

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church
1600 W. Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg, IL 60194-3900

The Redeemer

Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Volume 9

September 2023



Dear Friends in Christ,

Let me ask you a question. Which book is the most precious book in your house? I'm sure you will say, "the Bible". For us, Christians, the Bible is the most important book we have. In its pages are the words that guide us to know and love our God. After the Bible there are a few books that every believer should probably read and reread. On this short list would be works like Augustine's Confessions, Mere Christianity (one of my favorite, actually), Knowing God, and Operation World.

Now, before you roll your eyes and run off to read something else, give me a moment more of your time. Friends, we Christians are not isolated spiritual pilgrims on a journey to heaven. Rather, the Bible says we are all members of His body (1 Corinthians 12:27), children in His family (1 John 3:1-2), and sheep of His flock (John 16:10). As you might remember, I have preached on these passages several times and talked about our unity as a Body. These

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9:00 and 10:30 am

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**Financial Secretaries: Ellen Kobylewski
and Melinda Taylor**

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descriptions reflect the reality that God intends Christians to be part of a tight knit community.

One day that community will all be together in heaven with Jesus (Revelation 5:9-14, 7:9-17), but for now we gather together in here at Our Redeemer's. Our church is an assembly of believers who regularly come together to worship Jesus through song, prayer, preaching of the Word, and sharing in the sacraments (baptism and Lord's Supper). But we don't just gather for those reasons, we also gather to foster relationships in which we help each other as we together build the kingdom of God here in this corner of Schaumburg.

Consider these two verses from the book of Hebrews.

"Exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13).

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

These verses highlight the kind of

things that flow out of relationships formed in our church. We are not merely a social club who gets together for sweet tea, chitchat, and a round of pickleball. I'm sure you agree with me that we are daily being confronted with temptations of every kind. In light of this, we need each other to help one another not give up, but to keep our hope set on God's promises.

So what in the world does this have to do with a church membership directory?

I believe it is the second most important book you own because it keeps before our eyes the brothers and sisters we are responsible to help and pray for.. God has called you to help particular brothers and sisters who are going through hard times. He has called you to stir up particular people to love and good works. He has called you to encourage particular people every day until it is no longer called today.

The directory, if designed and used well, can be one of the most practical tools to helping our church church fulfill the one another commands of the New Testament.

Let me explain a little more..

It gives every member a practical tool to aid in prayer and encouragement.

When someone joins our church we explain that they'll likely develop several deep relationships, but that they won't be able to be friends with everyone. However, one way they can encourage everyone else in the church is to pray for them. The membership directory is the best way I can think of to help them do this.

Here's a few ways our church is encouraged to use our new 2023 Church Directory:

1. Make it part of your daily devotions. Pray through a page of the directory each day. Keep the directory in your night table and choose one person to pray for each night.

By making prayer for church members part of your daily life, God knits your heart to them while also moving in their lives.

Pray with a strong confidence that God already knows what people need and that the Holy Spirit is interceding for them. Now, in case you aren't sure what to pray for when you do pray, I suggest asking God to help the person you are praying for to,
...love God. (...become more like Jesus everyday. (...have open doors to share the Gospel. (...grow in humility, wisdom, compassion, and courage. (...be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. (

2. Make it part of your family's devotions.

-You can use it as part of your family's devotional time. By picking one person each night or one person per week that your family is praying for, you take a good opportunity to teach your family the importance of loving and praying for people in our church.

-Use it as an opportunity to encourage someone. If you pray

for another member, consider taking a moment to text, email, or call them and let them know you are praying for them. A simple "I just wanted you to know you were prayed for today, may God bless you" kind of note can be hugely encouraging to people.

3. Use it as tool for hospitality. Take some time to look through the directory and see if any other members live near by. If so, extend an invitation to have them over for a meal. You never know how the Lord might use that connection to reach your neighborhood with the Gospel.

As part of Our Redeemer's, we need to know whose souls Jesus expects us to be watching over. Church membership helps make this clear, but a church directory helps make it practically clear. It keeps homebound members on our minds, though they may be out of sight. James 1:27: "pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and father is to visit orphans and widows in their distress." It helps homebound members continue to invest in the spiritual health of our church. For many members who can no longer come together with the church for worship, prayer has become their

primary ministry. By ensuring that they get an updated copy of the picture directory, we remind them that they are not forgotten and that they are still playing a vital role in the life and health of the church. We'd like to think that Our Redeemer's is the kind of tight knit community where everyone knows who's showing up regularly, and even more importantly, how one another's souls are doing. But the fact is, some people get overlooked.

While the idea of a membership directory being the second most important book a Christian may not be real trendy, I hope you can see why I say it is. There are few other practical resources that help every member in our church love one another by praying for each other. So I hope you have signed up to have your picture taken. If you haven't been able to do so, please call the church office and make sure you are in the list.

May God make us a people who are intentional to pray for one another.

In Christ service and yours,

Pastor Shirley

UPDATE AND CORRECTION

(Prairie Central Fall Lay Servant Academy Save-the-Date)

Please be aware of an update to this announcement from the Prairie Central District. The speaker for the technology class is ill, so we are no longer able to offer that class. Church members wishing to attend will choose one of the other three courses to study during the academy.

Each of the remaining courses is important and highly recommended. Many ORUMC members have expressed interest in learning more about the United Methodist Church, as presented in "United Methodist Heritage". This course is also required for anyone wishing to be a certified lay servant or lay speaker. Anyone experiencing the summer of 2023 may have a special appreciation for the course, "Loving People and Planet in the Name of God".



United
Women
in Faith

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” – Matthew 18:20

Search Dog in June

UWF enjoyed an educational presentation from a local Search and Rescue dog trainer at our June quarterly potluck meeting. After explaining Angelø's abilities and training, they demonstrated her skill in locating various hidden items and people in the parking lot, talking as she searched!

Thanks to Sarah Calderwood for arranging



Manicure for the Soul September 30

After a 4-year break, the UWF Retreat finally returns! Plan on spending Saturday September 30 from 9am to 4pm in fellowship with other women at Manicure for the Soul at Wesley Woods Retreat Center, Williams Bay Wisconsin.

More information and flyers are available in the Narthex or ask Melinda or Julie. Sign up now, money will be due by September 17.



Living a Chocolate Life- A Bible Study for Women

Mary Zalay will be leading a chocolate-themed Bible Study from September 21 through November, weekly on Thursday evenings. Contact Mary if you are interested!

Upcoming UWF Events

- **Sunday November 19-** Heavenly Treats
- **Tuesday, December 5 @ 6:30 pm** – Christmas Potluck and White Elephant exchange

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Our church has had a few opportunities over the past half year or so to help package food donations for Feed My Starving Children. This is a Christian organization that empowers volunteers to pack needed food for the malnourished in nearly 70 countries. We are fortunate they have a large packing site right here in Schaumburg.

We are considering adopting Feed My Starving Children as another one our church's Caring Ministries. We would serve them on a regular basis - perhaps once or twice a month. Or some church members might choose weekend opportunities while others could work weekdays.

If you think you MIGHT be interested, please let Melissa know by contacting her at the church office.

by **Bruce Beddingfield.**

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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3 10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary - Nursery available	4 7:00 PM New Life Bible Study - ZOOM 7:00 PM Nar-Anon - Wesley Hall	5 6:30 PM UWF Meeting and Potluck – Program: 'Jake's Will', a participative Murder Mystery	6	7	8	9 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast - Location announced via email																																																																																																		
10 10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary - Nursery available	11 7:00 PM New Life Bible Study - ZOOM	12 10:00 AM Women's Book Study - Room 2	13	14 Mary Balk - DKG group meeting - 2:00 p.m. - Wesley Hall	15 ANNIE WEHYEE WEDDING Set Up 10:00am REHERSAL 4:00 pm Dinner 7:00 pm	16 ANNIE WEHYEE WEDDING																																																																																																		
17 Rogers Park Soup Kitchen 12:30pm see JoAnne or Mert 10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary - Nursery available	18 7:00 PM New Life Bible Study - ZOOM	19 10:00 AM Women's Book Study - Room 2 6:30 PM Trustee Mtg - Wesley hall 7:15 PM Finance Committee Meeting - ZOOM	20	21 7:00 PM Ad Council meeting - Room 4	22	23																																																																																																		
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