

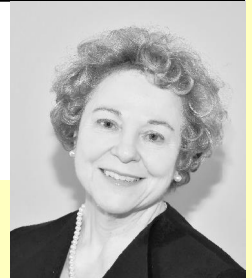


The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 12

December 2020



Dear Church Family,

As I write these words, I am listening to recordings **Cathy Scott** has prepared for our Virtual Choir for Christmas. Her hymn selections include a medley with several of our favorite hymns.

My special Advent devotional moments during this time of the year, include listening to my childhood favorite advent hymns as it brings hope and comfort to my soul. How I need to hear them, more than ever! Many of these hymns date back to the 12th century Roman church.

These would be sung or chanted on the seven nights leading up to Christmas. Back in those days, few people could read, so these songs were teaching tools, expressing the hope and truth of Christmas and the promise of Christ's return. Most of these hymns are

pleas, much like the Psalms, for the Lord to come and make things right in a world which we have broken, where people suffer and struggle.

Several years ago, when my husband David and I were pastors in Wilmington, I served as a Chaplain at Riverside Hospital in Kankakee.

One December night, I was called to be with a young couple whose two month old daughter had died. Before entering their room, I remember praying to God and asking him, "What am I supposed to say? What am I supposed to do?"

"Nothing. You just sit there. Your presence and silence may be enough" a still, small voice that prompted me in my spirit. This being only an example of the reality of

(cont on pg 2)



Redeemer Review

Published Monthly by

Our Redeemer's

United Methodist Church

1600 W Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg IL 60194-3900

(847) 882-6116

email: Call for email address

Website: www.orumc.org

Worship Services:

9:00 and 10:30 am

Pastor:

Rev. Shirley Pulgar Hughes

**Christian Education, Youth
and Discipleship Ministries:**

Rev. Nancy Hunter

Church Secretary:

Donna Echtner

Editor:

Jerry Mc Daniel

(cont from pg 1)

ongoing human suffering, I was reminded then, as I am reminded today, in the midst of our current anguish in this time of pandemic, that Emmanuel has entered and we must enter, too.

We must place ourselves with the ones who feel discouraged because they won't be able to meet with family during these holidays, lend our ear to the ones who feel burden or lonely because they have bills to pay and no resources left, our presence to those who mourn and our service to those who suffer. Come to them as an advent hymn, bringing hope and comfort. Their pain takes precedence over our opinions in this time of crises.

Perhaps, our responsibility is to just sit in it with them or even to weep as Jesus wept with those who mourned the loss of their friend and family member, Lazarus. This is what we mean by solidarity and what we mean when we say that we are standing with or praying for.

These statements are meant to be a revolutionary act of Emmanuel: boldly entering into the suffering of humankind.

I pray that during this time of COVID-19 we can accept the gospel's invitation to enter into the pain and suffering of our sisters and brothers, enter into our gloom and our sadness and our strife, and to disperse them, to fill the world and our hearts with Heaven's peace.

In the name of Emanuel, God with us,

Pastor Shirley

Dear Church Family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are reaching out to you to share with you an update on the COVID-19 virus pandemic, our Bishop Sally Dyck's latest announcement, the work of the ReTurn Team, and the impact the pandemic has on our missional priorities of Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church.

We created the ORUMC ReTurn Team to devise a safe pathway to return to in-person worship services and in-church gatherings. We have completed that task. Regrettably, the ReTurn Committee has determined that Our Redeemers must remain closed for the remainder of 2020.

Only activities deemed essential for the preparation of worship services, building maintenance, and office communications will continue.

As you probably know from daily news reports, we have seen an extreme rise in the number of covid-19 infections, hospitalizations and mortalities. Since Nov. 1, infections have jumped by 98 percent. Officials estimate that with the current rate of infection in the U.S., more than one million people will become infected *every single day* by the end of 2020.

Officials also expect to see a significant spike in the number of infections in the two weeks following the Thanksgiving weekend. The Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike and Governor JB Pritzker's concern over the exponential rise of

infections brings daily added restrictions and mandates.

Bishop Sally Dyck has sent a communication to all churches urging them to comply with these new guidelines stating:

“In order to be good neighbors to those in our communities and churches, to be part of the solution to this COVID spike, and to keep ourselves and loved ones safe, I would ask that churches not meet for at least the next four weeks.

I would also ask that everyone refrain from Thanksgiving gatherings beyond people whom you are sheltering together with. Be safe! Be a good neighbor! And make a difference!”

Our church's top priority is to protect the safety of our members while continuing to produce meaningful worship services and to provide our congregation with communication updates.

All of this will stop if we have a single incident of Covid-19 in our church or congregation. We must take every precaution to avoid this. Worship is central to our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. We must redouble our efforts to reduce the risk of our church shutting down because of an exposure to the coronavirus.

The ReTurn Team will stay informed on updated Covid-19 metrics, and will re-evaluate our situation during its January meeting.

In His service and yours,

**Pastor Shirley, Pastor Nancy
Dann Gire, Lay Leader, ReTurn Team**

A Glimmer of Joy for Christmas Eve

At ORUMC, plans for an all-church parking lot Christmas Eve service are underway. The service is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. with the story of Christ's birth told, the Nativity being acted out, and all accompanied by recorded music and words of the Gospel. Church members will stay in their cars while parked in a U-shape around the lot.

All people attending the service will be asked to take directions and back into parking places around the outside of the lot. There will be approximately 50 parking places for the audience to use so we are asking members to use one car for your family unit if possible. We suggest that you plan to arrive early to ensure that you have a space. If the number of cars exceeds the number of parking places, sadly all we can offer you is the opportunity to park at the bank, bring a folding chair and a few extra blankets and sit in front of the parked cars. Remember you won't be any colder than the actors.

Please note that every precaution is being made to keep everyone safe from the coronavirus during preparations for this event and during the service.

The Christmas Eve service may be cancelled because of inclement weather or governmental safety mandates. We are hopeful that this program will take place and be a joyous celebration.

In addition to the Christmas Eve parking lot service, the Worship Team is also planning

to pre-record a separate Christmas message that will be shared on our YouTube channel. You are invited to view both.

The link to the YouTube channel is the same as the normal Sunday service:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvbdCv0RqfNc0Y9wBrIDigg>

This has been a difficult time and many of our members have felt isolated particularly in the cold weather as the holidays approach.

We are praying that the circumstances are such that the parking lot service can take place. We hope it can be a glimmer of Christmas Joy in which we can come together as a church family and celebrate the birthday of a New Born King.

Finance News

The following is the financial status as of October 31 , 2020.

Year to Date Actual

Income	208,201
Expenses	239,742
Surplus(Deficit)	(31,541)

I'm Not Racist! Or Am I?

What is racism?

Is racism unavoidable?

What is white privilege?

How do I know if I'm racist?

Can I be racist even if I treat everyone equally?

Can I be racist if I have friends of color?

Can legislation change racism?

Is racism easy to identify?

The Shepherding team for the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church has set three goals for all churches. Goal #2 states "To live out the conviction that racism is incompatible with Christian teaching." In order to do that, with all that is happening in our world, perhaps we all need to take a deeper look at ourselves.

In Biblical terms, racism is a demon and an idol, a fallen principality and power that enslaves people and nations in its deadly grip. A power according to the Bible (and racism is virtually emblematic in this regard) may be identified as both structural and spiritual - having two aspects in these realities. Walter Wink, teacher of non-Christian violence explained that the creation hymn to Colossians 1:15-20 underlines powers and authorities and describe them as both heavenly and earthly, visible and invisible. Every power tends to have a visible pole, an outer form - be it a church, a nation, or an economy - and an invisible pole, an inner

spirit or driving force that animates. **According to the Bible, racism is not just a structural and economic problem, but also a spiritual one, something that requires both prayer and action.**

Our church is offering all of us the opportunity to look a little deeper at ourselves. Beginning in January, we are invited to join a **six weeks** Zoom study of the book White Fragility by Robin Diangelo. The book starts with the premise that racism exists and explores how one aspect of white sensibility continues to hold racism in place. And that is white fragility. And because of white fragility, it is rare that at any time in our lives we actually discuss racism.

Two sessions are being offered via Zoom and facilitated by Pastor Shirley.

Wednesdays - 10:00-11:00 AM beginning January 20

Fridays 7:30 - 8:30 PM beginning January 20

For the first session we will read and discuss the author's note, the introduction, and chapter 1.

If this sounds intriguing to you, email or call Jill Wood-Naatz at jill.woodnaatz@gmail.com or 847-507-9724.

Please indicate which session you prefer and whether you can purchase your book or want it done for you. This will be a meaningful learning experience for all of us.



Zoom Meeting Dec 12 Chattam IL Feb 13

At the Nov 14 UMM meeting we discussed traveling to the Chattam, IL Midwest Mission Distribution Center. The Chattam facility is one of the centers from which the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) ships disaster aid supplies worldwide. The center ships 1300 Cleaning Buckets multiple times a year depending on natural disasters.

The tentative plan would be that on February 13, up to 8 of us could travel to Chattam for carpentry, bike repair, etc.

We would leave church in our own cars at 5 AM, arrive ~8 AM in Chattam and depart about 3 PM for home.

Please bring old bikes if you have one for donation. Hygiene items too, more on that later.

All tools are provided. The facility is large allowing for social distancing.

Let Rich Hill know if you would be able to attend. There is a maximum number limited by COVID-19.

Our next meeting will be 12/12 at 8 AM via Google Meet. The link to the meeting is:

<https://meet.google.com/umx-brqz-nnm>



United Methodist Women

We hope that you are looking forward to the Christmas season; enjoying some hot cocoa (with marshmallows), a few festive cookies and sitting beside the Christmas tree.

Even though we can't be together in person, all women of the church are invited to attend our United Methodist Women Quarterly Meeting **"Holiday Happenings" on Tuesday, December 1 from 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. via ZOOM.**

A Zoom link will be sent out as well as a phone number to call if you don't like to Zoom. The meeting will include:

Business meeting (Disbursement of 2020 funds and voting for 2021 UMW Officers)

Draw names for Gift exchange opportunity (not secret) - totally optional

Christmas game time, social time and maybe some Christmas songs

Christmas Luminaria

A Christmas Luminaria Fundraiser is being planned by UMW for this December. See the ordering information on the last page of the newsletter.

2021 UMW Meetings

Tuesday, March 2 @ 6:30 p.m.- Quarterly Meeting ó Details To Be Determined.



Bible Quiz



Where did the child
Jesus and his parents
flee for safety?

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Syria
- C. Rome
- D. Egypt



Answer: D (See Matthew 2:13.)

Making Disciples Through Our Caring Ministries

by Bruce Bedingfield

I had asked **Pastor Shirley** if I could speak briefly on Caring Ministries at this morning's Charge Conference. She suggested I do so in the context of our making Disciples for Christ in our church's report.

My original concern was the challenges our Caring Ministries program has undergone during all the upheaval that is COVID-19. As **Bishop Dyke** says, "Change is Strange." But the more I thought about it, ***Our Redeemers*** DOES make disciples through our Caring Ministries.

Every church undertakes caring ministries, of course. But our church has done this under an umbrella called our Caring Ministries Council for about 30 years.

It was originally organized by Pastor **Heather Hasto**, our Associate Pastor at that time. Heather believed in the importance of disciples' passion - their calling to establish and organize an individual ministry.

Our last Caring Ministry brochure, printed in 2017, listed 14 individual ministries, and we added four more after that.

Yet, of course, 2020 has been a unique year, and many of those ministries were not feasible. In some cases, "passion people" could not maintain their beloved ministries. That is the concern I had at first wanted to discuss today.

Now, however, I realize we have maintained a good part of our program. We continue to donate food to the Schaumburg Township Food Pantry - an agency that has had 9,300 visits serving 33,000 individuals from March 24 through September 30.

Our Meals on Wheels team continues to feed the hungry each week.

Carol Hollingsworth is determined to support Childserv through Gifts from the Heart and **Pastor Nancy Grim Hunter** is determined to resume our trips to Appalachian Service Project if at all possible.

Our **Prayer Shawl Ministry** continues to make miracles. And God has obviously gifted us with 2 new pastors this year - each with a passion for the essence of caring ministry.

Most importantly, each act of caring ministry is an example of disciple making. In His Sermon on the Mount, Christ exhorted us to "Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul states, "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

In our August parking lot worship service we collected food for the Schaumburg Township Food Pantry, each item with a sticker saying, "Donated in the name of Christ by Our Redeemer's UMC."

Our many volunteer Sunday School teachers are making disciples of our children, and **Pastor Nancy** transformed our annual Trunk or Treat into an opportunity for our children to donate goods to the needy.

Appalachian Service Project has continually made life-long disciples, not only of our youth, but also of their friends and school-mates.

Pastor Shirley is challenging us to serve victims of this year's many hurricanes through the AC 2020 Mission Challenge. And our Adult Mission Team has long witnessed to hurricane victims going back to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

So I DO bring our Caring Ministries program before you as a need for our thoughts and prayers as it adjusts to this year's challenges.

Yet it is now quite apparent the program's most important function is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Staff Christmas Gifts

If you would like to make a donation towards Christmas gifts for our dedicated staff, the deadline is **Sunday, December 6th**.

Please make sure you put "Staff Gifts" in the memo line of your check and **mail it** to the church **or deliver it** to the church office no later than Sunday, December 6th. If you would like to give on-line, just designate it as your Gift to Staff.

We will be presenting these gifts from the congregation on **Sunday, December 13th**.

Thank you,

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Christian Education and Youth Update

Sunday School and Youth Group are meeting once again on Zoom in light of the concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pastor Nancy wants you to know that all children or youth in your extended family such as grandchildren, cousins, neighbors, etc. are welcome to join in. The Sunday School Team delivers activity bags to each family. If you have grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins or neighboring children who would like to participate - please let Pastor Nancy know so that all children of God are welcome into our faith family.

Our theme for the month of November is an extension of the heritage we have as one Great Family. We are now exploring passages such as Psalms 100 in which we are learning about how God is with us always - from generation to generation. This past week we watched a video on sheep herding and how sheep need a shepherd to direct them from pasture to pasture. We experienced, indeed, that the Lord is our Shepherd and the God provides for us and guides us as one of His own.

The Sunday School Zoom Room opens at 8:45 a.m. so that we can share breakfast with one another prior to the lesson starting at approximately 9:00 a.m. Youth Group meets for an hour at 5:30 p.m. on Sundays.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8478826116>

Meeting ID: 847 882 6116

Passcode: ORUMC

Thanksgiving

Psalm 100

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with celebration!
Come before him with shouts of joy!
Know that the Lord is God
he made us; we belong to him.
We are his people,
the sheep of his own pasture.
Enter his gates with thanks;
enter his courtyards with praise!
Thank him! Bless his name!
Because the Lord is good,
his loyal love lasts forever;
his faithfulness lasts generation after
generation.

Many thanks to Mary Knoppel, JoAnne Gregorash, Shelly Lukowicz, Peggy Gire and Fred Felski for donating natural art supplies to the Sunday School Class. We have big plans to incorporate these items in the coming weeks. One of those projects - just in time for Thanksgiving - was to make pinecone turkeys with leaves as the tail feathers. Please reach out to Pastor Nancy if you have items that you think might be useful for Arts & Crafts.

Youth ASP Mission Trip Fundraisers

The Youth Group wishes to thank the congregation for your support for our planned ASP Mission Trip for Summer 2021. Our fundraisers at Oberweis, McAllister's Deli, and Blaze Pizza were very successful! Our very own Jean Walters has planned another fundraiser for Saturday, December 5, 2020 at

the Corner Bakery. Thanks for your continued support!

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Faith Friends Devotionals and Bible Games for Families

Posted Weekly in the ORUMC Discipleship Group page

Here is a direct link to the Games welcome page:

<https://www.childrensbulletins.com/games/playgame.aspx?bulletinId=106756>



Eat to Support:

**Our Redeemer's
United Methodist
Church ASP trip**

Come eat with us and support the cause!

Host Your Own

Corner Bakery

Take-Out and Delivery Fundraiser!

Saturday December 5, 2020

7:30am-7:30pm

1901 E Woodfield Rd
Schaumburg, IL

Donating Back: 15%

Organizer: Jean Walters

Commit to Eat



Personal Notes



Gifts from the Heart

Thank you, **THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

I must admit that I was not optimistic during this pandemic that we would have our usual support for our Gifts from the Heart program. I feared people would not want to shop, or that not meeting in person individuals would not remember to sign up. But I had to go back to Kids Above All (formerly ChildServ) and request more children. 37 individuals/families of our congregation sponsored 70 children this year. Your support for this program is so appreciated!

Remember that the gifts need to be returned to the church on **Saturday, Dec. 5, between 10am and noon.** Please follow the directions for bagging and dropping off that were included with your child's information. If you are unable to drop your gifts off on Saturday, please contact me to make alternate plans.

Mark 9:37, the words of Jesus, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me." Again, thank you for your support of our community's children.

Carol Hollingsworth

Clh1325@comcast.net



It is with great sadness that we extend our deepest sympathy to the following families:

Our deepest sympathy:

to **Tom Reader** and family on the death of his beloved wife, **Elinor**. We will all miss this special lady. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to:

Tom Reader

1019 Oakland Drive

Streamwood, IL. 60107

And also to **Jane Jesudoss** and family on the death of her beloved mother, **Vijaya Jesudoss**. She is another special lady of our church we will all miss. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to:

Jane Jesudoss

1823 Fox Run Drive

Unit C

Elk Grove Village, IL. 60007

Please keep these families in your prayers at this very difficult and sad time.

Christmas Luminaries

Christmas is coming! Even in the midst of the distancing brought on by Covid, the light of Christ shines on.

We would like to brighten our Christmas Eve service, as well as your homes. United Methodist Women is organizing the sale of luminaries for this. We will take orders for them, bring and light them up for the Christmas Eve service, then you may take your luminary/luminaries home with you. We will have them placed so that you may pick them up in a safe manner by driving past a luminary as you exit the service. In the event that the Christmas Eve service must be cancelled, we will let you know how/when you may pick up your luminary at church before Christmas to enjoy at home.

As a reminder, we need to follow the guidelines set by the ReTurn team, especially as we experience very high numbers of Covid cases. The audience will be asked to stay in their cars for the entire event; please be sure to maintain proper distance when you are picking up your luminary.

Much as we have done in past years with the poinsettias, you may designate your luminary in honor of, or in memory of, someone special to you. Please indicate this when you order if you wish to do so. Orders are due by December 15, 2020.

The details are:

Cost: \$5 each

How to pay: Use Zelle or PayPal to get the money to Sarah Calderwood, our UMW Treasurer; here's how: bccharger1977@gmail.com

• OR -

Drop your order and a check in the mail to Sarah at: 435 East Beech Drive, Schaumburg, IL 60193

• OR -

Drop your order and a check off at the church office.

Name _____ phone number _____

In Memory of OR In Honor of _____

One name per luminary

We appreciate your support!
Wishing you Christmas blessings,
United Methodist Women

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

1600 W. Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg, IL 60194-3900

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Schaumburg, IL 60194

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Visit our web site: www.orumc.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Nov 29</i> 9:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Coffee with Pastors Zoom 5:30 PM Youth Group	<i>Nov 30</i> 7:00 PM New Life Bible Study Zoom 7:30 PM Nar-Anon Family Group	<i>Dec 1</i> 10:00 AM Woman's Book Study 7:00 PM UMW Quarterly Meeting via Zoom	<i>Dec 2</i> 6:15 PM Random Ringers 7:30 PM Choir Zoom	<i>Dec 3</i> 8:30 AM TOPS 7:30 PM Bound for RecoveryAA Mtg	<i>Dec 4</i> 6:45 PM Scout Pack 195 Rm 1 & Rm 4	<i>Dec 5</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Gifts from the Heart Return 10 am to Noon </div>
<i>Dec 6</i> 9:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Coffee with Pastors Zoom 5:30 PM Youth Group	<i>Dec 7</i> 7:00 PM New Life Bible Study Zoom 7:30 PM Nar-Anon Family Group	<i>Dec 8</i> 10:00 AM Woman's Book Study	<i>Dec 9</i> 6:15 PM Random Ringers	<i>Dec 10</i> 8:30 AM TOPS 9:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Worship Team 7:30 PM Bound for RecoveryAA Mtg	<i>Dec 11</i>	<i>Dec 12</i> 8:00 AM UMM Zoom Meeting
<i>Dec 13</i> 9:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Coffee with Pastors Zoom 5:30 PM Youth Group	<i>Dec 14</i> 7:00 PM New Life Bible Study Zoom 7:30 PM Nar-Anon Family Group	<i>Dec 15</i> 10:00 AM Woman's Book Study 6:30 PM Trustees Committee	<i>Dec 16</i>	<i>Dec 17</i> 8:30 AM TOPS 7:00 PM Ad Council 7:30 PM Bound for RecoveryAA Mtg <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE </div>	<i>Dec 18</i>	<i>Dec 19</i>
<i>Dec 20</i> 9:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Coffee with Pastors Zoom 5:30 PM Youth Group	<i>Dec 21</i> 7:00 PM New Life Bible Study Zoom 7:30 PM Nar-Anon Family Group	<i>Dec 22</i> 10:00 AM Woman's Book Study	<i>Dec 23</i>	<i>Dec 24</i> Christmas Eve Parking lot event 8:30 AM TOPS 7:30 PM Bound for RecoveryAA Mtg	<i>Dec 25</i> Christmas Day	<i>Dec 26</i>
<i>Dec 27</i> 9:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Coffee with Pastors Zoom 5:30 PM Youth Group	<i>Dec 28</i> 7:00 PM New Life Bible Study Zoom 7:30 PM Nar-Anon Family Group	<i>Dec 29</i> 10:00 AM Woman's Book Study	<i>Dec 30</i>	<i>Dec 31</i> 8:30 AM TOPS 7:30 PM Bound for RecoveryAA Mtg	<i>Jan 1</i> New Year's Day	<i>Jan 2</i>
<i>Jan 3</i> 9:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Coffee with Pastors Zoom 5:30 PM Youth Group	<i>Jan 4</i> 7:00 PM New Life Bible Study Zoom 7:30 PM Nar-Anon Family Group	<i>Jan 5</i> 10:00 AM Woman's Book Study	<i>Jan 6</i> 6:15 PM Random Ringers 7:30 PM Choir Zoom	<i>Jan 7</i> 7:30 PM Bound for RecoveryAA Mtg	<i>Jan 8</i>	<i>Jan 9</i> 8:00 AM UMM Zoom Meeting