



# Reflections

VOLUME 29

March 17, 2025

ISSUE 17

## MOFC Notifies RLC of End of Food Giveaways

As reported in the March 10 issue of *Reflections*, the Mid-Ohio Food Collective (MOFC) notified Redeemer of the end of the monthly produce giveaways. Here is the letter from MOFC's **Kerry McCarthy** and **Brad Draper**, notifying RLC of that decision:

"Dear Partner,

"At MOFC, we deeply appreciate our partners that have hosted regular Produce Markets. Unfortunately, we find ourselves at a crossroads where we need to make some changes to this program.

"When produce markets began, nearly 15 years ago, there were few opportunities to access fresh fruit and vegetables in our network. All of our produce markets helped create a space in communities for customers to access produce and to improve the health of their households. Over the past 15 years, our entire network became aware of this demand and started to incorporate more fresh food for their customers – to the point where 65 percent of the product MOFC now distributes is fresh food.

"One advantage of other partners adapting to the focus on fresh food, is that most provide weekly access for customers, instead of once or twice per month. From the perspective of the customer, regular access provides a much more convenient way to provide these products.

"At the same time, our ability to provide fresh food has been dramatically impacted by supply challenges. These have been disruptions to the supply of eggs, citrus and other key crops recently. Over the past 16 months, MOFC has experienced delivery cancellations for more than \$2 million in federal food commodities that would have been available at no cost to MOFC and our partner agencies. Unfortunately, with rising costs and reduced supplies, we have to make changes in how we allocate the produce that is available.

"At MOFC, we are constantly evaluating our operations to ensure that we are providing excellent customer service and being the best possible stewards of the resources provided to us by our community. Because of the proliferation of fresh food availability throughout our network and the reduction in product availability, it makes sense for us to focus limited resources in those places with the most hours of access.

**"Because of these factors, we will no longer provide produce to your produce market after Feb. 28, 2025. Please let your volunteers and customers know.**

"We understand that you have made a great contribution to your community by hosting your produce market, and we hope that you are very proud of that. You can still play a vital role in connecting customers to food resources, since with the [FreshTrak.com](http://FreshTrak.com) website, it is much easier to know on any given day the location and time of pantries and meal programs.

"This is a difficult message to send, because we know that your organization's heart and soul has been put into your produce market program. You have made a positive contribution to your community's health and well-being."

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### OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus  
Pastor – Rev. Dave Shull  
Office Manager - Becky Trover  
Office Assistant - Diane Brobeck  
Custodian - Marshall Edgington  
Organist/Senior Choir Director – Kathy Rapp  
Pianist/Chime Choir Director – Karen Kent  
*Reflections* Editor - Judith Bird

### 2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President – Brad Binau  
Vice President – Ashley Bird  
Finance Officer - Laura Warren  
Secretary – Rich Pautsch  
Worship - Michelle Clemence  
Education – Karen Rider  
Outreach – Mary Benis  
Member Support – Kathy Mimitch  
Property - April Smith  
Stewardship - Kathy Denhard

### APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer – Kay Ernsthause

### MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Misato In Sara Auman  
Emlyn Ott Rich Pautsch

### SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Wendy Stoica, Chair Hitoshi Phillips  
Emily Kent John Kennedy  
Terry Warren Laura Warren [ex officio]

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

### REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

[www.redeemerluth.com](http://www.redeemerluth.com)



# The Redeemer Community

## ***Redeemer Sings the Blues***

The special worship service on **Sunday, March 16** all about “singing the blues” is now available on RLC’s [YouTube channel](#)

## **BREAD Update: Environmental Justice Campaign**

**Kristi Hildebrand** reports that, “Tree canopy has never been more important to Columbus than it is today. Preserving and growing tree canopies create more vibrant, resilient communities. Trees are the only type of infrastructure that increases in value over time and provides benefits valued three times more than the cost to maintain them. This is why BREAD is working with city officials and leaders to increase the tree canopy.

### **Upcoming BREAD Dates**

- RLC Justice Network Meeting: **Wednesday, March 19** at 6 p.m. (before the Lenten service), Room 2 and on Zoom.
- Rally: **Monday, April 7** at 7 p.m. Location: Congregation Tifereth Israel (1354 E. Broad St.)
- Nehemiah Action: **Tuesday, May 13** at 6:40 p.m. at the Celeste Center.
- Celebration: **Monday, June 30** at 7 p.m. Location: TBA.

