

FEBRUARY 2024



*The*Visitor

LENT STARTS 2/14
Restore Us!

Page 5



A Community in the Model of Christ

From the (Interim) Pastor...

As February unfolds, we stand on the threshold of Lent—a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal. It's a time when we intentionally draw closer to God, examining our lives and seeking transformation; recognizing that the world—in ourselves and around us—is not as it should be. It is a gift to embark on this Lenten journey with you as your transition pastor.

Just as the winter landscape transitions to spring, Lent invites us to undergo our own spiritual metamorphosis.

Over the next 40 days, let us immerse ourselves in prayer, fasting, and acts of compassion, remembering this is God's call to restore us. Together, we will explore the themes of humility, sacrifice, and redemption, mirroring the journey of Christ in the wilderness.

As our church undergoes this season of change, let Lent serve as a guidepost, illuminating our path toward a vibrant and renewed community. As we relinquish certain comforts, we create space for God's transformative power to work in our hearts and the life of our congregation. New days are ahead, and with it, some deep house cleaning.

Join me each Sunday as we delve into Scripture, exploring the profound lessons embedded in the Lenten narrative. Let our shared reflections inspire growth, unity, and a deepening of our faith. Additionally, I invite you to take up your own Lenten practice of prayer, Scripture reading, and reflection on what it is that God is calling out in you these days. In these moments, may we collectively foster a sense of togetherness during this sacred time.

May this Lenten season be a period of spiritual growth for each one of us and for this beloved community of faith.

As we navigate the last stages of this transition together, let the Spirit of Christ through Lent guide us toward a future filled with hope, purpose, and an unwavering commitment to Christ's love.



In Grace and Anticipation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David'.

Pastor David

Celebrating February Birthdays!

4	Tamara Anderson	8	David Schoolcraft	20	Karen Lee
4	Michael Hammett	9	Carleigh Bedell	20	Jessica Parrott
5	Thea Fidis	9	Sydney Record	21	Karina Hlastala
5	Henry Fowler	12	Guy Michaelsen	22	Weller Mertes
5	Dorthea Uhlemann	13	Earl Ecklund III	26	Barb Dougherty
6	Raleigh Somm	16	Eric Johnson	28	Kristine Leander
7	Gary Schulze	20	Karen Carlson	29	Owen Watkins

February at Our Redeemer's

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OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- David Hahn, Interim Pastor
pastordavid@ourredeemers.net
(651)587-4417
- Gianfranco Foddai, Informal Worship
Music Director
gianfranco@ourredeemers.net
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Music Director
karen@ourredeemers.net
- Debbie Lematta, Communications
communications@ourredeemers.net
- Mandy Neill, Welcome Minister
welcome@ourredeemers.net
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator
administrator@ourredeemers.net

Phone: (206) 783-7900

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10am-3pm

OUR VISION: In the model of Christ and for the life of the world, we are an inclusive, devoted, caring, and spiritual community that accepts challenges, takes risks, and grows.



February 3, Saturday 9 AM-3 PM - LiVE Project: Rest & Renewal Day Retreat: Ministering in an Age of Mental Health | Our Savior's Lutheran, Everett

February 4, Sunday
9 AM - Informal Worship
9 AM - Sprouts In-Person | Downstairs
10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Downstairs
10 AM - Confirmation | Library
10 AM - Meet & Greet Pastoral Candidate
11 AM - Traditional Worship

February 5, Monday 5 PM - A Women's Gathering | Obec Brewing, Ballard

February 6, Tuesday 7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom
7 PM - Executive Team Meeting | Zoom

February 7, Wednesday 6:30 PM - Kid's Choir
7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

February 11, Sunday
9 AM - Informal Worship
9 AM - Sprouts In-Person | Downstairs
10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Downstairs
10 AM - Confirmation | Library
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall
11 AM - Traditional Worship

February 13, Tuesday 1:30 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - Council Meeting | Our Redeemer's
7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom

February 14, Wednesday
ASH WEDNESDAY Ashes to Go | Our Redeemer's Curbside
7 PM - Ash Wednesday Worship

