

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

**Return Service Requested**



**Visit our website at: [www.orumc.org](http://www.orumc.org)**



# *The Redeemer Review*

**Volume 1**

**January 2024**

**Pastor's  
Corner**



Happy New Year dear ORUMC!

I give thanks to God for you, for your love of service in the name of Christ and as we begin this new year together, I would like to offer few words reflecting on questions of faith that come to me, and I am sure, to you as well. Especially, during this time of the year.

As I look for guidance and clarity at the beginning of a new year, season or a new project in my life, I often wonder if I truly hear God's voice, when I ask for His guidance or if it is my own imagination, telling me which way to go. I pray that God will help me hear His voice and understand His word, but I'm afraid that I get distracted and sometimes, more often than not, I am overwhelmed and I may not hear Him. "How do I know that I am going in the direction God is showing me?" I ask myself, continuously. This is a good question for all of us to ponder, particularly in this season in the Cristian year.

This Sunday is the first one in the season known as EPIPHANY. A word you may recall means *revelation*. To have an epiphany is like the proverbial lightbulb going off in your head. This question is a longing for that moment of clarity with which to take the next step... an epiphany. As my father used to teach my brothers and I when we were teenagers, "an epiphany is anything that comes to us from the outside that resonates deeply with us on the inside. There's a part of us that's always listening for that connection." It is what the great black theologian Howard Thurman called, "the sound of the genuine". *Sound of the Genuine* is one of his last speeches of his life, back in 1980, at commencement for the graduates of Spellman college. He said the

***Continued on page 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](http://www.orumc.org)  
Worship is Sunday at 10am

Pastor: Rev. Shirley Pulgar  
Hughes

Christian Education and Youth  
Ministries: Melissa Bland  
Financial Secretaries: Ellen  
Kobylewski and Melinda Taylor  
Administrative Assistant: Melissa  
Bland

Editor in Chief  
Jerry McDaniel

Co-Editors  
Melissa Bland  
Marshall Nystrom

## From page 1

following: “there’s something in each one of you that waits, listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself, and if you cannot hear it, you will never find whatever it is that you are searching for. And if you hear it, and do not follow it, it would be better that you had never been born, because you are the only one” he said, “that has ever lived. You are the only YOU, that has ever lived. Your idiom is the only idiom of its kind in all existence, and if you cannot hear the sound of the genuine in you, you will, all your life, spend your days on the end of strings that somebody else pulls”.

For those of us who want to follow God now, to hear the voice of Jesus now, for those who really want to hear and respond to the sound of that genuine call, there’s no escaping the need for us to cultivate the inner practices of reflection prayer and meditation. These inner practices, first, help us to listen for whatever God might be saying. And then, equally important, is to ponder and reflect upon what we think we are hearing. To test our perceptions. Then, over time to get ready for what we sense what’s being asked of us. The disciples, before they dropped everything to follow Jesus, they had spent time around him and they had been in each other’s company,

## From page 2

eating, conversing, sharing and praying and together looking for discernment in their lives.

If, during this new year, you will be moving through times of uncertainty and decision-making, I encourage you, at the end of every day, simply to take a few moments and ask yourself two questions: What happened today for which I’m most grateful for... what’s the thing that I will give thanks for as I lay my head down tonight? And, what’s the thing I’m not so grateful for? You can ask these questions in million different ways... what made me feel alive today? Where did I feel life draining out of me? and this is not something that you do one day, but overtime. The practice is helpful.

So, I invite you to set yourself a period of time when you just chart what gives you life, what gives you joy, where do you find energy, what sucks energy out of you? This practice might be a clue as to where God would be pleased for your life to go. Howard Thurman said again in another speech: “don’t ask yourself what the world needs. Ask what makes you come most alive, because what the world most needs are people who are alive, alive with a sense of joy and purpose.”

Let me leave you with a word of encouragement. Should any of you

be in an area of your life, that needs this kind of discerning and listening, and waiting for the *sound of the genuine*, pray and trust your own unique ways of listening and pondering. Whatever it is that helps you make the connection between what you’re hearing from the outside, and what resonates deep within you. If it is a big decision you are wrestling with, consider taking some time to ponder and then seek out the wisdom people in your life. Remember the church friends who have provided you with holy guidance in the past. And, should you be that person for another, ask in prayer to God for His discernment to be with you as you help others.

Please, know that I am praying for you, as you listen for His voice, and the “*sound of the genuine*” in your own heart this year 2024. My prayer is that you be given sufficient clarity and be encouraged to respond.

May God bless you with clarity and discernment this new year,  
*Pastor Shirley*



The Jan/Feb issue is here and in the narthex. Take your copy today!





The United Methodist Men meet over breakfast at Mr. A's in Roselle at 8:00

### UMM Holiday Treats

Thank you for supporting us by buying Holiday Treats. We raised \$400 to donate to our chosen ministries.



**Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner**  
**Is February 12th**  
**Free will donations accepted**



### PING PONG IS ON!

DROP IN on Thursday afternoons @ 3:30pm for a friendly and competitive game in Wesley Hall! See Pastor Shirley or Melissa for more info!



### United Women in Faith

UWF met for our quarterly meeting on December 5th.

During the business meeting we elected our board:

Co-board leaders: Julie Kuhn and Melinda Taylor

Secretary: Debbie Weigel

Treasurer: Sarah Calderwood

Corresponding Secretary: Ronda Wilkes

Member-At-Large: Pam Miller

Good food good joys good people- and some hilarious gifts. We are blessed!

Upcoming events: (save the date!)

UWF meeting: 2/27, 6:30 pm

Trivia Night: 3/2

UWF meetings: 6/4, 9/2, 12/2





Dear siblings in Christ,

Happy and Blessed New Year!! I hope and pray that this new year will give us new opportunities to continue to do God's work in this world.

I want to extend an invitation to you to attend the **Martin Luther King Jr Worship Celebration**. We will observe this day through music, prayers, readings, and a great speaker. This celebration has been a tradition in our conference, an opportunity for all of us to remember the role of Dr. King in the Christian community. He believed that it was his duty to make every effort to get the Church on the right path.

“Even in the inevitable moments when all seems hopeless, men know that without hope they cannot really live, and in agonizing desperation they cry for the bread of hope.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

**\*\*While there is no cost, we request that you please register so we can have enough food for all\*\***  
<https://www.umcnic.org/calendar/nic-mlk-celebration-2024>

*Grace and Peace,*  
**Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer**  
 Director of Connectional Ministries  
 Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church

***“The best of all, God is with us” – John Wesley***

---

The following are the year-to-date financial information 12/31/2023:

Total Revenues	\$281,458
Total Expenses	250,858
Net Total	30,600



**A message from Schaumburg Township Food Pantry:**

Hello food pantry donors!

I hope that you have had wonderful holidays and I wish you a Happy New Year!

We are so thankful to have the generous donor community that we do here in Schaumburg Township – we appreciate each and every one of you. We were able to help over 1100 households in November and again in December because of your generosity.

**Items Needed December 2023:**

Canned Chicken, Tuna, Spam Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Tissue Personal Care Items, Baby Food, Baby Wipes Baby Diapers (large sizes) Adult Incontinence Items, Personal Care Items – Shampoo, Soap, Toothpaste, etc. Pancake Mix and Syrup, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Salad Dressing, Mayonnaise, Other Condiments, Canned Peaches, Apricots, Pineapple, Mandarin Oranges, Tomato Sauce, Tomato Paste, Diced Tomatoes, Large Canned Soups, Chili and Stew, Crackers, Pasta Roni, Rice A Roni, Hamburger Helper, Baking Items: Flour, Sugar, Salt, Baking Soda, Cooking Oil, Cake Mix, Frosting, Brownie Mix, Pie Shells, Pie Fillings, Hot Cocoa, Coffee, Tea



**Looking for volunteers!**

Hi all. As always, we are looking for volunteers to join us helping those who count on the Community Feast, also known as the soup kitchen, at the United Church of Rogers Park in Chicago for a reliable, healthy and well prepared meal on Sunday night. The 3rd Sunday of the month is reserved for the team from Our Redeemer's. This spring we may have one or two Sundays off as they have new people who want to learn how to help. Not sure which months will be affected but we either will not have to go those months, probably one or two, or we will go with a very small crew as we teach the ropes to new people. If you would like to go any month, simple let Mert Rutledge know as she is the one who keeps tabs on the size of our crew. If you can't get hold of Mert, you can let me know, JoAnne Gregorash, and I will pass the word on to Mert. We love that there are some of you who come most every month and others who fit it into their schedule when they are able to make it. This ministry is a particular passion of mine and of Mert's and we are always very thankful for those of you willing to help out. Blessings from JoAnne and Mert





**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN (FMSC)** is a Christian organization that empowers volunteers to pack meals for the malnourished in nearly 70 countries. It's official—we will continue to serve at their local food packing site on the second Friday afternoon of each month from 2 PM until 3:45 PM throughout the new year. That packing site, one of only eight in the United States, is right here in Schaumburg at 740 Wiley Farm Court. If you would like to join us, our next packing session then is Friday, January 12. Please contact Melissa in the church office to register or register at FMSC.org using join code VBEB2Y. If you have any questions about this new Caring Ministry, please contact Melissa or Bruce Bedingfield.

***“For I was hungry and you gave me food.”***



As you may be well aware, there is still a critical blood shortage. Blood donations through annual blood drives were once an annual Caring Ministry at Our Redeemer's. Then, during the worst of the Pandemic, we held “virtual” blood drives. Members are still encouraged to donate blood, however, especially during this shortage. Blood donations can be made as often as every eight weeks. If your health allows it, please consider making frequent blood donations during the new year.

Our closest Vitalant donation center is located on Golf Road here in Schaumburg and is enthusiastically accepting appointments. Please call them at (877) 258-4825 to offer this gift of Christian love.



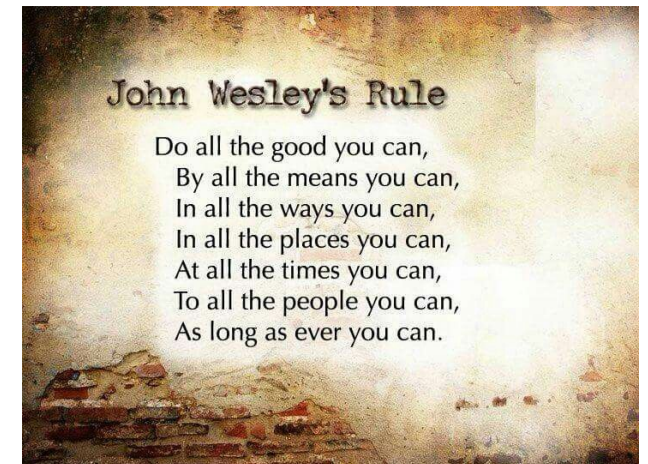
**PRAIRIE CENTRAL DISTRICT  
SPRING LAY ACADEMY  
2-5 PM,  
First 5 Sundays of Lent—  
February 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17  
Plainfield UMC, Plainfield,  
Illinois**

The fall Prairie Central District Lay Academy was right here at Our Redeemer's this past year. The spring academy will be a distance away, in Plainfield, Illinois. It will also have a different time—2 until 5 PM on the first five Sundays in Lent. The course selection is excellent, however. There is an Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry course for those wanting to explore that whole concept. There's also a course on Lay Speaking for those specifically interested in that. There is a course on leading Bible study, led by our district superintendent, Jeffry Bross. Finally, there is a new course called “Ministry to the Forgotten: Dementia

Through a Spiritual Lens”, designed to help guide not just families, but also congregations dealing with that significant challenge. There will be a \$40 registration fee to attend this academy.

**PLEASE REMEMBER  
PARTICIPANTS CHOOSE ONLY ONE  
TOPIC TO ATTEND OVER THE FIVE  
WEEK COURSE.**

Participants also need to attend at least four sessions in order to “get credit”. Information on other districts' Lay Servant programs can be obtained through the Northern Illinois Conference. Further information will be forthcoming. Feel free to contact Bruce Bedingfield with any questions.

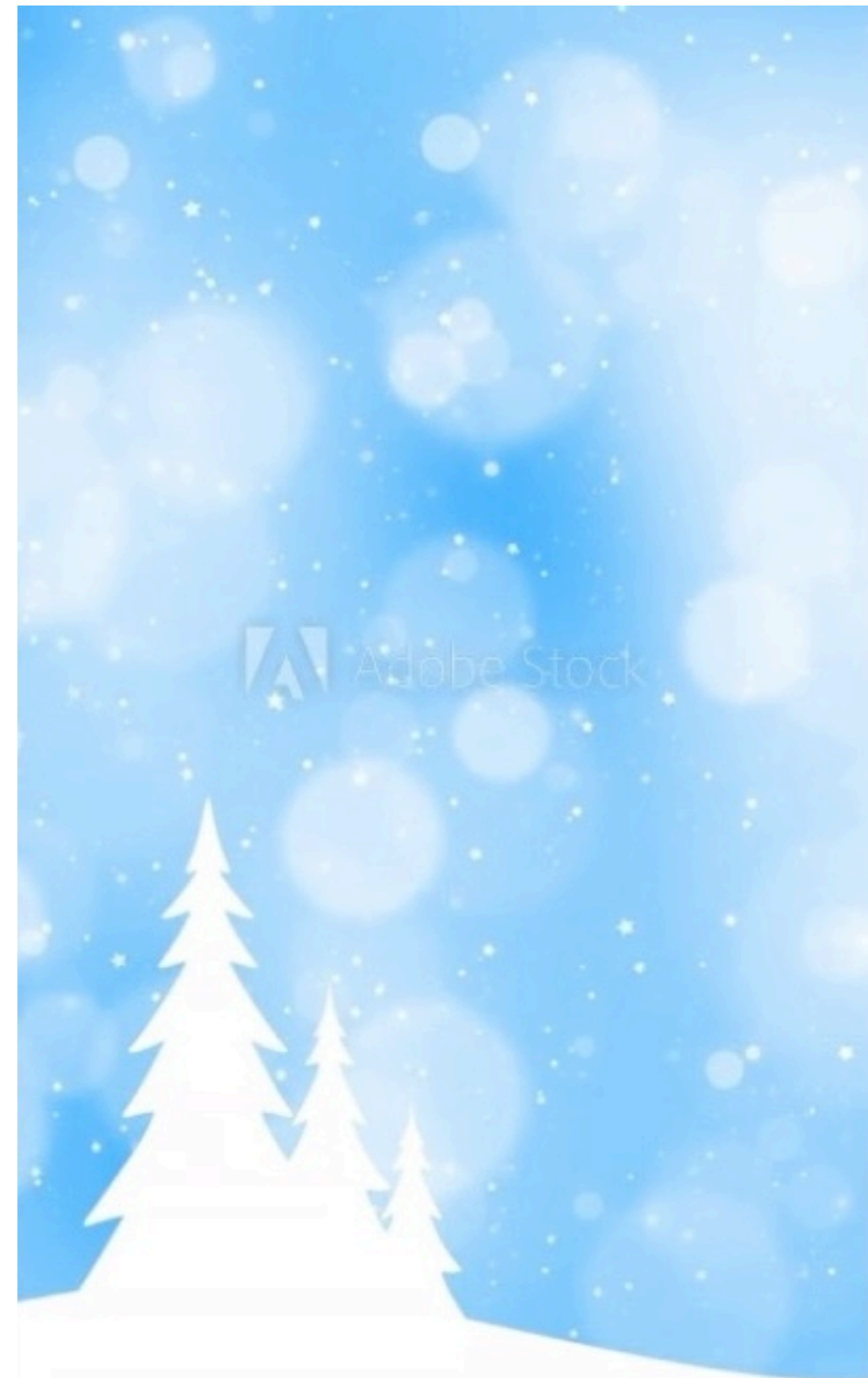


Many members made it out on a beautiful day in November for a bike ride! The sky was blue, the temperature was mild and it was a scenic and FUN ride! They are looking forward to many rides in 2024! If you would like more info or to be added to the group communication, please contact Dorene Gilbert.



***PING PONG IS ON!***

DROP IN on Thursday afternoons @ 3:30pm for a friendly and competitive game in Wesley Hall! See Pastor Shirley or Melissa for





**January 2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
	<i>1</i> <b>New Year's Day</b>	<i>2</i> 10:00 AM Women's Book Study - Room 2 7:30 PM Praise Team Rehersal - Sanctuary	<i>3</i> 6:30 PM Redeemer Ringers Handbell rehersal - Sanctuary	<i>4</i> 3:30 PM CFG - OPEN Ping Pong - Wesley Hall	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>																																																																																																																
<i>7</i> 10:00 AM Nursery available ages 12wks - 4 8:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehersal - Room 4 9:00 AM Sunday School - ages 4 -11 10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 10:00 AM Women's Book Study - Room 2 7:30 PM Praise Team Rehersal - Sanctuary	<i>10</i> 6:30 PM Redeemer Ringers Handbell rehersal - Sanctuary	<i>11</i> 3:30 PM CFG - OPEN Ping Pong - Wesley Hall	<i>12</i> 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry - Room 2	<i>13</i> Lay Ministers Conference Academy 8:30am-3:00pm 8:00am UMM Breakfast - Mr. A's Restauraunt in Roselle																																																																																																																
<i>14</i> 10:00 AM Nursery available ages 12wks - 4 8:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehersal - Room 4 9:00 AM Sunday School - ages 4 -11 10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 10:00 AM Women's Book Study - Room 2 7:30 PM Praise Team Rehersal - Sanctuary	<i>17</i> 6:30 PM Redeemer Ringers Handbell rehersal - Sanctuary	<i>18</i> 3:30 PM CFG - OPEN Ping Pong - Wesley Hall	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>																																																																																																																
<i>21</i> 10:00 AM Nursery available ages 12wks - 4 8:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehersal - Room 4 9:00 AM Sunday School - ages 4 -11 10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary 12:30 PM Rogers Park Soup Kitchen -see JoAnne or Mert	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 10:00 AM Women's Book Study - Room 2 7:30 PM Praise Team Rehersal - Sanctuary	<i>24</i> 6:30 PM Redeemer Ringers Handbell rehersal - Sanctuary	<i>25</i> 3:30 PM CFG - OPEN Ping Pong - Wesley Hall	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>																																																																																																																
<i>28</i> 10:00 AM Nursery available ages 12wks - 4 8:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehersal - Room 4 9:00 AM Sunday School - ages 4 -11 10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 10:00 AM Women's Book Study - Room 2 7:30 PM Praise Team Rehersal - Sanctuary	<i>31</i> 6:30 PM Redeemer Ringers Handbell rehersal - Sanctuary	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Dec 2023</th> <th colspan="7">Feb 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Dec 2023							Feb 2024							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2					1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29			31														
Dec 2023							Feb 2024																																																																																																															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																									
					1	2					1	2	3																																																																																																									
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																									
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																									
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																									
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																											
31																																																																																																																						