



RLC Newsletter

June 2023

A Message from Pastor Allman

The Apostle Paul writes: *Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out...* (Romans 15:1-3 Msg)

When we pray, "Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done; on earth as it is in Heaven," what do we think we are praying for? Do we truly want God's Will to be done; or do we hope God will do what we want? Do we truly want God's Kingdom of unconditional love; or do we want God to create a

kingdom that fits nicely into our prejudices and bias?

When Jesus helped people, often involving a healing of some sort, Jesus did not first ask about their religious affiliation, how often they attended synagogue, or which of the commandments they had broken recently. In fact, after choosing the initial twelve disciples, Jesus rarely even asked someone he healed to follow him. A few times he told the person that her/his faith had made her/him well, even though we have no record of them talking about faith. Jesus even did healings for Gentiles and Roman citizens.

So, what should be our criteria for helping someone? According to the Apostle Paul, *"Each one of us needs to look after the good of*

the people around us, asking ourselves, 'How can I help?'" (Vs 2, above). The only criteria Jesus appears to have used was his compassion and the person's need.

Two of Redeemer's Core Values read: "Welcoming all people as we believe that everyone matters to God therefore everyone matters to us" (Acts 10:34 - "I truly understand that God shows no partiality..." [NRSV]). And, "Serving locally and globally we strive to bring the love of God into people's lives by helping meet their physical needs" (Matt. 25:40 - "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." [NRSV]).

In his book, "Kingdom Come," Rev. Reggie McNeal writes, "God

works in all human endeavors... so that all people experience life as God intends it." Our prayer should be to discern what God is up to in our extended (south shore) community. A kingdom approach involves lots of listening and local input and would be conducted from a posture of quiet service... it would operate from a conviction that God is already at work in the community... and an awareness that God wants the community to prosper, and ask how we, as God's people, can help.

Pastor Allman 

Thank you for donating items for the food pantry in the narthex closet. Please remember, NO open packages or containers.



Please remember Redeemer when doing your estate planning

News from the Office Administrator

June 2023

Summer is upon us and many of our snowbirds have left town. Things may be a little quieter here, but there will still be stuff happening at Redeemer. I hope at this point everyone feels comfortable accessing the livestream of our worship service every Sunday. Pastor Allman also updates our YouTube channel with bible study recordings. If you need help accessing it, please feel free to contact me in the office and I will do my best to walk you through the process.

As usual be sure you check the Welcome Table in the narthex for upcoming events. We post flyers and signup sheets there for many different activities so come and choose some fun and informative things to do!

Please know that if you are in need of financial assistance, we have funds available at the church to help. This remains confidential. Only Pastor will know that you received aid. We don't want anyone left in need, so please speak with Pastor Allman if we can be helpful.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, June 8-10 SYNOD Assembly

Saturday, June 24– Indoor Community Garage Sale

Sunday, June 25- Blood Pressure Checks following worship

Monday, June 26 at 5:30 PM – Dinner and a movie, Dinner starts at 5:30PM followed by a movie at 6:00 PM



April YouTube

9 New Subscribers

1,111 total views

12.1K minutes watched

JUNE STEWARDSHIP

Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope. Give a kind and respectful answer and keep your conscience clear. (1 Peter 3:15b-16a; CEV)

Do you remember when you became a Christian? I do not actually “remember” that event, because I was baptized a few months after my birth. I remember being regular in Sunday school, worship and catechism; and, I remember making my “Confirmation;” which is now called “Affirmation of Baptism.” I suppose I could reference those years as the years when I learned to be a Christ-follower. Since that time, I have striven to become more spiritually mature – i.e., Grow in Faith. I have not yet become just like Jesus, so I still have room to grow.

At whatever point you claim to have become a Christian or Christ-follower, you also became God’s messenger. You/We are sent with the message of the good news of Jesus Christ; in order that God may speak to the world through you/us. “One who is sent” is the literal definition of the Greek word that we translate into English as apostle. “...being sent by God, we sincerely speak in Christ in the sight of God” (2 Corinthians 2:17; MEV). And again, “Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts” (1 John 5:10a; NRSV).

Over my 37+ years of ordained ministry I have tried to convince people of the “priesthood of all believers” as Martin Luther describes us. According to Norma Cook Everist in *Baptism and Vocation*, “Ministry is not reserved for some only. People enter ‘the ministry’ through baptism. The ministry of the baptized is sacramental and communal... The word ‘priesthood’ is plural. By God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ, the Spirit created the priesthood we all share... It is not a matter of who ‘gets to do’ certain things or have certain power.”

Still people try to excuse themselves by claiming that is not for them; or, they are not a Pastor; or,

surely there is someone better suited for that. Yet, it is not about receiving special gifts or special training; rather, the simple answer is, if you call yourself a Christ-follower (Christian), then God has an expectation that you will share your story. That is what a witness does: tells her/his story. You are the only authority on your life of faith.



Others will look at a pastor, or missionary, or evangelist, and see someone doing their job. People will look at you and see a “satisfied customer” (so-to-speak) and give you more credibility. Personal stories are better than Creeds and Doctrines. People will relate better to your story than if you were quoting theologians and Bible verses. You have a story for every experience in which God has helped you. Your stories will make God/Jesus relatable.

How often have you watched a movie or television program because someone told you how much they liked it? How often have you gone to a restaurant because someone told you about their experience there? Have you ever gone somewhere on vacation or even a day-trip because someone told you about their experience? Why would your story about your experience with Jesus be less important than those? For the next 28-days, when you wake up, ask yourself who God wants you to tell your story to that day.



GROWING IN FAITH

Does anyone remember, as a child, collecting attendance pins/stickers for going to Sunday school, catechism, and worship services? I can remember proudly bearing my stickers and after a certain period, receiving a perfect attendance pin. For me, at least, it was motivation to get up Sunday morning and be counted. I can vaguely remember bringing back bulletins from other churches we attended while on vacation, so I would not be marked “absent” and disrupt my “perfect attendance record.”

I cannot remember how long ago “regular attendance” changed definition from every week to every-other-week, or once a month, or Christmas and Easter. It should not come as a surprise to anyone in Church work – volunteer or paid – that attendance is on a downward trend. Not just locally, it is a trend across the nation and across denominations and other religions. As of our last US Census, the fastest growing category under religious affiliation has been “none.” In 2010 it was 1-in-5 Americans, and in 2020 it increased to 3-in-5; a 60% increase.

Church workers – volunteer and paid – want to know what we can do about it. Most people presume there is a program or gimmick that can be tried which will attract people and make them want to come. No such gimmick or program exists. Research among “nones” – those checking the “none” box for religious affiliation on the US Census – has discovered that they are not anti-God, they are simply not interested in religious institutions.

What then is the answer? What are “they” looking for? The answer (IMHO) is the same in this 21st Century, Western Civilization as it was in the 1st Century, Middle Eastern Civilization: relationships. “Nones” are finding fulfilling relationships in other arenas: homes of friends, coffee shops, social clubs, and even fitness centers. Many now view

religious institutions as too condemning and judgmental.

Jesus did not come preaching about a new program or even to start a new religion/church. In brief, Jesus’ message was all about relationships – love God with everything in us, and love other people as we love ourselves; Jesus even included loving our enemies in that command (see Matthew 5:44). Jesus routinely loved the unlovely, so to speak. Jesus routinely developed relationships with the ostracized – tax collectors, sinners, prostitutes, the unclean, the diseased, the lepers, the Samaritans, the demon possessed, people in need of healing, etc. I saw a post on Facebook the other day that said the gospel message is simply this: become like Jesus.

For Jesus and God, love is not simply a sentimental feeling, it produces results/actions in the way we live and how we treat one another every day. The phrase “one another” occurs 100 times in the New Testament. Approximately 59 of those occurrences are specific commands teaching us how (and how not) to relate to one another. These are behaviors we do out of an overflow of our loving relationship with Jesus and God.

1 John 4 reads, *“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love... Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another... God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them... We love because he first loved us”* (7-8, 11, 16, 19).

God’s Holy Spirit is with us to help us become spiritually mature (Grow in Faith), and my definition for spiritually mature is that we become just like Jesus. The Apostle Paul teaches that is what we continue to strive toward. I have not yet reached that level of spiritual maturity. Sometimes I think I am not even close. In terms of becoming just like Jesus, I have plenty of room to grow. How about you?

We love
BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US

From the Parish Nurse Team

Drink Up! Preventing Dehydration in Seniors

With all the various drinks on the market, one might think that staying adequately hydrated is fairly foolproof. But a five-year study of more than 15,000 Americans notes that among adults age 71 and above, 95 % of men and 83% if women do not drink enough water.

When a person uses or loses more water than their body takes in, they face a condition called dehydration. **NOT DRINKING ENOUGH WATER AND OTHER FLUIDS THROUGHOUT THE DAY CAN LEAD TO THE BODY FAILING TO CARRY OUT NORMAL FUNCTIONS SUCH AS DIGESTION AND TEMPERATURE REGULATION.** Dehydration increases the risk of falls and urinary tract infections. Water also helps to lubricate joints.

Drinking more fluids can reverse mild to moderate dehydration, but severe dehydration requires immediate medical treatment. Dehydration is a common cause of hospitalization among the elderly.

The sensation of being thirsty fades with age which is one reason many older adults don't drink enough fluids. And by the time you feel thirsty, you are probably already dehydrated. Cognitive challenges, mobility restrictions, and just plain forgetting to hydrate are common among seniors. Other causes are medications and kidney problems.

Symptoms of dehydration include fatigue, feeling light-headed, headache, thirst, dry skin, low urine output, dark colored urine, difficulty concentrating, muscle cramps, skin that does not plump back when pinched, and decreased tears. More serious symptoms are sunken eyes, low blood pressure, rapid heart rate, rapid breathing, and confusion.

WAYS TO HELP PREVENT DEHYDRATION

- Keep fluids handy. Make it a routine.
- Check that urine is light colored and output is sufficient.
- Serve a variety of high-water content foods such as fruit, soups, vegetables, and smoothies.
- Do not skip meals as much of a senior's fluids comes from food.
- Avoid caffeine and alcohol which can dehydrate the body.
- In warmer weather, schedule outdoor activities for the cooler part of the day.
- Consult with MD if having diarrhea.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4th – Kathy Filip, Gerry Harding
5th – Karen Munford, Don Schwarz
7th – Gerri Julian, Evan Dehne
8th – Tina Kotek
9th – Linda Eargle
10th – Esther Geissler
15th – Kaye Ristow
17th – Mike Corbett
**18th – Sieglinde Obernesser,
Marjorie Mingst, Ralph Johnson**
19th – Fred Bastion
23rd – Joan Abrams
25th – Sandy Gundacker
28th – Ann Miller, Mary Moquin
29th – Sally Trenski
30th – Walter Geissler, Keith Kovach



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

4th – Kurt & Cindy Hetler
11th – Ava & James Casper
13th – Patrick & Jane Sturmer
15th – Ed & Tina Kotek
18th – Robert & Delores Turner
25th – Jim & Sandy McCaw
29th – Martha & Robert Viohl Jr.



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



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. June 4 10:00 AM	Mike Corbett	Sandra & René Buggs, Mike Corbett	Mike Corbett
Sun. June 11 7:00 PM	Kathy Schwartz		Sherri Knaub
Sun. June 18 7:00 PM	Kathy Schwartz	Paul Ó Braonáin, Walter Geissler, Kathy Schwartz	Jim Schwartz
Sun. June 25 10:00 AM	Walter Geissler		Chuck Kovacik



Please contact Carolyn Cole at 813-812-7527 if you have any questions or need to about the worship assistant schedule or if you would like to be added to the upcoming schedule.

June Usher Team	June Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Shari Fleming's Team	Doris Hahn, Judy Buskirk, & Jean Jackson	Volunteers





Meals on Wheels a Huge Success



The picture above was taken May 1st, at the rear entrance to the hospital, as Redeemer began their deliveries for the month of May. Jack and Wendy Kitzman, shown back left, and Ann Miller and Larry Clark, shown far right, delivered to Sun City Center. In the center are Jean Jackson, Sandy Gundacker, and Judy Buskirk who delivered to Kings Point. Martha Roman, far left is a Good Samaritan volunteer who provides each driver with the route and number of meals to be delivered. And so, it continued throughout the month that people in need received nutritious, tasty, hot meals in their homes. Well done good and thankful servants. Hope to see you as new volunteers again next year.

Blood Pressure Check

The next blood pressure checks will be on June 25th and continue on the last Sunday of every month. Honey Ashley and Rosalie Kelleher will be in Buhr Hall following the worship service. This is a convenient opportunity to keep check on your numbers.

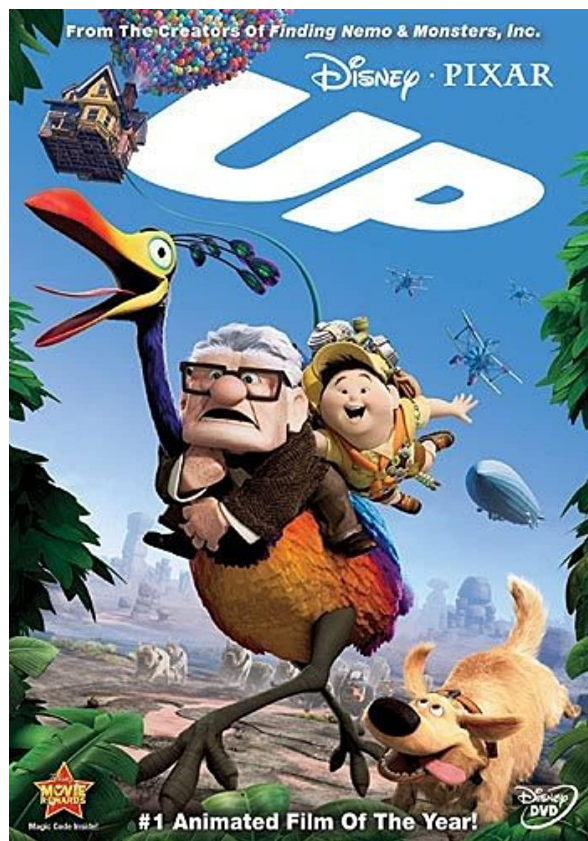
Altar Guild News

A short meeting of the Altar Guild will be held for present members and those who are interested in joining the Altar Guild on June 25 directly after service. All are welcome to join. Looking forward to seeing you there.



Monday, June 26th at 5:30 PM

Join us for movie night this month on June 26th at 5:30 PM to see *Up*. Dinner will most likely be chicken noodle soup, crackers and salad. Bring your own beverage and a non-perishable food item to be donated to the food pantry.



About the movie: Retired balloon salesman Carl Fredriksen and eight-year-old Russell fly toward adventure as they seek the famed Paradise Falls!

Mother's Day Carnations

Thanks to WELCA for providing carnations to all women in church and homebound women on Mother's Day.

Visitation Volunteers Needed

You may not be aware that Redeemer has more than 50 homebound people. Prior to 2020 and the pandemic, we had two teams of members who would volunteer to visit and/or take Holy Communion to our members who cannot come to Sunday worship. For a variety of reasons, volunteerism has declined in many not-for-profit organizations around the country; which is also true for Redeemer. We have lost nearly everyone who served in this vital ministry. Please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to visit and/or provide Holy Communion to these homebound members and friends of Redeemer.

Worship Assistants Needed

Please consider being an acolyte and/or communion assistant.

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

Property Team Members Needed

Redeemer is in need of some handymen. We are looking for men to help us assess work that needs to be done at the church. This may include some hands on work but often times you may just be writing up a contact for the scope of work that needs to be done & getting quotes for the work. There are no structured meeting schedules, the property meets on an as needed basis. If you might be interested in lending a hand please contact the office.

Community Indoor Garage Sale

Redeemer will be trying a new fundraiser this summer. This one is an indoor garage sale where you can purchase a table for \$20 and sell your own items. It will be held in Buhr Hall on **Saturday, June 24th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. You can be either be a vendor or a shopper - or both.** Vendor applications are available on the welcome counter in the narthex. As a vendor, the sale will benefit both

you and the church. Profits from table rent and refreshment sales will go to Redeemer. Do you remember the good hot dogs you had at the Rummage Sale in February? We plan to sell them again for the garage sale.

Help from both men and women will be needed to set up Buhr Hall following Fellowship on Sunday, June 18th and to reset it on June 25th again after Fellowship. Please offer a hand as many hands make quick work. They also help make projects like this possible. A sign-up sheet is on the welcome counter in the narthex.

Red Rover

Just like the childhood game, we need someone to let us come over and use your available garage space. In previous years, congregation members volunteered a portion of their garage for our Rummage Sale storage. Garage space allows Redeemer to increase the amount of inventory available on sale days. If you are willing to help us, please contact Mary Ann Sigler by e-mail at masigler67@gmail.com or by phone at 614-313-8082. We need to begin storing items in September of this year.

Save the date!

Florida-Bahamas Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering

Holy Ground- God Still
November 10-12, 2023

Warren Willis Retreat Center Fruitland Park



Psalms 46:10

"Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world."

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group No Choir practice	2 9:30 AM-Quilters	3
4 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	5 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	6 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	7 10:00 AM-Fundraising Team Meeting	8 SYNOD Assembly 9:00 Parish Nurse Mtg 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	9 SYNOD Assembly 9:30 AM-Quilters	10 SYNOD Assembly
11 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-Usher Meeting	12 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	13 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	14	15 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	16 9:30 AM-Quilters	17
18 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship Set Hall after service	19 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 01:00 PM-Council Meeting	20 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	21	22 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	23	24 9:00 AM-Indoor Rummage Sale
25 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-BP Check 11:00 AM-Altar Guild Meeting Reset Hall after service	26 10:00 AM WELCA Board 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 5:30 PM Movie Night	27 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	28	29 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	30 9:30 AM-Quilters	

