MARCH 2021

our redeemer's

TheVisitor



A Community in the Model of Christ

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Our online Ash Wednesday worship included cross "ash" temporary tattoos applied by individuals in attendance. The cross tattoos were mailed and received before the February 17th service.





- Katherine Hawks, Pastor kathyh@ourredeemers.net
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net
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- Katlin Dickinson-Laurence, Office Coord./Co-Welcome Minister office@ourredeemers.net
- Amy Hammett, Co-Welcome Minister welcome@ourredeemers.net

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Temporary Address:

From the Pastor...



Long before I knew the theology of it, "Grace" was the prayer we said before a meal when I was growing up. We held hands and always said exactly the same thing: For health and strength and daily bread, we give thee thanks, O Lord. Maybe the repetition is why Grandpa Hawks would often mischievously mix up the words or steal our plates while we were praying.

Grandma Hawks, on the other hand, loved her hymns. And one of the hymns she would sing with gusto was, "Sweet Hour of Prayer"...that calls me from a world of care...In seasons of distress and grief my soul has often found relief...by thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

"Lord, Teach Us to Pray", is our theme this pandemic Lent. And don't we mean it? Don't a lot of us feel awkward when it comes to praying? "Whatever you do, don't ask me to pray out loud in front of anyone else!" Or maybe we feel kind of sheepish because we've never managed to make prayer a daily practice, and we know we "should." Or, you do say daily prayers, but they're so familiar, you're done before you can connect with the meaning?

Well, even though they were disciples, Jesus' followers asked for his help praying, too. We know Jesus' answer was to give them just one prayer, the Lord's Prayer. But, he also says:

- Don't give up. (Luke 11:5-8)
- Ask, knock, search. (Luke 11:9-10)
- Don't pray to impress others, as if what they think of your prayer matters; pray privately to God, who will hear you, no matter how hidden away you are. (Matthew 6:5-6)
- Don't worry about fancy phraseology when you pray. Your Father knows what you need before you ask. (Matthew 6:7–8)

Jesus followed his own advice. He prayed for those who came to him in need, but he would often go off by himself to pray — in a boat, in the wilderness, on a mountain — whatever it took to connect with God the way he needed to. He prayed directly and practically.

He called God, "Abba" – Papa, or Daddy – Hardly standing on ceremony. In the Garden of Gethsemane, he persistently prayed three times, "Father, if it is your will, take this cup [of suffering] away from me. But nevertheless, your will be done.] And on the cross, he was incredibly almost offensively honest with God, "My God! My God! Why have you abandoned me?!", then he prayed for his enemies and betrayers, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing", and finally, he died, praying like a child going to sleep, "Into your hands, I place myself and my spirit." What an emotional roller coaster of prayers marked his painful last hours!

We can take heart from Jesus' honest prayers, and also, like my grandma, from musical prayers. How about Holden Evening Prayer? Or the Taize prayer chants? Or really any of your favorite worship songs or hymns?

Sometimes the simplest prayers are the best way to connect with God. Just one sentence can be enough: Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Or, like Anne LaMotte says: Thanks! Help! Wow! In Romans 3, Paul says: In the same way, the Spirit helps us...We do not know how we ought to pray, but the Spirit intercedes for us through wordless groans (another translation: sighs too deep for words). Even silence can help us be available to God.

Another old hymn sums up what matters in all prayer: *Prayer is the soul's sincere desire.*

My prayer this Lent is that we will all keep learning to pray, and find it a rich source of wisdom, solace, hope and trust in the God whose love is beyond our imagining,

Pastor Kathy

Hatherine Howh

(Note: Consider the differing types of prayer on page 5.)



Joyful Generosity: Our Annual Auction Hits a Home Run!

We knocked it out of the park, friends! Thank you to EVERYONE who participated in our annual festival and fundraising auction.

Quite different this year, we held a successful online silent auction with over 70 items donated from members and friends of our congregation, raising over \$6,000. Huge thanks to Debbie Lematta for organizing the online effort, and for everyone who shared and promoted the auction to their friends and through social media.

Our live auction gala was on Saturday night. Tim Hunter and Pastor Gretchen laughed and joked their way through an amazing program with heads/tails, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" on banjo, a fun scavenger hunt, and amazing live items that ended up raising almost \$12,000! Thanks to our team, Kim Barowicz, Phillipa Dugaw, Jean McCarthy, Tim Hunter, and Pastor Gretchen for making everything as smooth as stealing third base. (See photos on page 16.)



Our Fund-A-Need project this year was an accessibility need in our new sanctuary – adding bench seats and adjustable arms to our pew-chairs, so that everyone can feel safe, stable, and welcomed into our new worship space. Together, we raised over \$10,000 toward meeting this honorable goal.

All told, we raised almost \$29,000. Amazing!! We are still accepting donations if you would like to make a gift as well. Every gift is a win/win building community, serving our ministry, and being mindful of our vision and purpose as a congregation.

Thanks to all our donors:

Jerry & Ronda Andrews

Jim Arnold Ingrid Brissette Judy Carrier

Linda and Carl Christenson

Phillipa Dugaw The Durbin Family

Cindy Ege Kyra Ege Torin Ege Kari Guddal

The Hammett Family

Kathy Hawks The Hlastala Family Tricia Kloth

The Kukowski Family Kristine Leander Karen Lee Debbie Lematta Joshua Liljenstolpe

The McCarthy-Fredericks Family Logan McCarthy-Fredericks Zach McCarthy-Fredericks

Gretchen Mertes Ryan Mertes Debbie Niedner

Our Redeemer's Church Council

Eric & Melanie Olson Sally Parker-Henderson

The Racial Justice Team at Our Redeemer's

The Running Family Niels Running Jennifer Seyler The Simpson Family

Jodi Somm Syndey Spray Valerie Tung The Wander Family Noel Wannebo The Neu Family

You Can Still Give to Our Auction Fundraiser (Thank You!). Here's how:

Donate on BiddingOwl - https://www.biddingowl.com/OurRedeemers. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "Donate" button and enter the amount to pay. You can use PayPal or choose to "donate with debit or credit card".

Donate Online Directly to Our Redeemer's: Go to https://ourredeemers.net/donate.

