



A new adventure begins!

RLC Newsletter

May
2026

PASTOR ALLMAN RETIRES THIS MONTH

A Message from Pastor Allman

“40+ years of ordained ministry seems hard to imagine; although with me still being part of the Youth Group at Redeemer, telling many of you how the years have zoomed by may be comparable to the adage of “preaching to the choir.” Candy and I wish to thank you all for welcoming us into the Redeemer family, and all of the love and support you have shown us through the 13-years we all have served together at Redeemer

Today, as I write this newsletter article, close to the end of my ministry career, and service to Redeemer, I sit at my computer taking a virtual walk down memory lane; although 40+ years ago I had a typewriter instead of a computer. September 15, 1985 I was ordained at my home congregation, St. Mark in Toledo, OH; and, we began a ministry 30 miles east of Columbus, OH with a congregation of eight (8) people, four of which were children, and who were all related to one another in some way. It was a part-time Call, with my full-time job being at the State of Ohio Bureau of Employment Services. The Assistant to the Bishop asked me to help the congregation close their doors. I failed. Two years later there was an average attendance of 35 people, and the congregation stopped receiving

financial assistance from the bishop’s office. 40+ plus years later, they still serve in ministry.

Throughout the years I have served as solo pastor and on team ministries, as Associate Pastor and as Senior Pastor, often in Youth and Family ministries. There have been churches where I was the only staff member and churches where I had nine staff people working with me. I pastored a church with eight (8) members and two churches each with 1500 members. I have preached at one service on a weekend in some and five services on a weekend in others. One thing I have learned is to remember that it is God that builds the church and I do my best ministry when I listen and follow God’s lead into God’s preferred future.

Another surprise is the speed at which these past 13-years have gone by at Redeemer. We have grown together from an average weekly attendance of about 150 to nearly 200 prior to the impact of COVID-19. After COVID the ministry here was changed dramatically. We now have an average in-person worship attendance that is sometimes less than our average online worship attendance. The addition of “Live Streaming” was one of the positive

impacts of COVID in that folks who need to can watch from home. We track both attendance numbers, and combined we still worship more than 200 on a Sunday, which now includes viewers from around the US and even outside of the US. There is a saying that the Lord works in mysterious ways, and that strikes me as one of those mysteries.

I never imagined that I would need to become tech-savvy (albeit only a little) to do ministry for God. At times I feel like I have been operating on faith alone. If I have learned anything in these 40+ years of ordained ministry, I have learned that we do not know all the answers, and that is frustrating for everyone, although we know and trust a God who will not fail us.

When Pastor Peter Stiller retired from Redeemer in 2012, and before the interim pastor could start, I was asked to preach on the in between Sunday. When I led worship at Redeemer, for the message, I used Jeremiah 29:11 as the text, *“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’*” At the time I did not dream of becoming Redeemer’s next pastor. There is a saying that the Lord works in mysterious ways, and that strikes me as one of those mysteries.

Jeremiah 29:11 revisits my prayer life as we prepare for retirement ourselves. That promise remains true for Redeemer, Candy, and I as long as we continue to follow God into God’s preferred future. Thank you for blessing Candy and I, and thank you for letting us join you in this journey together at Redeemer.

Pastor Allman 

News from the Office Administrator May 2026

The past month has been very busy around here. All of us in the office are sad Pastor David and Candy are going to be off on their next adventure, and happy that they will be exploring the U.S. in their new cozy home.

I hope all of you are looking forward to our farewell celebration for them both. I am sure many of you have been thinking about what the perfect gift would be for David and Candy, and the honest answer is nothing. They have limited space in their RV and have already parted with what they are not able to take.

Our bookkeeper Mike is a Notary Public, he offers this service to our congregation. If you have friend in need the cost is \$10 per signature.

Our plan is to continue to help those in need of financial assistance. We have funds available at the church to help. We would like to continue to keep this confidential, our hope is that our future interim Pastor will be the only one that knows you received aid. Keep in mind this process will look a little different until we have an interim Pastor here. Once we have someone in place we will go from there. We don’t want anyone left in need, so please speak with Kadie, Mike or a member of council and we will do our best to be helpful.

Donations to the Pastors discretionary fund can be made at any time and given in any amount. If you would like to make a donation, please write Pastor’s discretionary fund on the memo line.

We are always accepting donations for the local food pantry.

Thank you for donating items for the food pantry in the Narthex closet.

Please remember, NO open packages or containers or expired food.



MAY STEWARDSHIP

The Apostle Paul writes, *“Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving”* (2 Corinthians 8:7, NLT).



