



# Reflections

VOLUME 24

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ISSUE 36

## The Continuing Quest for Economic Justice

We know how devastating COVID-19 has been to the lives of working people around the world. In this country, the June unemployment report showed that nearly 18 million Americans were out of work. We learned this past Thursday that just shy of 1.2 million people filed first-time claims for jobless benefits last week.

On this Labor Day, I think of those who want to work and cannot. Some in our Redeemer family have lost jobs because of the pandemic. They are facing all the realities that not having work when we want to work confront us with. Those trained to work in tourism, travel, and areas that revenue from large groups of people patronizing them have found finding new work almost impossible.

Aside from allowing us to pay our bills and maybe have a bit left over for something special, work offers dignity, meaning, and a sense of being a blessing to the world. The history of labor unions is one of giving workers the power they need to be treated with respect, and to have rights like reasonable work hours, a livable wage, health care, some kind of economic security during periods of unemployment and after retirement, compensation for on-the-job injuries, and grievances when employers try to force them to do things they shouldn't have to.

This morning, I re-read a speech by **Samuel Gompers**, an immigrant from the United Kingdom who helped found the American Federation of Labor in 1886. In a speech on May 1, 1890, in Louisville, KY, to rally support for the eight-hour work day, Gompers offers words that 130 years later still remind us of how far our country has to go to provide basic rights to those whose labor we so often take for granted.

Here is some of what he said that strikes me as a challenge that still faces us as a nation:

*[T]he toilers of England, Ireland, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and Austria [are] defy[ing] the manifestos of the autocrats of the world and say that on May the first, 1890, the wage-workers of the world will lay down their tools in sympathy with the wage-workers of America, to establish a principle of limitations of hours of labor to eight hours for sleep, eight hours for work, and eight hours for what we will. ...*

*The man who works the long hours has no necessities except the barest to keep body and soul together, so he can work. He goes to sleep and dreams of work; he rises in the morning to go to work; he takes his frugal lunch to work, he comes home again to throw himself down on a miserable apology for abed so that he can get that little rest that he may be able to go to work again. He is nothing but a veritable machine. He lives to work instead of working to live.*

*My friends, the only thing the working people need besides the necessities of life, is time. Time. Time with which our lives begin; time with which our lives close; time to cultivate the better nature within us; time to brighten our homes. Time, which brings us from the lowest condition up to the highest civilization; time, so that we can raise [all] to a higher plane. ...*

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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

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



## The Redeemer Community Council Reports on Finance Changes

**Larry Trover** has dedicated many, many hours these past years to the church's finances, and has been serving as Redeemer's treasurer in recent years. He had let leadership know late last year that he wanted a break. **Brad Phillips** had also asked that this be his last year as financial secretary. As you may remember we were never able to recruit someone to act as finance officer this year. Early in the year (pre-pandemic!) council had approved a motion to contract with **Donald Wells**, CPA, to analyze our systems for payroll, cash disbursements and cash receipts and make recommendations for financial policies. This sort of analysis was also recommended in last year's audit.

Then Larry got COVID-19, and suddenly the only person who knew the system for writing checks was (and is) unable to do that job. Council has been kept up to date on Donald Wells' work (which was completed), and the possibility that we would recommend in next year's budget that we transition to his firm doing part or most of our bookkeeping with appropriate sign off by officers on payments through online banking. Given Larry's health and a long road to recovery, and his wish to stop at the end of the year, council voted to begin the transition now.

The cost for Donald Wells services is very reasonable and it is more and more difficult to recruit three people for these financial positions. We recognize that it will take time to work with this transition, and we regret that we were not able to meet together to discuss this topic with the congregation. But the pandemic forced our hand and we were lucky that the analysis was complete and a transition was on council's radar.

Our heartfelt thanks to Larry, who spent considerable time with Donald Wells during the analysis, and to Brad Phillips for his input as well. During the transition which will likely become active after October 1, **Julie Johnson**, vice president, will fill Larry's responsibilities and therefore will not sign contracts or checks during the transition.

### 'Brewing Faith' Meets Via Zoom on Sept. 8

Join the small group "Brewing Faith Theology Pub" at 6:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, September 8** via the following Zoom address: Meeting ID: 842 0672 1018; Passcode: 682909. iPhone only: 646 876 9923. Or join online at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84206721018?pwd=WFRDdGV4V1R4eWdoTGJDNUISZGtZdz09>

### Stepping Out into the Community

Redeemer's two-year-old race conversations group, after discussing *White Privilege* earlier this spring, has decided it is time for us to imagine stepping outside the walls of the church to engage larger communities around these issues. As a result, another Zoom conversation has been scheduled to learn more about a specific area of anti-racist work.

On **Wednesday, September 9**, at 7 p.m., the Zoom talk will be about police reform with **Debbie Crawford**. She has been engaged in anti-racism work in Columbus for years. In the past four years she has focused that work on the area of police accountability and reform. She will speak with us about her work and, again, facilitate a conversation with us about ideas we might have about how our congregation and others might work meaningfully to bring about changes in policing. Here is Zoom information for that gathering:

**Topic:** Redeemer Race Conversations Zoom Meeting on police reform

Time: September 9, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting: ID: 875 3338 8596; Passcode: 521578

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87533388596?pwd=cm1Lb0FTdUJGK05zVXIHSm1UWIZWdz09>

Phone only: 646 876 9923

This is a way we can continue to carry on the work of Christ while we are not gathering face-to-face. Your voice would be a welcome addition as we seek to listen for how God's Spirit calls us to live into our vision of fostering understanding and healing in community!

## **Redeemer to Serve at First English on September 10**

On **Thursday, September 10**, Redeemer is scheduled to provide the take out dinner at First English. The menu will be Sloppy Joe sandwiches, individual potato chip snack bags, fruit cups and individually wrapped Hostess desserts. There will be lemonade and water also available for the dinners.

**Coordinator Kay Ernsthause**n is soliciting enough food for 72 dinners (six dozen), specifically donations of desserts (i.e. HoHo's, Nutter Butter bars, oatmeal cookies), potato chip snack bags or boxes of different kinds of chips such as Doritos, hamburger buns, and containers of Sloppy Joes in two-pound batches. (Enough fruit cups have already been donated.)

Please let Kay know what items you plan to provide. There is a basket in the Narthex to collect all the individually wrapped donations and the hamburger buns. Also please let Kay know if you will be donating Sloppy Joes and she will make arrangements for pick up on Thursday, September 10 so they are hot.

For those individuals wishing to donate items but can't get to church, please let Kay know and she will make arrangements to pick them up. Kay can be reached at 614-288-8506 or via email at [KErnie032000@yahoo.com](mailto:KErnie032000@yahoo.com).

Thank you for your continued support in helping feed those in need. A Sloppy Joe recipe from **Kathy Mimplitch** is as follows:

2 lbs lean ground beef (or ground turkey)  
1/2 cup chopped onion  
1/2 cup chopped green pepper  
1 tsp garlic powder  
2 tsp prepared yellow mustard  
1 1/2 cups ketchup  
6 tsp brown sugar  
Salt and pepper to taste

In a medium skillet over medium heat, brown the ground beef, onion and green pepper. Drain off liquids. Stir in garlic powder, mustard, ketchup and brown sugar. Mix thoroughly. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. This makes 12 servings.

The green pepper can be omitted while the ketchup can also be mixed with barbecue sauce. The brown sugar can be almost doubled for a sweeter batch.

## **2020 CROP Walk Goes Virtual**

This year's CROP Walk for alleviating hunger will be on **Sunday, October 11**. The walk will be a virtual one because of coronavirus restrictions. As a result, Redeemer walkers will do their walks around their own neighborhoods instead of in a group at Scioto Audubon Metro Park as in previous years.

