



REDEEMER CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—Aug 10, 2025

“Judah’s Descent, Tamar’s Deception, God’s Dominion”

—Genesis 38

Reflection Quote

“Tamar shows great boldness in posing as a prostitute, for as one betrothed she would face the death penalty for playing the harlot (cf. Deut 22:23–24). She is also highly cunning in bargaining with Judah and taking in pledge from him the very items that would publicly identify him as the father of the expected child. Tamar further reveals a great sense of loyalty and justice: she “remains true to her Israelite family in spite of its glaring failures and becomes absorbed into it. Normally Canaanite women absorb Israelite men into their debased culture (Deut 7:1, 3). In that light, her deception as a Canaanite prostitute to snare her widowed father-in-law into fathering covenant seed should be evaluated as a daring act of faith.—Sidney Greidanus

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

* Call to Worship

Romans 4:1-12

Mr. Josh Anderson
Intern

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Mr. Josh Anderson

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 53:5

Mr. Josh Anderson

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

* Song of Preparation

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder”

Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior’s Name.
He has hushed the law’s loud thunder, He has quenched Mount Sinai’s flame.
He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood, He has brought us right to God.

Let us love the Lord Who bought us, Pitied us when enemies.
Called us by His grace and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes.
He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood, He presents our souls to God.

Let us sing though fierce temptation, threatens hard to bear us down.
For the Lord our strong salvation, holds in view the conqu'ror's crown.
He who washed us with His blood, He who washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood, soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder grace and justice, join and point to mercy's store.
When through grace in Christ our trust is, Justice smiles and asks no more.
He who washed us with His blood, He who washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood, Has secured our way to God.

*** Song of Praise**

"Ancient of Days"

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto the Ancient of Days;
From ev'ry nation, all of creation bow before the Ancient of Days.

Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth shall declare Your glory,
Ev'ry knee shall bow at Your throne in worship;
You will be exalted, O God, and Your kingdom shall not pass away, O Ancient of Days.

Your kingdom shall reign over all the earth, sing unto the Ancient of Days;
For none can compare to Your matchless worth, sing unto the Ancient of Days.

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. Gene Dent, Ruling Elder

Worship in Giving

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

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.

Choral Worship

"I Want to Say Thank You"

Redeemer Choir

If I never live another day, If I never see a smiling face,
If I never breathe another breath, take another step. I wanna say thank You.
If I never hear what's to be heard, If I never speak another word, If I never see another
sight, take another bite, I wanna say thank You.

Chorus: Thank You for all that You've done thus far.
Thank You for being the God that You are.
Thank You for food on my table. I know You're able. I wanna say thank You.

If I never take another walk, If I never have another talk,
If I never hear another voice, make another choice, Lord,
I wanna say thank You. If I never scale the China wall, If I never see the Taj Mahal,
If I never find that special friend, over and back again.
I just wanna say thank You. *Chorus*

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Sermon Text

Genesis 38
Pew Bible p. 38

Sermon Title

"Judah's Descent, Tamar's Deception, God's Dominion"

*** Hymn of Faith**

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' Name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my Hope and Stay. *Refrain*

*** Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*** Departing Song**

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne. *Refrain*

Prayer Intercessor Team

Mr. Gene Dent & Mrs. Betty Marsha Dent (8:00am)

Mr. Gene Dent & Ms. Diane Johnston (11:00am)

***Please Stand.**

(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #2579870)

SERMON NOTES

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—August 10, 2025

“Judah’s Descent, Tamar’s Deception, God’s Dominion”

—Genesis 38

Genesis 37–50 is not just about Joseph. It concerns the welfare of Jacob’s entire family. But, it’s not ultimately about humans. The real star of the story is the dysfunction-overcoming, crisis-averting, providence-working, people-transforming, promise-keeping God who is always worthy of trust and worship—even when we can’t clearly see Him at work.

Sermon Points

1. Judah's descent into rebellion
2. Tamar's deception deemed righteous
3. God's dominion over the chaos to bring redemption

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 ***

- Liz Abraham & Family: As Liz's father was placed in hospice following a stroke.
- Kathryn Wilson and Family: Rejoicing in the birth of Paul Henry Wilson. Kathryn is still recovering from West Nile Virus.
- Thomas Eaves, son of Sterling & Lizzie Eaves: In remission from Leukemia.
- Tu & Caroline Combs: As Caroline undergoes treatment for stage 4 breast cancer.

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

*** SEEKING TO SERVE ***

Serve in The Nursery

We are in need of additional volunteers to care for our littles in the nursery during the 11:00am service. Reach out to Velma Warner at vwarner@redeemerjackson.com to learn more and to serve.

