



THE HAPPENING

April 2017

April 2017 Minister's column by Rev. Craig Pinley



What's Happening

Events

Wed Night Studies
Dinner @ 6PM
Classes 6:30-7:45 PM

Open Gym Saturday Mornings
10AM–Noon

Chosen servers

April 2 Jorgensen
April 16 Schumm
April 30 Muller/Youth Group

What would it take for you to invite a friend to church? What kind of worship service would we offer for a more inviting experience? What would make Redeemer a friendly congregation to the average person who comes through our church doors? Those are questions that I've posed to our leadership recently and from those dialogues we'd like to host a **"Bring a Real Friend"** Sunday at our two worship services.

As I've mentioned in sermons over the past few months, there are certain evangelism strategies that may be effective in reaching people for Christ who may not have any church background or who've been burned by the church or might have doubts about God due to crisis or disillusionment with Christians themselves. But from all the research I'm gathering in my evangelism cohort I've attended since last fall, the simple invite of a friend to church can be as effective an evangelism method as any other. The question then becomes: Who do I invite?

Please consider this question. In fact, I'd like you to consider how to BLESS the process:

-B stands for Be in prayer about it...is the Holy Spirit bringing a person(s) to mind for you to invite to church?

-L stands for Listen...as you engage your world, what are you hearing in the conversations that might lead you to think that your friends or loved ones may be open to spiritual things?

-E stands for Eat...have a meal with someone, get to know them and their felt needs...the extended time may provide a chance to build more rapport.

-S stands for Serve...find a shared activity where a relationship can be furthered (help a friend rake leaves, shovel snow, etc.)

-S stands for Share...your story...how God has helped you in your life... how God first made himself known to you in a personal way...what God is teaching you.

All this to prepare you for our special emphasis worship service on April 30th.

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The Evangelical Covenant Church

Of course, Lent is upon us and with that in mind there are a variety of events to commemorate the season. Over Holy Week, we'll have a few opportunities to worship. On Wednesday the 12th, we'll offer an interactive option for our programming, a Passover Haggadah that will begin at 6:30 p.m. after we share in a meal at 6 p.m. It's kid-friendly, so our young families can have their children share in the event.

On Maundy Thursday (April 13th), we'll have our traditional 7 p.m. worship service. On Good Friday, we'll try to open up the church for extended hours and set up prayer stations to use throughout the day. In Hamilton, there's also a noon Good Friday offering (brochures with more information are in our church narthex). On Easter Sunday, we'll have worship services at 7:45, 9 and 11 a.m., with a breakfast at 8:45 a.m. At the 7:45 a.m. service, Amanda Wittmer will share about her experiences doing mission work in Thailand. Those wishing to be baptized may do so at our 11 a.m. service.

Other things going on this month include our April 1 Bunny Brunch and our church's annual Secret Sister women's event on April 6th. And, if all goes well, we'll also dedicate our new Gathering Grounds room (formerly known as our Fellowship Hall) between worship services on April 9th. Our local church softball season will also begin on April 17th (it's a Monday night league), so we're beginning to put rosters together. Thanks to Al Schumm and company for helping raise team fees with a sandwich sale on March 12th.

IN CHRIST,

Pastor Craig

President of the Congregation

Spring is here and the flowers are starting to bloom. The grass is growing fast and the daylight is getting longer too. Redeemer has many opportunities for you to become involved; adult and youth small group studies, women' and men's studies, Pilates and open gym on Saturday mornings and a softball league. Please consider joining in on these opportunities and getting to know more folks at Redeemer.

If you have any questions or concerns, input or suggestions please let me know as I want to make sure the line communication stays open.

In Christian love,

Sam



The Evangelical Covenant Church

Palm Sunday, April 9, will be the opening of the Gathering Grounds beginning at 9:15 a.m.

I will share the names of the members who worked on the room in the May issue of The Happening.

In this publication, I share some words that inspired me to work on this project. They are not my words, but express how many of the people who dedicated their time and talents on preparing this room feel about it. It is excerpts from the words of a minister, Donna Schaper

“The church coffee hour is not the afterthought of the worship service at all. Instead it is its reality test.

At the coffee hour we either extend the hospitality we proclaim or we withhold it. We either feel the grace we have acknowledged or we do not.

Many people judge a congregation by its coffee hour hospitality—especially newcomers. They can tell by the feel in the room whether they are welcome or not. Talk to a new member of any congregation and many will tell you that someone welcomed them during coffee. Scratch someone who doesn't come back after a first brave visit (all first visits anywhere are brave) and you will discover that no one spoke to them during coffee hour “... or during the greeting time during church.

“Many of us don't like coffee hour. We think it is all small talk, or cocktail party gab. It is only that way if we ourselves keep it that way. The conversation and its depth are up to us, not “them,” whoever “they” are. It is we who can make the conversation sparkle. It is we who can widen the circle and magnetize the crowd. What makes a coffee hour sing is you—having a great time, extending your joy to others, talking to them about them, learning the art of connection. We often say in Protestantism that our theology is the quality of our encounters, the art in our meetings. Let us make it so.

Ask questions of the newcomer: What brought you to us today? Do you have a place where you usually worship? And then listen. Ask follow-up questions and be interested in their replies. This is your way of saying “I heard you.”

Statistics show that the average newcomer or returnee comes back to worship six months after a major life change: cancer, death, divorce, or some sort of disappointment. Our job is not to find out what that crisis was on the first encounter, but to ready ourselves and the other person for that revelation.

It is not just newcomers who need welcome at coffee hour. Old timers do also. When our shyness glues us to one comfortable person for the entire hour, something is wrong. Circulate. Move. Make it a point to speak to other people. Really speak to them. Remember something about them: Isn't this the anniversary of John's death? How did your big meeting go this week? How is your mother doing?

Don't always think of yourself as the asker of questions. You may be the one who needs to tell someone about something important that happened to you. When you say something about yourself, it gives other people permission to do the same.

The goal of coffee hour is to embody the welcome Jesus gives us to his realm. Its goal is intimacy, ordinary intimacy. It is kitchen talk. Toni Morrison said, “Is it any wonder the most intimate conversations take place in the kitchen, anguish poured out to an aproned back or sputtered over a chopping board?” When Morrison said this, she meant coffee hour conversations. At their best, they are quick, deep, and self-revealing. They are our weekly chance to demonstrate the love of God incarnate to one another, and to all who walk through our doors.”

STUDIES @ REDEEMER

Sunday Morning

Children's Sunday School program is Dig In, from Group Publishing. Offered during both services each Sunday in the Children's wing.



Tuesday Night Groups

Men's Study — Men Under Construction, God @ Work — 2nd & 4th weeks—7:00 to 8:30 PM

Women's Beth Moore Study: The Patriarchs — 2nd & 4th weeks—7:00 to 8:30 PM

Wednesday Night

Family Studies Adult and Children

Dinner @ 6 PM— classes 6:30 - 7:45 PM



April Serve City donation toothpaste and shower shoes. Please place items in the barrel in the lobby.

KROGER

Redeemer Church has been approved as a Nonprofit Organization in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Please visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com to register your Kroger Plus card. Redeemer's NPO # is 80053.

Mark your calendars for Redeemer's Mother-Daughter Banquet

When: Thursday, May 11 @ 6pm
More details to come!



REMEMBER OUR SHUT IN'S
Redeemer Church has a number of members who are either confined to their homes or residing in Care Centers. Please remember them with a card or call. Remember, if you send a card please be sure to add "Redeemer Church" after your name!

Norma Gammell
[Handwritten-style text]

Evelyn Warner
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Janet Evans
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Zelma Miller
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Serving in Worship

Liturgists

- 4/2 Dan Childs
4/9 Cori Mobley
4/16 Amy Dermen
4/23 Lorrie Newmister
4/30 Larry Kachner

Prayer Intercessors

- 4/2 Gary & Carolyn Maschmeyer
4/9 Mary Van Lieu
4/16 Charlotte Burkhardt & Carrie DeFevers
4/23 Carol Moore & Joan Riley
4/30 Lori Lohrer & Linda Hoover

Ushers

1st Service

- 4/2 Ron & Mary Sue Peters, Jim & Pam Miller
4/9 Kyle & Janie Schuppe, Dewayne & Sharon Grammel
4/16 Larry & Charlotte Kachner, Richard & Joan Riley
4/23 Bill & Sherry Phillips, Ron & Gloria Spurlock
4/30 Carol Moore, Karl Oakley, Mary Van Lieu

2nd Service

- 4/2 Jon & Tari Lawson
4/9 Karen Wittmer & Carol Hahn
4/16 Teens
4/23 Lori Lohrer & Lee Skorupa
4/30 Jon & Tari Lawson

Birthday list

- April 06 Clyde Burkhardt
April 11 David Chalk
Johanna Crespo-Torres
Seth Mobley
April 18 Monica Mobley
April 22 Denise Barger
April 23 Linda Hoover
April 29 Rachel Finnerty

