



Reflections

VOLUME 26

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ISSUE 7

Remembering What We Try to Forget

During this black history month, I've been re-reading a book about the life and continuing influence of **James Baldwin** that came out just two years ago. Baldwin (1924-1987) was a black writer and activist. The book, *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own* was written by **Eddie Glaude Jr.**, a professor of African American Studies at Princeton. Though Baldwin died in 1987, his observations about role of race and racism in the development of this country can offer us a way to heal, and live into the best of who we can be. For that to happen, though, White Americans need to be able to look honestly at our history and our privilege. And we need to do that without getting defensive ... or saying we aren't responsible for the actions of our ancestors ... or saying people have to stop blaming the past and we'd all be better off to take responsibility for ourselves and keep looking ahead

So what would it be like to open ourselves to listen to the voices of James Baldwin and Eddie Glaude Jr.? Both are brutally honest Black men whose love for this country leads them to name truths Whites don't want to hear. Both call us in love to see a history that is tragically broken and achingly beautiful, and, by accepting all of what and who we have been, we have a chance to help this country become all we can truly be.

Eddie Glaude writes: "Since the publication of *Notes of a Native Son* in 1955, Baldwin had insisted that the country grapple with the contradiction at the heart of its self-understanding: the fact that in this so-called democracy, people believed that the color of one's skin determined the relative value of an individual's life and justified the way American society was organized. That belief and justification had dehumanized entire groups of people. White Americans were not excluded from its effects. 'In this debasement and definition of Black people,' Baldwin argued, White people 'debased and defined themselves.'" (Glaude, pp. 6-7)

Glaude continues, "Whites believed the lie ... that in America White lives have always mattered more than the lives of others. ... According to [this] lie, America is fundamentally good and innocent, its bad deeds dismissed as mistakes corrected on the way to 'a more perfect union.' The United States has always been shadowed by practices that contradict our most cherished principles. The genocide of native peoples, slavery, racial apartheid, Japanese internment camps, and the subordination of women reveal that our basic creed that 'all men are created equal' was a lie, at least in practice. These weren't minor events in the grand history of the 'redeemer nation,' nor were they simply the outcomes of a time when such views were widely held. Each moment represented a profound revelation about who we were as a country – just as the moments of resistance against them said something about who we aspired to be." (pp. 7-8)

At some level, we know this history. And yet I wonder if many of us try to explain away or justify the more brutal ways we have not lived up to our image of ourselves as a beacon of freedom, because we love this land and we and people we

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OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Pastor - Rev. David Shull

L-I-C Student - Adam Howard

Office Manager - Becky Trover

Custodian - Marshall Edgington

Organist/Senior Choir Director - Kathy Rapp

Pianist/Chimes Choir Director - Karen Kent

Reflections Editor - Judith Bird

2022

CHURCH COUNCIL

President - Wendy Stoica

Vice President - Michele Disbro

Finance Officer - Nathan Ott

Secretary - Margie Farnham

Worship - Jennifer Young

Education - Krista Skipper

Outreach - Sue Watson

Member Support - Elyce Herring

Property - Sue Yehling

Stewardship - Laura Warren

APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer - Julianne Johnson

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Margie Farnham Marques Highland

Emlyn Ott Karen Collins

SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Dave Engel, Chair

Michelle Clemence Nancy Magargal

Jim Riley Terry Warren

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

RLC's Current Worship Protocol: *Love Your Neighbor*

- * Masks are required in worship and in other larger group settings.
- * Both sides of the sanctuary are set up for social distancing.
- * Those who wish may stand during the opening and closing hymns and the reading of the Gospel.
- * During the passing of the peace, we suggest you wave or place your palms together under your chin in the "namaste" posture as a way to share the peace in a distanced way.
- * Individual communion elements are available to pick up inside the Sanctuary door.
- * If you wish to use one of the first-floor bathrooms, please follow instructions in the bathroom about disinfecting it after your use. Only one person at a time in the restrooms.
- * Please silence cellphones."

Keeping Redeemer's Community Prayer List Current

One of the ways we try to make our love for each other real at Redeemer is by taking seriously the prayer requests we make. When you or someone you love is facing challenging times of any sort, you let someone in the church know so we can add that name to the prayer lists in the bulletin and in *Reflections*.

The Member Care team is interested in making sure this list is as accurate and current as possible. In the next couple of weeks, we ask you to look over the list. If you find your name on it, or the name of someone for whom you asked the congregation to pray, and you don't feel like that name needs to remain on the list, please let **Office Manager Becky Trover** know. If you would like your name or the name of a loved one to remain on that list, that is absolutely fine! Again, just let Becky know.

It is an honor to be asked to pray for each other. Thank you for giving us that opportunity.

Souper Bowl Offering Continues One More Week

Although the outcome of the 2022 Super Bowl is now known, Redeemer will continue its "Souper Bowl!" drive for Lutheran Social Services (LSS) one more week on **Sunday, February 20**.

In addition, donations of soup – preferably tomato, chicken noodle or vegetable – can also be taken directly to the Food Pantry at the corner of Frebis and Champion now through the end of the month.

Kathy Zwanziger points out that for every \$1 donated, LSS and the Mid-Ohio Food Collective can purchase \$4 worth of food.

New Procedure Set for Disposing of Communion Cups

Those attending worship and participating in communion on Sundays are invited to place the empty communion cups in the designated container on the back table after worship. They will be rinsed out, and the rinsed element will be poured into the ground to honor those who are no longer with us.

Adult Ed on Hiatus for Feb. 20

The Sunday Adult Education class is on hiatus **Sunday, February 20**. It returns on **Sunday, February 27** with a class led by Redeemer member and Trinity Seminary professor, **Brad Binau**, on the seven deadly sins. More details coming in the **Monday, February 21 Reflections**.

Sister Act to Discuss Book

Sister Act meets this week on **Wednesday, February 16** to discuss the book by **Brene Brown** *The Gifts of Imperfection*. The discussion will be led by **Nancy Magargal**. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. both in-person at the church and on Zoom. Just go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82408365278?pwd=ZFRKN1o3MGtNYlNZNs95TGtVZDVtZz09>: Meeting ID: 824 0836 5278; Passcode: 319015.

Spotlight on BREAD Network Member Carol Heacock

Kristi Hildebrand writes, “We asked BREAD Network Members to answer a handful of questions. We will share the answers in Reflections during 2022.” This month, the focus is on **Carol Heacock**.

Justice issues that keep you up: “People who are not ‘seen’ are the ones who keep me awake. This can be the Native American tribes who have been forgotten, the homeless that we walk by or hand them a quick dollar and go on with our lives, or the student who has no one to support them or encourage them and are so easily labeled as ‘troublemakers.’”

Why you joined the justice ministry/BREAD as a network member: “In the past, **Bernice Stewart** and I worked together on BREAD and I loved being a part of this diverse group of people coming together for a common cause. I also was so excited when the organization developed concrete solutions and identified people and strategies that could work towards solving the problem and therefore, supporting those who didn't have a voice or a means.”

Favorite type of bread: “It's just impossible for me to name just one. I have favorites depending on if it's with soup, I go with crusty sourdough, rye or grainy whole wheat, those are my favorites with sandwiches, just to name a couple.”

Justice prayer for 2022: “That we, as a country, as a community, as individuals might SEE our neighbor. Maybe that neighbor is someone down the street that we've never taken the time to chat with, maybe it's a person that serves our Starbucks, or folks we pass as we drive to First English to serve dinner. I pray that we take the time to get to know each other's story, grow to respect each other, and lean on each other. I have learned over and over the past few years, our Lord never intended for anyone to walk this journey of life alone.”

The Redeemer Network Meeting has been scheduled for **Wednesday, February 23** at 7 p.m. The meeting is for anyone who is a Network Member, anyone who is considering becoming a Network Member or anyone who just wants to hear about what is going on with BREAD.

Upcoming BREAD Dates

Redeemer Network Meeting: February 23, 2022 at 7 p.m.

Rally: Monday, April 11, 2022 at 7 p.m.

Nehemiah Action: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at the Celeste Center 6:15 p.m. (Registration) 7 p.m. (Event)

Justice Ministry Celebration: Monday, June 27 at 7 p.m.

Noisy Offering Goes to ELCA World Hunger

For now through Epiphany, the “Noisy Offering” – that is the offering of loose or “noisy” change made during communion – will go to ELCA World Hunger.

Working with and through ELCA congregations (in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, gifts to ELCA World Hunger enable the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, ELCA World Hunger meets basic needs and recognizes the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. By connecting people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care and sources of income, long-term, sustainable change is fostered. To learn more, go to elca.org/hunger.

Tuesday Bible Study to Explore Letters of Paul

The Tuesday Bible Study will meet both in-person and via Zoom on **Tuesday, February 15** to continue its study of Paul's letters.

Join us in-person and on Zoom from 1-2:30 p.m.

To join the group via Zoom, go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 881 4197 0483; Passcode: 646129. To participate by phone, call 312 626 6799. If you don't

have the Zoom app, you can join the meeting by copying and pasting the following web address in your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88141970483?pwd=L1RkZ3F2UVlhSWIRWS85ZkFjS3NHUT09>.

2022 Flower Chart Available

Have an event to celebrate or remember? Somebody's birthday to recognize? The chart to sign up for flowers for Sunday services in 2022 is now on the bulletin board next to the library.

Flowers run \$20 and can be paid ahead of the date by using the envelopes that are also available on the bulletin board. The envelope provides additional space for spelling out the designation – information that is shared in *Reflections* and the Sunday bulletin.

For those not yet coming in to the church, just call **Office Manager Becky Trover** to sign up. Flowers can be taken home after the Sunday service or picked up later in the week.

Remembering What We Try to Forget *cont'd from p. 1*

love have made great sacrifices for it. But facing both the beauty *and* the brokenness means our love for this country is grounded in reality and not in illusion or fantasy. There are some remarkable chapters in our history. At times, we have shown depths of courage, compassion, ingenuity, and sacrifice we can all be immensely proud of. *Immensely* proud of. But as the harsher realities of our history tell us, we have clung to a fearful resistance to change, particularly when it comes to seeing those who are not White, male, and Christian as deserving of the same rights, freedoms, respect, and dignity. Naming these national sins is the only way we can start to heal the deep wounds that keep us from healing.

In his 1972 book *No Name in the Street*, Baldwin writes: "If one really wishes to know how justice is administered in a country, one does not question the policemen, the lawyers, the judges, or the protected members of the middle class. One goes to the unprotected – those, precisely, who need the law's protection the most! – and listens to their testimony. Ask any Mexican, any Puerto Rican, any Black man, any poor person – ask the wretched how they fare in the halls of justice, and then you will know, not whether or not the country is just, but whether or not it has any love for justice, or any concept of it. It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have." (Glaude, p. 178)

I believe this faith community tries to face the realities of our nation's history. I believe we catch glimpses of the beloved community God imagines for this world whose foundations are a life-giving justice and joy for all. Thank God for people like James Baldwin, and all of history's prophets, who take on the thankless job of reminding us of what we try to forget, so we see what's real, and make that reality more beautiful.

Dave Shull

Important Emails

Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

Info@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with the office, *Reflections* newsletter, **Office Manager Becky Trover**, healing prayer requests or for general information.

MemberCare@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with the Member Care team about needs for personal ministry such as in-home communion, a home visit, meals, etc.

FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com – use for stewardship campaigns.

Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with Redeemer's IT Team for items related to the website.

Property@RedeemerLuth.com – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

Transportation@redeemerluth.com – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

Communications@redeemerluth.com – use to send church related announcements or pictures for sharing on Redeemer's social media sites. Another way is to tag Redeemer in the posts.

Publishing Deadlines for *Reflections*, Sunday Bulletins

For *Reflections*

- PLEASE SUBMIT PRIOR TO **5 P.M. ON SUNDAYS**.
- Send to info@RedeemerLuth.com and put *Reflections* in subject line.
- Or leave a note in the *Reflections* mailbox at the top of the stairs outside the church office.

For Sunday Bulletins

The deadline for information to be published in Sunday bulletins is the **Wednesday morning** before. That information can be sent to the above email: just put "Bulletin" in the subject line.

Prayers and Personals

Prayers for healing are asked for the students and staff of Columbus City Schools, its high schools, especially West High School, given the increase in violence and shootings this past week.

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Prayers for healing and recovery are asked for **Kathy Ehrich** who had knee replacement surgery and for **Linda Williams'** son **Greg** who fell this past week. Prayers for comfort are asked for **Shirley Miller** on the death of her sister **Juanita**.

Narcan Nasal Spray Available at Redeemer

Redeemer has been given some Narcan Nasal Spray which can save the lives of those who are experiencing an opioid overdose. They are available for folks to have in their cars or to give to people you know. Redeemer can get more, so please take as many as you need. They can be found on a table in the Narthex.

The following link is to a very user-friendly YouTube training video on how to use it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZmSXQfi74k>

February Birthdays

14-Kurt Goshen

15-Nancy Ehrich 16-Heidi Carman

24-Linda Williams 24-Sue Yehling

26-Diane Brobeck 26-Wally Jacobs

28-Colton Day

The Wider Church

Lutheran Collaborative Justice Team Begins Work

First English Lutheran Church and its eight partner churches in Franklin County have organized a Lutheran Collaborative Justice Team "to intentionally show mercy to diverse populations." The group meets quarterly at First English to read, study, discuss and pray.

Individuals who would like to participate are asked to email **Sara Neikirk** at ssneikirk@gmail.com to be added to the team and to receive the group's quarterly newsletter. **Kay Ernsthausen** reports that the group has identified four local issues that need attention and prayers:

- **Death penalty** - There is pending Ohio legislation to end the death penalty.

- **Gerrymandering** - Following rulings from the Ohio Supreme Court ruling on several lawsuits on both proposed state legislative district maps and congressional maps, the Ohio Redistricting Commission is again charged with redrawing both maps.

- **Affordable housing** - A recent local panel indicated that there is absolutely no housing available for persons making \$30,000 or less. Columbus is expecting a major population increase and is building everywhere. Shelters are full. Columbus has an **affordable** housing crisis.

- **Education** - House bills (HB) 322 and 327 are attempting to abolish efforts to implement the State Board of Education's (SBOE) comprehensive plan which includes strategies for addressing equity and diversity. Two Republican SBOE appointees of Gov. DeWine were forced to step down late last year.

The Community Beyond

Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests Available

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 tests. Orders will usually ship in seven to 12 days.

Tests can be ordered online at <https://special.usps.com/testkits>.

COVID-19 Drive-Thru Testing Station Opens at OSU - East Hospital

A drive-thru COVID-19 testing station at East Hospital is providing **symptomatic/asymptomatic with exposure testing** for individuals who live in targeted zip codes on the Near Eastside.

The East Hospital location addresses the increased demand for testing and provides convenient access for individuals (community and health care personnel) living in zip codes 43203, 43201, 43205, 43206, 43207, 43211, 43215, 43219, 43222, 43223 and 43224. Appointments are required for all patients (community and health care personnel).

The Community Care Coach staff, along with five National Guardsmen, will support the East Hospital testing station located in the ACC parking area in front of East Hospital. To access the drive-thru station, patients must follow posted signs and enter from the Phale D. Hale St. entrance.

To schedule an appointment use MyChart or call 614-293-4000: Individuals with a MyChart account can schedule a COVID-19 test without the need to contact the COVID-19 Call Team or their own Wexner Medical Center provider.

All available appointments for testing are viewable in MyChart. Individuals without a MyChart account can call the COVID-19 Call Center at 614-293-4000 or contact their primary care physician.

There is no cost for the testing.

Getting Ready for Worship

7th Sunday after Epiphany, February 20, 2022 Lessons

Readings: Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-6, 39-40; Luke 6:27-38

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of The Church on Oakland Park, Columbus.
- + For Redeemer community members Laura and Terry Warren.

Each week we remember in our prayers in worship those who cannot be with us and those with special needs and concerns: Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Lea Spang, Bonnie Hegreness, Heidi Carman, Cora Marquez, Mary Kennedy, Diane Louangrath, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich and their sister Betty Weaver, Stan Heacock, Jeremy Davis, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Alyssa Jordan-Bird and Nate Bird, Shirley and Jack Miller, Jon Denniss, Mary Bowling's sister Val, Grace and Ken Jones, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Kris Kauffman, Chad Eberle's mother.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Connie Criswell
Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Crucifer	Skye Andree
Reader	Connie Criswell
Cantor	Jennifer Young
Organist	Kathy Rapp
Pianist	Karen Kent
Verger	Wendy Stoica
Usher	Sue Watson
Producer	Sue Yehling, Scott Steiner

*Flowers are given by members of Redeemer
Noisy Offering will be for ELCA World Hunger*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer February 15 – February 21, 2022

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON & ZOOM Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	ZOOM Journaling Workshop
<u>Wednesday</u>	6:30 p.m.	IN-PERSON & ZOOM Sister Act
<u>Sunday</u>	8:45 a.m.	Chime Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 a.m.	Adult Education on hiatus this week, returns Sunday, Feb. 27
	11:15 a.m.	Council conversation with Capital University Chaplain Drew Tucker
	11:15 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal

Redeemer's mission: To be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all
Redeemer's vision: To foster understanding and healing in community