



REDEEMER CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—April 12, 2026

“Taming These Twisted Tongues of Ours!”

James 3:1-12

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Ministry Moment

Redeemer Engaging Disabilities (RED)

Ms. Sarah Barrow

Introit

“Holy One”

He is the King of Kings. Oh—He is the Lord of Lords.

He's the Great I am, He's the Holy One. *Repeat*

He is the Prince of Peace. Oh—He is the Lord of Lords.

He's the Great I am, He's the Holy One. *Repeat*

Bridge: He's the Holy One, He's the Holy One. *Repeat*

He's the Great I am.

He's the Holy One.

He is the King of Kings.

Oh—He is the Lord of Lords. He's the Great I am. *Repeat as directed*

Holy One, Holy One, Holy One, Holy One. *Repeat*

*** Call to Worship**

Psalm 119:169-176

Rev. Zack Owens

Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care

Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word! Let my plea come before you; deliver me according to your word. My lips will pour forth praise, for you teach me your statutes. My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right. Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts. I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight. Let my soul live and praise you, and let your rules help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

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**

“Grace Like Rain”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
was blind but now I see, so clearly!

Chorus: Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me,
Hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, they're washed away.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. *Chorus*

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing Your praise than when we first begun. *Chorus*

* **Song of Praise**

“Before the Throne of God Above”

Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is “Love,” Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart, no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the Just, is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,
to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God.

Confession of Faith *Westminster Larger Catechism in Modern English* Rev. Zack Owens

Q. 143 What is the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment is, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Q. 144 What are the duties required in the ninth commandment?

A. The duties required in the ninth commandment are the following:

- preserving and promoting truth between one person and another;
- upholding the good name of our neighbor as much as our own;
- appearing and standing for the truth, from the heart, sincerely, freely, clearly, and fully;
- speaking the truth, and only the truth, in matters of judgment and justice and in all other things;
- a charitable esteem of our neighbors, loving, desiring, and rejoicing in their good name and sorrowing for and covering their infirmities, freely acknowledging their gifts and graces, defending their innocence, readily receiving a good report, and unwillingly admitting an evil report concerning them;
- discouraging tale-bearers, flatterers, and slanderers;
- love and care of our own good name and defending it when need requires;
- keeping lawful promises;
- pursuing and practicing of whatever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report.

Q. 145 What are the sins forbidden in the ninth commandment?

A. The sins forbidden in the ninth commandment are the following:

- anything that puts at risk the truth, or the good name of our neighbors as much as our own, especially in a public trial;
- giving false evidence, encouraging false witnesses, or knowingly appearing and pleading for an evil cause;
- defying or facing down the truth;
- passing unjust sentences, calling evil good or calling good evil, or rewarding the wicked according to the work of the righteous or the righteous according to the work of the wicked;
- forgery;
- speaking the truth at inappropriate times or maliciously for an evil purpose;
- perverting the truth to a wrong meaning or in vague and equivocal expressions, to the risk of truth or justice;
- speaking untruth, lying, slandering, backbiting, detracting, tale bearing, whispering, scoffing, and reviling;
- rash, harsh, or partial censuring;
- misconstruing intentions, words, and actions;
- flattering or egotistical boasting;
- thinking or speaking too highly or too little of ourselves or others;
- denying the gifts and graces of God;
- treating small faults as large;
- hiding, excusing, or downplaying sins when called to a free confession;
- unnecessary uncovering of the infirmities of others;
- raising false rumors;
- receiving and giving credit to evil reports, and refusing to listen to a legitimate defense;
- evil suspicions;
- envying or grieving at the deserved credit of anyone, endeavoring or desiring to impair their deserved credit or rejoicing in their disgrace and infamy;
- scornful contempt or fawning admiration of others;
- breaking lawful promises;
- neglecting such things as are of good report of others;
- and practicing, not avoiding in ourselves, or not hindering in others when we can, things that lead to a bad name.

