

**VOLUME 27** 

June 26, 2023

## Pew Looks at Attending Religious Services In-Person vs. Online

New research by the Pew Research Center shows that nearly a quarter of U.S. adults regularly watch religious services online or on television, and most are satisfied with the experience. But among those who regularly both watch services online and attend services in person, the overwhelming preference is to go in person.

Pew surveyed more than 11,000 U.S. adults in November 2022, well after the height of the coronavirus pandemic, but before the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared an end to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

"It's been clear for more than two years that the video technology that helped Americans stay in touch with relatives, friends and colleagues during COVID-19 lockdowns was also helping many to connect with houses of worship. From kitchens or living rooms, in their Sunday best, pajamas or something in between, those with an Internet connection and a screen could pray along with other virtual attendees, listen to sermons, and sing along with choirs, all in real time," Pew said in its report.

"What wasn't clear, though, was how people felt about these virtual experiences. Would they keep watching services on screens, even after they thought it was safe to attend in person? What did they like about joining services remotely? What didn't they like? The survey was designed to explore these kinds of questions."

The following is a roundup of that survey's findings.

- **43 percent** of respondents reported that they generally attend and/or watch religious services at least once a month, or that they attended/watched services in the month prior to the survey, while 57 percent said they do not generally attend religious services and did not do so in the past month, either in person or virtually.

- **16 percent** of respondents said they were regularly attending religious services only in person (and not online).

- **10 percent** were regularly watching services only on screens (but not regularly going in person).

- 17 percent were regularly doing both.

- **76 percent** of respondents who attend both online and in-person services said they prefer in person services. An additional 11 percent said they prefer online, while 14 percent say they have no preference.

- **67 percent** of respondents who regularly watch religious services online or on television say they are extremely or very satisfied with those services in general. Sixty-eight percent said they are extremely or very satisfied with the sermons at those services, and 54 percent said they are extremely or very satisfied with the music at those services.

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#### OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus Pastor - Rev. David Shull Office Manager - Becky Trover Office Assistant - Diane Brobeck Custodian - Marshall Edgington Organist/Senior Choir Director -Kathy Rapp Pianist/Chime Choir Director -Karen Kent **Reflections** Editor - Judith Bird

#### 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

President - Michele Disbro Vice President - Krista Skipper Finance Officer - Nathan Ott Secretary - Sue Watson Worship - Jennifer Young Education – Katie Jacobs Outreach – Diane Brobeck Member Support - Elyce Herring Property - Sue Yehling Stewardship - Laura Warren <u>APPOINTMENTS</u> Treasurer - Julianne Johnson <u>MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM</u> Margie Earnbam Margues High

Margie Farnham Marques Highland Emlyn Ott

#### SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Dave Engel, Chair Ashley Bird Julie Boreman Nathan Ott Wendy Stoica Terry Warren

SUNDAY SCHOOL Superintendent - Emily Ott

> REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH 1555 S. James Rd.

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## **The Redeemer Community**

## Some Ways to Connect at Redeemer this Summer

The following highlights a number of ways that folks can be involved here at Redeemer over the summer:

<u>Sunday morning, July 2</u>: Former member of the Redeemer family, Mary Ann Horton, who wrote in *Living Lutheran* about how welcomed she felt here years ago as a transgender woman, will sign her book after worship and then speak to the adult ed class. Mary Ann's connections at Redeemer helped encourage us to expand our welcome statement to lesbian and gay persons to include transgender people.

Here's a bit about her: To have invented the email attachment is one thing. To have done so while transitioning

from male to female and paving the way for Trans rights in the workplace is quite another. Her book, *Trailblazer*, describes her childhood as **Mark Horton** and how the question "who am I, really?" became too loud to silence. As she transitioned from Mark to Mary Ann, she quickly learned the challenges and heartbreaks that came with navigating the maze of social, medical and legal rights afforded, or rather not afforded to the Trans community. In 1997, Mary Ann persuaded Lucent Technologies to become the first Fortune 500 company to add transgender-inclusive language to its nondiscrimination policy, and to add coverage for transition care and surgery.



The class is both in-person and on Zoom at the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82689102919?pwd=V0NSY0c1SDBWUXZ1MWFzbXIWZHpPdz09. Meeting ID: 826 8910 2919; Passcode: 430914; phone only: 1-929-436-2866.

<u>Wednesday evenings in July</u>, 7-8:30 p.m.: Redeemer Summer Book Study explores the realities of experiences on the Mexico-U.S. border. There's an article about our summer book, *The Line Becomes a River*, elsewhere in this issue. These discussions are safe spaces to explore topics about which those who gather bring a wide variety of perspectives which have no easy resolutions ... and about which you might not have conversation partners to talk.

<u>Ongoing on Saturdays</u>: At 9 a.m., Redeemer gives away the produce from the garden. (Harvesting begins at 8:30 a.m.) Volunteers are needed to help for a couple of hours each week. Contact **Jon Disbro** at 614-832-2639 with questions.

<u>Ongoing Sundays</u>: Readers are needed for the Sunday services throughout the summer. A sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board next to the Library. Readings are sent out the week ahead of the service. **Readers of all ages are welcome to participate in this ministry.** Also adults are invited to join **Pastor Dave** for the sermon "talkback" session following worship at 11:15 a.m. in Classroom 2. This is both in-person and on Zoom. Also make sure to stop by the latest installment of art in the Narthex to see members' vision of what the theme "Love in Any Language" means to them.

## Summer Book Study Focuses on Mexican/US Border

Every July, Redeemer spends four Wednesday evenings together discussing a book on an issue that comes out of the day's headlines. Having this amount of time means the discussions on the book are not rushed nor are the conversations short-circuited. Spending four weeks on the book invites a deep dive into a topic that is controversial and complex. And it creates a space where folks can share their opinions and questions while listening to people who likely will have some different ideas and experiences. This July book group offers a rich opportunity to live into Redeemer's mission of *fostering understanding and healing in community*.

This July, the group will read and discuss *The Line Becomes a River* by Francisco Cantú. Cantú is a Mexican-American who worked for the U.S. Border Patrol on the Mexican border from 2008-2012. Writing about this book, author Sandra Cisneros says, "There is a line dividing what we know and do not know. Some see the world from one shore and some from the other. Cantú brings the two together to a spiritual whole. My gratitude for this work of the soul."

There are a lot of copies in the public library for those who don't want to buy a copy. Please lend your voice and ears to our discussions the four Wednesday evenings in July, beginning July 5, from 7-8:30 p.m.

And invite your friends! Having non-Redeemer people joining us makes our conversations that much richer.



## **BREAD Holds Justice Ministry Celebration**

**Kristi Hildebrand** reports that the BREAD Celebration took place on Monday, June 12. It was a return to an event more like the pre-COVID celebrations of the past with balloons and cake and games.

Because of the faith community members (like Redeemer) and individual members, BREAD celebrated these victories in 2022:

• The Franklin County Commissioners continued to approve \$6.5 million for affordable housing helping at least 200 families per year access safe, decent housing.

• Franklin County has an Affordable Housing Trust Fund with revenue of about \$5 million of public dollars in 2022 that has financed the development of over 14,000 units of affordable housing since 2001.

• Franklin County has allocated \$8 million from the American Rescue Plan budget toward affordable housing.

• Nine Restorative Justice Circles are in place to prevent children from entering the juvenile justice system. These circles should save the people of Franklin County approximately \$2.2 million by diverting them from the court system.

• Neighborhood blight is disappearing through the Franklin County Land Bank with annual revenue of about \$3.5 million. The land bank has demolished nearly 4,000 vacant units.

BREAD will raise more than 50 percent of its budget locally and over \$180,000 in individual investments so that it can OWN ITS ORGANIZATION and not be owned by outside foundations! For every \$1 invested in BREAD in 2021, the group leveraged \$51 back into our community!

When folks invest in BREAD, the money goes toward:

- Supporting local and national training for leaders
- Covering cost of events, office space, and supplies
- Hiring staff to recruit and work with more congregations

At the celebration, Redeemer was recognized for bringing 50 percent of its average weekly attendance to the Nehemiah Action. Eight people from Redeemer were celebrated for bringing at least three people to the Nehemiah Action.

BREAD is part of a larger organization (DART - Direct Action & Research Training) and has comparable organizations in cities all over the U.S. DART awards the "Nehemiah Cup" to the organization with the largest display of organized people power. BREAD won the Nehemiah cup in both 2022 and 2023.

Thank you for your support of BREAD and justice!

## **RLC Summer Basketball Camp Underway**

Redeemer's summer basketball camp, led by former NBA and ABA player **Coach Larry Jones**, is now underway. Participants can still register by calling 614-237-1263.

Redeemer provides this camp for free to youth ages 8 to 14. The camp runs six weeks, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. It concludes on <u>Thursday, July 20</u>.

#### **Donations of Bottled Water Sought for Basketball Camp**

Redeemer members are asked to donate a case of bottled water for Redeemer's Basketball Camp. One thing that's certain: there will be hot days out there on the basketball courts.

Feel free to buy a case of *8-ounce* water bottles and put it in the donation room off the Narthex. The young people go through a lot of water!! The camp runs through <u>Thursday, July 20</u>. Thank you!

## June 15 Food Giveaway Serves 150 Guests

June 15 was a beautiful day for Redeemer's giveaway, **Kathy Zwanziger** reports. "Thanks to all of you for making it a success – by working and by contributing special items. We were given 10,330 pounds of food, including a skid of milk! (That was 300 pounds more than in May.)

"There were 150 guests, representing 477 individuals: 147 were children and 101 were seniors. There were 55 new families (compared to 39 in May). Again, thanks to all!"

Please note the special items for the July 20 giveaway – in addition to the fans (see separate story, this issue) – are school supplies and tissues.



## **Redeemer Safe Church Team Highlights Safety Tips**

Redeemer's Safe Church Team (**April Smith, Sara Auman, Sue Yehling**) will be providing a series of monthly "Redeemer Safety Tips" that will be useful reminders in responding to emergency situations as members gather together in the building, in the community and in homes.

This is the first of the series which will cover a variety of subjects such as medical, weather, fire and active shooter threats. Other safety projects being planned are emergency preparedness brochures as well as evacuation maps to be posted throughout the building. The team hopes that this information will remind all to be aware and prepared in the event of an emergency.

By administering immediate care during an emergency, an individual can help an ill or injured person before emergency medical services arrive. This could help save a life.

#### **Checking an Injured or Ill Person**

1. Check the scene for safety, form an initial impression, obtain consent, and use personal protective equipment (PPE) 2. Check for responsiveness, breathing, life-threatening bleeding or other life-threatening conditions using shout-tapshout. Check for no more than 10 seconds.

3. If the person is responsive or responds to stimulation and is fully awake and does not appear to have life-threatening conditions:

- Interview the person (or bystanders if necessary), ask questions about signs and symptoms, allergies, and medications and medical conditions. Take note of any medical identification tags.

- Do a focused check based on what the person told you, how the person is acting and what you see.

- Do not ask the person to move if you suspect a head, neck or spinal injury.

- Do not ask the person to move any area of the body that causes discomfort or pain.

4. If the person does not respond, responds but is not fully awake, is not breathing or is only gasping, or has life-

threatening bleeding or another obvious life-threatening condition CALL 9-1-1 and get equipment or ask someone else to do so.

For a person who is unresponsive and not breathing: START CPR and USE AN AED IMMEDIATELY.

Redeemer has an AED unit available in the Narthex to the left of the main doors.

The American Red Cross offers on-line or in person classes. Contact <u>www.redcross.org</u>.

## Fans, Fans, and More Fans!

Sister Act has now collected 62 fans to offer families who may need them at Redeemer's July LSS/MidOhio Food Giveaway. So, to that end, Sister Act is collecting box fans from now until <u>Thursday, July 20</u>.

**Julie Johnson** reports that enough funds have been collected to cover the cost of the 50 fans she purchased on sale and she is now on the hunt for another sale to purchase another 25 fans. Folks are encouraged to continue donating to cover the fan costs or to bring in a box fan or two to add to the supply.

Fans, fans, and more fans!

## **Tuesday Bible Study Resumes June 27**

The Tuesday Bible study resumes its study of Ecclesiastes on <u>Tuesday, June 27</u> from 1 to 2:30 p.m., both in-person and on Zoom. This will be the last session until after Labor Day.

To join the Zoom meeting, go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 898 1666 2484; Passcode: 072258. To participate via phone, call 646 876 9923. For those who don't have the Zoom app, they can join the meeting by copying and pasting the following web address in your

browser: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89816662484?pwd=UnpVZHV3M2ZTSW14K1R1VnRySXliQT09

## **Noisy Offering Now Goes to Star House**

Starting in July, Redeemer's "Noisy Offering" will now go to Star House -- a drop-in center for youth experiencing homelessness and the only housing village of its kind in Central Ohio for college-age youth who are exiting homelessness. Young people experiencing homelessness, ages 14-24, are provided a safe location along with basic needs and access to crucial, stabilizing resources.

In addition, Star House, along with the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority and Finance Fund, jointly owns and operates Carol Stewart Village, an affordable neighborhood for youth coming out of homelessness. It has 62 studio apartments and onsite access to a wide array of programs and social services.



## Pew Looks at Attending Religious Services In-Person vs. Online cont'd from p. 1

- **74 percent** of respondents who regularly attend religious services in person are extremely or very satisfied with the sermons at those services, and 69 percent are extremely/very satisfied with the music at those services.

- **65 percent** of respondents who regularly attend religious services in person say they feel "a great deal" or "quite a bit" of connection with their fellow attendees.

- **28 percent** of respondents who regularly watch religious services online or on television say they feel a strong connection with people who are attending a service in person while they, themselves, are watching on a screen; 22 percent of virtual viewers say they feel strongly connected to the other people watching online or on TV.

- **51 percent** of those who regularly watch religious services online or on TV say they generally watch these services alone.

- **61 percent** say that when they are watching services on a screen, they typically do not do things they would normally do when attending in person, such as praying out loud, singing or kneeling. For nearly four-in-10 virtual viewers or 39 percent, though, the remote experience is similar to worshipping in person in ways such as these, all or most of the time.

- **26 percent** of regular viewers say they exclusively watch services offered by the house of worship they generally attend. About one-in-five (18 percent) typically watch services offered by a different house of worship, while a similar share (20 percent) watch services of their own congregation and of other congregations. An additional 36 percent of regular viewers do not regularly attend religious services in person.

- **43 percent** say convenience is a major reason they watch services on screens. The next most-cited major reason is being able to watch services that are far from their home (34 percent say this). An additional 25 percent said they were worried about catching or spreading an illness such as COVID-19, while the same share said they want to keep up with congregations to which they previously belonged. Another 16 percent said they have an illness or disability that prevents them from attending in person, while 8 percent said the congregation they attend only meets online and there is no in person option.

The full results of the survey can be found at <u>https://tinyurl.com/yfmwc4ms</u>.

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## **Important Emails**

<u>Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – 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.

Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com – 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.

SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com – 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 for comfort and healing are asked for **Kevin Bailey** who had a heart attack; for **Chris Doss**, the partner of Redeemer's Learning in Context intern last year **Adam Howard**, who has been diagnosed with Stage 3 lung cancer; and for former member **Carolyn Moehring**, who also has cancer.

Prayers are also asked for **Wayne** and **Charlotte Frank**, parents of **Kelley Frank**, who face health challenges after Wayne has fallen several times recently and long-term care options are being weighed.

#### Thrive! Pledges Now Exceed \$35,000

**Julie Johnson** reports for the **Thrive**! Team that Redeemer's pledges for the campaign of the Southern Ohio Synod have now reached \$35,020 – well in excess of the \$20,000 goal set by Church Council. Thanks to everyone who has pledged from the **Thrive**! Team of **Wendy Stoica, Margie Frazier, Dave Shull** and Julie.

