



RLC Newsletter

June 2024

DAY OF PENTECOST

A Message from Pastor Allman

Genesis 1:27 (NRSV) reads, “So **God** created humans in his **image**, in the **image of God** he created them; male and female he created them.”

That means **all** people; not just the ones who look like us, think like us, talk like us, worship like us, vote like us, etc. Every human bears the image of God. Someone once said that you will never look into the eyes of another that does not bear the image of God. This is the common denominator that connects with each other, and with God. Please take time to seriously think about that for a while.

In his book, “Kingdom Come,” Reggie McNeal writes, “*Seeing the image of God in all people becomes a central element in how we relate to society from a Kingdom-based perspective... A healthy appreciation for the image of God in people can help us repair the sin of ‘us versus them’ that separates us from one another. It can help us from dishonoring people...if we view other people as fellow bearers of the divine image, we can connect with them on our mutual interest in life that we all have*” (page 107).

My wife and I were talking one evening and wondering aloud how we reached a point in our

society where people feel entitled to treat others disrespectfully; or as McNeal says above, “dishonoring people?” I think there is a pervasive anger among people in our society. I think it brought us to a point where there are those in society who cannot disagree respectfully. I think social media makes that too easy as well; perhaps causing people to believe that commenting on another’s post means they can disregard manners and polite or civilized communication. The amount of vitriol I have seen is cringeworthy; and drives me to my knees in prayer.

I think we, yes even some Christians, have abandoned God’s Word teaching us that **all** people are created in God’s image, **all** people are God’s image bearers. What if we thought about that before we engaged in vitriol toward another? What would change in our demeanor and word choices, if we considered that we are speaking (writing) to another who bears God’s image as well? Maybe we cannot change everyone in society, although I am sure each one of us can change our own thoughts, words, and deeds. After all, God’s Word comes to each of us so that we will use it to improve ourselves, not use it to criticize others.

Each week, at least, we pray as the Lord taught us to say, "Thy Kingdom Come; Thy Will Be Done; on Earth as it is in Heaven." Do we mean that? Or, is it just something we say because it is written down in the liturgy, and everyone else is saying it? If we truly hope for God's Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, then – in my humble opinion – it must come within each one of us first.

Pastor Allman 



April on YouTube
2 New Subscribers
970 total views
9,654 K minutes watched



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



News from the Office Administrator **June 2024**

My family and I will be visiting Michigan for the first time during the first week of June. We are really looking forward to exploring, and getting out of the Florida heat for a little while.

In case you had not heard Mike is a Notary Public, he will be offering this service to our congregation. If you have friend in need the cost is \$10 per signature.

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:

Wed., June 19th at 10:30 AM-
 CAHT Presentation on Human Trafficking
 with lunch

Thurs., June 20 at 1:00 PM –
 WELCA Book Club

There will be no movie night in June



JUNE STEWARDSHIP

Simplicity is neither a new nor a radical idea in Christianity; although, in our western civilization we may tend to regard simplicity as radical because our culture places a high value on acquisition. When Jesus sent out the apostles he told them, “...to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics” (Mark 6:8–9).



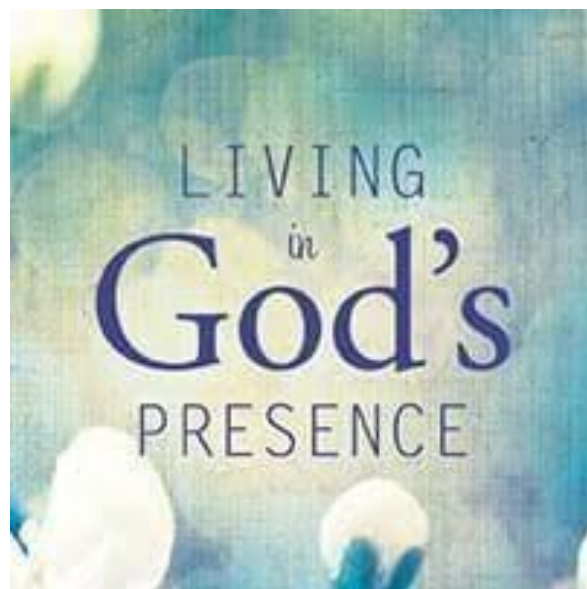
To embrace simplicity calls for a radical trust (a.k.a. faith) that does not come easily. Simplicity is not **a** gift; along with the freedom that it brings it is **the** gift. We grow in generosity as we embrace simplicity. We can hold all things lightly and, if need be, let them go — our possessions, our money, our pretensions, even our anger, our prejudices, and our fears. Simplicity cannot be coerced; it must be joyful, and it must be voluntary. We live more passionately because we are set free from the burdensome work of holding on tightly to anything that comes within our grasp.

Simplicity provides a necessary self-emptying so we can live more fully in the presence of God. It affects the way we listen and respond to people and events that impact us each day. Simplicity affects the way we interact with God's Creation, as stewards versus consumers. Simplicity helps to clear our vision in how we read, hear, and live into God's Word and God's Calling on our lives. Simplicity dispels the multiple worldly noises that confuse and distract us from God's preferred future for us.

Simplicity challenges the lifestyle that accumulates possessions, property, and money. Simplicity demonstrates that possessions ultimately possess us. See the story of the “rich young man” in Matthew 19:16-22. Jesus suggests the young man divest himself of his many possessions, and verse 22 tells us, “*When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.*” Grieving is something we do when we lose a loved one. Jesus also teaches in Matthew 6:21, “*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*”



Simplicity addresses our need to fill an emptiness in a different way. The emptiness yearns to be filled, and if we recognize the potential spiritual energy which lies within the heart we can feel at home with this emptiness. Our souls will resonate with the freedom that comes with simplicity. To live presently in the presence of God will be our desire.



GROWING IN FAITH

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33, NRSV).

Many believe that every person has a God-size hole, waiting to be filled. Rev. Richard Rohr teaches that God creates the very dissatisfaction that only grace and finally divine love can satisfy. He says that all of us are looking for our True Self, our true home, whether we know it or not; and the journey is a spiral and never a straight line.

Some try to fill the emptiness they feel inside with things other than God’s grace and love only to discover the other thing does not provide satisfaction. Some of the things people seek, other than God’s Kingdom, do damage and possibly lead to complete destruction; i.e., drugs, alcohol, illicit sex, fame, success, money, possessions, etc. These things may provide superficial pleasure, for a time, yet they lack depth and value.

There are practical ways to seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness, such as worship, prayer, Bible study, and companionship among God’s people. Ultimately, as we “Grow in Faith,” we move beyond the basic rituals to an inner knowing. In my humble opinion, we move beyond head-knowledge into a soul-to-soul relationship with God. Some religions call this nirvana, bliss, or enlightenment, and others may scoff at this esoteric language; yet when Jesus taught us to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, I do not think he was referring to some far-off future heaven.



Jesus taught the first and greatest commandment is to love God now, with everything in us; all our heart, all our soul, all our mind. Jesus also invited Christ-followers to abide in his love just as he abides in God’s love. These images are all encompassing, ongoing, full time, every day, twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, three hundred sixty-five days per year, for a lifetime.



Our relationship with God will emerge from within us, much more than from a mere belief system or any belonging system, which largely remain on the outside of the self. Brené Brown calls this longing within us, for a personal relationship with God, a spiritual homesickness. In the foreword to “Falling Upward,” by Richard Rohr, she writes, “...when I return home to the place in me where God dwells, I’m no longer interested in making it a quick visit so I can run back to the world...”

As we “Grow in Faith” we discover that the things of this world, including practical religious observances, will not fill that God-sized hole, which causes us to long for that personal relationship with God.



Become Part of *Our* Church Family

Redeemer is always welcoming new members! If you would like to join new member forms can be found on the welcome table or stop by the office to learn more.

Tips for older adults to drive safely

Maybe you already know that driving at night or in rainy weather is a problem for you. Some older drivers also have problems with certain routes or driving on busy highways, for example. Consider these tips to help you make safe choices about driving:



- **Talk with your doctor.** If you have any concerns about your health and driving, see your doctor. Don't risk hurting yourself or others.
- **Be physically active.** This will help you keep and even improve your strength and flexibility, which may help your driving abilities.
- **Consider your car.** If possible, drive a car with automatic transmission, power steering, power brakes, and large mirrors. Newer cars come equipped with backup cameras, which can make parking and backing up easier, as well as other sensors that can alert a driver to a nearby object or vehicle before an accident occurs.
- **Take care of your eyes and ears.** Always wear your glasses or contact lenses if you need them to see clearly. If you use hearing aids, be sure to wear them while driving.
- **Avoid driving certain times of day.** Cut back on or stop driving at night if you have trouble seeing in the dark. Try to avoid driving during sunrise and sunset, when the sun can be directly in your line of vision.
- **Check in with yourself.** Don't drive if you feel lightheaded or drowsy. Be sure to check any warnings on your medications. Try to avoid driving when you are stressed or tired.
- **Don't crowd.** Leave ample space between your car and the car in front of you and start braking early when you need to stop.
- **Plan your timing.** Avoid heavy traffic areas or rush-hour driving when you can.
- **Plan your route.** Drive on streets you know and find a way to go that requires few or no left turns. Choose a route that avoids highways or other high-speed roadways. If you must drive on a fast-moving highway, drive in the right-hand lane, where traffic moves more slowly.
- **When in doubt, don't go out.** Bad weather, such as rain, can make it hard for anyone to drive. Try to wait until the weather is better, or use buses, taxis, ridesharing services, or other alternatives.
- **Wear seat belts.** Always wear your seat belt and make sure your passengers wear theirs, too.
- **Limit distractions.** Eating, adjusting the radio, or chatting can all be distracting. If you use your cellphone while driving (for navigation, for example), use it hands-free and use voice activation when possible. Never type on your phone while driving.

From Parish Nurse Team

Is it time to give up driving?

We all age differently, and for this reason, there is not one recommended age to quit driving. So how does one know when to stop? To help decide, ask yourself:

- Do other drivers often honk at me?
- Have I had some accidents even if just “fender benders”?
- Am I having trouble seeing road signs, exits, or lane lines?
- Am I still flexible enough to turn my head to check mirrors and blind spots comfortably?
- Have physical conditions or medications slowed my reaction time?
- Do I get lost frequently, even on familiar roads?
- Do cars or pedestrians seem to appear out of nowhere?
- Am I often distracted while driving?
- Have family, friends, or my doctor said they’re worried about my driving?
- Am I driving less these days because I’m not as sure about my driving as I used to be?
- Do I have trouble staying in my lane?
- Do I have trouble moving my foot between the gas and the brake pedals, or do I sometimes confuse the two?
- Have I been pulled over by a police officer about my driving?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, it may be time to talk with your doctor or family members about your driving, or to consider a driving assessment.



Talk to your doctor or family members



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 4th – Kathy Filip, Gerry Harding**
5th– Donald Schwarz
7th –Geri Julian
8th – Tina Kotek
9th – Linda Eargle
10th – Esther Geissler
11th – Roger Clark
15th – Kaye Ristow, Kitty Tonarelli
16th - David Tonarelli
**18th – Ralph Johnson, Marjorie Mingst,
 Sieglinde Obernesser**
19th – Fred Bastion
23rd – Joan Abrams
25th – Sandy Gundacker
**28th – Ann Miller, Mary Moquin,
 Karolyn Tiefenbach**
29th– Sally Trenski
30th – Walter Geissler, Keith Kovach



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 4th – Kurt & Cindy Hetler**
11th – James & Ava Casper
13th – Patrick & Jane Sturmer
15th – Edward & Tina Kotek
18th – Robert & Delores Turner
19th – Jim & Bernie Tucker
25th – Jim & Sandy McCaw
29th – Marty & 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 2 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt	Paul Ó Braonáin, Wendy Kitzman, David Lickfeldt	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. June 9 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz		Jim Schwartz
Sun. June 16 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick	Sharon & Bill Horiszny, Joyce Kuzmick	Joyce Kuzmick
Sun. June 23 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Chuck Kovacik
Sun. June 30 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Bill Horiszny

June Usher Team	June Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Shari Flemings Team	Doris Hahn and Judy Buskirk	Volunteers



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. July 7 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Kathy Schwartz, Wendy Kitzman, Judy Buskirk	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. July 14 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Chuck Buskirk
Sun. July 21 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt	Sharon & Bill Horiszny, David Lickfeldt	Sharon Horiszny
Sun. July 28 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick		Joyce Kuzmick

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.





Synod assembly project

Thank you to everyone in our giving congregation that brought in items and/or gave money to purchase items for the Synod assembly project. This year the SYNOD offered support to the Orlando Union Rescue Mission.

The Orlando Union Rescue Mission provides more than just relief - they equip the homeless for long-term independence and self-sufficiency built on a personal relationship with Christ. Their life-transforming services are designed to address every area of need (physical, emotional, social, and spiritual) so those who were once hungry, hurting, and homeless can become filled, restored, and secure.



Day of Pentecost celebration

Thanks to WELCA for providing Redeemer with a delicious cake to enjoy during fellowship for Pentecost.



Human Trafficking - Presentation and Project

Are you aware that Human Trafficking is a problem in our area? And do you know how to spot it? Two recent attempts were thwarted by observant people who recognized the signs and called police. Representatives from the Campaign Against Human Trafficking (CAHT) will be holding a presentation in Buhr hall on **Wednesday, June 19th at 10:30 AM**. This is an opportunity to increase your awareness of the problem and also learn how to help support victims. Since the program will be followed by a light lunch, you will need to sign the sheet on the welcome counter by the 16th. The event is free, but we are asking everyone to bring an item from their requested list.

Human Trafficking will also be the church project for June and July. Listed below are requested items for them to place in backpacks for victims. Items can be left on the table in the narthex. If you would like for us to do the shopping for you, please put "Human Trafficking Project" on your envelope and place it in the offering plate.



Campaign Against Human Trafficking (CAHT) Requested items

Note: All items must be new

- Brushes
- Dental floss
- Toothpaste
- Lip balm
- Toiletry bags
- Water bottles
- Black leggings women's: sizes small thru xlarge or (one size fits all)
- Tee shirts women's: small thru xlarge (no white tee shirts)
- Flip flops women's: small thru large

Carnations for Mother's Day

WELCA presented every woman in church on Mother's Day with a carnation. Thanks to everyone who helped prep the carnations and to those who delivered them to women who are homebound



Property Team Members Needed

Redeemer is in need of some handy people. We are looking for men or women 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 contract for the scope of work that needs to be done & getting quotes for the work. There are no structured meeting schedules, the property team meets on an as needed basis. If you might be interested in lending a hand please contact the office.



Book Club News from WELCA

The WELCA book club is taking a break for the summer months and resuming meetings in September. We invite you to join us for a summer reading challenge! Read what you like to fill in this BINGO card. Maybe you'd like to share the challenge with your family and friends to join in the fun? Here's where to find it online.

https://peanutblossombookclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/BookClubBingo_1.pdf

Happy reading! See you in September. 🌞

<https://bookclubs.com/clubs/6018580/join/326b32/>



Diane

Thank You Meals On Wheels Drivers

Redeemer has again served our community, during the month of May, by bringing hot meals to people in need. This very worth-while project reaches those who can use some help in tough times that are often brought on by medical problems, loss of spouse, or other difficulties. Receiving a hot, tasty, healthy meal and simply not having to worry about meal preparation is very much appreciated.

Pictured below are Justin and Maureen Hill who have volunteered for many years, including prior to coming to Redeemer. They have just picked up the meals at HCA Florida South Shore Hospital (aka South Bay Hospital) and will deliver these meals throughout Kings Point. Of course, we also make deliveries to Sun City Center. The coordinator is Hal Wold (634-2805). Please contact Hal to be part of this important mission. And, a great big THANK YOU to all volunteers who brought smiles and joy, as well as meals, to those who rely on this service.



June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice Library Reserved
2 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	3 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	4 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	5 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	6 NO CHOIR PRACTICE	7 9:30 AM - Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry Library Reserved	8 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice Library Reserved
9 10:00 AM-Worship	10 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	11 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	12 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	13 9:00 AM-Parish Nurses 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	14 9:30 AM - Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry Library Reserved	15 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice Library Reserved
16 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	17 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	18 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	19 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg 10:30 AM-Human Trafficking CAHT	20 1:00 PM-Book Club 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	21 9:30 AM - Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry Library Reserved	22 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice Library Reserved
23 10:00 AM-Worship	24 10:00 AM-WELCA Board 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	25 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	26 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	27 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	28 9:30 AM - Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry Library Reserved	29 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice Library Reserved
30 10:00 AM-Worship						

