



Reflections

VOLUME 24

July 13, 2020

ISSUE 28

A Litany for Lament

According to **Kristen Glass Perez**, college chaplain at Muhlenberg College, “The word lament can be used as a verb (to express sorrow, mourning, or regret) or a noun (wailing, crying out in grief).” In the Hebrew Bible, the book of Lamentations is made up of five poems that express grief over the destruction of Jerusalem and exile of the people in 586 B.C. (*The Harper Collins Study Bible*).

The destruction is described in 2 Kings 25:8-21: “So the city was besieged until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine became so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.” (vs 3-4)

Per the study Bible, “Lamentations is a unique literary composition addressed to the survivors of the destruction of Jerusalem and designed to help them come to terms with the realities and implications of that catastrophic experience. It has been suggested...that these poems were used in public rites of mourning.”

“In 2020, we are again in a time of public mourning where we find ourselves navigating new identities and new ways of being. The COVID-19 global health crisis has forced us to reconcile many things that we thought were stationary: borders, jobs, symptoms of illness, essential employees, access to medical supplies and resources for help and comfort.

“Physical and social distancing takes a toll on our bodies, minds, and spirits. The Biblical tradition of lament does not jump to easy answers but rather lets us sit deeply in the shock and awe of upheaval. It is a necessary part of the collective grief process. The following is a litany ... to help your community begin with lament.

A Lament for COVID-19

A reading from the book of Lamentations (1: 1-3; 4)

How lonely sits the city
that once was full of people!
How like a widow she has
become,
she that was great among the nations!
She that was a princess among
the provinces
has become a vassal.
She weeps bitterly in the night,
with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers
she has no one to comfort her;
all her friends have dealt
treacherously with her,
they have become her enemies.
The roads to Zion mourn,
for no one comes to the festivals;
all her gates are desolate,
her priests groan;
her young girls grieve,
and her lot is bitter.

In This Issue

[A Litany for Lament](#)

[The Redeemer Community](#)

[The Wider Church](#)

[The Community Beyond](#)

[Prayers & Personals](#)

[Getting Ready for Sunday](#)

OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Pastor – Rev. David Shull

Office Manager – Becky Trover

Custodian – Marshall Edgington

Organist/Senior Choir Director-

Kathy Rapp

Pianist/Chimes Choir Director -

Karen Kent

Reflections Editor – Judith Bird

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

President – Margie Frazier

Vice President – Julie Johnson

Finance Officer –

Secretary – Chad Eberle

Worship – Julie Larson

Education – Wendy Stoica

Outreach – Jon Disbro

Member Support – Elyce Herring

Property – Sue Yehling

Stewardship – Ruth Murray

APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer – Larry Trover

Financial Secretary – Brad Phillips

SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Michelle Clemence

Bruce Collins

Dave Engel, Chair

Nancy Magargal

Jim Riley

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent – Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



cont'd on p. 5

The Redeemer Community

How to Move Race Conversations Outside RLC Walls

Over the past two-and-a-half years, people at Redeemer and friends from elsewhere have read *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, *So You Want to Talk About Race*, and *White Fragility*. We have talked about implicit bias and relationships with the realities of systemic racism.

Now we're ready for the next step. We're exploring ways to step out of the *relative* safety of the conversations, and into some concrete ways to act outside our church walls. In our first round of brainstorming at our June 17 Zoom meeting, individuals shared the thoughts and ideas listed below. In addition, two quotes shared by two participants in our conversations that can help guide us:

Rich Pautsch shared words from University of Nevada psychology professor **Steven Hays**: *If you want to change the psychological factors that keep racism alive, you need to foster the ability to take the perspective of others, to feel what it feels like to be them, and not to run away psychologically, even though it's hard.*

Margie Farnham shared words she heard while working in Nairobi, Kenya, for the Lutheran World Federation. She was told the words came from an Australian Aborigine woman: *If you have come to help me, you can go home. But if you see my struggle as part of your own survival, then maybe we can work together.*

- Read **Jason Riley's** book *Please Stop Helping Us* to explore a different slant on racism and racial justice than we've gotten from other books we've discussed.
- Place something in our big grass area by the flower garden - one for each black person killed by police officers with their name printed on it. Sometimes that visual makes it so real regarding the number. One person added that if we just put markers up for local black people killed by police this could be a large display. Dottie said she saw a beautiful piece of lawn art around this theme and will take a picture and get it to us.
- Invite people to write letters to elected officials as part of a worship service. This can feel meaningful.
- To get more clarity about what African Americans feel would be most important to address, reach out to get information from them. Perhaps ask the Berwick Civic Association. And try to get a wider participation from Redeemer people there. Some suggested working with other civic associations in the area (Berwyn, MAC) so we can have faith communities and civic associations engaged around issues of racism and racial justice so the energy of this moment doesn't fade.
- Partner with Christ United Methodist Church. If we did lawn symbols of those killed by police we could perhaps do a joint worship service on the lawn around dedicating these symbols. Idea of seeing what other area faith communities are doing: Christ the King, Hope Lutheran, St. Philip Lutheran.
- Use the church sign to express support for these issues.
- When it's safe, invite people from Berwick/Berwyn to a listening session where we'd listen to what they believe would be most meaningful and effective for us to be doing, and who we might partner with.
- Look at engaging around local political issues and policies, like over-policing in black neighborhoods. How might we have a place at city council hearings?
- Consider becoming a BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) congregation. BREAD is a national organization that brings faith communities together to study local areas of injustice, talk with experts around these areas, establish program responses to these, and then work with political officials to secure their commitment to these policies. About 40 faith communities are part of Columbus BREAD. Current program priorities are affordable housing, mental health, alternatives to expulsion in school, clearing abandoned buildings in lower-income areas; and job creation. They've also addressed issues around discrimination against officers of color in the Columbus Police Department. Redeemer worked with BREAD around a candidates' forum we hosted.
- Deepening our relationship with Berwick Alternative School.

- When a COVID-19 vaccine is developed, there might be people who need the vaccine but who don't trust government health clinics. Redeemer could be seen as a safe place for these folks. **Dottie Odrosky** offered to coordinate any such program.
- Build on the city and county's declaration of racism as a public health emergency. How might we support this and advocate for programs that move this forward?
- Whatever we do, we should focus on building mutual relationships with partners so we don't fall into a "helper/recipient" model. We honor the gifts all participants bring, and acknowledge each person has needs the other can address, each can be healed and blessed by the others.
- As we're doing lunches on the lawn, perhaps save a space or two for someone who might just come by; perhaps have a sign inviting folks to join us. In general, expand our "outside" presence by doing more things on the lawn.
- For the produce giveaway, do something to raise awareness/interest like we did several years ago when we had a contest around people bringing vegetables to contribute.
- Thinking about the downtown/Short North buildings with boards over their windows becoming art displays, might we use our parking lot fence or the fence by the sunflowers that is more visible for James Road travelers. We could become a place local artists share their talents on current issues. Art speaks powerfully and is very emotive.

Please join us for our next Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, July 15**, from 7-8:30 p.m. To connect with the meeting: **Dave Shull's** Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 858 9012 4248; Password: 718132. By phone, call 646 876 9923. If you don't have the Zoom app, you can join the meeting by copying and entering the following web address in your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85890124248?pwd=Z1dEMGc5dldxMmNXeWQ0bFZUTVlzdz09>.

Contact **Dave Shull** if you have any questions.

June Council Meeting Update

The Redeemer Church Council met by conference call on **Wednesday, June 24** at 7 p.m.

- Finances continue to be steady and Redeemer is meeting budget. The PPP loan of \$26,800 has been received and will require reporting in 24 weeks. We anticipate asking for full loan forgiveness, given that all funds will be used for personnel costs. Suzuki anticipates paying full rent again starting in September.
- Council approved funds for a new office computer and monitor for \$1,370. and a property expenditure for \$1,100 to replace failing alarms and batteries.
- We continue to see significantly higher numbers of visitors to monthly food distributions than we did at this time last year. The courtyard garden is now producing food for weekly Saturday giveaways.
- Online classes and worship continue. The small survey completed by the caring callers had significant numbers of members not willing or interested to come back to in-person worship. Though no estimate has been made for when we might worship together, a council-led reopening task group began meeting July 8 to discuss necessary preparations for the future.
- Council will meet again **Wednesday, August 5** the combined summer council meeting for July/August.

RLC Weekly Produce Giveaway Underway

Redeemer's weekly Saturday morning produce giveaways from our own garden will again be held on **Saturday, July 18** and will continue every Saturday morning through the summer. The giveaway runs from 10 a.m. until items are gone. Picking is at 9 a.m. If you can help, please call **Jon Disbro**.

If you have food items to include in the giveaway, please drop them off at the church.

'Brewing Faith,' 'Coffee and Conversation' Groups Meet Via Zoom

Join the small group "Brewing Faith Theology Pub" at 6:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, July 14** and/or "Coffee and Conversation" (the renamed "Upper Cup" small group) on **Wednesday, July 15** from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. via the following Zoom addresses:

Brewing Faith

To join the group on **Tuesday, July 14** at 6:30 p.m., use the ID: 816 5612 6867; Password: 622731. By phone, call 646 876 9923. If you don't have the Zoom app, you can join the meeting by copying and entering the following web address in your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81656126867?pwd=MWtHYWRlajVRL291TlVCWFhLc0lrdz09>.

Coffee and Conversation

To join the group on **Wednesday, July 15** at 11 a.m., use the ID: 858 2329 5281; Password: 997021. By phone, call 646 876 9923. If you don't have the Zoom app, you can join the meeting by copying and entering the following web address in your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85823295281?pwd=dUV4RlJlSEl5cDZ6Nit1TEE2OWkxQT09>

Adult Sunday Class Continues to Examine Apostles' Creed

We say the words every week in worship: *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth ...*

Where do these words come from? Why does this statement of faith include what it does, but say nothing about the sacraments, and nothing about what a life of following Jesus looks like in practice? Are there ways earlier Christians might have heard these words that are lost to us now? If we affirm these words in worship, what do we believe we are saying? What are we committing ourselves to? What meanings do these words have for us?

These are the kinds of questions we're exploring in our Sunday Faith Exploration class. The next one is **Sunday, July 19** from 10-11 a.m.

Join the Zoom Meeting using ID: 873 9841 1296; Password: 353435. By phone, call 646-876-9923. If you don't have the Zoom app, you can join the meeting by copying and entering the following web address in your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87398411296?pwd=VmNQMTloN0haNzNyT3JlOUZ3ZjEzVVoQT09>.

You would bless us by your participation in this!

Tuesday Bible Study to Begin Look at Book of James on Zoom

The Tuesday afternoon Bible study is exploring the Letter to James. It's a book which **Martin Luther** described as "a right strawy epistle." He believed it totally contradicted the teachings of Paul which had been so essential for Luther's own transformation and which he felt formed the essence of grace. It was one of the last books accepted into the collection that became the New Testament partly because it seemed to differ from Paul's writings. The main reason was because it wasn't clear that it was written by someone who had known or met **Jesus**, so its "apostolic origins" were in doubt. At the same time, James has some of the clearest statements about what love and justice look like in action that exist in any of scripture.

This will be the group's "summer dive" for 2020. If you have Tuesday afternoons free, join us. We are a group of people who are both serious about listening for the Spirit's voice in the text and in each other and serious about supporting each other through whatever we're going through -- and who laugh deeply and often. Give us a try! Get in touch with **Dave Shull** if you have any questions.

To join the group this **Tuesday, July 14** from 1-2:30 p.m., go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 842 4825 7898; Password: 667242. To participate by phone, call 646-876-9923. If you don't have the Zoom app, you can join the meeting by copying and entering the following web address in your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84248257898?pwd=UE50S20rbis3QTAzT0JrUHVMtMpOdz09>

Sunday Worship Available on YouTube

The **July 12** Sunday worship service is available at <https://tinyurl.com/r6mk2xh>. For the Sunday Worship Bulletin, go to the Redeemer website at www.RedeemerLuth.com >News, Sermons, Devotions.

We are holding one another in prayer and in spirit as we work through this time. Go in peace, serve the Lord, wash your hands!

A Litany for Lament *cont'd from p 1*

In these days of anger and unanswered questions; in the pain of broken trust and shattered lives; in our compassion for all who are suffering; in our grief for all that has been lost,

Lament.

From being too quick to attribute blame or demand forgiveness, for those who have harmed others by their actions or their inaction,

Lament.

For the loss of life, for the lost opportunities, for the secondary losses,

Lament.

For the in-person gatherings that bother us and the family togetherness that challenge us,

Lament.

For the inadequate distribution of resources and lack of protective equipment for health care workers,

Lament.

For previously ignoring the socially isolated among us,

Lament.

For denial and fear,

Lament.

Let us go now and actively work to build a future where truth is named and love and caring hold space for grief to heal.

Amen.

Important Emails

DShull@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

Info@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with the office, *Reflections* newsletter, **Office Manager Becky Trover**, healing prayer requests or for general information.

MemberCare@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with the Member Care team about needs for personal ministry such as in-home communion, a home visit, meals, etc.

FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with **Financial Secretary Brad Phillips**, and for stewardship campaigns.

Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with Redeemer's IT Team for items related to the website.

Property@RedeemerLuth.com – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

Transportation@redeemerluth.com – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

Publishing Deadlines for *Reflections*, Sunday Bulletins

For *Reflections*

- PLEASE SUBMIT PRIOR TO **5 P.M. ON SUNDAYS**.
- Send to info@RedeemerLuth.com and put *Reflections* in subject line.
- Or leave a note in the *Reflections* mailbox at the top of the stairs outside the church office.

For Sunday Bulletins

The deadline for information to be published in Sunday bulletins is the **Wednesday morning** before. That information can be sent to the above email: just put "Bulletin" in the subject line.

Prayers and Personals

A Note from Pastor Dave

I am grateful for your expressions of love and prayers after Becky sent out word about my mom's death Sunday morning. I deeply appreciate you! When hospice called late last Thursday morning to say they were moving Mom from assisted living to the in-patient hospice facility, and that they expected her to die "within a few hours or a few days," I went up to Wooster. And I got to spend a long time reading the letters from family I talked about in last week's *Reflections*. Folks in my family wrote beautiful letters thanking Mom for the ways she had blessed them. It was truly sacred time. And by the end of it I felt like I'd expressed all the love and gratitude I had for her, and that there was no more to say. It was one of the best ways to say "good-bye" I could imagine. So when the call came yesterday morning that she had died, I felt real peace. I got to see my two brothers and their spouses and got to spend a lot of time with Dad. I am truly blessed.

+ + +

Besides for **Pastor Dave** and his family, prayers for comfort, peace and strength are also asked for Redeemer custodian **Marshall Edgington** and his family on the death of his niece and for **Bernice Stewart** and her family on the deaths of her cousin **Robert "Bobby" Isbell** and the husband of her cousin **Deborah Merrill Skiver**.

+ + +

Reflections wishes a happy, belated birthday to **Mike Shugert** whose birthday was actually **June 27**, not **July 27** as was reported last week.

+ + +

Prayers for healing are also asked for **Jon Denniss** who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

+ + +

Redeemer Office Manager Becky Trover is switching her day off from Thursdays to Tuesdays. Her office hours continue to be 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Others cover the office on her day off and you can always leave Becky a message at 614-237-1263 or email her at info@redeemerluth.com.

Redeemer Adds New Interpreter

Debra Rigsby will be joining **Tori Reed** in providing interpreter services for the Sunday service. Tori writes that, "I have been looking for another interpreter who can share the load with me and a wonderful girl is willing to sub for me when needed. I met her back at Columbus State and she is truly such a great girl!" Her first Sunday interpreting will be **July 19**.

Southern Ohio Synod Moves

The offices of the Southern Ohio Synod have moved. Effective **July 1** the new address is 9200 Worthington Rd., Suite 140, Westerville OH 43082.

Christ in Our Home Devotional Booklets

The July – September edition of *Christ in Our Home* devotional is available. If you would like to have a copy, the church office will be happy to mail one to you. Call 614-237-1263 or email info@RedeemerLuth.com

If you prefer, you may receive Christ in Our Home devotionals via email by going to <https://go.augsburgfortress.org/christ-in-our-home-email-subscription>

+ + +

Jeremy Davis, a Redeemer member who is at the Ross Correctional Institute, is unable to receive visitors due to COVID-19 prevention efforts. In addition, Redeemer is not able to send him the group letter written each week after worship. Please send him a note sharing a greeting, thought, or prayer. It must be on a blank white 8.5x11" piece of paper; the note must be written in black or blue ink only. There can be NO enclosures of any kind. His address is Jeremy Christian Davis #758199, 16149 Ohio-104, Chillicothe OH 45601.

+ + +

July Birthdays

13-Renee Glover-Oakleaf
14-Chase Friederich 15-Kandice Hoddinott
16-Cora Marquez 17-Jasmin McFarland
18-Kelley Scott 19-Leslie Sorg
20-Pamela Reed 21-Grace Jones
22-Alta Boreman 22-Kim Faulk
22-Noah Gosnell 25-Tracy Hoddinot Ervin
27-Tom Mimlitch 29-Kathy Mimlitch
29-Becky Trover 31-Marilyn Roberts

COVID-19 Information

To get the most up-to-date information regarding the pandemic and Ohio's COVID-19 activities, go to the Ohio Department of Health website at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/> or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

In addition, the Southern Ohio Synod has put together a number of Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) resources online at <https://tinyurl.com/y9ohdaov>. Among the items linked to are the latest "Stay Safe Ohio" order from **Gov. Mike DeWine**, a checklist on face coverings and cleaning and disinfecting alternatives.

The Wider Church SOS Issues Warning

The Southern Ohio Synod (SOS) writes that has been notified that scammers are at it again. Some folks are receiving emails claiming to be from Bishop Dillahunt asking the recipients to send money.

1. **"Bishop Dillahunt will never contact you directly via email to ask you to send money to her personally.** Our synod office has checks and balances in place to make sure that only specific people handle donations. Bishop Dillahunt is not one of those people.
2. "If Bishop Dillahunt were to ask you to send a donation, you will be directed to send donations to our office address (9200 Worthington Rd., Suite 140, Westerville, Ohio 43082) or to our PO Box address (P.O. Box 0604, Lewis Center, OH 43035). Do not send money anywhere else!
3. **"Bishop Dillahunt's email address is BishopSDillahunt@southernohiosynod.org.** Most scammers will send from some other address that may look similar, but is not her address.
4. "Just delete the emails. **Do not click on any links.**"

Getting Ready for Sunday Seventh Sunday After Pentecost, July 19, 2020

Lessons

Sunday Readings: Romans 8:12-25; Psalm 86:11-17; Matthew 13:24-30

Prayer for the Times

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of Bethel Lutheran Church, in Grove City.
- + For Redeemer community members Michele, Jon, and Jill Disbro.

Each week we remember in our prayers in worship those who cannot be with us and those with special needs and concerns:, Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Lea Spang, Bonnie Hegreness, Heidi Carman, Cora Marquez, Mary Kennedy, Kelly Scott, Diane Louangrath, Sue Baker, Julie Denniss' uncle Ed Stewart, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich, Stan Heacock, Jeremy Davis, Amy DeLorenzo, Linda and Don Williams, Pamela Andrews, Val Farnham, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt, Brittany Parsons, Lynn Belhorn's mother Maryland Belhorn and friend MaryAnn, Laura Warren's brother Walter Hudson and his wife Jan, Bill Boys, Doretha Holland, Dolores Brannigan's husband Dave, Becky Trover's sister Maddie, Jack and Shirley Miller, Deidre (DJ) Zimmer, Jon Denniss, Marshall Edgington and family, families of Bernice Stewart's cousins Bobby Isbell and Deborah Merrill Skiver, family of Betty Shull.

Noisy Offering will be for Kaleidoscope Youth Center.

Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday July 19: A study of the "Apostles' Creed for Today" - Led by
Dave Shull.

This class is held via ZOOM. See separate story about how to participate.

This Week at Redeemer July 14 - July 20, 2020

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	ZOOM Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	ZOOM A Brewing Faith
<u>Wednesday</u>	11:00 a.m.	ZOOM Coffee and Conversation
	7:00 p.m.	ZOOM Race Conversation
<u>Saturday</u>	9:00 a.m.	Redeemer Garden Pick
	10:00 a.m.	Redeemer Garden Giveaway
<u>Sunday</u>	YouTube	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:00 a.m.	ZOOM Adult Sunday School