#### Update from Kathy Z

**Kathleen Zwanziger**, who is recuperating from kidney transplant surgery, writes, "What a joy to be able to worship in person with you! However, it is difficult to not be able to hug or even touch people! My immune system is at its lowest point: the first three months following a kidney transplant are vitally important. Naturally, I have to take anti-rejection drugs--PLUS a bunch of others! At first, it was 14 in the morning and 15 in the evening in addition to a 'swish and swallow' four times a day. Gradually, I will be able to stop some of them. To see if the anti-rejection drugs are doing what they should, I need to have blood drawn twice a week. I am looking forward to June 28, when all 27 staples should come out, and then to my sister's birthday in late August, when the protocols will change (e.g., labs only once a week).

'I so much appreciate all your messages of care and concern, as well as all the meals. I now have some great ideas of what I can fix in the future! You are a wonderful family!"

#### 'Christ in Our Home' Available

The July-September 2023 edition of "Christ in Our Home" is now available in the Narthex for anyone who would like a copy. Feel free to take an extra copy to share with family or friends. Or, it can be mailed. Just contact **Becky Trover** in the church office to request a copy be mailed to your home. Reach her at 614-237-1263 or via email at info@redeemerluth.com

#### **June Birthdays**

26-Eric Reinoehl 30-Julie Brush

#### **July Birthdays**

1-Bruce Collins 1-Karen Riccio
3-Caroline Ott 5-Sachio In Phillips
7-Diane Montgomery 8-Kathy Zwanziger
11-Evelyn Boreman 12-Payton Amon
13-Renee Glover Oakleaf 14-Chase Friederich
15-Kandice Hoddinott 16-Cora Marquez
17-Jasmin McFarland 18-Kelley 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



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# **The Wider Church**

## **ELCA Working Group Seeks Input**

The 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans reads, "How are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14-15).

In response to this and other invitations in Scripture, the church continues to educate, form, and send rostered ministers so that all may call on Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. Our process to do so is currently under review.

In March 2022 a diverse group was appointed to examine and improve the candidacy process that equips rostered ministers for service in the church. This ELCA team is the Candidacy Leadership Development Working Group (CLDWG.)

In the last year the group has spent much of its time hosting virtual and in-person listening sessions to learn the needs of our church. It also completed a survey for those excluded by the candidacy process. As it moves forward, the working group is prioritizing feedback from the church.

All members of the ELCA are invited to hearings at which the working group will share its findings. There will also be an opportunity for response. More details will be shared at the hearings; an executive summary of the team's work can be found <u>here</u>.

The hearings will be hosted via Zoom on the following dates:

- June 26, 2 p.m. Eastern
- June 28, 10 p.m. Eastern

# **Getting Ready for Worship** Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, July 2, 2023

#### Lessons

Readings: Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Matthew 10:40-42

#### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 Hope Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community member John Kennedy.

*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, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich and their sister Betty Weaver, Jeremy Davis, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Becky Trover's sister Maddie Sutphin, Skye Andree, Laura Warren's brother Walt Hudson, Julie Larson and husband Eli who is receiving cancer treatment in Houston, John Caron, Kathleen Zwanziger, Wendy Stoica, Matt Bird, Earl and Edwina Bradley's niece Tina Monroe, Chris Doss and Adam Howard; Carolyn Moehring.



## **Worship Leaders**

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Connie Criswell
Cantor	Scott Steiner
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Helen Brunston
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Michelle Clemence
Communion Prep	Katie Jacobs, Wendy Stoica
Producers	Lynn Belhorn , Michele Disbro

Flowers are given by Kevin Bailey in memory of his father, Vyron Bailey. Noisy Offering will go to Star House

## **Upcoming Week at Redeemer**

June 26 – July 3, 2023

Monday	6-7:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Suzuki Fiddle and Cello Jam <i>nightly through Thursday</i> Basketball Camp
Tuesday	1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Bible Study Basketball Camp Journaling Workshop
Wednesday	10:00 am 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Coffee and Conversation Basketball Camp Congregation Council
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
Sunday	10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education
Monday	5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	ZOOM Outreach Team ZOOM Executive Team Basketball Camp