



# WE ARE A HOLY NATION.

When Peter calls the church “*a holy nation*,” he isn’t offering a compliment. He is stating a calling. Holiness, by its very nature, assumes contrast. A holy people will always feel a certain tension while living in an unholy world.

One of the quiet assumptions many of us carry—often without realizing it—is that faith should make life smoother. Safer. That suffering will be the exception, not the norm. But Peter writes to believers who are doing nothing wrong—and yet are experiencing real hardship. His words in 1 Peter 4 are not pessimistic, but they are honest.

Peter invites believers to see hardship not as evidence that something has gone wrong, but as part of what it means to belong to God in a world that does not share His values.

As we gather to worship this morning, our goal is not to brace ourselves for bad news, but to listen with clear expectations. The Christian life is deeply joyful—but it is also costly. And when we understand that, we are better prepared to hear what God wants to form in us: endurance, trust, and a holiness that shines most clearly in the dark.

*Pastor Mark*

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February 8, 2026

# THE CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY CHORALE



Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Ardella Baptist Church is excited to present to our community, on **Sunday, March 8th, 4 pm**, The Cornerstone University Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Kent Walters. The University Chorale performs a broad spectrum of choral pieces for national and international audiences. Each public performance is a means of worship through heartfelt, artistic expression. They will be joining us beginning Sunday afternoon and leave on Monday morning. We need **host families** to provide one night of housing, a breakfast and a sack lunch. There will be two students per household. Please sign up in the Foyer or Chapel and contact [Nancypatten@gmail.com](mailto:Nancypatten@gmail.com) for any questions.

**Invite family, friends and neighbors!**



THE CORNERSTONE  
UNIVERSITY  
GRAND RAPIDS,  
MICHIGAN  
BUILT ON THE WORD  
OF GOD

**Join with us in Welcoming this World Renowned Chorale,  
Sunday, March 8th, 4 pm.**

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL

5-6 pm in Fellowship Hall

THIS WEEK'S MENU:

BAKED POTATO BAR  
AND DESSERT

**SIGN UP**



**\$5 per adult, \$3 per child, or \$15 for family (2 adults + kids)**

*\*\*sign up in worship center foyer or chapel*

**TONIGHT - NO CHOIR REHEARSAL  
NO CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER**

## MEN'S PRAYER

Tuesdays, 10 am in the Conference Room

## EMBRACE WIDOW MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays, 10 am in Room 101

## WED. MIDWEEK ADULT BIBLE STUDIES, KIDS & YOUTH

5-6 pm Family Style Supper; 6:30-8 pm, Bible Studies, Kids & Youth

## WOW MINISTRY FOR YOUNG MOMS AND THEIR CHILDREN

Fridays, 9:15 am - 11 am in the Fellowship Hall

## EMBRACE WIDOW MINISTRY TO SWEET MAGNOLIA TEA ROOM

Friday, February 13th - Sign up in the Foyer

## QUARTERLY MISSION MEETING - EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Sunday, February 15th, 4 pm

## AWANA GRAND PRIX

Saturday, February 21st, 9 am

## RECONNECT DONOR APPRECIATION DINNER

Friday, February 27th, 6:30 pm

## ANNIE ARMSTRONG WEEK OF PRAYER-NO. AMERICAN MISSIONARIES

Sunday, March 1st-Sunday, 8th

## CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY CHOIR IN CONCERT AT ARDELLA

Sunday, March 8th, 4 pm

UPC  
MING EVENTS

# **Grand Prix Feb. 21**



**Compete  
in design or speed  
as Awana kid or  
Youth/Adult**

**Registration 8:30-9 am**

**Racing begins @ 9 am**

## **NEED TO CONTACT OUR TEAM?**

Meet the talented/gifted people on our staff who strive to serve you, the people we love and serve.

**Pastor Mark Bedwell - Senior Pastor**  
[markbedwell@ardellabaptist.com](mailto:markbedwell@ardellabaptist.com)

**Pastor Mark Thompson -  
Family Pastor**

[markthompson@ardellabaptist.com](mailto:markthompson@ardellabaptist.com)

**Chris Sallstrom-Children's Director**  
[chrissallstrom@ardellabaptist.com](mailto:chrissallstrom@ardellabaptist.com)

**Brad Weishaupt**  
**Sanctuary Worship Director**  
[bradweishaupt@ardellabaptist.com](mailto:bradweishaupt@ardellabaptist.com)

**Eva Pike-Chapel, Worship Director**  
[evapike@ardellabaptist.com](mailto:evapike@ardellabaptist.com)



**Maria McClintock-Nursery Director**  
[mariamclintock@ardellabaptist.com](mailto:mariamclintock@ardellabaptist.com)  
**Alexis Corso - Pre-school Director**  
[alexiscorso@ardellabaptist.com](mailto:alexiscorso@ardellabaptist.com)  
**Marge McClintock - Ministry Assistant**  
[margemclintock@ardellabaptist.com](mailto:margemclintock@ardellabaptist.com)

## **Financial Stewardship/ Previous Week**

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Tithes</b>   | <b>\$17,099.50</b> |
| <b>Missions</b> | <b>\$418.00</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>\$17,517.50</b> |

## Infrastructure: Holy Nation

February 8, 2026 **1 Peter 2:9,4:12-19**

### Living as a Holy Nation in an Unholy World

The reality. **(4:12)**

The response. **(4:13-14)**

The responsibility. **(4:15-16)**

The reason. **(4:17-18)**

The rest. **(4:19)**

## ***Reflection***

According to **1 Peter 2:9**, how does Peter **describe believers** before he ever addresses suffering?

In **1 Peter 4:14**, why does Peter tell believers not to be **“surprised”** by suffering?

In **1 Peter 4:13-16** what does Peter tie **joy** and **blessings** to?

**Acts 5:40-41; Philippians 3:10; Colossians 1:24; Romans 8:17-18; Hebrews 11:26**

Why is **1 Peter 4:15** **not** considered Biblical persecution?

What does Peter mean when he says **“judgment begins with the household of God”?** **Malachi 3:1-3**

What does **1 Peter 4:18** mean?

What does it mean to **“entrust your soul to a faithful Creator”?** **1 Peter 4:19**

How might this passage **(1 Peter 4:12-19)** challenge the way we evaluate **“success”** in the Christian life?