



REDEEMER CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—February 15, 2026
“When Trials End in Failure and the Father Who Finds Us”
——James 1:12-18

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

* Call to Worship

1 John 1:5-2:2

Mr. Josh Anderson
Intern

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Mr. Josh Anderson

Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 2:4-5

Mr. Josh Anderson

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

* Song of Preparation

“I Love to Praise Him”

Chorus: I love to praise Him (I love to praise His name!).

I love to praise Him (I love to praise His name!).

I love to praise Him (I love to praise His name).

I love to praise (I love to praise) His holy name! Repeat

He's my rock (He's my rock, my rock, my sword, and shield),

He's my wheel (He's my wheel) in the middle of the wheel.

I know He'll never (I know He'll never, never let me down),

He's just a jewel (He's just a jewel)

that I have found!

Oh hallelujah (hallelujah), Hallelujah (hallelujah)! I love to praise His name! Repeat
I love to praise His holy name!

God of Abraham,
You're the God of covenant,
and of faithful promises
Time and time again,
You have proven You'll do just what You said.

Pre Chorus: Though the storms may come and the winds may blow
I'll remain steadfast.

And let my heart learn, when You speak a word
it will come to pass.

Chorus: Great is Your faithfulness to me,
great is Your faithfulness to me.
From the rising sun to the setting same,
I will praise Your name,
great is Your faithfulness to me.

God from age to age,
though the earth may pass away,
Your word remains the same.
Your history can prove,
there's nothing You can't do,
You're faithful and true. *Pre Chorus, Chorus.*

I put my faith in Jesus,
my anchor to the ground.
My hope and firm foundation,
He'll never let me down. *Repeat. Chorus.*

Baptism

Abhygail Akins, Communing Member (8:00am)

Sophia Gregory Berry, Covenant child of Vann & Lexy Berry (8:00am)

Gracie Blanks, Communing Member (11:00am)

Charles Michael Williams, Covenant child of Chael & Kate Williams (11:00am)

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. Gene Dent
Ruling Elder

Worship in Giving

Mr. Gene Dent

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.*

Children's Church (Ages 4-5) 8:00am only

Parents: After worship in giving, you are welcome to send your child (4-5) to children's church before the end of special music.

Special Music

"Jesus (Every Hour He'll Give You the Power)"

Mr. Arthur Phillips

Chorus: Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

Ev'ry hour, He'll give you the pow'r to go through.

There is no other name given to men that we can be saved,
and oh that precious name can take a life, start it over again,
that name is...*Chorus*

When disappointments come, and you don't know just what to do,
oh I have a Friend, I recommend my Friend to you,
His name is...*Chorus*

When you've gone as far as you can and you need a helping hand,
you've tried and couldn't succeed,
this Friend of mine is just who you need,
His name is...*Chorus*

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Sermon Text

James 1:12-18

Pew Bible p. 1199

Sermon Title

"When Trials End in Failure and the Father Who Finds Us"

*** Song of Response**

"Revive Us Again"

We praise thee, O God, for the Son of thy love,
for Jesus who died, and is now gone above.

Refrain: Hallelujah! Thine the glory, hallelujah! Amen! Hallelujah!
Thine the glory, revive us again.

We praise thee, O God, for thy Spirit of light,
who has shown us our Savior and scattered our night. *Refrain*

We praise thee, O God, for the joy thou hast giv'n to thy saints in communion,
these foretastes of heav'n. *Refrain*

*** Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*** Departing Song**

"Revive Us Again"

Revive us again, fill each heart with thy love.

May each soul be rekindled with fire from above. *Refrain*

Prayer Intercessor Team

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

Mr. Gene Dent & Mrs. Betty Marsha Dent (11:00am)

***Please Stand.**

(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #2579870)

The Sacrament of Covenant (Infant) Baptism

As we read through the Word of God, it becomes clear that God's sovereign grace is embraced in the "covenant" framework of Scripture. By grace alone, God has *covenanted* with His people that He will have them to/for Himself from every nation, tribe, people, and language (Rev 7). It is a covenant generally that embraces family solidarity (see Acts 2:39; Acts 16:31; Gen 17:7). As noted elsewhere, *"every person identified in the Bible as having a household present at his or her conversion also had the household baptized."*

Because of God's covenant, all history marches forward to the time when God's covenant people will live in the New Jerusalem in a renewed world order enjoying fully their relationship with God: *"they will be His people, and God Himself will be their God"* (see Rev. 21:3).

Even today, Christ continues as *"the Mediator of the new covenant"* (Heb 8), the one Mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2). Salvation is covenant salvation: regeneration, justification, adoption, sanctification are covenant mercies. Baptism and the Lord's Supper, corresponding to/replacing the old covenant rites of circumcision and Passover, are covenant ordinances. God's law is covenant law, and keeping it is the truest expression of gratitude for covenant grace and loyalty to our covenant God. An understanding of this covenant of grace guides us through, and helps us appreciate, all the wonders of God's redeeming love.

Christians in our theological tradition believe that children of believers, infant children, are and should be included as members of the visible covenant community, the church. Why? Because we believe, based upon the Bible, that infant children of believers have the status of covenant children and therefore should be baptized, just as Jewish male infants previously had been circumcised. Again, why? Because, if infants are deemed members of the visible covenant community with their believing parents, it is fitting to give them the sign of covenant status and of their place in the covenant community.

Is there something magic about the water? No. Do baptized infants have no obligation to make a public profession of personal faith in Jesus Christ? Certainly, they do. When we celebrate the sacrament of covenant baptism, we publicly recognize a covenant child through the covenant sign of baptism as a child of at least one believing parent (1 Cor 7:14), thus as a member of the visible church. At the same time, we are careful also to affirm that neither baptism nor being the child of believing parents will suffice to make that child a true believer. At some point, each baptized infant/child must personally turn from their sins and express their own faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The outward and visible sign in baptism is water. As water is poured down on the head of a child, we are reminded of the cleansing blood of the Lord Jesus Christ that delivers us from the penalty of sin (1 John 1:7) as well as the sanctifying virtue of the Holy Spirit delivering us from the power of sin (Rom 8:2).

SERMON QUESTIONS

1. James connects trials and temptation using the same Greek word. How have you experienced a trial that was meant to strengthen you becoming a moment of temptation instead? What shifted internally?
2. James says, “Do not be deceived” (v.16). In what ways are we most prone to self-deception during trials? What lies do we tend to believe about God, ourselves, or our circumstances when we fail?
3. James refuses to let us blame God (v.13) and instead locates the problem within us (v.14). Why is it so hard to admit that our failure comes from our own “over-desires”? Where are you most tempted to blame others, your past, or even God?
4. James describes desire as something that conceives and gives birth to sin, which then produces death (v.14–15). What does this imagery teach us about the seriousness and progression of unchecked desire? Where have you seen “the end implicit in the beginning” in your own life?
5. In verse 16 James calls his readers “beloved.” Why is that word so important in this context? What does it communicate about God’s posture toward us, even in failure? How do we know we are loved by God? Where did he most deeply manifest his love for us?
6. James reminds us that God is the “Father of lights” who does not change (v.17) and that He has “brought us forth by the word of truth” (v.18). How does God’s unchanging character and your new birth in Christ anchor you when you fail? What does it look like, practically, to stand again because the Father’s love and promises are steady?
7. In Titus 2, Paul says that the grace of God not only saves us but trains us to renounce ungodliness and live self-controlled lives. How does experiencing the Father’s grace in our failure not only cover our sin but reshape our desires, so that we begin to love Him more than the sin we once turned to?

SERMON POINTS

1. There are certain trials we will fail.
2. Why we fail certain trials.
3. How God meets us in our failure, that we might stand again.

SERMON NOTES

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—February 15, 2026

“When Trials End in Failure and the Father Who Finds Us”

——James 1:12-18

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 ***

- Bert Everitt: As he recovers from shoulder replacement surgery.
- Myah Lane: As she undergoes treatment for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia.
- Thomas Eaves, son of Sterling & Lizzie Eaves: In remission from Leukemia.
- Caroline & Tu 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.

*** CALLED TO CONNECT ***

RCA ArtShare, Feb 19

Join Redeemer Community Arts at our art "open mic night." It's an opportunity for anyone engaged in creative activity to share their pieces in a friendly and encouraging environment. This month we are meeting at the Red House in Jackson, 1252 Druid Hill Dr. All art forms welcome: visual art, writing, music, dance, drama, handiworks, etc. Light refreshments provided, all ages welcome! Contact Peter Davis at peterdart@live.com for more information.

Talking to Your Kids About Sex: A Biblical Approach, Feb 25 or Mar 4

One of the most important—and sometimes daunting—conversations you can have with your child is “the talk.” In this one-hour session, we’ll offer practical tools and encouragement to help you approach this conversation with confidence and care, and to continue it as an ongoing, healthy dialogue over time. This same talk will be offered on Feb 25 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary, and again on Mar 4 at 12:00pm in the Church Office at 644 Wellington Rd. RSVP through the QR code.

Reaching Our Neighbors Luncheon, Feb 28

To kick off Missions Month 2026, join us in the fellowship hall from 10:30am-1:00pm for a practical and inspiring session focused on local evangelism and building bridges within our community. Pastor Thabiti Anyabwile will share from his experience helping churches engage their neighborhoods with gospel intentionality. See the QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday to sign up.

Registration Open for Women's Ministry Spring Retreat, Apr 24-25

Register now for our women's ministry retreat at Twin Lakes! This is an opportunity to set aside intentional time to grow in knowing our God deeper through the teaching and study of his Word, and to enjoy connection and rest with others. Portia Collins will be our guest speaker for the weekend, you can learn more about Portia through the QR code. This event is for women ages 18 and up. For more details and to register, see QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday.

*** SEEKING TO SERVE ***

Serve with Families Count, Mar 18—Apr 29

Through Families Count, the church has the opportunity to come alongside families in difficult seasons, walking with them toward restoration and stability. This class will be Wednesdays evenings, March 18- April 29, 5:30-7:30pm. Childcare is provided through the nursery and Upside Down. Please contact Jennifer Remington at jenremington2@gmail.com to get involved, and please be praying for these families!

*** NEWS TO NOTE ***

Emails Impersonating Pastor Elbert

From time to time, Redeemer members or staff will get a phishing email from someone pretending to be Pastor Elbert. Rest assured, Pastor Elbert will NEVER send you a 'special request to be handled discreetly'. Be sure and check the email address to confirm validity.

Weekly Programming Pauses—Spring Break

For spring break (Mar 4 & 11)—Upside Down, Crossroads, Hope Exchange, and The Soul of Shame Book Discussion will not meet. Rooted will not meet on Mar 8.

Giving Update through December 2025

Our budget year runs from July—June.

Thank you for your generous giving!

General Fund

Total Budget: \$2,143,590

Year-to-Date-Budget: \$1,071,795

Year-to-Date-Giving: \$1,076,522

Dec Budget: \$178,632

Dec Giving: \$161,074

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

Celebrating a Grand Time at The Redeemer's Ball

This past weekend, 75 folks came out and celebrated together at our annual Redeemer's Ball. The dance floor was shredded and sweet memories were made amongst the family of God-thanks to Jajuan, Joya, and all the volunteers who made this special event possible! Check out the photo album from the ball via the QR code.

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

Save The Date: VBS, June 15-18

The summer will be here in a flash, so go ahead and add "All Aboard!" Vacation Bible School to your calendar! For ages K4-5th grade.

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

High School Skate Night, Mar 1

Whether you're a pro on roller skates or just here for a good time, we'd love to see you at our High School Silly Skate Night, 5:30-7:00pm, at Spinners in Florence! Attire: Thrift Store Tacky. Bring some money for food if you'd like to eat there).

Middle School Spring Day Getaway, Mar 28

Middle Schoolers, join us for a Saturday retreat at Twin Lakes Camp! This will be a chance to spend time in God's Creation and enjoy time with your friends and youth leaders. We're going to have a blast and hope you'll be a part of it! Registration is open from Feb 1-Mar 13, sign up through the QR code.

Middle School RYM, June 22-26

Middle School RYM (Reformed Youth Ministries) trip is for students who will be in 6th-8th grade during the 2026-27 school year (current 5th-7th graders). This conference is held at Laguna Beach Christian Retreat Center in Panama City Beach, FL. For more information about RYM, check out their website. Registration is first come first serve. The trip cost is \$525 with a \$125 deposit due upon registration. See QR code to register.

High School RYM, July 3-7

High School RYM (Reformed Youth Ministries) trip is for students who will be in 9th-12th grade during the 2026-27 school year and our 2026 High School graduates. This conference is held at Laguna Beach Christian Retreat Center in Panama City Beach, FL. For more information about RYM, check out their website. Registration is first come first serve. The trip cost is \$525 with a \$125 deposit due upon registration. See QR code to register.

RYM Financial Aid Information

We do not want the cost of these RYM trips to keep anyone from being able to participate. We have some money budgeted to go toward financial aid for those who need it. An application process for this is wise and necessary, and a link to the application (along with more information) is on each of the registration pages. This application inquires about need, interest, and current involvement with Redeemer.

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 on Wednesday nights. We have a blast and would love to see you there! See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information.

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

MISSIONS MONTH 2026



A month focused on living on mission in our neighborhoods, our city, and among the nations

KEY EVENTS & DATES

FEB 28

Reaching Our
Neighborhood Luncheon

MARCH
1-29

Mission Moments
(Sundays)

MARCH
22

Mission Month Dinner

MARCH
28

Ministering to the
Poor Luncheon

GUEST SPEAKERS:



Rev. Thabiti Anyabwile

Dr. Karen Ellis



Rev. Joshua Tsavatewa

All events and meals are free!

Childcare available
for Mar 22 and Mar 29
(register two weeks prior for childcare)

Register early and join us during Missions Month!



Spring Adult Sunday School

9:45-10:35am

Spring Adult Sunday School Block 1
began Feb 8 and concludes Mar 29.

Jackson Apologetics: Clear Answers for Complex Questions

Teachers: Jerome Douglas, Karen Ellis, Esther Abraham

Location: Room 109

Want to grow in defending the faith? Join us as we engage the beliefs shaping our city and everyday conversations. We will explore sexuality, Christian nationalism, Islam, Jehovah's Witness, Hebrew Israelism, and deconstruction - drawing from Eric Mason's Urban Apologetics. Come grow in clarity and confidence as we learn to give Gospel answers with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).

The Song of Songs

Teacher: Miles Van Pelt

Location: Sanctuary

The Song of Songs is perhaps the most neglected and misunderstood book in the Christian Bible, but we need to hear its message more than ever in our current cultural moment. The Song upholds the beauty of the marriage covenant as instituted by God in Genesis 2, while helping us to navigate the hardships, temptations, and brokenness of the post-fall Genesis 3 world we now inhabit. In this class, we will consider the topic of marriage and marital intimacy from the larger context of the Bible through the lens of Solomon's most famous song, the Song of Songs.

Christian Growth: the Fruit of the Spirit

Teachers: Zack Owens, Bentley Crawford, Andy Sauerwein

Location: Fellowship Hall

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). In scripture, a healthy life with God is often described in biological terms - whether as physical growth or botanical growth (a living faith is not truly living if it doesn't exhibit the characteristics of life: movement, breathing, and growth.)

In this class, we will explore each of the Fruit of the Spirit as a window into a biblical understanding of how and why we grow as Christians, exploring not only personal sanctification but also Intimacy (giving and receiving love), Identity (Connecting to others even through conflict), Imperfection (Dealing with sin and failure in ourselves and others), and Impulse Control (Holy Spirit empowered ability to feel and think instead of react).

Spring Adult Sunday School
9:45-10:35am
Spring Children & Youth Sunday School
began Feb 8 and concludes May 31.

Youth (6th-12th): Truths That You Can Trust

High School Teachers: Chael Williams, Stephanie Greer, Rob Vickery,
Mary Katherine Evans, Cadden Christie

Middle School Teachers: Chael Williams, Stephanie Greer,
Josh Anderson, Mary Katherine Evans, Lane Morgan

Location: Youth Room

In a world that is constantly shifting and information that is always changing, it is important that we "build our houses on the rock." This spring Redeemer Youth will be studying truths you can trust to remind us of the unchanging truth of God's Word. Using Paul David Tripp's *12 Truths Every Teen can Trust* as a resource, we will be learning together about core doctrines of the Christian faith serve as a firm foundation for living the Christian Life.

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

This spring, RedeemerKids is continuing through "Investigating God's Word."

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

5th: Room 204

Teachers:

Haley Arndt, Tyler Espinoza,
Jake Garner

Nursery (2-3):

Exploring God's Word Through the New Testament

This spring, our Nursery Sunday School classes will be looking at God's Son. Our focus will be on exploring the New Testament as we study the birth and early years of Jesus. Each lesson is designed to help children discover and understand these foundational stories from Scripture. In every lesson, the children are continually directed to Jesus and encouraged to recognize their need for Him.

THIS WEEK

Deacon on Call Week of Feb 15

Ellis Tucker, 601.826.7745

Sunday, Feb 15

8:00am Worship Service
8:00am Livestream Available
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service
5:30pm Rooted

Monday, Feb 16

6:00pm GriefShare

Tuesday, Feb 17

7:00am Women's Bible Study
7:00pm Choir Practice
7:30pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, Feb 18

9:00am Mom's Bible Study
6:00pm Upside Down
6:00pm Crossroads
6:00pm Women's Bible Study
6:00pm Faith & Finances via
Hope Exchange
6:00pm *The Soul of Shame* Book
Discussion

Thursday, Feb 19

12:00pm Women's Bible Study
6:30pm RCA ArtShare

Friday, Feb 20

Saturday, Feb 21

8:30am Men's Basketball

Sunday, Feb 22

8:00am Worship Service
8:00am Livestream Available
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service
5:30pm Rooted

STAFF

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor
Brian Gault, Asst Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship
Zack Owens, Asst Pastor of Congregational Care
Jerome Douglas, Dir Neighborhood Outreach & Missions
Jajuan McNeil, Director of Children's Ministry
Joya McNeil, Children's Ministry Assistant
Chael Williams, Interim Youth Director
Stephanie Greer, Assistant Youth Director
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
Brandon Slay, Director of AV Ministries
Andre Warner, Audio/Visual Assistant
Josh Anderson, Intern
Joshua Coleman, Intern
Markese Lee, 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.
Marculis 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
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
Johnston Walker
Tamarco White

*Sabbatical

COMING UP:

Feb 25: Talking to Your Kids About Sex:
A Biblical Approach

Feb 28: Reaching Our Neighbors Luncheon

Mar 1: Missions Month Begins with Guest Speaker
Thabiti Anyabwile

Mar 1: High School Skate Night

Mar 4: Session & Diaconate Meetings

Mar 22: Developing a Heart for God's Mission
Dinner



redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday