



HOPE AGAIN

GLC Annual Celebration

April 23-24, 2021

2020 GLC Awards

- ◆ Church Planting
- ◆ Church Outreach
- ◆ Church Vitality
- ◆ Church Leadership



Church Planting

Arv Anderson & Larry Sherman Award in Church Planting to Pastor Georgia Hill



Pastor Georgia Hill began her adult working life as a lawyer before turning to ministry where she served for 19 years as an associate pastor for a United Church of Christ church. Since the year 2000, she has taught African American history at Wayne State and U of M Flint which she has enjoyed. She also enjoys being part of a dance ministry, being part of Bible studies, and spending time with family. Georgia has lived in the Detroit area for most of her life, only living away from Detroit to go to school in Cambridge, Washington DC, and Chicago. As she began to think about transitioning away from her associate pastor position to possibly be a church planter, she had a conversation with two members of LifeChurch Southfield. Both mentioned Alan Tumpkin's (GLC Director of

Church Planting) name as someone she should speak to when she mentioned that she felt God was calling her to plant, but that she had not felt there was an open door. After talking to Alan about church planting in general (and in the ECC), he recommended that she attend an ECC Church Planting Assessment Center. Georgia attended the Assessment Center in the fall of 2018. She was recommended to become a church planter.

Georgia began serving as a church plant resident at LifeChurch Southfield in the fall of 2019. The residency invited her to see church differently. It opened her mind to a different manner of church, less formal, more young-adult oriented. There were a lot of things that were different from what she had experienced in the past. The differences added up to what makes a Spirit filled church. In Dec 2019, Georgia began getting the launch team together for the new church. In Feb 2020, the launch team started looking for buildings. March began, and the building search was looking interesting. Then lock down

happened. Georgia's Covenant Agreement for LifeChurch Riverside began April 1, 2020 at the beginning of a world-wide pandemic.

Everything changed overnight. What was in person Bible studies or prayer time became zoom meetings. However, growth and movement continued. The launch team kept meeting, and they kept watching the pandemic. They kept planning and building the ministry by organizing the connections and stewardship ministry teams- and people gave. They moved from having communion at Bible study to having a Zoom worship service with communion on the first Sunday of November 2020. It went well. So, they decided to meet weekly starting in December. They also determined to serve



Join us Live for Worship

Communion & Sunday Worship
December 6th | 9:30am
Zoom Meeting ID: 830 9414 8561
Passcode: 029817

Sunday Worship
December 13th | 9:30am
Zoom Meeting ID: 830 9414 8561
Passcode: 029817





Church Planting (cont.)



the community by partnering with Trader Joe's to get food to St. Leo's soup kitchen and by gathering Christmas gifts for a group of children. When Christmas time arrived, the church could not have a Christmas party for the children. So instead, in groups of two, the people of the church delivered the packages to the children. Today, Pastor Georgia uses LifeChurch Southfield's studio to record the weekly service which is live streamed on Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube every Sunday at 9:30am. The church, as a community, watches together. At the end of the service, the people on Zoom have a discussion.

Questions asked of Pastor Georgia:

How has planting during a pandemic been different from what you expected?

I had planned and budgeted for a church location and had not planned for the church to have to meet virtually. I was neither tech savvy nor knowledgeable of online platforms. I had to learn a whole new language, the language of Facebook and YouTube, and how to use Zoom. Most importantly, how to actually reach people with this media. Just because you are on the platform does not mean you have reached anyone.

What aspect of planting has been the most difficult?

God has sort of been laughing at me, the girl who previously had only posted once or twice ever on Facebook now having to figure out how to reach out on social media. Not completely understanding social media has made reaching out a challenge. However, the hardest part is reaching out beyond my immediate circle. If I and the launch team only reach our immediate circle of friends, we will not be expanding, the church will not grow.

Where have you seen God at work?

Everywhere. I have seen God at work in shaping the vision for the future of the church. I have seen him in our ability to impact others via St. Leo's soup kitchen and the giving of gifts for the kids, both have been an awesome blessing. I also see God in what I hear from the people who say they are growing spiritually- that is really a blessing as well.

What are your hopes for the plant?

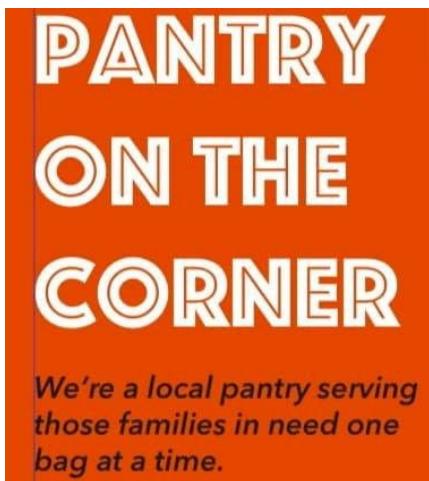
One hope would be to keep a vibrant online service, but to also have vibrant worship in a building on the ground. I hope to have a new building and be inside for worship by the fall. Another hope would be to provide people with good teaching, offer the love of God, and do the kind of outreach we really want to do. We would like to form a committee called "Peace and Justice" to impact the community. My heart's hope is to be able to prepare the church so they invite people into a restored relationship with Jesus Christ and help people to grow in the Lord so they may respond to the call of God on their lives.





Church Outreach

Dave and Beth Chilcoat Award in Church Outreach to Journey Covenant Church Cuyahoga Falls, OH



“Serving Families in Need, One Bag at a Time” is what Pantry on the Corner, a ministry of Journey Covenant Church in Cuyahoga Fall Ohio, strives to be about. Journey Covenant Church is a small church of 40 members, but through their pantry, they are having a large impact. They have really stepped up to serve the surrounding communities during this time of Covid. Pantry on the Corner was not started as a reaction to the pandemic; it was already a flourishing ministry prior to March 2020. However, due to the pandemic which has brought job loss along with growing need into the lives of many, the pantry has become even more necessary. Often, the

home pantry doesn't get filled when there is not enough money to go around. People have to make a choice between buying food or paying bills.

Prior to the pandemic, the pantry, which was open a few days a week, operated on a client choice model. A model in which people would come inside the pantry to choose what items they

wished/needed to take home. The pandemic caused the pantry to shift the delivery model for the safety of the clients and the volunteers. The pantry is now a drive through model, open one day a week. Volunteers pack food in bags and boxes in the morning and early afternoon which are then handed to the recipients as they drive through the parking lot.

Originally, Journey Covenant Church, with its commitment to address food poverty in its community was serving around 20 families a week – but needs created by the pandemic has seen its team of volunteers now serving more than 1,000

people a month. Pastor Jeanette Brown said, “This is the mission of our church. It is humbling how our volunteers stepped up to meet this need. Not only have we had to help many, many more families but we



MON, APR 5 AT 5 PM EDT

Distribution day

Pantry on the Corner / Journey Covenant Church · Cuyahoga Fall...





Church Outreach (cont.)



have also had to work out how to move the pantry from an indoor to an outdoor operation to ensure everyone's safety during the pandemic."

The church works with the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank to supply food to the families in need. Pastor Jeanette said, "This may be our church's mission, but none of it would be possible without the hard work of our Team Journey Volunteers, led by our "volunteer" pantry coordinator Carol Sue Moore, who orders the food and keeps everything running smoothly."



Pastor Jeanette said she is now looking to ensure the Pantry on the Corner has the ability to operate with its outdoor drive-through model permanently, in all types of weather as North East Ohio fully experiences all four seasons. The need is huge, and it is Pastor Jeanette's prayer to secure some sort of drive through shelter out of which the pantry might serve. "My hope is to find the means to build a permanent shelter or garage to protect our volunteers from the elements and keep our essential service going regardless of what the weather throws at us," she said.

As seen April 15, 2021 on the Pantry on the Corner's page of Journey Covenant Church's website:
3987 volunteer hours since the start of the pandemic
118, 040 lbs of food distributed since the start of the pandemic





Church Vitality

Dave Dahlberg Award in Church Vitality to The Churches of the Great Lakes Conference

Presented to all the Churches of the Great Lakes Conference...

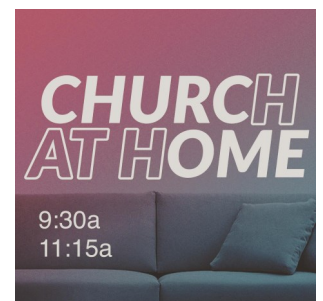
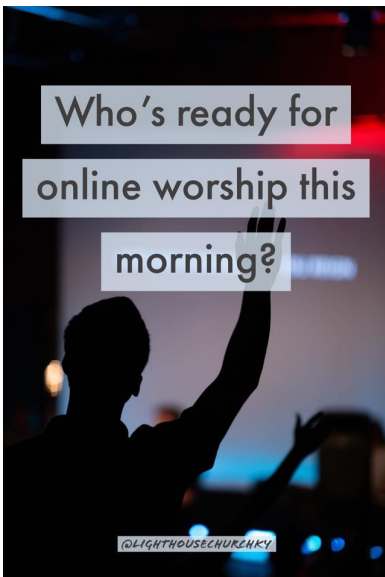
For perseverance in ministry through the global pandemic; for adapting quickly to new ways of worshipping “together” and for overcoming obstacles to care well for children, teenagers and adults of all ages; for sacrificial service to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of neighbors; for intentional efforts to understand and address racism; for striving to share the Gospel with people who don’t know Jesus, and for discipling those who do... so that together we may continue to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.

(The pictures on the following pages are from the Facebook pages of the GLC Churches)



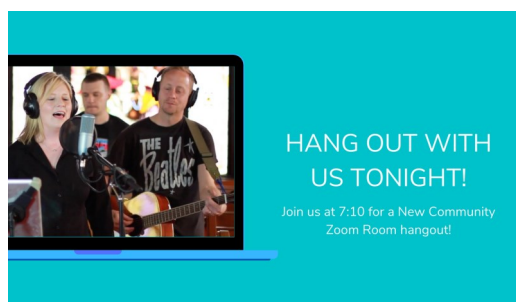
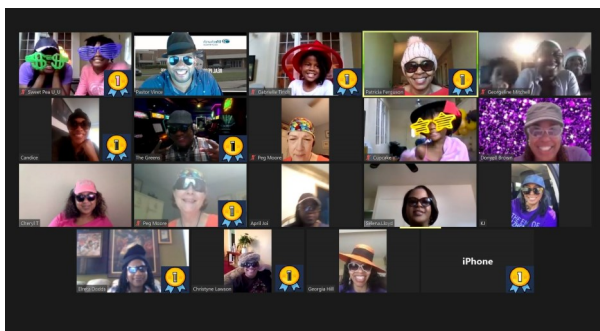
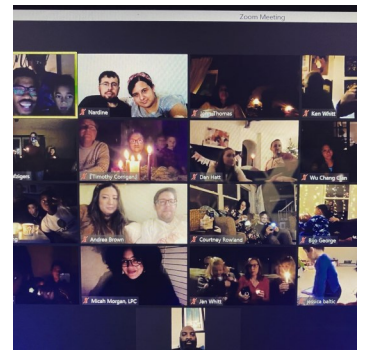
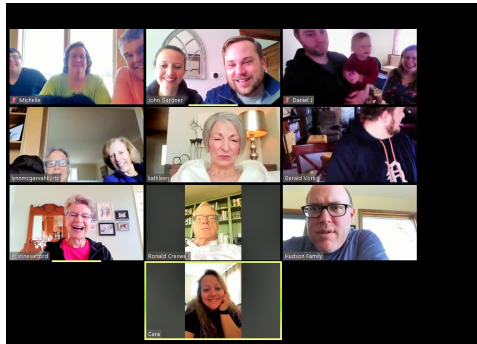
Over night everything changed and church would never be the same- or would it?

We moved worship, Bible studies, prayer times and more online.





Church Vitality (cont.)



There were some problems,

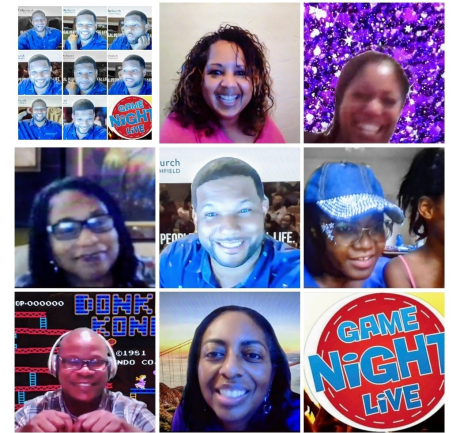
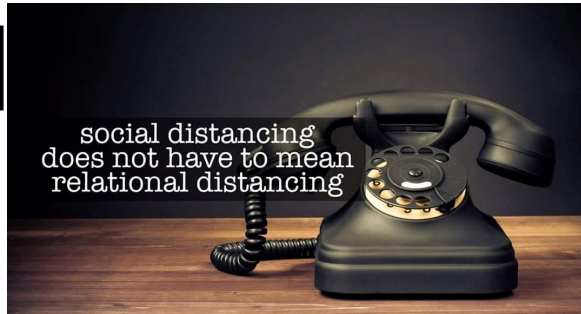


but we got better at it.



Church Vitality (cont.)

We continued to connect.



Camping Citadel Style

Virtual

Citadel of Faith continues its yearly tradition of experiencing God in nature (Psalm 19:1). From the comfort and safety of your own home. CAMPING ON A ZOOM CALL!

Let's have some fun!

<p>CAMP SONGS! Click Below for the songs we'll be singing</p> <p>The S'more Song Campfire Pokey</p>	<p>CAMP STORIES BY THE FIRE Grab a S'more pack from the Rectory</p> <p>Pick up 25 pre-made S'more packs available FIRST COME FIRST SERVED Sundays, July 26th 10am-2pm Wednesdays, July 29th 5:00pm-7:00pm</p>
<p>TRICK MY TENT CONTEST click here</p> <p><small>For winners: Award given for the best tent!</small></p>	<p>RAFFLE PRIZES</p>

more info at citadeloffaith.org
Click back to Zoom call details & How To Video

STAY CONNECTED

FIRSTCOVER

Kingdom Kid's Bible Study

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7:30 PM
KIDS CAN WEAR THEIR PJ'S AND BRING A SNACK TO ENJOY BIBLE STORY TIME VIA ZOOM!
Zoom Meeting ID: 91007911911
Passcode: RqgNRC

KINGDOM EMBASSY COVENANT CHURCH
3025 GLENSIDE BLVD, MUSKEGON, MI 49441



SUGAR GROVE MISSION COVENANT CHURCH

DRIVE THRU ICE CREAM SOCIAL

JULY 29TH
6PM TO 8PM

ICE CREAM FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
ALL CKC STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Road Rally

Scavenger Hunt

lifekids

Saturday, January 31
10am-noon



EVERYONE INVITED! BRING A FRIEND!

MIDWEEK MANIA

FOOD TRUCKS, FUN, SOCIALLY-DISTANCED GAMES!
WED, AUGUST 19 / 6:30PM - 7:45PM

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR/PICNIC BLANKET

outdoor service

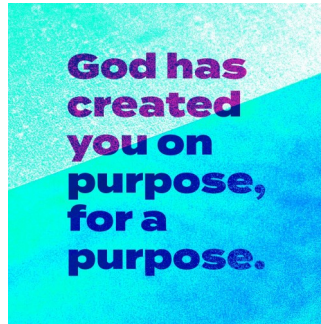
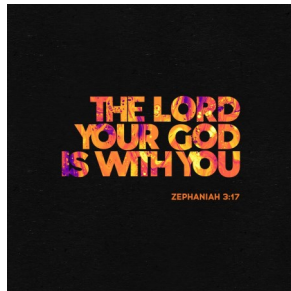
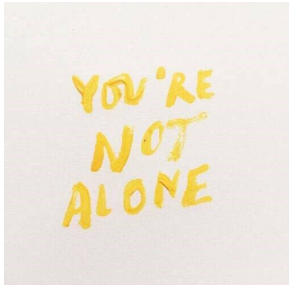
so good you!



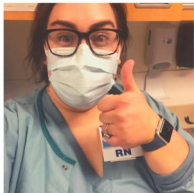


Church Vitality (cont.)

We encouraged one another.



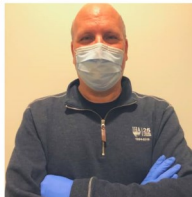
We encouraged others.



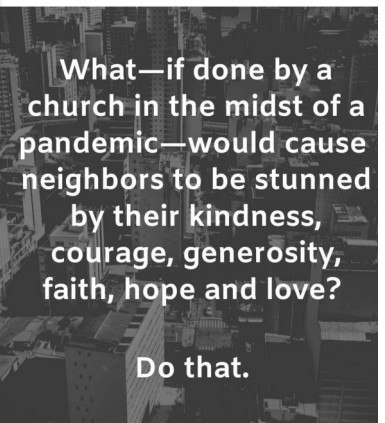
LIFECHURCH IS PRAYING FOR OUR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

BLESSED ARE THE ONES WHO CANNOT BE ISOLATED.

BLESSED ARE THE DOCTORS, NURSES, CHAPLAINS, HOSPITAL STAFF.



University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
Mar 12 at 6:13 PM



University of Dubuque Theological S...
Religious Organization [Learn More](#)

We took care of needs.



COME—ALL ARE WELCOMED!



ALL SUMMER!
FREE FRIDAY COMMUNITY MEAL 4-7 P.M.
(DAN'S DELI FOOD TRUCK)

3607 Dempsey Rd., Faith Covenant Church

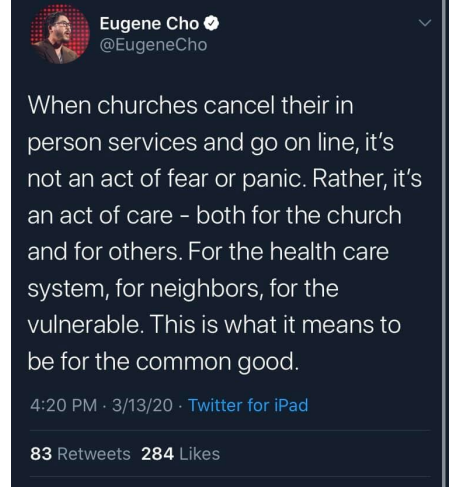
In these days of sickness, fear, mistrust, hurt, anger and violence our Free Friday Community Meal is a simple gesture of kindness by followers of Jesus to the people within our community. We continue to pray for hope and healing.



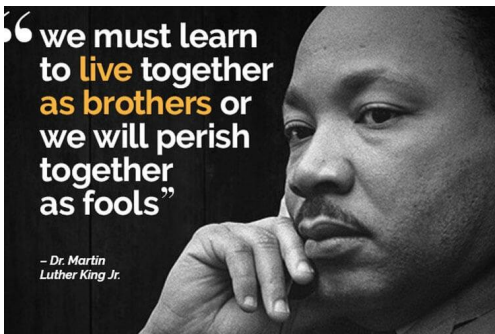
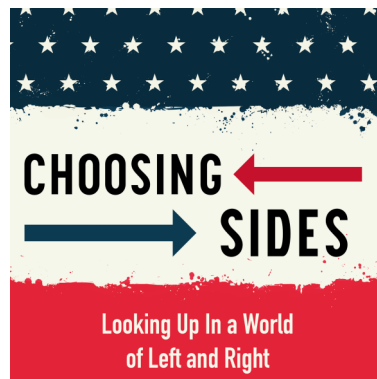


Church Vitality (cont.)

We tried to keep everyone safe.



We had to face difficult and important issues along with the pandemic.



Video Discussion Series

Tuesdays at 7pm | Starting April 13
Thornapple Conference Room

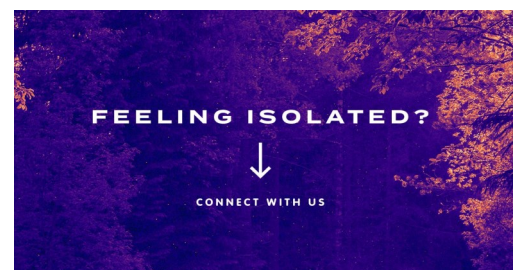
Participate in person or via Zoom
20-minute video/40-minute discussion led by Andrew Vanover & Lynne McLaughlin

LOVE MERCY DO JUSTICE

thornapple.org/compromise



We had to come to grips with how the pandemic has affected us.





Church Vitality (cont.)

We found humor in the pandemic.

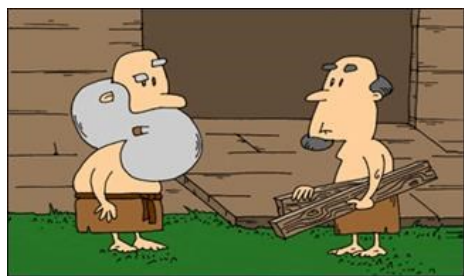


Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

Q: Pants or no pants during a meeting?

A: Pants

Near Everybody—
Since I've NOT pastored people thru a pandemic before, I DON'T KNOW all the answers. But I'm paying attention to science & praying for wisdom. Together, we'll take courage, be patient, consider the least of these & press onward while loving our neighbors. *♥ Your Pastor*
P.S. WASH YOUR HANDS!!!!



AFTER WE GET THE ANIMALS LOADED, WE NEED TO FIND "HAND SANITIZER" AND SOMETHING CALLED "TOILET PAPER"



Comment with how many rolls you have left at your house

DISTRACTED

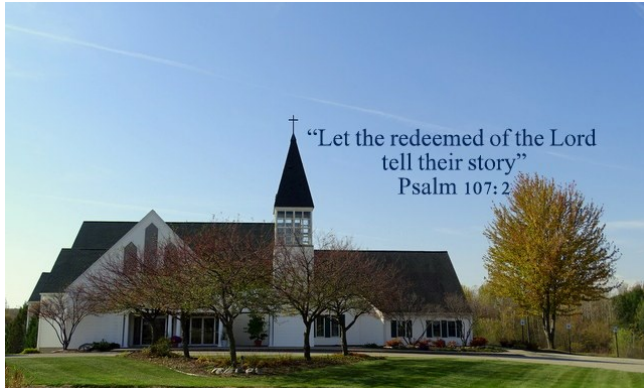
So through an incredibly difficult year, the church has continued to be the church, continuing to love and care for people, proclaiming the message of Jesus as it always has.





Church Leadership

Richard Lucco Award in Church Leadership to The Leadership Team of Redeemer Covenant Church Caledonia, MI



*Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.
2 Corinthians 4:1*

Redeemer Covenant Church began in 1990 with a vision to reach people on the south-side of Grand Rapids, MI for Christ. Over the past 30 years members and friends have appreciated many things about Redeemer Covenant Church. They appreciated the non-

doctrinal stance and theological freedom of the Evangelical Covenant Church and the church's concern for the world as demonstrated through missions and outreach. At Redeemer, Children and youth received love, attention, and a grounding in the faith and everyone celebrated creativity through music, drama, and art.

In October 2020, the members of Redeemer voted unanimously to close its ministry. It had been a challenging year of Coronavirus quarantines and a sudden shift to online ministry. Closing the church was one more loss in a season of isolation and lament. Redeemer Covenant Church sought to redeem this time of loss and grief by becoming a Living Legacy Church. They chose to continue to advance God's kingdom and glory by returning the property to the Covenant for sale. In this way, they would become partners in planting new churches and in assisting current churches in their Vitality journey.



Pastor Beth Ernest and Church Chair Lois Roelse prepared the leadership team for the possibility of closing and becoming a Living Legacy Church. Over a series of meetings and through prayer and fasting, the leadership came to the unanimous decision that the church should close. Prior to speaking with the leadership team, Pastor Beth and Lois did their homework well, speaking to denominational and conference individuals about the realities, legalities, and logistics of becoming a Living Legacy Church. It became clear to them that communication would be key, communication with the leadership and communication with the congregation. Once the leadership team was in consensus, they in turn helped to bring consensus



Church Leadership (cont.)

to the church through clear, open, and honest communication *with* the congregation and through love *for* the congregation. This gave the leaders an opportunity to truly be leaders. They led driveway conversations- meeting in small groups outside in lawn chairs- to go over the situation and to ask the congregants if they could be of any help. They met on the lawn for lunch in a circle to keep the lines of communication and friendship open.

The leadership worked on a logistical plan of closure; the trajectory of worship from then until closing as well as the timing and construction of the final service. They looked forward over the weeks and chose a time



and season where closure made sense: after summer and before Advent. They chose Christ the King Sunday which is the Sunday before the beginning of advent and a natural time of giving thanks and praise. For the final service they crafted times of participation with past pastors as well as participation from the congregation. Tokens were brought forward as symbols to represent the life of the church; as an example a hammer and drill were brought forward to represent

work performed by volunteers. After each token was brought forth, the congregation together proclaimed, "Lord, we give you thanks." The sermon focused on the name of the congregation, that they are not primarily Redeemerites, but Christians who are such in the name of Christ- the best of names.



The leadership also helped to determine the disposition of many items in the building. Some items stayed with the building, some were given away and some had to be tossed. An inventory was made, and there was much surprise over what all the building contained. A theme for the church was being a blessing, being a legacy. They were able to bless a local geography teacher with the flags of several nations, and a Caledonia school was blessed with risers. They were able to bless other churches and the community fulfilling a wish that had been on the church's heart since the beginning.

Of concern to the church was the disposition of the two churches who were renters at Redeemer, of particular concern was the Matu Church (Burmese congregation). The building was purchased by



Church Leadership (cont.)



the local Chin Church (also of Burma). The Chin tribes are a different group than the Matu, each has their own language, but both understand Burmese. It was exciting that a cousin group of the Matu would be buying the building and that the Matu Church would be allowed to continue meeting there.

Finally, the leadership helped the congregation determine what the individuals of the congregation should do next. Each person was encouraged to look forward to becoming involved with another church and given permission to think about their next church without guilt so as to make a good transition.

The leadership of Redeemer Covenant Church would like to thank all of the congregations that prayed for them, the clergy cluster that supported Pastor Beth, and the churches that sent monetary gifts. They say, "Thank you for lamenting with us for the Covenant, the Conference and the area have lost something precious."

Advice to the churches from Redeemer Covenant Church, even if (or especially if) you are not thinking of closing.

- Keep your membership rolls clean. You need to know who can vote, the people who are actually there.
- Do Swedish death cleaning on a regular basis. Know what you have, keep an inventory. There were many items that were found in the course of cleaning out the church that they could have used along the way or given away to bless others. Instead, they just sat around being of use to no one.
- Pass on your dream. Constantly be on the lookout for those in your congregation who could become leaders and share your dream with them.





Past Awards

Arv Anderson & Larry Sherman Award in Church Planting

2020	Georgia Hill	2019	Donearl Johnson & Cameron Underdown
2018	New Community Covenant Church	2017	LifeChurch Livonia Leadership
2016	Harlan and Wendy Henderson	2015	Brittany Barlow & Abbie Golden
2014	Alex Rahill	2013	Jerry Ricks
2012	Herb Kolbe	2011	Father Paul Chateau
2010	Scott and Tracy Austin, Jason and Lisa Condon, Mike and Mel Muscarella	2009	Caleb Skinner
2008	Lois Johnson	2007	Dan and Lisa Johanon
2006	Jim Wallis Sr.		

Dave and Beth Chilcoat Award in Church Outreach

2020	Journey Covenant Church	2019	LifeChurch Canton
2018	Maria Koliantz	2017	GLC Evangelism Cohort Leaders
2016	Shunichi and Masako Miyamoto	2015	Melissa Williams
2014	Bruce and Barbara Baehr	2013	Rick Miller, Dave Trosper, & Sharon Hamilton
2012	Marge Palmerlee	2011	Judd Hamilton
2010	Don Schiewer	2009	Alan and Debbie Asp
2008	Keystone Church & Stoneridge Cov. Church	2007	Monique Holliday
2006	Dave and Beth Chilcoat		



Past Awards (cont.)

Dave Dahlberg Award in Church Vitality

2020	The GLC Churches	2019	Stanley Hagemeyer
2018	Forest Park Covenant Church	2017	John Wenrich
2016	Federated Covenant Church	2015	Kelly Casey
2014	Keith Cheli	2013	Bill Anthes
2012	Russ Carlson	2011	Sarah Gordon
2010	Josh and Alycia Merriweather	2009	
2008		2007	

Richard Lucco Award in Church Leadership

2020	Leadership Team of Redeemer Cov. Church	2019	Gina Roberts
2018	Laura Garvey & Tamra Soderberg	2017	Ja'mel Armstrong & Matt Ness
2016	Greg Applequist & Steve Armfield	2015	City Covenant "Mothers of the Ministry"
2014	Shaun Marshall	2013	Dan Wolter
2012	Richard Lucco		

