



# Reflections

VOLUME 27

August 7, 2023

ISSUE 31

## ***A Pastoral Letter concerning Issue 1***

from the Ohio Council of Churches

*The Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is part of the Ohio Council of Churches, which is made up of 18 different Christian communities in Ohio. The council issued this statement on State Issue 1. Because we are part of that organization, we share it with you. As part of our commitment to love and to be wise stewards of creation, people of faith have a long tradition of getting involved in public policy matters. Regardless of your opinion on Issue 1, we encourage you to vote tomorrow, Tuesday, August 8, if you haven't done so already.*

Dear Friend in Christ,

Over 100 years ago two of our faith forebears, **the Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow** of Cincinnati's Vine Street Congregational Church and **the Rev. Washington Gladden** of the First Congregational Church of Columbus led people of faith and many others in a movement to counteract abuses of power in government. Their belief was that when elected leaders were unresponsive to the will of the people there should be a mechanism by which the voice of the people could be heard, laws enacted, and constitutional revisions made, all through a vote of a simple majority.

Our faith forebears understood that discussing a matter of public policy, without embracing a particular political party, is an essential responsibility of faithfully living out God's call to seek the common good. Through a 1912 constitutional convention at which our faith forebears provided significant leadership, the idea of citizen-led initiatives became law in the state of Ohio. It has remained so ever since. The opportunity for citizen-led initiatives has offered a systemic safeguard so that the voice of the people could initiate policy when elected leaders seemed otherwise unresponsive to the majority of the voting population.

This safeguard of voter-led initiatives is now being challenged by Issue 1 which is before voters in an August election.

The proposed new law would require 60 percent voter approval to pass constitutional amendments, provide no grace period for correcting ballot signature challenges, and require signatures from all 88 counties in order for an initiative to be placed on the ballot. Such restrictions would allow one county to circumvent the will of the other 87 counties. It is clear to us that the resulting power imbalances will significantly damage many segments of Ohio's population, particularly African American communities historically weakened by partisan gerrymandering. In addition, the proposed restrictions would effectively end the systemic safeguard known as one person, one vote that has for over a century provided every citizen access to simple majority initiatives.

Though the new proposed amendment claims to protect the Constitution, the current system of citizen initiatives has seen only 19 of 71 initiatives actually approved, showing that Ohioans have used this power judiciously.

## In This Issue

[A Pastoral Letter concerning Issue 1](#)

[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

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

Rich Pautsch

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



cont'd on p. 4

## 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 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. Folks are encouraged to wear their new Redeemer t-shirts!! Kids' Fest organizer is **Katie Jacobs**.

**First Wednesdays:** Redeemer serves at the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry on the first Wednesdays, with the next day on **Wednesday, September 6**. It runs from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Questions? Call the church office at 614-237-1263. Or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board next to the Library.

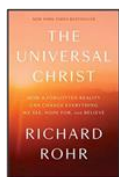
**Flower Sponsorships:** Each Sunday, a bouquet of flowers graces the Sanctuary, often sponsored by an individual or family in honor of an event or in memory of a loved one. There are several open dates coming up: **August 13** and **20**. Let the church office know if this is something you can do or 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.

### Kids' Fest Set for 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. Members are also encouraged to wear a Redeemer t-shirt.

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.

### Rider Leads 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=V0NSY0c1SDBWUXZlMWFzZbXlWZHhpPdz09> Meeting ID: 826 8910 2919; Passcode: 430914; phone only+1 312 626 6799.

### 'Ordinary Is Extraordinary' Artwork Now Up

The new exhibit of members' artwork in the Narthex – "The Ordinary Is Extraordinary" – is now on display. It recognizes that the church is now in the "ordinary season." The theme also ties into the Adult Ed Sunday Class that **Al Rider** is leading over the Sundays in August. (See separate article, this issue.)

### 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. To join the discussion via Zoom, go to the following link:

<https://us02zoom.us/j/86581504887?pwd=ZkFSV2tKM2xEd3dyK1RvSURJYlFuZz09>

The Meeting ID is 865 8150 4887; Passcode 274918. To join via phone, call 1-312-626-6799.

## **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.

## **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. **Sunday, August 20** remains 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: Fire Safety**

Here are some general fire safety tips to think about while you are in the church building or in any public gathering space. Stay alert and stay safe!

- **Take a good look.** Locate exits immediately. Find the FIRE EXIT signs above doors. When you enter a building, you should look for all available exits. Some exits may be in front and some in back of you. Be prepared to use the closest exit. You may not be able to use the main exit.
- **Check for clear exit paths.** Make sure aisles are wide enough and not obstructed by chairs or furniture. Check to make sure the exit door is not blocked or chained.
- **React immediately.** If an alarm sounds, you see smoke or fire, or some other unusual disturbance, immediately exit the building in an orderly fashion. Help others as you are able who may be mobility challenged.
- **Get out, stay out!** Once you have escaped, stay out. If you have to escape through smoke, get down low to the ground. **Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building.** Let trained firefighters conduct rescue operations.

The Redeemer Safe Church Team has plans to create exit maps for each room of the building and will also do an updated fire preparedness and prevention risk assessment.

Stay tuned for more information!

## **BREAD Campaign Updates**

Redeemer's BREAD liaison, **Rob Sievert-Wagner**, recently shared updates on four campaign items:

### **Stop Violence...Build Trust!**

The Columbus Violence Reduction (CVR) program - the National Network for Safe Communities program that we pressed for and won - had its first call-in this week. This marks a major step forward in saving lives from senseless gun violence. The *Columbus Dispatch* had some great coverage of this important event.

### **Environmental Justice**

While committee research may be on hiatus, work to increase the tree canopy is not! The Recreation & Parks Department released an update on the implementation of the Urban Forestry Master Plan, which reported that nearly 2,000 trees were planted along streets and in parks this spring to expand the tree

canopy. This planting targeted priority neighborhoods like the Far South that have much less tree coverage than other Columbus neighborhoods. The update also shared that American Forests, a national nonprofit, will be developing a Tree Equity Score Analyzer (TESA) for Columbus. Those interested in staying in the know about the UFMP can sign up for their newsletter [here](#), or visit their [website](#).

### **Housing**

The housing committee continues to urge the Columbus City Council and Franklin County Commissioners to dedicate \$146 million towards affordable housing. Just before Independence Day, Housing Committee leaders spoke at both the city council and county commission meetings with miniature versions of the United States flag for each official and a note that read, "How can people truly be independent if they don't have an affordable place to live?"

### **Juvenile Justice**

In June, BREAD leaders were able to visit Walnut Ridge High School to see restorative practices in action! Columbus City Schools acknowledge that the implementation of restorative practices is the result of BREAD's efforts, and we will continue to press for all schools to have this life-changing practice in place. To read more about the visit, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/27h7m8ck>.

## **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.

## ***A Pastoral Letter concerning Issue 1***

Our faith forebears recognized that when people are equipped to act in ways that illustrate that their voice matters, their dignity rises, and they are fundamentally empowered and strengthened. This dignity and empowerment lie at the heart of the gospel message of Jesus Christ, that all may flourish and have abundant life. It is the reason our faith forebears were passionate about its defense. This conviction matters no less, and possibly even more, in our own day and time.

Guided by the wisdom of our forebears and sparked by pastoral concern over the nullifying impact Issue 1 would have on African American and other Ohio communities if enacted, the Ohio Council of Churches respectfully urges Ohio voters to reject Issue 1. Our no votes on Issue 1 will serve as a faithful and clear affirmation of the dignity and agency of every Ohioan who has for more than a century had the systemic assurance that their one vote does truly matter.

Blessings on you, we pray,

The Ohio Council of Churches,

The Reverend Dr. David Long-Higgins  
Governing Board President, the Ohio Council of Churches;  
Conference Minister, the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ

The Reverend Melanie W. J. Slane  
Governing Board Vice-President, the Ohio Council of Churches;  
Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Officer, the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

The Reverend Adam B. Sornchai  
Governing Board Treasurer, the Ohio Council of Churches;  
Pastor, Saint John Lutheran Church (Windfall), Cardington, Ohio

The Reverend Allen V. Harris  
Governing Board Secretary; the Ohio Council of Churches;  
Regional Pastor and President, the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ)

The Reverend. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.  
Executive Director, the Ohio Council of Churches

## 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 are asked for **Bill Boys** and **Bruce Collins** who both had heart procedures 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.

### August Birthdays

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

### Early Voting Over for August Special Election; Election Day Tuesday

Polls will be open on Election Day, **Tuesday, August 8** from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. now that early, in-person voting hours are over for the Special Election when voters are asked to weigh in on Issue 1, which would raise the passage threshold of constitutional amendments to 60 percent in the future. Some of Franklin County's polling locations have changed and voters in those precincts should have received a postcard telling them their new location.

To check online, go to [www.vote.franklincountyohio.gov](http://www.vote.franklincountyohio.gov). A photo ID is now required to vote in Ohio.

Voters who chose to vote by mail 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.

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

## Getting Ready for Worship

### Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 13, 2023 Lessons

**Readings:** Genesis 37:2-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Matthew 14:22-33

### Prayer of the Day

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of 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 Peace Lutheran Church in Gahanna.
- + For Redeemer community member Don Luck.

**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, Philip Hall, Kirstin Roberts, Pastor Al Debelak, Chris Doss and Adam Howard; Carolyn Moehring, Kris Kaufman, Mary Watts, family and friends of Julianne Johnson's friend Deb Motto, including her partner Christine Paisley, Bill Boys, Bruce Collins.

### Worship Leaders

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	<b>Dave Shull</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Julianne Johnson</b>
<b>Cantor</b>	<b>Jennifer Young</b>
<b>ASL Interpreter</b>	<b>Bryan Neal</b>
<b>Organist &amp; Senior Choir Director</b>	<b>Kathy Rapp</b>
<b>Pianist &amp; Chime Choir Director</b>	<b>Karen Kent</b>
<b>Usher</b>	<b>Neil Hoddinott</b>
<b>Vergers</b>	<b>Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Katie Jacobs</b>
<b>Communion Prep</b>	<b>Lynn Belhorn, Kathleen Zwanziger</b>
<b>Producers</b>	<b>Toshi Phillips, Sachio Phillips</b>

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

### Upcoming Week at Redeemer

August 7-14, 2023

<b>Tuesday</b>	2:15 p.m.	Stewardship Team
	5:30 p.m.	ZOOM Executive Team
<b>Wednesday</b>	5:30 p.m.	Mutual Ministry Team at Pastor's home
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
<b>Sunday</b>	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education
	1:00 p.m.	<b>KidsFest</b>

**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