



## REDEEMER CHURCH

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—February 8, 2026  
“Trials are Certain, Survivable, and Sanctifying”  
——James 1:2-12

### Reflection Quote

“The difficulties of life are intended by God to refine our faith: heating it in the crucible of suffering so that impurities might be refined away and so that it might become pure and valuable before the Lord. The “testing of faith” here, then, is not intended to determine whether a person has faith or not; it is intended to purify faith that already exists.”

—Douglas J. Moo

### Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

### Introit

“Hallelujah, Salvation and Glory”

Hallelujah, salvation, and glory,  
honor, and power unto the Lord our God.

For the Lord our God is mighty, the Lord our God is omnipotent,  
The Lord our God, He is wonderful.

All praises be to the King of Kings,  
and the Lord our God, He is wonderful!

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, He is wonderful!

Hallelujah, salvation, and glory,  
honor and power, unto the Lord our God.

For the Lord our God is mighty, the Lord our God is omnipotent,  
The Lord our God, He is wonderful.

### \* Call to Worship

1 Peter 1:3-9

Rev. Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

RUF Campus Minister at Jackson State University

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. Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

### Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 1:7

Rev. Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace...

## \* Song of Preparation

*"I Call You Faithful"*

I call You Holy, Your name is Holy, You are so Holy to me.

I call you Holy, Your name is Holy, Holy You are and Holy You'll be.

I call You righteous, Your name is Righteous, You are so Righteous to me.

I call you Righteous, Your name is Righteous, Righteous You are and Righteous You'll be.

I call you faithful, Your name is Faithful, You are so Faithful to me.

I call You Faithful, Your name is Faithful, Faithful You are and Faithful You'll be.

I call You Awesome, Your name is Awesome, You are so Awesome to me.

I call you Awesome, Your name is Awesome, Awesome You are and Awesome You'll be.

I call You Worthy, Your name is Worthy, You are so Worthy to me.

I call You Worthy, Your name is Worthy, Worthy You are and Worthy You'll be.

## \* Song of Praise

*"It Is Well"*

When peace like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows rolls;  
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 hath 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*

O Lord, haste the day when my 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*

## Confession of Faith

## Heidelberg Catechism

Rev. Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

### Question 1: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**Answer:** That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

### Question 26: What do you believe when you say: I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

**Answer:** That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and all that is in them, and who still upholds and governs them by his eternal counsel and providence, is, for the sake of Christ his Son, my God and my Father. In him I trust so completely as to have no doubt that he will provide me with all things necessary for body and soul, and will also turn to my good whatever adversity he sends me in this life of sorrow. He is able to do so as almighty God, and willing also as a faithful Father.

**Pastoral Prayer**

Mr. CL Pearce  
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**

"Excellent is Your Name"

Redeemer Choir

Oh Lord our God, how excellent, is Your name.  
We bow at your feet, for we reverence Your holy name.  
Angels bow before You,  
heaven and earth adore You,  
oh Lord our God, how excellent, is Your name. Repeat X2

Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Oh Lord our God, how excellent, Holy, Holy.  
Angels bow before You, Holy, Holy,  
angels bow before You.

Heaven and earth adore You,  
oh Lord our God, how excellent. Repeat as directed.

Angels bow before you,  
heaven and earth adore you. Repeat as directed

Oh Lord our God, how excellent, is Your name.

**Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Sermon Text**

James 1:2-12

Pew Bible p. 1199

**Sermon Title**

"Trials are Certain, Survivable, and Sanctifying"

**\* Song of Response**

"One Thing Remains"

Higher than the mountains that I face,  
stronger than the power of the grave,  
constant through the trial and the change,  
one thing remains.

Chorus: Your love never fails,  
it never gives up,  
it never runs out on me. X3

On and on and on and on it goes,  
it overwhelms and satisfies my soul,  
and I never ever have to be afraid,  
one thing remains. Chorus

\* **Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

\* **Departing Song**

"One Thing Remains"

In death, in life,  
I'm confident and covered by the power of your great love.  
My debt is paid, there's nothing that can separate my heart  
from your great love.  
Your love never fails,  
it never gives up,  
it never runs out on me. x3  
Your love, Your love, never fails.

**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 #2579870)**

## SERMON QUESTIONS

1. James says we will “meet” trials, they’re inevitable. How does viewing trials as certain (rather than surprising or abnormal) change the way you respond when they arrive?
2. The sermon highlighted that both lack and prosperity can be spiritually dangerous. Which kind of trial tends to test your faith more: absence (loss) or abundance (blessing)? Why?
3. How would you define a trial? Do you agree with the following working definition, would you revise it? “A trial is any God-permitted circumstance—painful or pleasant—that tests our faith, obedience, and loves, often exposing what is real.”
4. Have you ever faced a trial so intense it felt unsurvivable? James says trials are in fact survivable—by God’s grace. The sermon unpacked four habits we should master during trials. Do you remember them?
  - a. We must know.
  - b. We must ask.
  - c. We must look to Jesus.
  - d. We can then count it all joy.
5. What are ways you can work these habits into your own life?
6. James promises that trials faced God’s way will produce maturity and steadfastness. Can you think of examples in other spheres of life where heat, pain, or resistance leads to purification, healing, or strength? How does this help us understand the impact of trials on our faith?
7. Who are people you consider truly godly (in your life, or from history)? What do you think God used to form them? How have trials played a role in their growth?
8. Where did this sermon deepen your appreciation for the gospel? Where were you moved toward gratitude for what Christ has done, and how does that shape your life right now?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

[redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://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](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for updates and Take Them a Meal.

### \*\*\* CALLED TO CONNECT \*\*\*

#### Join GriefShare

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 currently meets at the second Redeemer Office, 644 Wellington Rd behind the church, *Monday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm*, from Jan 26 – Apr 20. To join the group or get more info, reach out to Quita Sauerwein at [quitasauerwein@gmail.com](mailto:quitasauerwein@gmail.com) to get connected.

#### RYA Chili Potluck and Forgiveness Panel, Feb 12

Kick off of spring with delicious chili potluck followed by a practical panel on forgiveness—equipping young adults to extend and receive it biblically, breaking hurt cycles, promoting church unity, and reflecting God's healing grace that frees us from resentment (Ephesians 4:32). Join us at the Gault's home (address in RYA GroupMe) from 6:30-8:00pm and bring your best chili to share! See QR code to join the RYA GroupMe.

#### 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](mailto: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 to sign up.

### \*\*\* 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](mailto:jenremington2@gmail.com) to get involved, and please be praying for these families!

#### **Join the Coffee Ministry Team**

Caffeination is brewing up joy every Sunday at Redeemer, and we need a few more hands on deck. If you love Java, people, and serving others, this is your cup of tea—or coffee. No barista skills required. See QR code to join the GroupMe for more info and to get on the rotation.

#### **Community Garden Workday, Feb 14**

Join Hope Exchange as we care for the veggies, vines, and fruit trees in the Art + Soil Community Garden. The garden is a space for community and collaboration, for creation care and soul care, and for learning and networking. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just want to put your hands in the dirt and learn, join us at 9:00am for our next spring workday at the garden, located at the corner of Robinhood and Londonderry. Questions or ideas? Contact Sylvia Leggette at [artandsoilgarden@gmail.com](mailto:artandsoilgarden@gmail.com).

### \*\*\* 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.

#### **Jacques Jenkins Steps Down**

Jacques Jenkins, our drummer since 2017, will be stepping down on Feb 22. Jacques skill, dedication, and joy in using his gifts will be deeply missed. We wish God's richest blessings upon his life. We'll be seeking out someone new to fill this role in our music ministry. This is a paid position that includes both Sunday services and Tuesday evening rehearsals. If you're interested or know someone who is, please reach out to Coralie Keplinger at [ckeplinger@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:ckeplinger@redeemerjackson.com).

#### **Weekly Programming Pauses—Spring Break**

Our regularly Wed programming will be paused on 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.

## \*\*\* **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. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://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**

### **Registration NOW OPEN for Middle & High School RYM Conferences**

RYM is a Summer Conference with churches from around the country, July 3-7 (high school) and June 22-26 (middle school). We will get to spend time in God's Word, hang out with friends, and play games. To register or find more information, see the QR code. Registration is first come first serve.

### **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. Cost: \$10 (pay when you get there! and 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.

### **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](http://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](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information.

## **Spring Adult Sunday School**

**9:45-10:35am**

**Spring Adult Sunday School Block 1  
begins today, 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 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  
begins today, 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 Everrit, 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, Liz Callen, Tyler Espinoza

### 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 8

Jeremy Smith, 601.278.2260

### Sunday, Feb 8

- 8:00am Worship Service
- 8:00am Livestream Available
- 9:45am Spring Sunday School Block 1 Begins
- 11:00am Worship Service
- 5:30pm Rooted

### Monday, Feb 9

### Tuesday, Feb 10

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

### Wednesday, Feb 11

- 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 12

- 12:00pm Women's Bible Study
- 6:30pm RYA Chili Potluck & Forgiveness Panel

### Friday, Feb 13

### Saturday, Feb 14

- 8:30am Men's Basketball
- 9:00am Community Garden Workday

### Sunday, Feb 15

- 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](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday)