

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen



Volume 22 Issue 3

March 2024

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“For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) This is the **GOSPEL** message in Miniature, and yet so profound. God **so loved**, despite our waywardness, despite our hesitation to believe and follow guidelines for an abundant life, and despite our reluctance to appreciate all elements of God’s creation.

“For God so loved.”

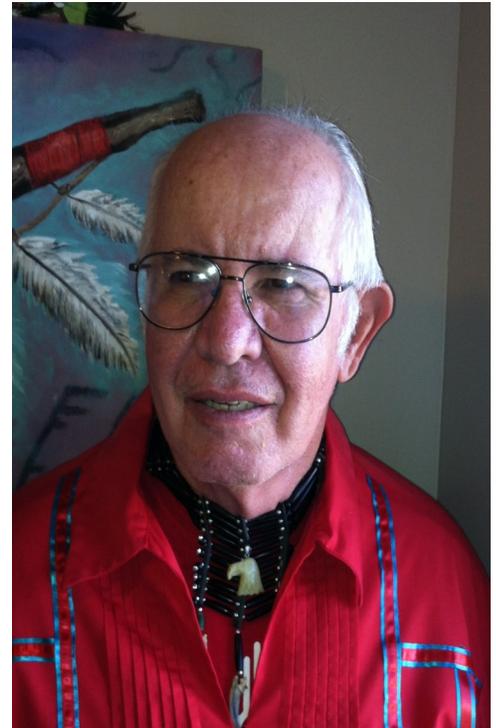
The divine love floods every aspect of human life, showering our lives with love, flooding the disappointing times with hope, flooding the low and high moments of life with grace to move forward enjoying life eternally.

“For God **so loved ...**” Forgiveness and eternal life are God’s free gift through Christ, not something that can be bought or earned by a certain amount of good deeds. It is a free **GIFT**. And, note the scope of God’s gift. God allowed the son to be crucified so that “ whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. Jesus died for every person. If you truly believe, then you do not need to worry whether or not you are included.

Does this sound too simple? Yes and No! Yes, because there are no requirements.

Nobody is excluded. There are no tests when you arrive at the “gate”, so to speak.

But, No, because if you truly BELIEVE, then you will live the kind of life that Christ lived. You will LIVE in harmony with ALL of



Daylight Saving Time
SPRING FORWARD
Set your clocks ahead one hour
Sunday, March 10
2024



The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth



MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

March 16, **GREAT FREEDOM (2021)**, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills, 320 Sawkill Road, Kingston —

In Germany after World War II, the liberation by the Allies did not mean freedom for everyone. Men who had been imprisoned in Auschwitz or Dachau because they were gay, regardless of their religious or ethnic backgrounds, were immediately moved to prisons in Munich or Berlin. They were incarcerated for criminalized sex acts under Paragraph 175 of the German Criminal Code. In Sebastian Meise's film, Hans Hoffmann (Franz Rogowski) is one of the men found guilty of such acts. For decades after the war, he is arrested and imprisoned again and again. Over the course of his confinements, he develops a bond with cellmate Viktor (Georg Friedrich), a convicted murderer imprisoned for life. Hans slowly resigns himself to the belief that life for him won't change and that the only place he'll truly be free to express his natural love and desires is, ironically, in prison, which is intended to deny him freedom. "A story of bittersweet beauty and unexpected tenderness." — Michael O'Sullivan, *The Washington Post*. "A perceptive character study about resistance and resilience." — Gary M. Kramer, *Salon.com*. "A love story — or perhaps a paradoxically platonic bromance — stretching from the end of the Second World War to the moon landing." — Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*. *In German with English subtitles. Not Rated.*



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 March 12th

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)

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).

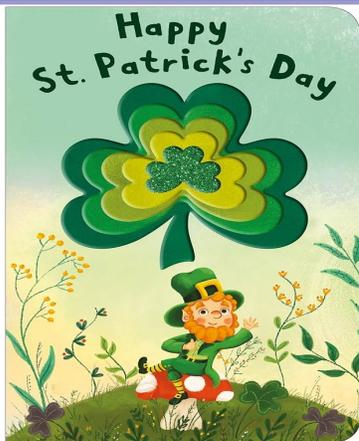
RCA — Sudan Mission, Oman Protestant Church and Bode Family, Al-Amanda Center.

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

Petitions of healing, protection, and deliverance — Deborah Grant, Brendan Horton, Mother Brie Bauer & Baby Beau Bauer, Stuart, Riker, Jenny, Eric Hansen, Carol, Jason Sizemore, Rena Beall, Tyson, Luke, Charles Barnett III.

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

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



March Birthdays

- 26 Pastor Nick Miles
30 Johnny Candlin



April Birthdays

- 3 Emma Spinnenweber
5 Beverly Sickler
5 Tom Sutton
13 Matt Van Aken
18 Elizabeth Finger
21 Lori Nichols

March 2024 Mission of the Month is “Justice for Orphans”

The Mission of the month for March is Justice for Orphans. Their mission is to inspire, educate and equip families, churches, businesses and community members to care for vulnerable children in crisis.

CarePortal connects caseworkers, churches and communities to combat crisis and keep families together. It prevents children from entering foster care by connecting county social service agencies and churches. Caseworkers identify needs of families in crisis and churches respond by meeting those needs, and praying for the families. More than 5,000 children throughout eight New York counties have been served through CarePortal, and it is coming to Ulster County. With over 50 participating churches, CarePortal is working to stabilize families. Churches can respond, provide and deliver the resources necessary to help families and children in crisis right at home. Visit justicefororphansny.org for more information.

Note: The Mission of the Month for January 2024 collected \$ 225.00

*“I Martius am! Once first, and now third!
To lead the Year was my appointed place;
A mortal dispossessed me by a word,
And set there Janus with the double face.”*

–Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet (1807–82)

Stewardship Moment

Day 5 – Don't be prideful about your generosity.

Deuteronomy 8:17-19

*You may say to yourself, "My power and strength of my hands
have produced this wealth for me."*

*But, remember the LORD your God, for it is He
who gives you the ability to produce wealth,
and so confirms His covenant, which He swore
to your forefathers, as it is today.*

Romans 11:35

"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?"

It feels good to serve the Lord. To be in His service is the highest privilege a person could receive. People in the world will do all sorts of things to work with someone important: maybe a Hollywood executive, a professional athlete, a great artist, or an influential thinker. It is an opportunity to learn and to be acquainted with someone of particular greatness. Maybe somewhere down the line, they will get one of those pictures with the person, standing side by side shaking hands and smiling for the camera. Maybe they'll have a great story of what it was to sit down across the table and have a conversation over dinner with this person: anything that makes that person more familiar and makes us more familiar to that person. Now think of this: we serve the King of All Creation and He knows us by name! We have much to feel good about!

One of the sad things about human beings is that we can mess up absolutely anything. For example, someone's generosity might be so used by God that they begin to grow proud. Not proud of God's great works; but, proud of their role in those great works. They might think, "Wow, look at me, I sure am one generous person."

Anytime we are tempted to such a thing we can remind ourselves of the truths presented in passages like Deuteronomy 8:17-16 or Romans 11:35 and what they teach, specifically, that everything we have, God has given to us. The money in your bank account? God gave it to you. The job that earned that money? God gave you that, too. The skills that got you the job? God gave you when He made you. The education that got you the skills that got you the job?... You get the point.

We become prideful when we start thinking that we are able to do "good" on, and by, own capability. Only when we realize that God has given us everything we have that enables us to live generously, we can see that God alone gets the glory. Like a mother who lets their child "help" with cooking a meal, the mother did all the really important things that made the meal taste good in the same way with living generously; it is God who is accomplishing good. He just lets us participate.