Give by Check: If you give by check, please include a note about what the donation is for and don't forget to send your check to our temporary address: 5306 Ballard Ave NW, Ste 226, Seattle, WA 98107.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Revovate Our Lenten Theme: LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

Types of Prayer

- Centering Prayer. Silent and thoughtful. Relaxing. Let God's presence speak to you. Focus on one word of your choice (or the leader's choice).
- 2. Prayer while holding beads or an item in your hands. Keep focus on your prayer thoughts by touching the (stone, cross, rosary, fabric...)
- 3. Walking Prayers such as Pilgrimage, Labyrinth, taking a walk in nature, or moving to specific locations to say specific prayers (such as Stations of the Cross).
- 4. The JESUS PRAYER. Repeat many times: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."
- 5. Prayer with background music; while singing a repeated phrase; chanting; drumming.
- 6. Body Prayer: various hand positions, kneeling, yoga poses. I demonstrated one: "In the name of the Father (stand up straight, reaching up with arms and hands toward the sky). In the name of the Son (arms at shoulder level, stretch out to make the shape of the cross). And the name of the Holy Spirit." (Hug yourself, and cross one leg over the other. Then switch arms and legs.) Hold the three poses a long time if possible.
- 7. Doing art—draw, paint, collage, color, knit, pottery, beading. It is good to have a favorite Bible verse or one word/phrase to think about. Then just explore creating. Take time to let God inspire the shape and colors of the art. Be calm as you receive ideas. It is OK to "Make a mistake." It will turn out well as the mistake turns into something new or unexpected or wonderful.
- 8. Breathing mindfully. Inhale and exhale calmly as you consider that God is giving you life. Sometimes breathe in thinking a simple phrase like "God loves me," and exhale thinking, "I am part of God's gift of creation." Some prayer books, hymnbooks, of even words written on greeting cards can give ideas for this kind of prayer.
- 9. Write a poem or Haiku or in a journal. Express yourself with words that express your feelings, ideas, fears and hopes. Re-write something that has

- already been written, but that you want to change or improve.
- 10. Illuminate or illustrate a favorite Bible verse. Decorate the page or write the words in a fancy style. (Use the Lord's Prayer, or a Prayer of Saint Francis, as starter ideas.) I used books by Ruth Chou Simmons such as Gracelaced: Discovering Timeless Truths Through Seasons of the Heart.
- 11. Pray with a partner. Each person says a few words of prayer, taking turns, and offering prayer to the other person if they are in need.
- 12. Group prayers. A bunch of people pray about the same thing at the same time (often in the same building, but that won't work with the pandemic). Prayers for World Peace, Racial Justice, or World HIV/ Aids Day are examples.
- 13. Intercessory Prayer. If someone has a need and cannot pray for themselves, they ask someone to pray for them (as you know).
- 14. Daily prayers such as table grace, bedtime prayer, morning devotions, before driving in traffic...
- 15. Spontaneous Prayer in a time of surprising joy or sudden emergency. Just blurt it out. AMEN!
- 16. Praying in a special place (gravesite, garden) or while wearing something special (prayer shawl), with candles lit, in a chapel or at the altar. This changes the "usual" setting of prayer and causes someone to think more about the place or event or special clothing to allow a different focus. A different voice in prayer.
- 17. Nature/creation inspired prayer: look out a window, go outside, go to the beach, take a hike, pick up and look at a leaf/flower/shell/moss...Wait.
- 18. Prayer chain.
- 19. Email devotionals, or computer searches to find writings by a specific person of faith or a certain topic.
- 20. Visual praying. Look at photography, stained glass windows, paintings or books (for example, Mark Batterson's book Praying Circles Around Your Future)

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Centering Prayer

Silence can be one of the most healing realities there is. When we're not used to it, we may feel awkward or uncomfortable, but even so, the quiet of a night without jets in the sky or Netflix in the background is often just what our souls need.

Every Wednesday, the gift of 30 minutes of quiet prayer is yours.

If you can't "live Zoom" at that time, look for it on Our Redeemer's Facebook page, as it will be recorded there for viewing later so you can pray at any time that works for you.

Danielle Modeen, who has decades of experience in both Buddhist meditation and Centering Prayer, leads us with 10 minutes of quiet music or chant, followed by 20 minutes of silence, and then a 2-3 minute reading. Those who come to prayer remain quiet the whole time.

Simple guidelines for Centering Prayer will always be available on Zoom chat. But this is not a way of praying just for specially-gifted people. It is simply for anyone who feels drawn to it, and wants to be more open to God.

Zoom Information: https://rb.gy/djll3o

Join by phone call: +1 (206) 337-9723

Meeting ID: 984 1700 9634 Passcode: 132934

11 AM Sunday Online/Phone Worship Instructions

We gather each Sunday online at 11:00 AM. Here are three ways to connect.

By Facebook Live. Go to <u>www.facebook.com/ourredeemers</u>. You don't have to have a Facebook account – it's a public channel.

By Phone. Call 1 206 337 9723, and then enter this number when prompted: 822 691 346. This method only lets you listen, but it works well.

By Zoom. Click this link: https://zoom.us/j/822691346. The link works from 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM every Sunday.

Our Welcome Minister will be monitoring the chat and make sure that our worship leaders get your questions. The bulletin each Sunday will be available on our website for download at www.ourredeemers.net/virtual-worship/.

& Worship and Music

Holy Week Preview...Get Ready For It

Palm Sunday

March 28, 11:00 AM

With palms gathered from the pastor's houses, we invite you to join us on Zoom. There will be a special message for children, and a reader's theater of the passion story. Start your Holy Week well.

We will need: Readers, a few actors, and musicians. Let us know if you can help! Please contact Pastor Gretchen if you would like to be involved.

Maundy Thursday April 1, 6:00 PM

At 6pm, we will gather for story, meal, and song as we remember the Last Supper, and Christ's journey to the cross. We will have different times for reflection throughout the service,

You will need: Simple soup and bread meal, communion elements, and access to Zoom.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil

April 2 – noon to April 3 – noon
We wait and watch and pray through the night with
Christ at the cross and tomb.

We will need: 24 or more people to pray for one hour each around the clock. See details on page 8.

Good Friday April 2, 7:00 PM

We remember the seven last words of Christ in a Tenebrae service (service of shadows) of special music reading, and reflection. Please have a candle ready.

We will need: Special music from players both youth and adult. If you are interested in playing or singing a piece for this service, please contact Karen Lee or Pastor Gretchen.

Easter Sunrise Worship April 4, 6:30 AM

We will gather at Carkeek at sunrise to celebrate the resurrection! Prayer, communion, sermon, and more. We will provide safe individual communion servings.

We will need: Set up crew, welcome/hospitality hosts, musicians, and bonfire folks! Please contact Pastor Gretchen to be involved.

You will need: To STAY PROPERLY SOCIALLY DISTANCED – BYO chair, blanket, mask, coffee.

Easter Sunday Celebration April 4, 11:00 AM

Our festival worship with choir and orchestra will be live on Zoom and Facebook at 11am. We will sing and pray, and celebrate the resurrection!

We will need: classical musicians of all stripes-singers and players! Please contact Karen Lee to be involved.

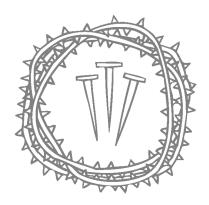


Palm Sunday

March 28th is Palm/Passion Sunday. To celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we will begin with a special children's message – an interview with the donkey (named Bill) that Jesus rode into the city. Palms will be available to pick up from Pastor Kathy and Pastor Gretchen's houses anytime following Sunday, March 21. Please take as many as you need for your family gathering for worship.

Our service will be at 11:00 on Sunday on Zoom and Facebook live. We encourage everyone to participate as fully and joyfully as possible! If you are interested in being part of a reader's theater of the passion narrative as part of the worship service, please contact Pastor Gretchen for more information. Hosanna in the Highest!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



Good Friday 24-Hour Prayer Vigil Noon, April 2 to Noon, April 3 by Kari Guddal Sign up for a spot

Imagine. Imagine keeping vigil as Christ hung on the cross. What sorrow it must have brought to those who loved Jesus, to see him suffer so. How scary and what does it all mean? I do believe it brought Jesus comfort to know there were those that loved him, keeping vigil nearby. I have reflected on this every year as I pray near the cross, in our sanctuary or at home. It is a powerful and meaningful experience that has been described as very spiritual and human at the same time. During this quiet time, we praise God, give thanks, ask for forgiveness and pray for one another and reflect quietly. Sometimes it's not so quiet, but a loud cry and the question of why. But God is with us and very present. As are the prayers of the people, much needed for healing of the body, mind and spirit and the world at large.

This year's Prayer Vigil again takes place from noon on Friday, April 2nd to noon on Saturday, April 3rd. It will take place away from the church and can be anywhere from home to a favorite quiet place. There will be a signup sheet on our website by the hour. I like to have every time slot filled but we can also have more than one person for each hour. Please be sure to add your email address and phone number. Mary Peters and I will be sending out some aids on prayer, reflections and all the prayer requests. *Questions? Email or call Kari Guddal, 206-790-1780, kari_guddal@outlook.com*



BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION

What Happened Last Month: Renovation Update







February 15, 2021 - The new structural steel column that supports the roof of the Narthex has been installed. This very high roof had little structure supporting the wall, openings, and the high roof and deep overhang. The new column bears on a new concrete footing and bolts to the beam above. The colored material in the window is a polycarbonate (plastic) and will be replaced with clear insulated glass. The new glass for this elevation has been delivered to the site and is expected to be installed in the next few weeks. New doors are part of the overall storefront system will be installed later in the project.



The SW stair tower and Library portion of the building are scheduled for demolition in April. A new beam will be installed at the bottom of this overhand (shown in the photo to the right) to carry the load of the east roof trusses. Once these portions of the building have been removed, restoration of the brick façade and installation of the new window system that spans from the Narthex into the Sanctuary can get underway.

Inside the building, mechanical rough-in is nearing completion. Electrical rough-in will continue for another two weeks with drywall in the basement scheduled to being immediately after. Drywall will move up to the Administration area and then into the Sanctuary. In March we also expect to begin the sanding and sealing the large roof trusses in the Sanctuary.

Delivery of the awning and entry glass for the lower level are expected to arrive and be installed in the last half of the month.

continued

BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION

(continued from previous page)

PROJECT STATUS

Schedule: No Change - Church access late summer 2021

Date	Construction Contingency	Project Contingency
7/12/20	\$217,854	\$67,153
9/1/20	\$217,854	\$57,415
9/30/20	\$217,854	\$57,415
10/15/20	\$199,609	\$57,415
11/14/20	\$170,121	\$61,719
12/1/20	\$167,164	\$61,719
12/15/20	\$160,570	\$61,179
1/15/21	\$142,045	\$61,179
1/31/21	\$142,045	\$61,179
2/15/21	\$142,045	\$61,179

Charges against the Construction Contingency to date include:

- · Lowering the Chapel floor to bring it to the same level as the Chancel and provide full ADA access.
- Providing a portable toilet with hand-washing facilities for the Road to Housing clients for the duration of construction.
- Providing internet access to the site during construction due to removal required for service at new Ballard temporary finance office.
- · Added framing and footing due to hidden conditions in framing at Narthex/Restroom area.
- Replace electrical conduit and wire that were in the Chancel floor framing.
- Chancel floor framing changes to due as-built condition.
- Replace insulation in Administration area ceiling that was damaged by removal of asbestos popcorn ceilings.
- Add foundation and concrete costs due to lower-level concrete walls at south addition.
- · Modification to Fellowship Hall Operable Wall to hang from beam vs. ceiling.
- Credit of \$400 for changing lower-level storefront and door to aluminum and adding electric strike.
- Revise Chapel north wall design.
- Raise hydronic pipes in basement to eliminate damage potential.
- Wire replacement to meeting current codes and ensure warranties on new equipment.
- Electrical conduit and added outlets to support A/V systems and use in the building.
- Glaze two windows with opaque glass at lower level adjacent to new entry door.
- Reconcile bid allowance for improvements in Sacristy (credit)
- Delete acoustical panels in Fellowship Hall (credit)



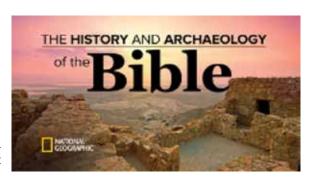
SEE MORE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR YOURSELF... Visit our <u>renovation website page</u> for the most current construction videos, pictures, and more!

