

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen



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May 2024

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Since I have offered a message about Jesus being our shepherd, I mentioned two different versions of the 23rd Psalm that I have been blessed with. One was given to me by my Great Uncle.

TWENTY-THIRD PSALM - Japanese Translation

The Lord is my Pace - setter, I shall not rush. He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals. He provides me with images of stillness, which restores my peace; He leads me in the ways of efficiency through calmness of mind. And his guidance is peace. Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day I will not fret.

For His presence is here. His timelessness, His all importance, keep me in balance. He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity. By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility.

My cup of joyous energy overflows. Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours. For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord. And dwell in His House forever.

THE 23RD PSALM AS INTERPRETED BY CHIEF O. T. CUSTALOW

The Great Spirit, above - A Shepherd Chief:

And I am His sheep, and with Him, I want not.

He gives me a new canoe - the name of this canoe is Love.

He draws me, and draws me to where the water is not deep, and the grass is green, under the shade of the big elm tree. I eat and drink and lie down satisfied.

Some days the inner man - the Soul - is very weak, stumbles and falls down:

But The Great Spirit Shepherd raises it up again and draws me into trails of His great forest that are peaceful and quiet.

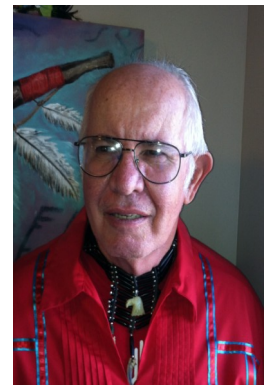
His name is above all names. The Great Spirit - AHONE.

Sometimes it may be a short time; it may be a long, long time.

Many moons, I do not know.

He will walk me into a place between mountains and great waters. It is dark there, but I will not be afraid, for there between those mountains and great waters The Great Spirit Shepherd, AHONE, will meet me and the hunger I have borne in my heart through many moons will be satisfied.

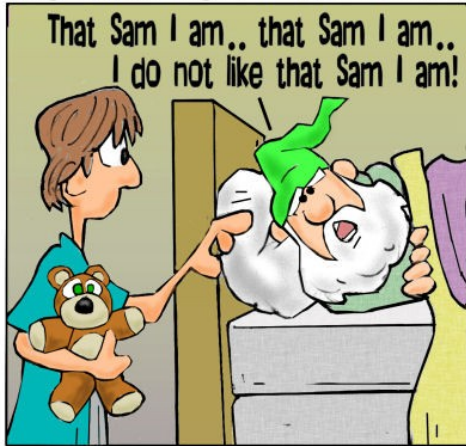
Sometimes this new canoe, that is called Love, He makes into a whip, and he whips me with the angry rolling waters; But afterwards He gives to me calm and peaceful waters to rest upon.



(continued on page two)

The Back Pew *Clean Humor & God's Truth*

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



After repeated visits in the night, Eli at first became exasperated with young Samuel. **1 Sam 3**

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Breaking the news to Eli of his sons deaths, and the Ark stolen.. could have gone better. **1 Sam 4:14-18**

(continued from page one)

He spreads a table before me when I am weak and sick, upon it all kinds of good foods - Red Deer, Buffalo, and fish of all kinds. Also white man's foods, and we all sit down together and eat that which satisfies.

He touches my head with His hands and the weakness and tiredness is all gone. He fills my cup - my Heart - with love until it runs over and over. Now I am old. I sit in the door of my wigwam. I talk not two ways - "I tell the truth. "

This trail that is way ahead, I will continue to follow. It will bring me good-will and happiness all through life.

One DAY, I will move from between the mountains and across the great waters to The Big Long House, and sit down with my Shepherd Chief, The Great Spirit - AHONE - God, in the HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS, forever and ever.

Expressing appreciation for the remarkable women in our lives is at the heart of Mother's Day. Whether it's a simple 'thank you' or a heartfelt message of love, finding the perfect words to convey our gratitude can sometimes be challenging. Here are some heartfelt and touching examples of Mother's Day messages to inspire you in celebrating the incredible mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures who enrich our lives every day.

- "Happy Mothers Day! Thank you for everything you've done for us. It's more than we can ever repay you!"

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 May 14th

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 — 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.

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

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

Mid-Hudson Classis — June & Bob Vanderlaan.

Petitions of healing, protection, and deliverance

— Bob Warner, Kathleen Bradley, Carla Lesh, Matt Sutton, Eric Hansen, Brie & Beau Bauer, Jenny, Carol, Jason Sizemore, Rena Beall, Tyson, Luke, Charles Barnett III.

Church Family — Jim Hadley, Bob Schlichting, Tom Gallagher, Rev. Nick Miles, Janis Loring, Austin James Stokes, Elnora McSpirit, Search Committee, Rhoda family, Bob Shelightner.

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

Grieving — Family & friends of: Anthony DiPaola, Bob Coisson, Linda Akins, Tony Falcinelli.

Praise — Matt Sutton is coming home this week!
Carla Lesh had surgery and is doing well!

May Birthdays

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

June Birthdays

- 6 Ryleigh Goodrich
- 6 Karin Lamb
- 7 Daniel Helmer
- 14 Matthew Sutton
- 23 Kevin Slusher
- 24 Debra Bogossian
- 25 Cheri Van Deusen
- 25 Jim Hadley
- 26 Len Falcinelli



**The Mission of the Month for May is the
Hudson Valley National Center for Veteran Reintegration (HVNCVR).**

This organization is dedicated to the well-being of veterans and community through purpose, dignity, respect, and honor. They provide support for veterans and current military personnel assisting with the sometimes difficult transition to civilian life.

Your contributions help enhance the quality of life for our military veterans and give them programs and services they need to survive and thrive.

If you feel called to donate to this mission, please write checks to Reformed Church of Port Ewen and write “May M.O.M.” on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Also, during the Month of May....

RCPE will be collecting personal care items for the Ascension Holy Trinity Mission Center Food Pantry in West Park, NY. There will be a box in the sanctuary on Sundays or items may be left in the church office.

Items currently needed are:
Bath/hand soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, shave cream, disposable razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, mouthwash, body wash, moisturizer, feminine hygiene products, hand sanitizer, hand wipes, baby products, liquid dish detergent, small laundry detergent. Items must be in unopened original, damage-free packaging.

Note: The Mission of the Month for March 2024 collected \$ 394.93

- “Thank you for every hug, word of encouragement, and acts of love you’ve given me. Happy Mother’s Day!”

Stewardship Moment

Day 7 – Riches can deceive you.

1 Timothy 6:9-10

**People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap
and into many foolish and harmful desires
that plunge men into ruin and destruction.**

For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.

**Some people, eager for money, have wandered
from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.**

Money solves a lot of problems. Need a new house? Bills you need to pay? Things you'd like to do? Money makes those kinds of things possible. Because money is legitimately useful, people will go to great ends to get it. The danger comes when we begin to think that money is more important than it really is and begin to live our lives as if getting rich is a worthwhile life goal. What would you give up for riches? Is money worth a relationship with a friend? Is it worth your health? Is it worth the faith you profess in God?

If asked these sorts of question point blank, none of us would likely say that money could be worth those things. But, in practice, we often give up the most valuable things in our lives because we are pursuing money. 1 Timothy 6:9-10 describes the harm we will do to ourselves for money. Every day, life proves the Bible's point. Bit by bit we invest more of ourselves into the desire and pursuit of money. And as we dedicate our energies and affections to riches, we take them away from places they should be. We don't pray as we should, or study God and His word, we neglect family, or we stop taking care of our health. And then one day, we realize that all the money we have amassed hasn't made us happy. In fact, while we've been trying to buy happiness, we've been deeply unhappy all along. When money distracts us and leads us away from God and the precious things in our lives, we have truly been deceived.

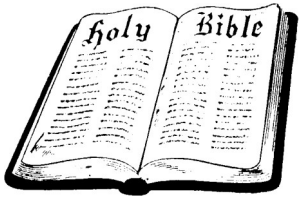
How can we avoid this deception? We need to remember always what money is actually good for. For example, money is good for taking care of physical needs. On the other hand, money cannot fill the deepest need of your soul which is to be reconciled to its Creator. Money cannot, however, buy you God's love or the true love of others. Keep God and money in their proper place in your life and God will bless you in yours.

Today's Generosity Challenge:

Please take out your personal bank statements for the last 6 months and make a simple survey. Count each time you have eaten out (Coffee, too), bought goodies, spent money on entertainment, and purchased gifts for yourself or others, or any other indulgence regardless of amount. Write this number down in your journal. Now do the same thing (regardless of amount) for each time your expenditures were for blessing others financially, or by giving gifts to your church, or to charities. Just by the number of transactions, which is the greater number? Now write a short action plan on your observations and what priorities need to be readjusted. Journal here at <http://GenerousLife.net/Day7>

- “Thank you for laughing with us in the best of times and sticking with us through the worst of times! What would we do without you?”

Lectionary Scripture Readings for May 2024



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

May 5, 2024	Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98		1 John 5:1-5	John 15:9-17
May 12, 2024	Acts 1:15-17,21-26 Psalm 1		1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
May 19, 2024	Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34,35b		Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27
May 26, 2024	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29		Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17

MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

May 18, PEACEFUL WARRIOR (2006), St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 163 Main St., New Paltz — This



moving blend of autobiographical fact and narrative fiction is a tale about the power of the human spirit. Based on a memoir and novel by Dan Millman, the film focuses on Dan (Scott Mechlowicz), a talented, cocksure gymnast at the University of California, Berkeley, whose desire for success drives everything he does. One morning, while out for a predawn run, Dan passes by an all-night auto repair shop. Stopping for a moment, he encounters a mysterious mechanic in his mid-60s (Nick Nolte) who seems to know more about Dan than Dan knows about himself. Startled and unsettled, Dan is also stunned by the man’s uncanny agility and coordination. Blown away, Dan returns to talk with the mechanic the next day. The more he talks with him, the more Dan realizes the man has insights Dan wants too. He

nicknames the mechanic “Socrates.” The mechanic calls himself a peaceful warrior “because the battles we fight are on the inside.” Over time, Dan also meets one of Socrates’ protégés, Joy (Amy Smart), a fascinating woman Dan’s age who has integrated Socrates’ philosophy into her life. Guided by the eccentric old warrior and drawn to Joy, Dan begins an odyssey of self-discovery that leads to a final confrontation that will deliver or destroy him. “A beautiful film — see it.” — Ross Anthony, Hollywood Report Card. “Ever elusive, it always keeps you off balance enough to make you want to see more.” — Phil Villarreal, Arizona Daily Star. “Remarkably wise, provocatively humorous, and hauntingly beautiful.” — Stanley Krippner, Institute for Humanistic Psychology. *Rated PG-13.*

Food for thought

The reason for the second commandment.

Only in the 6th and 5th century before Christ did the people of Israel begin to understand that there is only one God. Before that time, they had been living among cultures that worshipped many gods. Under their influence, the Israelites themselves were drawn into worshipping other gods (thereby incurring the wrath of the one true God). It was customary to have a statue of one's god or gods in a corner or niche of the house (an "image"). A steer for example was the image for the Syrian Baal (Bel).

Exodus chapter thirty-two speaks of a golden calf that the people of Israel made while Moses was on Mount Sinai. Their priest Aaron tells them: "This is your god Israel who led you out of Egypt".

We can see why they were given the commandment "You shall not make an image of your God": The golden calf put Israel in danger of confusing the one true God with Baal. This commandment set God apart from all the manmade idols of the other cultures.

It is the second commandment according to Jewish count. Martin Luther did not take over the ban on images. The second commandment according to Luther's count tells us to not take the Lord's name in vain.

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

May 2024

The committee will be meeting on Wednesday, May 1st to discuss the credentials of candidates who have expressed an interest in becoming our pastor. Rest assured that your search committee remains optimistic about securing the services of the right individual for our pulpit. God has a plan!

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.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

Recently a Sunday Church School participant asked the Pastor “Why do we sing in Church?” Here’s an answer I could find.

“Why do we sing in worship?”

This may be a question you’ve always asked yourself, but haven’t heard discussed within the church. Generally speaking, singing in a congregational setting has been a widely- accepted practice amongst various denominations, age groups, and even cultures. So why is that? Why do we sing? Here are five reasons that we sing in worship.

God commands us to sing. There are hundreds of references of singing within the Bible. Jesus Himself sang songs of praise after the Last Supper. If we are called to replicate the character of Christ, I’m confident that singing should always be involved.

Christians have sung throughout history. The earliest Christians put their community beliefs in songs, which is why Christian hymnody as a whole began. Songs are recorded in scripture and other historical texts. The Book of Psalms in the Bible is a great resource for reading songs of believers that have gone before us.

Songs can give us theology. As you may know, hymns and other Christian songs are full of rich, theological text. The act of singing uses both parts of the brain, therefore it can educate us and teach us about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Singing connects us emotionally. Songs of celebration have the power to lead us to dance. Songs of lament have the power to lead us to tears. Music has a way of piercing into the deep parts of our soul, that assists in our expression and response to God and to the church.

Singing helps unites us to the church. The gospel alone unites believers to one another. However, music is a tool that allows us to do so. As we gather on the Sabbath, we join together as one body, and praise God with one voice. We recognize that God gives each of us different gifts. But at the end of the day, we all are called, wanted, and expected to sing.

My hope for you comes from the proclamation found in Psalm 96. “***Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord! Bless His name! Share the news of his saving work every single day!***”

- **Ephesians 6:1-3:** "Children, if you want to be wise, listen to your parents and do what they tell you, and the Lord will help you. For the commandment, "Honor your father and your mother," was the first of the Ten Commandments with a promise attached: "You will prosper and live a long, full life if you honor your parents."

- “Thanks for making home the happiest place to be. Happy Mother’s Day.”

Sunday Church School Chorus



We recently were delighted to be led in song by the Sunday Church School Chorus. The chorus introduced the introit, then signed the words as the congregation responded in singing. Rev. James Alley included them in the service with a special message. Thank you- we can't wait for the next time!



- **Proverbs 1:8-9:** "Pay close attention, my child, to your father's wise words and never forget your mother's instructions. For their insight will bring you success, adorning you with grace-filled thoughts and giving you reins to guide your decisions."

Consistory Highlights for April 9, 2024

A picnic is being planned for June to be held at our church after service. There will be a combined service/picnic planned in the Fall at Freer park with the Port Ewen Methodist Church.

Consistory discussed investigating a possible inquirers class for July with Rev. Linda Miles.

Discussion also on how the RCPE can further assist the Ascension Holy Trinity Mission Center in West Park (besides April Mission of the Month and funding milk/egg cards for distribution).

The RCPE website is still under construction and is slowly becoming more up to date.

Pedal Repair Update

Repair work on the organ pedal pipes is progressing, as these photos show. There is no definitive date for installation, but it won't be too long!



New leather being tested and stretched to conform to tuning stoppers. Once the fit is determined the excess will be glued and trimmed.



New wooden tuning stoppers handles installed on the largest pipes to replace rotten rope handles.

- **Proverbs 31:31:** "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."



A beautiful sunrise at Freer Park Easter morning



Thank you to all our early bird helpers that cooked a wonderful breakfast on Easter morning: Matt Van Aken, Kayla Van Aken, Dan Snavely, Jim Hadley, Ben Bogossian, Ray Wells and Josh Alexander for helping with clean up! There were approximately 30 people that attended the breakfast! Thank you to Debra and Ben Bogossian, Paula and Matt Van Aken and Jim Hadley for cleaning and prepping for our Easter breakfast on Good Friday.

Peaceful Images



Once again, as we were preparing the sanctuary for the Good Friday service, the sun reminded us of God's promise of Redemption.

Submitted by Linda and Harry McCarthy

“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

II. St. Thomas the Apostle – “Doubting Thomas”

We hear of St. Thomas in John 20: 19-29. He doubted the Resurrection of Jesus and demanded physical proof of the wounds of Christ's Crucifixion. Yet, as one of the 12 Apostles, he appeared to take his mission seriously in the end – to go forth and spread the Good News. He boarded a trading vessel and thanks to the Spice Route, arrived in Kerala, India presumably in 52 AD. It does appear that Thomas, as with the other apostles, took up the staff, and made a concerted effort to spread Christianity. There he converted a number of Jews and Brahmans to Christianity, performed miracles, and built seven churches. Records indicate that he was martyred by spearing in 72 AD. His following of “St. Thomas Christians” have flourished since, with their numbers up to about 4 million presently in India, and large number abroad, including in the United States.

The history of the St. Thomas Christians and their presence and affiliations is a lengthy and complex script, and in fact, quite confusing to fully grasp. Yet the lineage does point back to the origins set forth by St. Thomas and his early followers, and basic tenants, clearly Christian-based, exist today. With world events over the last two millennia, from invasions and outright wars, to the Crusades and Inquisitions, the development of exploration and trade routes, and the Age of Enlightenment, the stronger religious establishments did manage to survive the turmoil of the times. Hence, we do find a presence of St. Thomas Christianity throughout our modern world.

[See [Churches of St. Thomas the Apostle](#) for a complete listing – the list does end with reference to “other” St. Thomases, not to be confused with our main character here. However, the list does provide a sense of the scope of his following on record.]

A few interesting points . . .

1. Liturgy of Church of St. Thomas the Apostle: Throughout the liturgical year certain aspects of the Paschal Mystery are highlighted, yet the “theme” of every liturgy is the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Never is that clearer than the celebration of the Sacred Triduum—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Vigil, and Easter Sunday.

2. The “Gospel” according to Thomas or the “Book of Thomas” is an anthology of 114 “obscure sayings” of Jesus, which, according to its prologue, were collected and transmitted by St. Didymus Jude Thomas. (Note: Because of a question of its authenticity, along with some controversial aspects, the Book of Thomas is not included in the Bible.)

3. Syriac Christianity is a branch of Eastern Christianity of which formative theological writings and traditional liturgies are expressed in the Classical Syriac language, a variation of the old Aramaic language, (not to be confused or associated specifically with the country of Syria.)

4. Why India? The Cochin Jews are known to have existed in Kerala, India, in the 1st century AD, so it was entirely possible for an Aramaic-speaking Jew, such as St. Thomas from Galilee, to make a trip to Kerala and then settle there for the remainder of his life. Since St. Thomas was most probably a fisherman when he joined up with Jesus, he would have had no issue journeying by waterways along with the spice traders of the day, with India as his destination.

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm SCA	2	3	4 6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Community Dance (FH)
5 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	6 5:30-7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30-7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	7	8 12:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm SCA	9	10	11
12 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	13	14 6:30 pm Consistory Meeting (Library)	15 12:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm SCA	16	17 5-9:30 pm ANA Mtg (FH)	18
19 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	20 REFORMER DEADLINE 5:30-7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30-7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	21	22 12:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm SCA	23	24	25 Repair Cafe
26 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	27 MEMORIAL DAY	28	29 12:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm SCA	30	31	



The Reformed Church of Port Ewen

at Salem and Green Streets

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

Reformer

May 2024

Our facilities are handicapped accessible