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. Baskin Jones
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 Give Myself Away"

Redeemer Choir

*Chorus: I give myself away, I give myself away.
So You can use me, I give myself away, I give myself away.*

*Here I am, here I stand. Lord, my life is in your hands.
Lord, I'm longing to see Your desires revealed in me. Chorus*

*Take my heart, take my life, as a living sacrifice.
All my dreams, all my plans, Lord I place them in your hands. Chorus*

*My life is not my own, to You I belong.
I give myself, I give myself to You. Chorus*

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Sermon Text

James 3:1-12
Pew Bible p. 1200

Sermon Title

Taming These Twisted Tongues of Ours!

*** Song of Faith**

"Search Me, O God"

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
cleanse me from ev'ry sin, and set me free.

I praise thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;
fulfill thy word, and make me pure within.
Fill me with fire, where once I burned with shame;
grant me desire to magnify thy name.

***Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*** Departing Song**

"Search Me, O God"

Lord, take my life, and make it wholly thine:
fill all my heart with thy great love divine.
Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride;
I now surrender; Lord, in me abide.

Prayer Intercessor Team

Mr. Jeremy Smith & Mrs. Alli Smith (8:00am)
Dr. Andy Sauerwein & Mrs. Quita Sauerwein (11:00am)

***Please Stand.**
(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #2579870)

SERMON POINTS

1. The Tongue is Capable of Hellish Destruction
2. The Tongue is Capable of Heavenly Good
3. The Tongue is Tamable only by God

SERMON QUESTIONS

1. **Open Reflection**—In your own words, what stood out to you when the passage was read?
2. **Enjoying God**—What particular aspect of the sermon helped you to enjoy God (Father, Son, and Spirit) more deeply?
3. What aspect of the gospel stood out to you in the sermon?
4. How would you summarize this sermon to another believer?
5. How was your understanding of the passage sharpened, clarified, or changed as you heard the word preached?
6. What are practical action steps that you can take this week as we consider how to apply this to our lives?
7. Where do you see struggles and/or victories in your life over doctrine and practice from today's passage and sermon?

SERMON NOTES

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—April 12, 2026

“Taming These Twisted Tongues of Ours!”

James 3:1-12

SERMON NOTES

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—April 12, 2026

“Taming These Twisted Tongues of Ours!”

James 3:1-12

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 ***

- Eva Jones: As she grieves the loss of her mother.
- Finn Roberson & Family: As Finn undergoes CT scans and surgery to remove a mass near his temporal bone, Cholesteatoma.
- Grace Marsh: In the hospital with health complications.
- Skipper & Sally Ann Jones: As Skipper struggles with complications in healing from a broken foot.
- 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.

*** SEEKING TO SERVE ***

High School Senior Sendoff Letters, Due Apr 20

Each year, Redeemer Youth collects letters of encouragement, prayer, and wisdom from our church to present in a booklet to our graduating High School seniors. This is a memorable gift to offer them as they prepare to enter a new season of life. Would you consider writing a short letter "to the class of 2026" to be included in their books this year? Please email your letter to Stephanie Greer at sgreer@redeemerjackson.com by **Apr 20**.

Community Garden Workday, Apr 22, 5:30-7:00pm

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 in the garden located at the corner of Robinhood and Londonderry. Questions or ideas? Contact Sylvia Leggette at artandsoilgarden@gmail.com.

Team Redeemer at the CPC Life Walk, Apr 25, 9:00-10:30am

Come out to TrustMark Park in Pearl as Team Redeemer supports the Center for Pregnancy Choices. You can participate by walking, volunteering, or supporting the cause—no experience is needed, and all ages are welcome. If you'd like to join, sign up through the QR code using the Team Redeemer (Al & Tamiko Arnold, Captains) fundraising page. Since many of our women will be away at a retreat, we are especially encouraging men to step in—we need 10 male walkers to each raise \$250 to help reach our \$2,500 church goal.

*** NEWS TO NOTE ***

Officers on Sabbatical

On Apr 6, the Session approved Sabbatical for two Deacons: Blaise King and Davidson Forrester.

Blaise King has served as a Growth Group Leader and, for the last three years, as the Chair of the Diaconate. Blaise's calm demeanor, strategic thinking, love for his Savior, and heart for people have provided wise leadership in the Diaconate and served Redeemer well. Please pray for a season of joy and strength for Blaise.



Davidson has served as the Co-Chair of the Property Committee, on the TRS School Board, and as a leader in the building plans and Chastain project. Davidson's heart for service, attention to detail, discipline and endurance, and love for Christ's church have helped Redeemer navigate the many plans surrounding the McCay gift with tireless wisdom and excellence over the last nine years. Please pray for rest and refreshment for Davidson this season.



New Deacon Chair and Vice Chair

Jeremy Smith (Chair) and Seth Shannon (Vice Chair) have been elected and installed as new leadership for the Diaconate. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and excited to see what the Lord will do in this next chapter.

Covering Online Transaction Fees through Breeze

Did you know there's now an easy way to cover transactions fees when giving online? When giving through Breeze, simply check the box to "**cover the processing fee.**" Additionally, giving by ACH (bank transfer) has lower fees than credit cards, so choosing ACH minimizes associated fees. If it's an option for you, we'd love for you to consider it! Thank you for your generosity.

Redeemer Explored Begins Today, Apr 12

If you are interested in knowing more about Redeemer or joining the church, Redeemer Explored is a Sunday School class that explores who we are and what we believe. Pastor Elbert leads this class during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:35am), for 7 weeks from Apr 12—May 31. At the end of the class, there will be the opportunity to interview with an Elder for membership. Email Brian Gault at bgault@redeemerjackson.com for more info or to hold your seat in the class.

Giving Update through February 2026

Our budget year runs from July—June.

Thank you for your generous giving!

General Fund

Total Budget: \$2,143,590

Year-to-Date-Budget: \$1,429,060

Year-to-Date-Giving: \$1,550,948

Feb Budget: \$178,632

Feb Giving: \$146,652

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

Children's Church, Apr 19

Children ages 4-5 join us as we study Covenant Theology this spring. 8:00am service only, for ages 4-5.

Communicants Class Begins Today, Apr 12

Communicants class for kids in 3rd-8th grade. This is a six week Sunday School where participants explain core Christian beliefs and are given the opportunity to give a credible confession of faith to the elders. There are 6 classes in the course and you'll need to complete a minimum of three of the classes in order to sit for an elder interview. Contact Jajuan McNeil at mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com with questions, register through the QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday.

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.

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

Senior Night, Apr 26, 5:30-7:00pm

Youth students, it's time to wrap up our Spring semester by celebrating our graduating Seniors! At Senior Night, we'll get to hear memories from our graduates' time in youth group and what they plan to do next. We will also enjoy dinner together, potluck style! Scan the QR code to let us know what food you can bring.

Crossroads, 6:00-7:30pm

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 on Wednesday nights in the Youth room. We have a blast and would love to see you there!

Rooted, 5:30-7:00pm

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 upstairs. See you there!

Upcoming Spring Adult Sunday School: Block 2 begins Apr 12 and concludes May 31.

Redeemer Explored

Teachers: Elbert McGowan, Jr., Barry McCay

Location: Room 109

Would you like to know more about Redeemer Church? Are you interested in becoming a member? If so, you need to take this class. Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr., along with the elders, will teach this 7-week introductory course on the ins and outs of Redeemer Church and how you can get involved.

If you are ready to join Redeemer or have further questions, you will have the opportunity to meet with an elder at the end of the class.

Generous Justice

Teachers: Brian Gault, Grant Callen

Location: Fellowship Hall

This seven-week Sunday School class explores the core themes of Tim Keller's *Generous Justice* and how they shape a lived, biblical vision of mercy, righteousness, and neighbor-love. Together we will examine the Scripture's call to *mishpat* (justice) and *tzadeqah* (righteousness) in daily life, learning how God's grace motivates compassion rather than guilt or duty.

Each week connects Keller's insights to practical areas such as caring for the poor, addressing social and racial inequities, cultivating cross-cultural relationships, and integrating personal responsibility with concern for systems that harm the vulnerable. Participants will engage in discussion, reflection, and real-life application, discovering how the gospel empowers believers to seek restoration in their communities and embody God's heart for justice with humility, wisdom, and generosity.

Covenant Theology

Teachers: Josh Anderson, Joshua Coleman,

Jonny Parker, Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

Location: Sanctuary

This class will explore the riches of covenant theology and how it shapes the way Reformed Christians read the Bible. Scripture repeatedly reveals God's covenant promise: "I will be your God, and you will be my people" (Ex 6:7).

Over seven weeks, we will trace this theme through the major covenants of the Bible using insights from J. V. Fesko's book *Signed, Sealed, Delivered*. The series will introduce the foundations of covenant theology and examine the covenant of redemption, the covenant of works, and God's covenant of grace in both the Old and New Covenants. We will also consider covenant signs and the relationship between covenant and the church. Our prayer is that this class will help participants see more clearly the beauty of Scripture and the richness of God's relationship with His people.

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 Everrit, KK Harrington,
Rebecca Walker

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.



Voices

OF THE

People

A NIGHT OF DANCE,
SPOKEN WORD, AND SONG

April 17 • 6:30pm
Redeemer Church Fellowship Hall

Join the Ensemble! If you have an instrumental work, poem, or dance piece you would like to perform, contact us! We can even help provide musicians for your piece.

TO SIGN UP, EMAIL:
Peter Davis, peterdart@live.com

All ages welcome • Refreshments Provided

RCFA+
REDEEMER COMMUNITY ARTS

REDEEMER CHURCH



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Spring Retreat

• FREEDOM IN CHRIST •

Apr 24-25

BEGINNING FRIDAY AT 5:00PM
AT TWIN LAKES



PORTIA COLLINS

We'd love for you to join the women of Redeemer for a retreat at Twin Lakes! We'll have two sessions with our speaker, Portia Collins, as she guides us through our freedom in Christ in Galatians. After the sessions, we'll further connect and pray in small groups. On Saturday afternoon, we'll offer two optional activities including Double Dutch or craft time. Plus, you can always sit and chat on the porch or explore the walking trails. We're hoping that we will grow closer to God, strengthen our desire to seek Him, and deepen the connection with women in our church. Hope to see you there!

Contact: kdrake@redeemerjackson.com

Registration closes on Apr 15.



THIS WEEK

Deacon on Call Week of Apr 12

Dave Garner, 769.428.7405

Sunday, Apr 12

- 8:00am Worship Service
- 8:00am Livestream Available
- 9:45am Adult Sunday School
Block 2 Begins
- 11:00am Worship Service
- 5:30pm Rooted

Monday, Apr 13

- 12:00pm Men's Gathering
- 6:00pm GriefShare

Tuesday, Apr 14

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

Wednesday, Apr 15

- 9:00am Mom's Bible Study
- 5:30pm Families Count Class
- 6:00pm Upside Down
- 6:00pm Crossroads
- 6:00pm Women's Bible Study
- 6:00pm Faith & Finances
- 6:00pm *The Soul of Shame*
Book Discussion

Thursday, Apr 16

- 12:00pm Women's Bible Study

Friday, Apr 17

Saturday, Apr 18

- 8:30am Men's Basketball

Sunday, Apr 19

- 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
Coralie 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:

Apr 24-25: Women's Spring Retreat
May 4: Session & Diaconate Meetings
May 9: Community Garden Workday
May 20: Community Garden Workday
May 28-30: Kids With a Mission
June 1: Session & Diaconate Meetings
June 13: Community Garden Workday
June 15-18: Vacation Bible School
June 22-26: Middle School RYM



redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday