

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen



Volume 22 Issue 4

April 2024

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It's springtime! It's Daylight Saving Time! More Sunlight! Light is essential for things to grow. Sunlight makes photosynthesis operate. The only way a plant can keep functioning, making food and changing carbon dioxide into oxygen for animals and people to breathe is light, among other things. Light is essential for seeing. Our eyes respond to the light that is present.

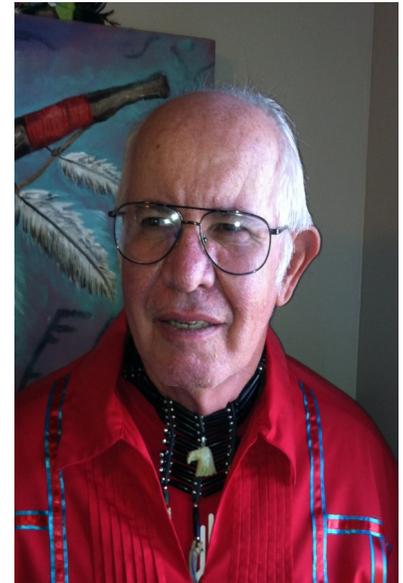
It is light that helps us see a smile on a child's face, a rose and stars in the evening. An X-ray shows where a bone may be broken.

“God is light and in God is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5) God is light, everywhere present, life-giving, life-supporting. In Christ Jesus, the light of the world, God shows us what humans are intended to be. What does God intend us to be? No less than a CHILD of God, loving God whole-heartedly, obediently and loving all of humanity whole-heartedly.

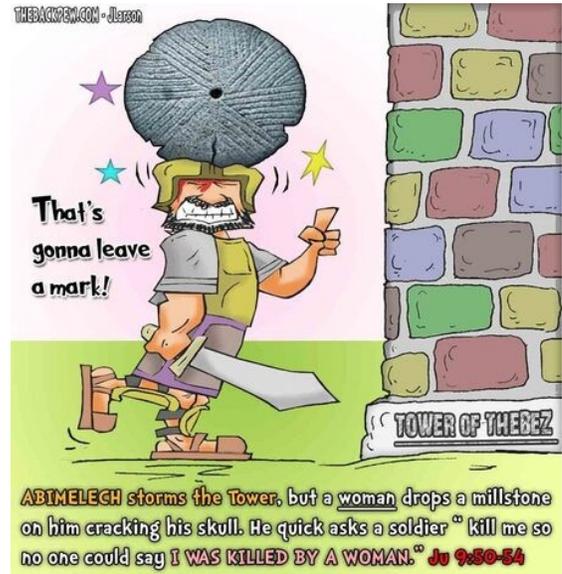
Yet, in the light of Jesus Christ, we realize that we have not loved God with our whole heart and mind. And, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Grateful to Jesus' willingness to die for our errors and faults, we are gifted with the opportunity of a new life. We pray: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. (Ps. 51:10) God, who blesses us with the gift of each new day, with food to eat, with water to drink, and resources for the living of our lives, continues to love us faithfully in Jesus Christ. Because of the resurrection, we are blessed with a new life, a life that lives in harmony with others, within ourselves, between ourselves and others, between ourselves and nature.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Pastor Nick

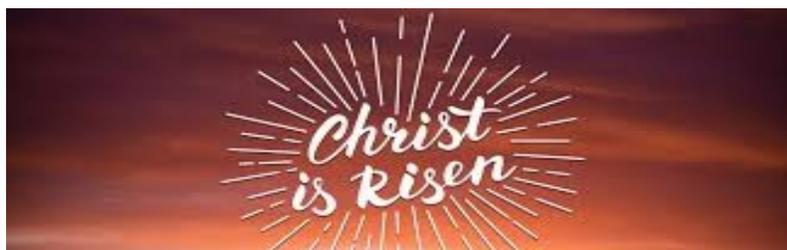


The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth



MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

April 20, LIVING (2022), Episcopal Church of the Messiah, 6436 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck — Rodney Williams (Bill Nighy) is a senior county Public Works functionary in 1953 London who spends his days, as he has for decades, shuffling papers that never seem to get where they're supposed to go. When Williams leaves work in his still-neatly tailored suit and bowler hat, he goes home and sits with his son, Michael (Barney Fishwick), and daughter-in-law, Fiona (Patsy Ferran), making polite, empty conversation. What finally pushes Williams, a widower, out of his deadening routine is the imminence of actual death. His doctor tells him he has six months to live. This bombshell barely causes a ripple on Williams's stiff upper lip. But he later decides he has been wasting his life and wants to reclaim something with whatever time he has left. But that's not simple for him. When he visits a resort town, he tells a young playwright, "I came here to live a little, but I don't know how." The film is adapted from the classic Japanese 1952 film *Ikiru*, which in turn was inspired by the 1886 Russian novella *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy. "Quietly powerful . . . defies expectations at every turn." — Max Weiss, Baltimore Magazine. "An instant classic." — Peter Howell, Toronto Star. "Elegantly written, movingly performed, evocatively filmed." — Moira Macdonald, The Seattle Times. PG-13.



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 April 9th

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 — Tony Falcinelli, Matt Sutton, Jimmy Alecca, Eric Hansen, Brie & Beau Bauer, Alma, Aaron, Deborah Grant, Stuart, Riker, Jenny, Carol, Jason Sizemore, Rena Beall, Tyson, Luke, Charles Barnett III.

Church Family — Tom Gallagher, Jim Hadley, Rev. Nick Miles, Mitzi Terpening, 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.

Grieving — Family & friends of: “Tiger Don” Van Loan, Carole Ellsworth, Brendan Horton.



April Birthdays

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



May Birthdays

- 1 Jennifer Roscoe
- 5 Bonnie Lalor
- 10 Tammy Candlin
- 14 Fred Rhoda
- 24 Janet Van Heusen
- 27 Kayla Van Aken

April 2024 Mission of the Month

is the **Ascension Holy Trinity Mission Center Food Pantries**. Their mission is to reduce hunger and food insecurity by providing our neighbors with adequate supplies of nutritious food in a safe, compassionate environment where all are treated with respect and dignity, and where access to food is considered a basic human right.

Their needs-based services include two food pantries (West Park and Highland), Teri's Place (free clothing closet and personal care items), Agape Café (meals) and an Accessible Learning Program. *Holy Trinity Food Pantry* is a member of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. *Ascension Food Pantry* is supported by donations. In 2023, their food pantries served approximately 4,000 individuals and distributed more than 47,000 pounds of food.

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

Note: The Mission of the Month for February 2024 collected \$ 330.00

Stewardship Moment

Day 5 – Don't trust in riches, trust in God.

Matthew 6:33

**But, seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well.**

Money is a huge issue for people. But, you know what? It's actually not a very big thing to God. You see God owns everything. Everything in the world is His. God has never experienced a time when He wanted something: but couldn't do it because He didn't have enough money. Really, it seems like the main reason God is concerned with money is because we are so concerned with it.

We are concerned with money for a whole host of reasons. Mainly, because money is what enables us to eat, have a place to sleep, and pay for the things we need or want. Because money is so important to us, we also become very focused on who or what provides money for us. Whether it is the boss, the government, the stock market, our retirement plan, or any other source, we get so focused on these that we start forgetting that ultimately it is God who provides for all of us.

The current economy has affected everyone. But, one group that is especially affected is the young adults. These people have never seen any other downturn in the economy. Most of their life has been lived during times of prosperity and success, and their lives were easier as a result. It is a very rattling thing to experience a downturn for the first time; to see that jobs grow scarce and realize that you don't or won't have the freedom, finances, and/or opportunity that you once had or might have had.

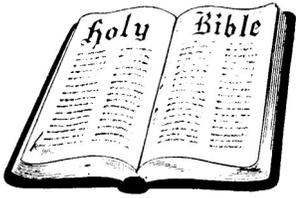
What people of any age need to remember in times like this is that it is God who will provide. We don't need better bosses, government, stock markets, or jobs. As Jesus said in Matthew 6:33; God knows what we need. He will not forget us. What we need to do, especially when times look bleak, is seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, and our generous God will take care of all of the rest.

Today's Generosity Challenge:

Today is a little different; it's about a longer commitment to others and their long-term success. If someone does not immediately come to mind, ask your Pastor's advice; but, find someone who has been particularly impacted by the economy, lost their house or job and ask them to meet with you for a cup of coffee. During that time together, ask them if you can come along side of them as a servant, a personal assistant, to be with them for the sole reason of helping them plan to get back on their feet. Then, of course, write the plan here at <http://GenerousLife.net/Day6>.

* Michael L. Stickler, *A Journey to Generosity (41 Days to a Generous Life)* the Visiongroup Ltd. 2013. Pages 23-24

Lectionary Scripture Readings for April 2024



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

April 7, 2024	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133		1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
April 14, 2024	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4		1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
April 21, 2024	Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23		1 John 3:16-24	John 15:1-8
April 28, 2024	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31		1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8

Christmas Wishes Gives all Year Round

Melissa Harshberger, founder and CEO of Christmas Wishes, gathered her crew to create Easter gifts for children at the Darmstadt and Family Inn Shelters. We are blessed to be able to partner with such a wonderful organization



Be Kind to Spiders Week is observed annually from April 1 to April 7. The purpose of this week is to give us the opportunity to intentionally show kindness to these eight-legged creatures. Spiders have been on the receiving end of bad publicity for eons, yet they have positively impacted agriculture and pest control. Unlike what most people believe, very few spiders are actually poisonous. In fact, scientists have begun carrying out research on how to use spider venom in the treatment of epilepsy, stroke, and pain. Perhaps it is time we actually gave these arachnids an opportunity to thrive.

Be Kind to Spiders Week is a time for befriending these arachnids that have been feared and despised for centuries. The word 'spider' is derived from the Proto-Germanic word 'spin-pron,' literally meaning 'spinner,' in reference to the way spiders make their webs. Spiders can be found on all continents except Antarctica and are present in almost every land habitat. As of 2021, around 49,623 species of spiders had been recorded by taxonomists.

Spiders belong to a class of arthropods that also includes creatures like ticks, mites, and scorpions. They have eight walking legs; their bodies are split into two main parts: the cephalothorax and the abdomen. The cephalothorax is made up of the head and thorax. Usually, spiders have eight eyes, though some have six or fewer. Despite this number, most spiders have poor eyesight and rely on other senses for survival. The ones that do see clearly, like the jumping spider, can see more colors than humans can.

All spiders have varying degrees of venom; there are only a few that are poisonous to humans. Interestingly, spiders are useful to the environment. They control the population of insects that would otherwise destroy crops. Additionally, they also help in disease prevention by eliminating some disease-carrying pests. Most spiders are carnivorous, and consume insects and flies by hunting them down or trapping them in their webs. Some spiders don't build webs but merely hunt for their prey. They inject their kill with digestive fluids and then suck out the liquefied insides. Most spiders have an average lifespan of two years, though some live up to twenty years in captivity.



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.



Clean up in Aisle One!

Remember those stained ceiling tiles in the entrance to Fairbrother Hall?



All Gone!



Thank you, Harry and Linda

Resurrecting a Pew?

In keeping with the Easter season, we decided to refinish one of the church pews which had seen a few too many years of wear. There are more to be done. Many, many thanks to Harry McCarthy for taking on this challenge!



Consistory Highlights for March 12, 2024

Electrical work has been completed in both the parsonage and the church.

The organ pedal chest is still being worked on. This will not be completed by Easter service. Our organ was made in 1914.

Thank you everyone who has filled out their contact information forms. We had a great response. If you haven't done so, please email the office to let us know how you would like us to contact you (office@rcpe.info)

The Mission and Outreach Committee will be assisting the Ascension Holy Trinity Church in West Park and Esopus by donating funds for milk cards for their food pantry

What happened after Easter?

2,000 years ago, Jesus conquered death forever. The stone was rolled away from the empty tomb, and we were given new life in Christ.

But what happened next?

Discover five things Jesus did after His resurrection—and what they mean for us today:

1. Jesus showed up.

Jesus spent 40 days on earth after His resurrection. During this time, He eased His followers' doubts and gave them direction for the future.

Jesus didn't *shout* His love from heaven. He *showed* His love on earth. Today He does the same. He is still near, ready to hear our cries and heal our hearts.

2. Jesus modeled community.

From breaking bread on the road to Emmaus, to having breakfast on the beach with His disciples, we see Jesus make time for relationships.

Jesus was never too busy to stop and show He cared. As His followers, we're called to intentionally serve people in our families, workplaces, and cities.

Just like Jesus, you can prioritize your community.

3. Jesus comforted the broken.

When Jesus came back, He wasn't frustrated that His disciples hadn't understood His plan. He met them in their uncertainty and fear instead.

Jesus consoled the woman weeping at the empty tomb. He eased Thomas' doubts. He spoke words of life and peace.

Today, our Savior still has grace for our questions and confusion. He still draws near when our hearts are broken.

4. Jesus redeemed mistakes.

Before the crucifixion, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. Later, we see Jesus restore Peter by asking Him three times if he loves Him, and instructing Peter to care for His people.

Even though Peter stumbled in his faith, it didn't cancel his identity in Christ.

In the same way, we can trust that God's power is made perfect in our weakness.

5. Jesus instructed and empowered.

Right before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His followers to "go and make disciples of every nation."

With these instructions, we're called to live every day with intentionality, looking for opportunities to share the Gospel.

It's our job to show people what it means to know God and to make Him known.

Share God's Word with the people in your life today.

Easter might be over, but what it means for us matters all year long.

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we're able to access God's grace, presence, and reassurance like never before—forever.



Food for Thought

All of us know the Ten the Sinai desert over 3,000 only preserved over three Western Legal Tradition.

We live by them even them. What is important



Commandments that God gave to Moses in years ago. "Written in stone", they were not millenniums but became fundamental to the

when we are not consciously thinking about for us Christians, is that since then, Jesus lived and taught us things that go well beyond what was written in stone three thousand years ago. What he has to say about the first commandment is that it is the most important of all. "Love God with all that is in you". He doesn't even mention other gods, they aren't worth mentioning. But he does speak of people who demand our obedience and loyalty, people in authority who want to rule over our heads and hearts, people we might be tempted to put in God's place. He tells us that there is only one authority, one God, one father figure for us. Other people are our sisters and brothers, but we have only one master. "There can be no other father for you on earth" (Matthew 23, 8-10).

Is there something rebellious here? "Stand upright against all human authority"? Would Jesus' comment about the First Commandment be:

There is one God.

Don't put another human being in his place.

(submitted by Karin Lamb)

“Bridging Culture, Christianity, Spice, Trade, and Travel” – a 4-part series

- I. Trade Routes
- II. St. Thomas, the Apostle
- III. Spices & the Middle Ages
- IV. A Travelogue

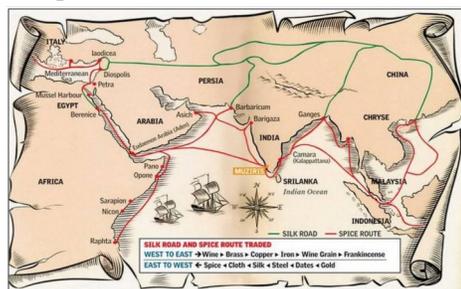
I have been so deeply inspired recently by a number of events, all with surprising connections, coming together in my world. The inspiration has led me to research and collect a vast amount of data; as such I have developed this article, in four parts, which I now present to you. I am thrilled to share with you, “Bridging Cultures, Christianity, Spices, Trade and Travel,” for your reading pleasure.. Anita D. Hadley March 2024

1.Trade Routes

I begin here, because it provides back grounding facts of note. It is hard to imagine that it was at all possible for ancient civilizations to have found the *means* to organize trade routes, nor that they were curious and motivated enough to do so in the first place. Records and archeological finds indicate that Egypt and the greater Mediterranean countries did trade with the Arab/Persian world, eventually expanding to India and the Far East, -- as far back as 2000 years BC! Picture ancient societies stretching beyond their basic needs to simply sustain themselves with whatever was in their immediate surroundings, and to then figure out that there may be much more to be had “out there.” With that, they became *explorers*; and then *traders*. It appears that they so liked what they found, that they developed the *how* to bring these treasures back home. Thus, several “trade routes” were created.

The *Silk Route* was initially the main land option, as merchants and their caravans of dromedary camels hauled items to and fro, and paid heavily to advance and ply their wares. A long and arduous journey, but the payoff was grand. For the profit margin made up for the sacrifices at every turn. The merchants and their sponsors then began to explore the waterways, and fashioned ships able to withstand long schedules between ports, harsh weather, and rough seas. Thus, the *Spice Route* emerged.

[Map 1 provides a visual, indicating both Land and Sea Routes, along with items of interest in the ancient trade business.]



Trading links expanded, bringing different religious and spiritual beliefs and practices into contact with one another, which in turn took on influences from other regions. Consequentially, we learned that spices were burned as incense in religious ceremonies, believed to purify the air and carry prayers. Certain spices were also added to healing ointments and to potions drunk as antidotes to specific poisons. They were used as cooking ingredients very early on - to create new flavors and to make food that was sometimes far from fresh, particularly in hot climates, taste better. A person was “worth his weight in **salt**,” alluding to the use of salt as a payment of labor; as well, it was a measure of someone’s accumulated wealth.

Black pepper was coined “black gold,” actually, for a time, more valuable than gold.

[Note: The red laterite soil, found in Kerala, India, together with climate, make for a perfect breeding ground for the finest black pepper in the world!]



During Roman times, salt was worth its weight in gold and soldiers were sometimes paid in salt; hence the word “salary”.

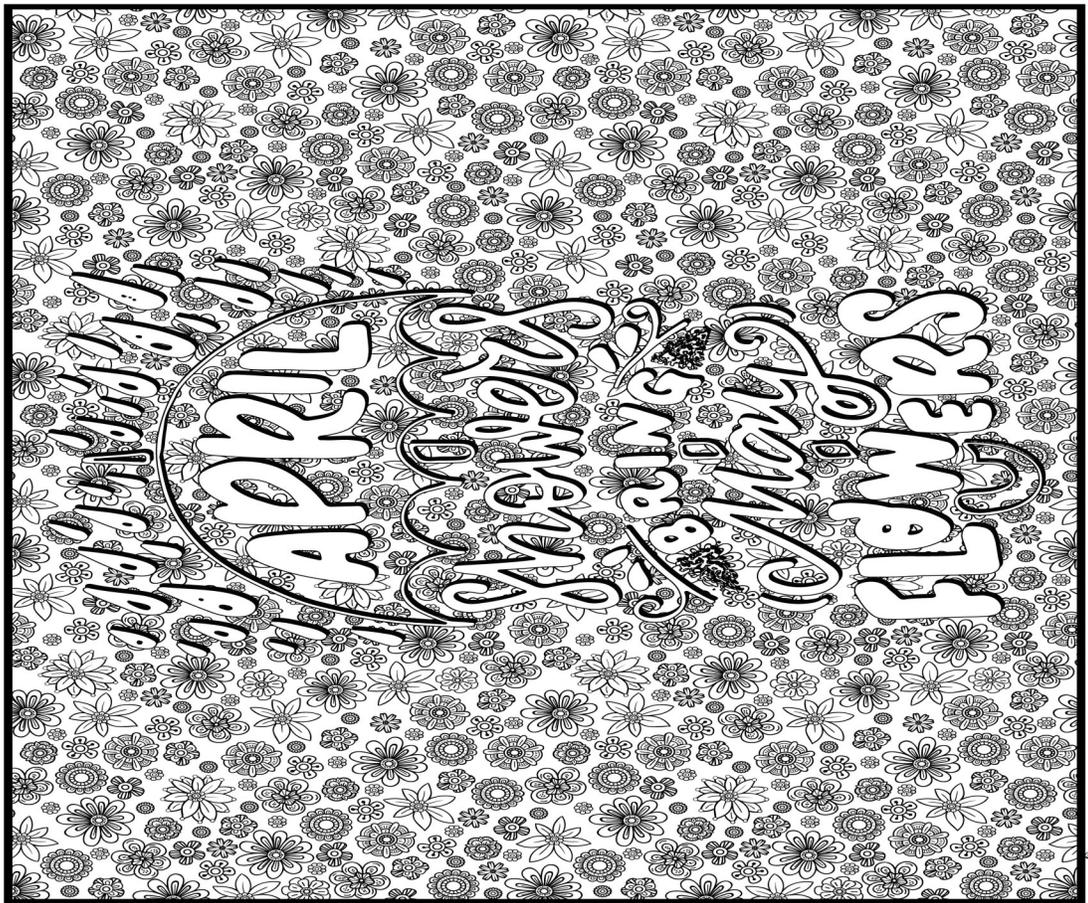
Today, of course, globalization has made just about anything attainable. We do not have to rely on the traders on camels or upon crude sailing vessels to bring us our black pepper, cinnamon or turmeric. Nor do we have to patiently wait for their arrival at our home port. We can recreate the proper environment, soil formula, optimal growing climate to plant and grow and harvest anything we want. Finding a nearby source for the curry spices needed for our exotic recipe is easily attainable.



A fascinating video, called simply “Spices” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1mMgwp7iaE> may be of interest.

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30–7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30–7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	2	3 12:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm SCA	4 7-9 pm Choir Rehearsal	5	6 6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Community Dance (FH)
7 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	8	9 6:30 pm Consistory Meeting (Library)	10 12:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm SCA	11 7-9 pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	15 5:30–7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30–7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	16	17 12:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm SCA	18 7-9 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 5:30 pm ANA Mtg (FH)	20 REFORMER DEADLINE
21 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	22	23	24 12:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm SCA	25 7-9 pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	29	30				



The Reformed Church of Port Ewen

at Salem and Green Streets

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We're on the net!

www.rcpe.info

Reformer

April 2024

Our facilities are handicapped accessible