



# Reflections

VOLUME 26

April 25, 2022

ISSUE 17

## Unexpected Blessings

You know me well enough to know my favorite “hobby” is conversation. I come alive in the midst of an honest, open, playful back-and-forth with someone who also loves making time just to be with each other.

I had three conversations this past weekend that blessed me in unexpected ways.

Friday, on my sabbath, I biked to a park and had a FaceTime conversation with a west coast friend I hadn’t talked with in seven years. Her family has been doing the hard, hard work of walking with her daughter as she has faced up to a serious eating disorder. She said, “One of the gifts of this time has been getting back in touch with my Catholic roots. Lighting a candle, burning some incense, and praying the rosary have given me so much peace and strength. I hadn’t done any of those things for 20 years. But now, they are helping me through.”

What my friend said reminds me of the literal meaning of the word *religion*. It comes from the same Latin word as *ligament*. So *religion* means to re-connect ourselves to something or someone we’ve become separated from. Religion is about making whole, integrating, becoming part of something again. That is certainly what my friend’s newly re-discovered faith practice is doing for her. Her story blesses me with the invitation to explore what or whom I’m feeling re-connected with – and what or whom I feel some painful separation from, that I might wish to reunite with.

**Al** and **Karen Rider** thought our weekend guests from Haiti, **Drs. Johnson** and **Stevenson**, would like a tour of the Ohio State University campus. So I asked a friend of mine who’s worked there quite a while to show us around on Saturday afternoon. We had a great time. As we walked across the Oval, I asked Johnson about some of the things he’d noticed during his time in the United States. Being a medical student in the U.S., and a mentor for medical students in Haiti, it’s probably not surprising that his answer dealt with education. He said, “There are so few schools in Haiti that some kids have to walk more than 10 miles each way to get to school. And so few Haitians can afford university. They’d love the opportunity to go, but most can’t.”

As someone who’s very grateful for the chance to study medicine and prepare for his residency in the States, I don’t think he wanted to criticize this country. So after I realized that’s all he was going to say in response to my question, I said, “And I think when we live in a wealthy country like the U.S., that seems to have so many options, it’s easy to take the availability of education for granted. It’s easy not to be grateful for the amazing opportunities many of us have here.” Johnson nodded his head, and said, “It is so important for people always to be grateful.” Again, an unexpected blessing that calls me to look honestly at how much I take for granted without realizing how many people in this world would do anything to have the opportunities and comfort I have. An unexpected reminder to practice being in the world with a spirit that says *thank you*.

*cont’d on p. 4*

## In This Issue

[Unexpected Blessings](#)

[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/Chime Choir Director - Karen Kent

*Reflections* Editor - Judith Bird

### 2022

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

President - Wendy Stoica

Vice President - Michele Disbro

Finance Officer - Nathan Ott

Secretary - Margie Farnham

Worship - Jennifer Young

Education - Krista Skipper

Outreach - Sue Watson

Member Support - Elyce Herring

Property - Sue Yehling

Stewardship - Laura Warren

#### APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer - Julianne Johnson

#### MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Margie Farnham    Marques Highland

Emlyn Ott                                    Karen Collins

#### SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Dave Engel, Chair

Michelle Clemence    Nancy Magargal

Jim Riley                                    Terry Warren

#### 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

### RLC's Current Worship Protocol: *Love Your Neighbor*

- \* Masks are required coming into the building and in the Narthex. Folks wishing to continue wearing masks for worship are encouraged to sit in the pews on the north side of the Sanctuary; those who wish to remove their masks may sit on the south side of the Sanctuary.
- \* Those who wish may stand during the opening and closing hymns and the reading of the Gospel.
- \* During the passing of the peace, we suggest you wave or place your palms together under your chin in the "namaste" posture as a way to share the peace in a distanced way.
- \* Individual communion elements are available to pick up inside the Sanctuary door or folks can now choose to receive communion at the front of the church from masked servers distributing individual cups for the wine/grape juice.
- \* If you wish to use one of the first-floor bathrooms, please follow instructions in the bathroom about disinfecting it after your use. Only one person at a time in the restrooms.
- \* Please silence cellphones.

*We have missed those of you who have not yet returned to in-person worship. There are a whole variety of worship opportunities available. If you feel safe coming back into the sanctuary, your presence and spirit would be a true blessing to us.*

*We are not the same without you.*

### Thinking on the Edge

**Don Luck** will lead six sessions in the Adult Education Class that focus on traditional themes in Christian self-understanding that have been making him uncomfortable for some time. He will share how and why he's been "fussing" with them and invites you to enter his internal conversation. The sessions begin next Sunday, May 1 at 11:15 a.m. in Room 2 in Redeemer education wing. Everyone is invited!