To walk or donate, either contact **Connie Criswell** at [cac56@columbus.rr.com](mailto:cac56@columbus.rr.com) or sign up on the RLC Team page at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/columbusoh/Team/View/134358/Redeemer-Lutheran-Church> Also participating this year are **Wendy Stoica** and **Kathy Zwanziger**.

The need this year is greater than ever with so many people out of work. This is a way we can all help.

## **RLC Seeks Donations of Disinfecting Wipes**

One supply Redeemer will need as church council begins to contemplate re-opening the building are disinfecting wipes to make available throughout the building. However, these wipes are difficult to find and, while the congregation will continue to try to order through its regular sources, they have been

consistently out of stock. **So, if congregation members happen to see some in stores, they are asked to pick up as many as permitted and share any they don't need for personal use with the church.**

## RLC Weekly Produce Giveaway Underway

Redeemer's weekly Saturday morning produce giveaways from our own garden will again be held on **Saturday, September 12** 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.

## Adult Sunday Education Class Continues on September 13

Beginning **Sunday, September 13**, the 10 a.m. Sunday Adult Education group will explore, "What Does the Bible Have to Say about \_\_\_\_\_?" We'll look at the variety of ways the Bible might address whatever questions and topics people in the class want to examine. You can bet the Bible won't just have one opinion on anything. The first topic we'll explore this Sunday grows out of this election season: What does the Bible say about how we might emotionally live through this very intense and divided campaign and about what our responsibilities are to try to support each other?

We'd love to have your voice and your questions! So join us Sunday mornings from 10-11 a.m.

Join the Zoom Meeting ID: 849 5004 6747; Passcode: 845057. 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/84950046747?pwd=ZG1Sd0dML3kvOEhhSDN4eUpMTUN2Zz09>

You would bless us by your participation in this!

## Tuesday Bible Study Now Looking at Book of Genesis

The Tuesday Bible Study will begin studying the book of Genesis on **Tuesday, September 8**. 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, September 8** from 1-2:30 p.m., go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 819 8354 3263; Passcode: 682364. 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/81983543263?pwd=S1owSzdxTzQwa1F2WWUxcXRkTjFPUT09>

## Sunday Worship Available on YouTube

The **September 6** Sunday worship service is available at <https://tinyurl.com/r6mk2xh>. For the 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!

## The Continuing Quest for Economic Justice *cont'd from p. 1*

*You know that it is the theory of our government that we can work or cease to work at will ... It is true that we can cease to work when we want to, but I deny that we can work when we will, so long as there are a million idle men and women tramping the streets of our cities, searching for work. ...*

*What we want to consider is, first, to make our employment more secure, and, secondly to make wages more permanent, and, thirdly to give these poor people a chance to work. The laborer has been regarded as a mere producing machine ... but back of labor is the [human] soul ... and honesty of purpose and aspiration. ...*

*In the age of electricity and steam that has produced wealth a hundredfold, we insist that it has been brought about by the intelligence and energy of the work[ers], and while we find that it is now easier to produce, it is harder to live. ... [W]e shall never cease to demand more until we have received the results of our labor. ...*

The Tuesday Bible study just finished reading the Letter of James. In it, James says, “For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies” (James 5.4). It is one of many passages in the First and New Testaments that speak of God’s anger when employers do not pay workers fairly.

This Labor Day week, when we interact with someone delivering a package, bagging our groceries, teaching our child or grandchild at preschool, working with us on a helpline, or doing home health care for a loved one, let us be aware of the important work they’re doing, and ask ourselves how much they’re getting paid compared to those who run the company they’re working for and those whom they’re serving. Let us thank them for the work they are doing. And let us be aware of legislation that seeks to provide a livable wage for those who work more than fulltime and still can’t afford to rent a substandard apartment in Columbus. Economic justice was central to Jesus’ message. As his followers, so must it be to us.

## 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 **Cathy Schmidt**, sister of former Redeemer member **Donna Schmidt**, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Prayers continue to be asked for **Larry Trover** as he recovers from COVID-19 and for **Becky** as she cares for him.

Prayers are also asked for **Allesha**, daughter of **Arnell** and **Tom Comstock**, who is experiencing some health complications following the birth of her child.



## September Birthdays

8-Julie Boreman  
8-Tom Kent 8-Andrea Steiner  
13-Ashley Bird 14-Elyce Herring  
15-Kris Kauffman 15-Nancy Stinson  
16-Grace Binau 16-Michele Disbro  
16-Oliver Glover-Oakleaf 20-Paula Andree  
21-Jenny Peresta 22-Adam Darst  
24-Sheryl Owens 27-Becky Fisher  
28-Faith Wick 29-Jennifer Young

+ + +

**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

### Triedstone Sponsors 'Drive Thru' for Civic Actions

Triedstone Baptist Church is conducting a drive thru voter registration, absentee ballot request and Census response two Saturdays in September on the **September 12** and **September 19** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Triedstone is located at 858 E. Third Ave. (43211), here in Columbus. For more information, call **Elder Larry Price** at 614-981.9-2336.

## The Community Beyond

### Free Masks for Columbus Residents

In response to Gov. Mike DeWine's instituting a statewide mask mandate, Columbus Recreation and Parks is providing **free** masks at a Produce Drop on the following dates at various community centers.-All locations are open 3:30-5 p.m. "Help slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep the Columbus community safe. Show respect and kindness to others by wearing a cloth face covering in public."

#### **Adams Community Center**

854 Alton Ave. | 43219

Dates: Sept. 10 and Sept. 24

#### **Barnett Community Center**

1184 Barnett Rd. | 43227

Date: Sept. 11

#### **Beatty Community Center**

247 N. Ohio Ave. | 43203

Date: Sept. 11

#### **Dodge Community Center**

667 Sullivant Ave. | 43215

Dates: Sept. 10 and Sept. 24

**Feddersen Community Center**

3911 Dresden St. | 43224

Date: Sept. 18

**Holton Community Center**

303 N. Eureka Ave. | 43204

Date: Sept. 17

**Howard Community Center**

2505 N. Cassady Ave. | 43219

Dates: Sept. 10 and Sept. 24

**Marion Franklin Community Center**

2801 Lockbourne Rd. | 43207

Date: Sept. 24

**Milo Grogan Community Center**

862 E. 2nd Ave. | 43201

Date: Sept. 18

**Scioto Southland Community Center**

3901 Parsons Ave. | 43207

Dates: Sept. 10 and Sept. 24

**Tuttle Park Community Center**

240 W. Oakland Ave. | 43201

Date: Sept. 25

## Getting Ready for Sunday Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost, September 13, 2020 Lessons

**Readings:** Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:8-13; Matthew 18:21-35

### Prayer for the Times

Gracious God, as schools are opened around this country, keep them safe. Hold them in your loving embrace and shield them from the hatred and violence of this world. Give strength and compassion to every teacher that they may feel appreciated and free to inspire. Give courage and curiosity to every student that they may feel accepted and free to learn. Bless every person who answers phones, cleans bathrooms, drives busses and make lunches. Let this be an amazing year full of wonderful and life-giving memories and let your grace fill them all. We commit them to your care.

**AMEN**

### Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of First English Lutheran Church in Columbus.
- + For Redeemer community member Kim Faulk.

*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 Hegreiness, 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 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 and Becky Trover.

*Noisy Offering will be for Kaleidoscope Youth Center.*

## Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, September 13: Led by Pastor Dave Shull

**This class is held via Zoom or folks can call in. See separate story about how to participate.**

## This Week at Redeemer

September 1 - 7, 2020

<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	1:00 pm	ZOOM Bible Study
	6:30 pm	A Brewing Faith
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	7:00 pm	Conversations on Race via ZOOM
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	5:00 pm	RLC @ First English
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	9:00 a.m.	Redeemer Garden Pick
	10:00 a.m.	Redeemer Garden Giveaway
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	YouTube	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:00 am	ZOOM Adult Education