- Believing Prayer and Intercession,
- Healthy Pastors,
- Healthy Disciple-Making Churches and Healthy Church Multiplication,
- A Community that lives out Shared Life and Shared Mission,
- A culture of Biblical Peacemaking and Reconciliation and,
- A Membership that is reflective of the Harvest Field.



HERITAGE (cont from pg 3)

The Pilgrims had a foundational role in the history of our nation. Our national Thanksgiving holiday derives from the Pilgrims. Many different groups have a stake in the Mayflower 400th anniversary. You can find information on a variety of commemorations on the Plymouth 400th website. (<http://www.plymouth400inc.org>)

### Resource Available from the Congregational Library

Because of the wealth of information about the Pilgrims that is available, the prospect of learning about the them can be intimidating. I am thankful that the Congregational

**REFLECT  
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Library in Boston has taken the lead in developing a useful resource specifically for churches to learn about the Pilgrims. On their website a historical introduction and discussion guide **Plymouth's Pilgrims: Their Church, Their World, and Ours** is available for free download. (<http://www.congregational-library.org/PlymouthPilgrims>) It is organized into four units which would be well suited for

a Sunday School class. A collection of historical documents to accompany each unit is also available, as well as suggestions for additional reading and a list of supplemental resources especially for youth and children. This resource would be a great place to start to learn about the Pilgrims.

I hope that the observance of the Mayflower 400th anniversary will be a source of renewal for our churches. I am planning a series of articles over the coming year to highlight some of the most helpful resources about our Pilgrim forebears.

PREACHING (cont from pg 3)

It was a fruitful exercise for flock and Shepherd alike! Let me explain. It challenged my preaching, forcing me to preach topically instead of expository/verse-by-verse. I / we saw the interdependence/relationship between each of the values. Seeing how Believing Prayer and intercession makes for healthy Pastors, healthy Shepherds (Pastors and other leaders in the Church) make for healthy flocks. A Healthy flock is a growing one. Making both disciples and reproducing new "bodies" of believers in new communities. This is only possible when churches are living in the Shalom of God (Peacemaking/Reconciliation and wholeness in Him), sharing life on life and laboring, striving, working side-by-side for the fulfillment of the Great Commission. As we engage in this calling (which is uniquely the Church's), we will see our membership grow and reflect the community we live in.

Preaching this series compelled me to think through these values; wrestling through the various texts and understanding their importance first for myself, and then for my congregation. I was challenged in my own decision-making criteria, realizing that there are values that I didn't always take into consideration when planning and vision-casting. It helped both me and my congregation to understand that these values are important to us as a Conference, because they are a value to God!

I commend to you, my fellow CCCC Pastors, if you haven't done so already, to take the time and purposefully preach through the Seven Guiding Values. I promise it will be a fruitfully time of labor, for yourself as well as your congregation.

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## CCCC NEWS

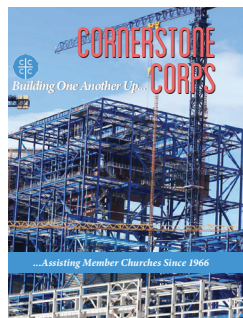
## CORNERSTONE CORPS PROJECT



### CCCC Cornerstone Corps Project: Lake View Community Church in Lake View, New York.

The Church Development Committee met with Pastor Andy Frudd and Bill Balistreri who shared how the Lord has worked in this suburban Buffalo church over the past six years to bring about a “reboot.” God has led Pastor Andy to people to disciple and these people are now discipling others. About 90% of the congregation has a discipling mindset. Among those who have recently become a part of the ministry at Lake View are families with young children. The church is focusing on reaching these age groups. We rejoice with our brothers and sisters at Lake View as the Lord moves among them!

We have also learned that there are several leaks in the roofs of both the church building and the parsonage, necessitating repair and replacement. Encouraged by



the new life that has been breathed into this ministry, we enthusiastically commend this project to the CCCC family so that we can come alongside them and add to the resources that God is providing for this roofing project.

To make a donation mail your check to the CCCC Home office or go to: [www.cccusa.com/giving](http://www.cccusa.com/giving) and mark your contribution “Cornerstone Corp” in the drop down menu. For more information about the Cornerstone Corps visit <https://www.cccusa.com/giving/cornerstone-corps/>

## WEST REGION



PHIL NOORDSMAN,  
WEST REGIONAL PASTOR

During my initial six weeks as Regional Pastor for the Western USA, I have had face-to-face time with pastors and congregations in TX, MT, ID, WA, and CA. As one might expect, in each setting some things are going very well and others need improvement. One of my prayers for myself as I meet with people is that every interaction will be a “living water” response. May Jesus’ promise be a reality: “Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water,” (John 7:38).

I am asking Jesus to help me stay in step with the Spirit as we continue the good work of encouraging pastors and congregations in the west.

When my wife, Teri and I were in Washington we met with several wonderful people including Jerry. He shared with me a statement that he helped craft several years ago which, in my mind, summarizes one of the key roles of regional pastors. I paraphrase it slightly:

“To engage in face-to-face conversations with pastors, their wives, and congregations, prayerfully and intentionally listening to their hearts.”

First, listen to hearts; then, respond with grace and truth. May Jesus help us do this well.

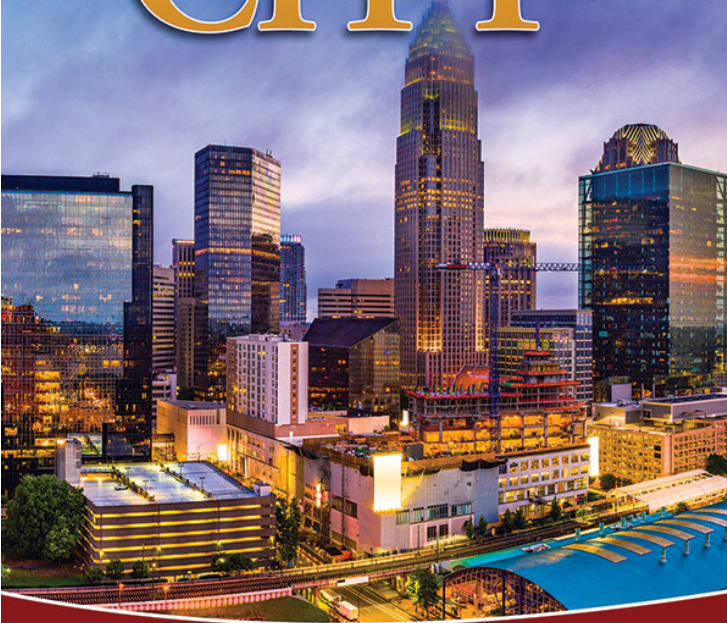
My travels this month (November) will include face-to-face conversations with pastors and churches in CO, NE, and CA.

Please keep all CCCC pastors and churches in your prayers. Many good things are happening and there are also challenges. Through it all our desire is to grow in our love Jesus, love one another, and make disciples.



PRAYERS OF BIBLICAL HOPE

# Seek for GOD for the CITY<sup>2020</sup>



FORTY DAYS TO PALM SUNDAY  
February 26 to April 5, 2020

## SEEKING HIS FACE. SEEKING HIS KINGDOM

As we come to God, seeking His face, then He comes to us bringing His kingdom. These are prayers you don't want to pray alone. Invite your whole congregation to pray along with you. Even better, think about joining your prayers with a few other churches in your community.

The forty days to Palm Sunday makes an ideal time to venture into a season of sustained, hope-filled prayer. *Seeking God for the City* is a prayer tool dated February 26 – April 5, 2020.

We are happy to offer a complimentary review copy to leaders in recognized positions of pastoral or prayer leadership for a limited time. Call us now at 800-264-5214 or 512-419-7729 or go to <https://waymakers.org/pray/seek-god/> for more information.

## AROUND THE WORLD

### PASTOR'S VISION TRIP TO MALAWI



The CCCC has developed a partnership with World Relief to join in the Y-Malawi project. This project was introduced to CCCC members and churches during the 2018 Annual Gathering. The purpose of our partnership in Malawi is to enable member pastors and churches to engage in supporting an “empowerment zone”— holistic ministries aimed at changing lives, ending the cycle of suffering, and building sustainable communities that begin with, and center around, the local church. To learn more about the partnership, go to the website below.

