



REDEEMER CHURCH

A COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR THE CITY
Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—May 18, 2025
“Fasting: An Ancient Practice Worth Unearthing!”
—Matthew 6:15-18

Reflection Quotes

“The early desert fathers believed that a person’s physical and spiritual appetites are linked: full stomachs and jaded palates take the edge from our hunger and thirst for righteousness. They spoil the appetite for God.”—Cornelius Plantinga

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

* Call to Worship

Matthew 9:10-17

Mr. Jerome Douglas

Director of Neighborhood Outreach & Missions

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” Then John’s disciples came and asked him, “How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?” Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast. “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Mr. Jerome Douglas

Assurance of Pardon

Proverbs 28:13

Mr. Jerome Douglas

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

* Song of Preparation

“Oh The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus
Vast unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean,
in its fullness over me
Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
to Thy glorious rest above

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus
Spread His praise from shore to shore
How He loveth, ever loveth
Changeth never, nevermore
How He watches o'er His loved ones
died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth,
watcheth o'er them from The Throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'tis a haven sweet of rest!
O the deep deep, love of Jesus,
'Tis a heaven of heavens to me;
and it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee!

*** Song of Praise**

"Friend of God"

Who am I that You are mindful of me. That You hear me when I call.
Is it true that You are thinking of me? How You love me. It's amazing

*Chorus: I am a friend of God. I am a friend of God.
I am a friend of God. He calls me friend. Repeat*

Who am I that You are mindful of me. That You hear me when I call.
Is it true that You are thinking of me? How You love me. It's amazing. *Chorus*

God Almighty, Lord of glory. You have called me friend. *Repeat, Chorus*

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. CL Pearce, Ruling Elder

Worship in Giving

Mr. CL Pearce

Please find the Connect Pad on your pew at this time to sign in and pass it down the row.

*Visitors: If you would like to be contacted by the church, please include your email address
Thank you to those giving online.*

Congregational Song

"Search Me, Search Me Lord"

You know when I'm right,
You know when I'm wrong,
You know where I go,
You know where I belong.
You know what I do,
You know my little secrets too,
Search me, touch me, cleanse me,
through and through.

*Chorus: Search me, search me Lord.
Search me, search me Lord.
Turn the light from heaven on my soul.
If You find anything that shouldn't be,
take it out and strengthen me.
I wanna be right,
I wanna be saved,
I wanna be whole.*

Well You know all my faults,
My every word and deed
You know what I want Lord.
And You know just what I need.
If there's something there,
that I'm not aware,
well take it, move it,
keep me in your care .

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Sermon Text

Matthew 6:15-18
Pew Bible p. 811

Sermon Title

Fasting: An Ancient Practice Worth Unearthing!

***Hymn of Faith**

"Jesus I Come to Thee"

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health, Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself, Jesus, I come to Thee. Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.

*** Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*** Departing Song**

"Jesus I Come to Thee"

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold, into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to Thee. Jesus, I come to Thee.

Prayer Intercessor Team

Mr. Jeremy Smith & Mrs. Alli Smith (8:00am)
Mr. Ellis Tucker & Mrs. Shirley Tucker (11:00am)

***Please Stand.**

(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #257987)

SERMON QUESTIONS

- What was most memorable or personally impactful from God's Word this morning?
- How did the distinction between the "letter" and the "spirit" of fasting expand your view of what fasting is for? Why might it be important to fast not just from food but also from good things that might be dulling your spiritual hunger?
- As mentioned in the sermon and assumed by Jesus, fasting is not an easy discipline. Jesus greets this difficulty with both seriousness and sympathy. Which of the sermon's reasons - cultural comfort, fear of legalism, misunderstanding, doing it for the wrong reasons and wrong audience (as the hypocrites do in our text), the lack of teaching, misunderstanding of our freedom - do you most resonate with?
- As we heard in the sermon, Jesus alone delivers us. God has and will help us incorporate this in our lives from a place of freedom and grace. How has Jesus done this as our Priest? How significant is it that Jesus fasted at both the beginning and end of his ministry, and embodied the fasting God requires from Isaiah 58? How significant is it that he, the one who truly fasted correctly, died on calvary?
- Jesus is our great Prophet. He not only teaches about fasting here but also in Matthew 9:14-16. How should his words in chapter 9, shape how we understand his words in Matthew 6? The sermon described fasting as a longing that flows out of living in the "already and not yet." What does that phrase mean—and how does it shape why we fast?
- Donald Whitney in his book *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, lists 10 biblical reasons for fasting. Which of the 10 biblical reasons for fasting do you feel most drawn to right now, and why? Prayer, repentance, clarity, deliverance, concern for God's work, service and relief of others, etc.?
- Jesus said "when you fast," not "if." So what might it look like for you to begin - either with food (if able), or with something else (if not)? What fears or barriers come up when you think about fasting—and how does Jesus' teaching (and reward!) reframe those fears with grace and freedom? How does knowing there is no condemnation as well as great reward change your posture toward trying?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday

Connect Pad: Please find the Connect Pad on your pew and sign in. This helps us keep track of Members and Visitors alike.



More Information:

On the QR Code you'll find links to announcements and online giving.

***** PRAYER REQUESTS/UPDATES *****

- Nancy Beal: Recovery from knee replacement surgery.
- Thomas Eaves, son of Sterling & Lizzie Eaves: In remission from Leukemia.
- Tu & Caroline Combs: As Caroline undergoes treatment for stage 4 breast cancer.

Births

- *June Marie Weitz*, 5.14.25, Covenant daughter of Connor & Chiara Weitz.
- *Rowan David Hubele*, 5.9.25, Covenant son of Matthew & Livi Hubele.

See QR Code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for updates and *Take Them a Meal*.

*****SEEKING TO SERVE*****

Community Garden Workday, May 21

Join us for a Community Garden Workday! We will be harvesting veggies, pulling weeds, and performing routine maintenance in the garden. This event is open to all ages and levels of experience. Join us as we continue to cultivate and beautify our neighborhood garden as a way of loving our neighbors. The garden is located at the corner of Robinhood and Londonderry behind the church, we'll meet there from 5:30-7:00pm. See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday to sign up!

Saturday Serve: Assembling Care Kits for Church, May 24

Join us as we assemble Care Kits to help meet immediate food and toiletry needs of anyone that walks through our church doors! Care packages will be kept in the Narthex closet for easy access. All supplies needed for the care packages will be provided by the church. This will be great service opportunity for the whole family! Join us from 9:00am-12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday to sign up.

RedeemerKids Leader Safety Training, June 4

As we prepare for an exciting and impactful Vacation Bible School, the safety of our children and leaders is our top priority. All leaders with RedeemerKids are required to attend a brief safety training session prior to the start of the week. This training will cover essential guidelines on child protection, emergency procedures, and creating a safe, welcoming environment for every child. Join us in the fellowship hall after the potluck from 7:15-8:00pm. Sign up through the QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday.

***** CALLED TO CONNECT *****

RSVP for the All Are Welcome Book Discussion, May 28-June 26

Join us this summer for a 5-week discussion on *All Are Welcome: Toward a Multi-Everything Church*. We'll explore how the Gospel shapes a diverse body of Christ (Rev 5:9) and what that means for our community. Read one chapter before each meeting—each stands alone, so it's okay if you miss a week. No childcare provided.

We hope to offer two groups:

Wednesdays 12–1p

Thursdays 6:30–7:30pm

Groups need at least 10 people to make—RSVP by May 21: bgault@redeemerjackson.com.

Church-Wide Brunches on the First Sunday of the Month

Redeemer is starting a new rhythm on June 1. On the first Sunday of the month, we will hold church-wide brunches in the Fellowship Hall. This provides more space for us to lean into the community of the saints and will replace the Sunday School breaks in the overall Sunday School schedule. Now there will be something during the Sunday School hour every Sunday!

You'll see two kinds of church-wide brunches: Fellowship Brunches (even months) and Prayer Brunches (odd months). The difference? At the end of Fellowship Brunches, there may be updates or activities, and at the end of the Prayer Brunches, we will gather together for 10-15 of directed group prayer.

Fellowship Brunch: Move-Up Day, June 1

As we move into a pattern of gathering as a whole congregation during the Sunday School hour on the first Sunday of the month, we hope EVERYONE will join us for our first brunch on June 1, 9:45-10:35. At this brunch we will celebrate 'Move-Up Day' as our kids in Nursery, Children's Ministry, and Youth Ministry move up a grade, both in Sunday School and in the life Redeemer.

Fellowship Potluck, June 4

This summer we have Wednesday Fellowship Potlucks planned to foster hospitality, connectedness, and belonging. During the summer, the calendar at Redeemer slows and we take a break from our regular rhythms to rest. Wednesday Fellowship Potlucks give us a simple and easy time together to stay connected. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00-7:00pm on June 4, June 18, July 2, and July 16. What do I bring? On June 4, if your LAST NAME starts with...

A-I: bring a main dish

J-Q: bring a side

R-Z: bring a dessert

See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information

*** **NEWS TO NOTE** ***

Welcoming Katie Drake as Director of Women's Ministry

We're excited to announce that Katie Drake joined our staff as Director of Women's Ministry starting May 12! A longtime member of Redeemer, Katie has faithfully served in various ways since 2011. In this new part-time role, she will gradually transition into leadership while continuing her private counseling practice part-time.

As Director of Women's Ministry, Katie will help lead Redeemer women to know God more intimately through the study of Scripture, fellowship, and service in the life of the church. Her role will include partnering with the Women's Ministry Leadership Team to shepherd and equip women, plan studies and events, foster connections, and support discipleship across generations and backgrounds. Katie brings with her a deep love for God's Word, strong relational and leadership gifts, and a passion for encouraging women in their walk with Christ.

Katie is a Mississippi native who came to faith as a teenager. She attended Mississippi State University and later earned a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy from Reformed Theological Seminary. She and her husband, Luke, met at Redeemer and have three children—Henry, Lily, and Beckett.

Please join us in welcoming and praying for Katie as she steps into this role and begins serving our church family in this new way!



Thanks to the Director of Women's Ministry Search Committee

As we hire ministry staff at Redeemer, the Session forms a Search Committee to determine the job description, create the application, evaluate the applicants, and propose a candidate.

The Director of Women's Ministry Search Committee was formed in September 2024 and now is dismissed with thanks: Haley Arndt, Philip Carter, Brian Gault, TK Harris, Renee Jefferson, Barry McCay, Beth Morgan, Kirsten Pearce, and Mandy Penny.

A Big Thank You to Haley Arndt

Over the last two plus years, Haley Arndt has served tirelessly as the Chair of the Women's Ministry Leadership Team. As Katie Drake joins our staff, Haley will aid Katie in her transition and begin the process of stepping down.

Haley, thank you for your dedication, leadership, and service in this season. The Lord has used your love for God's people, passion for his word, thoroughness in details, patience in process, and faithfulness in life to build his church—and we are grateful!

In her volunteer role, Haley has served faithfully with wisdom and discernment to partner with and lead the Women's Ministry Leadership team as they have guided our thriving Women's Ministry with over 100 women weekly involved in 5 different Bible Studies in the life of the church. She served on the Committee of Discipleship Ministries and Co-Chaired the Director of Women's Ministry Search Committee.

No Sunday School, May 18 & 25

Spring Block 2 Sunday School ended May 11. There will be no Sunday School May 18 and 25, and the Fellowship Brunch on June 1 will resume our regular Sunday School schedule.

Sabbatical for Zack Owens, May 30-July 18

We are thankful to share that Zack Owens will be taking a sabbatical this summer, granted by the session as part of our church's ongoing commitment to care and flourishing. Sabbaticals are a regular practice based on biblical rhythms of rest from labors after several years of ministry. They provide an intentional space of rejuvenation for pastors and their families, caring for long-term health and thriving within our church family. Per our Sabbatical Policy, Zack's Sabbatical will span seven weeks from May 30 - July 18.



From Children's Ministry Director, Assistant Pastor of Children & Families, and now as the Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care, Zack has been faithfully serving on full-time staff at Redeemer for 11 years and has been a member at Redeemer since the beginning. Zack's deep sense of the ministry of presence, his capacity to shepherd us through grief and loss, his aiding our body in knowing how to care for one another in love and in the building up of the saints, and his abiding connection with our flock from the youngest to the oldest will be dearly missed in his absence. During this time, the rest of our pastoral staff will be shouldering Zack's responsibilities, though it's hard to compensate for the quality of humor that Zack brings to the table. If you have any questions about what this season will look like, please reach out to Zack and the pastoral staff. Please join us as we pray for this season to be filled with rest and joy for The Owens Family.

Now Accepting Applications for the Director of Music Ministry

Our search is underway for a Director of Music Ministry. This is a salaried, part-time position (targeting 25-30 hours/week) with potential to grow into full-time role. We are accepting applications through **June 17**. Know someone who might be interested? See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information.

Summer Joint Adult Sunday School

9:45-10:35am

2025 Summer Sunday School
begins June 8 and concludes July 27.

Praying Biblical Prayers

Teachers: Brian Gault, Elbert McGowan, Jr., Wilson Jamison, Kelle Menogan,
William Stackler, Rome Douglas

Location: Sanctuary

Prayer is a vital part of the Christian life. At times we pray alone, on Sundays we pray together in corporate worship, and other times we gather to pray in small groups. As Martin Luther once said, "Let us pray—in the church, with the church, for the church!"

This summer, in our joint adult Sunday School class, we'll explore prayers found throughout Scripture—a lament in Psalm 13, a prayer of corporate repentance in Nehemiah 9, the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6, a prayer of faith and praise in Habakkuk, and more. Through these passages, we'll consider how the content and tone of biblical prayers can shape our own rhythms of prayer. Each week, we'll conclude our time by praying one of these prayers together. Our hope is that as we open God's word and lift our voices in prayer, he would deepen our dependence on him and renew our daily habit of seeking him in all things.

Summer Children & Youth Sunday School

2025 Summer Adult Sunday School
begins June 8 and concludes July 27.

Youth (6th-12th): Psalms

Location: Youth Room

Teachers: Kelle Menogan, William Stackler, Ian Deffenbaugh, & Wilson Jamison

Over the summers, Redeemer Youth has leaned into habits of grace such as reading the Bible and prayer. This summer, we are focusing on the Psalms. The Psalter helps believers to connect with God through every season of life. Martin Luther described the Psalms as "a little Bible" in which everything that is in the entire Bible is comprehended most beautifully and briefly. Each week we will unpack a different psalm, discovering how it guides us in honest prayer, worship and trust. All middle school and high school students are invited to join us this summer as we reflect on the Psalms and deepen our relationship with God.

We will be doing a joint class, so middle school and high school will be together!

Children's (K4-5th): New City Catechism

This summer, during our six-week Sunday School series, children will explore foundational truths about God, Creation, and God's Law using the New City Catechism. Each week, they will engage with a key question and answer from the catechism, helping them understand who God is, why He created the world, and what His commandments teach us about living for Him. Through age-appropriate lessons, activities, and Scripture memory, our children will be encouraged to grow in their faith and love for God.

We're excited to walk with your children through these important truths!

K4-K5: Room 209/211

3rd Grade: Room 207

1st & 2nd Grade: Room 210

4th & 5th Grade: Room 205 & 206

Nursery (2-3):

Exploring God's Word Through the Old Testament

This summer, our Nursery Sunday School classes are learning about God's guidance of his people in the Old Testament.

*** Redeemer Kids ***
K4-5th Grade

REDEEMER
KIDS with **A**
MISSION
CURRENT 3RD & 4TH GRADERS



LEARN
VISIT THE TWO
MUSEUMS

TOUR
WALKING TOUR OF
THE CITY OF
JACKSON

MAY 29-31ST

SCAN QR CODE TO
REGISTER



SERVE

SERVING WITH
ONE OF
REDEEMER
CHURCH'S
MISSION
PARTNERS.

*** Redeemer Youth ***
6th-12th Grade

THIS WEEK

Deacon on Call Week of May 18

Tamarco White, 601.421.0224

Sunday, May 18

8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available

9:45am No Sunday School

11:00am Worship Service

Monday, May 19

Tuesday, May 20

7:00pm Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 21

6:00pm Hope Exchange
Community Group

Thursday, May 22

Friday, May 23

Saturday, May 24

8:30am Men's Basketball

Sunday, May 25

8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available

9:45am No Sunday School

11:00am Worship Service

STAFF

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor

Brian Gault, Asst Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship

Zack Owens, Asst Pastor of Congregational Care

Wilson Jamison, Asst Pastor of Youth Ministry

Stephanie Greer, Assistant Youth Director

Jajuan McNeil, Director of Children's Ministry

Joya McNeil, Children's Ministry Assistant

Jerome Douglas, Dir Neighborhood Outreach & Missions

Katie Drake, Director of Women's Ministry

Velma Warner, Nursery Coordinator

Corrie Keplinger, Communications & Events Coordinator

Tina Collier, Administrative Assistant

Josh Anderson, Intern

Joshua Coleman, Intern

Ian Deffenbaugh, Intern

Chael Williams, Intern

Interim Music Ministry Team:

Joyce Hamme, Arthur Phillips, Meg Mills, Akida Mosby

RULING ELDERS

Karl Arndt

Grant Callen

Tu Combs

Gene Dent

Baskin Jones

Scott Marshall

Barry McCay

Kelle Menogan, Sr.

Marculus Mosby

CL Pearce

Herb Sanders

Andy Sauerwein

William Stackler

Rob Vickery

Trey Watkins

DEACONS

Grafton Bragg

Phillip Carter

Preston Denley

Davidson Forester

Jon Fults

David Garner

Jake Garner

Clayton Gressett

Reid Haygood

Detrick Johnson

Blaise King

Jonathan Lancaster

Lane Morgan

Greg Ross

Jaimar Scott

Seth Shannon

Jonathan Shull

Jeremy Smith

Ellis Tucker

Johnston Walker

Tamarco White

COMING UP:

May 26: Church Office Closed-Memorial Day

May 29-31: Kids With a Mission

June 2: Session & Diaconate Meetings

June 4: RedeemerKids Leader Safety Training

June 4: Fellowship Potluck

June 18: Fellowship Potluck

June 23-26: VBS

July 2: Fellowship Potluck

July 19-23: Redeemer Kids to Lake Forest Ranch

August 3: Session & Diaconate Meetings



redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday