



Boston, Philly, and the Quiet Work of God

Rev. Dr. Ralen M. Robinson

July is here, bringing with it hot days, long evenings, and a pace that (hopefully) feels a little slower than the rest of the year. For some, it's a season of travel and rest; for others, it's work as usual just sweatie. However this month is showing up for you, I hope you find some space to breathe, laugh, and be reminded that you are deeply loved by God.

I just got back from the East Coast, where I spent a week on my annual girls' trip in Boston with my childhood best friends. It's one of those traditions that keeps us grounded we laugh, talk way too late, revisit old inside jokes, and eat our way through the city. One night, we sat by the Charles River and just watched the city lights flicker across the water while catching up on real life. No big agenda. Just presence. And honestly? It felt like church. The Spirit was there in the laughter, in the stillness, in the deep knowing that comes from years of friendship.

The book of Acts reminds us:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common... They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:42–46)

After that, I headed down to Philly to spend a few days with my family. There's nothing quite like being in a house where everyone talks over each other, the love is always being passed around, and stories flow freely even the ones we've all heard a million times. It reminded me that sacred moments don't always happen in sanctuaries. Sometimes they happen around kitchen tables and on front porches.

This month, we're reflecting on how the Holy Spirit shows up quietly long after the Pentecost fire has come and gone. Maybe not in wind or flame, but in the ordinary, everyday grace of being together. In conversations that surprise us. In community meals. In prayers whispered when we're not even sure what to say.

The world is full of tension right now so much beauty, and so much brokenness. And yet, God keeps showing up. Not always loudly, but always faithfully. Again, and again. God shows up in the mess of conflict and strife. God shows up in the fractured foundations of crisis. God shows up in the cries of those who are grieving, protesting, hoping, and holding on. Even when it feels like too much, God is already there steady, present, and at work.

So this July, I invite you to slow down when you can. Look around. Make space for joy. Check in on someone. Take a deep breath. Let grace lead. The Spirit is moving, friends and it just might be showing up exactly where you are.

More Than a Flyover: Finding Home in Kansas

Reflections by Rev. Dr. Ralen Robinson



I'll admit it, I was once guilty of using the term *flyover state*. It rolled off my tongue without much thought, a shorthand for all the places people pass over on their way to somewhere else. I didn't mean harm by it, but looking back, I realize how much that phrase diminishes. It flattens whole landscapes and communities into background noise.

That is, until I placed my home pin here.

Since settling in Kansas, I've learned that this so-called flyover state holds more than meets the eye. It holds stories. It holds strength. It holds community.

Life here doesn't always grab headlines, but it's rich with meaning, found in the quiet consistency of neighbors who show up, in the rootedness of tradition and hard work, in the beauty of wide skies and long conversations. There's a humility here, but also a fierce kind of love, a commitment to care, to stay, to build something real. Kansas has taught me that being overlooked by the world doesn't mean you lack value. It means the treasure is waiting to be discovered by those willing to look closely.

So now, when someone calls this a flyover state, I smile. Because I know better. I know the depth, the faith, the relationships, and the purpose that thrive here. And I know that once you've truly seen this place, you'll never look at it the same way again.

Go, Make Disciples

Cheer up the Lonely Day—July 11th



Know someone who lives alone or someone who may have lost a loved one recently or someone you have been meaning to contact. Reach out to them and say hello on July 11th. You never know when you will make a difference.

Young Adult Mission



Micah Hobart is embarking on a year-long journey of service and accompaniment in Mexico through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program. Rooted in relationship and mutual learning, Micah will walk alongside local communities, sharing in their joys and struggles, while deepening his own faith and understanding of the global church.

He recently shared his faith story with us, reflecting on John 15:1-8- God has been pruning and preparing him for this very moment. With the encouragement of his family, friends, and Reformation family, Micah stood before the congregation to testify to how God is moving in and through his life.

This summer, Micah will be seeking financial support to make this mission possible. A donation jar is set up near the entrance of the sanctuary, by the offering plate, and will remain there throughout the summer. Please consider supporting him as he follows this faithful call.





SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible Study (Noon)

Session 1

July 9th-30th

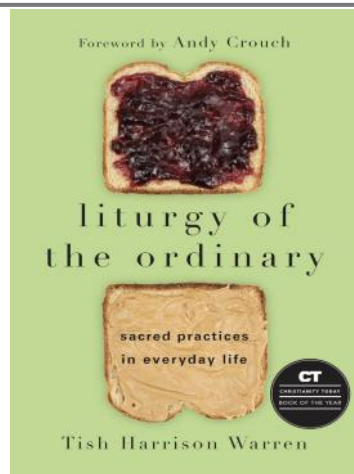
Session 2

August 6th-27th

You're invited to our Summer Noon Bible Study! Join us for a time of reflection, discussion, and fellowship over lunch as we dive into Scripture together. We'll gather during two sessions, July and August this summer, at noon, offering two enriching sessions designed to nourish both body and spirit. Bring your sack lunch, a friend, and come ready to grow in faith and community. All are welcome!



Mark your calendars! The **Blessing of the Backpacks** will take place during worship on **Sunday, August 17th**. All **students, teachers, and school staff** are invited to bring their backpacks (or work bags!) to receive a special blessing as we begin a new school year. Come be reminded that you are surrounded by love, prayer, and support every step of the way!



July Book Recommendation

***Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren**

This inspiring book invites us to discover how the rhythms of daily life, our routines, habits, and even mundane tasks, can be transformed into sacred practices that connect us more deeply with God. Drawing on her own experiences as an Anglican priest and scholar, Tish Harrison Warren reveals how ordinary moments, such as eating, commuting, and working, can become acts of worship and spiritual formation. *Liturgy of the Ordinary* encourages readers to see God's presence in the everyday and to live with intention, grace, and gratitude. It's a perfect read for anyone seeking to reconnect with the sacredness of daily life.

upcoming events

July 4		Independence Day
July 9	Noon	Summer Bible Study
July 19	7 a.m.	St. Paul's Community Breakfast
July 23	9 a.m.	Life Line Screening
July 26		All Day Private Event
July 30	11 a.m.	ALW Training
Aug. 17	9:30 a.m.	Blessing of Backpacks



Church Council Update

The Church Council did not have a monthly meeting in June. We'll resume our regular meeting schedule in July.

However, we did review the financial reports and continue to work on property issues which included a replacement of the sump pumps just before the hella-



CHANGE: John, Beccie and Cody Farlow's address to 1336 N. Azena St.

Independence Day



As we celebrate Independence Day, we thank God for the blessings of freedom—and the hope we have in Christ, who sets us truly free. “*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*” —John 8:36



July food cart needs are **all things BABY related**: jars of baby food, baby cereal, diapers, formula, anything that might help a baby in need. Please visit the baby food area when you grocery shop and bring some supplies to the food cart that will help little ones during this hot summer. Thank you for continuing to give to the Open Door Food Pantry.



Reformation's first year as a Justice Together Network member is a wrap! Last Thursday, along with many other faith groups, 8 of our team members celebrated the successes of the 2024-25 cycle. A total of 39 people attended the Nehemiah Assembly, invited by our team members, resulting in Reformation being recognized as Rookie of the Year. This recognition is due entirely to the members of the Reformation's Justice Together Team, and they deserve our sincere thanks for all their efforts. Our team members are Shari Ryding, Jan Mullinex, Barb Huff, Micah Hobart, Suzanne Koch, Susan Martin, Susan Otterness Bachman, Lynette Wetta, David Dorf, Anita Dorf, and myself.

A total of 1,250 people of faith from across Sedgwick County attended the Nehemiah assembly on May 8th, and together, we achieved significant victories for justice. Wichita City council members agreed to monthly meetings with Justice Together to grow the affordable housing fund toward a \$10 million goal. Second, county commissioners agreed to pursue county-wide low-barrier photo ID access by the end of 2025. We received a clear "No" from County Commissioner Ryan Baty regarding funding for the Multi-Agency Center, providing clarity for our next steps.

Later this month we'll start working on our goals for the 2025-2026 cycle. If you are interested in joining the Reformation Justice Together team, now is the perfect time. For more information, please contact one of our members.

We do justice together!
Cheryl Hoops, Lead Contact

Summer Coffee Hour is Here!



Help us keep the caffeine and conversation flowing! Hosting is easy, just brew some coffee, bring a few treats to share, and tidy up afterward.

Sign up at the coffee table to be part of our Summer Coffee Hour crew. Let's make Sunday mornings extra welcoming together!



Beat the Heat with Midweek Meetups!

Looking for a midweek refresh? We're offering casual Wednesday Noon gatherings through July—come enjoy the A/C for conversation, a short devotional, and cool fellowship!



When we should be able to be out and about during the summer days, we are once again faced with temperatures that keep us inside. If that is the case for you and you are finding yourself lonely, please reach out to Stephen Ministry. A Stephen Minister can use the telephone to be in touch with you if needed. A Stephen Minister can share God's love and care with you. A Stephen Minister can listen. Please contact Lotus Gerards at 316-683-8602 or email her.



Nancy Scott	7/4
Larry Ehrlich	7/5
Heather Borg	7/6
Janis Peter	7/6
Janet Wolf	7/6
Eli Hicks	7/7
Sarah Jensen	7/7
Brock Stupka	7/7
Barbara Borg	7/8
Joanne Applegate	7/9
George Bunting	7/10
Connor Hultman	7/10
Betty Schultz	7/10
Bryan Barr	7/11
Pamela Lyford	7/13
Andy Martin	7/16
Mark Johnson	7/17
Kathryn Bunting	7/22
Vicki Dunham	7/22
Amy Borgmeyer	7/25
Thomas Walter	7/25
Kevin Brumbaugh	7/26
Al Flores	7/26
Shirley Metz	7/26
Ted J. Vlamis	7/27
Benjamin Walter	7/27
Braeden Winters	7/28



Interested in becoming a member, or know someone who is?

If you want more information about membership at Reformation, contact Rev. Ralen Robinson.



Do you sing in the Car? Do you sing in the Shower? Do you sing in the cereal aisle at Dillons? Can you hum, whistle or sing a tune?

Then you need to consider our new choir: **REFORMATION SINGERS**. Rehearsals begin on TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9th from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Would love for you to join us to sing praises in our 11:00 worship services.

We are hoping to begin with singing once a month, and maybe add more in the future!
We would love to see you on September 9th!!!

Questions??? Contact Marcia
Or catch me after church!
Hope to see you on September 9th!



REFORMATION RINGERS

Tuesday, September 9th from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

We would love for you to join in with our wonderful handbell choir. Can you read a little music??? If so, this will be a fun way to present music for our 11 a.m. worship services. We play once a month and for special services—Christmas Eve and during Holy week. Hope you will consider playing with our Bell choir!!! We want to see you on September 9th !!!!



In Our Prayers

Pray for healing and safe recovery of the sick, the suffering, those defending our right to freedom of religion, our siblings in Christ and the following

Kourtney Franke	Robert Pfeiffer
Sheila Carlson	Annette Carson
Kenn Woodard	Shirley Metz
Marcia Werts	Tom McFarlane
Ed Wilks	Larry Allbritten
Mark Hobart	Waldo Gerards
Carole Lyons-Osborne	
Marilyn Allbritten	

Additional prayer requests may be written in the book at the back of the sanctuary before each worship service.



Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out will be at Jimmy's Diner at 3111 N. Rock Rd. on July 8th. Call or text Carol Weaver to make a reservation at 316-258-2517.



We're in the Heart of Summer Worship!

Join us Sundays at **9:30 a.m.** as we continue our summer worship schedule. Come enjoy meaningful worship and warm community all season long!

REFORMATION YOUNG ADULTS IN THE Spotlight

As summer unfolds, we're celebrating a season of renewal, leadership, and connection here at Reformation. This month's stories highlight the energy, faith, and unique gifts of our college kids as they pursue their summer internships, jobs, and the ways they're making a difference in our community and beyond.



This summer, **Matthew Allbritten** is serving as a Manufacturing Intern at Toyota Manufacturing North America in Troy, Missouri. He is gaining hands-on experience in one of the nation's leading automotive production environments, contributing to innovative processes and learning from industry professionals.



This summer, **Cecelia Jowdy** joined fellow classmates from Kansas State University on an unforgettable journey to Italy as part of the Business, Leadership, and Fashion program. Immersed in the rich culture and history of Orvieto, Italy, Cecelia explored global perspectives on leadership and design while studying in one of the most picturesque towns in the Italian countryside.



This summer, **James Shackelford** is back on the courts at his alma mater, Wichita Collegiate School, working hard and giving back by teaching basketball to a new generation of sixth graders. With passion and dedication, he's helping young athletes build skills, confidence, and a love for the game.



July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours	2 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours	3 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 7 p.m. Fellowship	4 Church Office Closed	5
6 9:30 a.m. Summer Worship	7 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 7 p.m. Back to Basics	8 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours	9 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 10:30 a.m. In Reach 12 p.m. Summer Bible Study	10 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Rebecca Circle	11 Church Office Closed	12
13 9:30 a.m. Summer Worship	14 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 7 p.m. Back to Basics Bastille Day	15 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. <i>Ref Life Deadline</i> 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 7 p.m. Church Council	16 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 12 p.m. Summer Bible Study 1 a.m. Dorcas Circle	17 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	18 Church Office Closed	19 7 a.m. St. Paul's Community Breakfast
20 9:30 a.m. Summer Worship	21 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 7 p.m. Back to Basics	22 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours	23 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 12 p.m. Summer Bible Study 9 a.m. Life Line Screening	24 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	25 Church Office Closed	26 All Day Private Event
27 9:30 a.m. Summer Worship	28 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 7 p.m. Back to Basics	29 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours	30 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 11 a.m. Asst. League Training 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 12 p.m. Summer Bible Study	31 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m.		