<http://www.y-malawi.org/CCCC/>

Since its introduction, six member churches have initiated a relationship with Y-Malawi and are actively supporting this effort. Leaders of the Y-Malawi project are planning a vision trip for CCCC pastors for June 15 – 27, 2020. This is an opportunity for supporting pastors, as well as interested pastors, to see first-hand the ministry in Malawi and to share life with people in that land through shared relationships, mutual prayer and ministry activity.

Utilizing the powerful ministry of simple presence, we will walk together, pray together, and share our lives with each other. On this trip we will focus on “being” rather than “doing.” Experience has shown us that when you put God's people together, amazing things happen every time!

For more information, contact Larry Hall at [larryhall@y-malawi.org](mailto:larryhall@y-malawi.org) and visit <https://www.purecharity.com/junetrip>.

## CCCC NEWS

## PASTORAL CHANGES

Speculator, NY North Country Bible Church \*  
Nate Towers

## PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

Collinsville, CT Christ's Community Church \*

Torrington, CT First Congregational Church  
(Part-time Associate Pastor)

Boston, MA Park Street Church \* (Senior Pastor)

Hamilton, MA First Congregational Church \*

Holden, MA First Congregational Church (UCC)

Kingston, MA Mayflower Church \*

Middleborough, MA First Congregational Church \*

Peabody, MA West Congregational Church  
(Independent)

Sutton, MA First Congregational Church (UCC)

West Newbury, MA West Newbury Congregational Church\*

Yarmouth Port, MA First Congregational Church (NACCC)

Pittston, ME First Congregational Church of Pittston \*  
(Part-time Worship Leader)

Bloomington, MI Bloomington Christian Church  
(Independent)

Honor, MI Honor Congregational Church \*

Lansing, MI Olivet Baptist Church (ABC)

New Haven, MI First Congregational Church \*

Aurora, MN Palo Congregational Church \*

Glencoe, MN First Congregational UCC of Glencoe

Woodbury, MN Woodbury Community Church \*

Elon, NC Bethlehem Christian Church \*  
(Full-time youth pastor)

Glen Ullin, ND Evangelical Congregational Church \*

Taylor, ND Taylor Ecumenical Parish (Independent)

Mitchell, NE Federated Church \*

Colebrook, NH Monadnock Congregational (UCC)

Peterborough, NH Monadnock Congregational Church \*

Glenville, NY East Glenville Community Church \*

Jamestown, NY Fluvanna Community Church \*

Kennedy, NY Clarks Corners Community Church \*

Lakeview, NY Lakeview Community Church \*

Lisle, NY Center Lisle Congregational (UCC)

Wellington, OH United Church of Huntington \*

Stowe, PA St. Paul's Church \*

Warfordsburg, PA Whips Cove Church  
(Independent) (Part-time)

Huron, SD First Congregational Church \*

Loomis, SD Loomis Community Church \*

Parkston, SD Parkston Congregational Church \*

Scotland, SD Scotland Community Church \*

Tripp, SD Friedens Reformed Church (EA)

Jericho, VT Jericho Congregational Church \*  
(Pastor of Youth Ministry)

\* = Conference member | + = In Process



## SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY CLASS – CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE TRAINING OFFERED

The Conservative Congregational Christian Conference Credentials Committee, Rev. Dr. David McKinley and Rev. Dr. Drake Williams welcome pastors and lay leaders to join us for a week long intensive class on Systematic Theology.

The class will explore all major topics in Systematic Theology. Alongside the Bible, Millard Erickson's *Christian Theology, 3rd Edition*, will be the main textbook of the class. During the class, students will read through selected portions of most of this book, write several reflection papers, and also complete a final paper.

Our instructor is TJ Marinello, Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology at Tyndale Theological Seminary in Badhoevedorp, the Netherlands, where he has been a missionary professor for the past twenty years.

**When: 27 April – 1 May 2020**

**Where: Central Schwenkfelder Church-Lansdale, PA**

**Cost: \$940 (tuition, text and lodging)**

**Register: register by January 10, 2020.** Email: [register@cscfamily.org](mailto:register@cscfamily.org) Partial scholarships may be available.

This class will fulfill the Systematic Theology requirement necessary for licensure in the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference.

## ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRES AND SURVEYS DUE DECEMBER 15

Please remember to return your Annual Ministerial Questionnaires and Church Surveys by December 15th. Thank-you!



# SAVE THE DATE

## JULY 21-24, 2020



CCCC Annual Gathering - Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Providence/Warwick, Rhode Island



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