



Reflections

VOLUME 29

July 14, 2025

ISSUE 27

What I Did on My (First) Summer Vacation

Since this was my first Sunday back at Redeemer after being away for two weeks, some of you asked what I'd done on my vacation. So I thought I'd use this as an efficient way to fill you in.

This was a solo vacation, so I decided to spend it visiting friends I hadn't seen in a while. One of the reasons I chose to move back to Columbus after 23 years in Seattle was so I could easily visit friends in this part of the country. But after almost eight years back here, I hadn't done that yet. I decided it was time.

I visited five sets of friends and family in the Southeastern U.S., spending two nights at each stop. I wanted to have enough time for good conversations without overstaying my welcome.

In Anderson and Charleston, South Carolina, I got to visit a youth minister I'd worked with in the 1990s in Seattle, and a pastor I met on a study trip in England in 2004. Gainesville, Florida, was where I spent time with a friend I've known since second grade. Her 94-year-old mother also lives there. This woman, who is sharp as a tack, was the director of the church handbell choir I loved being part of in middle and high school. She reminded her daughter and me that we spent a lot of rehearsal time talking to each other, but because we never missed a note she didn't have the joy of chastising us.

I knew after three visits, I'd need some solitary time, so I next spent two nights in Savannah, Georgia, where I'd never been. I took a tour, and walked and hung out in some of the squares the city is known for. I dined on a fried chicken sandwich covered with cheese and apple pie filling (how could I not order that, right?), and joined all the other tourists (and probably some locals as well) to line up outside Leopold's Ice Cream for what truly was the best peach/blueberry cheesecake double scoop I've ever had ever. In honor of **Eileen Day**, **Laverna Reinoehl**, and **Wendy Stoica**, I made a pilgrimage to the home of **Juliette Gordon Low**, who founded the Girl Scouts of America, and to the place where the group first met. My nerd side expressed itself as I re-read parts of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* while sitting on a bench in the square facing the house where the murder at the heart of this non-fiction book takes place.

My next stop was Virginia Beach. Friends from Seattle had relocated there. Though we'd overlapped in Seattle just a bit more than a year, we became fast friends. They'd met at Duke Divinity School, so we always had great theological conversations. And we also set up movie nights and found any excuse we could to cook each other pancakes! Since I'd said good-bye to them in Seattle in 2017, their family has grown to include a 3½ -year-old son and 1½ -year-old daughter. I can't remember the last time I got to make things out of Play-Doh. And, one night, the bedtime story was *Neon Leon*. It's the tragic tale of a chameleon who can't "chamele," i.e., he can't change colors. His inability to change colors to blend in with his surroundings is a problem because he's bright orange. Just when you think some

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OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Pastor - Rev. Dave 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

2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President - Brad Binau

Vice President - Ashley Bird

Finance Officer - Laura Warren

Secretary - Rich Pautsch

Worship - Michelle Clemence

Education - Karen Rider

Outreach - Mary Benis

Member Support - Kathy Mimlitch

Property - April Smith

Stewardship - Kathy Denhard

APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer - Kay Ernsthausen

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Misato In Sara Auman

Emlyn Ott Rich Pautsch

SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Wendy Stoica, Chair Hitoshi Phillips

Emily Kent John Kennedy

Terry Warren Laura Warren [ex officio]

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Basketball Camp Concludes Next Week; NO MORE Water Needed

Redeemer's summer basketball camp for youth ages 8 to 14, led by former NBA and ABA player **Coach Larry Jones**, will conclude next week with the 2025 Banquet on **Thursday, July 24**. A total of 51 youth participated in this free camp provided by Redeemer. It has run for six weeks, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Please note: NO MORE donations of water are needed. Thanks to everyone who has done so.

Summer Book Group Continues This Week

Redeemer's Summer Book Group has begun its deep dive into the thoughts, words, and faith of **James Baldwin** (1924-1987) as it reads *The Gospel According to James Baldwin: What America's Great Prophet Can Teach Us about Life, Love, and Identity*. At just under 200 pages, this 2024 work was written by **Greg Garrett**, whom BBC Radio has called "one of America's essential voices on religion and culture."

The group will meet on **Wednesdays, July 16, 23** and **30** to discuss the book from 7-8:30 p.m. in-person and on [Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 838 0888 7359; Passcode: 437478. Phone only: 312 626 6799.

Redeemer Garden Giveaway Underway

Redeemer's Saturday morning Garden Giveaway is now open. Stop by to pick up fresh produce from the garden beginning at 10 a.m.