Today's Generosity Challenge:

This one will be difficult. Through prayer, ask the Lord which of your attempts of a more generous life have you done this week out of your own desires or pride. Now, go to that recipient of your generosity and repent. Admit you gave for the wrong reason and you're sorry. Ask them how you can make up to them. Be sure to journal their response here at <http://GenerousLife.net/Day5>.

* Michael L. Stickler, *A Journey to Generosity (41 Days to a Generous Life)* the Visiongroup Ltd. 2013. Pages 21-22

Lectionary Scripture Readings for March 2024



First reading	Alternate first	Second reading	Gospel
And Psalm	reading		

March 3, 2024	Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19		1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
March 10, 2024	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3,17-22		Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
March 17, 2024	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12		Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-23
March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday	Mark 11:1-11 Psalm 118:1-2,19-29		Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16	Mark 14:1-15:17 or Mark 15:1-39
March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24		1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

**PASTORAL
SEARCH COMMITTEE**

March 2024

On February 10th, the committee received the sad news from Brian Steadman that he could no longer continue his candidacy to be our pastor. His daughter is a special needs individual receiving excellent care in a residential setting. Brian and his wife, Jessie, were advised that a move to Port Ewen could jeopardize that care. While very disappointed to lose the opportunity to have Brian as our pastor, we offered best wishes for their future.

Success isn't final, / Failure isn't fatal, / What counts in the end is the courage to go on. – Winston Churchill (submitted by Karin Lamb)

March 8 is **International Women's Day**, which is a day that not only celebrates the achievements of women and the progress made toward women's rights but also brings attention to ongoing struggles for equality around the world.

March 10 is the start of **Daylight Saving Time**, which begins at 2:00 A.M. that day. Don't forget to "spring forward" and set the clocks one hour ahead.

March 10 also marks the start of **Ramadan**, which begins at sundown. In Islam, Ramadan is considered a holy month when a month-long, sunrise-to-sunset fast is observed.

March 15 is the **Ides of March!** Legend surrounds this ill-fated day. Beware the Ides of March!

March 17 is **St. Patrick's Day**. According to folklore, folks wear a shamrock on St. Patrick's Day because the saint used its three leaves to explain the Trinity.

March 19 brings about the **March equinox**—also called the **vernal** or **spring equinox** in the Northern Hemisphere—marking the beginning of spring. In the Southern Hemisphere, this date marks the **autumnal equinox** and the beginning of fall. On this day, the Sun stands directly over Earth's equator.

March 24 is **Palm Sunday**, the Sunday before Easter and the last Sunday of Lent.

March 29-31 are known as the **Borrowing Days**. According to lore, the last three days of March have a reputation for being stormy.

March 29 is **Good Friday**.

March 31 is Easter Sunday.

March's full Moon, the Worm Moon, reaches peak illumination on the morning of **Monday, March 25, 2024** Attributed to the Naudowessie (Dakota) .

Other alternate names for the March full moon are; the **Eagle Moon**, the **Goose Moon** (Algonquin, Cree), or the **Crow Comes Back Moon** (Northern Ojibwe), **Sugar Moon** (Ojibwe), The **Wind Strong Moon** (Pueblo) and The **Sore Eyes Moon** (Dakota, Lakota, Assiniboine) .

March's full Moon often plays a role in religion, too. Specifically, in Christianity, this Moon is known as the **Lenten Moon** if it is the last full Moon of the winter season (i.e., if it occurs *before* the spring equinox) or as the **Paschal Full Moon** if it is the first full Moon of spring (i.e., if it occurs *after* the spring equinox).

This year, March's full Moon (March 25, 2024) occurs after the **spring equinox** (March 19, 2024), making it the Paschal Moon. March's full Moon will be the first full Moon of the spring season and, therefore, will determine the date of Easter this year.

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 to console those who are grieving, comfort those who are ill, and bring hope to those in despair. They may also be made to celebrate life and its milestones

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 for February 12, 2024

Drive up ashes will be administered on Feb 14th.

Worship committee is purchasing 12 pew cushions for the sanctuary and will pursue the cost for full pew cushions.

Pre-Covid communion will be returning. Plastic containers are not going to be used anymore. Wednesday Bible Study is planning to use the SCS meeting room due to the increased size of the group.

Easter morning breakfast will be taking place again this year.

Our website updates are progressing. (rcpe.info)

There are plans to purchase two defibrillators and two ring doorbells.

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](#)



"It's a cup holder."

The Church has purchased new cushions for the pews! They are for anyone who would like to use them.



The Congregation of the
Reformed Church of Port Ewen

Invites you to join us for

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 24 10 AM

Maunder Thursday, March 28 7.30 PM

Good Friday, March 29 7:30 PM

Easter Sunrise, March 31 6:30 AM,

**George Freer Park.*

-Followed by-

Easter Breakfast

** in the Church Hall*

Easter Resurrection Service,

March 31 10 AM

*Services at RCPE, 160 Salem St.
Port Ewen 12466*

**Info: Church Office 845-331-2782,
office@rcpe.info**

EASTER LILY Order Form

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE # _____

AMOUNT ORDERING _____ @ \$8.50 each =
\$ _____

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF:

Please write clearly

Please return to the office or place in the Offering Dish
by 3/17

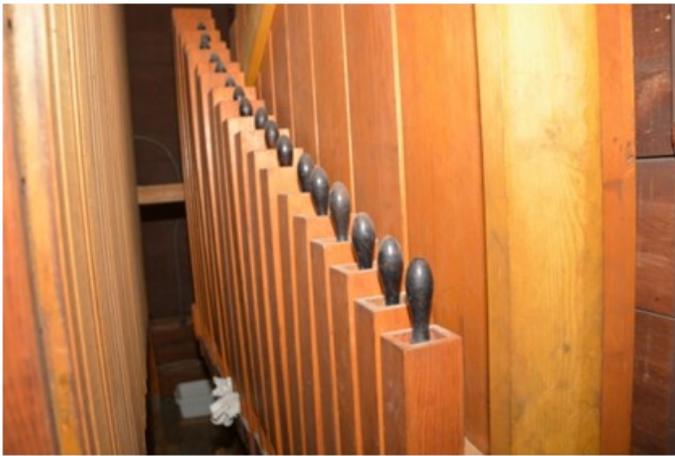
Please check box below indicating whether you would like
to take your lily home after Easter or donate to the
church.

Take Home

Donate to Church

Organ Pedal Pipes Under Repair

The major repair of our organ pedal pipes has begun with the removal of all 30 pipes. The technicians of **Rosenberry and Myers** out of Stuyvesant, NY, transported them along with the pedal wind chest to their shop. They will replace the felt lining on the stops (tuning mechanism at the top or the pipes), repair a crack in one of the pipes, and recondition the pipes and pedal chest. The organ was built in 1914 and installed in our church by the Fischer company. Regular maintenance has kept it in good repair, but this is the first time these pedal repairs have been done in at least 60 years. The total cost of the project is \$21,150. We expect to have the work accomplished by Easter. We anticipate some fundraising events to help cover this expense. Stay tuned!



Pipes in the organ-with rag to stop cypher



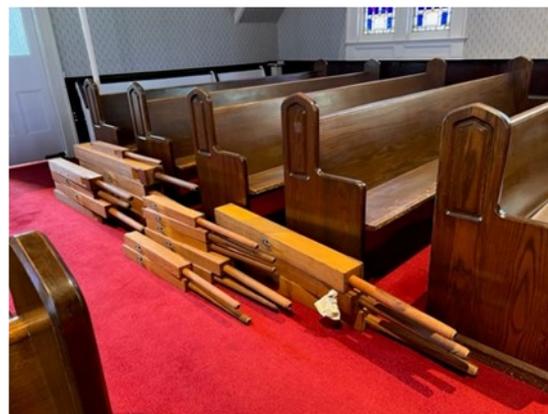
Pipes with pedal chest



Felt lining on stop



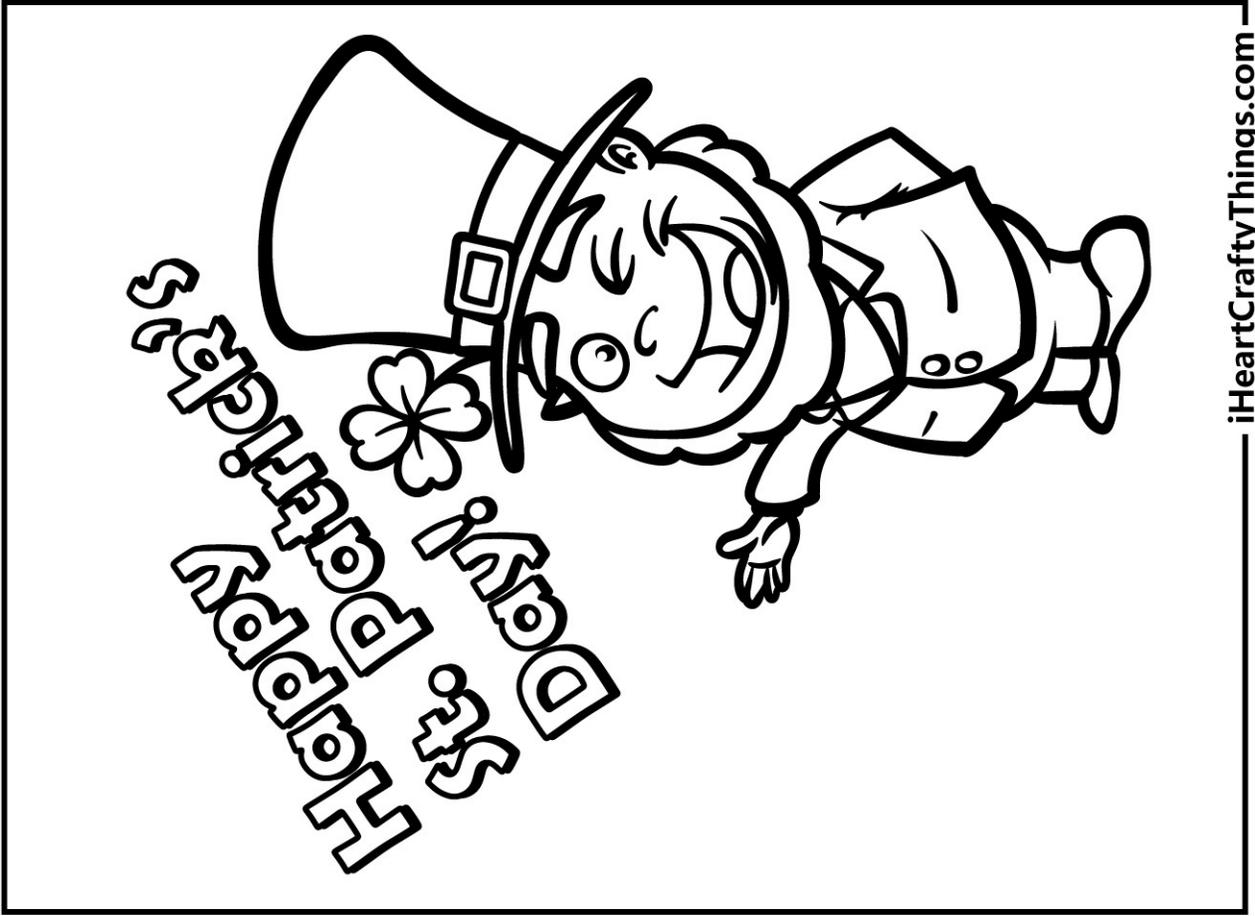
Pipes-top view



Pipes side view



Crack in pipe



Reformer

March 2024

Our facilities are handicapped accessible

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

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

Port Ewen, NY 12466

P.O. Box 580

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The Reformed Church of Port Ewen