



# Reflections

VOLUME 24

October 12, 2020

ISSUE 41

## What Silence Can Let Us Hear

Our Sunday morning adult education class has been looking at what wisdom the Bible might offer in a variety of circumstances. The past several weeks, we've focused on what it might have to say about ways to approach hard conversations in a loving way – not just in a presidential election season but at any time.

Yesterday we considered times when we seek to express *our* truth in love and open ourselves to hearing *another's* truth. One of the gospel stories we discussed was this scene from John:

John 8.1-11 (The Message)

8:1-2 *Jesus went across to Mount Olives, but he was soon back in the Temple again. Swarms of people came to him. He sat down and taught them.*

3-6 *The religion scholars and Pharisees led a woman who had been caught in an act of adultery. They stood her in plain sight of everyone and said, "Teacher, this woman was caught red-handed in the act of adultery. Moses, in the Law, gives orders to stone such persons. What do you say?" They were trying to trap him into saying something incriminating so they could bring charges against him.*

6-8 *Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger in the dirt. They kept at him, badgering him. He straightened up and said, "The sinless one among you, go first: Throw the stone." Bending down again, he wrote some more in the dirt.*

9-10 *Hearing that, they walked away, one after another, beginning with the oldest. The woman was left alone. Jesus stood up and spoke to her. "Woman, where are they? Does no one condemn you?"*

11 *"No one, Master."*

*"Neither do I," said Jesus. "Go on your way. From now on, don't sin."*

As we discussed this reading, a member of the class said, "I've read this story a number of times. But this is the first time I noticed that Jesus doesn't answer the men who want to stone the woman right away. I always thought he did. But the story says he bends down and writes with his finger in the dirt. He creates a space for silence so he can decide the best way to respond. I'd never realized that before."

So we talked about what difference leaving silence can make when we're having an intense conversation with someone. And we agreed we might not have said some of the unhelpful things we've said if we'd chosen to do what Jesus did, and make room for some silence so the words we end up saying are truly what we want to say. And so we say them in the way we want to, which has the least likelihood of leading to defensiveness or misunderstanding.

When you think about your conversations, how much silence is there? When there are times of silence, how comfortable are they? When someone asks you a question that doesn't have an easy answer, how likely are you to take the time you need to come up with a response that feels true? How much might you answer before you're really ready because the silence becomes too awkward?

As we looked at the story of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery in class Sunday morning, we realized Jesus takes two extended periods of silence. Not only does he create such a space after the men ask him if they should stone the woman to death, but he also creates such a space after he replies to them. In both cases he looks down and draws in

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### 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

Interim Treasurer – Julie Johnson

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](http://www.redeemerluth.com)



## The Redeemer Community

### Next Outdoor Worship Set for Oct. 18

Redeemer will again hold an outdoor service on Sunday, October 18 at 10 a.m. As was done last Sunday, there will be “singing” and “non-singing” sections in the outdoor seating area. Based on normal wind patterns, the section closest to the parking lot will serve as the “non-singing/speaking” section; the section closer to James Road will be “singing/speaking.”

We invite singers to refrain from channeling your inner Kate Smith or Janis Joplin! Please sing and speak rather softly . . . and with all the joy you have!

*To make a reservation*, please contact the church office at [info@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:info@RedeemerLuth.com), or 614-237-1263.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by phone or text (206-725-3785) or email ([dshull@redeemerluth.com](mailto:dshull@redeemerluth.com)).

As we have more to share in the next couple weeks, we’ll let you know specifics about what measures we’re taking to prepare for safe indoor worship for any who wish to participate in that. This remains a time we need to ask for an added blessing of patience, openness, trust, and grace!

*Dave Shull*



### Stewardship Appeal Underway

The Stewardship Team invites you to reflect on what this faith community means to you, and use that to help guide you to decide what financial support you'd like to commit yourself to offer for RLC ministries next year.

To that end, members should have received the stewardship mailing by now. Please review the materials thoughtfully and prayerfully, and then return the completed card, either in the envelope provided or by email to the financial secretary. All of our responses are to be dedicated during worship on Reformation Sunday, October 25.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Stewardship Team (**Ruth Murray**, **Dave Lippert**, or **Mary Benis**) or the church office.

The year ahead may be filled with uncertainty, but we at Redeemer walk by faith, not by sight—and we walk together.

### Brewing Faith Meets Via Zoom on Oct. 13

The small group, A Brewing Faith, meets Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. To join the group, go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID 884 0660 7138; Passcode: 010809. To participate by phone, call 646 876 9923. If you don't have the Zoom app, you can join the meeting by copying entering the following web address in your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88406607138?pwd=TUMybS80ZFVSOUFocDV2bEVqZW1kUT09>

## Conversations on Race Set for Oct. 14 Via Zoom

The Race Conversations group will meet next via Zoom on **Wednesday, October 14** at 7 p.m. To join the discussion, go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 852 0183 5611; Passcode: 640224. 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/85201835611?pwd=aN1MjJQSWFMK0U0bHQ0WXVPNkFUQT09>

## Adult Sunday Education Class Meets at 11:15 a.m.

The Sunday Adult Education class will begin discussing the *What does the Bible say about conflict resolution?* at 11:15 a.m. on **Sunday, October 18** after the 10 a.m. outdoor worship. People who want to come to worship and then participate in the Zoom class are asked to bring a device and they will be given a place in the building for socially-distanced participation.

The group looks at the ways the Bible addresses various questions and topics people in the class want to examine. You can bet the Bible won't just have one opinion on anything! The group begins exploring questions around conflict resolution this Sunday. We'd love to have your voice and your questions! So join us **Sunday, October 18** from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Join the Zoom Meeting ID: 837 8326 6885; Passcode: 043099. 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/83783266885?pwd=S3hqdl1dQR3lUbjdvYU9nWGk3MnI0dz09> .

You would bless us by your participation in this!

## RLC to Discontinue 'Blessing Boxes'

Due to the misuse of items in the box, the blessing boxes will be discontinued until further notice. For any questions, please contact **Kathy Mimplitch** at [kathymimplitch@yahoo.com](mailto:kathymimplitch@yahoo.com) .

## Saturday Produce Giveaway Done for Season

Redeemer's weekly Saturday morning produce giveaway from our own garden has now concluded for the season. Thank you to all who helped tend the garden and staff the Saturday distribution.

## Redeemer Social Media Photo Policy 'Opt Out'

RLC's social media presence is growing on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. We have great stories to tell about who we are and what we're doing to help our community neighbors, while providing inspiring worship opportunities. In addition, we're excited to be rolling out a new and improved website, full of useful information for members and for those trying to find a new place of worship.

We tell our online stories with many photos of the life of Redeemer. It's inspiring for us, and we hope for others, to see the fellowship and the joy we have in serving. It's in that spirit we approach our social media presence.

The team collaborating on the social media strategy in association with RLC's Council, also understands that some may be sensitive to having photos online. We're asking that you read the information below and discern what is right for you and your family:

*Redeemer Lutheran Church utilizes photos to educate and inspire people with the goal of strengthening and growing our church community. We take care to post photos accordingly by never publishing names of children or others who may express vulnerabilities online. We assume that we have blanket permission to use photos **unless** we are contacted by email or mail to "opt out" of having photos used in our materials, website, or social media posts. **TO OPT OUT, send an email request to [info@redeemerluth.com](mailto:info@redeemerluth.com) with your name or the name(s) of those in your family you do not want appearing in photos. You may also send a letter to the church office with the same information. (We just need to have this request in writing. Thank you for understanding.)***

We look forward to growing our social media presence and appreciate your help!

## Tuesday Bible Study Now Looking at Book of Genesis

The Tuesday Bible Study continues its study of the book of Genesis on **Tuesday, October 13**. 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, October 13** from 1-2:30 p.m., go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 871 3736 6983; Passcode: 619946. 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/87137366983?pwd=T0NoUU5ORmNYN1YrajhpZ2hGR09pdz09>

## Previous Sunday Worship Services Available on YouTube

Previous Sunday worship services are available at <https://tinyurl.com/r6mk2xh>. For the current Sunday Worship Bulletin, go to the Redeemer website at [www.RedeemerLuth.com](http://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!

## What Silence Can Let Us Hear *cont'd from p. 1*

the sand. He doesn't keep his eyes on these men. He speaks and then gives them room to respond however they choose.

