



Dear Redeemer Family,

Jackie Wilson's 1959 hit "Lonely Teardrops" is a fabulous, upbeat tune about a cold, depressing topic that too many experience every single day: loneliness.

Once on "Jeopardy," the final round was about the location of Elvis's "Heartbreak Hotel." Nobody got it, but I kept shouting, "Lonely Street!" Were the contestants in denial or merely uninformed? I ask because a 2020 Harvard survey found that over a third of the world's population feels chronically lonely. (Younger persons are more likely to feel lonely, according to the report.) "All the lonely people, where do they all come from?" asked The Beatles.

My wife, Malacy, gets *The Atlantic* magazine delivered to be well-read and a better dinner conversationalist than I am. The cover story this month is about isolation, which is just a fancy term for solitude and loneliness. At least 80 percent of the pastoral care I provide involves combating loneliness to some degree. And I confess that even I — a lifelong, extreme extrovert — can feel lonely sometimes. Nobody is immune. My theory about loneliness, if you'll indulge me, isn't mine at all. What I have to say about loneliness is straightforward, biblical, and based on actual lived experience, not peer reviewed journals.

Loneliness is a result of feeling unloved or not accepted. Period. And, although loneliness can certainly be the result of some big breakup or colossal Waterloo moment, it is most often triggered by a string of little disappointments that build up over time, making us feel, well, isolated and cut off.

There is really only one way to alleviate loneliness each time you experience it. (And, trust me, I've tried everything from group activities to therapy.) When we feel isolated and cut off, it's because we've somehow lost the vertical element of our relationship with God.

You can have all the "friends" in the world — which is a "horizontal" relationship, human to human — but if you don't have a "vertical" relationship with Him who transcends physical relationships, life can be hell on earth.

Pictured above:

On Sunday, Feb. 16, Redeemer welcomed its 3,000th and 3,001st members. The milestone was reached at the 9 a.m. service when two babies were baptized — Ruby Mae Spears (left) and Casey Jane Clegg (right). Their families gathered in the St. Francis Garden after the service.

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(continued from front page)

Next time you feel alone and insecure, swap the troubled, horizontal relationship that has let you down and turn your heart and mind to the vertical, unshakable, and spiritual connection you have with God through Jesus! This sounds, admittedly, like a coffee mug or Sunday School cliché, but it's totally true. The very second you feel lonely, focus on Him who is above the natural – He who is supernatural.

Your wife or husband may be amazing. Your children may simply be the best. Your business partners may be incredible. Your circle of friends may totally rock your world in the best way. But I promise you all of them will let you down sometimes, making you feel lonely. Only Jesus can give us the limitless love and sense of belonging that we all need and crave.

Your servant,

Fr. Charleston Wilson
Rector
Church of the Redeemer

Join us for First Fridays on Palm Avenue
on Friday, March 7, from 5:30-7 p.m.
on our Palm Avenue Terrace!



In another moment from our 3,000th-member celebration on Feb. 16, children of the parish unveiled gold balloons with the numbers 3,000 and 3,001.

“The hand of God is clearly at work at Redeemer, and we give thanks to God for this incredible milestone,” said Fr. Charleston Wilson. “Now our focus is on doubling down on making new Christians and making all Christians new.”



— Special Gifts —

A gift in memory of **Robert J. Menegaz, M.D.** designated to the Memorial Fund from Donna Menegaz

A gift in memory of **Becky Thornhill** designated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund from Martha & James Chadwick

A gift in thanksgiving for **The Rev. Charleston Wilson** from Donna Menegaz

— Milestones —

Baptisms

Becks Owen Blomster
Charli Marie Blomster
Weston Rainer Blomster
Casey Jane Clegg
Wylie Scott Finlay
Lucy Gray Mangum
Miller Jones Mangum
Penelope Mae Mangum
Ruby Mae Spears

Deaths

Barbara Axton
Donald Laronge

Transfers In

Margaret Annett & Stephen Poma, and son Richard Annett Poma from St. James Cathedral, Chicago, Illinois

Nicole, Dustin, Emma, and Ethan Hamilton from Christ Church, Charlotte, North Carolina

Carolyn Kelly Minton and Robert Minton from St. Michael & All Angels, Corona del Mar, California

Susan Minton, from All Saints, Atlanta, Georgia

Keith Oropeza, from All Saints, Winter Park, Florida

Julia Pogue, from St. Francis in the Fields, Prospect, Kentucky

Jill & Richard Wedinger, from Christ Church, Middletown, New Jersey

Transfers Out

Elaine (Laney) Phillips Ortega, to All Saints, Atlanta, Georgia

Joining

Janet Augustine
Valerie Cox
Elise Gonzalez & Scott, Reese, Isla, and Wylie Finlay
Heather, Matt, Claire and Colin Gray
Barbara & James Long
Suzanne Stein
Bradford Stewart

MARCH 2025 Highlights

St. Scholastica Sunday: Sunday, March 2, during and after the 9 a.m. service, Church

Redeemer Forum — Eden and Afterward: Sunday, March 9, 10:10-10:40 a.m., Goewey Hall

The Whiffenpoofs Concert: Sunday, March 2, 7-8 p.m., Church (Tickets at RedeemerSarasota.org/MusicEvents)

Coffee Talk Women's Book Group: Monday, March 3, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Gillespie Hall (*Finding Margaret Fuller* by Allison Pataki)

Shrove Tuesday Jazz and Jambalaya: Tuesday, March 4, 6-9 p.m., Courtyard and Gillespie Hall (Sign up at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register.)

Ladies' Bible Study: Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18, and 25, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Goewey Hall; 6:30-8 p.m., Room 220

Ash Wednesday Services: Wednesday, March 5, 7 a.m., 10 a.m., and 6 p.m., Church

Grace Gang Women's Bible Study with the Rector: Thursdays, March 6 and 20, noon-1 p.m., Goewey Hall

Alpha: Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, and 27, 6-8 p.m., Gillespie Hall (Sign up at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register.)

History Hunters with Robert Barylski: Thursday, March 6, 6-7:30 p.m., Goewey Hall

First Fridays on Palm Avenue: Friday, March 7, 5:30-7 p.m., Palm Avenue Terrace

Serve on Saturday Bed-Build Day: Saturday, March 8, 9 a.m.-noon, Courtyard

Redeemer Young Professionals Wine & Cheese Gathering: Saturday, March 8, 4-6 p.m., home of Ian McGowan

First Communion Class: Sundays, March 9, 16, 23, and 30, 10-11 a.m., Room 202-204

Tell Me More Class: Sundays, March 9, 16, 23, and 30, 10:10-10:40 a.m., Gillespie Hall

Architecture Sarasota Lecture: Tuesday, March 11, 6 p.m., Church (Tickets at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register)

Little Hands Big Hearts: Wednesdays, March 12 and 26, 6-7 p.m., Gillespie Hall

Books and Beyond Men's Book Club: Wednesday, March 12, 6-8 p.m., Room 220 (*Ascent to Power* by David Roll)

Blessing 101 Adult Class: Wednesdays, March 12 and 19, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Goewey Hall

All-Parish Book Clubs Dinner: Thursday, March 13, 6 p.m., Goewey Hall (*This Much Country* by Kristin Knight Page) (Sign up at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register)

Redeemer Forum: How Jesus Saves — Atonement for Ordinary People: Sundays, March 16, 23, and 30, 10:10-10:40 a.m., Goewey Hall

Evensong: Sunday, March 16, 5:15-6 p.m., Church

Vestry Meeting: Monday, March 17, 6-7:30 p.m., Goewey Hall

Icon Writing Retreat with Christine Hales: Tuesday, March 18-Friday, March 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Room 202-204 (Sign up at NewChristianIcons.com.)

Daughters of the King: Saturday, March 22, 10-11:30 a.m., Room 220

Night Shift Women's Book Club: Monday, March 24, 6:30-8 p.m., Room 220 (*Moonflower Murders* by Anthony Horowitz and *The Weed That Strings the Hangman's Bag* by Alan Bradley)

Adult Confirmation Class: Wednesdays, March 26, April 2, and April 9, 6-7 p.m., Goewey Hall

GATORS Lunch/Presentation Event: Saturday, March 29, noon-1 p.m., Goewey Hall

Parenting in the Digital Age: Sunday, March 30, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Goewey Hall (RedeemerSarasota.org/Register)

Visit RedeemerSarasota.org/Calendar for more information about upcoming events.

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

RedeemerSarasota.org | 941-955-4263

Making new Christians and making all Christians new



Saturday at 5:30 p.m.
Contemporary Mass*

A service with contemporary music

Sunday at 7:30 a.m.
Rite One Mass

A service without music for early risers

Sunday at 9 a.m.
Rite Two Choral Mass*
A service for all ages with
traditional music
(Children's Chapel during mass)

Sunday at 11 a.m.
Rite One Choral Mass*
A service with traditional music

Sunday at 1 p.m.
Rite Two Mass*
A service in Spanish with
contemporary music

*in person and livestreamed

Nursery care at the 9 and 11 a.m. masses.

Daily Mass: Monday-Saturday at 10 a.m.
Morning Prayer: Monday-Saturday at 9 a.m.
Evening Prayer: Monday-Friday at 5:15 p.m.