

# The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen



Volume 22 Issue 8

September 2024

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We live in times of accelerating change. Technology, morality, social norms, entertainment, and fashion seem to shift frequently. The certainties we thought would last forever are now questionable by many. Even churches are changing: different styles of worship, multiple strategies of mission, multiple kinds of music, a variety of locations. All this can be fruitful, as long as the central message of Jesus Christ has not changed. The words of Paul are timeless: God has called us, God has claimed us, and God will save us. In the midst of relativism and skepticism, the saving love of God remains the one absolute and eternal reality.



If Jesus has proclaimed that you are a child of God, then you are God's own child. If God has called us from death to life, then let us LIVE abundantly, for God's love does not wane. The whole world may change, but not the one who made the world. There are many things that are revocable in today's world, but not God's love. If you truly believe in Jesus the Christ, who has called you a child of God, then let us live as God's child abundantly.

Pastor Nick

We had two **Breakfast Church Dates** this summer. Did you like the service?

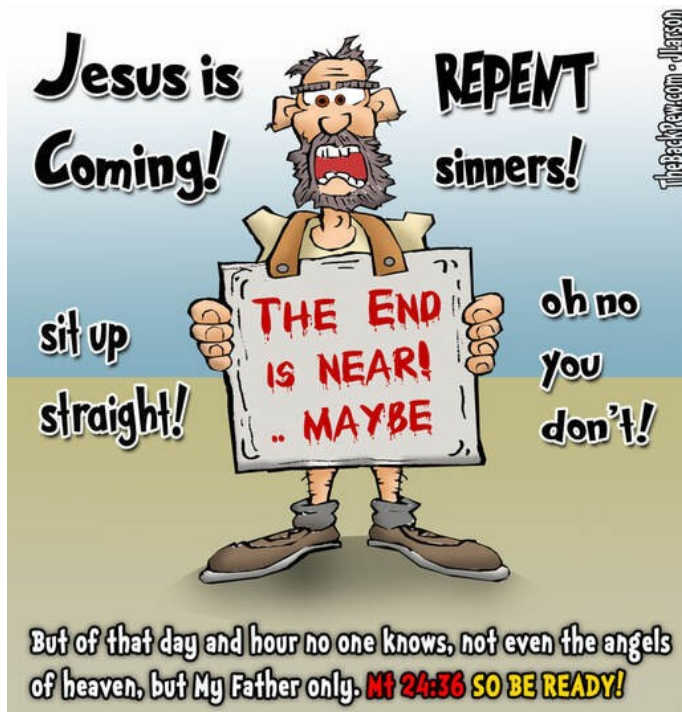
Tell us what you think. The **Worship committee** needs to hear from you. Please relay your thoughts to a Consistory member.



## Save the Date:

Town Beach Sunday Service and picnic World Communion Sunday  
**October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

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



### MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

Sept. 21, **PROBLEMISTA** (2023), Unison Arts, 9 Paradies Lane, New Paltz —



In this quirky comedy, Alejandro (Julio Torres) is a young toy designer from El Salvador trying to make his unique ideas come to life in New York City. While waiting to pursue his dreams at Hasbro, he works at a cryogenics facility for artists. His job is to watch over frozen artist Bobby (RZA), known for painting large portraits of eggs. Alejandro accidentally briefly unplugs Bobby's machine one day and gets fired. Now, he faces deportation unless he finds a sponsor for his work visa within 30 days. Bobby's widow, Elizabeth (Tilda Swinton), is a rude and unforgiving art critic. Despite what Alejandro did to her husband, Elizabeth likes him and agrees to sponsor him if he can find a gallery to show her husband's collection of egg paintings. Alejandro soon realizes that Elizabeth is a "problemista," someone who creates problems — the last thing he needs before his meeting with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. "[An] off-kilter triumph of a film." — Zachary Barnes, *The Wall Street Journal*. "Imaginative, impressive, not to mention hilarious." — Cat Cardenas, *Slate*. "There is so much rich material in the absurdity: how immigrants and artists crave to be seen, how modern systems eat up people, how we try to cheat death and how technology doesn't live up to its promise." — Mark Kennedy, *The Associated Press*. In English and occasional Spanish with English subtitles. Rated R.

# R.C.P.E. Yellow Pages

## Data at your fingertips

### Prayer Chain

Proverbs 15:29

***“The Lord is far from the wicked, but***

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.***



### 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** — Bob Vanderlaan.

**Petitions of healing, protection, and deliverance** — Mike Goodrich, Political Leaders, Jenn Vander Veen, Ronald Stocker, Sue Nelson, Debbie Miller, Brie Bauer, John Pugleesi, Matt Sutton, Mary O’Brien, Jenny, Carol, Rena Beall, Tyson, Charles Barnett III.

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

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

**Grieving** — Family & friends of: Mary Brillis, Loren Shultis, Christine Murray, Lucille DeMichael, Allen Lund.

### Consistory Meets

*The 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM  
Meetings open--call 331-2782 for agenda space.*

***Next meeting September 3rd***

#### ELDERS

*Matt Van Aken*

*Ray Wells*

*Linda McCarthy*

#### DEACONS

*Bonnie Lalor*

*Tom Gallagher*

*Monica Kelbaugh*



**September Birthdays**

**October Birthdays**



- 2 Susan Stocker
- 3 Margaret Rhoda
- 7 Betty Shelightner
- 19 Bonnie Vining
- 19 Colleen Sutton
- 26 Maryann Falcinelli

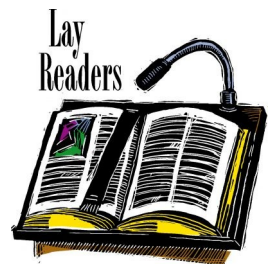
- 4 Kathleen De Felice
- 5 Marcella Candlin
- 5 Lynn Barmann
- 6 Mackenzie Goodrich
- 9 Jim Beukelman
- 14 Stanley Brooks
- 15 David Stocker
- 21 Josh Alexander
- 22 Lucille Haynes Jackson



**September Anniversaries**

- 4 Paula & Matt Van Aken
- 7 Kathy & Mike Kinsch
- 12 Sue & Brian Stocker

**Would you have an interest in lay reading on Sunday morning? We are looking for lay readers for the upcoming Fall Season. If you would be interested in this, please contact Bonnie Lalor or the office.**



### **Stewardship Moment**

Day 10 – There are dangerous consequences in living only for pleasure

Ecclesiastes 7:4

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,

But, the hearts of fools is in the house of pleasure.

There are many pleasurable things in the world: whether it's a trip to the beach, a great dinner, a comfortable bed, or just a hot shower. One of the ways we see the wonders of God's creation is by seeing that God has truly blessed us with so many pleasing things in this world. But, pleasure, by itself, can never satisfy for long.

If we only pursue pleasure, what satisfaction will we have? Imagine the person who only eats cookies because cookies bring them the most pleasure. Will they be happy for long? Imagine a person who never attends to the needs of their spouse because they only pursue personal pleasures. Will they have a deep and enduring relationship? Imagine a person who neglects faith, love and righteousness to pursue a shortsighted life of passing excitement. Will they have joy in God?

This verse in Ecclesiastes 7:4 teaches that the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure. The reason this is so is because to invest one's life in pleasure will so obviously leave one wanting for more. It is only living a life that keeps our own pleasure in proportion to the whole of the Christian life will we find joy. A misunderstanding of how much pleasure really makes us happy is a big reason we don't live generously. We don't live generously because we fear that we will be giving up what makes us truly happy. Once we realize that it is Christ in whom we find lasting joy, we realize that our soul's eternal pleasure is tied to finding ways to please Him. We realize that in fact, if we are not seeking to please God, we're not really happy at all. You see we flee from a life of selfish pleasure because in the end it is poisonous to our soul. On the other hand, we flock to a life of generosity, because ultimately it is everlasting happiness.

#### **Today's Generosity Challenge:**

How do you please God daily in order for you to know what makes you feel truly happy? What are the best ways to please God? How do you know? Write them down now. Through prayer, ask the Lord how can you focus on those activities in an ever-increasing way. Then, write out a plan in real tangible ways by journaling here at <http://GenerousLife.net/Day10>.

