

THE HAPPENING

A Publication of Redeemer Church • Hamilton, Ohio



Rev. Nicole Thomas
Pastor

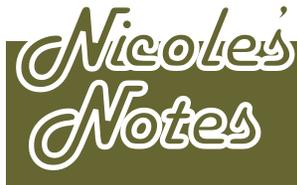
I remember as a young person, in Sunday School or Youth Group, one activity that we would engage in was that of the Sword

Drill. It was about sharpening our skills when it comes to navigation of the Scripture. I thought we might try some of that today. Grab the Bible that you read, most frequently, and find the following Scripture verses. Ready, Set, Go!

1. I Thessalonians 5:11
2. Hebrews 10:24-25
3. Ephesians 4:29
4. 1 Peter 4:8-10
5. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
6. Colossians 3:16

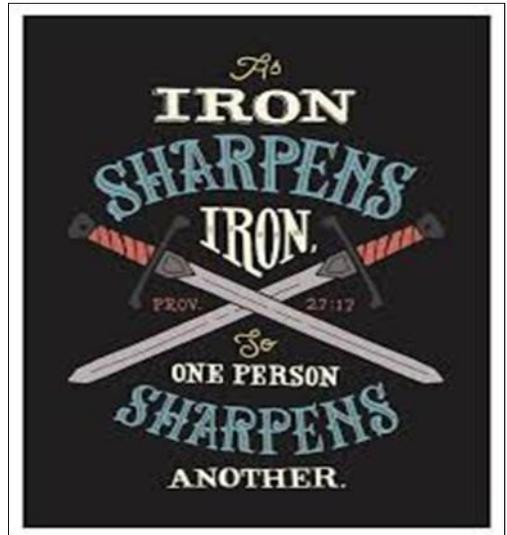
7. Proverbs 27:17

You may have noticed that these verses were not picked at random but have a common theme throughout. We live in a world that seems so divided at this point, filled with hate, anger and violence. We desire change, no doubt, but are unsure of how to bring about a world of peace,



love, forgiveness, patience and grace. I believe the

change starts with us as we allow the Spirit of God to create in us a heart that loves and forgives and uses our mouth to encourage one another. Let us be the change that we desire to see in the world. I believe a wise man said that at one point (Mahatma Gandhi).



May you be encouraged this day! The Creator of the Universe loves you and so do I. Go and inspire another, extend grace and show love, mercy and kindness. The Lord bless you 😊!

Pastor Nicole

A NEW DIRECTION FOR SERVE CITY



Elijah Balsbaugh
Interim
Executive Director

Ecclesiastes chapter 3 tells us that there is a time for everything under the sun. There is a time for mourning, as well as a time for dancing.

A time for weeping and one for laughing. I love the way Solomon writes such comforting words when he pens "He has made everything



beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end." (Ecclesiastes 3:11) Even though we go through various times and seasons in our lives and ministries, we know that God has made *EVERYTHING* beautiful in its time. What a comfort that is. We cannot begin to fathom the things God has done from beginning to end, but we know we can

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trust Him regardless of the times in which we find ourselves.

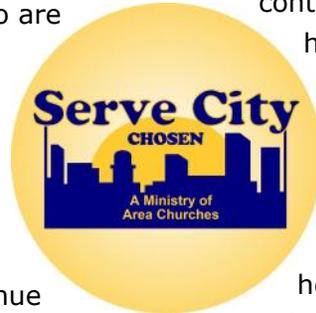
Serve City is going through a time of change and renewal. While we remember the wonderful things God has done in our past, we expectantly look forward to the great things He is going to do in our future. This week it was with both sadness and gratitude that the Board of Directors of Serve City announced Linda Kimble's departure as Executive Director, effective June 15, 2020. Linda has been a faithful advocate for the homeless in Butler County and the face of Serve City. Her concern for our most vulnerable residents, demonstrated by her selfless efforts will be missed, not only at Serve City, but in the community as well. I had the privilege and honor of working under and learning from Linda for 10 years. Her passion for the community inspired me to love those around me the way Christ does. Her love resonates in this community and her impact will be felt for many years to come.

The Board of Directors have begun the process of permanently filling the position of Director. For this time, I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve as interim Executive Director. Serve City has a great team of capable staff who are united and committed to making this a smooth transition. Although this is a time of change and transition, our mission and commitment remain unchanged, we will continue to serve our community's most vulnerable residents and remain a vital resource for those in need.

This year also marks a beautiful milestone for Serve City. We get to rejoice and celebrate the founding of Serve City 20 years ago. Serve City has continued the commitment to serve the most vulnerable in the City of Hamilton and Butler County in the name of Jesus Christ. Serve City began as a little food pantry and homeless shelter that rotated churches throughout Butler County. God has blessed us with tre-

mendous growth in those years and we are amazed at all He is doing through us and in the lives of those around us. Redeemer Church has been a vital supporter for so many years and we are grateful for the continued support. Redeemer has served alongside Serve City in providing a place for the homeless to stay, meals to the hungry, financial support to keep the ministry financially healthy, and most importantly, fervent prayers for the staff and guests. I am forever grateful for the work Redeemer Church has done in the life of Serve City.

As I look around the world right now, I see so much hurt, fear, and even anger. These feelings and emotions express themselves in different ways in each of us. We are living in a time of unrest in so many areas of our lives. No area is as impactful as the unrest we may be experiencing in our very own souls. For many of us, there has never been a time where our lives were interrupted and we were forced to consider who we are and what we



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believe. I am encouraged to know that we serve a God Who says He will never leave us, nor will He forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6). This gives me strength and courage to stand firm. I know our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8) In this knowledge, I can take my rest.

Like many in our community, we have had to temporarily suspend or limit services for the health and safety of our community. Praise the Lord we are finding ways to safely round the corner and begin operating with some sense of "normalcy" while keeping public health in mind. Chosen shelter is operating below capacity due to the hard work of agencies in our community who have helped get emergency funds out into the hands of those suffering from job loss and homelessness to allow them to get into stable housing. This has relieved the stress on the homeless shelter and allows us to keep people safe. The Serve City pantry has re-opened and is distrib-

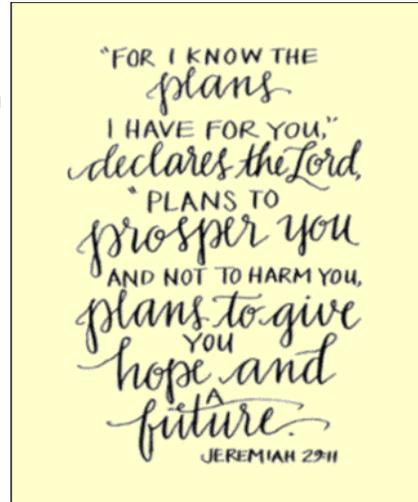
uting pre-made boxes of food, milk, and personal care items to the public on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. We look forward to the day when we can re-open fully, but for now we celebrate what the Lord is doing in the present. CHOICES and Shekinah Place are continuing to offer drug and alcohol, free stable housing to those who need it.

I want to close by once again offering my gratitude for all that Redeemer Church has done for Serve City over the past 20 years, in prayers, volunteers, and physical offerings. We know that God has a plan and a purpose for this ministry and we are excited to see what He is bringing in our future. I am reminded of Jeremiah 29:11 which states "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This was spoken to

the Israelites during their time of captivity by Babylon. God was not promising that He was going to im-

mediately change to their situation. *BUT* what He *DID* promise was that He knows them and loves them and He is in control of their future and His people can put their hope in that promise. This is the hope I cling to when I look at this ministry

and the world around us. God is in control of the times in which we are living, and we can take courage and rest in that. Grace and Peace to you all.



Visit Serve City online

Website:

www.ServeCityChosen.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/servecitychosen.org/



Social distancing at the June 21 worship service

The Star-Spangled Banner (4th stanza)



O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand

Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!

Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Duane and Claudia Cantrell recently returned from a trip west. They travelled over 4,300 miles. "The Grand Canyon was spectacular and NOT crowded at all." Pictured is a photo taken just outside a store on the South Rim.

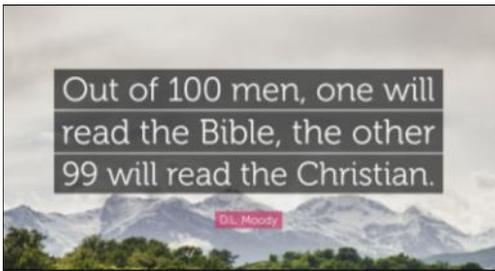


The sign says:

O Lord,
how manifold
are thy works!
In wisdom hast
thou made them all:
the earth is full
of thy riches.

Psalm 104:24

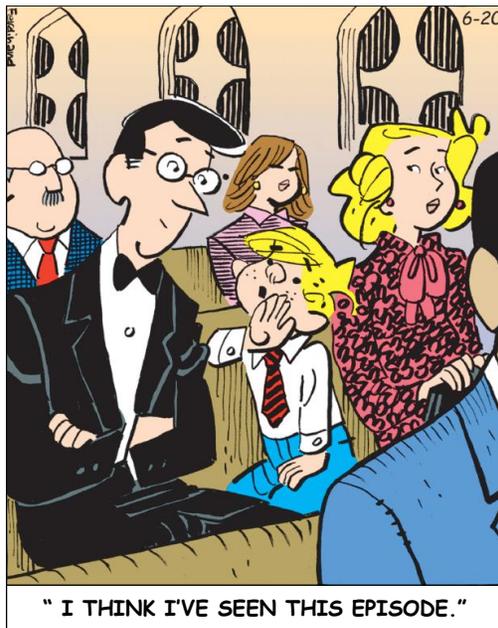
Father Almighty, wonderful Lord,
Wonders Creator, be ever adored;
Wonders of Nature
sing praises to You,
Wonder of wonders-
I may praise too!



WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH

Redeemer Church has resumed worship!

New time and format for now.
[Click here](#) for details and guidelines.



Happy Birthday

- Jim PelzJuly 6
- Chuck Genenbacher.....July 10
- Cora KernsJuly 14
- Carol DawsonJuly 17
- Jake JorgensenJuly 18
- Karl Oakley.....July 19
- Phillip BurkheadJuly 20
- Cheyenne Otto.....July 25
- Patti Matheis.....July 26

happy
ANNIVERSARY

- Bill & Amy DermenJuly 15
- Alec & Cori Vivian.....July 15
- Terrence & Jenny Zellars.....July 17
- Darryl & Stephanie Tillman ... July 23

We are always either drawing closer to God or falling away. There is no holding pattern.

Jim Cymbala



Do you have suggestions for articles you would like to see in the Redeemer Church newsletter? Do you have comments or have information or pictures you would like to submit? Please send an e-mail!

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