## **Death, Dying, and Grieving - Adult Education in March**

Ash Wednesday will launch Redeemer into Lenten reflection on our mortality and God’s promise to bring life out of death. **Emily Kent** and **Brad Binau** will explore these themes for three Sundays in March starting on March 9 in an adult education class, “Death, Dying, and Grieving.” Next up:

### **March 23 - Grieving: Remembering Life**

Good grief work can help us remember the past with less pain and anticipate the future hopefully -- some theologians call this “remembering the future.” We will explore funeral and burial practices and how they can facilitate or impede how we remember. We will discuss the role of Redeemer’s Remembrance Garden as part of the congregation’s mission and ministry.

## **March 23 Deadline to Order Easter Flowers**

It’s time to order Easter flowers. Orders are now being taken through **Sunday, March 23**. Flower options include white Easter Lilies (\$12.50 per pot) or tulips with a choice of red, yellow, purple and/or pink (\$7.50 per pot). The envelopes to order are on the bulletin board in the hallway opposite the coat room.

After completing the envelope, place the money in the envelope, seal and place it in the offering plate. Questions regarding ordering flowers? Contact **Kay Ernsthause**n at [KAErnsthause@gmail.com](mailto:KAErnsthause@gmail.com).

## **Variety of Lenten Services, Activities Planned; Volunteers Sought**

Now through **April 9**, Lenten Soup and Conversation will be held Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. in the Narthex. The sign-up sheet to provide soup, bread or a dessert is on the bulletin board next to the Library.

Midweek Lenten services run those same Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Volunteers are sought to share a story about a time they experienced a period of silence – maybe long, maybe brief – and how that silence blessed them with some kind of wisdom, insight, discovery or revelation. What did that silence teach you? Presenters are also asked to come up with a Bible passage that speaks to the theme of what the silence taught you. See the Feb. 24 issue of *Reflections* for more information on this.

The sign up sheet for this is also on the bulletin board next to the Library.

## **Narthex Art Theme Changes to ‘Reflection’ for Lent**

The Narthex Art theme for Lent is “Reflection.” Almost all of the art on display has been created by members of Redeemer, and is meant to be interactive. “As you look into the mirrors, you become part of the art! We encourage you to take your time reading the information next to each piece, and reflect on what you see,” writes **Emily Kent**.

“A journal is provided in the exhibit for those that would like to share reactions or thoughts (Reflections?!) about the art.”

## **Easter Party Set for April 13**

The annual Easter Party will be on **Palm Sunday, April 13**, during the Sunday School hour. “All kids are welcome to join us for crafts and a candy filled egg hunt! Please extend invitations to your grandchildren, nieces and nephews—the more the merrier!”

Questions? See Krista Skipper or contact her at [kristamary5114@gmail.com](mailto:kristamary5114@gmail.com) or 614-596-5886.

## **CROP Walk Set for Sept. 28; Donations Being Accepted Now**

**Connie Criswell** reports that this year’s CROP Walk for world hunger is scheduled for **Sunday, Sept. 28**. However, “They have asked for us to start fundraising NOW, because the need is greater than ever, especially since the current administration has slashed or eliminated aid funding.

The 2025 Redeemer Team page is up and available for donations [HERE](#). If anyone is interested in joining this year’s team, please let Connie know. Those who plan to walk are **Kathy Zwanziger, Wendy Stoica, Heidi Sherer, and Connie Criswell**.

## **‘Care Kits’ Now Available to Hand Out**

With the assistance of Redeemer’s youth, “Care Kits” have now been assembled and are available for members to give out to anyone they find in need. The kits can be found on the table in the Narthex by the coatroom.

Also, take a bottle of water to include.

Members are encouraged to supplement the kits with \$5 in the kit and/or by also giving a book.

The kits include items such as chapstick, small bottles of lotion, hand warmers, soft breakfast bars, small packets of wipes or small bottles of hand sanitizer.

**Michele Disbro** thanks everyone who contributed items or cash and who helped assemble the kits!

## **Non-Police Crisis Response Ballot Initiative Moves Ahead**

**Kristi Hildebrand** reports, “The effort to get an initiative on the ballot to address the creation of the non-police crisis response in the city of Columbus is gaining momentum. The ballot language was filed on March 7. The petitions will be distributed soon.

“For more information about this activity, please see the YouTube [video](#) on Redeemer's channel from when **Helen Anne Sweeney** spoke to the Adult Ed Forum on Feb. 23. She gave an excellent presentation on why this is needed, what Columbus has now and what is possible for the future.”

## **Tuesday Bible Study Looks at Stories of Elijah, Elisha**

The Tuesday Bible Study continues its discussion of the stories of Elijah and Elisha when the group meets on **Tuesday, March 18**. The group meets from 1-2:30 pm on Tuesdays for the Bible study. Folks can participate in-person or on Zoom.

## **Sign Up Now to Read at Worship Services**

Readers for Sunday morning services can now sign up for services over the winter. Readers, including youth and children, are encouraged to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board, next to the Library.

Readings are sent out the week before to give folks a chance to go through the lessons ahead of Sunday mornings. **Readers of all ages are encouraged to participate.**

## **‘Noisy Offering’ Going to CRIS**

For the season of Lent Redeemer’s Noisy Offering will be going to the Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS). (See separate story, this issue for more information on CRIS.)

CRIS’ mission is to help refugees and immigrants reach safety and stability, sustain self-sufficiency, and achieve successful integration into the Central Ohio community.

Due to the current political climate the funding for CRIS has been cut drastically, so those who can are asked to help.

The “Noisy Offering” is that donation of loose change that is made as one enters the Sanctuary.

## Important Emails

[Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

[Info@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for stewardship campaigns.

[Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating with Redeemer’s IT Team for items related to the website.

[Property@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Property@RedeemerLuth.com) – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

[SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com) – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

[Transportation@redeemerluth.com](mailto:Transportation@redeemerluth.com) – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

[Communications@redeemerluth.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

Congratulations to **Jon Disbro** on his April 1 retirement from Nationwide Children’s Hospital!!

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Prayers of healing are asked for **Al Debelak**, recovering from a recent hospitalization.

+ + +

A memorial service for **Madelyn Zimmer**, who died Aug. 27, 2024, at the age of 85, will be held on **Monday, April 7** here at Redeemer. More details to follow.

+ + +

A memorial service for **Ruth Boys**, who died Feb. 24 at the age of 83, will be held here at Redeemer on **Saturday, May 10**, according to her husband **Bill Boys**. More details will be available closer to the date.

## *Christ in Our Home* for April-June Available

The latest edition of the daily devotional booklet *Christ in Our Home* for April through June is now available on the Kiosk in the Narthex. Copies are free for anyone who would like one.

## Flower Sign Up Sheet for 2025 Now Up

The sign-up sheet to provide flowers for the worship services in 2025 is on the bulletin board next to the Library. This is a good opportunity to remember a loved one, a special occasion or just because. To pay for the flowers use the special envelope that is also available on the bulletin board. They run \$20.

## March Birthdays

17-David Williams 24-Carol Heacock

27-Margie Farnham 30-Colin Young

# The Wider Church

## Considering Ways to Support Immigrants

Church Council has appointed **Julie Johnson** to lead a new ministry group to explore ways Redeemer can support those seeking to immigrate legally to or to remain legally in the United States. “We should all know that the ELCA is a ‘Sanctuary Denomination’ having voted in 2019, at Churchwide Assembly, to do that,” Julie points out. “In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith. It’s important to know that there is no legal definition of ‘sanctuary.’ The ELCA guidance is that individual churches or synods can determine their own ways of being sanctuary.

“One immediate way that individuals and Redeemer can walk along with immigrants at this critical time is by supporting CRIS Ohio. The Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) is a nonprofit agency in Central Ohio that provides a variety of services to refugees and immigrants. It is an affiliate of Church World Services (which Redeemer supports each fall through CROP Walk – see separate story, this issue on CROP Walk).

“The quickest way to support CRIS is directly through either their website at [crisohio.org](http://crisohio.org) or by calling 614-235-5747. You can also donate by writing a check to Redeemer and note in the memo line CRIS. Donations through Redeemer are usually delayed by at least a month.

“Another way that Redeemer is walking alongside immigrants is to be of assistance to those who worship with us. Whether through transportation to church, providing a bulletin in their language, connecting them to needed services or helping with daily needs, we have opportunities to help.”

## CU Sponsors Nelson Lecture Series March 18, 20

Capital University (CU) is sponsoring the Nelson Lecture on **Tuesday and Thursday, March 18 and 20**. Tuesday events include worship in the Gloria Dei Worship Center at 10 a.m. and an interactive lecture at 7 p.m. that evening. “The Blanket Exercise” is an interactive journey through 500+ years of Indigenous history. “Engage, reflect and learn in this powerful, immersive experience. Ages 15+ are welcome.” Due to the nature of this exercise, prompt arrival is required. No admittance once the exercise begins.

Then on Thursday, **Vance Blackfox**, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and founder and director of Other + Wise, will speak in Cap’s Convergent Media Center beginning at 7 p.m. A reception follows at 8:30 p.m.

## Prayer Concerns from ELCA

**March 18** Remember in prayer congregations that are working through leadership transitions, assessing their missions and resources, and searching for pastors, deacons or others to become teachers and leaders.

**19** “The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me” (**Martin Luther, Table Talk**). Pray that the word of God in Scripture will lay hold of us and reveal something new to us each time we read the Bible, hear it read aloud or reflect on its implications for our daily lives.

**20 First Day of Spring** Sing praises and lift up prayers of joy and thanksgiving for the new life, light and hope that emerge with spring — awesome gifts from God, the Creator.

**21** Thank God for the ELCA’s special relationship with The Episcopal Church, a full communion partner since 1999. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

**22** Water is a gift from God and a vital resource that sustains all living things. Pray for wisdom and discipline that we might preserve, manage and restore water resources essential to food production and life itself for people around the world.

**23** Let us repent our sins to God, just as we are, asking God’s forgiveness, guidance and transformation.

**24** Pray that our Lenten reflections and conversations will lead us to a clearer sense of our identity, our mission and our calling to proclaim the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ.



# Getting Ready for Worship

## Third Sunday in Lent

### March 23, 2025 – 10 a.m.

#### Lessons

**Readings:** Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 13:6-9

#### Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

#### A Prayer for Peace

Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In the time of opportunity, make us be diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Reformation Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Thea Barbour Harms, Seth, Bryce and Jackson Harms.

**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, Bonnie Hegreness, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Becky Trover's sister Maddie Sutphin and their son-in-law Brandon James, Skye Andree, Kris Kauffman, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose, Kathie Ehrich, Barbara Hairston and family, Dottie and Larry Bird, Eileen Welker, Nancy Magargal's grandson Benjamin, Kelley Frank's mother Charlotte Frank, Scott Steiner, Laura and Terry Warren on the death of their nephew Samuel Hudson IV, Al Debelak.

#### Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	<b>Dave Shull</b>
Assisting Minister	<b>Emily Ott</b>
Cantor	<b>Connie Criswell</b>
ASL Interpreter	<b>Bryan Neal</b>
Organist & Senior Choir Director	<b>Kathy Rapp</b>
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	<b>Karen Kent</b>
Usher	<b>Kathleen Zwanziger</b>
Verger	<b>Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica</b>
Producers	<b>Toshi Phillips, Sachio Phillips</b>
Communion Prep	<b>Wendy Stoica, Lynn Belhorn, Sunday School kids</b>
Hospitality	<b>Laura and Terry Warren</b>

*No Flowers during Lent*

*The Noisy Offering will go to CRIS [Community Refugee and Immigration Service]*

**Week to Come at Redeemer**  
**March 17 – March 24, 2025**

<b>Monday</b>	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki Music
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts #2462
<b>Tuesday</b>	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	2:00 p.m.	Suzuki Music
	6:30 p.m.	Congregational Council
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Suzuki Music
	12:00 pm	Lenten Soup and discussion
	6:00 p.m.	BREAD meeting
	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Lenten Evening Prayer
<b>Thursday</b>	10:30 a.m.	Suzuki Music
<b>Sunday</b>	8:45 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Ed Forum
<b>Monday</b>	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki Music
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS

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