

REDEEMER MORAVIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST - 2026

Rev. Dr. Tracy Pryor, Pastor

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2026 CRMC Watchword:

"Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them,
and we will come to them and make our home with them." John 14:23

Growing, Gathering, Giving Thanks

The month of August is often associated with beginning a new school year and the return of familiar routines and activities. It is also a part of the harvest season in the Northern Hemisphere. While sweet corn, tomatoes, and peaches may be at their peak this month, Ohio's harvest season continues through November.

Harvest is the physical realization of abundance. It transforms months of planting and tending into a tangible store of food, resources, and life. Harvest turns potential growth, whether in seeds planted in the ground or dreams nurtured in our hearts, into a shared and visible reality. Jesus spoke often about harvest in the Gospels. In John, he uses the image of harvest to invite his disciples to see that the season for gathering is both present and ongoing: "Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35).

When you think about harvest, what does it mean to you? When you look at your life and the world around you, where do you see abundance? Are there dreams you have planted that are now coming to fruition? Are there overgrown places that need tending, or weary and overworked places that need renewal and replenishment?

Reflecting on the season of harvest that unfolds before us, I see numerous examples of abundance within and through our congregation:

- Our community garden welcomed more new gardeners this year. We give thanks for the relationships we have cultivated with this growing group of neighbors and friends.
- Our food pantry collections for the 40th Year Challenge have demonstrated remarkable generosity.
- Youth and young adult ministry at Tar Hollow continues to flourish. Camp Bethany welcomed a record number of campers. Lamb Jam invites children to experience our worship through hands-on learning and a renewed spirit in congregational worship continues to nourish tendrils of faith, love, and hope within and beyond our assembly.

The work before us continues. We are continually called to strengthen relationships with one another, the wider community, and recognize God's harvest of unity, justice, and peace. As Paul reminds us, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9). Let us give thanks for the harvest before us while faithfully sowing the seeds of God's kingdom for seasons yet to come.

Pastor Tracy



40th YEAR CHALLENGE AUGUST UPDATE

November 2025 - November 2026

1. FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

June - Canned Meat/Beans
Collected – 75

July – Hand Soap & Sanitizer
Collected – 73 items

2. NEW VISITORS

June - 9

July - 4

(37 total)

40th year GOAL – 40

3. ABOVE and BEYOND FUND

June = \$300

July = \$1300

TOTAL = \$17,881

40th year GOAL = \$40,000

AUGUST COLLECTION – **UNSWEETENED APPLESAUCE** REDEEMER CHURCH

If you are interested in Electronic Giving for
regular offering or our Above and Beyond account
you may use the this QR code.



SUMMER BOARD REPORT

Pastor's reports were given.

Financial reports approved.

- 40th year Challenge progress reported
- Phase 2 roofing repairs to begin soon
- Parsonage repairs and tree removal discussed
- Phone providers discussed

2026 CHURCH BOARDS

Members serving on the Joint Boards for 2026 are:

Elders:

Dee Brooke

Gail Dufford - Jt. Brd. Secretary

Jenny Hammond

Susan Heeter

Karen Jackson

Vicki Minard - Vice Chair

Trustees:

Carl Dufford - President

Don Gerbig

Marcie Hoffman

Michael Kilmartin

Dan Minard - Vice Pres.

Keith Schneider

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The adult Sunday School class continues during the summer. "Story-Tellers, Poets, and Prophets" is a study of the Bible.

You are welcome to join us any time at 9:30 am for coffee/tea and conversation... bring a friend and your favorite Bible (or borrow one from the library if you forget).



CONFIRMATION

On August 9 we will accept Rain Pryor Poole into the membership of the Church of the Redeemer by Rite of Confirmation. Rain is an 8th grader at Davis Middle School and has been attending Redeemer with her family since 2021. Blessings Rain.

PARSONAGE WORK DAY – August 8, 8:30

Come help if you are available. We have had to take down a fairly big tree and we need to cut up and bag and bundle all the branches to be hauled away. BRING SMALL SAWS if you have one, WORK GLOVES and ENERGY!

BACKPACK BLESSINGS – August 16

If you are a teacher or student, bring backpacks to church this morning and receive a blessing for the new school year.

STAY AFTER WORSHIP – August 30

Everyone is invited to stay after worship on Sunday, August 30 for pizza lunch and a webinar about Income Innovation for Churches. Stay and hear ideas of how to increase the church's income

MINISTRY TO CHILDREN – LAMB JAM!



An addition to our worship service is “Lamb Jam”. Evie Blum is offering an option for ministry to children that will allow the children to stay in the sanctuary and allow their parents a moment to worship with a little less distraction, while keeping the children involved in the day's worship theme.

Each week, she provides an activity at a small table placed over to the side of the sanctuary. Each week's activity is themed with the scripture/sermon focus for the week.



ROOF REPAIR UPDATE

Phase 2 of the repair has been completed.

**Our Above and Beyond Fund helps cover the costs of these projects. If you would like to help out, our Electronic Giving QR code is listed at the beginning of the newsletter with the 40th year challenge information.



PRAYER CONCERNS Lesley Davies, Steve Gray cancer, family of Kevin Frack,

Penny Surber, Susan's brother, Fran's mom, all ESL students, Vicki's co-worker Amber, Karen's sister-in-law Lori, Keith Schneider, Jenifer Russell, John Hammond, Vicki's mother Mitzi, Joan Daley, Marsha's family, Mike (cancer), Joe and Judy (tumor and blood disorder), Elizabeth Rendi (transplant list), all healthcare staff, Ukrainians, Iran, service men and their families, the Middle East, Slovenians

PRAISE: Those who give freely to assist in the church, diverse people gathering together, those who serve faithfully



SUMMER CHOIR

Our choir will take August "off" for sabbath rest. They will resume rehearsals and singing after Labor Day.



ESL CLASSES

Classes will take a break in August. Classes will resume in September.

AUGUST CALENDAR

AUGUST

2 Sunday	Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30
3-7 Mon.-Fri.	Camp Bethany
8 Saturday	Parsonage WORK DAY 8:30
9 Sunday	Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Communion/Confirmation
11 Tuesday	Joint Board 7:00
16 Sunday	Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 JOYFUL NOISE Backpack Blessings
23 Sunday	Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30
30 Sunday	Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Webinar w/pizza after worship 11:45

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

17 - Dan Minard

21 – Henry Hall

ANNIVERSARIES

15 Susan & Mark Heeter 56

21 Tracy & Mike Poole 16

22 Vicki & Dan Minard 44

22 Elaine & Alex Hall 6

23 Evie & Dave Blum 12



FOOD PANTRY



Redeemer has an ongoing collection for food pantry items. We continuously give to the Smoky Row Food Pantry. Your donations are always appreciated.

Any nonperishable, unopened, unexpired items will be accepted.

Monetary donations also accepted, payable to Smoky Row Food Pantry.

You can drop your items off at the church.

EARTH and CUP

Earth and Cup is a nonprofit 501c3 ministry co-founded by Pastor Tracy and Mike with a holistic approach to healing and transformation. Redeemer Moravian partners with Earth and Cup by offering classroom space for movement classes and activities. Earth and Cup offers group classes, private sessions, and workshops for the community on a pay-as-able basis. All are welcome!

Find out more and discover upcoming classes/private session/workshops at <http://earthandcup.com/>
You may also email them directly at: earthandcup@gmail.com.



**We pray for a safe and productive school year for our teachers and students.
Be careful driving – Our kids are out there!**

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