

June 15, 2020

To the Lord's church family that meets at the Hartsville Pike Church of Christ, and to our community,

The church shepherds wish to express their awareness and concern for the recent events we've all experienced. From the COVID-19 pandemic that has claimed lives and eroded our social relationships to the unimaginable and horrendous acts of violence and death in our cities, highlighted by the unjustified and brutal death of George Floyd. We grieve and pray for those families.

As with our Lord and Savior, we stand against hate, violence, murder and all forms of prejudice.

Today, we are being made aware that racism is still within our society. The Bible has always stood against prejudice, discrimination and racism as displeasing to God. With that being said, as your shepherds, we ask all of our church family to recommit with us to those principles by taking every opportunity and making every effort to remember every person is one of God's children. As we read in

[Acts 17:26](#) "...He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth...". We must see each other as a soul that Jesus thought worthy enough to die for in order for them to be redeemed. Just as Paul reminds us in [Rom. 10:12,13](#) "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for "whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

We as a church are committed to reaching out to those that may be suffering silently because of prejudice and racism.

Your Shepherds are committed to insuring that our preaching and teaching reflect God's all-inclusiveness. ***Prejudice, discrimination and racism are sinful and unacceptable to God, in any form.***