**May 1** What is prayer anyway?

**May 8** Why keep speaking about Jesus' death as a "sacrifice" to God and moreover one that requires blood?

**May 15** Where is God in the pain and injustice of life?

**May 22** [continued]

**May 29** What is the core of being "church?"

**June 5** How should we view non-Christians?

This coming Sunday, Don explains he has been "fussing" with the usual practices and assumptions about prayer and invites you join him at "the edge." In this session, the group will explore questions like: Why do we pray? What do we assume is happening? What do we expect? Why is prayer not just a form of wishing?

The class is available both in-person and on Zoom. Click this link to join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81411790303?pwd=cGNGMHo2K2d1WEIzUHRHekRQWUo2dz09>; Meeting ID: 814 1179 0303; Passcode: 645662; Phone only: 312-626-6799. The discussion will certainly be thought-provoking and there is always room for more voices!!

### Distribution of Mission Endowment Funds Underway

At the annual meeting the congregation voted on what organizations would receive the 2021 Distribution from the Mission Endowment Fund. Because the exact amount was not known at that point, the congregation voted to distribute percentages to nine different organizations.

**Treasurer Julie Johnson** reports, "We have received the total distribution and have started to send these funds to the approved organizations. The total amount is \$6,846 with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) receiving 20 percent, or \$1,369.20; and all other organizations receive 10 percent or \$684.60." Those organizations are Lutheran Outdoor Ministries/Lutheran Memorial Camp; LSS Food Pantry on Champion Ave.; Grace Mission, Haiti; Groveport Special Olympics; Bishop Griffin Resource Center;

The Ronald McDonald House; Renewed Strength, Zambia; and Wildness Experience, Leadership and Service.

## **Volunteers Sought to Assist at Food Pantry**

Volunteers are needed to assist when Redeemer again serves at the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Food Pantry on **Wednesday, May 4**. It runs from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the pantry which is located at 1460 S. Champion Ave. – at the corner of Frebis and Champion.

If you can help, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the library. If you have questions, please contact **Kathy Zwanziger**.

## **Tuesday Bible Study Continues April 26**

The Tuesday Bible Study returns on **Tuesday, April 26** with a new series on encounters Jesus had with women in the Gospels. The group runs from 1 to 2:30 p.m. here at the church.

To join the group via Zoom, go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 863 5869 9434; Passcode: 943506. To participate by phone, call 312-626-6799. If you don't have the Zoom app, you can join the meeting by copying and pasting the following web address in your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358699434?pwd=cTlaaUM5MWl6U29mNGtsQXhuTnlIU09>.

## **Spotlight on BREAD Network Member Sue Watson**

BREAD Network Members have been asked to answer a handful of questions: the answers will be shared in *Reflections* over the course of 2022. Up this week is **Sue Watson**.

1. **What is your name?** Sue Watson

2. **What issues keep you up at night?** In this day and in this world, there's no shortage of issues! I think fear of what might be coming keeps me worried: a tsunami of deliberate misinformation, economic landslide, stampeding injustice, flagrant disparity, and indifference.

3. **Why did you join the Justice team at Redeemer?** I wanted to learn more about what justice means, and I wanted to be a little more uncomfortable about injustice in all its forms. Diversity is such a nice word; disparity is not. The more I learned and heard, the more I wanted to make a difference.

4. **What is your favorite kind of bread?** Rye bagels, warm French bread, sourdough anything.

5. **Why did you decide to become a Network Member of BREAD?** I joined BREAD because it is doing what I want to do: make changes that benefit ALL people! BREAD works because they are thorough, persistent, organized, and serious about what matters. I need to be part of that effort because it's time to move from learning to *doing*.

6. **What is your Justice Prayer for 2022?** Heavenly Father, show us the way and give us the strength to prevail so that ALL your creatures are provided for. In whatever way you ask, let me do your will, let me work toward justice for all.

Redeemer has committed to bringing 47 people to the Nehemiah Action on May 10. Secure your free ticket for this event by contacting **Dave Shull, Sue Watson, Emily Ott, Michele Disbro, Kathy Zwanziger** or **Kristi Hildebrand** or calling the church office.

### **Upcoming BREAD Dates**

Nehemiah Action: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at the Celeste Center 6:15 p.m. (doors open) 7 p.m. (event)

Justice Ministry Celebration: Monday, June 27 at 7 p.m.

## **Noisy Offering Now Going to 'ReconcilingWorks'**

For now through Easter, Redeemer's "Noisy Offering" – that is, the offering of loose or "noisy" change given each Sunday when entering the Sanctuary – will now go to ReconcilingWorks. This is in celebration of Redeemer's 30th Anniversary as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Since 1974, “ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation” has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their church, congregations, and community.

“In relationships built through outreach and education, ReconcilingWorks shares Christ's message, the Gospel, which is for everyone equally. The group advocates for systemic change in policy and practice in church and society, working to alleviate not only the painful symptoms of oppression but also to eliminate its root causes.

“We are Lutherans working with the recognition that racism, sexism, ageism, able-ism, heterosexism, homophobia, and all the other artificial distinctions that seek to raise one group into privilege and preference over another, conspire together to diminish our world and church.

“An independent, Lutheran, membership-supported organization, ReconcilingWorks is committed to strengthen all of God’s beloved for authentic, visible, faithful lives and to work for systemic change with the church and society.” For more information check out their website at [www.ReconcilingWorks.org](http://www.ReconcilingWorks.org).

## **Unexpected Blessings** *cont'd from p. 1*

Yesterday afternoon, a friend and I were walking through Inniswood Metro Gardens in Westerville. We were about to cross a bridge when we noticed a family on the other side of it who was trying to arrange themselves for a photograph. We waited a bit. Finally, they signaled for us to cross. My friend said to the photographer, “Would you like to be in the picture, too?” She said, “Thank you,” in an accent that suggested she hadn’t grown up in this country. When the others thanked us, their accents were the same.

My friend asked, “Where are you from?” The oldest in the group said, “Ukraine.” My friend and I both said we cried when we watched the news about the war. She nodded her head and said, “It is terrible.” It turned out she’s married to an American and they live in the Columbus area. She was there with her daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, who are here until it is safe for them to return. I asked what part of the Ukraine they were from, and the grandmother said, “Odessa.” My friend said, “That seems like such a beautiful place.” The grandmother’s face lit up. She said, “It is. You can only know how beautiful it is if you go there.” Then she closed her eyes and took a deep breath. She smiled a smile of utter joy. “You have to go there and smell the smells. They are the best smells anywhere.” She was there. Back in that place that is being torn apart. Back in the place she hopes to return to when her American husband retires in two years. Back in the place she hopes, in two years, might once again be safe, and beautiful, and have the best smells anywhere.

As they crossed to the other side of the bridge, and my friend and I moved on, we were quiet for the only time in our two-hour time together. I don’t know what was going on inside him. Inside me what was going on was sadness and rage over the evil of that war. And feeling the unexpected blessing of this family, and the very human face they put on what at times can still feel like something that’s happening very far away that I can choose to pay attention to or not. But now that I’ve seen the joy remembering the smells of Odessa fill this grandmother with, the war feels closer, and more real, and something that demands my attention. Because I want her and her family to be able to move back in two years. And find the beauty they long to know again.

*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 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 for healing and recovery are asked for **Kathy Pautsch** who had her gallbladder removed last week. Prayers for healing and recovery continue to be asked for **Kelley (Scott) Frank, Kris Kauffman,** and **Kathy Ehrich** who have all recently had surgery.

### **A Big Thank You!**

**Kathy Zwanziger** reports, "Thanks to all 22 volunteers on Thursday, April 21 who helped distribute 11,205 pounds of food at the Lutheran Social Services/Mid-Ohio Food Collective/Redeemer food giveaway. We had a great day and a good number of guests for the first time this season. We had 115 guests, totaling 397 people (131 of them were children). We had 56 new families. For those interested, 64 were families of one to three members, 42 had four to six members in the household, and nine had seven or more family members. We were so fortunate with the weather and that most of the items did not need to be packaged into smaller bags. Thank you!"

### **A Note from Hans Schwarz**

Redeemer member **Hans Schwarz**, who lives in Germany, wrote that, "Things here personally are fine. So far we came through the pandemic without blemishes but we are deeply worried about the war in Ukraine. We will be in [in Ohio] again in May when our grandson Hans will graduate from Kenyon.

"With best wishes and greetings to those at Redeemer who still know me."

### **April Birthdays**

27-Margie Frazier 27-Dora Pinder  
28-Edwina Bradley

### **May Birthdays**

1-Daniel Pawlowski 2-Nicholas Jack Amon  
2-Trevor Binau 2-Jon Denniss  
3-Heidi Sherer 5-Nancy Magargal  
8-Kay Ernsthause 8-Kathryn Ott  
11-Logan Baldogo 14-Ty Pawlowski  
17-Mary Benis 17-Ken Jones  
19-Al Debelak 20-Jackson Harms  
21-Paul Voytas 22-Dave Lippert  
22-Lea Spang 26-Kathie Ehrich  
27-Jeanne Eakin 29-Barbara Willmann

## **The Wider Church**

### **Synod-Wide Worship Service Set**

**Southern Ohio Synod Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt** invites everyone to attend a synod-wide worship service at 4 p.m. on **Sunday, May 1** at Advent Lutheran Church (3660 Kenny Rd., Columbus 43220).

“It has been so long since the synod has been able to come together in worship...” The theme for the service is “Consecrated for the Call to Unity in Baptism: Practicing What We Preach.”

“It is our hope that we will come together in a powerful witness to the unity we share in Christ, despite all those things which try to divide us,” Dillahunt added.

The guest preacher will be **Bishop Gregory V. Palmer** of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church.

### **Women of ELCA to Hold Spring Gathering**

All women of the ELCA are invited to the Spring Gathering on **Sunday, May 1** at Messiah Lutheran Church (1200 Waggoner Road in Reynoldsburg). This year’s theme is “Rejoice! We Are Together Again!”

There will be speakers, singing, refreshments and many opportunities for fellowship. Program begins at 2 p.m. with registration at 1:30 p.m.

### **Volunteers Needed for Churchwide Assembly 2022**

The Southern Ohio Synod reports volunteers are needed for the Churchwide Assembly being held this summer in Columbus, OH. Volunteers are needed each day from **Sunday-Friday, August 7-12** in a variety of roles. You can sign up for the days and roles that you prefer by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/mrbxk6jt>. Please note that you are indicating a preference and event organizers may need to assign you a different role so that all responsibilities are covered. Thanks!

### **An Update on Relief Efforts for Ukraine**

**Treasurer Julie Johnson** reported that Redeemer has collected nearly \$4,685 for Ukraine relief efforts by Lutheran World Relief (LWR). The congregation will continue to collect contributions for those relief efforts. Just note “Ukraine” in the memo section of a check. Redeemer will forward the donations to LWR.

## Community Beyond

### Komen Race for the Cure May 14

**John Kennedy** reminds folks that the Komen Race for the Cure will be run in Downtown Columbus on **Saturday, May 14**. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Columbus Race.

He encourages folks to come out and participate or cheer on the runners. Additional information can be found online at [www.komen.org/columbusrace](http://www.komen.org/columbusrace).

### Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests Available

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 tests. Orders will usually ship in seven to 12 days.

Tests can be ordered online at <https://special.usps.com/testkits>.

### Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease Support Group Returns to In-Person Meetings

The Bexley/Berwick Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Group has returned to meeting in-person here at Redeemer on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. **Dottie Odrosky** leads the group.

Wearing a mask is no longer required but is very much acceptable for those who prefer to continue to do so.

Those who have not attended before are asked to register by calling 800-272-3900 or by going online to [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

## Getting Ready for Worship

### Third Sunday of Easter, May 1, 2022 Lessons

**Readings:** Acts 9:1-21; Psalm 30; John 21:1-19

#### Prayer of the Day

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### A Prayer for Ukraine

For those who are  
fleeing: sanctuary

For those who are  
staying: safety

For those who are  
fighting: peace.

For those whose hearts  
are breaking: comfort

For those who see no  
future: hope

## Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Bethel Lutheran Church, Grove City.

+ For Redeemer community member Sue Yehling.

***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, Bonnie Hegreness, Heidi Carman, Cora Marquez, Mary Kennedy, Diane Louangrath, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich and their sister Betty Weaver, Stan Heacock, Jeremy Davis, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Shirley and Jack Miller, Jon Denniss, Mary Bowling's sister Val, Grace and Ken Jones, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Kris Kauffman, Chad Eberle's mother, Sam Hudson, nephew of Laura and Terry Warren, on being deployed to Poland.

## Worship Leaders

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Dave Shull, Pastor
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Emily Ott
<b>Crucifer</b>	Skye Andree
<b>ASL Interpreter</b>	Bryan Neal
<b>Reader</b>	Emily Ott
<b>Cantor</b>	Scott Steiner
<b>Organist</b>	Kathy Rapp
<b>Pianist</b>	Karen Kent
<b>Vergifer</b>	Michelle Clemence
<b>Ushers</b>	Kathy Zwanziger
<b>Producers</b>	Scott Steiner, Tom Mimplitch
<b>Communion Set-up</b>	Misato In, Wendy Stoica

*The flowers on the altar are given by Bonnie Hegreness in memory of Paul  
Noisy Offering will go to Reconciling Works*

## Upcoming Week at Redeemer

**April 26 – May 2, 2022**

### Tuesday

1:00 p.m. **IN-PERSON / ZOOM** Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Journaling Workshop

### Sunday

8:45 a.m. Chime Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. **IN-PERSON / LIVESTREAM** Worship with Holy Communion  
11:15 a.m. **IN-PERSON / ZOOM** Adult Ed  
11:15 a.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal