

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen

February

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February 2024

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An interesting coincidence this year, as February 14th is both Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. Valentine's Day is one of the country's most popular holidays. Stores put out candy boxes and romantic cards, while restaurants and hotels advertise romantic packages for couples looking for a special way to spend the day. And in case you were wondering, you don't need to be in a relationship to celebrate the holiday. There are plenty of options for friends and family members looking to display their affection as well.

The holiday goes back to the third century when the Roman Empire ruled the world. During this time there were two saints named Valentine who performed heroic acts that made them martyrs within the Christian religion. They were both beheaded by the Romans, one for performing illegal marriages of young couples and the other for preaching Christianity before it was legal. The name "Valentine's Day" probably comes from one or both of them.

It is also said that the date February 14 derives from a Roman holiday to honor Juno, the goddess of marriage. The celebration included a feast to celebrate health and fertility, both because spring was coming and the Romans wanted their plants to grow and also because of human fertility. Once the Romans lost power and Christianity grew in popularity, February 14, now called Valentine's Day, was celebrated. In the Middle Ages, people believed this was the date that birds chose their mates. They believed in England that if you met or dreamed about someone on this day, they could be your true love.

Other Valentine's Day traditions evolved over time. In the 1600s, in England and other parts of Western Europe, the custom came of sending romantic messages to one's beloved. In the late 1800s, the holiday was also commercialized, with businesses printing and selling pre-written Valentine's messages. Around that time, people started giving candy and flowers to loved ones or going on romantic getaways with their partners. It really hasn't changed much since.

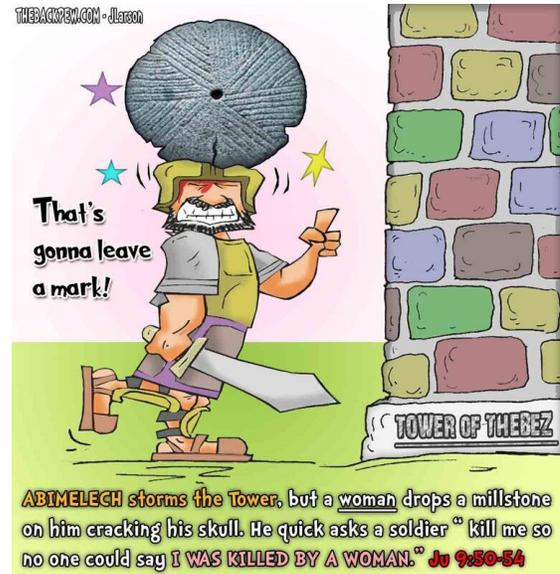
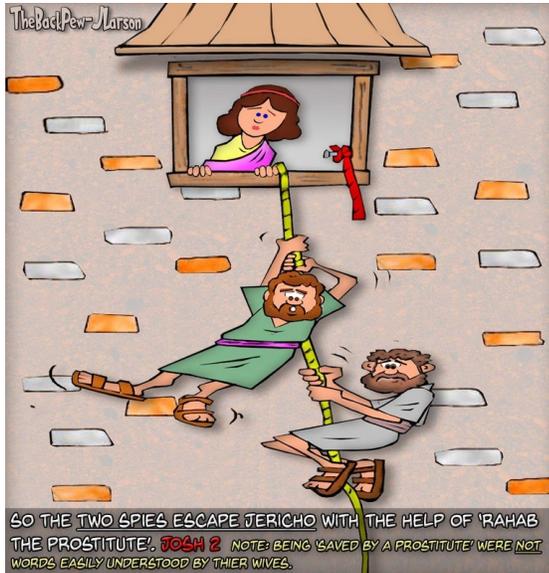
But, let us go back before the third and fourth centuries to 'the years of our Lord', when Jesus, the Christ, so loved the world that he gave his own life for the salvation of all. He proclaimed and exemplified by his own life that "LOVE" was the essence and key to having a good and fulfilling life, eventually leading to eternal life with our Lord.

Today, Ash Wednesday ushers in that period of time (the Lenten Season) when Christians remember the events leading up to the greatest sacrificial love of all time, eventually leading to the death and resurrection of Jesus, whose teachings are the foundation of our faith and our assurance of eternal life if we truly believe.

Pastor Nick

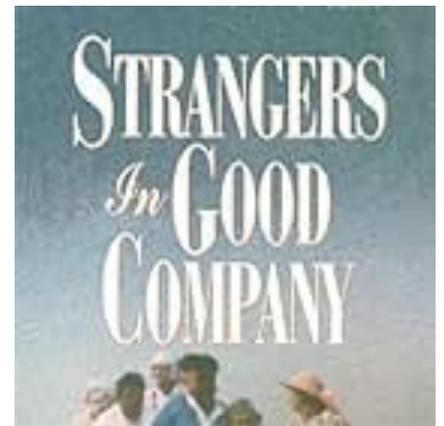


The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth



MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

Feb. 24, STRANGERS IN GOOD COMPANY (1990), Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 22 Livingston St., Kingston — This charming drama from Cynthia Scott centers on eight elderly women from the United States, Canada and Britain who don't know each other but find themselves suddenly depending on each other when they get stranded in the rural Canadian countryside. Traveling on a sightseeing trip through a largely uninhabited area, the women's tour bus breaks down and, as they await help, they are forced to fend for themselves. Finding refuge in an empty farmhouse, the mostly elderly women listen to birds, make drawings, enjoy the scenery and eventually form an indelible bond as they start talking and sharing many of their very disparate life experiences and memories. The women also catch fish using pantyhose for nets. The only young woman is the bus driver (Michelle Sweeney), who is also a jazz singer. To create an air of reality and spontaneity, director Scott used nonprofessional actors and encouraged them to draw on their lives and improvise dialogue. The women range in background from a Mohawk matriarch (Alice Diabo) and a respected U.S. feminist writer and painter (Mary Meigs) to a nun with a working knowledge of mechanics (Sister Catherine Roche). The film, also called *The Company of Strangers*, earned four film-festival awards, including the Grand Prize at Germany's Mannheim–Heidelberg International Film Festival. "A beautifully unique work, both in its topic and its docufiction execution . . . celebrating the lives of these eight women and the experience of being together without the influences of men — or the outside world." — Amelie Lasker, *The Hot Pink Pen*. "Their souls sparkle with surprising inner beauty." — Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, *Spirituality and Practice*. "Feels less like a drama than a vacation." — Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*. **Rated PG. Note: This screening takes place one week later than usual, on the fourth Saturday of the month.**



R.C.P.E. Yellow Pages

Data at your fingertips

Prayer Chain

Psalm 145:18

“The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.”

We amplify this power of prayer when we pray together.

To activate the chain for you or someone else, call Katherine Kinsch at 338-6378. That day, a team will be praying for you.

Confidentiality pledged.

Consistory Meets

*The 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM
Meetings open--call 331-2782 for agenda space.*

Next meeting February 13th

ELDERS

Matt Van Aken

Ray Wells

Linda McCarthy

DEACONS

Bonnie Lalor

Tom Gallagher

Monica Kelbaugh



Prayer List

(Prayers will stay on for one month unless notified otherwise)

Prayer List

(Prayers will stay on for one month unless notified otherwise)

World — the Middle East, the innocent Palestinians, All of the people attacked in Israel, People of Ukraine, World Peace, Political Leaders, An end to the coronavirus, A solution for the refugee crisis, For all the homeless.

Church Worldwide — Religious persecution in Bangladesh, Persecuted Church (China, Nigeria, North Korea).

RCA — Sudan Mission, Oman Protestant Church and Bode Family, Al-Amanda Center.

Mid-Hudson Classis — Bob Vanderlaan, Rev. Diana Smith.

Petitions of healing, protection, and deliverance — Keith & Esther Wood & caregivers, Neil Pade, Kingston High School students involved in car accident & their community and families, Marie Raymond, Jenny, Eric Hansen, Carol, Annabelle Sarr, Hunter Lincoln, Jason Sizemore, Rena Beall, Tyson, Luke, Charles Barnett III.

Church Family — the Finger family, Mitzi Terpening, Jim Hadley, Linda Bresnahan-McCarthy, Rev. Nick Miles, Bob Schlichting, Janis Loring, Austin James Stokes, Rick Whittaker, Elnora McSpirit, Pastoral Candidate Brian Steadman and family, Search Committee, Rhoda family, Bob Shelightner.

Homebound/nursing homes/institutions — John Lattieri, Bea Hogan, Marie Klippel.

Praise — Brendan Horton is doing better.

Grieving — Family & friends of: Sue Rose, Bill Moylan, Muriel Finger, Richard Davenport, Kathy Howard.



February Birthdays

- 4 Joseph Relyea
- 10 Mike Kinsch, Sr.
- 12 Bob Shelightner
- 18 Shannon Goodrich
- 19 Joseph Sutton
- 21 Bev Gallagher
- 24 Cheyenne Candlin
- 25 Marie Klippel
- 27 Paula Van Aken



March Birthdays

- 26 Pastor Nick Miles
- 30 Johnny Candlin

EXPENDITURES December 2023		RECEIPTS December 2023	
Administration	\$4946.02	Weekly Offering	\$7175.25
Buildings and Grounds	361.63	Special Offering	1498.00
Faith Formation	80.00	Facility Use / Dinner	346.00
Family Care and Fellowship	98.60	Bequests and Gifts	82.76
Mission and Outreach	200.00	Other income	0.00
Worship Committee	1340.99	Account Transfers	<u>0.00</u>
Stewardship and Finance	<u>892.74</u>		
TOTAL	\$7,619.98	TOTAL	\$9103.01

**Announcing:
 Ulster County Photography Club
 Upcoming Exhibit at Esopus Town Hall
 February 9 to May 7 — "Four Perspectives"**

Opening Reception will be held for/by our four members, (John Verner, Lee Courtney, Chris Acosta, & Michael Dimen) who will be exhibiting a condensed version of their

"Four Perspectives" Exhibit on our Members' Wall, (at the Town Hall)

The Reception: February 9th, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm — Come One, Come All!

Stewardship Moment

Day 4 – The Lord watches your generosity.

2 Corinthians 8:12

*For the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable
according to what one has,
not according to what he does not have.*

People are often grouped as “glass half-full” people or “glass half-empty” people. The glass half-full people are the optimists, always seeing what is good about a situation. The glass half-empty people are the pessimists, the ones who, instead of seeing what is good, only see what is wrong or missing. When God looks at your generosity, how does He see your glass? Do you think He looks at all the ways you could have done more or could have done better?

Many people experience huge amounts of guilt and anxiety because they don’t think they are doing enough for God. They fear He isn’t happy with them. But, the Scriptures tell us that God looks at the offerings His children bring graciously and generously. When a child makes a drawing for a parent, they come and say, “Look what I made you! All you may see are a bunch of squiggly lines of crayon; but, when told it is a picture of the two of you playing outside, or a pony, or a million different things, no parent looks at the child and says, “Well this is sure a poor drawing; but, I guess I’ll take it.” Rather, because that picture is from your own child, it is cherished. And the next thing you know, you have a refrigerator covered with drawings that only look vaguely like what they are supposed to be.

Likewise, when God’s children bring an offering to God made in love and eagerness, 2 Corinthians 8:12 says that God is well pleased with that offering. He doesn’t judge His children according to all the things they never were or never accomplished. Rather, because they are His own spiritual children He receives the offering they bring.

If you are one of God’s redeemed children, live generously toward God, in ways both large and small, and know that God is pleased by that action.

Today’s Generosity Challenge:

Today is a two-part challenge; first prayerfully consider how you can do something for someone that is small; but, meaningful. Then, pray for something really sacrificial, something big that will cost you. Now, ask the Lord to present total strangers before you that you can live generously for them with these two challenges. Then tonight, before you go to bed, write down your observations and how your generosity was received. Journal your challenge here at <http://GenerousLife.net/Day4>. As your eyes close, ask the Lord to remind you of His generosity towards you, in the big things and the small things.

* Michael L. Stuckler, *A Journey to Generosity (41 Days to a Generous Life)* the Visiongroup Ltd. 2013. Pages 19-20



Lectionary Scripture Readings for February 2024



First reading	Alternate first	Second reading	Gospel
And Psalm	reading		
	And Psalm		

Date	First reading And Psalm	Alternate first reading And Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
February 4, 2024	Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c		1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
February 11, 2024	2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6		2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
February 18, 2024	Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10		1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
February 25, 2024	Genesis 17:1-7 Psalm 22:23-31		Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8: 9-15

January 2024

**PASTORAL
SEARCH COMMITTEE**



Brian Steadman successfully completed his examination before the Human Support and Vocational Development committees of the Mid-Hudson Classis on January 16th. The committee will hear Brian preach at New Paltz Reformed Church on February 18th and meet with him on Saturday the 17th.



Ash Wednesday - Wednesday, February 14
1st Sunday of Lent - February 18
2nd Sunday of Lent - February 25

February 2024 Mission of the Month is Ulster County SPCA

Our February Mission of the Month will go to supporting the Ulster County SPCA. Cash donations are needed more than any other type of donation right now, as they are at full capacity. They do not receive funding from the ASPCA, nor any federal, state, or county agencies.

If you feel called to donate to this mission, please clearly mark your checks and envelopes with "February M.O.M." Thank you for your generosity.



Ulster County
SPCA

Helping Healing Adopting



Chuck



Rosalie



Thanos



Bert



Brooke

Sponsor a Pet | Volunteer | Donate | Foster | Adopt

Note: The Mission of the Month for December 2023 collected \$ 175



The mission of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is to provide a tangible reminder of God's love to those in need. The making of a prayer shawl is a spiritual practice which embodies our thoughts and prayers for the receiver. It is a gift freely given with no strings attached. Made in prayer, as prayer, for prayer, the shawls are passed on hand-to-hand and heart-to-heart.

Joyce Pade has many prayer shawls. If you would like to give one to someone in need, please see her or call the church office.

Consistory Highlights

January Meeting

The consistory would like to thank Colleen Sutton and Kathy Kinsch for their work on Consistory.

2024 Consistory organization:

Vice-President - Ray Wells

Clerk - Matthew Van Aken

Elder Delegate to Classis - Linda Bresnahan-McCarthy

Alternate delegate to Classis - We are looking for one of the greater Elders to consider filling this position.

Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs:

Worship - Bonnie Lalor

Stewardship & Finance - Ray Wells

Building & Grounds - Linda Bresnahan-McCarthy/Tom Gallagher

Faith Formation - Monica Kelbaugh

Family Care and Fellowship - Linda Bresnahan-McCarthy

Mission & Outreach - Matthew Van Aken/Paula Van Aken

We are investigating acquiring defibrillators.

We are meeting to continue developing our website, which is planned for Feb 6th at 7pm in Fairbrother Hall.

New Discipleship Calendars for Lent

This Lent calendar suggests a discipleship practice or activity for each day of Lent. Your life may be busy, and you may struggle to make time for God. Challenge yourself to deepen your discipleship a little bit each day during the season of Lent. As you take simple steps toward stronger discipleship, this Lent calendar will help you connect with God, start new spiritual rhythms, and embody Jesus Christ in the way you live.

The discipleship Lent calendar includes links to a variety of resources to help you engage in the daily discipleship practices it suggests.

[Download printable calendar](#)



Of course, February is the month of Valentine’s Day and the federal holiday Presidents’ Day, and it’s when we honor Black History Month too. This year, Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) and Ash Wednesday also fall in February. And with 2024 being a leap year, we get an entire extra day of fun.

While you don’t have to celebrate every special day observance, peruse this handy February 2024 calendar with holidays for ideas to make your month more fun and meaningful. Whether you are wondering what awareness month February is (it’s American Heart Month, among others) or when the Super Bowl is—or are just pondering the best day to whip up a batch of banana bread—we’ve got you covered with this list.

February 2024 Holidays and Observances

February 1	National Thank a Mail Carrier Day	The Lunar New Year 2024 marks the year of the dragon.
National Baked Alaska Day		
National Dark Chocolate Day	February 5	February 10
National Freedom Day	National Weatherperson’s Day	Lunar New Year
National Serpent Day	World Nutella Day	National Umbrella Day
February 2	February 6	February 11
Groundhog Day	National Chopsticks Day	Super Bowl Sunday
National Tater Tot Day	National Frozen Yogurt Day	National Don’t Cry Over Spilled Milk Day
Bubble Gum Day National Wear Red Day	February 7	National Make a Friend Day
Wear red for heart disease awareness the first Friday of February.	<i>National Fettuccine Alfredo Day</i>	National Inventors’ Day
February 3	National Send a Card to a Friend Day	National Peppermint Patty Day
National Golden Retriever Day	National Girls and Women in Sports Day World Read Aloud Day	World Marriage Day
National Carrot Cake Day	February 8	February 12
National Women Physicians Day	National Kite Flying Day	National Plum Pudding Day
Optimist Day	National Boy Scouts Day	National Clean Out Your Computer Day
Ice Cream for Breakfast Day	February 9	February 13
February 4	National Pizza Day	Fat Tuesday
National Homemade Soup Day	National Toothache Day	Galentine’s Day
	National Cut the Cord Day	Global Movie Day
		National Tortellini Day

Continued on page 12

February Days of Observance (continued)

National Cheddar Day

February 18

National Tortilla Chip Day

World Radio Day

National Drink Wine Day

February 25

February 14

National Battery Day

National Chocolate Covered Nut Day

Valentine's Day

Pluto Day

National Clam Chowder Day

Ash Wednesday

February 19

February 26

National Organ Donor Day

President's Day

National Tell a Fairy Tale Day

National Cream-Filled Chocolates Day

February 20

National Pistachio Day

National Ferris wheel Day

National Love Your Pet Day

February 27

February 15

National Muffin Day

National Strawberry Day

Singles Awareness Day

National Comfy Day

National Polar Bear Day

Susan B Anthony Day

National Cherry Pie Day

World Spay Day

National Gumdrop Day

World Day of Social Justice

February 28

February 16

February 21

National Chocolate Soufflé Day

National Almond Day

National Sticky Bun Day

National Tooth Fairy Day

National Do A Grouch a Favor Day

February 22

February 29

No One Eats Alone Day

National Margarita Day

Leap Day

National Caregivers Day

National Cook a Sweet Potato Day

National Time Refund Day

February 17

National Chili Day

National Toast Day

Ash Wednesday

February 23

National Random Acts of Kindness Day

National Banana Bread Day

National Cabbage Day

February 24

February 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

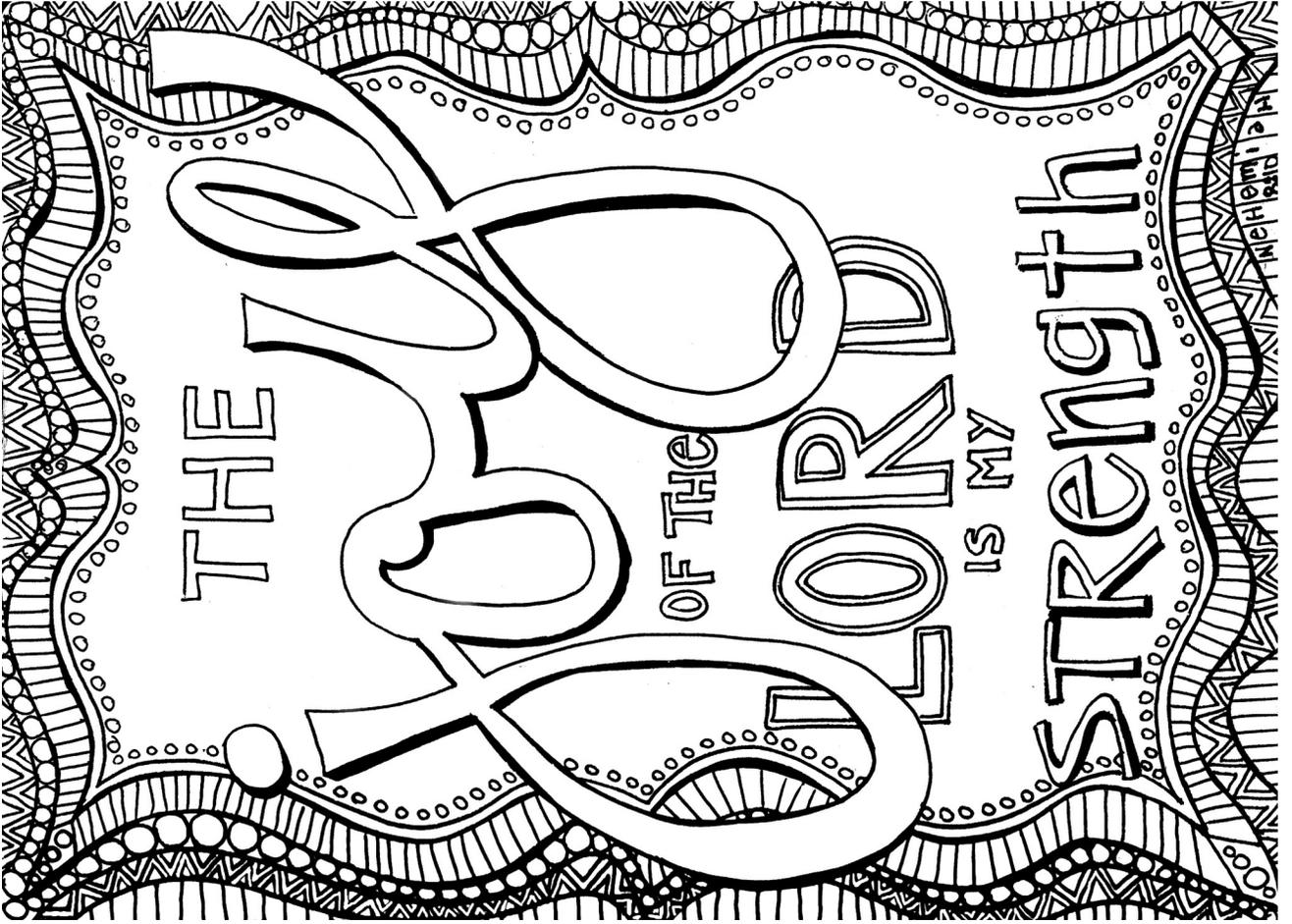
Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

4 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	5 5:30-7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30-7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	6	7 12:30 pm Bible Study 6-9:30 pm SCA	8 7-9 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 7-9 pm Choir Rehearsal	10	11 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	12	
18 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	19 5:30-7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30-7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	20 REFORMER DEADLINE	21 12:30 pm Bible Study 6-9:30 pm SCA	22 7-9 pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24	15 7-9 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 5-9:30 pm ANA Mtg (FH)	17
25 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	26	27	28 12:30 pm Bible Study 6-9:30 pm SCA	29 7-9 pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31	1 7-9 pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3 6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Community Dance (FH)



Our facilities are handicapped accessible

We're on the net!
www.rcpe.info

February 2024 Reformer

(845) 331-2782 Church Office
(845) 331-2782 Church Hall
E-mail: office@rcpe.info

Port Ewen, NY 12466

P.O. Box 580

at Salem and Green Streets

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen