



Reflections

VOLUME 27

July 31, 2023

ISSUE 30

Surprised by Grief ... Caught by Grace

The third anniversary of my mom's death on July 12 surprised me by how deep the pain was. I felt Mom's absence with an intensity I hadn't before. Maybe part of it is because Dad had died in April. But it doesn't really matter why. I just know the grief has stayed in a way it hasn't before. I've continued to find myself thinking about her, and wishing she were around to talk to. I want to hear more from her than the voice-mail recording that's been on my phone since March 21, 2020.

That's how grief "works," though, isn't it? We're going along with our lives, and, seemingly out of nowhere, the loss comes. Maybe it comes as a wave that knocks us off our feet and we feel like we're drowning. Maybe it comes as a weight that makes it impossible to breathe, or move, or catch our breath. Maybe it comes as fear, as anger, as emptiness

And I know all I can do is receive it. All I can do is let it come. And feel it, and listen to it, and be with it. And, at some point, say thank you for the gift of 62 years together - so much longer than most people have with a parent. So much more love shared than many people have with a parent.

Being with this grief this past month took me back to some words which have lived in my quote file for some time from **Steve Garnass-Holmes**. In the hope that they might catch you in arms of grace as they are holding me right now, I offer them to you.

A friend is dying and I am sweeping the garage.
I am repairing the upper rack in the dishwasher
and he's being detached from life support.
I am shopping, in the produce section,
looking for good organic baby spinach
and remembering to get shallots
and his family are gathered around
in that strange camaraderie of abysmal love and loneliness.
I am strangely here.
Life goes on, he has died, life is going on.

Loss is not an object we encounter, but a landscape.
The presence of an absence that haunts without leaving.
Grief is not a thing we have,
like a stone in your pocket, or a boil;
it's music deep within us and around us,
music of love in the key of longing,
and sometimes we can't help but sing along,
full throated, heads tipped back,
because it's all we hear, and at times
we just hum the tune while we go on with life.
But the music doesn't stop, beautiful and sad and grateful,
and it makes us dance, even if we just sway a bit—
and always, just beyond our hearing,
God is singing with us.

Pastor Dave

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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

APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer - Julianne Johnson

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

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.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



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:

Ongoing on Saturdays: 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.

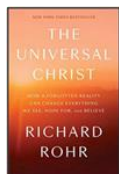
Ongoing Sundays: Readers are needed for the Sunday services throughout the summer. A sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board next to the Library. Readings are sent out the week ahead of the service. **Readers of all ages are welcome to participate in this ministry. Readers are still needed for August 13, 20, and 27.** Also adults are invited to join the adult education sessions following worship at 11:15 a.m. in Classroom 2. This is both in-person and on Zoom. (See separate article this issue for information on the August series to be led by **Pastor Al Rider.**)

Kids' Fest: Set for **Sunday, August 13** from 1 to 3 p.m. on the front lawn, Kids' Fest organizer **Katie Jacobs** is looking for volunteers to help out with the event which begins with a cookout which members are encouraged to attend!

First Wednesday: A couple more volunteers are needed to fill out Redeemer's team serving at the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry on **Wednesday, August 2**. It runs from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Questions? Call the church office at 614-237-1263.

Flower Sponsorships: Each Sunday, a bouquet of flowers graces the Sanctuary, often sponsored by an individual or family in honor of an event or in memory of a loved one. There are several open dates coming up: **August 6, 13** and **20**. Let the church office know if this is something you can do or fill out the envelope that can be found on the shelf in front of the bulletin board, next to the Library and place it and the payment in the offering plate.

Rider to Lead Adult Education Class during August



The Adult Education Class on **Sundays in August** will be a book study on **Father Richard Rohr's** book, *The Universal Christ*, led by **Pastor Al Rider**. The class begins about 11:15 a.m. in Classroom 2. The class is both in-person and on Zoom at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82689102919?pwd=V0NSY0c1SDBWUXZlMWFzZXIwZHZHpDdz09> Meeting ID: 826 8910 2919; Passcode: 430914; phone only+1 312 626 6799.

Redeemer T-Shirts Available

For those who ordered a new Redeemer t-shirt and did not pick it up yesterday, **Sunday, July 30**, check with **Krista Skipper** on **Sunday, August 6**.

New Artwork Theme Announced

Emily Kent announced that the new theme for the exhibit of members' artwork in the Narthex is "The Ordinary Is Extraordinary," recognizing that the church is in the "ordinary season." The theme also ties into the upcoming Adult Ed Sunday Class that **Al Rider** will lead during the four Sundays in August. (See separate article, this issue.)

Items should be brought in SOON with the new exhibit to be up by the first Sunday in August, August 6. This also means that anyone who has had artwork on display over the last month should take those pieces home.

Kids' Fest Coming Sunday, August 13

Folks are invited to join the **Kids' Fest** cookout at the start of the event set for **Sunday, August 13**. It runs from 1 to 3 p.m. on the front lawn.

In addition, Kids' Fest organizer **Katie Jacobs** is looking for volunteers to help out with the event. Also, **Michele Disbro** is looking for smooth water bottles for a craft she is planning for the day. They can be dropped off in the box in the Narthex.

August Book: *The Book of Longings*

The book that will be discussed in August on **Wednesday, August 16** – both in-person on Zoom – is ***The Book of Longings*** by **Sue Monk Kidd**. Copies are available in public libraries. The discussion runs 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Volunteers Needed for August 17 Food Giveaway

Thursday, August 17 is Redeemer's next food giveaway and volunteers are needed! Set up begins at 1 p.m. with the giveaway itself beginning at 3 p.m. It runs until 5:30 p.m. To volunteers, sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board next to the Library.

The special items this month include paper products such as paper towels, toilet paper and baby wipes, etc.

July 20 Food Giveaway Report

Kathleen Zwanziger writes: ***"THANK YOU*** to all who helped at the giveaway on Thursday, July 20.

"Because of your generosity, we were able to distribute 153 fans and over 430 school supplies. It was a hot day, but fortunately the storms held off. Last month we had 150 guests, but on this hot July day, we had at least 174. Because of computer problems, a few additional families also received food even though they could not be registered.

"Not only did we run out of fans, but we also ran out of food. We had been advised earlier in the year that the Food Bank does not have the resources it has had in the past. We received only 7 skids of food, totaling 6,195 pounds (compared to the usual 8 skids – and 10,330 pounds last month).

"Last month there were 477 children; this month there were 621. YES, even with 30 volunteers, we were busy! ***Thanks again to all of you who contributed to this successful day!***"

Journaling Workshop Coming This Fall

Saturday, October 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., **Mark Katrick** will facilitate a journaling workshop here at Redeemer. Mark is a semi-retired UCC pastor and a spiritual guide. The theme of the workshop will be "Blessing". Come. Write. Share. Watch *Reflections* for further information. Contact **Rich Pautsch** with questions.

Volunteers for Sunday Refreshments Needed

Volunteers to set-up refreshments Sundays after worship are needed. **Sundays, August 20** and **September 17** are open. It need not be elaborate. Coffee is stocked and just needs to be made. Cookies, too, are in the kitchen off the Narthex and just need to be put out. To volunteer, sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board next to the Library.

Redeemer Safe Church Team Highlights Safety Tips: Severe Weather

If you are in the church building or on the grounds, help all who are present to move safely to the basement and away from any windows or doors. Monitor weather reports as able and do not leave the basement until it is declared safe to do so by broadcasters or first responders.

What should you know about lightning?

To keep your members and staff safe, your leadership team should be aware of the following tips.

- Thunder can be heard up to 25 miles from the original lightning storm.
- Assume that if you can hear thunder, you can be struck by lightning.
- Thunder and lightning should serve as a final warning to immediately seek shelter indoors or in a vehicle — NOT under a tree.
- Wait 30 minutes after the storm to resume outdoor activities.
- Remember, “When thunder roars, go indoors!”

How can you protect against hail damage?

Hail is produced in strong and severe storms across the country, especially in the High Plains.

- Hail one inch (quarter size) or larger is most likely to cause damage. Roofs, windows, siding, air conditioning units and vehicles are most commonly damaged by hail.
- Look for roofing products that boast a “Class 4” rating or advertise impact resistance.
- Install protective coverings over windows to prevent cracks and shattering and over air conditioning units with exposed fins to prevent denting.

What about wind damage and tornadoes?

Wind from convective storms comes in two main forms:

1. Straight-line wind: Strong, damaging winds that can reach up to 100 mph -- these winds account for one-half of all severe weather reports.

2. Tornado: A narrow, rotational wind extending from the base of a thunderstorm to the ground. Winds resulting from convective storms can cause catastrophic damage to buildings and lead to serious injury or death.

- Not all tornadoes have advance warnings, and straight-line winds can be just as dangerous as a tornado.
- All thunderstorms should be treated with respect, and people should seek shelter in the lowest level of a sturdy building whenever a strong storm approaches.
- Pay attention to local weather updates and have a plan to shelter in place in the event of a severe storm.
- Before a storm hits, if you have time to do so safely, secure loose items, such as lawn furniture or other items that may become airborne during high winds and cause damage.

Source: National Severe Storms Library from www.noaa.gov.

Tuesday Bible Study Now on Summer Hiatus

The Tuesday Bible is now on a summer hiatus. It will resume in the fall after Labor Day, on **Tuesday, Sept. 5.**

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.

Important Emails

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

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 – 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 – use for stewardship campaigns.

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

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

SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

Transportation@redeemerluth.com – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

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 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 patience are asked for **Pastor Al Debelak** who is undergoing extensive medical treatment. Prayers for healing are also asked for **Mary Watts**, mother of **Karen Kent** and **Kathy Rapp**.

Prayers are also asked for the friends and family of **Deb Motto**, a friend of **Julie Johnson's**, who died this past week.

Pastor's Email Has Been Hacked

Once again, **Pastor Dave's** email has been hacked by a scammer. Please know that members will never be asked to provide money or gift cards via email. Check the return email address carefully and **DO NOT** reply or open any attachments.

If the email says not to reply by phone or the usual email, that is a red flag - you should always check via a reliable source if you have questions. You can learn more about avoiding scams at these websites:

<https://www.bbb.org/article/tips/8767-bbb-tips-10-steps-to-avoid-scams>

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scam>

Having Items Shipped to Redeemer?

While Redeemer is happy that some folks have been ordering supplies for food giveaways to be delivered directly to the church, it would be helpful to let the church office know to expect packages, including a tracking number if possible. Because the office is only staffed part-time, deliveries can be problematic. If staff knows when to expect something, arrangements can be made to have someone on hand to receive the delivery.

July Birthday

31-Marilyn Roberts

August Birthdays

3-Kathy Pautsch 5-Julie Denniss
5-Clayton Ullman 6-Bret Jimison
8-Jessica Marquez 9-Justin Marquez
15-Seth Harms 15-Sarah Kirkman
16-Diana Gordon 16-Cathy Oldham
16-Madelyn Zimmer 17-Thelma Jonson
18-Jasper Glover-Oakleaf 23-Scott Steiner
25-LaVerna Reinoehl 26-Brad Binau
27-Matthew Bird 27-Jon Disbro
29-Heather McGurer 31-Lynn Bellhorn

The Community Beyond

'National Night Out' Set for Tuesday, Aug. 1

On **Tuesday, August 1**, neighborhoods throughout Columbus are being invited to join with thousands of communities nationwide for the "40th Annual National Night Out" (NNO) crime and drug prevention event. NNO, which is sponsored by National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by Berwick Civic Association (BCA), will involve over 17,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world.

NNO is designed to: (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for, and participation in, local anti crime efforts; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Join Berwick neighbors, along with members of the BCA, at Berwick Elementary School (2655 Scottwood Road) from 6 p.m. -8 p.m. to celebrate the neighborhood! There will be games, food, and drinks! Line dancing anyone? See you there!

Early Voting for August Special Election Now Underway

Early voting for all voters is now underway as voters are asked to weigh in on Issue 1, which would raise the passage threshold of constitutional amendments to 60 percent in the future.

According to the secretary of state's office, there are currently 7,947,090 registered voters in Ohio.

"August 8 provides an opportunity for Ohioans to democratically determine how Ohio's constitution is to be regarded, and I encourage everyone to participate in an election that addresses the foundational, governing document of our state," said Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose. "Ohio makes it easy and convenient to vote, and beginning tomorrow, Ohioans will start casting their ballots by voting early. Please encourage friends, family members and anyone who is currently unregistered to vote to register now, and engage in our democratic process and help shape the future of our state."

Voters can cast their ballots early in-person; vote-by-mail; or on Election Day. Absentee voting is also underway for military and overseas voters.

Early, in-person voting hours at local county boards of elections will be as follows:

- Monday, July 31- Friday, Aug. 4, 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 5, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 6, 1-5 p.m.

Polls will be open on Election Day 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Voters may also choose to vote by mail. Information about requesting an absentee ballot can be found online at VoteOhio.gov.

Once their ballot request is received by their county board of elections, voters may track their ballot at <http://VoteOhio.gov/Track>. As long as a ballot is postmarked by the day before the election and received within 10 days (20 days for overseas and military voters) after the election at the county board of elections, the vote will be tabulated.

Getting Ready for Worship

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 6, 2023

Lessons

Readings: Genesis 32:24-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Matthew 14:13-21

Prayer of the Day

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, 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 Messiah Lutheran Church in Reynoldsburg.
+ For Redeemer community members Diane Louangrath, Alexa and Haley Thanakeo, and Lilah and Zuri Mwansa

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 Hegreiness, 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, Philip Hall, Kirstin Roberts, Pastor Al Debelak, family and friends of Earl and Edwina Bradley's niece Tina Monroe, Chris Doss and Adam Howard; Kevin Bailey, Carolyn Moehring, Kris Kaufman, Mary Watts, family and friends of Julianne Johnson's friend Deb Motto, including her partner Christine Paisley

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Mary Benis
Cantor	Emily Kent
Reader	Karen Rider
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Ashley Bird
Vergers	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Michelle Clemence
Communion Prep	Lynn Belhorn, Kathleen Zwanziger
Producers	Michele Disbro, Judith Bird

*Flowers are given by members of Redeemer
Noisy Offering will go to Star House*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

July 31 – August 7, 2023

Tuesday	6-8:00 p.m.	National Night Out
Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Member Care Team
	12:30 p.m.	RLC at LSS Food Pantry
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education
Monday	6:30 p.m.	ZOOM Executive Team

Redeemer's mission: To be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all
Redeemer's vision: To foster understanding and healing in community
Redeemer's Values: Inclusion, Compassion, Justice