

OUR REDEEMER MONTHLY NEWS

February 2024

Faith to Persevere

Once upon a time, a woman called a religious talk-show, and spoke with the pastor taking questions, giving sound Biblical advice. Now, the pastor was a wise, grandfatherly gentleman who has that calm reassuring voice that can melt all fear.

The lady, who was obviously crying, said, "Pastor, I was born blind; I've been blind all my life. I don't mind being blind, but I have some well meaning friends who tell me that if I had more faith I could be healed."

The pastor asked her, "Tell me, do you carry one of those white tipped canes?"

"Yes, I do," she replied.

"Then the next time someone says that, whack them over the head with the cane," he said. "Then tell them 'If they had more faith that wouldn't hurt!'"

There will always be people who try to be "helpful." But, they don't listen to the person whom they're trying to help. On the other hand, there are people who are crying for help, but refuse to receive the help that God keeps sending because they don't like the messenger. Then there are people who just ought to sit down and be quiet. In the last two years, serving as Vacancy Pastor at two congregations, I've been in all three of those situations.

Of the first, there was a man who thought he was being helpful in telling me to go on SSI disability, go on medicaid, and basically move out onto the streets, and throw myself onto the mercy of God for a miracle. That was not helpful. I disregarded that advice, as should we all. Though there were MANY stairs in the previous congregation I served in Berwyn, it needed to be done.

Of the second,... well, the guy who was of the first sort became one of the second sort because I no longer respected his opinions. He may have had truly helpful words to say after that conversation, but I would not hear them because of my pride. I was persuaded that I had many more years to give or my life towards the Holy Ministry. You, the people of Our Redeemer, extending to me this Call has restored to me my confidence that I'm not yet expended, but still have something to offer.

Of the third, not so much concerning the present day, but those who kept talking of the past as if it had happened just this morning. The twenty-one years that I spent at Good Shepherd was my first Call. As Saint Dr. Louis Brighton taught, "when God puts you someplace, you stay there until God takes you out." Now and then I encounter some people who were members of that congregation, and have yet to join another congregation. I ask them what the difficulty seems to be. The answer they give is invariably something about how things are "different" at the other places they've visited, and lament how nothing is like they've known. If they liked it so much at Good Shepherd, how is it they never brought friends, family, to Worship or events, how is it they did nothing in the last several years to keep the congregation from declining. How is it that even after we opened after COVID that they didn't return, and work to bring back those who were still staying home? In that situation, we were both of the sort who ought to have just sat down, and kept our mouths shut. To dwell too long on the past prevents us from going forward.

Our Redeemer may have some of that "dwelling upon the past" going on in various ways. Some people have been hurt by feeling unloved by what some previous pastors had done. Okay, those guys are gone. Some of those guys have passed from this world. What about now? Don't we all live in the now? Today is an opportunity to show forth to one another that what is done and gone is nothing but memories from which we bounce, and try not to bounce backwards. Time, my family, to bounce forward. Right?

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Jeff L.

Network Name and Password

ORLC Network Name: ORLC-Sanc-WiFi

Password: OrLcWiFiWax214

ORLC Outdoor Network Name: NETGEARACA35F-SETUP

Password: sharedsecret

Click-meeting link: [Ourredeemerph.clickmeeting.com](https://ourredeemerph.clickmeeting.com)

Website

Our website: **ourredeemerprospectheights.org** contains links for Livestream online worship, Bible Studies, Bulletins, Monthly News, and Online Giving. Check it often.

Email address for Pastor Leichman

If you would like to send an email to Pastor Leichman, please use the following address:

Pastor@ourredeemerprospectheights.org.

Prayer Request Information

If you have a prayer request, please notify Jim Burmeister via text at (847) 343-3798,

Phone (847)934-5963 home or (847)343-3798 cell; or via email

at elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org.

Adult Bible Study

Join us in the Parlor on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm or Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am for Bible Study. Our new Monday Bible Study begins on January 8, 2024.

Hunger Jar

Please remember the **Hunger Jar**. The jar is located on a stand at the top of the steps.

Coffee and...

Please join us for our special February Birthday celebration at 'Coffee and...' following Worship on Sunday February 4th.

Midweek Lent Services

Midweek Lent Services will be on Wednesdays during Lent at 6:30 pm, beginning on February 21, 2024.

Pastor Jeffery Leichman Installation and Reception

Installation of Pastor Jeffery Leichman will be on February 18, 2024 during the worship service. There will be a Coffee and...More reception immediately following the service. Please plan to attend.

Sonshine News:

Noah's Ark Animal Workshop/Sonshine Fundraiser

Thank you to all who purchased and/or attended our new Noah's Ark Animal Workshop fundraiser with the Sonshine Preschool families. We thank you all for your continual support.

Sonshine Preschool Annual Spaghetti Dinner/Auction Fundraiser

The Sonshine Preschool Annual Spaghetti Dinner/Auction Fundraiser will take place on Saturday February 24th at 5:00 pm. Tickets will be available starting Sunday February 4th. Tickets prices will be the same as last year – Adult (\$9) – Children 2-12 (\$5) – cash or checks payable to Sonshine Preschool. This meal will include pasta with meat or meatless sauce, meatballs, salad, mac and cheese, bread, desserts and drinks. If possible, please plan on attending for some great food and fellowship, while the Sonshine students and staff perform a short 'skit'. You will also have an opportunity to participate in our silent auction and raffle prizes (we have been fortunate to secure many new gift cards, game tickets, etc. for you to win), if you are unable to attend, but still wish to purchase tickets for the meals, please feel free to contact Traudy Burmeister (847-343-3771) and we will be sure to box them up for you.



February 19 – Tim Hartmann
 20 – Bev Chudy
 27 – Jean Staffa

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

February No Anniversaries this month



February	4	9:00 am	5 th Sunday after the Epiphany With Communion Coffee and... February Birthdays
	5	7:30 pm	Bible Study
	7	11:00 am	Bible Study
	11	9:00 am	The Transfiguration of Our Lord (No Communion) Coffee and...
	12	7:30 pm	Bible Study
	13	4:30 pm	BOD Meeting
	14	11:00 am	Bible Study
	18	9:00 am	1 st Sunday in Lent Sunday With Communion Pastor Jeff Leichman Installation Coffee and...More Installation Reception
	19	7:30 pm	Bible Study
	21	11:00 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study Midweek Lenten Service
	24	5:00 pm	Sonshine Preschool Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
	25	9:00 am	2 nd Sunday in Lent No Communion Coffee and...
	26	7:30 pm	Bible Study
	28	11:00 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study Midweek Lenten Service