

Validation

This summer, our July book club at Redeemer is discussing *Caste*, by Pulitzer Prizewinning author Isabel Wilkerson. We have 25 people from five different congregations taking part, split evenly between in-person and Zoom participants. As has been the case in previous years, our honest conversations about people's experiences of racism make these occasions some of the holiest I've ever known. Last week, someone talked about how black youth in Columbus could go to the roller-skating rink in Columbus only one night a week. Another said there was also only one pool in the city where they could swim. People in the group have said they feel safe talking about deeply personal matters. They trust the group to respect and honor what they've gone through. They trust no one will try to justify what was done to them or minimize how harmful it was.

During the open prayer time at the end of the conversation last Wednesday, one person said, "Thank you for validation."

And I thought, *This is the church at its best*.

Validation. Being told that what we're experiencing, feeling, or thinking is real and deserves to be taken seriously. No one's telling us we're making a mountain out of a mole-hill, or we need to stop being so sensitive. No one's telling us about an experience they had which was so much worse than the one we just talked about.

Validation. That gift that comes when the verbal and non-verbal responses people are showing us all say the same thing: *We believe you. We are with you.*

It was an incredible testimony to everyone there last Wednesday evening, that group members trusted each other so deeply that they risked talking honestly about experiences that had been remarkably painful. And it's why church is here: to be a free and fearless space where people can be authentically themselves. That's the kind of space folks created for each other. That's the kind of space I hope most of the people who come through our doors feel whenever they're with us.

And it's exactly the kind of space some shameless politicians and journalists deprived a traumatized 10-year-old girl of this past week. She deserved validation. And all she got was pure, politically-motivated hate.

It's unimaginable. You're ten years old and you're raped by a family friend. You discover you're pregnant. You wrestle with how to respond. You decide to have an abortion, only to discover you're several days past the six-week cut-off for legal abortions in your home state. So you have to go somewhere else. You have the abortion. Then your story becomes international news.

There is no more horrific example of hell on earth. What could be worse?

To be robbed of validation, that's what could be worse. To have powerful men who don't have a clue what your reality is tell you it never happened. Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost said it's "likely this is a fabrication." Fox News commentator Tucker Carlson said, "The story is not true." U.S. Representative Jim Jordan from Ohio tweeted, "Another lie. Anyone surprised?" Even the editorial writers of the usually-cautious *Wall Street Journal* declared that reports about the rape of this child were "fanciful."

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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/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 Margues 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



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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.

Sister Act Cancels for July; New Sister Event Set for Aug. 17

Sister Act has canceled the painting project set for <u>Saturday, July 23</u>. After some logistical thoughts, it was decided that only a few people can work on repainting the Little Libraries at one time. Therefore, **Donna Voelkel** and **Ruth Murray** have volunteered to clean, repaint, and reseal the Little Libraries. If anyone is artsy and would like to help them, please reach out to Donna.

While one event has been erased from the Sister Act schedule, another event has been added for August. **Dr. Mobin-Uddin** will be leading a discussion on medical ethics and how to make important medical decisions. This informative session will be held on <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>August 17</u> at 6:30 p.m. Please watch *Reflections* for more information regarding this special event.

Save the Date!

Sunday, August 28, 2:00-4:00

"Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us." ... Ephesians 5: 1-2

The Education Ministry Team is planning an afternoon of fun on our lawn for Redeemer's kids and families, as well as our Redeemer community kids and families. All are welcome!

This year KidsFest will be a camp theme. We will be in need of volunteers to monitor each station. You can come up with your own activity and ideas or we can help with resources. Most activities will be under the shade of a canopy. Kids and families will rotate through stations as they like.

Volunteer opportunities could include, but are not limited to:

Crafts Snack Games Story Music Welcome table Set up/Take Down Decor

Please let me know if you would like to be a part of this community ministry opportunity. Thanks! Krista Skipper: <u>kristamary5114@gmail.com</u> or Text/Call: 614-596-5886



KidsFest:



School Supplies Sought for Next Food Giveaway

Sign ups are underway for volunteers to help at Redeemer's food giveaway <u>Thursday, July 21</u>. A total of 15-20 volunteers are needed to help with set-up, the food distribution and then clean up. The distribution itself runs from 3 to 6 p.m. Set-up begins at 1 p.m. and clean up runs until approximately 6 p.m. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board next to the Library.

The giveaway is run in conjunction with Lutheran Social Services and the Mid-Ohio Food Cooperative.

Routinely, Redeemer supplements the food items with personal care items or other supplies. For July 21, the extra items are school supplies: pencils, crayons, paper, etc. Items can be placed in the Donation Station in the cloakroom.

Celebrate with Pastor Dave and Mike at Church Picnic on August 14th

You are invited to a church picnic on the lawn to celebrate the upcoming wedding of Pastor Dave and Mike. Following worship on <u>Sunday, August 14</u>, we will gather on the church lawn for a summer picnic. Fried chicken, beverages and paper products will be provided. The congregation is invited to bring a side dish or dessert.

Although Pastor Dave and Mike have requested no gifts, we would still like to offer the opportunity to honor them with a donation to a charity. If you are interested, make a donation to a charity of your choice in their honor, or you can donate to Redeemer Lutheran Church (memo line: Pastor Dave & Mike). The money collected will be used to make a donation to Reconciling Works.

Please join us for a fun celebration and fellowship! Keep your fingers crossed for good weather. (If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will hold the celebration downstairs in Fellowship Hall.)

Sunday Morning Drivers Needed

A Redeemer member living at Kensington Place, just north of Bexley, is in need of transportation to worship services. If you would be willing to be part of a transportation rotation, please let the church office know so that a schedule can be put together that works for everyone.

Providers of After-Worship Refreshments, Cookies Sought

Individuals or groups within the congregation are encouraged to sign up to provide refreshments following a worship service. It doesn't need to be elaborate: cookies, cold iced or lemonade and coffee will do. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the Library for those who might be willing to provide refreshments on Sundays through the summer.

In addition, donations of packaged cookies are also needed. If this is something you can do, just put them on the counter in the kitchen off the Narthex. Questions? Contact **Jon Disbro** at 614-451-3642 or at Jon.Disbro@nationwidechildrens.org.

Join the Redeemer Live Stream Team

Tom Mimlitch writes, "We are hoping to add some new faces to our live stream production team. We have some of the most advanced audio and video production equipment in Columbus, outside of commercial studios. There are five high resolution cameras that we remotely aim and zoom to capture the action wherever it is. We have wireless and wired microphones processed by a state of the art 16 channel audio mixer that is also remotely controlled. These are all controlled by software running on a PC and an iPad in our control booth.

"If you would like to learn more please stop by our booth for a tour sometime after a service (we are too busy before a service). Or contact via email at <u>live@redeemerluth.com</u>."

Reflections

July Book Study: Caste: The Origin of Our Discontents

Redeemer is holding its **annual summer book study**, reading and discussing *Caste: The Origin of Our Discontents*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Isabel Wilkerson**. The sessions are running Wednesdays now through **July 27** from 7 to 8:30 p.m. both in-person here at Redeemer and on Zoom.

Pastor Dave writes, "If you're like I am, you associate the word 'caste' with a place like India. People are born into a caste and that caste largely determines who they can marry, the jobs open to them, and the kind of life they will have. I never would have described the U.S. as having a caste system. Sure, I know being a White, wealthy male means I've had a lot more options open to me than a lot of people. But 'caste' isn't a word I would have applied to the U.S. … *until I read this book*.

"Wilkerson lists eight characteristics of a caste system. And finds all of them are part of our history in the U.S. Central to her argument is the fact that, over time, many White individuals and institutions came to accept treating people differently on the basis of race is part of the natural order of things, even seeing it as God's will. Many of these individuals and institutions convinced themselves that treating Blacks with even extreme cruelty was justified because, well, they aren't 'like us,' they're inferior ... which is another way of saying, they're part of a lower caste than 'we' are.

"It's a remarkable book that feels like it was made to be discussed by people who are open to hearing what Wilkerson has to say, and open to sharing what might be opposing views. We have shown we can talk about hard topics and face hard realities with respect and kindness. This book will invite us to bring those graces together again."

To join the group via Zoom, go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 821 5241 5223; Passcode: 649376. 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/82152415223?pwd=N25pVmVEN1VZNEdkNVUxVGpCOXhJUT09

Adult Education Class Moves to 'Sermon Talkback'

For the next several Sundays, the Adult Education Class will be a "sermon talkback," so folks interested in discussing the themes raised by the day's sermon and the biblical text it was based on can gather in Room 2 at 11:15 a.m. to share their thoughts and ideas.

BREAD Celebrates Success, Launches Investment Campaign

B.R.E.A.D. Network members gathered at Christ United Methodist Church on <u>Monday</u>, June 27 to celebrate their successes over the past year and their 25^{th} anniversary of working for justice. Because of B.R.E.A.D.:

- City Council invested \$430,000 for contracts with the National Network for Safe Communities to implement Gun Violence Intervention strategies.

- Nine Restorative Justice Circles are in place to prevent children from entering the Juvenile Justice System.

-Franklin County now has an Affordable Housing Trust Fund with \$4 million dollars to finance the development of affordable housing.

-The Franklin County Commissioners continue to approve \$6.5 million for affordable housing.

- **Councilmember and President Pro Tempore Elizabeth Brown** enthusiastically supported the Columbus canopy Restoration Project to reduce the effects of climate change.

While not every campaign has been completed, B.R.E.A.D. is hopeful with the progress that is being made. It will continue to push for One ID Columbus, the release of one-third of the American Rescue Plan dollars to go to the Affordable Housing Trust, and a reconciliation process with the Columbus Police.

"We also celebrated the attendance at the Nehemiah Action on May 10. Columbus had the largest turnout in the country for the various D.A.R.T. organizations which is the overarching organization for all B.R.E.A.D. type justice organizations. Redeemer Lutheran Church met the goal of having the same



number of attendees as the number of our weekly worship attendance. Great job, Redeemer folks!" wrote **Michele Disbro.**

Then, B.R.E.A.D. kicked off their investment drive. Network members pledged financial support toward a goal of \$180,000. For every \$1 invested in B.R.E.A.D. in 2021, \$41 was leveraged back into the community! Redeemer would love to give an additional gift (besides the membership dues) to support the work towards justice. If you would like to support the work of B.R.E.A.D., please make your check out to Redeemer Lutheran Church and note in the memo line that the donation is for B.R.E.A.D. [Special envelopes are also available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.] The church will gather the checks and send one large donation to B.R.E.A.D. at the end of the summer.

"What an easy way to support the fight for justice in Columbus! Help us build responsibility, equity, and dignity for all!"

Validation ... cont'd from p. 1

A 10-year-old is going through hell, and the chief law enforcement officer in her home state, as well as other politicians and journalists, tell her either she's making it up or she's being used by those who want to overturn Ohio's ban on abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. Then someone is arrested and confessed to raping her. And how do Mssrs. Yost, Carlson, and Jordan respond? No acknowledgement of the harm they've caused. No apologies for their "lies" and "fabrications." No request for forgiveness for re-traumatizing an already traumatized child of the God they so love to say guides their actions. Just silence. Just another day in America.

And I think of the book group member who prayed, "Thank you for validation." This person who felt so seen, heard, held, and loved, because we believed her. Church at its best.

And where will this traumatized 10-year-old find the validation she deserves?

Dave Shull

RLC's Saturday Garden Giveaways Now Every Saturday

Redeemer's Saturday morning garden giveaways are now underway and will occur every Saturday through the summer. Picking begins at 9 a.m. while the giveaway begins at 10 a.m. and runs until the week's harvest is gone.

Plan to come, help with the picking and the distributing! And if you have extra from your garden, please bring that to share.

LSS Food Pantry Needs Donations

Kathy Zwanziger reports that the LSS Food Pantry needs canned tuna, canned chicken, vegetable oil, and wrapped paper towels as well as cash donations. She reminds folks that donations can be leveraged to purchase more items for the same amount than we can on individual items. Whichever way you choose to donate, it is gratefully appreciated!

Sign Up Now to Read at Worship Services

Readers for Sunday morning services can now sign up for dates over the summer. Readers, including youth and children, are encouraged to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board, next to the Library.

Readings are sent out the week before to give folks a chance to go through the lessons ahead of Sunday mornings. **Readers of all ages are encouraged to participate.**

RLC Summer Basketball Camp Banquet

Redeemer's summer basketball camp, led by former NBA and ABA player **Coach Larry Jones**, concludes this <u>Thursday</u>, <u>July 21</u>, with a hot dog banquet and awards program. Camp was very successful this year, with over 30 campers completing the program. We are grateful for the support of those who contributed.



Noisy Offering to Go to Columbus Diaper Coalition

Redeemer's Noisy Offering – that offering of loose change that is deposited in the offering plate just insider the entrance to the Sanctuary – will now be used to support the Columbus Diaper Coalition.

This coalition began in November 2013 because diapers are not covered by Ohio Works First, SNAP (food stamps) benefits, or any other social-service organization.

The Columbus Diaper Coalition is a diaper bank that currently supports four area food pantries. Since the supply chain for infant supplies has been interrupted and with the added stress of inflation, the diaper bank has more and more demand. The vision of the Columbus Diaper Coalition is to grow into a diaper bank that can serve all of Columbus.

For more information or where to drop off diaper donations go to:

http://www.columbusdiapercoalition.org .

Important Emails

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

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

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

<u>FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use for stewardship campaigns.

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

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

<u>SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

<u>Transportation@redeemerluth.com</u> – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

<u>Communications@redeemerluth.com</u> – 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 <u>info@RedeemerLuth.com</u> 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 all those Suzuki Music Columbus students and adults who contracted COVID.

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July Birthdays

18-Kelley (Scott) Frank
19-Leslie Roy 19-Terry Warren
21-Grace Jones 22-Alta Boreman
22-Kim Faulk 22-Noah Gosnell
25-Tracy Hoddinott-Ervin 27-Tom Mimlitch
29-Kathy Mimlitch 29-Becky Trover
31-Marilyn Roberts



The Wider Church

Follow Events at Churchwide Assembly 2022; Churchwide Bible Studies Set Leading Up to Assembly



In less than a month, the Southern Ohio Synod hosts the 2022 Churchwide Assembly in Columbus!

Make sure to follow our social media accounts for information about how God is working through our local congregations and ministries, the synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America!

"Through the partnerships of each part of our church, we are Stronger and Better Together ... Joining Jesus for the Restoration of the World."

In addition, the ELCA has Bible studies the entire ELCA can use to learn more about the assembly theme: "Embody the Word."

They are held on Sundays, July 17, 24 and 31 from 3-3:45 Central time. Registration is required.

Information, including registration for the Bible studies, can be found online at <u>https://tinyurl.com/ynzmt3kz</u>

HopeWood Outdoors Upcoming Events

HopeWood Outdoors [LOMO] announces upcoming late summer and fall events. There are still openings

at HopeWood Shores [Camp Luther] for both kids camp and family camp. Special events for September include Water & Wine Retreat, Wild Women's Retreat, and Camp Boo-ther. October brings a HopeWood Shores Servant Weekend and HopeWood Pines [Lutheran Memorial Camp] Apple Butter Festival.



Registration is also open for 2023 Camps.

For more information, you may view their newsletter at https://tinyurl.com/57p7z4t3

Community Beyond

Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease Support Group Returns to In-Person Meetings on Second Thursdays

The Bexley/Berwick Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Group has returned to meeting monthly in-person here at Redeemer on the **second Thursday** from 6:30 to 8 p.m. That makes the next meeting on **Thursday, July 14. 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 <u>www.alz.org</u>.



Library to hold surplus sale

WHO: Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML)

WHEN: Friday, July 22 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

WHERE: Columbus Metropolitan Library Reynoldsburg Branch* | 1402 Brice Rd.

WHAT: Columbus Metropolitan Library surplus sale

Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) is selling items it no longer has use for during a surplus sale. Desks, tables, chairs, shelves, furniture, carpeting and more will be available for cash-only purchase, with proceeds supporting CML's general fund. All sales final. All items are to be removed by 2 p.m. on Friday, July 22.

*This branch is closed for library services. Customers are encouraged to visit CML's temporary Reynoldsburg location at 1308 Brice Rd. in the Brice & Main Centre.

Getting Ready for Worship 7th Sunday after Pentecost, July 24, 2022 Lessons

Readings: Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 85; Luke 11:1-13

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Upcoming Churchwide Assembly

Gracious God, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is divided, reunite it; Direct the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by that truth and peace, as this church prepares to gather in assembly. God of grace, hear our prayer.

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 Grace Lutheran Church, Pickerington.

+ For Redeemer community members Judy and Ashley Bird.

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, 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, 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 Bulgaria, Kelley (Scott) Frank, Brittany Amon, Becky Trover's sister Maddie Sutphin

Worship Leaders

Pastor Dave Shull
Karen Collins
Bryan Neal
Scott Steiner
Kathy Rapp
Karen Kent
Michelle Clemence
Neil Hoddinott
Michele Disbro, Tom Mimlitch
Katie Jacobs, Diane Brobeck
Kathy Mimlitch

Flowers are given by Ruth Murray and Donna Voelkel celebrating 20 years as Redeemer members Noisy Offering will go to the Columbus Diaper Bank

Upcoming Week at Redeemer July 19 – July 25, 2022

<u>Tuesday</u>	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON / ZOOM Summer Book Study
<u>Thursday</u>	3:00 p.m.	LSS/Mid-Ohio Food Giveaway
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp Banquet
<u>Saturday</u>	9:00 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON / LIVESTREAM Worship with Communion
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON / ZOOM Adult Ed Sermon Talk Back