'Noisy Offering' to Go to Kenyan Rescue Centre

Kay Ernsthausen reports that Redeemer's "Noisy Offering" will now go to Sikhona Rescue Centre in Kitengela, Kenya. According to Kay, this is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to provide a physically and psychologically safe space for abused women and neglected children to learn and grow.

The center is a "gender-based violence recovery center where at-risk women and their children are provided shelter, health care, legal representation, and education. Children are nurtured and empowered through primary school at Rehoboth Learning Centre while at-risk women will be employed and educated on our sustainable teaching farm."

"Sikhona" translates from Zulu to mean, "I Exist"

Kay continues, "The U.S. Executive Director of Sikhona Rescue Centre is **Elli Wachtman**. Elli is a graduate of Capital University and was in the first Bonner Class at Capital. As a Bonner student Elli volunteered 10 hours a week at First English. I knew her then, and I know her father- **Pastor Steve Wachtman**, senior pastor at Holy Trinity Church in Upper Arlington. I have chosen this organization as it gives HOPE to those who are suffering from abuse. I also want us to see there is a world out there that is not turned upside down by the U.S. political system."

Columbus Safety Collective Campaign Continues to Collect Signatures

Michele Disbro reports, "The Columbus Safety Collective (CSC) continues to gather signatures for the Non-Police Crisis Response campaign. To qualify for the November ballot, we need 25,000 valid signatures by **Sunday, July 20**. So far, we've gathered about 8,500, with a 70 percent validation rate (6,500 valid). There were some filing issues which have delayed the time we have had to collect signatures.

"If we miss the July deadline for the November ballot, the CSC will continue the collection of signatures to meet the deadline for the May 2026 ballot. [Here](#) is a link for a recent news story on CBS regarding this important campaign:

"If you are registered to vote in the city of Columbus and still have not signed the petition, please see **Kristi Hildebrand** or **Michele Disbro**. Please also reach out to Kristi or Michele if you would like to collect or validate signatures and you will be connected to the organizers of this campaign. If you would like to donate money, go to this [website](#). Thank you for your support of this Non-Police Crisis Response campaign. Be sure to talk it up with your friends (especially if they live in Columbus!)."

Recycle Old, Unusable Clothing, Fabric!

Michele Disbro asks, “Did you know the average person throws away around 70 pounds of clothing each year and most of it ends up in landfills? The city of Upper Arlington, in partnership with SWACO Circular Thrift, and Sustainable UA, has launched a textile recycling drop-off pilot program running from now through **Sunday, Aug. 31**.

“This initiative provides a convenient and eco-friendly way to dispose of worn-out or damaged clothing and household textiles – items that are no longer suitable for donation or resale and would otherwise end up in the landfill. Donating your old clothing and fabrics allows them to be repurposed into insulation, industrial rags, or other products rather than ending up in the landfill.

What Can Be Donated?

“This program is specifically for end-of-life textiles -- items that are stained, ripped, or otherwise unsuitable for traditional donation or resale. Accepted items fall into the following five categories:

- Denim
- Sweatshirts & fleece (with hardware such as zippers or buttons)
- T-shirts and sweatshirts (without hardware)
- 100% polyester items
- Other items include sheets, towels, blankets, socks, underwear, and bras (no underwire)

“If you would like to donate any of these fabric items, please bring them to church in a bag and Michele will drop them off at the UA Textile Recycling Bin. **All items should be clean and dry.**”

LSS Food Pantry Seeks Produce Donations

In light of reductions in the state of Ohio budget resulting in less funds for Ohio foodbanks, Lutheran Social Services (LSS) reports that they recently learned that Mid-Ohio Food Collective has had to make the difficult decision to eliminate its daily produce shop-through service provided to food pantries for the month of July. While LSS Food Pantries will still receive produce from MOFC; “the removal of this service will significantly reduce the amount of produce we will have to offer the families we serve each week in Franklin and Delaware counties ... create[ing] a gap in the resources for the month of July”

As a result, LSS is asking for donations of bags of potatoes, salad kits, bags of grapes and carrots. These items can be taken to the pantry at 1460 S Champion Ave **any Tuesday in July, between 9 a.m.-12 p.m.** OR items can be dropped off at the regularly scheduled volunteer shift, at the Champion Food Pantry. Redeemer is next set to work on **Thursday, July 17**.

Sister Act Updates Summer Schedule

After some conversations, Sister Act has cancelled its July 30 event because it was inadvertently scheduled for the last night of the July book study. In addition, **Michelle Clemence** feels only one gathering is needed for making the Christmas ornaments for the new tree at church. That meeting is set for **Wednesday, Aug. 6** at 6:30 p.m. here at Redeemer.

In addition, another Sister Act event has been scheduled: an outing on **Friday, Aug. 22** to go to hear **Nadia Bolz-Weber**. See this [link](#) for more information and to reserve a free ticket. (See separate story, this issue.)

Narthex Art Turns to ‘Colorful Creation’ for Pentecost

Inspired by the first couple verses of Isaiah 35 which mention “Wilderness and desert will sing joyously... a symphony of song and color,” the Narthex art theme for Pentecost turns to “Colorful Creation.” Stop by to see the latest items on loan from members of the congregation!

Sign Up Now to Read at Worship Services

Readers for Sunday morning services can now sign up for services over the winter. Readers, including youth and children, are encouraged to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board, next to the Library. Readers are still needed for **Sundays, July 27** on (except for **Sunday, Aug. 10**).

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

What I Did on My (First) Summer Vacation *cont'd from p. 1*

predator is sure to find him, he comes across a herd of birds the same shade of orange he is ... and if that weren't perfect enough, he comes across another chameleon who is also stuck in orange mode. It is a brilliant story!

My last stop was in Arlington, Virginia. My retired foreign-service brother lives there with my sister-in-law; their middle daughter lives near them. I scheduled them as my final visit so I could spend time with their oldest daughter and four- and two-year-olds, who live in Hong Kong. My brother and I had some marvelous conversations about some of our growing-up experiences. Games of Go Fish and Codenames, and meals of bulgogi and grilled salmon, resulted in an over-the-top Yelp rating.

When we set up my itinerary in February, my hosts and I had no idea the timing of my visits would be a bit sketchy.

Between arranging my time with my Charleston friends and visiting them, they decided to move to another state. The house they'd lived in for 12 years closed the day I arrived. The day before I got there, a moving van took all of their stuff to an apartment in a new state. Their son is getting ready to start college in yet another state. So they hosted me in a place they were house-sitting.

Six weeks before I arrived in Gainesville, my friends' malfunctioning washing machine flooded all but two of the rooms of their entire house. The day I arrived, the last of their new flooring and baseboards had been put in. But, of course, the place was in chaos. So I got to help put the guest room together and take about 200 boxes of jigsaw puzzles out of the guest bathroom.

And then in Arlington, my brother and sister-in-law had just had their two bathrooms redone, but a delay meant only one of their showers was functional. So seven of us got to navigate that reality!

In 13 days, I put just over 2,400 miles on my car... two chances to swim in the Atlantic Ocean ... children's stories ... a fascinating art museum exhibit on **Harriet Tubman** ... drives through the hills of Southern Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, and Western Maryland ... a ride through crystal-clear water in a glass-bottom boat ... laughter ... play ... and conversations. So many rich, deep conversations, which you know are the greatest joy I know. The whole time I kept asking myself, "Dave, do you realize how lucky you are to have so many good friends who are willing to keep our friendships alive even when years pass between in-person visits?"

That's what I did on my (first) summer vacation. At the end of August, Mike and I get to go to British Columbia. But that vacation won't be a road trip

Thank you for time away, so I can do things like this.

Dave Shull

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 are asked for **Pastor Al Debelak** who is home after recent open-heart surgery. He is currently on an extended round of antibiotics. Prayers are also asked for his wife **Karen Riccio**. Prayers for comfort continue to be asked for **Ellen Rose** and her mother **Ruth Murray**, as Ellen is in hospice care.

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Member Directory Update: **Bill Boys** has a new email address: wboys43206@gmail.com.

Thank You⁴

Ruth Murray wrote, “Your name Sister Act is just that, sisters working with love and compassion. You have given prayers, understanding, physical and financial assistance. Saying thank you is a small measure of the love I feel!”

+ + +

Emily Ott writes to the Special Funds Team on behalf of the **Ott Family**, “Thank you so much for your support for **Kathryn** and **Caroline** going to LOMO camp. This financial support gave us the breathing space to feel comfortable sending them, which is an opportunity we are grateful for because of the unique way in which camp helps them experience God and a community of faith in a new way. And LOMO in particular is a place we are confident will nurture their faith in healthy, not dangerous ways. We are so grateful for the support of Redeemer!”

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Also, a BIG thank you goes out to **Tom Mimplitch** for replacing/installing new carriage lights on either side of the main entrance and to the Property Team/**April Smith** on the completion of the alterations to the main floor restroom doors which now have ADA compliant automatic openers.

“The doors are now set for a gentle push to open from the hallway and pull to exit. The use of the push buttons should be for people with mobility challenges only. When the button is pushed, the door will stay open for approximately 12 seconds which is within ADA standards.”



Christ in Our Home for July-Sept. Available

The latest edition of the daily devotional booklet *Christ in Our Home* for July through September is now available on the Kiosk in the Narthex. Copies are free for anyone who would like one.

July Birthdays

16-Kandice Hoddinott 17-Cora Marquez
18-Kelley Frank 19-Terry Warren
21-Grace Jones 22-Alta Boreman
22-Noah Gosnell 25-Tracy Hoddinott Ervin
27-Tom Mimplitch 29-Kathy Mimplitch
29-Becky Trover 31-Marilyn Roberts

The Wider Church

Lutheran Disaster Relief Responds to Texas Flooding

Lutheran Disaster Relief (LDR) writes, “Our hearts break as we learn of the damage, loss of life and ongoing search for survivors.

“We join **Bishop Sue Briner’s** [bishop of the Southwestern Texas Synod] call to ‘pray, pray, pray for those who are still lost as well as the families of those who are lost, who have died or who have experienced loss of home and property.’

“As ever and with your support, our church stands ready to walk with our neighbors in the Texas hill country as the floodwaters recede and rebuilding begins.”

Gifts to LDR [HERE](#) can help with those efforts.

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

July 15 Praise God that in baptism we are marked as forgiven and freed from the grip of sin and death; empowered to act with love, kindness and mercy; and welcomed into a vast community of siblings in Christ.

16 Ask God to help us advocate for and improve access to public spaces for older adults and people with disabilities.

17 Pray for congregations and special ministries that work for wholeness, peace and justice in your community, across our country and throughout the world.

18 Promise to love and serve our neighbors in need with the same boundless grace and concern that God has shown us, unhindered by suspicion, prejudice, exclusion or the belief that someone must work or suffer as we have to earn our respect.

19 We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world -- together! Companion synod relationships of the ELCA connect our synods and congregations with Lutheran churches throughout the world. Praise God that this program nurtures all involved for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources.

20 What have you witnessed or learned that reminds you of God's presence and activity in the world? Lift up prayers of joy and thanksgiving!

21 Pray for voting members, church leaders and congregation observers as they prepare for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ. Ask the Spirit to fill them with enthusiasm for the church's mission and guide their discernment of how we should do God's work in a changing and challenging world.

The Community Beyond

Virtual Death Cafes Now on Zoom!

Emily Kent hosts a virtual Death Cafe on the fourth Tuesday of every month. They run from 7-8:30 p.m. Zoom Meeting ID 880 4396 8579, passcode 478465. "Please join us for a non-judgmental conversation about death and dying." The next one is set for **Tuesday, July 22**.

Reynoldsburg Community Band Announces Concerts

The Reynoldsburg Community Band has announced the schedule for its free concerts this summer. Please come and join the band ... and **April Smith** and **Linda Williams**, who both play in the group! More information about the band can be found [HERE](#). *Mark your calendars for the following concerts:*

Monday, July 14 at 7 p.m.
Reynoldsburg Senior Center
1520 Davidson Drive, Reynoldsburg

Sunday, August 10 at 7 p.m.
Columbus Park of Roses
3901 N. High St.

Monday, August 11 at 7 p.m.
Reynoldsburg Senior Center
1520 Davidson Drive, Reynoldsburg

Sunday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m.
Village Green Park
47 Hall St, Powell, OH

Getting Ready for Worship

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 20, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 15; Luke 10:38-42

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of All Saints Church: A Lutheran-Episcopal Community in Washington Courthouse.
- + 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, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sisters Kleta Childs and Karla Weaver, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Maddie Sutphin, the Trover's son-in-law Brandon James, Skye Andree, Kris Kauffman, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose and family, Kathie Ehrich, Dottie and Larry Bird, Kelley Frank's mother Charlotte Frank, Al Debelak and Karen Riccio, Edwina Bradley, for Laura Warren's brother and sister-in-law Sam and Cynthia Hudson, Karen Rider's niece Tammy and her friend Betsy Wagner, Sue, Tim and Lisa Watson, Heidi Carman, Bill Boys, Larry Jones.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Kathleen Zwanziger
Cantor	Jennifer Yount
ASL Interpreter	Marilyn Floyd
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Helen Brunston
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Judith Bird, April Smith
Communion Prep	Kay Ernsthansen, Kathy Denhard
Hospitality	Maddie Sutphin

*The Noisy Offering will go to Sikhona Rescue Centre in Kitengela, Kenya.
Flowers are given by Kristi Hildebrand celebrating the baptism of her great niece Erin Renee Wasowski.*

Upcoming Events at Redeemer July 14– July 21, 2025

Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Summer Book Study
Thursday	10:30 a.m.	Suzuki School
	12:30 p.m.	Redeemer Serves LSS Food Pantry
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts Troop 2462
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp

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