



The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 11

November, 2015

**Pastor's
Corner**

Giving Thanks

November is a season of colorful leaves adorning trees in majestic colors that in due time will fall to the ground to nourish the earth and then we wait for another season when all things bright and beautiful will bloom again. What is it with autumn that makes a poet in each one of us? The American poet, Walt Whitman's *The Leaves of Grass*, offered these words:

“This is what you shall do; Love the earth and sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to everyone that asks, stand up for the stupid and crazy, devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning God, have patience and indulgence toward the people, take off your hat to nothing known or unknown or to any man or number of men, go freely with powerful un-

educated persons and with the young and with the mothers of families, read these leaves in the open air every season of every year of your life, re-examine all you have been told at school or church or in any book, dismiss whatever insults your own soul, and your very flesh shall be a great poem and have the richest fluency not only in its words but in the silent lines of its lips and face and between the lashes of your eyes and in every motion and joint of your body.”

The most quoted was the line “*your very flesh shall be a great poem.*” We say thanks and it was expressed by Psalmist, “I will always thank God for what he has done; I will praise His good name when his people meet.” (Psalm 52:9)

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Thank you,
Lord!



Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

United Methodist Church

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9:00 and 10:30 am

Pastor:

Rev. Romir R. Esguerra

Church Secretary:

Donna Echtner

Director of Youth Ministries:

Marianne Rogenski

Editor:

Jerry Mc Daniel

(cont from pg 1)

We concluded our Stewardship month with a gracious word of thanks for your *Prayers, Presence, Service, Gifts and Witness* through Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church. Every commitment is a step in faith and valued for every ministry; our Church is stronger because of this spiritual moment. Our gifts are sustainable and a reflection of a life blessed in all seasons. God pledged some really amazing things—and every promise was delivered—and it was done, revealed and received with a grateful and receiving heart.

Join us for our November-December events and take a look at our calendar of activities for Mission and Ministry. There is a place for everyone.

November 1 -All Saints Sunday,

November 8 - Israel Sunday,

November 24 -Thankgiving Service
@7:30 p.m.

November 29 - First Sunday in Advent,

December 5 -Advent Festival - 4:00-
6:00 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving

*“Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will for you in Christ
Jesus.”*

***Pastor Romir R.
Esguerra***

Women of Faith

by *Mary Zalay*

The United Methodist Women of *Our Redeemer's* had an awesome weekend together at *Women of Faith* on September 25 & 26.

There were 62 women affiliated with our church that attended this inspirational event at the Sears Center Arena in Hoffman Estates. We saw nationally recognized Christian speakers and singers that focused on the role of women in the family and the world.

One of the highlights was a concert by Christian singer, Sandi Patty, with her husband and children. Featured speakers included Sheila Walsh, Sarah Jakes Roberts, Thelma Wells, Anna Trent, Luci Swindoll, Marilyn Meberg, Nicole Johnson and Jen Hatmaker, as well as event organizer Steve Arterburn.

The finale was a rousing production by the Grammy nominated *Building 429* men's

Christian rock band. The weekend excitement continued as 34 of us met afterwards at Moretti's restaurant in Hoffman Estates for dinner.

A Taste of Israel at *Our Redeemer's* Sunday, November 8 9:00 and 10:30

In March of this year, 16 members and friends of our church spent 2 weeks in Israel. They are excited to share their experience with you!

Come to hear their impressions of the people and the historical and religious significance of the land.

And at 11:30, join them in Wesley Hall for samples of traditional Israeli cuisine! There will also be a DVD of their baptism in the Jordan River, memorabilia, a slide show, and of course stories to share.



Women of Faith



Youth News:

by Marianne Rogenski

ASP (Appalachia Service Project):

We will be going on our trip June 11-18, 2016! If you are interested please contact Marianne.

Youth Group:

November

- 1 Youth Group at ORUMC 6:30-8:30pm
- 8 Youth Group at ORUMC 6:30-8:30pm
- 15 The Gathering 6:30-8:30pm at Prince of Peace, Hoffman Estates
- 22 Youth Group gets cupcakes 7-8pm at My Sweet Kake, Schaumburg
- 29 NO YOUTH GROUP

December

- 6 Youth Group at ORUMC 6:30-8:30pm

Upcoming events:

January 17 Skiing at Wilmot

February 26-27 30 Hour Famine

Education News:

Thank you to all who participated in and helped with Trunk or Treat—what a great event!

Advent Festival will be December 5, in the afternoon. Please see bulletin and December newsletter for more info—but mark your calendars!



Austin Calderwood, Zander Maher, Ruby Montgomery, and Mekeena Thomas receiving 3rd grade Bibles October 18



Allison Gorvett	11/9
Nicholas Meyer	11/25
Jonathan Dean	11/27
Patrick Brock	11/29
Kimberly Trenn	11/30

Please help ensure your contributions are recorded properly by using your giving envelopes. If you need envelopes, please see Donna in the office.



Habitat
November 7
7:00 a.m.

Grab your hammer and join the Habitat gang at church November 7 at 7:00 a.m. We will carpool to the Lake County Habitat site and spend the day helping work on a Habitat house. We return to church by 4:00 or 5:00 p.m.

Call **Mert Rutledge**, 630-289-4334, if you have questions.



Holiday Snax

The UMM will be taking orders for Puppy Chow (for people) and “Killer” Garlic Pretzels starting November 22 with delivery December 13.

Thanks to all who purchased UMM pizzas.

All men of the church are invited to attend our regular meeting on December 12 at 8:00 a.m. We will be preparing holiday snax for delivery December 13.



Community Crisis Center

by Sally Donaldson

Now that Autumn is here and Winter is just around the corner, the Crisis Center could use the following:

Coats: gently used or new for women, men and children, hats/gloves/mittens, Ice-melt for side-walk and driveway

Holiday gifts: Women- wristwatches, clock radios, steam irons, sofa throws(new), journals and pens

Children - variety of non-violent toys for ages 1-12 years old, dolls, puzzles, games, action figures, trucks and cars

Teens - wristwatches, wallets/ purse on a string, bath sets (lotion/gel/etc.)

Food: any nonperishable canned or boxed goods

Baby Needs: formula, baby bottles, cups with lids, disposable diapers

Medicine Chest Items (must be new, sealed with current dates): non-alcohol cough syrup and non-aspirin pain reliever (for adults and children), antacids, RIP shampoo, anti-diarrhea medications, Orajel, Pedialyte, Band-aids, antibiotic ointment, gauze, adhesive tape, disposable thermometers, peroxide, rubbing alcohol, facial tissues

Toiletries: disposable shavers, deodorant for men and women, hand and body lotion, bath towels/washcloths (new or used)

Please place your items in the CCC bins located in the closet to the left of the information desk in the Narthex. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Faith in Action at ORUMC

by Jill Wood-Naatz

Our Redeemer's is a member church of the Community Renewal Society which is a 133 year old faith based social justice organization in Chicago. Your Faith in Action Team is happy to report that **Lori Radder** is our new organizer working with us to promote racial and economic justice in our communities.

Our Platform, which was approved at the membership assembly, consists of the following issues.

1) Reclaim Campaign: Reduce Violence through restorative justice

2) FORCE Project: End Absolute bars to employment for people with records

3) Fair Tax for Illinois: Increase revenue and protect the most vulnerable

4) Westside Community Benefits Coalition: Fighting for good jobs and housing

5) Ending Police Brutality, Sweeps, and the Criminalization of People of Color

If you would like more information on these topics, it is available in the narthex at church.

On Tuesday, October 13, **Ellen Kobylewski** and **Jill Wood-Naatz** met with our Cook County Commissioner, **Timothy Schneider**, in his Chicago office to encourage his support for allocating more funds to restorative justice in Cook County.

What exactly does this mean? Restorative justice is an approach to dealing with crime and conflict that emphasizes restoring relationships and repairing harm by addressing needs of victims, offenders, and their community. This is instead of incarceration for low-level non-violent offenses.

Let's take a look at the facts.

- 90% of Cook County Jail population are pre-trial detainees.
- 70% of detainees are charged with non-violent offenses.
- 43% of drug cases are dismissed at preliminary hearings.
- It costs tax payers an average of \$143 per day to hold someone at Cook County Jail.
- On any given day, between 25-30% of the detainees at Cook County Jail suffer from mental illnesses.
- Cook County allocated over \$375 million to the Cook County Jail and Juvenile Detention Centers in 2015.
- Less than \$3 million was allocated to violence prevention programs like Restorative Justice in 2015.

The resources needed to support communities are tied up in the criminal justice system, which does not help to address the root causes of violence.

The Reclaim Campaign is rooted in the belief that communities impacted by crime and violence are the most able to help address the root causes of those issues.

Restorative Justice peace hubs work with the justice system by diverting low-level offenders, supporting those re-entering their communities, and intervening in conflict before it escalates into crime and violence.

Many peace hubs are housed in churches in Chicago where they take referrals from schools, law enforcements, courts, and detention centers.

They then intervene with peace talking circles, peer juries, family group conferencing and conflict mediation. An action plan is developed and the offender is held accountable by a mentor and other community resources.

Restorative justice cannot happen without adequate funds. CRS is asking for \$2 million from the Cook County budget to be diverted from criminal justice to the Community Based Restorative Justice Fund, which was established last year with \$500,000.

Commissioner Schneider agreed to vote for an amendment to the budget to do just that. However, 9 of the 17 commissioners must vote for the amendment for it to pass. By the time you get this newsletter, we will know the results of the vote.

If you have further questions please ask a **Annette Brown, Jack Denny, Ellen Kobylewski, or Jill Wood-Naatz.**

UMW Update

by Melinda Taylor

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and you know what that means – Heavenly Treats just in time for the holidays! UMW is again calling upon all the wonderful bakers here at ORUMC. We will have our cookie sale between and after church services on Sunday, November 22. Start thinking now about what you would like to bake (and what favorites you are looking forward to purchasing).

Please bring your goodies to church the day before, on Saturday November 21, between 4:30 and 7:00. If you can't make it then, you may leave them wrapped in the kitchen, clearly labeled for the bake sale; let us know what they are, and if they contain nuts.

We had a very interesting presentation at our last quarterly meeting in September. Alyson Klausing (a friend of Julie Kuhn) shared her experiences as a missionary in Malawi. It was interesting and eye-opening.

Women (all women!) please join us at our next quarterly meeting on Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m. We each bring a dish to share, and enjoy fellowship and a meal. We will be having a white elephant gift exchange, so also bring a funny, used, or inexpensive gift (wrapped). We like to have fun, so expect a game to wrap up the evening. Hope to see you there!

Feeding Our Neighbors at ORUMC

by Bruce Bedingfield

Our church has supported various food pantries over the past 22 years. For many years we supported Schaumburg Township Food Pantry, just down the street from the church.

A few years ago, when they joined with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, their needs lessened and we switched our support to Hanover Township Food Pantry. More recently, however, the Schaumburg Food Pantry has suffered food shortages, at the same time as *Our Redeemer's* is striving to reach out more into the community. So we will now be resuming our food donations to Schaumburg Township.

Our Redeemer's also feeds hungry neighbors who stop by our church. Food items most appreciated by both pantries include Hamburger Helper, Pasta Roni, canned meats, spaghetti, juice boxes, cookies and ketchup. Non-food items include tooth paste, shampoo & conditioner, laundry soap, diapers, toilet paper and paper towels.

Gift cards for grocery stores or restaurants (such as Subway, located very near to our church) are also much appreciated and are given out judiciously by Donna, the church secretary.

Each week when you do your grocery shopping, please buy a little extra and place it in the designated wagons, located in the narthex.

*"For I was hungry and
you gave me food."*

Personal Notes



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has received a letter from Alexian Brothers Medical Center. A portion of that letter follows.

On behalf of all of us at Alexian Brothers Medical Center, I would like to thank each and every one of YOU who so generously gift us with your time and energy by supplying us with such wonderful works of prayer.Therefore, we at Alexian Brothers Medical Center continue to be grateful for your church, Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church, and the strength, sacredness, hope and comfort that you bring through your Prayer Blanket Ministry to Alexian Brothers Medical Center. Thank you.

Again, many BLESSINGS to all of YOU,

Phyllis Harman, chaplain

The members of ORUMC's Prayer Shawl Ministry are:

**Mary Knoppel, Chairperson
Pam Kempf, Roberta Conrad, Edie
Machonis, Von Evitts, Jane Martin,
Robyn Gatti, Carolyn Meneely, Peggy
Gire, Betty Miller, Mary Illg, Jessica
Noxon, Jean Jeziorski, Makenzie Noxon,
Kathie Kapp, and Nancy Schmidt**



Gifts from the Heart

Once again, the congregation of *Our Redeemer's* has the chance to brighten the holidays for a child by providing gifts to children through the program, Gifts from the Heart. This is the 29th year that the program Gifts from the Heart has been implemented here. Members of the congregation are given the opportunity to sign up for the number of children they wish to sponsor. This year you may sign up in the narthex on October 25, November 1, November 8, or November 15. ChildServ requests that no more than **\$40** be spent on each child. The names and ages of the children you sponsor will be given to you on November 22 or November 29. Then the unwrapped gifts, bundled together for each child, are returned on Sunday, December 6. We must deliver all the gifts to ChildServ after church, so must have the gifts returned to church by 11:00am on December 6.

ChildServ, the United Methodist agency that serves foster and at-risk children, has been very appreciative of our congregation's efforts each year in providing gifts for children. Gifts from the Heart has been very well supported by the Our Redeemer's congregation and I hope that, once again, you will find that it is a very worthy outreach to children, and you will find it in your heart to add another or several additional children to your Christmas list.

If you have any questions about Gifts from the Heart, please contact **Carol Hollingsworth** at 847-310-0491 or clh1325@comcast.net.

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

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