

April 25, 2025

## Building Bridges With the Hispanic Community



*So we, who are many, are one body in Christ - Romans 12:5*

"We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace." - Pope Francis

During our latest food pantry, we welcomed 99 families to our church. A growing majority of the families are Hispanic, reflecting the vibrant Latino community in Sussex County. Our faithful volunteers accompanied our clients through the shopping process, allowing them to choose the items needed to sustain their families during the next few weeks. The pantry leaders have diligently made sure there are labels in English and Spanish and that the Hispanic community feels welcome. I have witnessed many shared moments of connection.

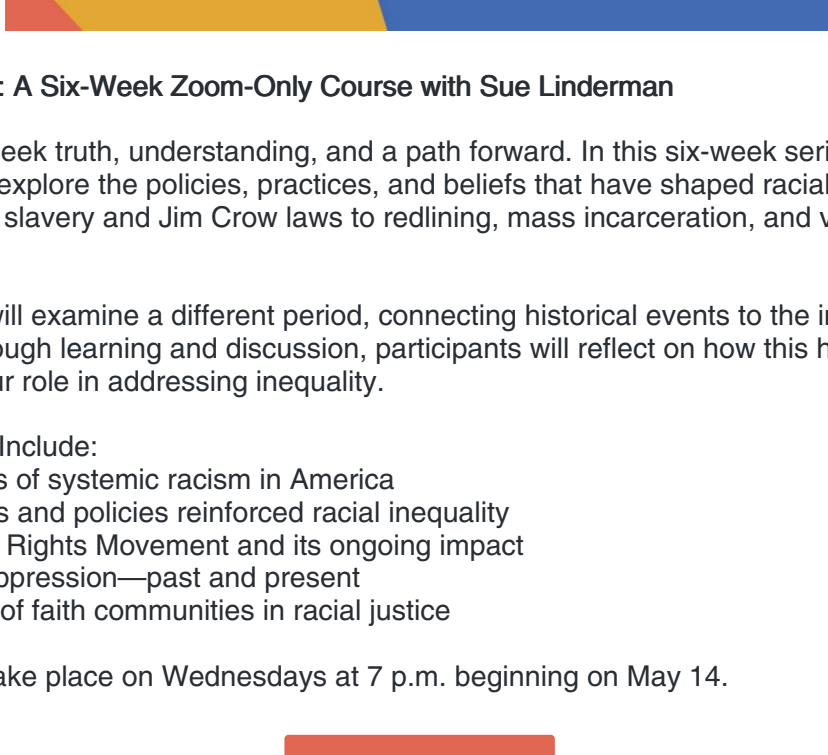
Because of the connections made through the pantry, Community Church decided to offer an English language program for adults. For the past several months, we have taught English to a diverse group of students from across the Americas. Our volunteers have welcomed our students by working with them one-on-one, driving them to class, accompanying them to job interviews, and providing them with food from our pantry after class. We have learned so much from our students and have listened to many stories of fear and uncertainty because of the current political situation.

Two of our most faithful students belong to a thriving Latino church. Through them, we have made connections with this church and are exploring ways that we can support them in their goals to build a sanctuary of their own.

It is so important that we stand with this vulnerable community. We are one body of Christ, and we are constantly learning so much from each other.

Peace,  
Mari Satterlee  
Council President

## Racism in America – The History We Didn't Learn in School



**Bridge Building: A Six-Week Zoom-Only Course with Sue Linderman**

Join us as we seek truth, understanding, and a path forward. In this six-week series, Sue Linderman will explore the policies, practices, and beliefs that have shaped racial disparities in America—from slavery and Jim Crow laws to redlining, mass incarceration, and voter suppression.

Each session will examine a different period, connecting historical events to the inequities we see today. Through learning and discussion, participants will reflect on how this history informs our faith and our role in addressing inequality.

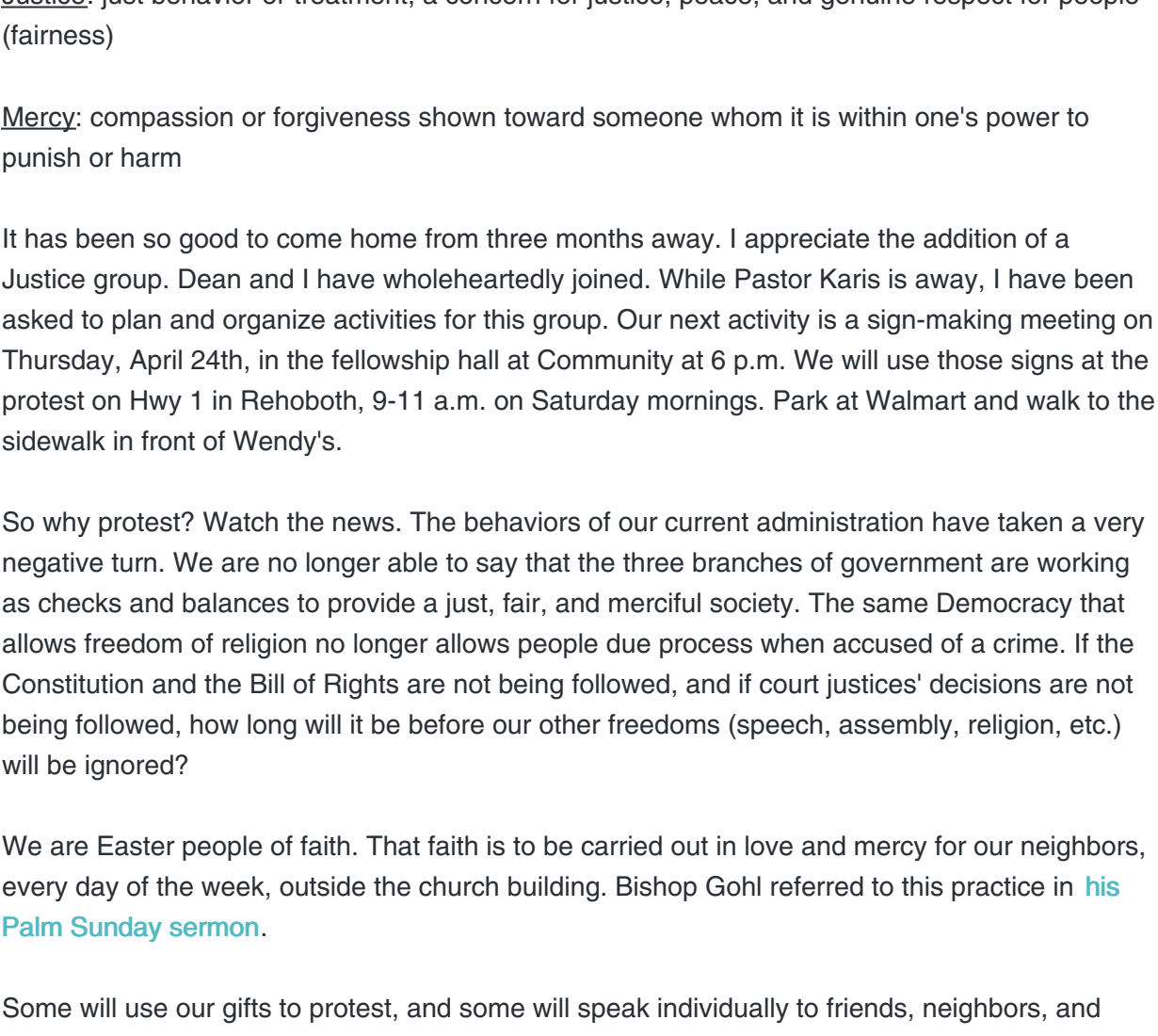
Course Topics Include:

- The roots of systemic racism in America
- How laws and policies reinforced racial inequality
- The Civil Rights Movement and its ongoing impact
- Voter suppression—past and present
- The role of faith communities in racial justice

The class will take place on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. beginning on May 14.

[Register Now](#)

## Walking Humbly, Acting Justly: A Call to Action for Mercy and Justice



**Justice Small Group**

*"O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly..." - Micah 6:8*

**Justice:** just behavior or treatment; a concern for justice, peace, and genuine respect for people (fairness)

**Mercy:** compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm

It has been so good to come home from three months away. I appreciate the addition of a Justice group. Dean and I have wholeheartedly joined. While Pastor Karis is away, I have been asked to plan and organize activities for this group. Our next activity is a sign-making meeting on Thursday, April 24th, in the fellowship hall at Community at 6 p.m. We will use those signs at the protest on Hwy 1 in Rehoboth, 9-11 a.m. on Saturday mornings. Park at Walmart and walk to the sidewalk in front of Wendy's.

So why protest? Watch the news. The behaviors of our current administration have taken a very negative turn. We are no longer able to say that the three branches of government are working as checks and balances to provide a just, fair, and merciful society. The same Democracy that allows freedom of religion no longer allows people due process when accused of a crime. If the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are not being followed, and if court justices' decisions are not being followed, how long will it be before our other freedoms (speech, assembly, religion, etc.) will be ignored?

We are Easter people of faith. That faith is to be carried out in love and mercy for our neighbors, every day of the week, outside the church building. Bishop Gohl referred to this practice in [his Palm Sunday sermon](#).

Some will use our gifts to protest, and some will speak individually to friends, neighbors, and family. Everyone has the opportunity to make God's love known. Prayer and study are tools to show us the way. The Bible references Justice over 25 times in both the Old and New Testaments.

Here is an example seen on a sign at a recent protest in Washington, DC. The sign read, "Things are so bad, even the Introverts are protesting!" I had to laugh at that because it demonstrates the urgency of someone who normally would not have put themselves in the protest position. We can all stretch ourselves a little. Often, that opportunity comes in small group activities. Bring some posterboard, cardboard, lightweight signboard, and any other supplies to share. I will have some extra. The time is NOW to speak up for our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

Pam Pedersen

It's never to late to take part in a small group. Sign up now!

[Sign Up](#)



**Listen to Our Latest Podcast Episode!**

We're excited to announce that our podcast is now live and available on the church's website! Simply visit <https://bridgebuilder.church>, navigate to the "Media" section in the top menu, and select "Podcasts" to listen to our episodes. If you're using the mobile site, just click the three horizontal lines at the top, then use the menu arrow under "Media" to access the podcast.

Our latest episode features a conversation with Pastor Earl Janssen about the important topic of "Equipping the Saints." Don't miss it!

## What's Happening at Community

### Emergency Pastoral Care During Pastor Karis' Vacation

While Pastor Karis is on vacation from April 21 to May 6, an emergency on-call pastor will be available. For assistance, please contact Rev. Ed Middleton at (214) 405-2471.

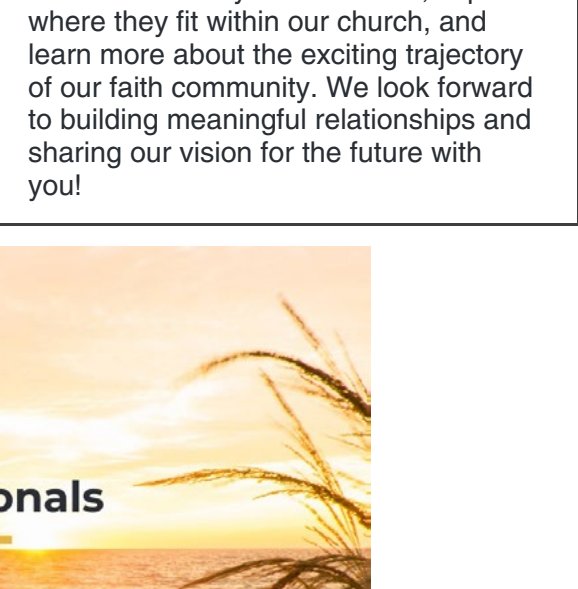
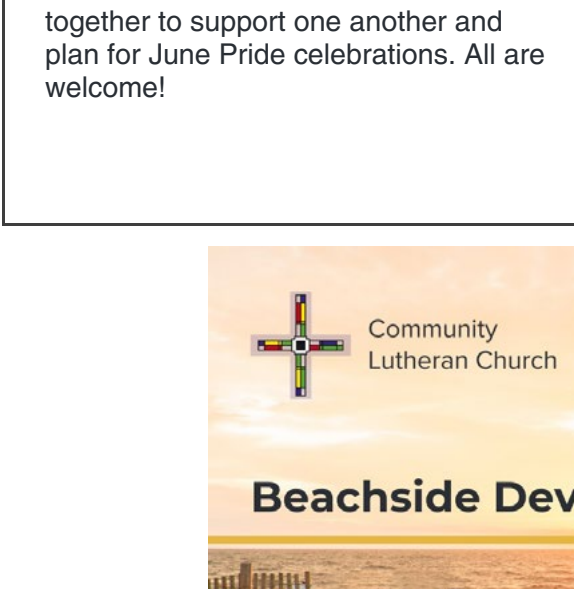


### CLC Food Pantry Donation Requests

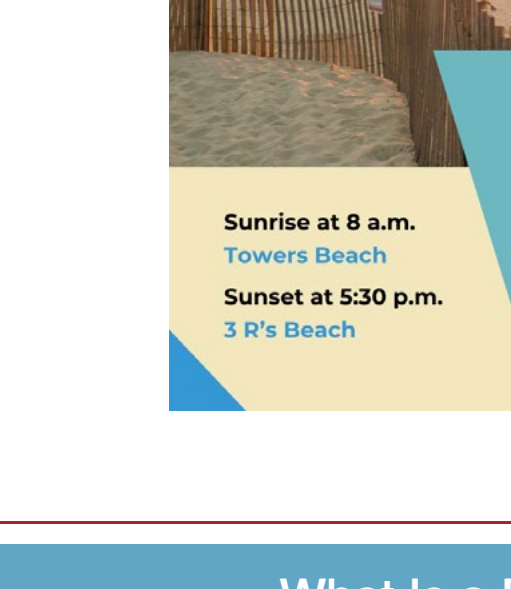
**April 2025**

- Black Beans (canned or dry)
- Pinto Beans (canned)
- Tuna and other canned meat
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal
- Pasta
- Pineapple - canned
- Peaches - canned
- Fruit or Applesauce cups
- Cream Soups
- Pasta Sauce in jars
- Mac and cheese
- Cooking oil
- Shelf-stable Chocolate Milk

Note: Donating a larger quantity of one or two items is especially helpful. For example, buy 12 cans of tuna, 20 boxes of pasta, or 50 jars of peanut butter rather than one of each item!



- Our last class for the season will be on **May 22**.
- We will resume classes on **Sept. 4**.



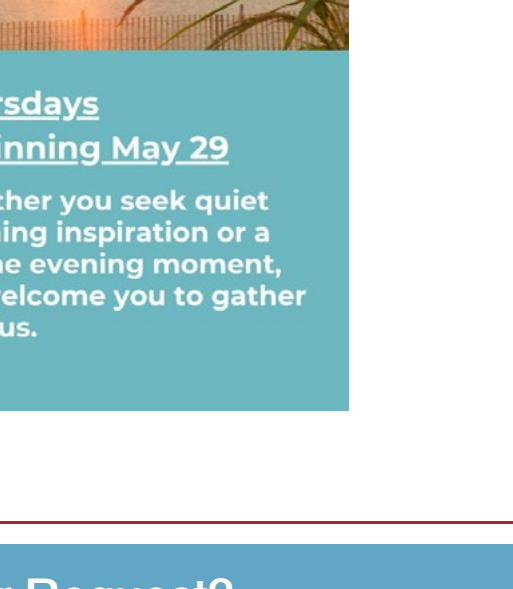
### LGBTQIA+ & Allies Potluck Dinner

Friday, May 16

6:00 p.m.

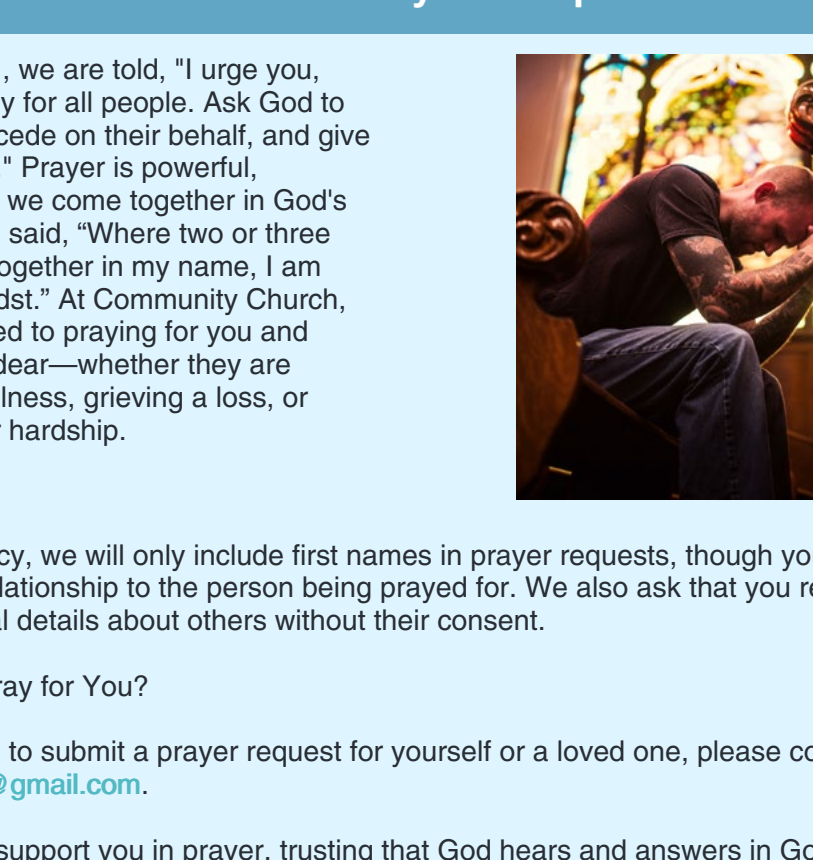
Luther Hall

Join us for a potluck dinner as LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies come together to support one another and plan for June Pride celebrations. All are welcome!



### Are you ready to connect and grow with Community?

Join us on May 18, immediately after the late worship service, for the Bridge Builder Luncheon. This is a special opportunity for new bridge builders to meet our ministry team leaders, explore where they fit within our church, and learn more about the exciting trajectory of our faith community. We look forward to building meaningful relationships and sharing our vision for the future with you!



**Sunrise at 8 a.m.**

**Townset Beach**

**Sunset at 5:30 p.m.**

**3 R's Beach**

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