



Reflections

VOLUME 27

September 18, 2023

ISSUE 37

Thank You to Dad

Some of you have asked me what I said about Dad at his memorial service on Sept. 9. So I thought I'd share my comments. My two brothers and two nieces and a nephew, as well as a former student of Dad's and a friend also shared memories. So there was a good variety of sides of Dad expressed. Here's what I said.

Playful integrity. That's what I want to thank Dad for teaching me with his life. Playful integrity. Dad took life seriously. But he didn't take himself too seriously. And that made all the difference.

One of his teachers in how to live with integrity was the investigative journalist **I.F. Stone**. In his entry in Who's Who, where most people list their awards and publications, Stone wrote about how he wanted to live:

*To write the truth as I see it;
to defend the weak against the strong;
and to seek, as best I can,
to bring healing perspectives to bear
on the terrible hates and fears of mankind,
in the hope of someday bringing about one world,
in which men will enjoy the differences of the human garden
instead of killing each other over them.*

One of the early lessons about living with integrity that Dad taught me happened the year we lived in India when I was ten. For several days, we traveled to a city where Dad was doing some work for the College of Wooster. Because of that, the College was paying for our hotel. It was the nicest hotel I'd ever seen. At breakfast after our first of three nights there, Dad said, "After breakfast, we're going back up to our room to pack our things. We're checking out." The three of us kids said in unison, "Why???" Dad said, "The College of Wooster is paying for this hotel. It costs ten times more than a perfectly good hotel that's just down the street. I can't in good conscience have the college pay all that money when there's a fine place close-by."

What I learned then – and what I learned throughout my time growing up, is that there's such a thing as good enough. Showing love to someone doesn't mean needing to provide them with the best, the newest, the shiniest, or the most expensive. Good enough is good enough. Good enough means there's more than enough to go around, and plenty to give away to people in the human garden who need love from people who have more than enough.

Because Dad didn't take himself too seriously, he could admit when he was mistaken. My first job as a pastor after seminary was really hard. As a closeted gay man, I couldn't be honest with anyone in the church about my orientation or the relationship I was in. I was preaching to the congregation that they should come to church as the beautiful people God made them to be; yet if I showed up as my honest self, I would lose my job and my ordination. My life had none of the

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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 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



The Redeemer Community

CROP Walk Coming Up!

This year, the CROP Walk is scheduled for **Sunday, October 1** – a little earlier than in previous years. Once again, the Redeemer Lutheran Church Team is gearing up to do the walk to raise funds for alleviating hunger, both here in the Columbus community and around the world.

So far, **Wendy Stoica, Kathy Zwanziger, Heidi Sherer** and **Connie Criswell** will be walking. Anybody who would like to join them would be more than welcome.

Contributions to support Redeemer's walkers can be made on the team's webpage at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/redeemer-lutheran-church-2>.

Saturday Produce Giveaways Now Ended

With the end of the 2023 growing season, Redeemer's Saturday morning distribution of produce from the garden has now ended. Members are welcome to pick whatever they find in the garden.

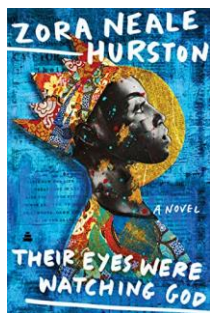
Coordinator Jon Disbro reported Sunday that a total of 1,800 pounds of produce had been distributed this year. He said an average of seven individuals volunteered each week, handing out produce to approximately 20 persons each week.

Jon added that members and community members would also bring their surplus harvest to hand out.

By weight, the largest crop distributed was tomatoes at 570 pounds followed by *kale* at 160 pounds, thanks largely to **Pastor Al**. Others contributing their surplus were **Sue Yehling** and **Kathy Zwanziger**.

Book Group to Read Hurston Work

The Redeemer book group on **Wednesday, September 20**, 7-8:30 p.m., will read and discuss *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by **Zora Neale Hurston**. When she was writing in the 1920s and 30s, Hurston was



faulted by many Black male writers of her day because they didn't believe she was taking the realities of racism seriously. She died in 1960 impoverished.

Then the University of Illinois Press reissued this book, and she has come to be seen as among the most important Black writers in the 20th century.

Alice Walker, author of *The Color Purple* and other works, says, "There is no book more important to me than this one."

Be patient with the dialect! Hurston writes dialogue as she hears it. Though it might be a challenge to many ears initially, one gets used to it. And it rings with authenticity and beauty.

We are always blessed by new readers!

Good Neighbor Picnic Donations of Blankets, Coats 'More than Ever'

Redeemer's Good Neighbor Picnic Coordinator **Carol Heacock** reported Sunday that folks have donated more blankets and coats for this year's Good Neighbor Picnic than ever and that Redeemer has been large part of that. The deadline has passed to drop items off here at church but they can still be taken directly on the day of the picnic which is set for: **Saturday, September 23** at Wolfe Park on the east side of Columbus.

Cash donations or gift cards are welcome and may be dropped off at the church office. To learn more about the Good Neighbors Picnic, go to www.goodneighborspicnic.org

Carol encouraged folks to consider volunteering at the event, noting the website includes information about the different types of assistance that is needed from setting up/tearing down to working in the "store" to serving food.

Sister Act Sets Fall Retreat

Sister Act will hold its fall retreat **Friday-Sunday, October 6-8** at Hopewood Pines (aka Lutheran Memorial Camp). The cost for the weekend runs \$86 or \$12 for one day. (Checks should be made out to Hopewood Outdoors.) The includes meals and snacks.

Michelle Clemence is coordinating the menus so let her know about any dietary restrictions.

To RSVP, please contact **Michele Disbro, Carol Heacock, Kay Ernsthansen** or **Wendy Stoica**.

The group will be staying in the Priebe Center for the weekend. It is set up with a large open room for meeting and fellowship (puzzles!), a kitchenette, and 10 bedrooms, each with two twin beds. There are two bathrooms with showers, one in each wing.

Outside, there is a patio with picnic tables and a fire pit which is traditionally used for the evening campfire, including s'mores. Here is a slideshow of photos from the 2022 retreat: https://youtu.be/R54AdQLt0Zw?si=s-UGqY_iuh7ddgTN

BREAD Informational Meeting Set for Oct. 15

The Redeemer BREAD Network Team will be hosting an Informational “House Meeting” during the Sunday School Hour on **Sunday, Oct. 15th**. This will be your opportunity to hear updates and successes regarding all the various campaigns the BREAD members have been working on. It is also an opportunity to share your concerns about our community. These house meetings provide an opportunity for BREAD to hear about concerns people are having regarding their community. All the information gathered from the 43 faith congregations will be used to determine what new topics BREAD might like to tackle. Perhaps you might feel called to get more involved in this Justice Ministry. If so, come to our “House Meeting” on Sunday, Oct. 15th or reach out to a BREAD Network Team Member (Kristi Hildebrand, Kathy Zwanziger, Emily Ott or Michele Disbro).

Don't forget: if you support the work of BREAD you can always make a donation to BREAD. There are envelopes on the table at back of the sanctuary.

Enjoying Fall at Redeemer

Tuesdays at 1 p.m.: Exploring the Bible. This fall the group will exploring The Acts of the Apostles. Not too familiar with it? Come and change that! Join Zoom Meeting ID: 822 5966 0622; Passcode: 435549; at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82259660622?pwd=R2pHTW11bHRON1FHbFRZdStqbK9Bdz09> Phone only: 301-715-8592.

Thursdays at 6:15 p.m.: Chime Choir rehearsal. There's a unique joy in making music together – and folks can be surprised at the beautiful tunes they will help create, even if they've never done anything musical before! Reach out to director **Karen Kent** at 527780KK@gmail.com or 614-648-8393 with questions.

Sundays at 8:45 a.m.: Senior Choir rehearsal. Ditto the above, but instead of using a chime, folks will use their God-given voice to help lead worship in ways that touch and delight all. Contact **Kathy Rapp** with questions: arapthing@hotmail.com ; 614-565-2945.

Sundays, Sept. 24 and Oct. 1 & 8: Adult education class on the theology of “Womanism.” In the August 28 *Reflections*, Trinity Seminary student and Redeemer member **Naomi Morgan's** front-page article described what she plans to cover in this four-week offering. It's something that's new to most, so there is a lot to explore and ask about. And womanism may open up new, meaningful ways to experience God and connect to Scripture.

Every second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.: A Brewing Faith: Redeemer's Zoom theology pub. If you've ever wanted a super-informal, non-threatening place to explore questions about life and theology, this is for you. We often eat and drink at home while we're discussing whatever topic(s) we choose for the evening. It is a really great way to get to know a small, lively group of people. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81765916972?pwd=bjJOT1JlbG1keXpsV205TWNHVUFpQT09>

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.: Monthly/Third Wednesday Book Group: The joy of a book group is that someone in the group always picks up something the rest of the group missed! This group meets in-person and on Zoom. For September, they're discussing *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by **Zora Neale Hurston**. There are plenty of copies in the library. (See separate story, this issue.)

Thursdays, Sept. 21 and Oct. 19, between 1-4: The last Mid-Ohio Food Cooperative/Lutheran Social Services Food Giveaways of the year. Watching the transformation of an empty parking lot into a drive-through fresh produce market where love and joy are real enough to touch is only one of the reasons to be part of this ministry. Another is to connect with other members of this community as folks bag cucumbers and put boxfuls of amazing stuff into backseats and trunks. Just show up and you'll be put to work. **The September giveaway "extras" are personal items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, dental floss, etc.** These items can be dropped off in the coatroom.

Saturday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m.-noon: Journaling Workshop led by Mark Katrick. The facilitator of Redeemer's monthly journaling group, **Rich Pautsch**, invites journalers and non-journalers to this exploration of the variety of ways we can be stimulated to journal blessings. The monthly journaling group meets the **fourth Thursday** of the month at **7 p.m.**

Sunday, Oct. 15, 11:15 a.m.: BREAD conversation. Redeemer is part of Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity (BREAD), a Franklin County-based interfaith justice advocacy group. Participants in this conversation will learn about the latest BREAD successes, what our involvement is making possible, and what justice issues you care about.

Ongoing Sundays: Readers are needed for the Sunday services throughout the fall. 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.**

First Wednesdays: Redeemer serves at the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry on the first Wednesdays. 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. The next time Redeemer serves is **Wednesday, October 4.**

'All about Redeemer' Booklet Provides Overview of Congregation

Why is **September 8, 1957**, important to Redeemer Lutheran Church? This and many other questions are answered in the new "All About Redeemer" booklet.

The Outreach Team created this booklet to help new and seasoned members learn about Redeemer's history, guiding principles and what it means to be a Redeemer member. Folks are invited to pick one up. It can be found on the shelf next to the Library, just off the Narthex.

LWR to Provide Update on Ukraine Efforts

On **Tuesday morning, October 3**, from 10-11:30 a.m., the **Rev. Tim Krick**, manager of congregational relations with Lutheran World Relief (LWR), will be at Redeemer to talk about his recent visits to Ukraine and Turkey. He will also discuss whatever folks would like to hear about.

Everyone is welcome to join the group for doughnuts and coffee/tea in the Narthex. Feel free to invite others who'd be interested in this to join the group.

Journaling Workshop Coming This Fall

The following was written by **Mark Katrick**, who will be leading the journaling workshop **Saturday, October 14** from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. here at Redeemer. Folks planning to attend are asked to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. Contact **Rich Pautsch** with questions.

Mark writes:

I LOVE TO WRITE!

“At a high school journalism camp, an instructor advised me to "not let my head hit the pillow before writing something!" Since that day and time, I've done my best to follow this good advice as a sports reporter (my first job), religion columnist and high school journalism teacher. This is not to mention 40 plus years of writing sermons, meditations and prayers as a pastor.

“Perhaps a better way of putting it is I LIVE TO WRITE. and in a spiritual sense I write to live. As a trained and certified spiritual director, I'm blessed to comb the depths of my spiritual connection with the Holy One, living learning and growing through prayer, contemplation and journaling, and helping others to do the same.

“It is my great joy and blessing to be able to spend time with you, whether you are curious about journaling or dedicated to journaling. The workshop will be on **Saturday, October 14, 2023** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. During this time, through various forms of imagery like music, art, photography and the written word (of course) we'll explore ways to journal our blessings (given and received). The spiritual guide in me simply says that this is a time to just breathe in the breath of God, and be together to do that blessed thing each one of loves to do and lives for each day.”

Redeemer Safe Church Team: Staying Safe in Public Places

Here are some reminders about staying safe in public places, including houses of worship. This includes a refresher on Avoid, Deny and Defend in responding to armed intruders. These tips are not meant to frighten or alarm you, rather let them remind us to be alert to our surroundings and prepared to protect ourselves, our families and our neighbors.

Prepare before

- Stay alert. Always be aware of your environment and any possible dangers.
- If you see something, say something to local authorities. That includes suspicious packages, people behaving strangely or someone using strange communications.
- Observe warning signs. Signs might include unusual or violent communications, substance abuse, expressed anger or intent to cause harm. These warning signs may increase over time.
- Have an exit plan. Identify exits and areas to hide wherever you go, including work, school and special events.
- Learn lifesaving skills. Take trainings such as You Are the Help Until Help Arrives and first aid to assist the wounded before help arrives.

Stay safe during

- Seek safety. Getting away from the attacker is the top priority.
- Cover and hide if you can't evacuate.
- Fight only as a last resort. When you can't run or take cover, attempt to disrupt the attack or disable the attacker.
- Take care of yourself first. Then, if you are able, help the wounded get to safety and provide immediate care.

Know what to do after

- Remain calm.
- Keep hands visible and empty.
- Report to designated areas.
- Follow law enforcement's instructions and evacuate in the direction they tell you to go. Listen to law enforcement for information about the situation. Share updates as you can with family and friends.

AVOID: Move away from the source of the threat as quickly as possible. The more distance and barriers between you and the threat, the better.

DENY: If you cannot AVOID - Create barriers to prevent or slow down a threat from getting to you. Turn the lights off. Remain out of sight and quiet by hiding behind large objects and silence your phone.

DEFEND: If you cannot AVOID or DENY - be prepared to defend yourself. Be aggressive and committed to your actions. Use any object as a weapon. Do not fight fairly. Fight to survive.

Noisy Offering to Hawai'i Relief Efforts

The Noisy Offering is now going for the Hawai'i disaster relief. Funds will be sent directly to the ELCA synod in Hawai'i.

RLC member **April Smith** has provided the following update on Hawai'i relief efforts via **Terri Robertson**, executive assistant for finance and accounting of the Pacifica Synod on behalf of **Bishop David Nagler**:

"Thank you for your congregation's support of those affected by the wildfires in Hawai'i. Bishop Dave is there through the end of the month. In fact today he is on Maui and meeting with partners there."

"As of August 22nd, donors from across the United States have donated almost \$42,000 to our synod's Hawai'i Relief fund. Here is what I can share with you (from Bishop Dave) about the fund:

1 100% of any donations will be given to support people affected by the fires.

2 We are working with local agencies on the ground to ensure that the money is used wisely.

3 Our commitment is long term. We stand by communities long after the news cycle has moved on. We are proud of our Lutheran focus on restoring people; body, mind, and soul."

Donations can be made online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ82/campaign/C-149JR> or by mailing a check to the Pacifica Synod Office, 1801 Parkcourt Pl. Bldg. C, Santa Ana, CA 92701 and write Hawai'i Relief in the memo section.

Thank You to Dad *cont'd from p. 1*

integrity Dad had shown me with his life. So I told them I had to leave the ministry and would go to social work graduate school. That news really saddened Dad because he really liked me being a pastor. He said, "Dave, what if you ended your committed relationship with Peter and turned it into a good friendship, and just promised to be celibate? That way you could still be a pastor. Couldn't you do that?" I replied, "Dad, what if the College of Wooster told you that if you wanted to keep being a professor, you had to divorce Mom, just be friends with her, and promise to be celibate the rest of your career? What would you do?" After a few seconds, Dad said, "I could never do that. You're right. You have to leave the ministry."

A couple Father's Days ago, I sent him a card that had a parent alligator throwing a baby alligator into the air. In his email thanking me for the card, he ended it with, "Love, Dad, who would still toss you into the air if he could."

Toward the end of his life, Dad often teared-up when he heard a song or poem that really touched him. There was a song I introduced to him years ago called "Walls and Windows" that he loved. Occasionally, he'd said, "Dave, what was that song you like about doors or windows or ...?" So to thank Dad for his playful integrity, and everything else, I want to sing him the refrain of "Walls and Windows":

*Do you think of me as enemy, and could you call me friend?
Or will we let our differences destroy us in the end?
The wall that stands between us could be a window, too;
when I look into the mirror, I see you.*

Thanks, Dad.

Pastor Dave

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 of healing are asked for **Robin Stokes'** caregiver **Angela** who had emergency surgery.

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The livestream of the **Larry Jones** basketball hoops dedication is available on Redeemer's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS4IYIBRbS0> for those who were unable to attend.

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Connie Criswell advises members that it will soon be time to be signing up to write a devotion or two for Redeemer's **2023 Advent Devotional Booklet!**

Pastor Dave on Vacation

Pastor Dave will be on vacation **Friday-Saturday, Sept. 22-30**. During that time, emergency pastoral care coverage will be provided by the **Rev. Lorin Darst**, pastor of First English Lutheran Church (503-886-9353). Redeemer Member the **Rev. Al Rider** will preach and preside on the 24th. Dave will be back **Sunday, October 1**.

'Christ in Our Home' Available

The October-December 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

September Birthdays

20-Paula Carson

21-Jenny Peresta 22-Adam Darst

24-Sheryl Owens 27-Becky Fisher

27-Karen Rider 29-Jennifer Young

The Wider Church

First English Celebrates 175th Anniversary

First English Lutheran Church invites folks to celebrate its 175th anniversary on **Saturday, September 23**. It begins at 5 p.m. with a Service of Celebration in the Sanctuary followed by a potluck dinner. (Main course and beverages will be provided.)

To RSVP by **Friday, September 15**, go to <https://tinyurl.com/FELC-175th-Anniv-RSVP-Signups> or call the FELC office at 614-252-3191.

Trinity Days at Seminary

Trinity Days at Trinity Seminary at Capital University on **Thursday** and **Friday, September 21-22** features **Rev. Dr. Julie Faith Parker**, former assistant professor of Old Testament at Trinity and currently visiting scholar at Union Theological Seminary. Her lectures will explore the topic of children in the Bible. She will speak on both days with all sessions held in the Gloria Dei Worship Center.

In addition, Parker will be signing copies of her latest book *Eve Isn't Evil: Feminist Readings of the Bible to Upend Our Assumptions*.

Lutheran Memorial Apple Butter Festival Set for Oct. 8

The Lutheran Memorial Camp (LMC) (HopeWood Pines) Apple Butter Festival will be held on **Sunday, October 8** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event, which is free, includes children's crafts and activities, live music, wagon rides, local vendors, baked goods, and fresh apple butter. All proceeds benefit camperships.

Following the days events, **Rev. Drew Tucker** will be installed as the new executive director of HopeWood Outdoors.

The camp is located 2790 State Route 61 in Marengo OH.

Prayer Concerns for Week from ELCA

19 Pray for the congregations, youth and adults registering for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans and for those who prayerfully consider participating.

20 "The prophet **Miriam**, **Aaron's** sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: 'Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea'" (Exodus 15:20-21). Give thanks for the wonderful variety of instruments and musicians who help us praise God, and recall God's activity in the world throughout history.

21 International Day of Peace With our global neighbors and siblings in Christ, pray for peace, reconciliation and unity wherever conflict divides our communities and the world.

22 Ask God for strength and boldness to fight the rising tide of hate crimes motivated by race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender, gender identity, and social and economic status.

23 What an amazing and reassuring gift it is to know that God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love for all people, everywhere. Give praise and thanks to God!

24 Pray that we might understand justice, fairness and generosity from the perspective of God, whose creation benefits all humanity.

25 Remember in prayer leaders gathering for the "Stewardship Kaleidoscope" conference in Minneapolis, offered in partnership with the Presbyterian Foundation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the ELCA Stewardship and Generosity team to develop deeper understanding of stewardship and generosity and to share resources for cultivating generosity in congregations.

26 Pray for ELCA Children's Ministry and its partners, who support and encourage the intergenerational faith formation of Christian communities including family households, congregations and child-centered ministry settings.

The Community Beyond

E.J. Thomas to Retire from Habitat CEO Role

E.J. Thomas, the former Columbus-area lawmaker and House Finance chair, will soon retire from his role as president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity MidOhio. He has held the position since 2004.

He said in an email to supporters of Habitat that he will leave within the next few months, with the intent to have a successor in place before he goes.

“In what has been most satisfying work, I leave knowing our affiliate has accomplished a great deal and is very well positioned for continued and exciting growth of our affiliate and mission. Today, we are serving a record number of central Ohio families with newly constructed homes, rehabs of existing housing stock, and critical home repairs. All has been made possible through the generosity of so many donors who have chosen Habitat MidOhio as their philanthropic partner including our ReStore patrons, volunteers, church groups, corporate and individual sponsors, staff and our board. Over the years, this focus on our families has helped improve the lives of more than 1,200 families, with 300-plus as tithe partners on the African continent. Our work has been a factor in building up neighborhoods following years in decline. And it has been a tremendous team effort that has brought about these results. All of the affiliate's achievements over these past 19 years have been with the support of the Columbus and Licking County communities, both of which have consistently demonstrated how determination and generosity can improve the lives of our partner families,” he wrote.

Getting Ready for Worship

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 24, 2023

Lessons

Readings: Jonah 3:10—4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Matthew 20:1-16

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity 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 St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Delaware.
- + For Redeemer community members Kathy and Tom Mimlitch.

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, Julie Larson and husband Eli who is receiving cancer treatment in Houston, Kathleen Zwanziger, Phillip Hall and Kirstin Roberts, Carolyn Moehring, Kris Kauffman, Mary Watts, Kelley Frank's parents Charlotte and Wayne Frank.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Al Rider
Assisting Minister	Julianne Johnson
Cantor	Mary Benis
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Zak Hinkle-Moore
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Ashley and Judith Bird
Communion Prep	Sara Auman, Julianne Johnson
Producers	April Smith, Scott Steiner

*Flowers are given by Kevin Bailey in memory of his mother Ruth Anna Bailey
Noisy Offering will go to Hawai'i Synod of the ELCA*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

September 18 -September 25, 2023

Monday	7:00 p.m.	Congregation Council
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation
	7:00 p.m.	Book Group
Thursday	1-3:p.m.	Set up and Prep for LSS Food Giveaway
	3-5:30 p.m.	LSS/MidOhio Food Giveaway
	6:15 p.m.	Chime Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	8 a.m.	Good Neighbor Picnic/Wolf Park https://goodneighborspicnic.org/
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship:
	11:15 a.m.	Adult Ed IN-PERSON and ZOOM

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