February 15, Thursday 7 PM - LiVE Project: Lent with Baldwin & Bonhoeffer Course | Zoom

February 16-18, Friday - Sunday Rest & Reset Retreat | Rainbow Lodge, North Bend

February 18, Sunday
9 AM - Informal Worship
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall
11 AM - Traditional Worship
2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner | Ballard First Lutheran

February 19, Monday President's Day | Office Closed

February 20, Tuesday 1:30 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom

February 21, Wednesday 6:30 PM - Kid's Choir
7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

February 22, Thursday 7 PM - LiVE Project: Lent with Baldwin & Bonhoeffer Course | Zoom

February 25, Sunday
9 AM - Informal Worship
9 AM - Sprouts In-Person | Downstairs
10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Downstairs
10 AM - Confirmation | Library
10 AM - Adult Forum: Sonja Braash Tasmania Trip Report | Fellowship Hall
11 AM - Traditional Worship
3 PM - Madonna's Book Group | Member Home TBD

February 27, Tuesday 1:30 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom

February 28, Wednesday 6:30 PM - Kid's Choir
7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

February 29, Thursday 7 PM - LiVE Project: Lent with Baldwin & Bonhoeffer Course | Zoom



Living Generously

Our Redeemer's Mission Budget

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (Thru 12.31.23) - 50% thru the fiscal year

Income	2023-2024 Approved Budget	Year to Date Income as of 12.31.23	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget Year to Date
Envelope & Loose Offerings	511,100	235,290	46%	(20,260)
Church Use	88,506	49,538	56%	5,285
Fundraising (Auction)	38,000	0	0.0%	N/A
Interest	1,000	78	7.8%	(422)
Special/One-Time Gifts	-	31,000	N/A	31,000
Total Regular Income (without Special Giving)**	638,606	284,906	44.6%	(34,397)
TOTAL INCOME	638,606	315,906	49.5%	(31,139)
Expenses	2023-2024 Approved Budget	Year to Date Expenses as off 12.31.23	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget
Social Justice/Outreach	74,549	26,779	35.9%	(10,495)
Pastoral Staff	172,820	52,961	30.6%	(33,449)
Worship & Music	38,382	21,090	54.9%	1,899
Fellowship & Caring	2,750	2,077	75.5%	702
Faith Formation	22,517	12,631	56.1%	1,373
Stewardship	11,419	4,179	36.6%	(1,530)
Communications***	55,667	40,405	72.6%	12,571
Facilities	108,978	56,483	51.8%	1,994
Administration	150,615	58,165	38.6%	(17,142)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$637,697	271,770	43.1%	(44,078)

*The auction is scheduled to occur later in the fiscal year, skewing the total over/under budget year to date numbers.

***Special Giving* denotes a one-time gift that is outside of regular giving. Regular giving is below budget by \$34,397

***Communications expense line will continue to be overbudget for the 23-24 FY due to staffing backpay.

For questions/concerns-please contact Parish Administrator, Karie Stearns at administrator@ourredeemers.net.

To view a Financial Snapshot spreadsheet for Our Redeemer's visit this [LINK \(https://rebrand.ly/quduayl\)](https://rebrand.ly/quduayl). If you have questions or concerns about Our Redeemer's financial status, contact Karie Stearns, administrator@ourredeemers.net.



Sonja Braasch To Give Tanzania Vision Trip Presentation

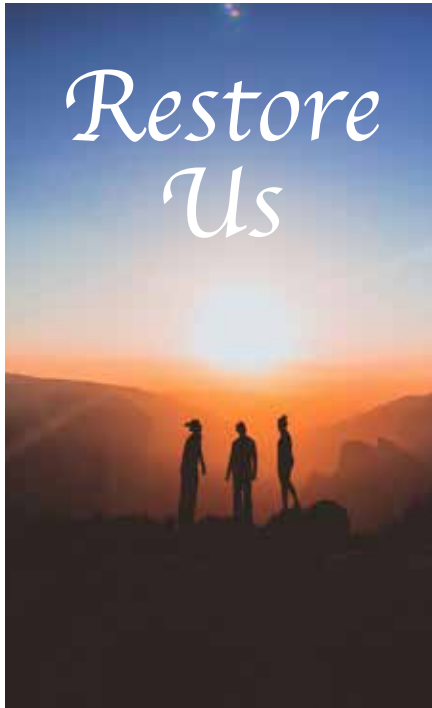
Sunday, February 25, 10 AM | Fellowship Hall