If silence isn't usually part of your conversations, I invite you to try it out and see if it changes anything. In her book *Fierce Conversations*, which our class has been considering, **Susan Scott** encourages us to spend time practicing letting silence "do the heavy lifting." She suggests we ask ourselves, *What beneficial results might occur if I said less, listened more, and provided silence in which to think about what has and has not been said?*

*Dave Shull*

## Important Emails

[DShull@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:DShull@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

[Info@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating with **Financial Secretary Brad Phillips**, and for stewardship campaigns.

[Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating with Redeemer's IT Team for items related to the website.

[Property@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Property@RedeemerLuth.com) – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

[SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com) – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

[Transportation@redeemerluth.com](mailto:Transportation@redeemerluth.com) – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

[Communications@redeemerluth.com](mailto:Communications@redeemerluth.com) – use to send church related announcements or pictures for sharing on Redeemer's social media sites. Another way is to tag Redeemer in the posts.

## Publishing Deadlines for *Reflections*, Sunday Bulletins

### For *Reflections*

- **PLEASE SUBMIT PRIOR TO 5 P.M. ON SUNDAYS.**
- Send to [info@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto: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**

Prayers are asked for **Kathy Mimplitch** and family on the death of her brother **George Nieman** and for the family and friends of former Redeemer interpreter **Amy DeLorenzo** who died after a long walk with cancer.

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**Member Directory Update:** **Diane Brobeck** has a new phone number: 614-266-6930.

### **Thanks, Barb!**

Many thanks go out to **Barb Connors**, who, after many years, is stepping away from spearheading the collection of pill bottles here at the church.

**But that also means Redeemer will no longer be accepting empty pill bottles for recycling unless** there is someone willing to volunteer to take over this effort. Let the church office know if you are interested.

### **October Birthdays**

15-Jessie Jimison 16-Eileen Day  
17-Shari Ayers 19-Renee McFarland  
19-Miles Smith 23-Skye Andree  
23-Cason Day 23-Sandra Keaton  
24-Bret Day 24-Leyton Wolfe  
25-Madeline Gosnell 25-Madalyn McGurer  
26-Kennedi Jacobs 26-Avery Martin  
26-Krista Skipper 27-Brad Phillips  
29-Brittany Amon 30-Martin Binau  
31-John Caron

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**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.

### **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

### St. Philip to Hold Produce Giveaway on Oct. 24

St. Philip Lutheran Church (1506 E. Long St.) will hold a free produce giveaway on Saturday, October 24 in the East High School parking lot which is across from the church. It will run from 9 to 11:30 a.m. or until they run out of food.

Drive-thru and walk-up options will be available. Folks are asked to bring their own heavy duty bags.

### ELCA Provides Guidance on Political Activity for Churches, Leaders

With election season in full swing, **ELCA General Counsel Tom Cunniff** asked the Southern Ohio Synod to share the following reminders regarding what churches and church leaders can and cannot do in regard to political activity. Highlights of the materials are the following:

- Congregations cannot support or endorse candidates for office, but can do issue advocacy and neutral political activity (non-partisan registration drives, being a polling place, etc.)

- Pastors and other church employees can endorse or support candidates, but only if it is clear that they are acting in their personal capacity and not in their capacity as a leader or employee of the congregation (pastor cannot endorse from the pulpit, for example).

Two documents provide additional information. "Being a Public Church" can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/yxxtfhs> and "Political Activity and Tax Status" can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y2ea3qe3>.

### 2020 Hein-Fry Book of Faith Challenge Starts Oct. 21

In an increasing polarized world, biblical citations do not always serve their primary intent of reflecting God's love. Under the theme "The Bible – Word, Not Weapon," the 2020 Hein-Fry Book of Faith Challenge will address how Bible verses taken out of context can become weapons that discredit others or justify cruel treatment of those portrayed as different.

Presented by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the annual Hein-Fry Book of Faith Challenge seeks to enliven the biblical engagement of the whole church by encouraging the development of faithful, innovative and effective ways to teach and learn Scripture. The event is sponsored by the seven ELCA seminaries, the Hein-Fry planning team and the ELCA Book of Faith Initiative.

Every year, one student from each seminary is invited to develop and present a class or series for people both familiar and unfamiliar with biblical texts. In follow-up, the students are invited to report their findings.

This year the challenge will comprise four online events:

- **Jennifer Garcia** from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif., will present "Sharing Our Faith in a Time of Social Distancing" on Wednesday, October 21, at 2 p.m. Pacific time.

- **Taylor Berdahl** from United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, Pa., will present "Biblical Responses to COVID-19: Lament, Bodies, Breath" on Monday, October 26, at 5:30 p.m. Eastern time.

- **Karl Anliker** from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago will present "Look for the Women: A Virtual Bible Study in Search of Hope" on Wednesday, October 28, at 2:30 p.m. Central time.

- **Christopher Shealy** from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University, Columbia, S.C., will present "How Scripture Is Weaponized, and What We Can Do About It" on Friday, October 30, 2 p.m. Eastern time.

**Rev. Susan R. Briehl** will serve as online host.

The public is invited to attend these free online events, but registration is required. Registration information is available [here](#).

The Hein-Fry Book of Faith Challenge is an endowed theological lecture series established after the American Lutheran Church (ALC) and the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) merged into the

ELCA in 1988. The series combines the ALC's Dr. Carl Christian Hein Memorial Seminary Lectures and the LCA's Franklin Clark Fry Theological Lectures.

## The Community Beyond

### Columbus Public Health Sponsors Community Flu Shot Clinics

Columbus Public Health announced that it is now sponsoring a series of “drive-thru” flu shot clinics throughout the city because, “Getting a flu shot is more important than ever this year to protect health in our community as we continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.” They are scheduled as follows:

#### October 12 - 16

Columbus Scioto High School, 2951 S. High St.  
M,W,F: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
T,Th: Noon-6 p.m.

#### Saturday, October 17

Columbus Public Health (Loop Drive-thru)  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### October 19 - 23

Briggs High School, 2555 Briggs Rd.  
M,W,F: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
T,Th: Noon-6 p.m.

#### Saturday, October 24

Columbus Public Health (Loop Drive-thru)  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### October 26-30

Ohio Expo Center & State Fair Celeste Center,  
717 E. 17th Ave.  
M-F: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### October 27 - 28

Worthington Community Center, 345 E. Wilson  
Bridge Rd.  
T: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
W: Noon-6 p.m.

#### Friday, October 31

Columbus Public Health (Loop Drive-thru)  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Anyone 6 months of age or older can visit the clinics to get a flu shot at no cost. (Registration is not required and participants should bring their insurance card if they have one.) Flu shots are also available at the Columbus Public Health Immunization Clinic, health care providers and retail pharmacies.

For more information and to see the full list of clinics go to [www.columbus.gov/flu](http://www.columbus.gov/flu).

## Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost, October 18, 2020 Lessons

**Readings:** Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 96:1-6; Matthew 22:15-22

### Prayer for the Times

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life in all its diversity and beauty. Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we praise you that you came to redeem all of creation. Holy Spirit, we rejoice that you breathe in the life of the world. Grant us faith and courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus as caretakers of, and justice-seekers for, your beautiful and bountiful creation. For the blessing of your people, the sustaining of the earth and the glory of your name. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

### Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of Grace of God Lutheran Church in Columbus.
- + For Redeemer community members Renee Glover, Ansel Oakleaf, Lily, Jasper Serenity and Oliver Glover-Oakleaf.

*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, Linda and Don Williams, Pamela Andrews, Val Farnham, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt, Brittany Parsons, Lynn Belhorn's 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 and brother Jeff, Jack and Shirley Miller, Deidre (DJ) Zimmer, Jon Denniss, Mary Bowling's sister Val, Carolyn and Ed Klopfer, Grace Jones' son Chief Warrant Officer Henry Mentrak, Ranel and Neil Hoddinott, Kathleen Zwanziger's brother Mark Zwanziger, Larry Trover, Kathy Mimlitch and family on the death of her brother George Nieman, family and friends of Amy DeLorenzo.

*Noisy Offering will be for Kaleidoscope Youth Center.*

### Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, October 18: What Does the Bible Say about Conflict Resolution?

Led by Pastor Dave Shull

### This Week at Redeemer

October 13 – 19, 2020

<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	1 p.m.	ZOOM Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	ZOOM A Brewing Faith
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	7:00 pm	ZOOM Conversations on Race
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship on the Lawn with Holy Communion
	11:15 a.m.	ZOOM Adult Education