As humans we naturally gravitate toward self-preservation. Generosity is not something that comes naturally, rather it is the result of God's grace in our lives. This is why Paul refers to the Corinthian offering as *“this gracious act of giving.”* Paul uses the Greek word ‘Charis’ here to indicate that financial giving is as much a gift of the holy spirit as any other gift that Paul mentions in his letters. Giving is also identified as a gift of the spirit in Romans 12:8 (*if your gift is giving, give generously*), where Paul exhorts the roman believers that if one's gift is contributing to the needs of others, then that person should give generously. Not unlike the Thrivent t-shirts with the slogan, *“Live Generously.”*



Among the things that Paul commends the Corinthians for excelling at is “love” (i.e., agape). Love, the same way that God loves us, must accompany the exercise of all spiritual gifts, otherwise nothing of lasting importance can come of them. I am always grateful for the love in which the people of Redeemer excel. The love of gracious and generous giving shines through to those on the receiving end of our giving as well as those who visit this congregation.

Your love of grace-giving excels through local and global missions, disaster relief at home and abroad, monthly benevolence and outreach projects, community charitable groups, food pantries, pastor's discretion, all the way up to and including the annual spending plan (aka budget). Thank you for being open to God working through you – blessed to be a blessing, if you will.



Paul follows up his previous words in the next chapter with these words, *“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. ‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully’”* (2 Corinthians 9:7, NLT). Thank you for being a financial part of the ministries that happen here at Redeemer. God uses us all in a powerful way to touch people's lives with the love of Jesus, and in turn others will join us in giving thanks and praise to God.

Praise
and give thanks to *the*
Lord

GROWING IN FAITH

“Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received... Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress” (1 Timothy 4:14-15, NLT).

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another” (1 Peter 4:10, NLT).



Did you know you had a spiritual gift? Do not panic! There is nothing to fear! The Holy Spirit is our friend! The Holy Spirit is the third part of our Triune God! God gives good gifts! Now breathe...

After you have your breathing back under control you may feel like asking, “Why me?” or simply “Why?” Let’s consider the larger picture of why spiritual gifts are important. First and foremost, spiritual gifts are given and used to glorify God. Second, spiritual gifts are given and used to help us build up the Church and become more like Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul says, *“Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12-13, NLT).*

Jesus is our perfect example! Jesus personified all the spiritual gifts through the words Jesus spoke and the actions Jesus carried out. Since Jesus is now at the right hand of God, the Holy Spirit is the primary expression of the presence of God on the earth. Therefore, God distributes the gifts of the Holy Spirit among Christians, so we can glorify God and build up the Church.



Each person has been given a primary spiritual gift, and other secondary spiritual gifts. God brings people together in order that our spiritual gifts can complement one another and we learn to rely on one another. As our understanding of Redeemer’s spiritual gifts matures, our appreciation for all of the people at Redeemer increases.

God has brought you to Redeemer for a reason. Your spiritual gifts are important to God’s preferred future for Redeemer. Your spiritual gifts are not an end in themselves. They are tools with which we can speak clearly the love of God to all people. Use them well to serve one another.



From our Parish Nurse Team

WHAT OLDER ADULTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Did you ever wonder about the effects of alcoholic drinks on your body and has that changed now as compared to when you were 21? Research over the last 20 years has led to recommendations for reducing alcohol use as we age.

A 2024 observational study found a wide range of medical problems become more significant with alcohol. Recommendations from AARP, the National Institute of Aging, and other older adult health organizations are a maximum of 2 drinks for men and 1 drink for women in a 24-hour time frame. A “standard drink” is based on alcohol by volume (ABV). 12 ounces of regular beer (5% alcohol by volume, or ABV) (1 can or bottle), 5 ounces of wine (12% ABV) (slightly more than ¼ cup), or 1.5 ounces (about 3 Tablespoons) of 80-proof spirits (40% ABV).

What are the known effects of alcohol? The first thought is liver disease. That is a problem of alcohol over time and combined with diet, the liver may have permanent damage. Alcohol is a significant problem with depression. Daily drinking may increase the risk of developing depression. People who are depressed may find that drinking leads to a deeper depression. Treatment for alcohol abuse may then make depression worse.

According to the NIH.gov website, long term alcohol use may:

- Lead to some kinds of cancer, liver damage, immune system disorders, and brain damage.
- Worsen some health conditions such as osteoporosis, diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, ulcers, memory loss, and mood disorders
- Make some medical conditions hard for doctors to accurately diagnose and treat. For example, alcohol causes changes in the heart and blood vessels. These changes can dull pain that might be a warning sign of a heart attack.
- Cause some older people to be forgetful and confused — symptoms that could be mistaken for signs of Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia.

Any alcohol use may increase risks of accidents. NIH studies found that older adults increase their risks of accidents because of decreased coordination and reaction time. Data indicates that as many as 65% of fatal falls are likely related to alcohol and 30% of fatal vehicle crashes.

Combining alcohol and medications:

Check with your pharmacist or physician about combining alcohol with your over-the-counter and prescription medications. The NIH website also identifies five over-the-counter medications for which alcohol is not recommended.

- If you take aspirin and drink, your risk of stomach or intestinal bleeding increases.
- When combined with alcohol, cold and allergy medicines (antihistamines) may make you feel very sleepy.
- Alcohol used with large doses of acetaminophen, a common painkiller, may cause liver damage.
- Some medicines, such as cough syrups and laxatives, have a high alcohol content. If you simultaneously drink alcohol, that will add to the effects.
- Alcohol used with some sleeping pills, pain pills, or anxiety/anti-depression medicine can be deadly.

References: <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/alcohol-misuse-or-alcohol-use-disorder/facts-about-aging-and-alcohol>
<https://www.health.harvard.edu/healthy-aging-and-longevity/last-call-for-alcohol>

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd – Carolyn Cole**
4th – Paula Simenson
5th – Winston McKenzie
6th – Barbara Kargol
7th – Karin Meredith
9th – Mike Sigler
10th – Eleanor Jurgens
12th – Heidi Leskowics, Joan Wessinger
14th – Lee Johnson
21st – Chuck Kovacik
26th – Judith Lavallee
27th – Kathy Westerman
30th – Martha Viohl



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7th – Joseph & Audrey Ercegovich**
9th – Rosalie & Jerry Kelleher
18th – Mike & Sherri Knaub
**19th – David & Candy Allman,
Tom & Deb Middleton**
27th – Tim & Theresa McKee
28th – Bob & Delores Casper



We ask if you notice information is missing or incorrect, please let us know. Thank you!



May

Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. May 3 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Kathy Schwartz, Helen Schaefer, Alithia Harig	Jim Schwartz
Sun. May 10 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Paul Ó Braonáin
Sun. May 17 10:00 AM	Joe Bernagozzi	Jenise German, Mary Ann Sigler, Wendy Kitzman	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. May 24 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick		Joyce Kuzmick
Sun. May 31 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Joe Bernagozzi

May Usher Team	May Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Chuck Kovacik Team	Doris Hahn and Judy Buskirk	Volunteers



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. June 7 10:00 AM	Joe Bernagozzi	Joe Bernagozzi, Wendy Kitzman	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. June 14 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Paul Ó Braonáin
Sun. June 21 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick	Joyce Kuzmick, Kathy Schwartz, David Lickfeldt	Joyce Kuzmick
Sun. June 28 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz		Irene Wright

Please contact Carolyn Cole at 813-812-7527 if you have any questions about being an acolyte, lector, or communion assistant or if you would like to be added to the upcoming schedule.



Council's Corner

At the Redeemer Council meeting on April 21, 2026, members were privileged to meet with Pastor Nicole Eastwood. Pastor Nicole is the Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy and Transition and is charged with the role of helping congregations with their pastoral needs. She presented our Council President, Keith Kovach, with a Transition Manual that details steps and will help answer our questions as we work through the upcoming time. She urged us to take the time to celebrate Pastor and Candy Allman before they leave and then start to focus on the task ahead. There are checklists and assessments to work through before we put together a Call Committee. The Call Committee should have six members, as established by our Constitution.

Once established, the Call Committee will create a profile of our church and our needs for our next Pastor. Once the profile is complete, Pastor Nicole will look at profiles of available Pastors to find the best match possible. The Synod approves who the Call Committee may interview, and the initial interview will likely occur over a Zoom call. If both parties are favorable, the candidate will visit Redeemer to tour and have an in-person meeting with the committee. Next step would be to meet the Council with a final step of a Congregational Meeting to approve the candidate.

Pastor Nicole stressed the importance of Trusting the Lord's Timing and having patience while we follow the process. In the meantime, we will have an Interim Pastor in place to lead us and provide day-to-day consistency and help us with the process. Pastor Nicole is currently in touch with someone who might be available for a year's placement.

Ladies Tea Party- Save the date May 13th

Ladies of the church the Tea Party to celebrate Candy is Wednesday, May 13th at 2:00 PM.

We will be serving an assortment of teas, scrumptious sandwiches, and a variety of desserts.

We are also asking that attendees bring in a non-perishable food item or two for donation to the local food pantry. This will allow us to honor Candy and give back to those in need by supporting the local food pantry.

We will also be raffling off some lovely gift baskets so bring some cash so you won't miss out on your opportunity to win.



Retirement Party for Pastor Allman Saturday, May 16th

Our beloved Pastor Allman is retiring! Redeemer is planning a retirement party for him on Saturday, May 16th. This event will be a catered meal for our congregation to celebrate Pastor Allman before he leads us for worship one final time on Sunday, May 17th.

Tickets are \$5 if you would like to attend. We have limited space available. Please reach out to Kadie or Mike if you would like to attend.



Interfaith Social Action Council of Sun City Center- Nearly New Shop

How many of you have ever heard of Nearly New? How about the Interfaith Social Action Council or ISAC?

The Interfaith Social Action Council of Sun City Center strives to enhance and benefit the lives of the persons and organizations within the South Shore community. The cooperation of multiple houses of worship, dedicated Nearly New Shop volunteers, caring donors, and faithful customers have made possible funding a wide variety of community programs and student scholarships.

The Council's motivating force is ensuring the general welfare of the entire Sun City Center Community. Our primary mission is supporting programs and activities that enrich the lives of all our residents. Our principal purpose is to provide help where it is needed.

Houses of Worship: Beth Israel Jewish Congregation, Prince of Peace Catholic, Redeemer Lutheran, St. Andrew Presbyterian, St. John the Divine Episcopal, Trinity Baptist and United Methodist.

Redeemer and the other 6 churches in our community who volunteer at the Nearly New Shop provide each year 100 plus scholarships of \$2,000 each year, renewable for as many up to four years of accredited college and university scholarships for graduating seniors from East Bay, Lennard and Sumner High School and will also include the new Aquilla J. Morgan High School in Wimauma. They also fund Mature Scholarships @ HCC, and NN Work Study Scholarships.

Each year ISAC awards over \$100,000's in grants to South Shore service organizations with an approved IRS 501(C)3 designation and to local schools with 85-8012621971-c-8 designation. The purpose of the grants is to benefit residents of our service area, bounded by the Alafia River on the North, Hillsborough County line on the East and South, and the Tampa Bay Shoreline on the West.

This year the Interfaith Social Action Council was able to donate \$1,500 to each of our 7 churches listed above. This money can be used for our church or our community to help others in need.

It's because of our volunteers they were able to help provide each of our churches with these funds.

All donations to Nearly New Shop are used wisely. If items are unable to be sold, we donate to various organizations in the local area; Hurricane Relief programs, Salvation Army, Vets, Recycle Clothing & Metal, etc.

Nearly New is located in the save a lot parking lot, on the rear side of the building. (Yes, you have to go behind the building to get to there). They are open for donations Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:00 AM to noon.

They are open for sales Wednesday and Saturdays from 8:00 AM to noon.

However, June thru August they are only open on Saturdays.



Book Nook News: Take one, leave one

Thank you for continuing to visit and use the Book Nook in Buhr Hall to borrow and share your favorite books. We have heard there is interest in having a collection of puzzles! Do you have puzzles you can donate to help us get started? Also, if you are visiting homebound members, please consider asking them if they would like to borrow a book or puzzle so we can expand the circle of users.





May 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:30 AM- Stitch & Bond	2 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
3 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	4 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 12:00 PM-OA Meeting 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	5 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	6 10:00 AM-Fundraising Team Mtg 10:00 AM-Constitution Revision Mtg	7 5:00 PM-Bible Study 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	8 9:30 AM- Stitch & Bond	9 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
10 10:00 AM- Worship	11 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 12:00 PM-OA Meeting 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	12 11:00 AM-Memorial Service Cathy Lindsey 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	13 11:00 AM-Finance Committee Mtg 2:00 PM-Tea Party	14 5:00 PM-Bible Study 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	15	16 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice 4:00 PM- Retirement Party
17 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	18 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 12:00 PM-OA Meeting 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	19 11:30 AM-South shore coalition 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	20	21 5:00 PM-Bible Study 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	22 9:30 AM- Stitch & Bond	23 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
24 10:00 AM- Worship	25 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 12:00 PM-OA Meeting 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	26 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	27	28 5:00 PM-Bible Study 5:30 PM-HOA Meeting 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	29 9:30 AM- Stitch & Bond	30 10:00 AM- Hurricane Preparedness
31 10:00 AM- Worship						

*God bless our country, our first responders,
and our military men and women.*

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