Serve at Upside Down, Starting Aug 20

Upside Down meets Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30pm (Aug 20–Sept 24, Oct 15–Nov 19) for children in K4 through 5th grade. It runs like VBS every week, with Bible and catechism memory, singing, playing, eating, and building relationships. It's also an opportunity for evangelism, as many of the kids come from outside our church. Would you prayerfully consider serving this fall? Reach out to Jajuan McNeil at mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com to join the fun!

*** CALLED TO CONNECT ***

Women's Bible Studies Begin Aug 20 & Sept 9

Please join the women of Redeemer this year in our study of Genesis! We have five different groups that will meet once a week through the fall and spring semesters. Group times include Tuesday mornings and evenings, Wednesday mornings and evenings, and Thursdays at noon. Childcare is offered during the Wednesday morning and evening studies. The Wednesday evening group will begin August 20, and all other groups begin the week of September 9. Look for our flyers in the narthex for more details or see the QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday to view the Women's Ministry page.

Join the Redeemer Choir

Love to sing in the car? Play an instrument? Or just want to be part of something joyful? The Choir is looking for you! No auditions, no pressure—just making music together for God's glory. We rehearse on Tuesdays at 7:00pm, reach out to Meg Mills at megger.lsu@gmail.com or Akida Mosby at akidamosby@yahoo.com for more information.

Work Life Class via Hope Exchange Begins, Aug 20

Looking to land a GOOD job? Join Work Life—a class for people who: 1) are ready to get hired or promoted; 2) want to improve their relationships and overcome obstacles; 3) would benefit from a supportive community as they pursue goals and develop gifts. We're kicking off the fall semester on Wednesday, Aug 20 at 6:00pm at 630 Wellington Rd. behind the church, join us!

Redeemer Young Adults Picnic at The Rez, Aug 21

We want YOU to join RYA on Thursday, Aug 21 from 5:30-7:00pm as we host our fall kick off event at Old Trace Park before we launch into our fall series on Spiritual Formation! We will be picnic style while enjoying fellowship and games together. Bring something yummy to share, and a blanket or chair! Contact Chael Williams at chaelwilliams99@gmail.com for more info and to join the RYA GroupMe.

Redeemer Women's Meet & Greet, Aug 23

Redeemer women ages 18 and older, join us for a time of fellowship and enjoyment in the Youth Room. This will be an opportunity to connect with other women in the church and learn more about Women's Ministry in the life of Redeemer! Light refreshments will be served. No childcare available. See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information and to sign up.

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

Officer on Sabbatical

On Aug 4, the Session approved a Sabbatical for Barry McCay, his first in 14 years of service. Barry's steady faithfulness, theological insight, servant's heart, and love for the church are a gift to Redeemer. Even on Sabbatical, he will still be teaching in the Redeemer Explored Sunday School--a delight he did not want to give up! Please pray for deep rest and sustaining peace for Barry on his Sabbatical from the Session.



Redeemer Officer Update

On Aug 4, the Session accepted Jonathan Lancaster's resignation from the Diaconate per BCO 24-7. Jonathan remains an ordained Deacon in the PCA, but will no longer serve at Redeemer as he has accepted the position of Head of School at First Pres Day School, and will transition with Francis and their kids to First Presbyterian Church over time. Jonathan, thank you for your leadership in Growth Groups, your dedication to the church, your theological and structural curiosity, and your personal integrity. You—and your whole family—will be missed at Redeemer!



Jermaine Van Buren's Ordination Service, Aug 17, 6:00pm

Jermaine Van Buren passed his ordination exams at all three levels: the written exam, the oral exam before the Credentials Committee, and the oral exam before the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley. Congratulations Jermaine! Join us for his ordination service as he is ordained and installed as the Campus Pastor with RUF at Jackson State University. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall with light hors d'oeuvres.



Accepting Applications for the Director of Music Ministry

Our search is continuing 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 **Aug 17**. Know someone who might be interested? See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information.

Fall Adult Sunday School **9:45-10:35am**

2025 Fall Sunday School Block 1
begins Aug 10 and concludes Sept 28.

Habits of the Household

Teachers: Brian Gault and Chad Berry

Location: Sanctuary

Based on Justin Whitmel Earley's *Habits of the Household*, this class explores how everyday family routines can be transformed into intentional practices of spiritual formation.

Over seven weeks, we examine key habits—waking, mealtimes, discipline, screen time, family devotions, work, and bedtime—considering how each can shape both parents and children in the way of Christ. Participants will reflect on their own household rhythms, engage in group discussion, and be challenged to implement small but meaningful changes rooted in grace.

Each session pairs practical ideas with biblical wisdom, aiming to cultivate habits that form hearts, not just behaviors. This class is ideal for parents, caregivers, and anyone seeking to integrate faith into the ordinary moments of family life.

In Pursuit of Biblical Creativity

Teacher: Andy Sauerwein

Location: Fellowship Hall

Romans 12 compels us to “offer our bodies as living sacrifices” in the pursuit of God’s good purpose, rather than being “conformed to the pattern of this world.” Genesis 1 calls us to participate as stewards by imitating God’s creative demonstration, “putting things into good order.”

In this class, we will seek to inhabit a framework for navigating this pursuit of “good order.” We will consider our roles as explorers, makers, and participants in God’s eternal purpose as he forms (and re-forms) our affections to resonate with his desires. Through our “creative activity,” we can “taste and see that the Lord is good” by imaginatively pursuing beauty, goodness, and truth in every area of our lives, doing all that we do “as unto the Lord.”

The Book of Acts

Teachers: Josh Anderson, Joshua Coleman,
Ian Deffenbaugh, Chael Williams

Location: Room 109

The book of Acts is the story of the ascent of Jesus Christ, the descent of the Spirit, and the dawn of the church. Through studying Acts, God’s people see firsthand how God formed and sustained a new people under the administration of the new covenant. There is much in this book to teach us about the Holy Spirit, church life, living amidst persecution, unity in diversity, and ultimately about Christ Himself. In this class we will explore the biblical - theological categories of Acts and hope to mine the riches of the wisdom of this book for living faithfully under King Jesus in our own context.

Fall Children & Youth Sunday School

**2025 Fall C&Y Sunday School
begins Aug 10 and concludes Nov 30.**

Youth (6th-12th): Christian Friendship

High School Teachers: Wilson Jamison, Ian Deffenbaugh,
Anna Lois Callen, Cadden Christie

Middle School Teachers: Wilson Jamison, Rob Vickery, Lane Morgan & Team

Location: Youth Room

"Why is friendship hard?" "Why is it necessary?" "What does it take to be a good friend?" "How does belonging to Jesus shape our friendships?" This fall in Sunday school, Redeemer Youth will explore Christian Friendship using Ed Welch's *Side by Side*. Together, we'll see that humans are made for friendship—that it is rooted in God Himself, broken by sin, and redeemed in Jesus. We'll also learn practical skills for building and sustaining Christ-centered friendships.

Children's (K4-5th): Investigating God's Word

This fall, RedeemerKids is continuing through "Investigating God's Word." All classes K4-5th

K4: Room 208

Teachers:

Rachel Harbarger, Amanda McGuffey

2nd: Room 207

Teachers:

Gene Everitt, KK Harrington

K5: Room 209

Teachers:

Beth Clarke, Sarah Love Crawford

3rd: Room 206

Teachers:

Christa Williams, Page Callen,
Andrea Burks

1st: Room 210

Teachers:

Krisan Parish, Claire Graves,
Emmaline Smith

4th: Room 202

Teachers:

Angela Simpkins, Samuel Bolen,

chapter by chapter through

5th: Room 204

Teachers:

Haley Arndt, Liz Callen,
Tyler Espinoza

Grade will be working
Matthew chapters 1-14.

Nursery (2-3):

Exploring God's Word Through the Old Testament

This fall, our Nursery Sunday School will focus on teaching our young children the biblical foundation of God's creation and the early family of faith by covering key stories from the Book of Genesis, highlighting the life of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, Jacob, and Joseph and how they fit into God's plan of salvation.

Fall Growth Groups begin Aug 20 & 24

SUNDAY GROWTH GROUPS



**BERRY/BRAGG/
DRAKE**

5:00pm

Place: Berry Home,
Madison



**MORGAN/
WILLIAMS/ELLISON**

5:00pm

Place: Morgan
Home, Belhaven



**CalLEN/
MARSHALL**

5:00pm

Place: Callen Home,
Madison



**OWENS/DOWELL/
DENLEY/DOUGLAS**

5:00pm

Place: Owens
Home, Jackson



FULTS/BOWER

5:00pm

Place: Fults Home,
Clinton



GAULT/TAYLOR

5:00pm

Place: Gault Home,
Jackson



**EVANS/KRAG/
McGUFFEY/
TRAMEL**

5:00pm

Place: Evans Home,
Belhaven



OZIER/PEARCE

5:45pm

Place: Wagnon
Home, Jackson



**LEWIS/ROBERSON/
SMITH**

5:00pm

Place: Lewis Home,
Belhaven

WEDNESDAY GROWTH GROUP



**GARNER/
WALLACE**

5:00pm

Place: Garner
Home, Brandon

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

Upside Down Returns Aug 20

Upside down is our weekly offering for our elementary aged students. We play games, eat, sing, and learn about God's word! Come join us on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30pm.

Children's Church Returns Sept 7

This fall we will be studying covenant theology in children's church. Leaders will expand on the topic of covenant life, the covenant of commencement, the covenant of preservation and the covenant of kingdom over 16 weeks. 8:00am service only, for ages 4-5.

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

Rooted Kickoff, Aug 10

High Schoolers, we are kicking off the school year with a pool party at the Norman's home in Jackson (address will be in Redeemer Youth GroupMe) from 5:30-7:00pm. We'd love to see you there! If you plan to come, please let Stephanie know at sgreer@redeemerjackson.com so we can get a headcount for food.

Crossroads Kickoff, Aug 13

Middle Schoolers, we are going to kick off the school year with some friendly competition. Come on out to the Youth Room from 6:00-7:30pm to catch up with your friends and leaders and play some games! Please let Stephanie at sgreer@redeemerjackson.com know if you plan to come so we can get a headcount for food.

Youth Girls Bible Study

This fall, our youth girls will be doing a Bible Study on "Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament". If you're in 6th-12th grade, come join us for this time of fellowship, study, and prayer. We will be alternating between weeks with all girls 6th-12th grade and high school only weeks. Our first meeting, August 19, will be for 6th-12th grade. Check the GroupMe for meeting reminders and the location.

Crossroads Returns Aug 20

If you are in 6th-8th grade, come on out to Crossroads! Crossroads is our weekly youth group gathering where we eat dinner, play games, hear a lesson from the Bible and discuss it in small groups. We meet in the Youth room from 6:00-7:30pm. We have a blast and would love to see you there!

High School Office Hours, Aug 21

High Schoolers, come join Wilson and Stephanie for Office Hours on selected Thursdays this semester. This will be a casual chance to connect, catch up, and pray together. Our first meeting will be on August 21 from 4:00-5:00pm; check the GroupMe for announcements about other meeting dates and our meeting location!

Rooted Returns Aug 24

High Schoolers, we hope you will join us on Sunday nights for Rooted! At Rooted we eat dinner, worship, hear a lesson from God's Word and then discuss it in small groups. We meet in the Youth room from 5:30-7:00pm. See you there!

THIS WEEK

Deacon on Call Week of Aug 10

Lane Morgan, 601.573.3131

Sunday, Aug 10

- 8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available
9:45am Fall Sunday School Begins
11:00am Worship Service
5:30pm Rooted Kickoff Pool Party

Monday, Aug 11

Tuesday, Aug 12

- 7:00pm Choir Practice

Wednesday, Aug 13

- 6:00pm Crossroads Kickoff Game
Night

Thursday, Aug 14

Friday, Aug 15

Saturday, Aug 16

- 8:30am Men's Basketball

Sunday, Aug 17

- 8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available
9:45am Fall Sunday School Begins
11:00am Worship Service
6:00pm Ordination Service for
Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

STAFF

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor
Brian Gault, Asst Pastor of Shepherdng & 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, Coordinator of Communications
& Operations, Assistant to the Senior Pastor
Tina Collier, Administrative Assistant
Josh Anderson, Intern
Joshua Coleman, Intern
Ian Deffenbaugh, Intern
Markese Lee, 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.
Marcuslin Mosby
CL Pearce
Herb Sanders
Andy Sauerwein
William Stackler
Rob Vickery
Trey Watkins

DEACONS

Grafton Bragg
Philip Carter
Preston Denley
Davidson Forester
Jon Fults
David Garner
Jake Garner
Levi Gill*
Clayton Gressett
Reid Haygood
John Hooker*
Detrick Johnson
Blaise King
Cody McCain
Lane Morgan
Greg Ross
Jaimar Scott
Seth Shannon
Jonathan Shull
Jeremy Smith
Ellis Tucker
Thomas Wallace*
Johnston Walker
Tamarco White

*Sabbatical

COMING UP:

Aug 20: Upside Down Begins
Aug 20: Crossroads Begins
Aug 21: RYA Hangout at Reservoir
Aug 24: Growth Groups Begin
Aug 24: Rooted Begins
Sept 4: RYA Spiritual Formation Discussion
Sept 8: Session & Diaconate Meetings



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