## The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen



#### Volume 22 Issue 7

#### July 7 August 2024

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Linda and I would like to thank everyone who attended our 50th wedding anniversary gathering in Fairbrother Hall on the 22nd, our actual wedding day in 1974. Thank you also for the

many cards and donations to Seed Song Farm in our honor.

We will remember that day and all the special people in our lives through the years and the churches we have served.

Revs. Nick and Linda

Breakfast Church and Praise July 28<sup>th</sup> and August 25th Join us at 10:00 in Fairbrother Hall Free Continental Breakfast and coffee/tea. All are welcomed and loved! When food is more than food Feed your body and soul -Breakfast Church includes eating together as a central element, along with praise music, preaching and Bible reading as core habits.



## What does it mean to be a member of the Reformed Church?

You can find out! We are setting up an **Inquirers Class** led by Pastor Linda Miles. In this class you can learn more about what being a member of the Reformed Church of Port Ewen means. After the class, you can decide if you would like to become a member. No pressure.

If you are interested in the class please let me know. We will decide on a time and date together.

## Consistory Responsibilities 2024

Buildings and Grounds Committee–Linda Bresnahan-McCarthy and Tom Gallagher

Faith Formation Committee (formerly Christian Education) - Monica Kelbaugh

Christian Family Care and Fellowship Committee (formerly Family Care)—Linda Bresnahan-McCarthy and Colleen Sutton)

Mission and Outreach Committee -- Matt Van Aken

Stewardship and Finance Committee-Ray Wells

Worship Committee (formerly Spiritual Life)-Bonnie Lalor

Vice President-Ray Wells

Clerk—Matt Van Aken

## R.C.P.E. Yellow Pages

## Data at your fingertips

Prayer Chain

Philippians 4:6,7

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God."

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 7:00 PM Meetings open--call 331-2782 for agenda space.

No meetings in July and August.

Next meeting September 10th





Prayer List

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

<u>World</u> — Israel's conflict, 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.

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

**<u>RCA</u>** — Sudan Mission, Oman Protestant Church and Bode Family, Al-Amada Center.

<u>Mid-Hudson Classis</u> — Bob Vanderlaan. <u>Petitions of healing, protection, and de-</u> <u>liverance</u> — Debbie Miller, Mary O'Brien, Brie Bauer, Virginia Wonderly, Bob Warner, Matt Sutton, Jenny, Carol, Rena Beall, Tyson, Charles Barnett III.

**Church Family** — Tom Tierney, Monica Kelbaugh, Rev. Nick Miles, Jim Hadley, Bob Schlichting, Tom Gallagher, Janis Loring, Elnora McSpirit, Search Committee, Rhoda family, Bob Shelightner.

Homebound/nursing homes/institutions — John Lattieri, Bea Hogan, Marie Klippel. Grieving — Family & friends of: Sandy McMahon, Eric Hansen.

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#### Volume 22, Issue 6

## **July Birthdays**

- 9 Jacqueline Stocker
- 14 Ben Bogossian
- 18 Beatrice Hogan
- 20 Joyce Pade
- 23 Glenn Knickerbocker
- 24 Melissa Banks
- 28 Ward Breithaupt

#### July & August Anniversaries

- 7/8 Linda & Ray Wells
- 7/13 Betty & Bob Shelightner
- 7/24 Linda & Harry McCarthy
- 8/3 Vera & Paul Rubeo
- 8/4 Bonnie & Kevin Lalor
- 8/12 Bonnie & Doug Vining

### August Birthdays

- 5 Robert Schlichting
- 13 Diane Bradley
- 15 Maria Finger
- 16 Brian Stocker



**The Mission of the Month for July** will support *Camp Warwick and the Warwick Conference Center* which is owned and operated by the Synods of Mid-Atlantics & New York of the Reformed Church of America. Camp Warwick exists to encourage others in their experience and growth in God while creating lasting friendships. When you give to Camp Warwick, you aren't just giving money to buy supplies or help supplement their budget. You are contributing to the experience of camp, a place where campers learn about who they are, how they fit in new situations, what it means to be independent, how to be a part of a community, and all while they are being reminded that they are worthy and loved by God. The **August Mission of the Month** will support *Ulster County Habitat for Humanity.* Seeking to put God's love into action, Ulster Habitat brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. They are a non-profit organization that helps families build and improve homes. They are dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally through constructing new homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions.

If you feel called to donate to either of these missions, please clearly mark your checks and envelopes for either July or August M.O.M. You can also choose to give to these missions online as well. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Also, *The Ascension Holy Trinity Mission Center Food Pantry* in West Park is looking for volunteers interested in **sewing.** They are turning t-shirts into bags for the families that receive food. They will supply the t-shirts. If anyone is interested in sewing for them, please contact Paula Van Aken at pvanakens@yahoo.com.

Note: The Mission of the Month for May 2024 collected \$414.50



#### Stewardship Moment

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#### Day 9 – Be content with God's daily provision

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves

Wealth is never satisfied with his income.

This too is meaningless

#### Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Money is an elusive thing. Do you remember as a young child "saving up" for something you really wanted? Maybe it was a comic book. Maybe it was a doll. With a goal in mind you did your chores and saved up for what you felt like forever. Finally, you bought it and the joy lasted all of one week. And then, it was time to save up for the next big thing. As you grew older, maybe then you saved up for a bicycle. After that maybe it was a car. Later on it was a home. Then it was retirement. As we get older the price tags just got bigger and bigger, don't they?

Now this isn't a problem if you have kept money in a right place in your life. You work for a wage and you spend it to live your life, that's normal. There's nothing wrong with paying your bills. But, what if you've started to live and work just to make money? Ecclesiastes 5:10 teaches the danger of this is that if you've come to love money, you're never going to have enough. You'll never be satisfied, because money never can satisfy. Instead of truly living life, you will be living out a balance sheet. Everything has a dollar figure, nothing has value.

The Bible also teaches that the only path to contentment is the one that runs solely through Jesus Christ. Once we have found forgiveness and reconciliation in Him, we find that we can be content in any circumstance, whether rich or poor. Furthermore, once we have learned to find contentment in Christ alone, we find ourselves able to live generously in a way that we were never able to before. While money was our joy and treasure, we couldn't bear to part with it. Once Christ became our treasure, we realized we were not only able, but, even desiring to be generous to the glory of the Lord. In fact, by giving up worldly treasure, we can come to gain heavenly treasure. In the matters of the soul and heart, more money is never the solution.

#### Today's Generosity Challenge:

Today, I want you to be introspective. In a listening prayer, ask the Lord to reveal to you how to attribute the importance of things by a dollar figure. What circumstances challenge your contentment? Then write down what the Holy Spirit reveals to you here at http://GenerousLife/net/Day 9.



Lectionary Scripture Readings for July and August 2024

Second reading

July 7, 2024	2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
July 14, 2024	2 Samuel 6:1-5,12b-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
July 21, 2024	2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89"20-37; Ephesians 2:11-12; Mark 6:30-34,53-56
July 28, 2024	2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21
August 4, 2024	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35
August 11, 2024	2 Samuel 18:5-9,15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35,41-51
August 18, 2024	1 Kings 2:10-12,3:3-14; Psalm 111, Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
August 25, 2024	1 Kings 8:(1-6,10-11) 22-30,41- 43; Psalm 84; Eph, 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

First reading

And Psalm

## **MOVIES WITH SPIRIT**

July 13, THE INTOUCHABLES (2011), Kingston Library, 61 Crown St., Kingston — This



François Cluzet Omar Sy Untouchable Description Descri buddy comedy drama tells the true story of Philippe (François Cluzet), a wealthy Parisian aristocrat and habitual thrill-seeker who became paralyzed from the neck down in a paragliding accident. He has since had caregivers, but none has worked out, so now he's looking again. While interviewing one boring candidate after another, Philippe suddenly sees a man barge into the room. The man, Driss (Omar Sy), hands a sheet of paper to Phillipe and asks him to sign it. It's from the unemployment office. Driss says he wants Phillipe to sign it so that Driss, a Senegalese immigrant out on parole, can prove he's looking for work to qualify for unemployment benefits. Philippe is taken aback but also intrigued by Driss' audacity, cheekiness and spirit. He then astonishes Driss and his own household staff by offering the job to him, complete with room and board in Philippe's mansion. When Driss moves in, his relationship with Philippe is just as a caregiver. But over time it builds into a warm, exciting friendship that enriches both men's lives. Win-

ner of 38 critic and festival awards. "A stirring and thoughtful story of the power of friendship and a tribute to the strength of the human spirit." — Mike Scott, The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune. "Exuberantly charming." — Claudia Puig, USA Today. "I defy anyone not to be delighted." — Chris Hewitt, St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press. In French with English subtitles. Rated R. Note: This screening takes place one week earlier than usual, on the second Saturday of the month.

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Gospel



## Consistory Highlights for June 11, 2024

There will be informal church services held the last Sunday of the summer months

Approval of a new sandwich advertising board

Approval to repair our parking lot

Search committee is conducting zoom interviews of candidates

New membership class is still being organized

A joint worship with Town of Esopus United Methodist Church is being planned for late summer/fall

A new Audio/Visual committee is forming to come up with a solution for the A/V in the sanctuary

## Choir Notes: Drop In Choir

We have come to the end of the regular season for our wonderful Senior Choir. These talented, faithful and dedicated musicians have led us in worship since September. They have earned some time off for the summer.

That means, however, that it's now YOUR turn to experience the joy of praising God with your voice. There are no try-outs. All that is required is that you come to church by 9 on Sunday morning. We'll rehearse the anthem for that day, and then sing during the offering.

There's no commitment- you may sing as often as you wish. A note of caution, however- many of our members began as Drop In Choir participants!

I would like to thank our Choir members: Josh Alexander, Bev Gallagher, Glenn Knickerbocker, Rev. Nick Miles, Matt and Paula Van Aken

Special thanks to our Alumni members: Cheyenne Candlin and Kayla and Laura Van Aken.

Please take a moment to let them know how much you appreciate their music.

Questions? Please call me at 845-687-9664

Peace,

Linda



## Children's Day '24

June 9th marked the first time in a few years that we have been able to hold a children's day worship service. We welcome the enthusiasm of our young participants. It was a joy to have them lead us in song-complete with hand motions! Many thanks to teachers Bonnie Lalor and Colleen Sutton for guiding them on their faith journey.

Worship was followed by an indoor (due to the threat of rain) picnic. Our thanks to the cooking and kitchen staff for a wonderful meal. Of course, thanks to the excellent cooks who brought dishes to share. RCPE parishioners make the best food!



Praising the Lord!



Leading a Hymn



Certificate of Attendance



Acknowledging the Teachers



A Gift for Penny Harries



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-tohand 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.



## "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

## IV. "Spice Route" Travelogue

In early December of 2023, we boarded our ship in *Singapore*, to begin our 12-day cruise, with only a cursory time in that fine country port, but one that we previously visited. Onward to *Penang, Malaysia*, to meet up with dear friends, ones we met twenty years ago while we were living/working in China on a sixmonth sabbatical. The reunion was a truly wonderful way for us to catch up over a lunch of local dishes and Tiger brand beer. Sadly, saying good-bye for now, we were back onboard and headed to *Phuket, Thailand*, an offshore island "playground," much too crowded with tourists! Crossing the Bay of Bengal next, we pulled into *Colombo, Sri Lanka* on a surprisingly rainy morning. A tik-tik was our mode of transportation; our open-air "buggy" that puttered around town, gave us a taste for what was formerly called Ceylon, home of incredible tea selections, and which was initially called Serendip. [ Legend tells of The Three Princes of Serendip, a fairy tale whose story leads us to the origin of the word serendipity.]

How we enjoyed our next stop, **Cochin (or Kochi), India**, a delightful, scenic port; we were thoroughly entertained with the birds of prey that surrounded our ship. And, we now understood the title, Spice Route. Our hired tik-tik driver took us through streets and back alleys, where we visited warehouses and shops, spice markets, churches, and temples; street venders, of course, were everywhere. Our final port was **Mum-bai** (formerly known as Bombay), where we absorbed Hinduism almost exclusively. The hustle and bustle of a largely populated city reflected a more traditional Indian culture. We particularly enjoyed a visit to the home of Mahatma Ghandi, set up now as a fascinating museum. Quite memorable. And then, homeward bound with a suitcase full of a wonderful cultural experience, greatly exceeding our expectations.

Now, it all comes together – one of the Spice Route's primary destinations – Cochin, India. It was where the explorers and traders, beginning back almost 2000 years BC, landed and loaded up black pepper, cinnamon, and other sought-after spices. It is also where St. Thomas arrived, back in 52 AD, and found locals to be converted to Christianity. It is where Thomas Christian Churches stand and traditions are rich. It is where Vasco de Gama celebrated the success of his circumnavigation of India, a means of a more direct route to the fortunes of the "black gold" spices that were in high demand at the time . . .and we were there!

*To view some Photos from our trip, highlighting the references included in this article, go to:* <u>Zenfo-</u> <u>lio | Anita DeFina Hadley - Photographic Expressions | "Spice Route" Trip</u>

\*\*\*Note: Many passages in the timely novel, "The Covenant of Water" by Abraham Varghese that I recently read, gave me much additional insight for reflecting and coalescing, including additional facts surrounding Cochin and St. Thomas Christians. All gave me the inspiration to write this article. Wow

July 2024

Sat	<b>6</b> 6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Community Dance (FH)	13	20	2	
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	υ	12	19	26	
Thu	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	11	18	25	
Wed	<b>3</b> 4.9:30 pm SCA	10 4-9:30 pm SCA	17 4.9:30 pm SCA	<b>24</b> 4.9:30 pm SCA	
Tue	7	6	16	23	30
Mon	1 5:30–7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30–7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	œ	<b>15</b> 5:30–7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30–7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	22	29
Sun		<b>7</b> 10:00 am Worship 2.4 pm 4.H (FH) 5.8 pm AA (FH)	<b>14</b> 10:00 am Worship 24 pm 4H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>21</b> 10.00 am Worship 2.4 pm 4.H (FH) 5.8 pm AA (FH)	<b>28</b> 10:00 am Worship 2:4 pm 4:H (FH) 5:8 pm AA (FH)

August 2024

Sat	m ley Potluck &				
ŭ	<b>3</b> 5:00-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Community Potluck & Dance (FH)	10	17	24	31
Fri					
	2	6	16	23	30
Thu					
	7	8	15	22	29
Wed		<b>7</b> 4.9:30 pm SCA	<b>14</b> 4.9:30 pm SCA	<b>21</b> 49:30 pm SCA	<b>28</b> 49:30 pm SCA
Tue		9	13	20	27
Mon		<b>5</b> 5:30–7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30–7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	12	<b>19</b> 5:30–7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30–7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	26
Sun		<b>4</b> 10:00 am Worship 2.4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Worship 24 pm 4.H (FH) 5.8 pm AA (FH)	<b>186</b> 10:00 am Worship 24 pm 4.H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>25</b> 10:00 am Worship 2.4 pm 4.H (FH) 5.8 pm AA (FH)

## The Reformed Church of Port Ewen

at Salem and Green Streets

P.O. Box 580

Port Ewen, NY 12466

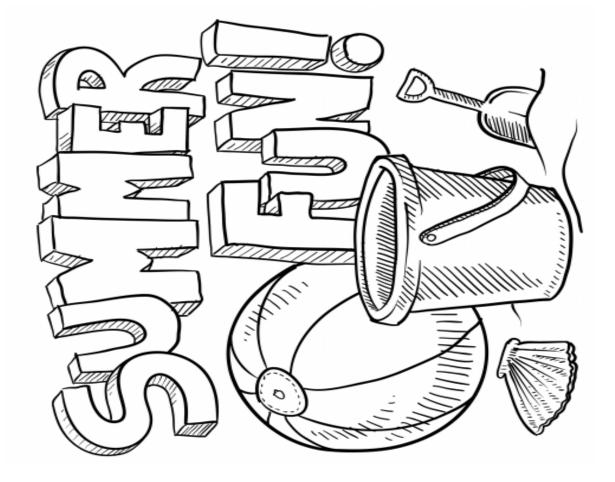
(845) 331-2782 Church Office (845) 331-2782 Church Hall E-mail: office@rcpe.info

# 202¢ כווא and August

We're on the net!

ofni.9qor.WWW

our facilities are handicapped accessible



Coloring Page