News Around the Congregation

**COFFEE, TEA, & PASTOR B** The August get together takes place Aug. 13 from 10:30 a.m. until noon at Blackbird Bakery in Lakewood. Join us for a great cup of coffee (or other beverage) and conversation!

**WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!** Join us Aug. 15 from 7-8 p.m. at Mitchell’s Ice Cream, 26161 Detroit Road, Westlake. Come when you can and leave when you must! If you have a Church of the Redeemer t-shirt, please wear it so the community recognizes us. If you need a t-shirt, please stop by the church office.

**4TH ANNUAL HILLE/FOOTE ALEX’S LEMONADE STAND** to fight childhood cancer. Aug. 7, 6-8 p.m., 4239 W. 211, Fairview Park. Donate at [https://www.alexslemonade.org/mypage/1820898](https://www.alexslemonade.org/mypage/1820898), and then stop by that evening to purchase a delicious glass of lemonade in support!

**OUR ANNUAL SUMMERTIME WORSHIP AND POTLUCK** takes place Aug. 18 at N.O. Community Cabin, 28114 Lorain Rd. You LOVED worship in the Fellowship Hall, so you’ll LOVE this similar experience in the N.O. cabin! Ample parking, including handicapped accessible spots close to the doors. The cabin is located in the beautiful grounds of N.O. Community Park. Sign up for the potluck in the Gathering Room. Please bring your own table service including cup for beverages — preferably recyclable. Questions? See Pastor Brooke!

**MEMORIAL CONCERT FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM** Aug. 3, 7 p.m., at Denison Avenue UCC, 9900 Denison Ave., Cleveland. Concert is in memory of peace activist Yoshiko Ikuta and Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and all war victims. Freewill donations to benefit Denison Avenue UCC. Don’t miss this inspiring concert!

**GEN SILENT SCREENING AUG. 25 FOLLOWING WORSHIP** *Gen Silent* is the critically acclaimed documentary about LGBT older people transitioning to assisted care faced with the decision of going back into the closet to survive. Their surprising decisions are captured through intimate access to their day-to-day lives over the course of a year in Boston. *Gen Silent* brings these issues into the open for the first time. The film shows the wide range of quality of paid caregivers — from those who are specifically trained to make LGBT seniors feel save to the other end of the spectrum, where LGBT elders face discrimination, neglect, or abuse.

The Rev. Beth Long-Higgins, executive director of the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging with United Church Homes ([https://www.abundantaging.org](https://www.abundantaging.org)), will lead a brief discussion and answer questions following the film. You won’t want to miss the opportunity to see this film. Questions? See Nurse Gayle.
New Things and Familiar Things

Smile at strangers and you just might change a life.
— Steve Maraboli

It’s August — parents are excitedly and children are begrudgingly beginning to think about returning to school. But before we rush ahead too quickly, let’s celebrate the many visitors we have had this summer.

We can sometimes get caught up in all that is wrong or in who is not here this Sunday and forget to celebrate the visitors who are. Summer is often times when people try new churches and this has been true for us. Some people have come once and moved on, but others have come and continued to worship with us. I have had the pleasure of witnessing wonderful hospitality from many of you and I always appreciate when someone makes sure I know when someone is visiting and particularly when you tell me their name.

There are 22 verses in the Bible about welcoming the stranger. It’s true that sometimes those strangers are from our community, but sometimes those strangers are from other countries. It is easy to look at people who do not speak the same language as us or perhaps dress differently than us as “other,” but Jesus reminds us over and over that they are beloved children of God as well and we are to love them. We are not to love them because they do things the way we think they should, we are just to love them. We are not to love them because they sound like us, we are just to love them. We are not to love them because they think like us, we are just to love them. Sometimes our world tells us that we should fear them, but we worship Jesus who tells us that we are responsible for ushering in the reign of God now; we are to love as a way of bringing the reign of God now.

Isn’t it true that sometimes we get so busy welcoming others that we fail to appreciate those that are right in front of us? When was the last time you invited your “pew partner” out for lunch after church? When was the last time you sent a note of thanks to that person who you always see doing things around the church? Too often we fail to appreciate our neighbors who are right in front of us. So on the next pleasant day, you might just get a phone call from me, inviting you to meet me in the Metroparks for a walk and something cool to drink. We need to welcome the stranger, but we also need to remember to take care of each other, too.

I’ll see you in worship!

Blessings,
Pastor Brooke

August Offering

The mission offering in August will support Lakewood Community Services Center.

Lakewood Community Services Center, with its partners, serves the community by providing basic needs assistance and personalized resource and referral services with the goal of empowering each individual to move toward greater self-sufficiency.

It was founded in 1982 by 12 Lakewood churches with the purpose of providing food assistance to Lakewood residents in need.

August In-Gathering

In August, the In-Gathering will be collecting school supplies for Lakewood Community Services Center as well as lunch bars and snack bars for America Scores, where our own Matt Williams works.

Thank you in advance for your generous donations!

Please Wear Your Nametags

We have had many visitors in the last few months. One of the ways we can be welcoming to our guests is to wear our name tags.

Each week, please wear your name tag where others can see it on your way into worship.

If you need a new one, leave a note in the office.

Your Feedback Is Welcome

The Pastor Relations and Human Resources committees would welcome any feedback you have. Please see anyone on these committees:

Pastoral Relations: Rudy Duscha, Elaine Freed, Bonnie Hawver, Emily Humphrey

Human Resources: Bonnie Hawver, Janet Kramer, Dave Patzwahl
GREETINGS! The time is getting closer for the Chancel and Bell Choirs to begin another season of music ministry. If anyone is interested in joining either the Chancel Choir or Bell Choir (or both) and would like to become part of our very special “Choir Family,” please contact Carol Peddie, Director of Music. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 4, with Bell Choir at 7 p.m. and Chancel Choir at 8 p.m. The Chancel Choir’s first Sunday Service will be Homecoming Sunday, Sept. 8, at 10:30 a.m.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our music ministry. To God be the glory!

Blessings to all,
Carol

Vacation Water Needed for Homecoming Sunday!
Whether you are opting for a “Staycation” or an out-of-town vacation this summer, bring a small jar of water from one of your summer experiences — a river, a lake, even a motel swimming pool! — to Homecoming Sunday, Sept. 8. We will be using it as part of our “Back to Church School Sunday!”

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

August News in Faith Formation
Margaret is continuing her leave of absence, and will be returning later in August.

Summer Faith Community
Summer Faith Community for children and youth continues as we learn together about the Lord’s Prayer. Activities include games, stories, music, crafts and coloring posters. Our nursery continues to be staffed and open for those under 3.

Sign Language Youth, Adult Classes Begin Aug. 20
Redeemer’s own Cory Svette will begin weekly sign classes for those interested Aug. 20 in the Fellowship Hall. Youth will participate in the Sharon Youth Signers group directed by Cory. Adults will have the option to participate in the Sharon Adult Signers performances. Youth, ages 7-13, meet 5-6 p.m. Adults, ages 14 and up, meet 7-8:30 p.m. Cost for each group is $25/month. Full session or monthly payment options available; due at the first class if paying for the full session, at the beginning of each month if paying monthly.

You’ve marveled at Cory’s wonderful Sharon Signers group: here’s a chance for you to learn a new language right here at Redeemer. For information and to sign up, contact Cory: email csvette09@mail.bw.edu; cell 440-213-8755.

Next Thursday Gathering Aug. 22 at Cafe Piccolo
The next Thursday Evening Gathering is Aug. 22, 6 p.m., at Cafe Piccolo (authentic Italian) http://cafepiccolodetroit.com/cafepiccolo-home.php, 35568 Detroit, Avon. Sign up in the Gathering Room! If you need a ride, contact Mary Kanzeg.

Looking for New Care Givers!
Opportunity knocks — will you answer? We need Care Givers! All ages/genders are welcome. Primary duties: Communication through phone calls, emails, cards. This is the most frequent task. Visitations to the homebound Support at Celebration of Life events. See Marcia Powles, Donna Greenwell, or Gayle Donahue for more information.

Redeemer UCC August Birthdays and Anniversaries

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<td>11 Donna Greenwell</td>
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<td>26 Eugene &amp; Lori Widmer</td>
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**CAREGIVING/FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE MINISTRIES**

**Don’t Miss Gen Silent Aug. 25 at Noon**

**WANT TO INVITE YOU** to a screening of the documentary *Gen Silent* on Sunday, Aug. 25. The producer, Stu Maddox, asks six LGBT seniors if they will hide their lives to survive in senior living. Their decisions are shared with great sensitivity. The wide range in caregivers from those trained to make seniors feel safe to those who are not is portrayed.

The documentary and our discussion after will focus on LGBT seniors. The many issues of aging, senior living and Christian community identified in the documentary makes this program beneficial to all straight and LGBT adults.

The 63-minute documentary will begin at noon, followed by discussion led by the Rev. Beth Long-Higgins. Long-Higgins is employed by United Church Homes as the executive director of the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging (https://www.abundantaging.org)

Now someone reading this is thinking “this does not apply to me because I am straight.” *I encourage you to rethink your decision.* Our churches are in a time where we need to develop new practices of understanding and of welcome that fully express Christian love. We can only develop new understandings and practices by ongoing intentional discussion and reflection of negative behaviors experienced by humanity. Science’s understanding of gender expression is catching up to the biblical descriptions of God as a kind Father, fierce Mother and neutral Spirit. Opening our hearts and minds to the experience of others living alongside us and the transformative power of God’s love for all persons can only make us stronger Christians individually and as a church.

Your registration on the bulletin board or calling the church office by Wednesday, Aug. 21, is appreciated.

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**A Glimpse of Summer (so far) at Redeemer!**

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**From the Leadership Team**

The last regular meeting of the Leadership Team before summer was held June 17, 2019. We did not meet in July because of member vacations and need for additional information on current building concerns.

Discussion centered on the continuing water issues in the Sanctuary and adjacent areas. Jim Stone gave a detailed summary of what has happened so far and what remains to be addressed. To reduce condensation, the church replaced a broken sump pump with a new unit. While this has helped considerably, water is still pooling in a few places where there has been normal settling of the ground. As heavy rains persist, water still enters from the roof, even though Brad Smith has found no problems with the roof installation.

The saga is unending, and the latest assessment is faulty roofing material. This is being investigated.

We also discussed a proposal from the Finance Committee to move from leasing a copier to purchasing one that will meet most of our needs and save money over the long term. To meet the special needs of marketing materials and the like, a new printer was recommended. Both items were approved during a special LT session June 23, 2019.

The Leadership Team is dealing with many challenges not uncommon to other congregations who face declining membership and aging facilities. But there are some hopeful signs. Offerings are currently at budget for the year, and a robust market has given us a $112,564 gain in the Endowment and Equity Funds.

We also sensed renewed energy from various Teams who are not only looking to the future of Redeemer but opening the door to novel ideas for gaining new members, caring for those we have, and challenging the ways we manage funds and other resources. Tomorrow begins with today.