



**REDEEMER CHURCH**

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—May 3, 2026

*“Grace That Diagnoses and Heals”*

*James 3:13-4:12*

## Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

### \* Call to Worship

*Hosea 6:1-3*

Rev. Brian Gault

Assistant Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship

“Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”

### Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Rev. Brian Gault

### Assurance of Pardon

*Micah 7:18-19*

Rev. Brian Gault

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

### \* Song of Preparation

*“Oh Happy Day”*

**Leader:** *O happy day*

**Response:** *O happy day*

**Leader:** *O happy day*

**Response:** *O happy day*

**Leader:** *When Jesus washed*

**Response:** *When Jesus washed*

**Leader:** *When Jesus washed*

**Response:** *When Jesus washed*

**Leader:** *O when He washed*

**Response:** *O when He washed*

**Leader:** *He washed my sins away*

**Response:** *O happy day*

**Leader:** *It was a happy day*

**Response:** *O happy day*

**All:** *He taught me how—to watch—fight and pray—fight and pray  
And live rejoicing every day—every day*

### \* Song of Praise

*“We’ll Understand It Better By & By”*

*We are often tossed and driv’n on the restless sea of time,  
somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine.*

*In that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled  
away, we will understand it better by and by*

**Refrain:** *By and by, when the morning comes,  
when the saints of God are gathered home,  
we will tell the story how we’ve overcome;  
for we’ll understand it better by and by*

*We are often destitute of the things that life demands,  
want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills and barren lands.*

*We are trusting in the Lord, and according to His  
word, we will understand it better by and by. Refrain*

*Trials dark on ev'ry hand, and we cannot understand  
all the ways that God would lead us to that blessed Promised Land;  
but He guides us with His eye and we'll follow till we die.  
For we'll understand it better by and by. **Refrain***

*Temptations, hidden snares often take us unawares,  
and our hearts are made to bleed for many a thoughtless word or deed,  
and we wonder why the test when we try to do our best,  
but we'll understand it better by and by. **Refrain***

**Confession of Faith**

*The Apostles Creed*

Rev. Brian Gault

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hades. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Pastoral Prayer**

Mr. Herb Sanders  
Ruling Elder

**Worship in Giving**

Mr. Herb Sanders

*\*\*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.

**\* Congregational Song**

*"In Christ Alone"*

*In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.*

*What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Till on the cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.  
For every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then, bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;  
'Till He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!*

**Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Sermon Text**

James 3:13-4:12  
Pew Bible p. 1201

**Sermon Title**

*"Grace That Diagnoses and Heals"*

**\* Hymn of Faith**

*"Your Mercy is More"*

*What love could remember no wrongs we have done?*

*Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum,  
thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

**Chorus:** *Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn,  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.*

*What patience would wait as we constantly roam?*

*What Father, so tender, is calling us home,  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more. **Chorus***

**Communion**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr., and the Elders

**Communion Music**

*"There is a Fountain Filled with Blood"*

**\* Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**\* Departing Song**

*"Your Mercy is More"*

*What riches of kindness He lavished on us,  
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost,  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more! **Chorus***

**Prayer Intercessor Team**

Mr. Herb Sanders & Kelly Berkompas (8:00am)  
Mr. Ellis Tucker & Mrs. Shirley Tucker (11:00am)

**\*Please Stand.**

**(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #2579870)**

## SERMON POINTS

1. The symptoms of unhealth
2. The sources of unhealth
3. The cure for unhealth

## SERMON QUESTIONS

1. While James is addressing unhealth, other epistles exhort acknowledgment of what is healthy. Why is it important to hold both of those realities at the same time when we think about our own church, and what goes wrong when we only see one?
2. James lists symptoms like bitter jealousy, selfish ambition, slander, quarreling, fighting, murder, and premature judgment. He also names a sin of omission—staying silent when others gossip and slander, rather than stepping up as a peace-maker. Which of these symptoms do you find easiest to recognize in others, and which is hardest to recognize in yourself?
3. James traces the sickness to three sources working together—our passions within, friendship with the world, and the devil. Which of these three do you tend to take most seriously, and which do you tend to underestimate? How does naming all three together change the way you think about conflict in the church?
4. The hinge of the sermon (and this entire letter) is 4:6, "But He gives more grace." Where in the message did the weight of "more grace" land most heavily on you? What sin or pattern in your own life did you most need to hear "God gives more grace" over?
5. The sermon described God as a perfectly jealous lover who pursues us when we wander, and the Spirit in us as a homing pigeon who knows where home is and pulls us back, no matter how far we've drifted. When have you felt God pursuing you, or felt the Spirit pulling you home? What does it do to your heart to know that even now, the Father is yearning toward you and the Spirit in you is yearning toward Him?
6. The sermon described a beautiful exchange! On the cross, rather than God publicly exposing every evil word and sordid thought, He quietly imputed it all to His Son. How does that picture of Christ's silence and willingness to bear our sin shape the way you want to live, speak, and respond to others this week?
7. The sermon ended with 3:17, where wisdom from above is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy, impartial, and sincere. If grace truly diagnosed and healed the pockets of unhealth among us, and we walked in this wisdom together, what might our church look like? What might change in how we speak, how we handle conflict, and how we treat one another?

## **SERMON NOTES**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—May 3, 2026

*“Grace That Diagnoses and Heals”*

*James 3:13-4:12*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

[redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://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 \*\*\*

- Xander Ellison, son of Caleb & Sarah Ellison: As he recovers from a tonsillectomy.
- 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](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for updates and Take Them a Meal.

### 2026 Graduates

- **High School:** Gracie Blanks, Daniel Carter, Analise Franklin, Emma Fults, Gate Gregory, Jetson Hollingsworth, Linus Howell, Satomi Mills, Lydia Moller, Murray Rankin, Cade Slay, Ezra Splaingard, Nati Stackler, Carley Thompson, Barham Whitehead
- **Professional School:** Emily De Lashmet, Maria Miller

### \*\*\* SEEKING TO SERVE \*\*\*

#### Help Lead Summer Children's Church, 1st & 3rd Sundays

In order for us to have children's church during the summer months, we will need at least 6 leaders to serve twice from June - Aug during the 8:00am service. If you would like to serve as a teacher or teacher assistant for children's church, please contact Jajuan McNeil at [mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com)

#### Summer Sunday School with RedeemerKids

During the summers, RedeemerKids shift from their usual curriculum and study the New City Catechism during the Sunday school hour. We need more leaders to pitch in and help to lead the littlest of members starting in June. Would you consider serving during the summer? Reach out to Jajuan McNeil at [mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com)

#### Community Garden Workday, May 9, 9:00am-12:00pm

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](mailto:artandsoilgarden@gmail.com).

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

#### Church-Wide Fellowship Brunch, Chael Williams Introduction, May 3

Join us TODAY for our monthly congregation wide brunch during the Sunday School hour on May 3! We'll enjoy food and fellowship and have the opportunity to hear from our new Director of Youth Ministry, Chael Williams. 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, May 21, 6:30-8:00pm**

Join us for our art “open mic night.” It’s an opportunity for anyone engaged in creative activity to share in a friendly and relaxed environment. Play a song, share a poem, show a painting or drawing, or read a short story. Even if it’s in a rough draft form, come share what you’ve been working on. We’ll meet at the Berkompas home in Belhaven, contact Peter Davis at peterdart@live.com for the address. Light refreshments provided, and all ages welcome!

### **\*\*\* NEWS TO NOTE \*\*\***

## **Sabbatical for Brian Gault, May 31—July 31**

We are thankful to share that Brian Gault will take a sabbatical this summer, granted by the session as part of our church's ongoing commitment to care and flourishing. Sabbaticals are a regular practice based on biblical rhythms of rest from labor after several years of sustained ministry. They provide an intentional space for rejuvenation, rest, and renewal both for pastors and their families, caring for their long-term health and thriving within our church family.



Brian, Leigh, and their six girls joined Redeemer in 2017. Since his ordination in 2018, Brian has brought his passion for the word of God and the growth of God's people into the image of Christ to his role as the Assistant Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship. Brian's intrinsic curiosity, passion for purposeful questions, delight in attuning to the spiritual needs of the flock, skill in creating elegant systems, winsomeness, and wisdom in instruction will be deeply missed this season.

During Brian's sabbatical, the rest of our pastoral staff will share his responsibilities, though the absence of his (in)famous dad jokes will certainly echo across the congregation. If you have any questions about what this season will look like, reach out to Brian and the pastoral staff. Join us in prayer that this season would be marked by deep Shalom for the Gaults.

## **Celebrating a Sweet Time at The Women's Ministry Retreat**

Last weekend, 65 Redeemer Women gathered together at Twin Lakes to spend intentional time growing through the teaching and study of God's word, and to bask in the beauty of creation and fellowship. A big thank you to Katie Drake, the Women's Ministry Leadership team, and all the volunteers who made such a lovely weekend possible.



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

**Children's Church, May 3**

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

**Kids With a Mission, May 29-30, 9:00am-1:00pm**

Kids With A Mission is a half day summer camp for rising fourth and fifth graders in our church community. We use our time to discover and sometimes rediscover the beauty in our city and to see how missionaries in our city are working to bring peace to different areas. Day one we'll take a tour of historic Jackson, and day two we'll spend some time serving at the former Chastain building. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) to sign up.



**Vacation Bible School, June 15-18, 5:30-7:30pm**

VBS is a once yearly intensive study for kids k4- 5th grade. We take the time to eat together, study God's word, sing God's word, memorize God's word and play. We will be studying Noah's Ark this year to understand the salvation of the Lord. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) to register.



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

**Redeemer Youth Alumni Catchup, May 13, 5:30-7:00pm**

Calling all Redeemer Youth alumni from the High School graduating classes of 2023 -2026! We'd love to see you at this gathering at the Belhaven Town Center. Come grab some food or ice cream and reconnect with others who are back in town!

**Middle School Summer Kickoff, June 3, 5:00-6:30pm**

Rising 6th-8th graders, come jump into summer at Defy Trampoline Park with your youth leaders and friends at our Middle School Summer Kickoff! Please RSVP in the Redeemer Youth GroupMe or Stephanie at [sgreer@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:sgreer@redeemerjackson.com) so we can get a headcount for this event.

**High School Summer Kickoff, June 7, 5:30-7:00pm**

Rising 9th-12th graders, come dive into summer with our summer kickoff pool party at the Arndt's home in Belhaven! Please RSVP in the GroupMe or to Stephanie at [sgreer@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:sgreer@redeemerjackson.com). We will share the address in the GroupMe closer to the event.

## Spring Adult Sunday School Block 2

9:45-10:35am

### ***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 Children & Youth Sunday School

## 9:45-10:35am

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

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

**Middle School Teachers:** Chael Williams, Stephanie Greer,  
Josh Anderson, Mary Kathryn 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.

## THIS WEEK

### Deacon on Call Week of May 3

Detrick Johnson, 601.672.7214

### Sunday, May 3

#### Communion Sunday

- 8:00am Worship Service
- 8:00am Livestream Available
- 9:45am Church-Wide Fellowship Brunch
- 11:00am Worship Service

### Monday, May 4

- 6:00pm Diaconate Meeting

### Tuesday, May 5

- 7:00pm Choir Practice

### Wednesday, May 6

### Thursday, May 7

### Friday, May 8

### Saturday, May 9

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

### Sunday, May 10

- 8:00am Worship Service
- 8:00am Livestream Available
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship Service

## 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, Director of Youth Ministry  
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  
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:

May 20: Community Garden Workday  
May 29-30: Kids With a Mission  
June 1: Session & Diaconate Meetings  
June 10: Summer Fellowship Potluck  
June 13: Community Garden Workday  
June 15-18: Vacation Bible School  
June 22-26: Middle School RYM  
July 3-7: High School RYM