Church member Sonja Braasch will be freshly back from her trip to Tanzania trip ready to share her experience and take your questions about her vision trip. Learn first-hand from Sonja about the culture of Tanzania and what she learned about the ELC ministry. Sonja will present photos of that country's beautiful scenery and wildlife taken on her safari to Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti region.

The presentation is Sunday, February 25th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This talk will be in lieu of the Adult Forum that Sunday. Everyone is welcome!



Worship and Music



Lent: Restore Us by Pastor David

As we enter the sacred season of Lent, the theme that I invite us to resonate through our hearts and echoes in our prayers is “Restore Us.” Lent is a journey of reflection, repentance, and renewal—a pilgrimage of the soul where we honestly seek God’s transformative touch.

In these forty days, we embark on a profound exploration of restoration, both individually and as a community. The psalmist’s cry, “Restore to me the joy of your salvation” (Ps. 51:12) and, “Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!” (Psalm 80:3), becomes our collective plea, uniting us in the pursuit of spiritual rejuvenation.

Reflection on Brokenness: Lent invites us to confront our brokenness, acknowledging the areas of our lives and community where we have strayed from God’s intended path. It’s an opportunity to pause, examine our hearts, and confess our shortcomings. In recognizing our need for restoration, we open ourselves to the healing grace of God.

The Journey of Repentance: Repentance is not merely remorse but a turning back to God, a changing of our minds in alignment with God’s grace and love. It’s a deliberate choice to relinquish our lives to Christ’s purpose. As we journey through Lent, let us humbly repent, seeking God’s forgiveness with open hearts. In this turning, may we discover the boundless mercy that restores and renews.

Renewal through Prayer and Fasting: Lent provides a sacred space for intentional prayer and fasting. Through these spiritual disciplines, we draw closer to God, allowing Christ’s transformative power to reshape our lives. As we intercede for our community, our nation, and the world, may our prayers echo the plea of the psalmist: “Restore us, O Lord God of hosts!”

Community Restoration: Our Lenten journey is not solitary; it is a communal pilgrimage. Together, as a church family, we strive for unity in our love, repair and reconciliation, and the restoration of relationships. Through acts of love, compassion, and understanding, we embody the transformative power Christ brings.

Easter Anticipation: As we journey the Lenten landscape, our hearts are filled with anticipation. The journey of restoration finds its culmination in the joy of Easter. The resurrection of Christ assures us that God’s restoring love is not only possible but promised.

May this Lenten season be a time of blessed restoration, a journey where we collectively echo the psalmist’s plea, “Restore to me the joy of your salvation” and, “Restore us, O God, and let your face shine upon us.” Together, let us walk in the assurance that God’s redeeming love has the power to heal, renew, and restore.



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 14, 7 PM, “Restore Us”

*“Create in Me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
And uphold me with your free Spirit.”* Psalm 51:10-12

As we enter the sacred season of Lent, the theme that resonates through our hearts and echoes in our prayers is “Restore Us.” Lent is a journey of reflection, repentance, and renewal—a pilgrimage of the soul where we honestly seek God’s transformative touch.

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Faith Formation



Date Change

The Journey: An Orientation to Our Redeemer's Community **COMING THIS OCTOBER**

The Journey is a class and a conversation, especially for those newer to the Our Redeemer's Community, where we learn more together about what being Lutheran and a part of Our Redeemer's means. Because an important aspect of the Journey class is a chance to get to know the pastor, and our community is still in pastoral transition, we've decided to move the class to next October. Please keep your eye out for more information closer to the date.



LiVE Rest & Renewal Day Retreat: Ministering in an Age of Mental Health

Saturday, February 3, 9 AM-3 PM, Our Savior's Lutheran, Everett

Many in our congregations and broader communities are experiencing higher rates of anxiety, depression and stress these days. Rooted in our Christian faith, how is the Spirit calling us to wholistic healing for the body, mind & spirit, as well as becoming better companions to those longing for a more flourishing life?

Find more information and register here: <https://rb.gy/pkncm1> and enter promo code: LIVEBUNDLE2023 for free registration!



THE LiVE PROJECT
living into vocational engagement

The LiVE Project is a networked lay learning community discerning God's call; theologically thoughtful, culturally responsive, and communally engaged; connecting churches and forming Christian public leaders; a flexible, hybrid model of learning: Zoom and face to face.

LiVE Lent with Baldwin & Bonhoeffer Course

6-week course via Zoom, Thursdays 7-8:30 PM starting February 15

What might Dietrich Bonhoeffer (a Lutheran German theologian) and James Baldwin (a Black, 20th century author and novelist) together have to prophetically speak to our current time?

Learn more and register here: <https://rb.gy/6stsdC>. Use promo code: LIVEBUNDLE2023 for free registration!





Faith Formation



Adult Forums in February

Sundays, 10 AM | Fellowship Hall

In February we finish up our curious exploration of how God meets us in Scripture and through each other.

Starting Feb 18th - Our own Dana Wright kicks off a 4-week Lenten series called "What are Christians (Lutherans) For?" Together we'll explore and discuss an essay by renowned Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann regarding our covenantal relationship with God.

Children and Youth Faith Formation Update

By Betsy McGregor

Our Children's Faith Formation programs aim to help children and youth understand what it means to be a person of faith. We offer four programs for various ages to support kids in their faith journey.

- Sprouts is a faith program for children ages 3-5, taught by the wonderful Mr. Dana during the 9:00 am service.
- O-Rock, which stands for Our Redeemer's Outstanding Church Kids, is our faith program for kids ages 6-10. It is taught by a rotating group of wonderful volunteers and is held between services from 10:00 – 11:00 am.
- Confirmation class, led by Stephanie Fowler and Michael Hammett, runs throughout the year and is for middle school youth in grades 7 and 8.



Andrew Shimer leads an engaging game of D&D and is responsible for planning and leading monthly youth nights of fun and food.

In my role as the lead for Youth Faith Formation, I've been asked about not running the children's program concurrently with both services. O-Rock and Confirmation are scheduled at 10:00 am to allow parents to participate in the between-service Adult Faith Formation classes. We believe strongly that children should be part of worship, even if they are coloring in the back.

Can You Help Out?

We are in need of volunteers who can serve as the second adult when classes are held for Sprouts and O-Rock. We have adopted a policy that adults working with children need to do so with another adult, whether we have one or ten kids attending. The second adult can assist as needed but doesn't need to teach the class. If you can volunteer one Sunday a month between now and June, please contact Betsy McGregor at bemac7309@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.



Social Justice



Please purchase and drop off the items at the church office in the basket next to the front doors as soon as you can but no later than mid-April. Contact Sharon Longaker if you have questions: slongaker@msn.com.

Make Personal Care Kits for Lent!

As you begin your preparations for the season of Lent, you're invited to consider a hands-on Lutheran World Relief project. Personal Care Kits are one of our most requested items and make a simple yet profound difference for impoverished families.

The goal is to collect and assemble at least 50 kits. Here are the most needed items:

- Bath towels—dark colors and lightweight - 50 needed. (Target has "Room Essentials" towels for \$3 each.)
- 4 oz. bars of Ivory soap - 100 bars needed. (Fred Meyer sometimes has packages of ten bars on sale.)
- Sturdy combs, nail clippers, and toothbrushes.



Earth Care Beach Cleanup Retreat - Are You Coming?

April 19-21, 2024

Please contact Paul and Maria Kalina (paulkalina@hotmail.com, maria_damico@yahoo.com) if you are interested in participating in this year's Earth Care Beach Cleanup Retreat. Our Redeemer's will be coordinating with Washington CoastSavers again this year to remove debris from coastal beaches, and will spend the weekend near the coast in lodging that works best for the numbers and interests of this year's volunteer group. Let us know if you're interested and come enjoy both the fellowship and the stewardship of caring for the earth!

Save these dates to care for the Earth alongside your Our Redeemer's Lutheran community!

April 19
EarthCare Beach Cleanup

May 11
Neighborhood Recycling Roundup

Recycling Roundup 5/11

Styrofoam, packing peanuts, mobile phones, laptops, bikes, bike parts, and more!

Start saving your electronic recycling, clean styrofoam and bikes for the May 11th Neighborhood Recycling Roundup!

Consider volunteering to meet some of the 250 neighborhood households that participate in this event! If you're interested in helping launch this event with some work prior and day of please contact Connie Sandstrom at conniesandstrom05@gmail.com.



Help Feed Our Neighbors in Need at Ballard Sunday Dinner

Make it your 2024 intention to help out at Ballard Sunday Dinner (BSD) on the third Sunday of each month. BSD is a ministry in which we partner with local churches to feed our hungry neighbors. All roles have lots of availability, and we partner up with you until you're comfortable!

Please make the commitment to help and sign up for a few months in advance by using this link: <https://rb.gy/ea817>. Amy Borgmeyer (amy.borgmeyer@gmail.com) is available to contact if you have any questions. Thank you for all that you do!



Community

What?!...No Auction?

The auction is an annual fundraising event that is a vital part of Our Redeemer's. It allows us to come together in community for a night of fun and, as a fundraiser supporting the church's Mission, the church relies on the auction to meet our Mission Budget.

We need your help!

Do you have any of the following skills: planning, computer skills, organizing, connecting with folks, decorating, having fun, or just helping out in whatever way you can? Great! We need you. As a part of the Auction Team, you will work with other members of the church. Staff provides support, and our wonderful Phillipa Dugaw, who has been integral to the auction for years, is available to guide us through the process.



If you have any interest whatsoever, please contact Mandy Neill at welcome@ourredeemers.net, or Karie Stearns at administrator@ourredeemers.net, or call 206-783-7900, by February 11th. The auction is currently slated for Saturday, April 27th. We are looking forward to chatting with you!



Madonna's Book Group

The Madonna's will meet next on Sunday, February 25th, 3:00 pm at a member's home (TBD). The book the group is reading and discussing is THE SWEET SPOT by Amy Poeppel. You are invited to join in! Contact Lynne at buckomcneill@yahoo.com with questions or to be added to the contact list.



A Women's Gathering - You're Invited!

Monday, February 5, 5 PM | Obec Brewing (New Location), 1144 NW 52nd St.

What's not to love? An evening of great conversation and belly laughs with other Our Redeemer's women! Come join the next lively first Monday monthly 5-7 pm gathering, February 5 at Obec Brewing, 1144 NW 52nd St. This is a new location for the group where non-alcoholic beverages are available and there's a good Mexican food truck for dinner if you'd like. Sometimes the group is only a few and other times 12+. No matter the size of the gathering, the attendees always walk away with a full heart and a smile. *Note: Obec Brewing is located one block north of Reuben's Brews, our prior meeting spot.* Do you have questions or maybe need a ride? Call Connie Sandstrom, 206-375-5449, or email Kari Guddal: kari_guddal@outlook.com.

A Woman's Gathering is meeting monthly on the first Monday, but at a new venue: Obec Brewing located a block north of Reuben's Brews.



Community



Breaking Bread Together- January Dinner Report Our Next Dinner is Sunday, March 17

Sunday, January 21st we had folks gather at various host homes to break bread and fellowship together! Thank you to everyone who hosted and contributed! Please mark your calendars for the next dinner on Sunday, March 17th.

Sign up to participate or host here: <https://rebrand.ly/1d1pxwg> or contact welcome@ourredeemers.net.

What is Pastoral Care?

Many times in our lives, we find ourselves struggling with our relationship with God, and how God pertains to our lives. The struggle may come from a loss – a loss of relationship through death, divorce or estrangement, the loss of a job or career, the loss of health or well-being. The struggle may come from changes – becoming a parent, or having children leave home, a change in our friendships or goals, having to move or relocate for various reasons.

Whenever we are facing questions or struggles, pastoral care is an option for us. Pastors are trained to listen, pray, and be present with their parishioners in different situations. To be clear, most pastors are not therapists or counselors, but they are good listeners and know how to refer people who need further care to seek professional guidance.

When you are dealing with a situation that would benefit from pastoral care, please reach out and let us know. If there is a death, or someone is hospitalized, please call! Your pastor will come to be with you and pray any time of the day or night.



If you are having a less time-sensitive struggle, reach out and schedule time together to pray and connect. Our pastor is also available by phone, email and text to pray and check in.

One of the best ways our congregation provides pastoral care outside of direct conversation with the pastor is through our Caring Community Team who provides meal assistance, caring cards, and prayer. We also have Emmaus Visitors, who care for our homebound members, bringing communion and companionship to them monthly. Our prayer team also can pray for those whose needs are acute, via email or phone.

Pastoral care is a gift of being part of a congregation that many people aren't aware of, or don't know when to ask for in their lives. Please don't hesitate – this is one of the best ways we can stay connected and engaged when life throws us a curve ball. Thanks be to God.



Community



Rest & Reset Retreat - Come Away With God

Friday Evening - Sunday, February 16 - 18 | North Bend, WA

Register at <https://rb.gy/tgmb3i>

In these times of such busyness in our lives and stress in the world, it's more important than ever that we learn to take care of ourselves. You're invited to our adult rest retreat at Rainbow Lodge, a cozy cedar lodge at the base of Mt. Si in North Bend. Explore new spiritual practices that will help you to reset your mind, spirit & body! Connect with God, learn to de-stress, and pursue rest in whatever ways your body and soul most need. This retreat is open to all genders and is led by leaders from St. Matthew's and Our Redeemer's. The retreat cost for the weekend and all meals is \$290 (\$60 more to have a solo room). Register here: <https://rb.gy/tgmb3i>. Come all who are weary!

Women's Retreat - "Finding Hope In Troubled Times"

Friday - Sunday May 3-5 | Seabeck Conference Center, Hood Canal

Register: <https://rebrand.ly/pytax06>

Isn't it time for you to build new relationships and deepen existing ones within your community of women? You are invited to Seabeck Conference Center on Hood Canal this May 3-5. Enjoy views of the Olympic mountains, good food, comfortable beds, and trails and beaches! Pastor Deanna Wildermuth, a fun and personable retired Lutheran pastor, is our guest speaker!



Anyone who identifies as female is It will be a time of building community, digging deeper, and finding inspiration in God and one another. **The theme is "Finding Hope in Troubling Times"**. The cost is \$290 for the entire weekend (full or partial scholarships available by request). A \$58 deposit due at time of registration. Paper registration forms are available in church office or fill out a Google form: <https://rebrand.ly/pytax06>. Please pay a deposit by check to the main office or through online giving on Our Redeemer's website and choose "Other" and designate "Women's Retreat". Questions? Contact Mandy Neill, welcome@ourredeemers.net or Connie Sandstrom, conniesandstrom05@gmail.com.

Holden Village Is Filling Fast!

July 14-21 | Holden Village | [REGISTER](#)

Come to Holden Village Lutheran Camp! There is still time to register as long as spots are available. You're invited to choose from a 5-day or 7-day stay:

- 5 days: adult \$685, child (over 4) \$480;
- 7 days: adult \$889, child (over 4): \$634.

There is a \$150 deposit required at registration.

Payment plans are available. Register using this LINK (<https://rebrand.ly/5174bf>).



2400 NW 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98117

www.ourredeemers.net
(206)783-7900

return service requested

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM Informal Worship
11 AM Traditional Worship

Stream Online (11 AM)
Facebook: [facebook.com/OurRedeemers](https://www.facebook.com/OurRedeemers)
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>

Church office hours:
Monday-Thursday
10 AM - 3PM

Ash Wednesday

February 14

7 PM Worship

As we prepare to journey into the season of Lent, you are invited to take part in the gift of Ash Wednesday worship, asking God to “Restore Us” in grace and love.

See page 5 for more information.



Follow Us on Instagram!



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View Our YouTube Channel