



REDEEMER CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—Aug 31, 2025

“The Lord Lovingly Works in Us and For Us, While We Wait”

—Genesis 40

Reflection Quote

“We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”—Romans 5:3–5

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Missions Moment

Pastor Wright Busching

University Presbyterian Church, Tampa, FL

* Call to Worship

1 Peter 1:3-9

Rev. Zack Owens

Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Rev. Zack Owens

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 103:11-12

Rev. Zack Owens

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

* Song of Preparation

“O How I Love Jesus”

There is a Name I love to hear, I love to sing Its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear, The sweetest Name on earth.
Refrain: O, how I love Jesus, O, how I love Jesus, O, how I love Jesus,
Because He first loved me!

It tells me of a Savior’s love, Who died to set me free;
It tells me of His precious blood, the sinner’s perfect plea. *Refrain*

It tells me what my Father hath in store for ev’ry day,
And, tho I tread a darksome path, Yields sunshine all the way. *Refrain*

It tells of One whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe;
Who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below. *Refrain*

*** Song of Praise**

"King of Glory"

Yes the world will bow down and say You are God,
every man will bow down and say You are King,
so let's start right now, why would we wait?

Chorus: King of Glory fill this place
We just wanna be with You, just wanna be with You.

King of Glory fill this place, I just wanna be with You, I just wanna be with You.

Yes the world will bow down and say You are God,
every man will bow down and say You are King,
so let's start right now, why would we wait?
We can praise You now in victory! *Chorus*

So we'll sing hallelujah until You come again,
and we'll dance in Your presence until You come again. *Repeat as Directed.*

We will sing Hallelujah until You come again,
and we'll dance in your presence. *Chorus*

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. Scott Marshall, 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

"The Lord is Blessing Me"

Redeemer Choir

The Lord is blessing me right now, right now!
The Lord is blessing me right now, right now!

He woke me up this morning, and He started me on my way.
The Lord, The Lord, The Lord, is blessing me right now, right now, right now!

He woke me up this morning. I was clothed in my right mind.
He didn't let me sleep too late; He woke me right on time!

He woke me up this morning, and He started me on my way.
The Lord, The Lord, The Lord is blessing me right now, right now, right now.

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Sermon Text

Genesis 40
Pew Bible p. 40

Sermon Title

"The Lord Lovingly Works in Us and For Us, While We Wait"

*** Hymn of Faith**

"It Is Well"

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, "It is well, it is well, with my soul."

Refrain: It is well, (It is well), with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, It is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come;
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain.*

My sin, O, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain.*

*** Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*** Departing Song**

"It Is Well"

O Lord, haste the day when faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul. *Refrain.*

Prayer Intercessor Team

Mr. Scott Marshall & Mrs. Helen Marhsall (8:00am)
Mr. Scott Marshall & Ms. Diane Johnston (11:00am)

***Please Stand.**

(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #2579870)

SERMON QUESTIONS

- Looking back at Genesis 39:21–40:1, why is it important not to separate Joseph's prison experience from the statement that "the LORD was with him and showed him steadfast love"? How does this reshape our view of suffering?
- In what ways do we, like Joseph, struggle to live faithfully when our circumstances don't change? Which of Joseph's lessons (faithfulness, dependence, truthfulness, forgiveness, patience) do you feel God is forming in you right now?
- Why do you think God often uses "middle acts"—seasons of trials, waiting, and obscurity—to transform His people? How have you seen Him use this in your life?
- Joseph longed for vindication and freedom, but God gave him transformation first. How do our desires for change (job, marriage, health, etc.) sometimes overshadow what God wants to do in us before He works for us?
- How does Jesus embody the qualities Joseph learned in prison (faithfulness, dependence, truth-telling, forgiveness, patience)? How does that encourage us when we feel weak in our middle acts?
- What hope do Psalms 30:5 and 34:19 give us about God's deliverance? How does remembering the "final act" of God's story (resurrection, new creation) help us endure our own "middle acts"?
- How can we hold together the hope that God sometimes brings real change in this life (new job, restored marriage, healing, reconciliation) with the greater hope that even if those changes never come, His final deliverance in Christ is guaranteed? How does this shape the way we pray and wait in our own middle acts?

Sermon Points

Big idea: Genesis 40 shows us Joseph in the "middle act" of his story. The middle act is the long season between promise and fulfillment. Though forgotten by men, he was not forgotten by God. The Lord's steadfast love (Genesis 39:21) was at work the whole time: working in him to grow faithfulness, dependence, patience, truthfulness, and forgiveness, and working for him to set the stage for his eventual exaltation. And the same is true for us: in the waiting seasons of life, God's love is never idle. He lovingly works in us and for us, until the day He brings us into His final deliverance.

- The Lord's steadfast love is at work in the middle act.
- The Lord's steadfast love transforms us in the middle act.
- The Lord's steadfast love will deliver us out of the middle act.

SERMON NOTES

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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 ***

- Myah Lane: As she undergoes treatment for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia.
- Nancy Beal: As she recovers from her third knee surgery this year at The Madison rehab clinic.
- Liz Abraham & Family: As they grieve the loss of Liz's father.
- 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 ***

Side by Side

Side by Side is Redeemer's new initiative to serve with our Mission to Jackson partners, like mini-mission trips right here in our city. By showing up, building relationships, and sharing in the work already happening, we grow in love for our neighbors and deepen our witness as a church. These hands-on Saturdays are great for individuals, families, and groups ready to show and share the Gospel side by side. Stay tuned for upcoming dates or talk to Jerome Douglas to learn more.

Side by Side: Serve with Grant Me Justice, Sept 13

Men of Redeemer, join us for a meaningful and hands-on day of service with our mission partner, Grant Me Justice! We'll roll up our sleeves, show up with love, and walk alongside survivors with care and compassion. It's a simple but powerful way to live out our faith together. See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday to sign up to join us in Benton from 7:00am-1:00pm. Once you've registered, Jerome will send you the address.

*** CALLED TO CONNECT ***

GriefShare Begins Sept 2

GriefShare serves our church and community as a place of rest for the weary. Please reach out if you'd like a place to grieve the loss of someone you love, grow in community with other believers, and look into God's Word for hope and healing. GriefShare meets at 630 Wellington Rd behind the church on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm, from Sept 2-Dec 2. Contact Quita Sauerwein at quitasauerwein@gmail.com to get connected or see QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information.

Redeemer Young Adults Spiritual Formation Panel, Sept 4

Join RYA as we host our kick off panel discussing spiritual formation at the McGowen's home (address in RYA GroupMe) from 6:30-8pm. We will have a panel featuring Elbert & Karen Mcowen, Chris Weeks, and Luke & Katie Drake, discussing how the Spirit has formed them through spiritual habits and disciplines revolving around God's Word. Dinner will be provided! Reach out to Chael Williams at cwilliams@rts.edu for more information.

Church-Wide Prayer Brunch, Sept 7

Join us for our monthly congregation wide brunch during the Sunday School hour on Sept 7! We'll enjoy food and fellowship, then spend the last 10 minutes praying together as a church. Be sure and pick up your littles from the nursery before coming to brunch, we want everyone, including our diligent nursery workers, to be able to join us!

RCA ArtShare, Sept 11

Join RCA for our "open mic" night! This is an opportunity for anyone engaged in creative activity to share in a friendly and relaxed environment. All art forms welcome: visual art, writing, music, dance, drama, handiworks, etc. This month we are meeting at Crema Design Studio in Ridgeland at 6:30pm. See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information.

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

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 **Sept 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 Adult Sunday School Block 1
began 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: Room 109

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: Fellowship Hall

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
began 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

Redeemer is a big church. We want every member to have a place to connect. Fall Growth Groups began on Aug 20 and Aug 24, but you can join at anytime. Growth Groups typically meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday/Wednesday of the month. For more information and the contact information for each group, see QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday.

SUNDAY GROWTH GROUPS



**BERRY/BRAGG/
DRAKE**
5:00pm
Place: Berry Home,
Madison



**CalLEN/
MARSHALL**
5:00pm
Place: Callen Home,
Madison



FULTS/BOWER
5:00pm
Place: Fults Home,
Clinton



**EVANS/KRAG/
McGUFFEY/
TRAMEL**
5:00pm
Place: Evans Home,
Belhaven



**LEWIS/ROBERSON/
SMITH**
5:00pm
Place: Lewis Home,
Belhaven



**MORGAN/
WILLIAMS/ELLISON**
5:00pm
Place: Morgan
Home, Belhaven



**OWENS/DOWELL/
DENLEY/DOUGLAS**
5:00pm
Place: Owens
Home, Jackson



GAULT/TAYLOR
5:00pm
Place: Gault Home,
Jackson



**SAUERWEIN/
WAGNON**
5:45pm
Place: Wagnon
Home, Jackson

WEDNESDAY GROWTH GROUP



**GARNER/
WALLACE**
6:30pm
Place: Garner
Home, Brandon

Women's Bible Studies '25-'26

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. Childcare is offered during the Wednesday morning and evening studies. The Wednesday evening group began on August 20, Mom's will begin on Sept 3, 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 and the contact person for each group.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDIES



**SPLAINGARD/
MCNAIR/BRAND**
7:00-8:00am
Place: Outside Beagle Bagel, Jackson



**GARNER/CALLEN/
BRAGG/
KEPLINGER/
BARROW/WILLIAMS**
7:30-9:00pm
Place: Callen Home

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES



**CRAWFORD/
HAWKINS/BROWN**
6:00-7:30pm
Place: Bride's room at Redeemer



MOM'S BIBLE STUDY
9:00-11:00am
Place: Bride's room at Redeemer

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY



**SHANNON/
JOHNSON/
MARSHALL/
MCGOWAN**
12:00-1:00pm
Place: Bride's room at Redeemer

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

Upside Down

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

Crossroads

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!

Rooted

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 31

Jaimar Scott, 601.720.2009

Sunday, Aug 31

8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service

Monday, Sept 1

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, Sept 2

4:30pm Youth Girls Bible Study
6:00pm GriefShare Begins
7:00pm Choir Practice

Wednesday, Sept 3

6:00pm Upside Down
6:00pm Crossroads
6:00pm Women's Bible Study
6:00pm Work Life Class via
Hope Exchange

Thursday, Sept 4

4:00pm High School Office Hours
6:30pm RYA Spiritual Formation
Dinner & Discussion

Friday, Sept 5

Saturday, Sept 6

8:30am Men's Basketball

Sunday, Sept 7

8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available
9:45am Church Wide Prayer Brunch
11:00am Worship Service
5:30pm Rooted

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



redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday

COMING UP:

Sept 4: RYA Spiritual Formation Discussion
Sept 8: Session & Diaconate Meetings
Sept 11: RCA ArtShare
Sept 13: Community Garden Workday
Sept 18: RYA Spiritual Formation
Dinner & Discussion
Sept 18: RYA Spiritual Formation Discussion
Sept 25: Community Garden Workday
Sept 28: RUF Sunday