"New" Exciting News from "Old" Wednesday Bible Study Every Wednesday, 10:30 AM - Noon

via Zoom Passcode: bible

by Carolyn Swanson, Study Leader

In this case "old" doesn't mean boring; however, "new" does mean exciting. Beginning Wednesday, February 24th, at 10:30am, we will begin a great course study, The History and Archaeology of the Bible.



It is presented by National Geographic Historian Jean-Pierre Isbouts, DLitt: Jean-Pierre Isbouts is a National Geographic Historian and a member of the Doctoral Faculty in the School of Leadership Studies at Fielding Graduate University. He earned his D.Litt. at Leiden University

These are the places we will visit:

1 The World of Genesis

2 The Tower of Babel

3 The Journeys of Abraham

4 Joseph in Egypt

5 The Story of Moses

6 The Mystery of the Exodus

7 The Settlement in the Promised Land

8 The Rise of the Israelite Monarchy

9 The Kingdom of David

10 The Temple of Solomon

11 The Northern Kingdom of Israel

12 The Rise of Assyria

13 The Rise and Fall of Judah

14 The Persian Era

15 The Empire of Alexander the Great

16 Judea in the Early Roman Empire

17 The Kingdom of Herod the Great

18 The World of the Gospels

19 The Birth of Jesus

20 Young Jesus

21 Jesus and John the Baptist.

22 The Ministry of Jesus

23 The Passover Events in Jerusalem

24 The Rise of Christianity

Each lesson is devoted to a particular division or book in the Judeo-Christian Bible. This course is deliberately presented from a nondenominational perspective and is accessible to everyone. It does not conform to any particular theological orientation but treats the biblical texts as historical documents. This is also true for the question of whether the figures of the Bible were historical characters, or whether some stories are rooted in myth or biblical legend. Each lesson looks for parallels between the biblical stories and historical sources, including evidence of ancient cities and monuments as well as tablets, letters, and works of art.

The course will be on Zoom. The screen literally will fill up with images and script. You will not want to miss it. All are welcome and you can join in on the series anytime. Questions? Contact Carolyn Swanson, cdkswan@gmail.com.

Our Staff Are Working From Home

The best way to reach any church staff during COVID19 and CONSTRUCTION is via e-mail. In addition, our pastors and parish administrator are reserving regular virtual office hours specifically to take your real time phone calls and texts. Those "office" hours are:

Pastor Gretchen: Tuesdays ~ 9:00 AM-noon pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net. Phone or text: 206.920.4768

Pastor Kathy: Thursdays ~ 9:00 AM-noon kathyh@ourredeemers.net. Phone or text: 206.356.0597

Parish Administrator Karie Stearns: Monday-Friday: administrator@ourredeemers.net. Phone: 206.783.7901

Email our "Virtual Front Office" Tuesday-Friday: office@ourredeemers.net

For Communications inquiries, email: communications@ourredeemers.net

FAITH FORMATION

The JOURNEY:

Is God calling you to "Journey" this year?

Sundays thru March 21 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Zoom Link or

Join by Phone Call: +1 (206) 337-9723

Meeting ID: 944 1193 2327

Passcode: 940650

Do you want to know more about becoming a member of Our Redeemer's community and/or deepening your faith? We invite you to take part in "The Journey".

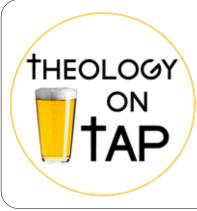


The JOURNEY is a chance to:

- · Get acquainted with members and ministries that make up Our Redeemer's.
- Learn how Our Redeemer's' understanding of God and the Bible may or may not be what you're familiar with.
- · Ask questions and share experiences and figure out where you'd like to be involved.
- Spend time with God's vision for Our Redeemer's' future: What's planned? What's still being shaped? How can you participate?
- · Start to feel more like you belong.

Let Pastor Kathy (<u>kathyh@ourredeemers.net</u>) or Pastor Gretchen (<u>pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net</u>) know if you'd like to be a part of the Journey or if you have any questions.

We'll meet four Lenten Sunday afternoons from 4 to 5:30PM on Zoom (LINK): March 7, March 14, and March 21. The Journey is a great way to connect with this wonderful community of faith. Is God calling you to "Journey" this year?



Theology on Tap

Tuesday, March 23, 7 PM

Join us for Theology on Tap on Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:00pm. Grab your favorite beverage and snack and join us as we talk about the big theological questions or maybe the small ones, too. Whatever we choose as our topic, lively conversation will be had! Use the Zoom link below and please join use for conversation and fellowship.

To connect with our event, use this Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/688478249 All are welcome. We hope to see you there!

Renovate - Our Faith Lord, Teach Us To Pray: Adult Forums in Lent

Based on the Lord's Prayer, Matt. 6:9-13
Sundays thru March 29 - 9:30 AM
Passcode "Adult" Meeting ID: 945 4145 3039 Zoom Link

Dana Wright continues to lead our Sunday morning adult forums throughout March.

March 1: "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done, on Earth as It Is in Heaven." The disciples are to pray for God's heavenly authority and power to come to earth. Implied here is that the disciples are invested in God's reign making itself known in the world. Disciples know that the last, best, and only hope for the world is the coming and present reign of God. The verbs are imperative and passionate: "Bring your kingdom." "Make

your will active and sure among us."

March 8: "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread." Moving downward to the very nitty gritty of human existence, the prayer recognizes God as the source of earthly, embodied, existence. The Father's reign is not so holy that the common concerns of daily human existence are not central to God's concerns. Disciples recognize that God is a materialist and a humanist in their daily prayers.

March 15: "Forgive Us Our Debts as We Forgive Our Debtors." The prayer of the disciples goes further down into the recesses of human existence. Human beings cannot live by bread alone but by the Word of God taking root deeply within our spirits where ongoing forgiveness is essential. But the wording here may also indicate economic well-being. Disciples do well not to over spiritualize the prayer that Jesus taught them. The reconciliation and justice we extend to others through forgiveness debts may be a central feature of the prayer that we ignore to our peril.

March 22: "Lead Us Not into Temptation but Deliver Us from Evil." The prayer moves down deeper into the place where the issues of life come up again and again. The prayer recognizes our tendencies toward waywardness, both our tendencies to place ourselves in tempting circumstances and our tendencies to get ourselves mixed up into the most egregious and dehumanizing attitudes and actions. All of our actions come from the heart, and in the disciples prayer we pray for God's strength to maintain purity of heart.

March 29: "For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory Forever, Amen." This phrase was probably added to the prayer to make it suitable to formal worship. But we might also understand this phrase in light of Irenaeus' wonderful phrase: The glory of God is humanity fully alive." Downward movement after the pattern of Christ, who thought it not equality with God something to be grasped, resulted in glorification.

Dana Wright has an M Div from Fuller Seminary and a Ph D in Christian Education from Princeton Seminary. He has taught in congregations and seminaries in the United States and India and written essays on Christian Education in books and periodicals especially focused on the work of the Holy Spirit in human thought and experience in the thought of James Loder. At Our Redeemer's, he helps teach the Sprouts class and serves on the Faith Formation and Generosity Teams.



PANDEMIC PILGRIMAGE IN THE WAITING ROOM OF MY BODY AND SOUL

by Ellen Arrington

Waiting can be very hard, boring sometimes, anxiety producing, and frightening when we are uncertain of an outcome. (I've never watched a horror movie.) Depending on what we are waiting for, it may even be



During this past year I ruminated on what I wanted during the wait. I want to do more hope-filled. than fill it with the necessities of life. Like many of you, I want to see and hug my family, spend time with friends talking, laughing, sharing a meal. I want to be in person for church services. But I can't control the timing of those events. So, what can we do with time until the world reopens its borders and arms in a much wished for embrace? For some of you, there are precious few moments after caring for family, educating and corralling kids as they navigate online learning, while you are trying to work from home or elsewhere. Others may live lonely, isolated without the comfort and joy of family and friends. So, how do we spend whatever time we may have, be it short bits, or seemingly long stretches of empty space?

Dare I say it, what can I control in time and space?

I started grappling with this early on in our lock-down, I wanted this period of waiting to be meaningful and positive. Goal orientation is a strong part of who I am, so I set out to have purpose in whatever I do. Three things provided structure and focus for me and perhaps they may give you some ideas. I committed to getting healthier. I wanted to be intentional about praying more. Building and maintaining friendships became critical while in-person gatherings were not possible.

So, I started walking. At first it was just a couple of miles a day. Gradually I increased my distance. Now, I walk between 11 and 12 miles each day. Walking this admittedly intense and, yes, many would say crazy, distance gives me solitary time for prayer. I talk to God, sometimes out loud. Fortunately, my mask covers my face so if anyone hears me they think I'm talking on my phone or just a little strange. (I probably am a little strange but that discussion is for a different time.) Either way, my thoughts and prayers are uninterrupted, encouraged by the rhythm of my steps. Nature warms me with her constantly changing scenes. I have learned which streets and trails provide beautiful vistas. On my rambles I sometimes stop outside a friend's house just to say hello and see a face in person. This brief but important connection definitely helps my mental health. A big part of my goal for this waiting time was to get healthier. I have. I feel more energized and am looking forward to seeing everyone.

This journey was really never about the walking, although it's an activity I enjoy. It was about using my time to achieve some goals that had meaning for me. Until we can be together again in person I hope you can find something that keeps you growing, hoping, and finding gratitude for God's presence in this season of life.

> Ellen's thoughts are the latest in an occasional feature in The Visitor during the pandemic. Do you have reflections or a story about your experience and faith during this time, that you're willing to share? If so, please contact Pastor Kathy.



Congregational Meeting March 7 To Vote on Capital Campaign Consultants

Sunday, March 7, 12:30 PM

Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/j/822691346

Join by Phone Call: +1 (206) 337-9723, Meeting ID: 822 691 346



At our July 2020 annual meeting, Our Redeemer's voted to take out a loan of \$800,000 to cover the remaining cost of our vision-aligned building renovation. When our building is complete (scheduled for late summer 2021), whatever portion of that loan we have expended will come due as a monthly mortgage. The loan was acquired with the understanding we would undertake a capital campaign to offset or even do away with the mortgage.

The Council interviewed two firms: Olson Advancement, with Pastor Steve Olson, who led our original capital campaign, and Generis Generosity, a national organization with 30 years of experience coaching and guiding congregations. Generis' approach is not simply to raise funds, but they work with congregations to clarify the vision for giving, and develop a "make-it-last" generosity mindset to outlast the campaign.

Council was impressed with Generis, and recommends we hire them. Because any expense in the budget over \$10,000 is more than Our Redeemer's constitutional limit, we will vote on this. Technically, Generis' \$28,000 fees will not be part of our annual budget, and will come from the capital campaign, but that was not included in the renovation budget, so congregational approval is sought. Jennifer Perrow and Pastor Kristen Capel from Generis will join the congregational meeting by Zoom, make a presentation and answer your questions. (This meeting will not require check-ins or Personal Identification Numbers.)

Our Generosity Team plans to work with Generis this fall on our annual pledging emphasis and to develop Our Redeemer's awareness of all our current generosity, and future possibilities.

Want to see the Generis proposal? Please contact Karie Stearns, administrator@ourredeemers.net.

MEET JENNIFER PERROW & PASTOR KRISTEN CAPEL - the Generis Generosity Consulting Team



Greetings, people of God at Our Redeemer's! We have so enjoyed meeting Pastor Kathy and having brief conversations with some of your leadership over the past months. We want to begin by saying that the spirit of joy, depth of relationship, and engagement in community

at Our Redeemer's have deeply impressed us. We are beyond excited by the opportunity to walk alongside your leadership to help you articulate a vision for your beautiful new space, reduce the debt you have incurred, and help accelerate generosity at Our Redeemer's for years to come.

The two of us bring nearly 50 years of combined experience to this engagement. Kristen has been an ELCA Pastor for 18 years and has led many successful annual and capital appeals. Having served ELCA congregations of a variety of sizes, she has the ability to "read the

room" when it comes to the unique giftedness of each congregation she encounters. Her grounding in Lutheran theology and worship, and experience as a visionary leader will help provide guidance as Our Redeemer's seeks to articulate a vision for continued community engagement and ministry in Ballard and around the world.

Jennifer brings years of experience helping churches build and sustain stewardship programs that prompt spiritual growth in congregants and result in additional resources

churches can utilize to engage in missional work in their communities. She happens to live right down the street from Our Redeemer's, so her years of watching the church's engagement in the Ballard community gives Jennifer the contextual framework to better engage the people and community partners.



continued next page

COMMUNITY

We teamed up early in the pandemic to specifically provide free resources and support to ELCA pastors around the country who needed immediate help; and we have completed an annual campaign together during COVID, and several campaigns individually, so we have learned some things about how to adapt given our current 'virtual' reality.

We would consider it a deep privilege to come alongside Our Redeemer's in this season to help you articulate your vision and raise resources for "the next great thing" that God wants to do in your church. On the homepage of your website, you have described yourself as a church committed to "compassion, community and justice for all" — we agree with you and applaud you as you continue to discern how your church can share Christ's compassion and work for justice in the lives of your congregants and the people in surrounding communities.

As a team, we believe that the single most important thing a church can do is to clarify its vision. With a beautiful new space and a desire to open your doors to the surrounding community, we can't think of a more appropriate time for Our Redeemer's to uncover the next layer of God's vision for your future. We would be delighted to help lead you through a Capital Appeal process that helps clarify vision, builds excitement and engagement within your congregation, gains Our Redeemer's visibility in the larger community, and fully funds your vision.

With joyful anticipation -

Jennifer Perrow and Pastor Kristen Capel



February 7 Congregational Meeting Recap

by Shelbe Kukowski

On February 7th an Informational Congregational Meeting was held to provide updates and provide small group discussions on a variety of topics. The meeting was attended by 47 Zoom users (this could mean more than one person as several from the same household can be within the computer frame at once). Updates were provided in these areas:

Financials Are Strong:

- Our combined offerings, envelope offerings and loose offerings were reported as 54% higher YTD at the end of Dec '20 than it was YTD at end of Dec'19 (also combining both offerings in '19 for comparison).
- We are running under budget for expenses. Our revenue is greater than our expenses.
- We are working to conduct a financial practices review; with a completion date of March 31st.
- We are within our VAB budget; even after making accessibility adjustments to our chancel and prayer chapel areas.

Vision Aligned Building (as of 2/7/21): Plumbing is complete at both the main and lower levels. Electrical rough-in for lighting, power, data, and switching is in progress with a significant amount of wire replaced to bring the installation up to code and ensure warranties on new equipment. Each end of the roof trusses are now supported by steel columns that attach to the concrete foundation

Community Engagement Team Task Force Is Being Formed: The Community Engagement team concept was explained, and the idea of reaching out to the organizations and individuals around us as well as digging further into the resources around us was paramount. We talked about the need to have a clear vision of how we want our new space to be used both by the congregation, and by organizations in our neighborhood that share our values and mission. Our discussion was based around our third strategic objective, "Engaging Community."

Faith Formation Team Grant and Plans: We've received a grant to work with Vibrant Faith under the coaching of Jim LaDoux. There is ongoing outreach to all age groups within the church to continue supporting their faith journeys during this time.

After the general update, breakout rooms were available so people could ask questions on the general topics presented or choose to dive into three additional rooms on: **Governance & Leadership**, **Relationships**, and **Communications**. Each breakout room had a notetaker who reported what the main themes were from their rooms to all participants. Going forward, all notes are being compiled so questions can be followed up on and the feedback provided on what is and isn't working can be passed along to the correct people. **Thank you to everyone who joined and participated in the informational congregational meeting!**



At Our February 13th "Field of Dreams" Live Auction













Pastor Gretchen and our auctioneer, Tim Hunter, hosted our fundraising auction on February 13th. Musician Lyle Ronglien provided a rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" on banjo, and live auction items were bid on using the Zoom meeting's chat room. Our Fund-a-Need item this year was new pew/chairs that have arms or can seat more than one person! Thank you for everyone who attended our auction and party! See page 4 for more info!

COMMUNITY

Madonna's Book Group by Lynne McNeill

Sunday, March 14, 4pm via Zoom

We had six participants at our February Zoom gathering with discussions about what we've all been reading - everything from an autobiography by Mahatma Gandhi, non-fiction about Hedy Lamar (did you know what a brilliant woman she was?), Obama's book and sharing titles from some our favorite fiction authors: Elly Griffiths, Jodi Picoult, Ivan Doig ... to newly discovered authors.

Our next gathering will be on March 14th, 4pm. Hope you can join us! If you are new to the group and have guestions, contact Lynne McNeill buckomcneill@yahoo.com.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Marcia Cayton 1
- Max Germann
- **Steve Rystrom** 1
- 2 Kris Rogness
- 3 **Addi Mertes**
- 3 Latife Neu
- 4 Kyra Ege
- 4 Dave Osborn
- Julie Vannoy
- 5 Jolyn Mason
- Ada Meyer

- *Orv Anderson
- Mike Jancola
- Evan DeTurk
- Joseph Gibson
- 10 Mary Simpson
- 13 Elena Thompson
- 14 Adam Frantz
- 14 Espen Leffler
- 15 Shannon Parks-Beck
- 17 Nancy Paulson
- 17 Nathan Richmond

- 18 *Patsy Baker
- 19 Lainie Malone
- 21 Jim Arnold
- 22 Tom Bernard
- 22 Chauntae Kukowski
- 24 Gillian Knight
- 25 Diana Myers
- 27 Mary Peters
- 27 Dave Skar
- 28 Marilyn McKenzie
- 31 JD Forssen

*BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO ORV ANDERSON AND PATSY BAKER WHO ARE CELEBRATING 90+ YEARS OF LIFE. WE GIVE GOD THANKS FOR THE LIFE OF BLANCHE ANDERSON -JANUARY 29, 2021 (B. 1/3/1925).



Caring Community Team Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7 PM on Zoom.

Dedicated to sharing comfort and support through visits, meals, cards, communion, and prayer shawls, the Caring Community Team is meeting this month on March 16th. Contact Linda Carbone for more information or if you want to take part.

All are welcome!



Our Redeemer's Council Corner | Member Bio - Phillipa Dugaw



Hi, my name is Phillipa and I was born and raised in Jamaica. I moved to the United States in 1999, lived in Florida for a year and a half, before making my way to Massachusetts for another year and a half. In January 2003 I hooked a UHAUL up to my two door Saturn and drove across the country to Seattle.

Within two weeks I was working at the YMCA of Greater Seattle as the Community Programs Director at the Shoreline branch. In Dec. 2003, I met my husband and was married in 2005. Two years and one day later I had my first child, Malaika, and 18 months – actually 17 1/2months later – Liam was born. We live in the Crown Hill area with our dog Tego and cat Ochi. The year Liam was born I left the Y and pursued my love for photography.

Being raised in a Christian home, my faith has always been a foundation for how I live my life. No matter where I have ended up, I would always seek a congregation that I could call home. I visited 4–5 churches in Seattle over approximately 8 years. When I walked through the doors of Our

Redeemers it was because of my children. I wasn't Lutheran, but I did get confirmed in an Anglican church, I attended a Catholic all-girls high school and for 5 years I was a counselor at a non-denomination summer camp - how hard could it be? Plus, it was close to home and my kids had friends that attended.

As I attended services and got more involved I started to see myself really making this my home church. It was no longer just about the kids, this was now filling my cup. Once I completed The Journey (and I recommend this to everyone), I started to meet more members of the congregation and it was clearly time to volunteer and get more involved. I love to volunteer, I truly gain energy from the community around me. But it was the warmth and love and kindness, the thoughtfulness and genuine acceptance that really pulled me into Our Redeemers. This is a special house and I was honored and thrilled to say yes to joining the Council, to helping with the Faith Formation Team and to serve Thanksgiving Dinner (when we could).

I look forward to the day we are back in the new building and I look forward to meeting you!



Help with COVID Vaccination Appointments

Jennifer Seyler and Valerie Tung are offering their assistance to people having trouble using their computers to set vaccination appointments. Contact either of them if you need help.

Jennifer: <u>jenniferseyler@mac.com</u> Valerie: <u>valolin@gmail.com</u>



COVID-19 is Having a Devastating Impact on Global Hunger and Poverty Our Redeemer's is helping. You can, too.

Join our Social Justice team in giving generously to ELCA World Hunger. To give, make your check out to Our Redeemer's, noting LWH Lent, or online www.ourredeemers.net/donate, or by text using the LENT fund line. Want to learn more? The Social Justice team invites you to study, pray, reflect and give with us during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving — www.elca.org/40days.

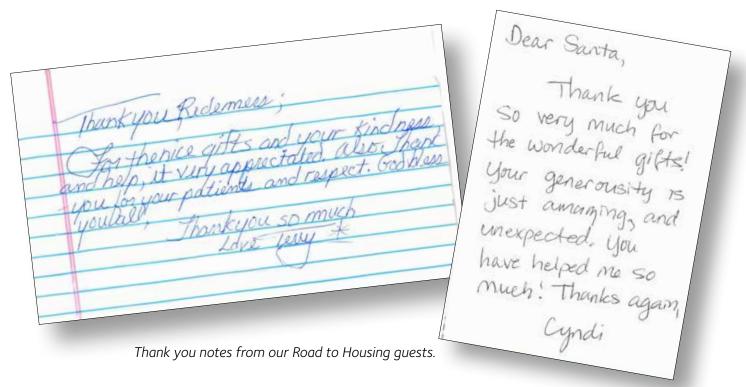


Ballard Sunday Dinner Needs You!

Every third Sunday of the month members from Our Redeemer's head over to Ballard First Lutheran Church to prepare a meal for the community's population in need. We always need at least 6 volunteers to put together around 50 meals to go, hand them out, and then clean up after ourselves. You can sign up for meal prep and serving, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM, or clean up from 5:00 to 6:30 PM or so. The next dinner is March 21st. Sign up online at this LINK or email Emilie Purvine, emilie purvine@gmail.com if you want to help out.

Social Justice Team in Final Phases of Personnel Search

The Social Justice Search team has requested answers to a series of questions from the top candidates for the Social Justice Coordinator position. At a meeting the last week of February, they reviewed resumes and responses to the job ad, and decided which candidates to interview. We would love to wrap this up by early March. The team is working hard to find the right person to oversee and lead our social justice ministries, and help us strengthen our ties with the wider community, and our marginalized neighbors. We will keep you posted on our progress! - Ronda Andrews, Tom Bernard, Marie Brissette, Pastor Kathy Hawks, Eric Running and Leslie Wander



Thank Yous

Many thanks & much applause to you, our pastors and our church staff, for doing a remarkable job keeping everyone in Our Redeemer's church family and community connected during these difficult times.

Take care & thanks again!

Mary Gross



Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church 2400 NW 85th St Seattle, WA 98117

Dear friend and supporter of Edible Hope Kitchen at St. Luke's.

Thank you for your generous support during the past year. It has been a strange and difficult time for so many, especially those on the margins who are often hungry and without shelter.

In March, everyone's lives were changed. For our guests, most of the services they counted on were shut down. We immediately changed our in-person meal service to takeout.

With the help of volunteers and the National Guard, we have not missed one day of food service since then. We served an average of 145 meals/day for a total of almost 40,000!

In November, our Edible Hope Program Director, Sara Bates gave birth to her daughter and began three months of maternity leave. When she returns in February, her position will be full-time so that we can work towards insuring the long-term sustainability of the Kitchen.

There have been many added costs and the generosity of our donors through the online auction, GiveBig, Giving Tuesday, Facebook fundraisers, and by mail have kept us going!

Thank you for your help in keeping our neighbors fed and cared for. We remember that the name for our Kitchen comes from a guest who told us, "You serve more than food, you serve hope, Edible Hope."



February 4, 2021

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church The Rev. Katherine Hawks 2400 NW 85th St Seattle, WA 98117-3732

Dear Pastor Hawks and Friends,

Gratefully,

Britt Olson, Vicar

Temporary Executive Director

Edible Hope Kitchen



Thank you for the incredible commitment you showed to refugees and migrants in 2020. Your generosity provided us the funding needed to keep our legacy of welcome during a very challenging time. Your investment enabled us to uphold the values of compassion, human rights, family unity, and dignity for those seeking safety from war and procedure.

Your total 2020 contributions to LIRS: \$2,000.00

In anticipation of the changes to our immigration policies and system, we're prayerfully preparing for a time when more refugees and immigrants can feel the presence of God's love through our work. With your support, we can continue to welcome and stand alongside vulnerable families seeking safety and asylum and provide them with hope and a new beginning. We will ensure that children who have been orphaned or separated from loved ones find loving homes and make sure that those trapped in immigration detention never feel alone. And, we will continue to be a voice for the most vulnerable, advocating for the compassionate treatment of refugees and migrants.

I'm so grateful for your generosity and commitment of our mission, and you have made an impact in the lives of refugee and migrant families. Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity to LIRS!

With deep gratitude,



Andrew G. Steele Vice President for Development and Outreach

Thank Yous

January 29, 2021



Health: Justice, Hope,

Our Redeemer's
values our community
partners. Your
contributions keep our
connections strong.
Thank you!

Katherine Hawks Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church 2400 NW 85th St Seattle 98117

Dear Katherine,

Thank you so much for your partnership in 2020. Your donations, totaling \$1,000.00, have allowed us to continue serving individuals, families, and communities in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. We're incredibly thankful that you've chosen to come alongside us as we continue to work towards a world where everyone has the health, justice and hope they deserve.

An itemized list of your 2020 donations can be found here:

Donation Amount
\$1,000.00

Thanks again for your generosity. We look forward to another great year together!

In Hope.

David Duea

President & CEO, Lutheran Community Services Northwest

SMASH

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church 2400 NW 85th Street Seattle, WA 98117

Dear Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church,

Seattle Musicians Access to Sustainable Healthcare (SMASH) thanks you for your generous contribution of \$1,000.00 in 2020. Thanks to music lovers like you, SMASH is able to support musicians' livelihoods by providing medical, dental and mental health services to musicians in the Puget Sound region.

SMASH is grateful to our caring community, which values our musicians as a vital part of our region's culture. We believe all working musicians must have access to affordable healthcare to prosper and continue to enrich our community. We worked on some important goals in 2020! We are especially proud SMASH increased the number of member musicians served by 267% and expanded SMASH member musician benefits to include at least eight mental health sessions with a licensed provider through our network.

We are building on our successes of 2020 to create even more positive impact on musicians' health in 2021. We will continue to focus on increasing the number of SMASH member musicians we serve and expand our provider network to better meet the needs of all of our local musicians.

As a SMASH community member your voice and perspective are important to us! We are growing and would love to hear your feedback to help guide our path. Please reach out: smash@smashseattle.org

Here's to a healthy 2021!

Sincerely

DB:

Executive Director
Seattle Musicians Access to Sustainable Healthcare

Lutheran Peace Fellowship

1710 11th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122, 206.349.2501, www.lutheranpeace.org

Suthern Phyrich 2400 N.W. 854 St. Leattle, WA 98117

January 202

We are very grateful for your support of Lutheran Peace Fellowship. Thank you so much! You and members like you across the country have together made possible the vital efforts and witness of LPF.

In 2020, we received your gift of \$200 on .../25, 2020.

No goods or services were provided for your contribution. It is directed in full to nonprofit efforts of LPF toward peace with justice in our world.

LPF members nationwide have been very active in many peacemaking efforts over the past year, often taking leadership roles. This has included:

- Outreach to interested Lutherans in adult and youth forums, synod & other events, and one-to-one. You can share some of the rich variety of LPF resources, leaders' guides & Intros like the enclosed brochure with congregation members and friends, help them connect with LPF, and be Inspired by our vision and issues we take on:
- Faithful involvement in education and advocacy to reverse climate change, support students, women and minorities who feel threatened, defend the rights of refugees. Palestinians, etc., reduce military spending, and protect the safety net – all activities of crucial importance in the current political environment.
- Participation in a variety of coalition efforts from program sharing and strategy sessions of the Religious Peace Fellowships and The Fellowship of Reconciliation to Campaign Nonviolence activity (the "Week of Actions" was modified because of Covid-19).
- Supporting useful improvements in what LPF provides as we seek to strengthen & enhance LPF's services and advocacy, vision and leadership. (You can help with your ideas, suggestions, & action in these 4 areas and other parts of our mission.)

All of this and more has been possible because of you: your prayers, activity, and contributions. May God bring you the richest blessings this year! We are very grateful for your continued activity and support of LPF's vital mission!

Blessings and Peace to you!

Alice McCain LPF Treasurer

Note: The events on this calendar are online meetings or events; all groups may choose to meet online. Check with your group leader or email office@ourredeemers.net for Zoom info

MARCH 2021

ourredeemers.net/calendar

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14 Daylight Savings Begins 9:30am Adult Forum 9:30am Adult Forum 9:30am Sprouts 11am Worship 4pm Madonna's Book Group 4pm 7pm Count The Journey!	16 10am-1pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Gretchen 7pm Council Meeting 7pm Caring Community Team	17 St. Patrick's Day 10:30am Bible Study 1pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Adult Choir	9am-12pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Kathy Newsletter Content Due	19	20
21 FIRST DAY OF SPRING 9:30am Adult Forum 9:30am Sprouts 11 am Worship 2pm Ballard Sunday Dinner 4pm The Journey!	13 10am-1pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Gretchen 7pm Theology on Tap	10:30am Bible Study 10:30am Bible Study 1pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Adult Choir	9am-12pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Kathy	26	27
28 PALM SUNDAY 29 30 10ar 10ar 9:30am Adult Forum 9:30am Sprouts 11am Worship	30 10am-1pm Pastoral Online Office Hours: Pastor Gretchen	31 10:30am Bible Study 1pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Adult Choir			



5306 Ballard Ave NW Ste 226⁻ Seattle, WA 98107 www.ourredeemers.net 206-783-7900

*temporary mailing address

return service requested

Join Us 11:00 AM Sundays for Worship Service:

- On Facebook: <u>facebook.com</u> ourredeemers
- By Zoom. https://zoom.us/j/822691346
- By Phone. Call 1 206 337 9723;
 +822 691 346 when prompted





