



RLC Newsletter

April 2023

A Message from Pastor Allman

Last year, I was away for three days 10/17/22-10/19/22 at the Synod Conference on Ministry. That is a gathering of the rostered leaders (Pastors, Deacons, etc.) from around the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Our keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. Reggie McNeal. He spoke about his book titled, "Kingdom Come," which I have mentioned before in sermons, Bible studies, newsletter articles, and at Ministry Team Meetings. His premise is that God's Kingdom encompasses the entire world; and, the calling of the church is to be the hands and feet of God, doing God's Mission and Ministry in God's Kingdom – the world.

It should come as no surprise that church attendance is shrinking. Our country does a census once every ten years. On the next to

last census one in five people checked "none" for religious affiliation; and, on the last census three in five people checked "none." The "nones" are the fastest growing category.

Churches should not assume that the world (outside of Church) no longer cares about God. People talk about God outside of Church, maybe more than church-going Christians talk about God outside of Church. Perhaps the only justification for God that most people need is that nearly everyone desires that the world be a better place. Perhaps the best way to start a conversation with someone, without immediately making it about God, is to ask: What are your hopes? What are your dreams? If God did exist, what would God be like for

you? Most people would describe Jesus.

People are not losing faith in God, people are losing faith in institutions: government, educational, medical, financial, and religious. Rev. Dr. McNeal says that a spiritual revival is coming, although it will not be within the institutional church. Christians must be prepared to give hope, not programs.

People have an overwhelming amount of information coming at them, or at least available 24/7. This information is coming from what the Bible calls "the world." Can the church offer a better message than what the world is offering? The answers will come from asking ourselves: How do I become missionally aligned with

God? How do I become a co-conspirator in God's Will?

Jesus came preaching about the Kingdom of God. Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God more than 80 times. Jesus talked about "church" (ecclesia) 1 time. We have been looking at the Kingdom of God through the lens of the Church; and, it is time we shift to looking at the Church through the lens of the Kingdom of God.

How will we do that? Stay tuned for more to come! In the meantime, when you pray, ask God to reveal to you what is God's preferred future for Redeemer.

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

April 2023

As you read this, we will be celebrating holy week. The period between Christmas and Easter is our busy time here in the office. We are thankful to our congregation for being here Sundays and keeping us busy. We all hope you have a blessed Easter.

Make 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, April 9- 8:30-9:30 AM Easter Brunch in Buhr Hall

Monday, April 10- Office closed

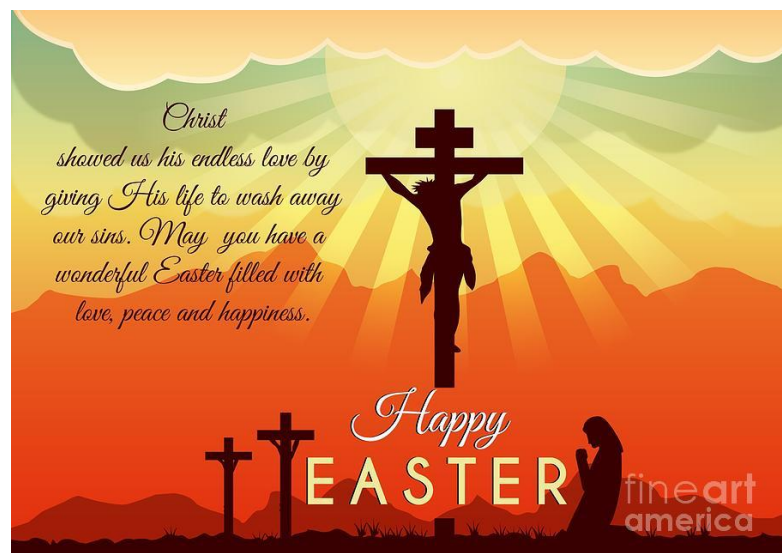
Monday, April 10 at 5:30 PM – Dinner and a movie, Dinner starts at 5:30PM followed by a movie at 6:00 PM

Sunday, April 16 at 11:00 AM- Assistive Devices in Buhr Hall

Monday, April 17 at 7:00 PM- Southshore Concert Band Buhr Hall.

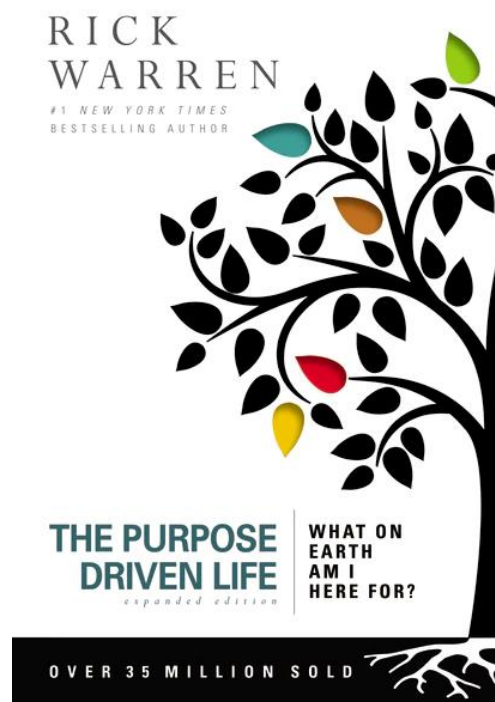
Wednesday, April 19th- USF Memory Screening

Sunday, April 30th- Blood Pressure Checks following worship



APRIL STEWARDSHIP

What on earth am I here for? That is the subtitle of “The Purpose Driven Life” by Rev. Rick Warren. It poses a question that I think God wants each of us to ask; and, God wants us to ask him. Our ego will give us all kinds of answers that focus on pleasing our individual desires. IMHO, if we believe that God created us, then we need to ask our Creator to reveal our purpose.



At the Council Retreat in February, we talked about that question: What on earth am I here for? If you truly believe that God created you, then what is your purpose, according to God? If we believe that God created us, and that God has a purpose for our life, and if we want to know why we were placed on this earth, then we must begin with God. Warren writes: “You were born by (God’s) purpose and for (God’s) purpose” (17).

Warren believes that many people do not discover God’s purpose for their life, because people typically begin with the wrong starting point -- themselves. Asking self-centered questions like, “What do I want

to be?”; “What should I do with my life?”; What are my goals, my ambitions, my dreams for my future?”

When we believe/accept that we were made by God, for God, then our life becomes about letting God tell us our purpose, rather than us telling God what our purpose will be. If we tell God what our purpose will be, then we can still achieve “success” and reach “goals” etc., yet we may live our entire lives without feeling fulfilled. I know people like that, and maybe you do too. They are “successful” and yet still feel like something is missing.

I also have spoken to many Christians over my 37+ years of ordained ministry, who have had a near death experience. Many have told me, “God must still have a purpose for me;” and, I always respond, “You’re right! Now your job is to figure out what that purpose is and do it.”

I usually see the “deer in the headlights” look come across their faces. It is almost as if people think that all they have to do is continue living the life they want and somehow God’s purpose for them will happen, even if they never know what it is. Then I get to have a conversation with them regarding how we discover God’s purpose for our lives.

Discerning God’s purpose for your life does not have to mean adding more and more to your life. It could actually mean doing less; because discerning God’s purpose and doing it can mean letting go of other, less fulfilling things you have been doing to try to figure out what on earth you are here for.

The purpose for my/your life fits into a much larger purpose that God has designed for God’s Kingdom, which is why I feel that Rev. Dr. Reggie McNeal’s book, “Kingdom Come” is valuable (see Pastor’s article).

I have said multiple times that I believe God has brought each person to Redeemer for a reason (purpose), and that each person has a spiritual gift(s) that God wants to use to grow God’s Kingdom here in the South Shore area. Where we begin, IMHO, is that each of us, as often as we pray, include a request that God reveal to us God’s preferred future for Redeemer.

GROWING IN FAITH

Based on Sacred Pathways, by Gary Thomas

How should you Grow in Faith? There was a time when a one-size-fits-all program was developed, which essentially meant having a quiet time and going to church every weekend. Quiet Time was commonly composed of personal worship, intercessory prayer, Bible study, closing prayer and an accountability partner. Not to say this is wrong; although it has proven to not work for every individual created by God; or, simply has proven to be a beginning step toward growing an ongoing, life-giving relationship with God.

Thomas cautions us to beware of narrowing our approach to God. Thomas reminds us that we worship one God, although God honors our many types of relationship with God. Thomas suggests nine (9) sacred pathways from which each person can choose the one best suited for her/him. Most people find themselves in more than one, so think about which is most dominant in you.

Naturalists love God outdoors. Seeing God's beauty in nature is more moving than participation in formal religious services or social causes. God's creation becomes a cathedral. Getting outside can flood parched hearts and soften hardened souls.



Sensates love God through their senses. Worship is an experience that helps the senses come alive -- see, hear, smell, taste, and touch. They are naturally

drawn to museums and concerts. She/he most experience God by drawing/painting/sculpting, through icons, playing/listening to music, etc. God comes deeply through sensory experience.



Traditionalists love God through ritual and symbol. Worship means participating in familiar forms that have memories dating back to childhood. She/he will draw closer to God by coming to the Altar with offerings and thanksgiving. Formal liturgy, worship books and having symbolic items displayed in common areas around the house, work, car, etc. are essential.



Ascetics love God in solitude and simplicity. She/he feels closest to God when alone with no distractions. Faith is more internal than external. Silence, solitude, and spiritual disciplines appeal to her/him. Retreats, whether to a monastery, camp or any quiet space draw her/him closer to God.



Activists love God through confrontation. She/he will feel closest to God when standing up for peace and justice issues. Worship takes place while writing letters to political officials, editors, picketing/marching, urging people to vote, or becoming more informed about current issues. Words like courageous confrontation and social activism appeal to her/him. She/he values attending community hearings, volunteering, and working on political campaigns.



Caregivers love God by loving others. She/he draws closer to God through the needy, the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned. She/he worships best when beside someone who is lonely, ill, hungry, or in some other need. She/he worships by volunteering for helping activities. The words service and compassion appeal to her/him.



Enthusiasts love God in mystery and celebration. She/he feels closest to God when the heart is soaring and feels about to burst. Worship consists of celebrating God through praise and adoration. Taking on a spiritual risk for God or seeing God act in a supernatural way is valued. The words of celebration and joy appeal to her/him. Contemporary music and dance help her/him experience God.



Contemplatives love God through adoration. She/he feels closest to God when emotions are awakened in a quiet way and makes her/him feel loved like the closest friend. She/he would prefer being alone with God and uninterrupted; and faith is most challenged when she/he cannot feel God's presence within. Words like lover, intimacy, and heart are very appealing to her/him.



Intellectuals love God through the mind. She/he feels closest to God when learning something new, or understanding something that was previously unclear. She/he values having the mind stimulated and knowing exactly what she/he believes, especially through doctrines and creeds. Words like concept and trust appeal to her/him. Worship is uninterrupted study, especially of God's Word and good Christian curriculum -- teaching and/or participating.



This list is not exclusive, and you can read more about the positives and negatives of each in Thomas' book, "Sacred Pathways."

From the Parish Nurse Team

Is your walker or cane working for you? By Linda Eargle

According to an article in the January 2014 edition of Pharmacy Practice, improper fitting and incorrect use of walkers and canes may result in falls. Is your device fitting correctly?

Walkers and canes come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Their purposes are to improve the efficiency in the way we move, make step length longer and equal, and make walking less difficult and safer. Canes can help reduce how much weight you put on a painful or weak leg because the cane reduces the weight on the opposite leg by 25%. Walkers reduce the amount of weight on both legs as much as 50% of your body weight.

The walker or cane should be fitted properly and used correctly. The cane is fitted so that when you are standing upright, the elbow is flexed to 30-45 degrees. When using a cane, the cane should be in the hand opposite to the painful/weaker leg. Cleaning the tips every 3-4 months ensures safety.

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are the experts in determining proper fit and use of assistive devices. On **Sunday, April 16**, Physical Therapist students from Gannon University will join Linda Eargle, PT, DPT to provide a brief session with feedback and suggestions on your walkers or canes. They will be available prior to and immediately after our 10:00 AM service. They will make sure your assistive device is in good condition and is of the correct height. In addition, they will be able to make suggestions on how to improve your efficiency in walking with your assistive device.

A sign-up sheet is available on the welcome counter if you would like to be sure you are checked. Those who sign up should meet in the conference room after the service. Special arrangements will be made for those who would like to be assessed prior to the service.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd – Sherri Knaub**
- 8th – Marion Giblin, Eva Michna**
- 11th – Alice Miller**
- 13th - Renate Bartz**
- 14th – Helga Spitzenberger**
- 16th – Helga Balter, Erika Barfels**
- 18th – Jo Anne Owens**
- 19th – Carol Brown, Angela Grill,
Barb Lauer**
- 27th – Paul Carrier**
- 29th - Gerry Adams, Candy Allman,
Reinhold Baal, Lois Hobratschk**



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4th – Hal & Susan Wold**
- 8th – Bill & Marion Giblin**
- 10th – Richard & Karin Meredith**
- 13th – Russ & Kathy Filip**
- 16th - Donald & Karen Munford**
- 25th – Howie & Kathleen Warfield**
- 26th – Pete & Edie Moose**
- 28th – Don & Carol Brown,
Wayne & Janet Gehrke**
- 29th – Jack & Wendy Kitzman**
- 30th – Gerry & Ron Harding**



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



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Apr. 2 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Mary Ann Sigler, Jay German, Wendy Kitzman	Wendy Kitzman
Thur. Apr. 6 7:00 PM	Mike Corbett	Sandra & René Buggs, Mike Corbett	Mike Corbett
Fri. Apr. 7 7:00 PM			
Sun. Apr. 9 10:00 AM	Walter Geissler	René & Sandra Buggs, Kathy Schwartz	Jim Schwartz
Sun. Apr. 16 10:00 AM	Walter Geissler	Deb Pollert, Kathy Schwartz, Arlene Hansen	Dan Pollert
Sun. Apr. 23 10:00 AM	Mike Corbett		Chuck Kovacik
Sun. Apr. 30 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Sherri Knaub



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.

April Usher Team	April Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Dan Pollert's Team		Volunteers



Easter Brunch

Join us for a **Brunch** in Buhr Hall on Easter Sunday, April 9 between 8:30 AM and 9:30 AM. We will be serving homemade egg casseroles, deviled eggs, pastries, fruit, coffee, and orange juice. The fruit, coffee, and orange juice will be provided by WELCA, but we need members to provide egg casseroles and pastries. If you are able to provide either, please sign the sheet on the welcome counter in the narthex.



Blood Pressure Check

The next blood pressure checks will be on April 30th and continue on the last Sunday of every month. Honey Ashley and Rosalie Kelleher will be in the conference room following the worship service. This is a convenient opportunity to keep check on your numbers.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thank you for directing your choice dollars to Redeemer. If you are a Thrivent member and want to find out if you might be eligible for Choice Dollars next year (2023), please visit Thrivent's website at www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice, or you can call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted.

Direct your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars
Today!



May is Meals on Wheels Month

Redeemer will once again be the sponsoring agency for Meals on Wheels delivery in the month of May. Redeemer has provided this very worthwhile service for many years and you are invited to be a part. You will find it to be a very rewarding experience and, this year especially, **WE NEED DRIVERS**. If you would like to be involved, please contact Hal Wold at 813-634-2805 for both Sun City Center and Kings Point deliveries.



Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Project

If you planned to make a donation to support the DPAA efforts we are collecting through the month of April. On your check or envelope, please write "Missing Military".



Altar Guild Volunteers Needed!

The Altar Guild needs members to set up for communion. We usually work 1 hour on Saturday and 30 minutes on Sunday twice a month. Members choose 2 months a year to serve. We have teams of 2-3 people and we will train you. By making a small commitment to join altar guild you would be helping the church in a very big way. Please call Judy Buskirk 813-335-5445.



Monday, April 10TH at 5:30 PM

Join us for movie night this month on April 10th at 5:30 PM to see *A Man Called Otto*. Dinner will most likely be chicken noodle soup, chicken salad sandwich and desert. Bring your own beverage and a non-perishable food item to be donated to the food pantry.



About the movie: Otto is a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family move in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around.

Worship Assistant Volunteers Need!

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.

Calling ALL ladies of Redeemer!

Join Candy Allman for a fun relaxing weekend at God Spa. April 21-23, 2023.

Soak in the beautiful scenery and solitude of Luther Springs, relaxing your mind, body and spirit. Activities may include faith-filled conversation, devotions, music, journaling, and more. Relaxing and spa-type activities include manicures, and more. Ladies from Redeemer are invited to bring friends along the way. We will have a get-together before the weekend. You can go to the Luther Springs site to register or contact the office for assistance. When you register make sure you add a note that states you are with Candy Allman and our group. If you have any questions, please let Candy know. She is looking forward to a great fun weekend with you all.

God Spa is full!



Expos

Redeemer recently had tables at the SCC Business Expo and Fun Fest where volunteers were able to share information about the church with the community. Thanks to Carolyn Cole, Ann Miller, Larry Clark, Mike Sigler, Mary Ann Sigler, Don Hobratschk, and Lois Hobratschk for taking turns at the table.



Redeemer Table
at SCC Expo and
Fun Fest

Project SAFE - Smoke Alarms

Have you recently tested your smoke alarms? Do you have alarms that are over ten years old or may not be working? If you own your home, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue will check and if necessary, replace your smoke alarms at no cost provided they are battery alarms and not hard wired. If you are unsure what type they are, fill out the application and they may be able to tell you based on the age of your home. This safety measure is a **FREE** service. Here is the link to the form that you need to use to schedule an appointment.

<https://hcflgov.formstack.com/forms/projectsafe>



Free Community Memory Screenings

USF's Preventing Alzheimer's with Cognitive Training (PACT) lab will offer free memory screenings and information about memory loss **9:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at Redeemer.**

Trained USF psychology students will administer memory screenings, which consist of a series of questions and tasks. Screenings last approximately 30 minutes. Screening results are not a diagnosis, and individuals with below normal scores or who have concerns are encouraged to pursue a full medical examination.

Anyone concerned about memory changes or who wants a memory check for future comparison may benefit from a screening. Screenings are key for the early detection of cognitive impairment. Screenings are not recommended for persons already under a physician's care for dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

Older adults often do not seek out cognitive assessment until symptoms of decline are well advanced, and are negatively impacting daily activities and/or quality of life. According to research, more than half of those diagnosed with

dementia have never been screened before getting their diagnosis.

To register, contact the office to sign up for your desired time slot.

South Shore Concert Band

On **Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm** we will host the South Shore Community Band for a concert in Buhr Hall! All are invited from the church and the community. Come join us for a night of music and fun. We ask that you bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the local food pantry. A free will offering will also be collected for the band.

Easter Gift Bags for Homebound Members

WELCA assembled gift bags for homebound members in Buhr Hall on Monday, March 27 at 10:00 AM. Thanks to everyone that dropped off items, assembled bags and made deliveries. These Easter gifts bring some Easter joy to the homebound.



Thank you from Pastor & Candy Allman

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to the Chapel Project at Luther Springs Camp. Work is set to happen April 16th & 17th, so there are a few more days to help, if you choose. If you would like to make a donation to the Luther Springs project please write "Luther Springs" on the memo line of your check. If you include an amount for Luther Springs in your giving envelope, please indicate on the outside of your envelope what amount is for the Luther Springs project and make sure all checks are payable to Redeemer Lutheran. If you are unable to make a financial contribute, we welcome your prayers. You are all appreciated, Pastor & Candy Allman.

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	3 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	4 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	5	6 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 7:00 PM-Maundy Thur. Worship	7 9:30 AM-Quilters 7:00 PM-Good Friday	8
9 8:30-9:30 AM Easter Brunch 10:00 AM-Easter Worship	10 OFFICE CLOSED 5:30 PM- Movie Night	11 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM Finance Meeting 1:30 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-Women's AA	12 10:00 AM-Fundraising Mtg	13 9:00 AM Parish Nurse 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	14 9:30 AM-Quilters	15
16 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship 11:00 AM Assistive Devices	17 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 7:00 PM-Southshore concert band	18 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	19 USF Memory Screening	20 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	21 9:30 AM-Quilters	22
23 10:00 AM-Worship	24 10:00 AM- WELCA Board 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting	25 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	26	27 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	28 9:30 AM-Quilters	29
30 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-BP Check						

