

Reopening Redeemer



RLC Newsletter

November
2020

A Message from Pastor Allman

"We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3).

That quote is from the second reading on 10/18/2020, and what stood out most to me from these two verses was the phrase *"steadfastness of hope."* According to the dictionary *"steadfastness"* is defined as *"the quality of being resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering."* Does this mean that we always get that for which we hope? Absolutely not. It means that despite the fact that we do not always get that for which we hope, we remain unwavering in our hope.

For example, I continue to hope that one day I will win hundreds of millions of dollars in the lottery, despite the fact I do not buy a ticket. You may be thinking that will never happen, yet I am steadfast in my hope. All of us hope for a proven vaccine against this pandemic that is affordable and readily available for everyone. Some day that hope will be fulfilled, although no one can yet give an exact date. What do we do in the interim?

A prayer that has been attributed to theologian Reinhold Niebuhr may bring some sense of peace as we continue to live in these troubling times: *"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."* Many of the things that raise our levels of anxiety are things outside of our control. Focusing

on the things within our control can help lower our feelings of anxiety. So can turning the things we cannot control over to God; thereby giving us the freedom to stop worrying about them.

I encourage those who are feeling anxious to add Niebuhr's prayer to your daily prayers. Stay healthy. Stay safe. Stay blessed.

Pastor Allman †

News from the Office Administrator

November 2020

It is hard to believe we are rolling into November; it has been a very interesting year. We still have much to be grateful for in the midst of this pandemic. This has been a time of reflection for many, also a time to try new hobbies. Many of us have learned new technology skills by necessity! In our home we have been cleaning out closets and cupboards and ridding ourselves of unnecessary belongings. It feels good to see a clean closet or cupboard. Hopefully you have all had some positive times in the midst of the challenges that 2020 has brought.

Our livestream of the Sunday morning service has been going quite well. Of course we have needed to make a few tweaks as we have progressed. This is a great way to be part of the service while also staying safe. We are excited to be able to continue to offer this even as we are able to gather again for in-person worship. If you are having difficulty getting the livestream on your computer, please give us a call for assistance. During the week Kadie emails the bulletin for the following Sunday to our distribution list. If you are not receiving this email, please give the office a call and make sure we have a correct email address for you. The email includes information on how to connect to the livestream. We want as many people as possible to be able to be a part of worship in this way.

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.

First and foremost, stay safe and healthy in your homes until we can safely meet again. Our first priority is the safety and wellbeing of all of you, so please be good to yourselves.

Support for others

(Collection boxes are on the narthex counter)

**BRING US
YOUR**



COUPON

**Thank you for donating
items for the food pantry
in the narthex closet.**

**Please remember, NO
open packages or
containers.**



Search for Redeemer Lutheran Church Sun City Center Florida and hit the red subscribe button. This will keep you current with videos from Pastor Allman.

The direct link below can be entered right in to your address bar.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUnSRGmRw4qLi2qmolnoxw>

NOVEMBER

STEWARDSHIP

Why is this a Stewardship article? Part of Stewardship is lived out in the way we care for and about others. Philippians 2:3 (NRSV) reads, “*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.*” What follows is an idea about HOW we may gather for in-person worship again – not WHEN.

HOW we gather together again for worship will look very different from the way we gathered before this pandemic. What follows is long, and it is the latest draft our Council has discussed about HOW Redeemer can gather together in large group worship in the safest way currently known. Please understand that the Council is making decisions that we believe are in the best interests of the entire community at Redeemer.

By now everyone should understand that entering the building and participating in person for worship carries a higher level of risk than many other activities. By entering the building and participating in person for worship you will be assuming all risk for yourselves. Redeemer cannot be held liable for anyone who may contract COVID-19 by entering the building or gathering for in-person worship. We strongly encourage those most at risk to remain safer at home and worship via the live stream.

By entering the building for in person worship you agree to adhere to the guidelines and recommendations. These are the guidelines and recommendations as set forth by the Redeemer Lutheran Church Council for returning to in-person worship:

Phase Three of the Governor’s Plan to reopen Florida has now begun as of Friday, September 25th. Here is what that plan says regarding the majority, if not all, of Redeemer’s community:

Individuals older than 65 years of age and individuals with a serious underlying medical condition (such as chronic lung disease, moderate-to-severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immune-compromised status, cancer, diabetes, severe obesity, renal failure and liver disease [some lists also include high blood pressure]) can resume public interactions, but should practice social distancing, minimizing exposure to social settings where distancing may not be practical, unless precautionary measures are observed.

Please understand that returning to in-person worship does not mean returning to the worship experience we had prior to March 15th. The in-person worship experience will include many changes and precautionary measures.

Best practice guidelines and recommendations from epidemiologists, medical experts and the ELCA and Florida-Bahamas Synod Bishops (respectively) have recommended that we “*Delay in-person gathering until the State of Florida moves to Phase 3 and/or until your area has experienced a decline in cases for 14 consecutive days.*” Over the past fourteen days (as of this writing) the State of Florida has fluctuated between 2000-3600 new positive cases per day; and, Sun City Center has demonstrated a steady, yet slow, increase in cases. Nationally, we have increased from an average of 35,000 (per day) in September to 50,000 (per day) in October.

The Council (hereafter “We”) requests potential attendees to RSVP to the office each week by phone or email so we will have an idea as to how many people to expect. Attendance will be limited to the first 50 people. Also, we remind everyone that if they are in the at-risk category or not feeling well, please refrain from attending.

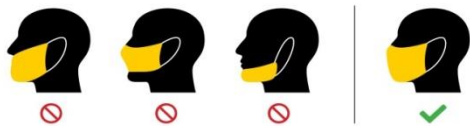


We will limit our worship service to one each Sunday and continue our virtual (live stream) services for those who do not wish to attend in person until the risk is diminished further.

Masks (covering the mouth and nose) have proven to be most effective in slowing or stopping the spread of this pandemic when worn by everyone; therefore, masks will be worn before, during, and after the service. We will have disposable masks available if someone does not have one or has forgotten theirs. You can help Redeemer save money by bringing your own mask.

KEEPING YOU SAFER

Protect yourself and others by wearing a face covering correctly.



Full choir activities in worship continue to be suspended and we recommend that the gathered people refrain from singing out loud during the service. Please feel encouraged to sing to God in your spirit (silently) where God can hear. The same is true for the congregational responses during the service; please respond silently in your spirit where God can hear.

We will ensure that the air-conditioning system-fans in the sanctuary remain running during the service to provide constant air circulation. This may mean that the temperature is cooler than comfortable for some. Please feel encouraged to bring some extra clothing that will help you feel comfortable.

Hand sanitizer will be available for entering and exiting the building. You can help Redeemer save money by carrying your own hand sanitizer with you, if that has not already become your habit.



Ushers may not be present during the immediate weeks after reopening. When we have ushers again, they will greet from a distance and with no handshakes.

People are reminded and strongly encouraged to maintain physical distancing at all times – at least 6-feet. We strongly encourage those gathering in-person not to have conversations in the building. We understand many are missing the social aspects of gathering; and, we encourage you to feel free to gather on your own in the parking lot near your cars if you wish to socialize, which will provide physical distancing for others to enter and exit the building efficiently.

Paper bulletins, for those who want them, will be available on the Welcome Table, along with hand sanitizer and disposable masks. If you use a paper bulletin, please take it home with you to keep or dispose of at your discretion. Please do not leave your used bulletin in the building as this means someone else may (potentially) be placed at risk cleaning up after the service.

Recommendations are that we continue to refrain from Holy Communion or use prepackaged communion kits. (IMHO: these are awkward to use and I (Pastor) have seen people fumble with them, causing the “wafer” to fall to the floor and roll away and the “grape juice” to be spilled, which means additional cleanup for someone, and/or stains on our cloth pews).

We will not be “sharing the peace” for the foreseeable future until it is considered once again safe to shake hands and/or hug.

Offering plates will be placed near the rear of the sanctuary, to allow offerings to be given while entering or exiting the worship service. Those staying safer at home may continue to mail their offering to Redeemer and/or consider electronic giving.

Rows of pews will be taped off to allow 6 feet between each row. This will mean that some of you may not be able to sit in the pew where you have always sat before. We understand that this will feel inconvenient for some, although we believe this small inconvenience is worth it to ensure everyone’s safe distancing.

Pews will also be taped to show 6 feet distance between seats. People from different households should sit 6 feet apart and in different rows. Attendees from the same household may sit together in the same row. We understand that this will feel inconvenient for some, although we believe this small inconvenience is worth it to ensure everyone's safe distancing.

When entering and exiting the sanctuary, please do not stop at the pews to speak to or hold conversations with those already seated. Attendees are reminded to keep moving while entering and exiting the building, and please do not congregate outside near any of the doors. Once again, conversations (if you wish them) are encouraged in the parking lot near your cars. This will provide physical distancing for others to enter and exit the building efficiently while physically distancing.

Water fountains should be not be used unless it is an emergency. Restrooms are available for those who absolutely need them. Restroom doors will remain propped open to eliminate the need to touch the handles. Hand sanitizer will be available in the three main restrooms closest to the sanctuary. Please do not use restrooms in other parts of the building.

People should refrain from approaching the chancel (altar) area unless deemed absolutely necessary. Pastor will continue to light and extinguish the candles. Lay readers (when we use one) can sit near the front pews to limit walking past others as much as possible when they enter/exit the pulpit.

Pastor will not be greeting people entering and exiting the building. Pastor will model physical distancing and refraining from conversations. Pastor will stay behind the Altar and/or in the Pulpit during worship. Pastor will wear a mask at all times when he is not speaking during worship. Please refrain from going into the Pastor's office before, during or after worship. Pastor is available during the week by phone; or in special circumstances by appointment.

SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Nov. 1 – Debbie Andrews

Nov. 8 – Jim Schwartz

Nov. 15 – Rosalie Kelleher

Nov. 22 – Wendy Kitzman

Nov. 29- John Minor

Please call Carolyn Cole if you would like to read on Sunday. 813-812-7527



COVID-19 vs. Flu

Some say COVID-19 is like the flu. But we say, not so fast!
Here's a breakdown of the similarities and differences.

	COVID-19	FLU
Symptoms		
Severity	No symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe	Mild to severe
Time to appear	2–14 days	1–4 days
Unique symptoms	Dry cough, shortness of breath, change in or loss of taste or smell	Many flu symptoms are also symptoms of COVID-19
Risk		
Average Risk	Everyone	Everyone is at risk, but vaccination decreases that risk
High Risk	Obesity, lung disease, cardiovascular disease, poorly controlled diabetes, pregnancy, immunosuppression, over 65 years old, chronic renal disease	Older adults, people with other health conditions, pregnant people and children under 5
Transmission		
Through respiratory droplets	Yes	Yes
By touching surfaces first, then eyes, nose, or mouth	Yes	Yes
Prevention		
Vaccines	No, but clinical trials are underway	Yes, a new one each year
Testing		
Can be confirmed by a test	Yes	Yes
Treatment		
Prescriptions	Outside of research trials, treatment is currently reserved for hospitalized patients	Antiviral medications shorten the duration and ease symptoms
Over-the-counter medications		For symptom management

From Parish Nurse Team

It is very important to get your flu shot this year

Actions we take to prevent Covid 19 also work to prevent flu – wearing masks, frequent handwashing, social distancing.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1st – Bob Casper**
- 2nd – Jane Trefren**
- 4th – John Minor**
- 7th – Peggy Collins**
- 8th – Dottie Peterson, Sue Smeltzer**
- 11th – Kay Lyndahl, Jeanne Pruett**
- 12th – Wayne Gehrke,
Carolyn Robinson**
- 13th – Dick Ihrke**
- 14th – Betty Ferrara, Edna Laskow**
- 17th – Nancy Konian**
- 18th – Russell Filip**
- 19th – Arlene Hansen, Leo Perrella Jr.**
- 20th – Vlado Michna**
- 21st – Jim Glass, Helen Schaefer,
Georgine Ruppert**
- 22nd – Diane Brace**
- 25th – Deya Schierenbeck**
- 26th – Betty Schuppert**
- 27th – George Grosskopf,
Dietrich Schaffer**
- 29th – Kay Adkins, Fran Bullock (100)**
- 30th – Sylvia Nachbor**

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3rd – Karl & Joan Wessinger**
- 4th – Hans & Erika Barfels**
- 5th – Rick & Debby Nelson**
- 7th – Linda & David Cockerham**
- 8th – Kadie & Jon Dehne**
- 21st – Mike & Jirattikorn Corbett**
- 23rd – Fred & Kathie Bastion**



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





100th Birthday Wishes

On Nov. 29 Fran Bullock will be 100 years old! Fran has been a member of Redeemer forever. A shower of cards would be wonderful.

Mrs. Fran Bullock
1503 Heron Dr
Sun City Center. FL 33573



Social Ministry Project November 2020

Gifts for Good Samaritan Mission's Annual Christmas Blessing Outreach Event

Throughout the month of November, we will be collecting donations of toys/gifts for boys and girls of the families involved in the GSM Adult Education Program. GSM students save tokens earned by taking classes or doing volunteer work throughout the year. Your donated toy/gift will be given a token value and the Moms and Dads will shop for toys with their tokens at the event. Some suggestions include: dolls, cars, trains, trucks, soccer balls, Lego/Duplo sets, Barbie dolls,

preschool toys, bicycles (with helmets), remote control cars/vehicles, action figures, craft kits, and teen gifts (toiletry gift sets, watches, electronics, hair styling products, perfume, make-up, purses, jewelry, earbuds, headphones, cell phone cases and accessories).

The Social Ministry team is without a leader currently but would still like to support GSM. Unlike years past we will not be doing the shopping for them. Any gifts that are brought in will be delivered along with a check from what has been collected during the month of November. If you would like to make a donation please make your check out to Redeemer and write Good Samaritan Mission (or GSM) gifts on the memo line and on the outside of your offering envelope.

The Good Samaritan Mission is a charitable, not-for-profit, 501(c)(3), Christian ministry established in 1984. The Mission is dedicated to a holistic approach to enhancing the spiritual, emotional and physical quality of life for those living in poverty. They currently serve the community by offering a food pantry through their incentivized Adult Education Program, post-secondary scholarships, and Back to School and Christmas Outreach Events.



GOOD SAMARITAN
Purpose. Community. Gratitude.

Food Pantry

We are so thankful for all of the donations we have been receiving for the food pantry. Redeemer will continue to collect food and monetary donations for our local food pantry run by Our Lady of Guadalupe. Giving within our community has always been a priority and right now the pantry really needs our donations.

Voting at Redeemer

Redeemer will be open on Election Day, November 3, 2020 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM for those looking to cast their vote. The polls will be set up in the fellowship hall. Please enter the building using the doors directly into the fellowship hall.



Daylight Savings Time

Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 1, 2020. Do not forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday!



Office closed

The office will be closed on Friday November 13th as well as November 26th and 27th.

Bible Study

Did you know that Pastor Allman has recorded bible study videos and posted them on our YouTube channel? It's true! He takes time daily to offer reflections on the readings from Sunday. The videos are typically 10 to 15 minutes in length so please take the time to watch one daily.



Reopening soon

Starting Sunday, November 8th we will be open with limited attendance. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the information shared in the November Stewardship article. We have all been looking forward to returning to worship but we hope everyone understands that there is a level of risk you are assuming by returning back to church and that the experience will not be the same experience as before the closure. Even so we look forward to in-person worship starting Sunday Nov. 8 at 10:00 AM. Please be sure to RSVP each week via phone or email between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM Monday through Friday. Please use sccredeemerlc@gmail.com to RSVP.

