

# Redeemer Life

October 2024



Why do you work?

Is it to make money to support yourself? Is it so you can provide a home and food for your family? Is it because you want some meaningful way to spend your time? Is it to follow the pattern others have given you? Is it so you can make money to contribute to the church? All of those have value. But each is not enough to work with compelling purpose and resulting joy. I'm guessing you sense that.

What if your work was genuinely godly? I don't mean simply that you do your work with honesty and integrity. You should be doing those things. But what if "genuinely godly" means your work reflects the character of God. As our God is a creating being, so are you. Not in precisely the same way God is—he spoke, and all things came into being. You create within in creation. Or perhaps more accurately, you unfold that creation. You discover the way God has designed his world to work. You discern the best way to respond. And as you do you bring glory to the original Creator. You delight in his work of creation as it reflects his character.

To be godly in your work means to do this intentionally and carefully.

But further, it also means to see God at work in you as you work. The redemptive power of Jesus affects all that you are: your heart, your mind, your will, your emotions . . . and your work. That change our Savior is working in you will inevitably affect the way you engage your vocation. You become more disciplined, more creative, more dedicated, and more importantly, less reliant on your work to give you meaning.

Anabaptist theologian, John Howard Yoder, once explained to a Calvinist theologian, Richard Mouw, the difference between anabaptists and Calvinists in the way they look at the world. The Anabaptist, Yoder said, looks at the world first as fallen. Sin has radically corrupted the world, Jesus came to save us out of it, and one day we look forward to the time when this world will be no longer. Calvinists, on the other hand, look at the world first as created by God (affirming the goodness of creation), with the eventual hope that when Jesus returns, he will set all of creation free from the corruption of sin.

That is our hope. That is why we work.

Pastor Jeff DeBoer



RedeemerAda



@redeemeropc



(616) 682-0800



8605 E Fulton, Ada, MI 49301



## Spotlight – *Music Ministry Coordinator*



REDEEMER  
ORTHODOX PATTERNIAN CHURCH

### Welcome, Julie! Music Ministry Coordinator



02:20

- 00:58



I've attended Redeemer for over ten years with my family and we've been so blessed by the music ministry. I have a part time position at NorthPointe Christian directing their home and school hybrid program, and am excited to work with all the musicians and vocalists that Redeemer is blessed to have lead in worship.



# PIZZA

## *jam session*

*Sunday, October 6*

following evening worship service

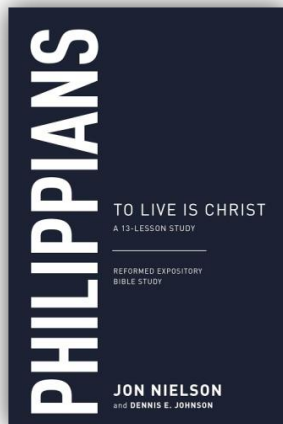
**Who:** Anyone serving already with Redeemer music, or anyone who would be interested in joining Redeemer's music ministry. Ages high school and up.

**Why:** Julie would like to introduce herself, go over a few things, fellowship, and try out some new music.

**Bring your instruments!**



# FALL 2024 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES



**Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study** - meets every Wednesday from 9:15 to 11 a.m. in the church youth room beginning September 11.

**This fall will be seeking to know Christ better by exploring Paul's letter to the Philippians together. We will be using the study guide *Philippians: To Live is Christ* by Jon Nielson.**

No childcare is available for this study. If you have any questions about this, please contact Carol Chupp at [caroljean135@gmail.com](mailto:caroljean135@gmail.com).

The Wednesday MORNING registration form can be found at <https://ropc.breezechms.com/form/philippiansWMWBS>

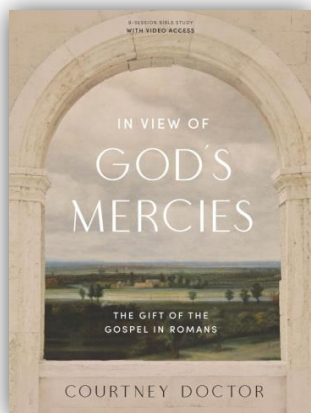


**Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study** – begins September 11 and will meet twice a month in the youth room on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**We will be studying *Behold and Believe: A Bible Study on the "I Am" Statements of Jesus* by Courtney Doctor & Joanna Kimbrel.**

If you would like more information about this group, please contact Karen Faber, [faberkk@yahoo.com](mailto:faberkk@yahoo.com) or Greta Entingh, [gretaentingh@gmail.com](mailto:gretaentingh@gmail.com)

The Wednesday EVENING registration form can be found at: <https://ropc.breezechms.com/form/wedevening2024>



**Thursday Morning GROW Groups** – meet every Thursday, beginning September 19, from 9:15 to 11 a.m., starting in the church youth room.

**This fall our groups will be looking closely at Romans through the study of *In View of God's Mercies* by Courtney Doctor.**

Nursery is provided for children ages 0-2 and a Little Lambs program is provided for children age 3 through Kindergarten. Registration is now open; however, you can join at any time. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Hill [carrieme2@gmail.com](mailto:carrieme2@gmail.com).

The Thursday GROW Group registration form can be found at <https://ropc.breezechms.com/form/Grow2024romans>



## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

### New Men's Bible Study Opportunity

**Start Date:** October 9th

**Time:** Wednesdays at 6:30 AM

**Duration:** 13-week study

**Study Material:** Galatians: The Gospel of Free Grace (Reformed Expository Bible Studies) by Jon Nielson

**Location:** Provisio Retirement Partners office (3790 30th St SW, Grandville, MI 49418)





A poster for a Men's Bible Study. The background is black with white and orange text. At the top right is a circular logo with a green leaf. The text 'WEDNESDAY MORNING' is in a white box. The main title 'Men's Bible Study' is in large white and orange font. Below it, 'GALATIANS' is in a white box, followed by three dots (white, orange, white). The text 'Please join us for a 13 week study on *Galatians: The Gospel of Free Grace* by Jon Nielson' is in white. Below this are three items, each with an orange icon: a calendar icon for 'Every Wednesday beginning October 9', an alarm clock icon for '6:30 AM', and a location pin icon for 'Provisio Retirement Partners office 3790 30th St SW, Grandville, MI 49418'. At the bottom right is a 3D illustration of a black Bible with an orange cross on the cover.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

# Men's Bible Study

GALATIANS ●●●

Please join us for a 13 week study on *Galatians: The Gospel of Free Grace* by Jon Nielson

-  Every Wednesday beginning October 9
-  6:30 AM
-  Provisio Retirement Partners office  
3790 30th St SW, Grandville, MI 49418

## Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study

You are invited to our 2024-2025 Men's Bible Study season. This year we will be journeying through the book of Romans. This book is pivotal to the foundations of the Church of Jesus Christ. Because of time allotted, we will just be hitting the highlights, or 'Survey' the book of Romans. We will be meeting every Thursday morning @ 6:30am, starting Sept.19, at the Gathering Place, a Restaurant at the corner of Thornapple River Rd se and Cascade Rd se. The restaurant has a breakfast special which helps to keep the cost low. We finish up at 7:30am to allow for job responsibilities.

We would enjoy your presence and fellowship. Please pray if God is calling you to attend.

If you have any questions, please call or text Steve Hill 616-286-2419 or [shtroubleelectric@gmail.com](mailto:shtroubleelectric@gmail.com).

## Thursday Evening Men's Bible Study

The Men's Thursday evening Bible study will be at 7:00 pm from September 19-December 19 with a break on November 28 for Thanksgiving. Please see or text Adam Gorlewski for full details and to sign up – [adamgorlewski33@gmail.com](mailto:adamgorlewski33@gmail.com).


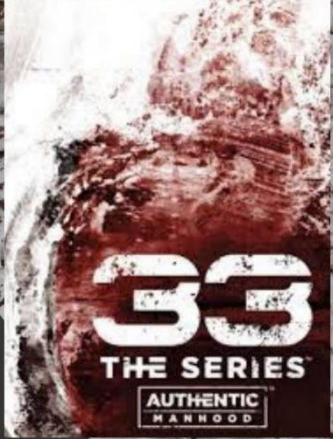
**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**  
**33 THE SERIES**  
FALL STUDY  
THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM @ ROPC  
\*\*ages 18 and up\*\*

- **SEPTEMBER 19 - OCTOBER 24**  
◦ A MAN AND HIS TRAPS
- **NOVEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 19**  
(BREAK ON NOVEMBER 28 FOR  
THANKSGIVING)  
◦ A MAN AND HIS WORK

Sign up at:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4BABA72DA1FFC34-46940599-33theseries> or scan the QR code

Questions, contact Adam Gorlewski 616-648-2445

*Become who you  
were created to be*





***“Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless,  
plead the widow’s cause.” Isaiah 1:17***

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and domestic abuse (all synonyms) are not terms found in the Bible. In fact, “abuse” or “abused” is only used four times in the ESV translation. Domestic abuse is a pattern of behavior in a relationship used to gain power and control over another person. In doing so, it destroys the personhood of an image bearer of God. There is a word used in the Bible which speaks to this misuse of power and authority.

***Oppression.***

Oppression and its other word forms are used 99 times in the ESV. In the Bible oppression is spoken (Psalm 10:7; Isaiah 59:13), threatened (Psalm 73:8), written (Isaiah 10:1), heaped (Jeremiah 9:6), practiced (Jeremiah 22:17), and wrongly trusted and relied upon (Isaiah 30:2). Oppression’s purpose is to control, dominate, and subjugate another human being, group, or nation. It is wrong in the Lord’s eyes and He has repeatedly commanded His people to help the oppressed.

Redeemer’s organized response to this call is the Domestic Abuse Care Team (DACT). The DACT exists to give hope and healing in the name of Jesus to those affected by domestic abuse. We are committed to encouraging awareness within our congregation of the destructive and secretive nature of domestic violence, compassionately walk with women who are in destructive relationships, and equip more women to do the same.

This team meets monthly considering ways to educate our congregation through book studies, speakers, events, and other local ministries while also working with church leadership to grow in our understanding of how to best care for individuals and families affected by oppressive relationships.

The DACT currently consists of Mary Bont, Jane Heemstra, Mary Kamps, Tracy Langerak, and Kendra Overbeek. Though currently an all-female team, our desire is to grow this ministry using the gifts and compassionate hearts of our brothers in Christ as we both seek to reflect His heart for the oppressed and oppressor alike.

This October, as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the DACT will be sharing statistics of the prevalence of domestic violence on the fellowship hall television screens, displaying resources near the library for those interested in learning more, as well as providing pamphlets in church mailboxes and at the welcome table debunking common lies women in oppressive relationships are told or hold true for themselves.

If you suspect you or a loved one, a co-worker, or a friend is in an oppressive relationship, any member of this team would be humbled to confidentially hear your story and walk alongside in support as we try to reflect our Savior’s love for the hurting. You can contact any of our members individually or email the team at [dact4you@gmail.com](mailto:dact4you@gmail.com). Contact information for the National Domestic Violence Hotline is also listed below. This is available 24 hours a day and completely confidential. **National Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233**





# Announcements

## The Lord's Supper

Will be celebrated during the morning worship service on Sunday, October 6, 2024. Prepare your hearts as we gather at the Lord's table. All items served are gluten free.

## Session Meeting

The Session is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

## Redeemer Open House

The next Redeemer Open House will be October 13, 2024, from 12:00 pm–3:00 pm at the home of the Andy and Sue Baker. Visitors, new members, and guests are especially welcome and can sign up at any time as space permits. Current members are encouraged to sign up at least a week in advance. All who wish to attend – please see Andy or Sue in person – or see the bulletin board for Sign Up Genius. Join us for a great time of fellowship and lunch!

## Redeemer Praise Service

We will have our Sunday Evening Service of Praise on October 20, 2024! at 5:00 p.m. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors as we worship our King together!

## Redeemer Food and Fellowship Dinner

Following the Praise Service – we will enjoy our Food and Fellowship Dinner. To assist with dinner, we are asking that all married couples bring a main dish and a side, and all non-married individuals bring a salad or dessert. Beverages will be provided. We hope to see you there!

## Three Opportunities for Prayer

- 1.) Redeemer Church has Spurgeon's version of the boiler room prayer meeting in Pastor Jeff's office every Sunday at 8:45 a.m.
- 2.) An Elder of Redeemer Church is available to pray with you at the front of the sanctuary near the ramp. Prayer requests could cover healing, wisdom, salvation for a dear friend or any situation or challenge that you need the Lord's help with. We are a praying church, and this is just one more way we can demonstrate our faith and reliance on our precious Lord. Any questions, please contact Kirk Harmon, [harmonk3@comcast.net](mailto:harmonk3@comcast.net).
- 3.) Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for prayer in the Conference Room Every Wednesday. You can also join by using the following ZOOM link: <https://tinyurl.com/ROPCPrayer>. If you have questions regarding the prayer meeting, feel free to contact Kirk Harmon at 616-897-0654 or [harmonk3@comcast.net](mailto:harmonk3@comcast.net).

## Inquirer's Class

If you are interested in more information about or joining Redeemer, Pastor Jeff will be hosting an Inquirer class on the following dates during the Sunday School time: October 13, 20, 27 and November 10 and 17. Please email Jeanette at [office@redeemer-opc.org](mailto:office@redeemer-opc.org) if you plan on attending.



## Women's Prayer Team

The Women's Prayer Team is available to pray with any woman at any time by request. We invite you to contact one of our members: Sharon Dykstra – Janet Schamp – Jess Helmus – Cobie Tenbrink

### WHEN PRAYER IS HARD

By Elizabeth Turnage

“Father, please send your angels to protect my mom.” I spoke this prayer on night ten of my mom’s fierce battle with Covid. Five hours later, she was dead. Have you ever received a resounding “no” to heartfelt prayers? Have you prayed prayers for days, months, and years and seen no evidence of change at all? Prayers for the return of a wayward child, prayers for freedom from deeply rooted sin patterns, prayers for relief from chronic pain? Perhaps with David, you have cried day and night but heard no answer and found no rest (See Psalm 22:2). In such seasons, bitterness or cynicism threatens to mute our tongues. How do we pray when prayer is hard?

### Three Crucial Practices

Three crucial practices help us to pray when prayer is hard: learning the language of lament, which deepens faith; leaning into community, which grows hope; and listening for God’s declaration of his unfailing love, which expands love for God and for others.

#### Learning the Language of Lament

When prayer is hard, learning the language of lament can help us to emerge with a stronger faith. As Pastor Mark Vroegop explains, “Lament is a prayer in pain that leads to trust.”[\[i\]](#) Lament not only expresses our faith in the goodness of God, it also strengthens our faith in its expression.

Prayers of lament often process through four categories: turning to God, naming the grief, asking persistently and boldly for help, and expressing restored confidence. Lamentations, Jeremiah’s lament over the fall of Jerusalem, illustrates each of these categories.

Rather than turning away from God when relief from suffering doesn’t come, lamenters turn toward God. Jeremiah addresses his complaints to God in raw words few of us would dare to utter aloud: “You have wrapped yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can pass through” (Lam. 3:44 ESV). Lamenters name their grief, refusing to minimize their suffering: “I am the one who has seen the affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven me and brought me into darkness without any light” (Lam. 3:1). Arguing that their current experience doesn’t seem to match their understanding of God’s goodness and mercy, lamenters ask persistently and boldly for help. Jeremiah keeps crying for help, “Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us; look, and see our disgrace!” (Lam. 5:1). In doing so, he expresses his firm conviction that “no one is abandoned by the Lord forever” (Lam. 3:31). Not always, but often, lamenters turn from complaint, expressing restored confidence that the Lord will redeem and restore again. Jeremiah’s turn comes in the familiar assurance: “But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lam. 3:21-22). As Vroegop asserts, lament “stands in the gap between pain and promise.”[\[ii\]](#) Learning to lament helps when prayer is hard.

#### Leaning into Community

When prayer is hard, leaning into community strengthens our frail and vulnerable hope. Prayer was never designed to be primarily a solo activity. The Psalms were written and sung corporately. The Lord’s Prayer was given to the

disciples by Jesus to pray together. When unanswered prayer mutes us, we need others to answer for us, to point us back to the God who redeems and restores.

Because being a member of the Church means we hope for one another, we must depend on the body of Christ to fulfill its calling to “Bear one another’s burdens...” (Gal. 6:2). When we are weak, we acknowledge that weakness and rely on the body’s strength to lay us on the mat and lower us before Jesus’ tender care. Dr. Jerry Sittser, who lost his mother, wife, and daughter in a car accident, explains how community strengthened him in his season of grief:

“Sometimes some members of that community [the church], even through time and space, carry others.... I remember very vividly my inability to sing and pray...in the months and, really, years after the accident. I decided to let the church sing and pray for me. I do the same for others now. I sing for them; I pray for them.”<sup>[iii]</sup> When prayer is hard, and we allow others to “sing for us, to pray for us,” our vision of hope expands.

### **Listen for God’s Declaration of Unfailing Love**

When prayer is hard, it is often because we think God has not heard or answered our prayer. God *has* spoken, “Wait,” or “Not yet,” or “No,” but we have often talked over God, refusing to listen. If we learn to listen in prayer, we will learn to recognize the song line of redemption, God singing His love over us.

We hear this song sung most loudly in Jesus’ seemingly unanswered prayer in Gethsemane. The night before He was to die on a cross, Jesus poured out his troubled spirit in prayer. As he imagined bearing the wrath for our sin and enduring separation from his beloved Father, he sweated blood. He spoke His deepest desire to God, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me...” (Luke 22:42). He finished the sentence, “Nevertheless, not my will but yours be done” (Luke 22:42).

How did God answer Jesus’ prayer? If we lean in and listen carefully, we notice two answers. The first and more obvious is “No, I cannot let the cup of suffering pass from you. You must die for my people’s sins so that they may become my children.” But the second answer, the one we often miss, is “I will comfort you in your suffering.” Just after Jesus’ prayer, Luke tells us, “And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him” (Luke 22:43).

As we listen to God’s profound declaration of His love for us, our doubts fade, our hope brightens, and our capacity to love God and others expands. We become people of strong faith, confident hope, and extraordinary love.

Since that dark night three years ago, I’ve thought often about the prayer I uttered for my mom’s protection. What if God did answer my prayer? What if, as my mother slept, an angel came? What if that angel led my mother gently to her Father, where she would know a safety and security she had never known on this earth? Though I can’t say for sure, I dare to believe, I dare to hope—my prayer was answered.

<sup>[i]</sup> Mark Vroegop, *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy: Discovering the Grace of Lament* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2019), 30.

<sup>[ii]</sup> Vroegop, 28.

<sup>[iii]</sup> Jerry Sittser, email to author, 2018.

Author: Elizabeth Reynolds Turnage is a gospel life and legacy coach, author, and speaker. She helps people live, prepare, and share their legacy to bring hope to future generations. Elizabeth co-founded the [Numbering Your Days Network](#) to share gospel encouragement for aging, caregiving, legacy, grief, and end-of-life and authored *Preparing for Glory: Biblical Answers to 40 Questions about Living and Dying in the Hope of Heaven*, coming from P&R in early 2024. Elizabeth and her husband, Kip Turnage, enjoy feasting and sharing good stories with their large family of four adult children, three children-in-law, and three young grandchildren.

# Womens Fellowship Opportunity

Save the Date

Redeemer Women's

## DICE & DESSERTS

*Game Night!*

Join the women of Redeemer for a lovely evening of fellowship and Bunco! If you've never played before don't worry! It is a no strategy, dice rolling game and all instructions will be provided at the event. No previous gaming experience needed! Bring a dessert or snack to share and invite a friend or two as well! This event is for all women high school age and up! Can't wait to see you there!

**Redeemer OPC  
Fellowship Hall  
Friday, November 15  
6:30-9:00PM**

The image features four red dice with white pips, arranged in a scattered pattern around the central text. Two dice are on the left side, and two are on the right side. The dice are 3D-rendered with visible faces showing different numbers of pips.

# Redeemer Women's Ministry

It's part of the human condition to desire something we don't have. We've all experienced that moment when we've looked at social media or glimpsed our neighbor's life and wanted what the other person had. Perhaps for you, that discontent is rooted in a deeper ache. Maybe you pray for healing or resolution in a difficult relationship and find yourself in a season of waiting. Discontent with our circumstances may feel like just another struggle that appears to only affect ourselves, but the Bible says that an inability to control our desires and find contentment can lead to serious consequences (James 4:1-2).

As Christians, we know that all our desires are ultimately met in Christ and will be fully realized in eternity. Yet, God commands us to be content with the position, place, and material blessings He has given us now—in this broken, often sorrow-filled world. Finding true contentment in Christ is not easy, but one of the blessings of being part of a community of believers is that we can grow in godliness together, encouraging each other as we move toward heaven.

That is why this year's theme for the women of Redeemer is Contentment. Over the course of the year, you'll see this theme highlighted in various ways—through events, write-ups like this in Redeemer Life, and hopefully in conversations with one another.

As a foundation, our theme verse is Philippians 4:11-13: “Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” We will also be using this definition of contentment from Melissa Krueger: “Contentment is an inward assurance in God's sovereignty and goodness that produces the fruit of peace and thanksgiving in the life of a believer regardless of outward circumstances.”

In addition, we have identified four truths that we hope to emphasize throughout the year:

1. Contentment is based on the knowledge of God's character.
2. Contentment is independent of circumstances.
3. Contentment in the Lord produces peace and thanksgiving.
4. Contentment is a process; it's constantly being learned.

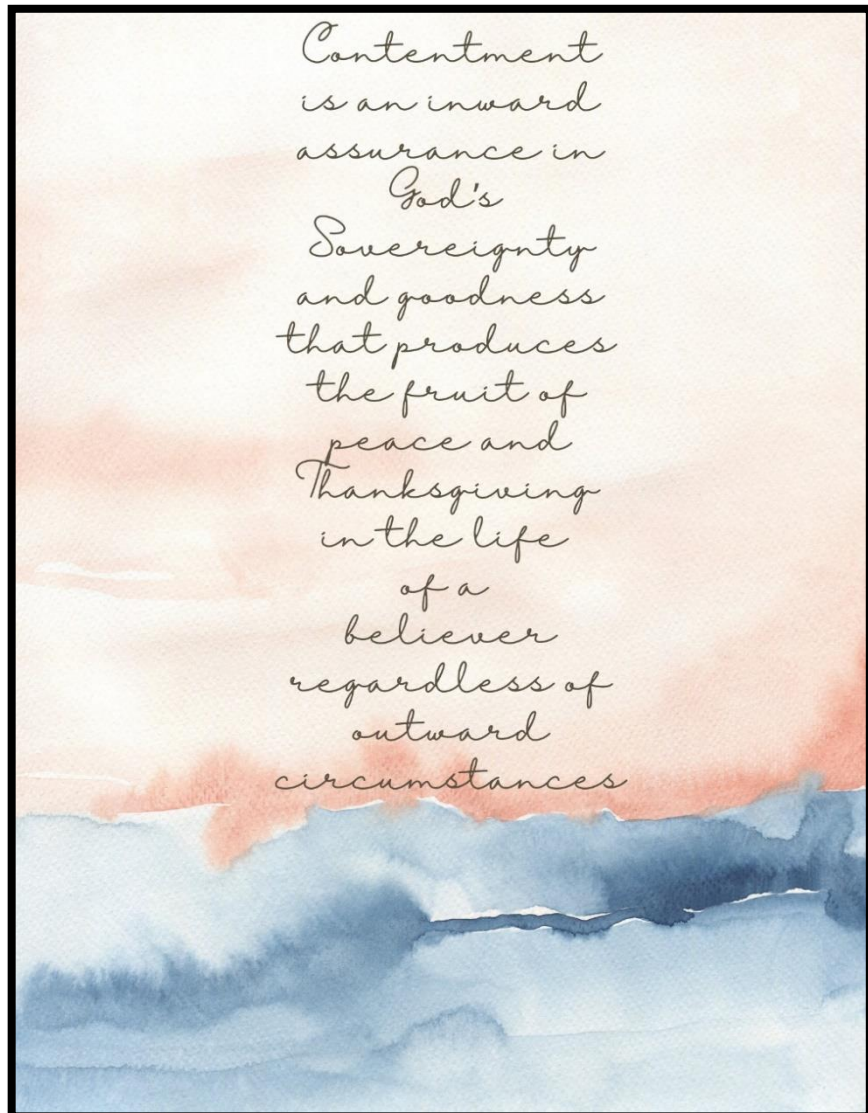


The calling that God has placed on us to be like Jesus is not an easy one, but He has given us all we need to truly learn contentment and shine as lights in a hurting, dark world. He has given us His word, other Christians who have gone before, and each other—and He has given us Himself.

“God came down and lived in this world as a man. He showed us how to live in this world, subject to its vicissitudes and necessities, that we might be changed—not into angels or storybook princesses, not wafted into another world, but changed into saints in this world. The secret is Christ in me, not in a different set of circumstances.” – Elisabeth Elliot.

We look forward to this year and all that it will hold as together we seek to understand, both with our heads and our hearts, what it is to be content.

The Women’s Leadership Team: Beth Harmon, Debbie Clayton, Taylor Miedema, Jorri Orr, Lisa Thompson, Cindy Thornton & Christina VanAllen



Kids 5 years old–5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Find a hiding cornstalk to win a prize!

## *Girl's Club and Boy's Club*



6:00 – 7:15 PM. Dates:

October 9 and 23

November 6 and 20

December 4

**Girl's Club:** Girl's Club: We are excited to be starting up another great year of Girls Club! This year we will be studying the Fruits of the Spirit. Any young lady's 1st–5th grade are welcome to join and bring a friend! We would also love a couple more volunteers ages 16+ to join us!

Contact Jessica Boluyt ([jdejonge35@yahoo.com](mailto:jdejonge35@yahoo.com)) or Arielle Suwyn ([ajsuwyn@gmail.com](mailto:ajsuwyn@gmail.com)) with questions.

**Adopt-A-Friend!** We are also excited to begin another year of our Adopt-A-Friend program in September! We are looking for women to pair up with our young ladies from 1st–5th grade at Redeemer. We will begin in September and end in May. This is a fantastic way for our young ladies and women to interact with and get to know each other!

**Boy's Club:** We would love to have you join us! We know not everyone can attend every meeting, so feel free to come when able. If you are a dad, uncle, grandpa, etc., you are welcome to join, and we would encourage you to share your faith and passions with these young men. Contact: Marty Huizinga at [martyhuiz@gmail.com](mailto:martyhuiz@gmail.com).



# Youth Group

*I Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise you for your youth,  
but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.*

## Middle School Youth Group

### Fall Schedule

September

September 8 6:30  
September 22 6:30

October

October 6 6:30  
October 20 6:30

November

November 3 6:30  
November 17 6:30

December

December 1 6:30  
December 15 6:30

EVENTS

September 14 - Kayaking - Time TBD  
 October 19 - Dinner & Corn Maze - Time TBD  
 November 23 - Lunch & Mall Madness - Time TBD

Contact:

Kristen Gorlewski  
 616-648-4285  
 kristengorlewski@yahoo.com

Meal Sign Up:

## Redeemer OPC High School Youth Group Schedule Fall 2024



### Monthly Meetings:

#### High School Kickoff Event

- When: Saturday, September 14
- Where: Huizinga Home
- Time: 5:00 – 8:00 pm

#### Fall Extravaganza

- When: Saturday October 5
- Time: 1:00 – 3:30 pm
- Where: Meet at Redeemer church

#### Skating and Pizza Party

- When: Saturday, November 9
- Time: 3:00 – 6:00 pm
- Where: Meet at Redeemer church

#### Christmas Party

- When: Saturday, December 7
- Time: 9:00 am -12:00 pm
- Where: TBD



### Sunday Night Meetups:

- September 15 & 29
- October 13 & 27
- November 10
- December 8

Following the PM Service at 6:15 – 8:00 in the Youth Room. Food and fun are provided!

### Questions: Reach out!

- Marty and Keri Huizinga
- Adam and Arielle Suwyn
- Katie Verwys
- Caleb Nelson



# From the Session



Dear Redeemer family,

Session held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 10. It started with a new member interview, which any elder will tell you is one of the best parts of the job. We then spent time discussing the Youth Leader visit a few days before and agreed to move forward with the process, with a congregational meeting set for September 29 to vote on extending an offer.

Next, we discussed the Associate Pastor Search Committee (APSC) nominees and how to handle the vote. We had 17 members agree to have their names stand for nomination, by the time you read this the congregational meeting to elect three members, and three elders will have already happened. We're thankful for all who have been involved and pray that God's blesses this committee's work and gives each member wisdom to do their work well. We also pray for our next Associate Pastor and his family.

There was a list of items needing approval, as well as committee reports to go through. Though this constituted a large number of items, we got through them at a brisk, yet reasonable pace and the meeting adjourned early.

Our attendance figures for August are below.

	AM	PM
August 4, 2024	287	147
August 11, 2024	351	163
August 18, 2024	285	183
August 25, 2024	352	156

On behalf of session,

Mark Jurries, clerk

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

**Hebrews 10:24-25**





## REDEEMER CHURCH – NEW MEMBERS

October 13, 2024

### Tim Wiersma:

I was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I was raised in the Christian Reformed Church of the 1960s and 1970s. In the 1980s, my wife Libby and I left the Christian Reformed Church to join an evangelical, nondenominational church. We were members of, and raised our three daughters in, the non-denominational church. It was in 2022 when we began to seek out a church home that would provide, as of first importance, confessionally based preaching and teaching. We were also seeking denominational governance that was still subordinate to Scripture. We were referred to Redeemer by family. We have been attending Redeemer since mid-2023.



### Libby Wiersma:

I was born in Grand Rapids and attended the Grand Rapids Christian Schools. I then graduated from Calvin College and immediately married Tim, and we had 3 daughters, Elise (Tanner), Abigail (Cody), and Sylvia. We both grew up in Christian Reformed churches and made public profession of faith there. We were members of non-denominational churches for over 30 years, but recently

felt drawn back to our reformed roots. We began attending Redeemer after Tim's cousin mentioned they were members here. We started watching online, and then attended in person and we've been going to Redeemer now for over a year.

Kezia Beeke:

Hello! My name is Kezia Beeke. I am the daughter of Jonathon and Allyson Beeke, and I have three siblings: Owen, Isla, and Kiri. I am a junior in high school at Northpointe Christian High School. I enjoy playing the bass in jazz band, orchestra and singing or playing in church! I play three sports during the school season: golf, ice hockey, and tennis. I am also involved in theater, the Leadership Team, and National Honors Society. Some of my hobbies include spending time with my siblings, hanging out with my friends and playing the bass while my mom plays piano. I have been attending Redeemer for 12 years and have always loved it. I have loved the Lord for as long as I can remember, and I cannot wait to profess my faith and become a member of Redeemer!



# Redeemer Mission Focus

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Warm greetings in the name of the LORD. We hope and pray that you and your families are well and cherishing the grace that is ours through Christ and His atoning sacrifice on the cross. We continue to be reminded that our strength is in the LORD and we are reliant on His grace, and we are totally insufficient trying to stand in our own strength.



We are thankful for the continued prayers and support for us and our ministry in Europe. We feel blessed by God looking back at the past months and another summer passing by. This past year has once again looked different from what we expected it to be.

Due to the pregnancy and birth of Tirza we did not return to Europe until the first week of July. We were thankful for the understanding from our ministry partners in the need to cut back and reorganize. The summer had its challenges of being on the road in constant travel, organizing camps with four children including a seven-week-old baby. We are thankful to God for the strength and provisions to endure a summer on the road and we are thankful to God for His great blessing in each and every ministry opportunity.

Despite our shortened summer we were thankful for the opportunity to share the Gospel with hundreds of people this summer and to serve and organize English/outreach camps with seven different churches, as well as organize a Bible retreat weekend.

Please continue to keep Ukraine in your prayers as war continues to rage there with no end in sight. In addition to having one camp this past summer in Ukraine, we were able to visit Peterfalva the village where we lived for many years in Ukraine. We spent a joyful week in Ukraine seeing and spending time with many friends.

We are so very thankful for your support and prayers. We are currently back in U.S. after the very busy summer. Attempting to give our children some structure and routine after a summer on the road with no permanent home. It was a blessed summer, but also one that left us and our children very tired. Especially traveling with a newborn baby. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to serve and do ministry in Europe while sorting out our future what is best for our children in



giving them the structure and roots that they need. God Bless and thank you again from the bottom of our hearts.

In Christ,

Eric & Stacey (along with Hans, Petra, Fritz and Tirza) Hoeksema"

Please scan the QR code for a more in-depth look at where the Hoeksemas spent their summer.



## Redeemer Food Pantry

*Matthew 25:35-40*

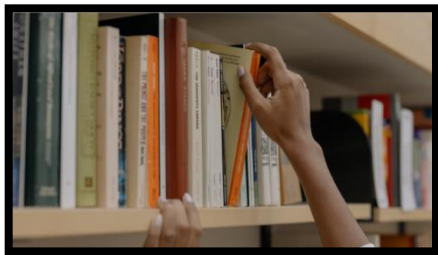
*35 For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me  
40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*



In September, we were blessed to serve 22 families through the food pantry ministry. As the cost of living increases many of the families that come continue to have tremendous needs. Being able to help them with food and prayer was a wonderful opportunity to share Christ's love with them. Coupons to local stores were a add benefit this month, so, if you have extra coupons you receive and won't be using, please put them in the FOOD PANTRY mail slot at the far right end of the mailboxes in the lobby and we will be sure to make them available to attendees. As kids head back to school and need lunches, this month the food focus is; canned Fruits and Vegetables . Perishable Fruits and Veggies and/or bread, milk, eggs, fruit, vegetables, meat and cheese are also VERY welcome in the few days before the 12th of October. Please make sure perishable items are marked "food pantry" and placed in the fridge in the church kitchen. This is a great opportunity to get your family involved in serving! Thank you for enabling Redeemer to continue helping an even greater number of families with critical needs and giving to them in Jesus name. Please consider dropping donations off at the Church THIS week or coordinating with the Hill's for pick-up or drop off of perishable items.

Helpers are also needed to serve from 9:00-11:30 Saturday October 12th to set up, serve, and clean up. You will surely be blessed by serving through this outreach in Jesus name. Please call Steve Hill for more information. (616) 286-2419.





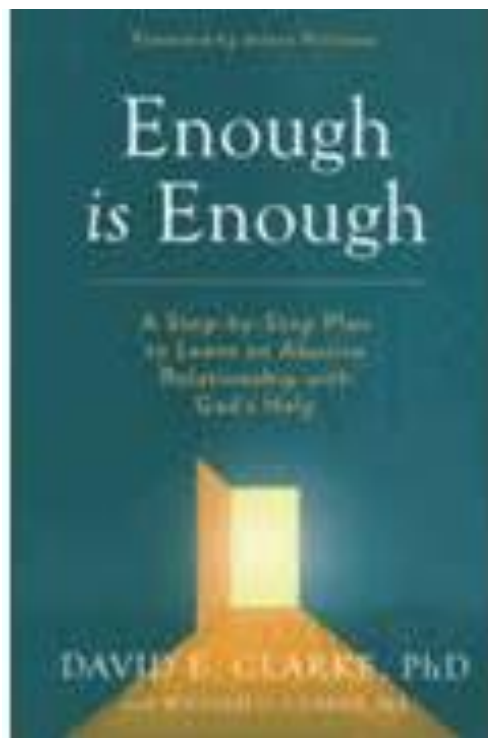
# Redeemer Library

*Proverbs 9:9-10 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.<sup>10</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

## Enough is Enough – Book Review by Jane Heemstra

October is “Abuse Month”, therefore I would like to introduce to you another book in our Redeemer Library regarding that topic. The title “Enough is Enough,” is a “Step-by-Step Plan” teaching how to leave an abusive relationship with God’s Help written by David E Clarke, PhD, a licensed Christian Psychologist along with William G. Clarke, MA. David Clark has been specializing in marital therapy for more than 30 years and has practical advice and Biblical guidance for separating so a patient can give themselves a chance to succeed.

His Bible based therapy, and teaching has guided thousands of hurting men and women toward healthy lives, marriages and families. However, he knows when a broken marriage has gone too far and is no longer safe for the wife and children. As I read on, I was so surprised how Dr Clarke knew soon when a marriage was not going to survive. He could see how hard the wife tried. So, he didn’t miss a thing when it came to encouraging her and listing what she needed to survive, children and all.



I couldn’t help but think of Nabal and his wife Abigail in the Bible. She must have had a miserable life living with Nabal. Hospitality is very important in Scripture and to God. She apologized for her husband’s behavior and David ended up killing him and taking Abigail for his wife. Apparently, God didn’t want Abigail to live a miserable life either. Dr. Clarke also spoke briefly about Abigail and Nabal in “Enough is Enough”.

From the Treasurer:

Redeemer Orthodox Presbyterian Church			
Treasurer's Report			
July through August 2024			
	Jul - Aug 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Total Income	120,416.44	137,817.34	(17,400.90)
Expense			
Total Christian Education	1,469.76	4,050.00	(2,580.24)
Total Church Life	2,793.08	5,286.66	(2,493.58)
Total Evangelism and Discipling	70.74	1,208.34	(1,137.60)
Total Music and Worship	2,274.99	2,433.34	(158.35)
Total Office and Administration	7,598.35	10,989.02	(3,390.67)
Total Pastoral Salary	18,295.72	32,275.34	(13,979.62)
Pastoral Benefits			
Total Pastoral Benefits	6,164.88	15,983.20	(9,818.32)
Total Payroll	19,137.23	25,721.50	(6,584.27)
Total Premises and Overhead	26,520.16	18,823.07	7,697.09
Total Denom and Presbytery Support	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Mission Ministry	6,700.00	8,250.00	(1,550.00)
Total Expense	91,024.91	125,020.47	(33,995.56)
Net Ordinary Income	29,391.53	12,796.87	16,594.66

*Giving toward the budget through Aug 31 is \$17401 under budget. Expenses for the period are under budget by \$33,996. At the end of August, we had a budget surplus of \$16595.*



# Servant Schedule

*I Corinthians 12:12-13, 27*

*<sup>12</sup> There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. <sup>13</sup> We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body...<sup>27</sup> You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.*

## Preaching Schedule

**October 6**

AM: Rev. Jeff DeBoer

PM: Rev. Jeff DeBoer

**October 13**

AM: Rev. Jeff DeBoer

PM: Trent Hordyk

**October 20**

AM: Rev. Jeff DeBoer

PM: Rev. Jeff DeBoer

**October 27**

AM: Rev. Paul Ipema

PM: Rev. Paul Ipema

## Mission Prayer Schedule

**October 6**

**OPC Home Missions**

Prayer Leader: Duke Suwyn

**October 13**

**Purposeful Pathways**

Prayer Leader: Nathan Wright

**October 20**

**Westminster Seminary**

Prayer Leader: Jonathon Beeke

**October 27**

**Potter's House Christian School**

Prayer Leader: Jon Byker

## Greeter Schedule

**October 6**

AM: Cobie & Jenna TenBrink

PM: Chris & Lisa Thompson

**October 13**

AM: Andy, Kate, Cindy

Thornton

PM: Mike & Kaylin Timmerman

**October 20**

AM: Jack & Gloria Oostema

PM: Ray & Cheryl VanGrouw

**October 27**

AM: Ken & Linda VanOtteren

PM: Paul & Linda VandenToorn

**October:**

**Elder On Call**

**Mark Jurries II**

**Deacon of the Month**

**Nathan Wright**

**John Sharp**





Dallas	Overbeek	October 01
Kaylin	Timmerman	October 01
Joshua	Hill	October 02
Pamela	Rosendall	October 02
Jonathan	Bras	October 03
Briana	DeLange	October 04
Everleigh	Baker	October 05
William	Seal	October 05
David	Schaafsma	October 07
Peter	Faber	October 10
William	Huizinga	October 11
Ella	Shaarda	October 11
Tom	Bont	October 13
Melanie	Burghgraef	October 13
Clare	Emerson	October 13
Teegan	Boyd	October 14
Marylou	Meulenberg	October 15
Violet	Richardson	October 15
Loren	Kaeb	October 16
Eric	Person	October 16
Matthew	Seal	October 16
Joni	Bras	October 18
Kristen	Gorlewski	October 18
Darren	Bras	October 19
Kurt	Tornga	October 20
Betty	Chupp	October 22
Ehren	Gaebler	October 23
Carol	Segal	October 26
Jessica	Blok	October 28
Amanda	Braam	October 28
David	Entingh	October 28
Brian	Braam	October 29
Jeanette	Byker	October 29
Joe	Emerson	October 29
Keith	Bittenbender	October 30
Jori	Orr	October 31

# Happy Birthday to You!!