\* Michael L. Stickler, *A Journey to Generosity (41 Days to a Generous Life)* the Visiongroup Ltd. 2013. Pages 32-32

### Lectionary Scripture Readings for September 2024



First reading	Alternate first	Second reading	Gospel
And Psalm	reading		

Sept. 1, 2024 Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2,6-9; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Sept. 8, 2024 Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10,14-17; Mark 7:24-37

Sept. 15, 2024 Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

Sept. 22, 2024 Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3; Mark 9:30-37

Sept. 29, 2024 Esther 7:1-6, 9-10:9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

#### SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

September 2024



The committee will be recommending a candidate to the consistory on September 3<sup>rd</sup> for acceptance and promise of call.

The Mission of the Month for September is the **Robert Graves Elementary School PTO**.

The school is located in our community in Port Ewen (part of the Kingston City School District). Donations collected may help to fund various programs for students such as: Educational Field Trips, Assemblies and Enrichment Experiences, Potential Spanish Lessons, Trauma Informed Yoga Classes, Anti-Bullying Prevention or may fund extra recess equipment.

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

During the month of September we will once again be collecting Personal Care Items for the *Ascension Holy Trinity Mission Center (Teri's Place)* which is located in Highland. There will be baskets in the sanctuary and downstairs outside the church office. Items in need include: Bath/Hand Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Liquid Dish Detergent, small Laundry Detergent and Can Openers. Other personal care items will be accepted as well.

We will be collecting food donations for the West Park Pantry again during the month of October.

*Note: The Mission of the Month for July-August 2024 collected \$612.00*



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.

### Sunday Church School:

Opening Sunday **October 13<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 9:45 am**

We have a one room Sunday Church School

Ages 3 – 14 Bible lesson, craft and / or snack



**\*\*If you know any children who would like to join us, please pass the information on to them.**

**\*\*If you would like to come and help out, let Bonnie Lalor or Colleen Sutton know.**

One time, once a month, holidays, you can make your schedule. Extra hands are always welcome!

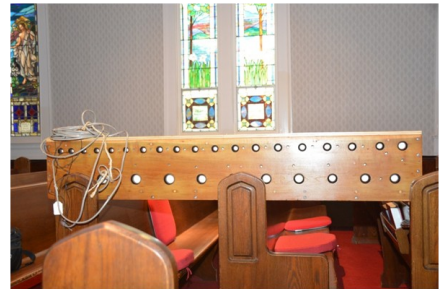
### *Woohoo! Pedal Pipes Are Back!*

The pedal repair project is complete, and the pipes have been installed. The pedal wind chest has been rebuilt, the pipe stoppers have been re-leathered and the wood reconditioned. The resulting sound is wonderful! Thank you, Steven and Ed (Rosenberry & Myers Organbuilders) for your fastidious work.

Bringing in 30 pedal pipes



Reconditioned Pedal Wind Chest



Pipes Installed



Photos by Harry McCarthy



### Additional Organ Work...

I found a few other concerns during the pedal repair process, of course. There were several notes which didn't work properly, or not at all, and a mechanical clicking sound when I pressed the pedals. After investigating these concerns, several damaged pipes were found. This damage happened over the many years of service, and in some cases improper support of pipes when they were installed. These pipes have been repaired, and the pedal noise will be addressed soon. Thank you, Consistory and Congregation, for attending to our beautiful instrument. It has served us well since 1912, and will be a vital part of our worship for years to come. Praise to God that we are so blest!

In Christ, Linda

Damaged Pipes

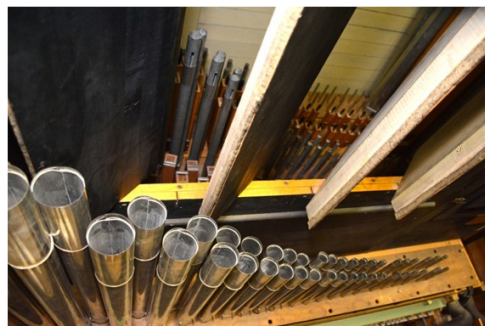
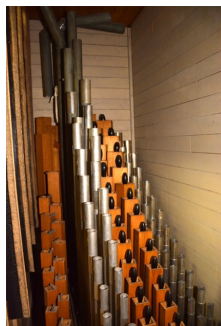


Good as New!



Installation

Inside the organ chest



Photos by  
Harry McCarthy

## Breakfast Church and Praise!

We fed our bodies, we fed our souls, we fed our spirits...



## Perfect Timing!

On August 8, Harry and I were in the Sanctuary, preparing for Sunday. We were about to leave when we heard a knock on the door. A couple was outside, asking to come in. I knew a candidate was scheduled for the weekend, and was concerned that they were early. That was not the case.

The visitor was no stranger - he and his family were members when he was a child, and they moved away in 1963. He was visiting relatives in town. He said he had tried to visit the church several years ago, but no one was here. We invited them in and learned that he has deep roots in our church. His ancestors are represented on 2 of our stained glass windows.

He spoke fondly of the Sunday Church School, the bowling alley, and the organ. His wife mentioned that whenever they visit a church he tries to hear the organ. We gave him a tour of the building, which has changed completely since his childhood. We looked through old photos in which he found several relatives. It was a wonderful reconnection, and of course I played his favorite hymn before they left: "Onward, Christian Soldiers".

Oh, yes - his name is Ron Ferguson. He and his wife, Lori, live in Virginia.

Peace be with you, Ron and Lori- See you next time!

*Linda*



Ron and Lori Ferguson

# September 2024

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

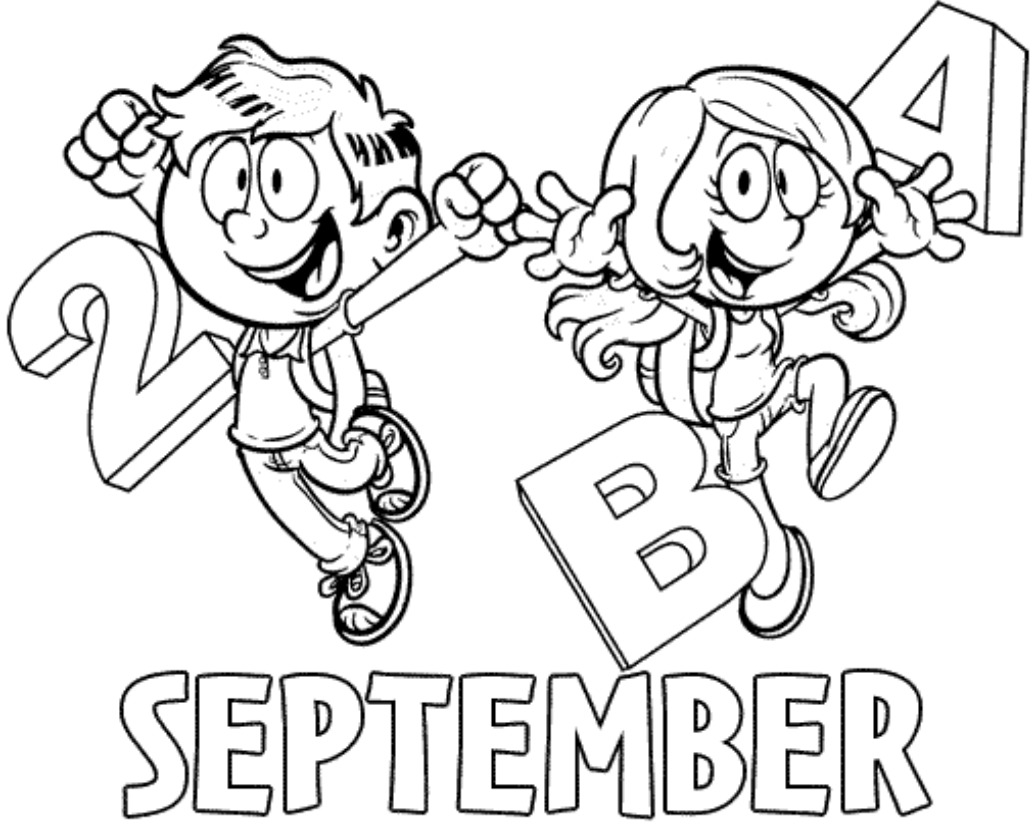
**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>LABOR DAY</b> 5:30–7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30–7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	7:00 pm Consistory Meeting	12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)			6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Community Dance (FH)
	8 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	9	10	11 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA	12	13	14
	15 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	16 5:30–7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30–7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	17	18 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA	19	20 <b>REFORMER DEADLINE</b>	21
	22 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	23	24	25 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA	26	27	28
	29 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	30					



# September 2024 Reformer

*Our facilities are handicapped accessible*

We're on the net!  
[www.rcpe.info](http://www.rcpe.info)

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at Salem and Green Streets

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen