

# The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen



Volume 22 Issue 10

**November 2024**

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November 1<sup>st</sup> has been designated by several as All Saints Day, the day the church has set aside to remember those who have gone before us in the faith, who are now with the Lord.

So, who are the saints? How does one attain sainthood? I think the Catholic Church has certain criteria that one has to meet in order to be considered for sainthood. I would think that following the commandments and beatitudes would be considered as qualifying standards. Certainly, those who are "pure in heart," it is said that they shall "see God." Blessed is the one whose motives are always

"pure", without any ulterior motives.

Who, among us, can claim to always have clear, unbiased motives in all actions and words we use, as we interact with the community around us? Who, among us, doesn't wonder how we come across to others or how our advice is received and implemented when given freely to others?

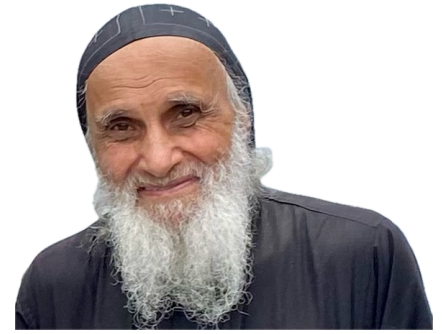
Who, among us, doesn't at least appreciate a "thank you" when we have contributed time and/or sustenance to someone in need?

And, who do we know who unselfishly gives of their knowledge, time, and means to make another's life more bearable and fulfilling, without expecting anything in return? Who are the "saints" among us, as we go about our daily lives? Be sure to appreciate them and thank our Creator for sending them among us.

Pastor Nick

## Bible Class Guest Speaker

On Wednesday Nov. 6, our Bible Class will be meeting in **Fairbrother Hall @ 12:30**: with a special guest presenter/instructor. Fr. Macari, the lead Egyptian Monk from the local Coptic Christian Monastery in West Park, (located at the former Mother Cabrini home in West Park), will be our guest instructor.



Fr. Macari will be talking about the beginning of the first Christian church founded in 43 AD. The Christian church struggled and grew for the next several hundred years. The creation of the Islamic religion came into being with the death of Mohammad in June of 632 AD and started a violent period for the Christians in Egypt.

This unique 1 +/- hour program is open to all, and does not require a commitment for you to be a member of any church or any Bible Class.

Our Bible Class is led by the Rev. James Alley, who has just returned from Egypt and is thus in a unique position to provide added perspectives. All in attendance will have an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation.

## ***Ladies Who Lunch (Reformed Church of Port Ewen Dorcas Society)***

Seven of us gathered at Chick's Restaurant to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the Dorcas Society. As is our custom, we took a few minutes to reflect on the person. She was a seamstress and a disciple of Jesus. Dorcas, or Tabitha, spent her time doing good works which included making garments for the poor. She was an example of providing kindness and service to all. Some of us then ordered off the special Oktoberfest menu. The food was delicious and we enjoyed catching up with each other. Even though we are few in number, we try and carry on Dorcas' tradition of service.

Submitted by Peg Rhoda



L-R, Elnora McSpirit, Janis Loring, Linda McCarthy, Emma Spinnenweber, Maryann Falcinelli, and Diane Bradley.



L-R, Emma, Maryann, Diane, Peg Rhoda, Elnora and Janis

# R.C.P.E. Yellow Pages

Data at your fingertips

## Prayer Chain

Proverbs 15:29

***“The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.”***

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.*

## Consistory Meets

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

***Next meeting November 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** — 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** — Eli, Robin Ferrini, All those affected by Hurricane Helene & Milton, Todd Abrams, Mary Bolde, Hedy Saylor, Charlie Guerra, Michele Bockelman, Kim Schaffer, Mary Haas, Mike Goodrich, Political Leaders, Brie Bauer, John Pugleesi, Matt Sutton, Mary O’Brien, Jenny, Carol, Rena Beall, Tyson, Charles Barnett III.

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

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

**Grieving** — Family & friends of: John Lattieri, John Grasso, Geoffrey Van Etten, Josie Webster, Mary Brillis, Loren Shultis.



**November Birthdays**

**December Birthdays**

- 1 Rev. Linda Miles
- 5 Kathy Kinsch
- 10 Monica Kelbaugh
- 11 Tom Gallagher
- 13 Janis Carlson-Loring
- 17 Kelsey Lalor
- 20 Sonia (Sunny) Scherer

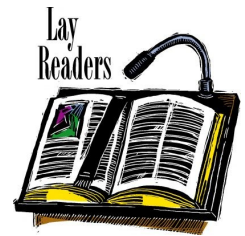
- 5 Mike Bradley
- 20 Laura Van Aken
- 25 Jesus Christ
- 26 Harry McCarthy
- 29 Elnora McSpirit



**November Anniversaries**

- 24 Peg & Fred Rhoda

**Would you have an interest in Being a “Lay Reader” 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.**



*Reformed Church of Port Ewen*

*2025 Consistory Nominations*

Those nominated must be active church members. No one can serve more than two consecutive terms. This year we need two Deacons. Deacon Bonnie Lalor is completing her second term. Deacon Thomas Gallagher is completing his first term.

In our tradition, deacons are responsible for the work of justice, mercy, and compassion. They help direct the church's work of compassion and justice both in the church and the greater community.

Please place your nominations in the offering plate or send to the church office by **November 3, 2024.**      **DEACON (TWO TO BE ELECTED TO THREE YEAR TERMS)**

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

## **Stewardship Moment**

**Day 11- You must serve God with money, not the other way around.**

**Matthew 6:24**

**“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.**

A young Christian, full of passion and zeal, once said in his heart, I am going to make a lot of money so I can be a huge help to the kingdom of God. I may not be the one that goes on the missions, but, I can pay for those that will. So, inspiring to great financial gain, he dedicated himself to college and the pursuit of a degree that could make his dream happen. He was very good at what he did and succeeded in landing a good job after graduation. But, something went wrong.

At some point, he stopped wanting to give. While he was a student and working part time, he found giving to be very easy, for the amounts he faithfully gave were not large amounts. Once he began earning larger amounts of money, he found it hard to give in the same manner he once had. The large checks he wrote in the beginning he only did so with great difficulty. Over time, he found that he would much rather keep the money than give it away. After a long journey, he ended up doing exactly the opposite of what he had hoped to do. His generosity had faded into a tight-fisted cheapness; his passionate heart had been burdened down by the worries of the money he earned.

What happened to this man? Jesus taught in Matthew 6:24 that a Christian cannot have two masters. If he tries, he will only truly serve one of his masters, the other he will despise. Specifically, Jesus said that you cannot serve both God and money. In this case, the man stopped serving God and began serving money. At some point, he decided that he would rather have all the money he was earning than serve the God he set out to please. Money is a good thing when used in accordance with God’s will. When we begin to seek out money without submitting its use to God and his word, then we begin to let money be our master.

Many people mistakenly think God is there to help us get wealthy. This is the greatest misunderstanding of who God is. What we need to realize is that God will not be used make us money; but, money can be used to honor God.

### **Today’s Generosity Challenge**

Have you ever made a similar statement; “God, if you provide for me in this way, I promise I will serve you this way,” What is the problem with this approach? If this is you, today I want you to write an apology to the Lord. You can journal here at this link: <http://GenerousLife.net/Day11>. Be specific, and repent.

\* Michael L. Stickler, *A Journey to Generosity (41 Days to a Generous Life )* the Visiongroup Ltd. 2013. Pages 33-34

## **Search Committee**

The Search Committee has two candidates under consideration at this time.

### Lectionary Scripture Readings for November 2024



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

Nov. 3, 2024— Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

Nov. 10, 2024— Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Nov. 17, 2024— 1 Samuel 1:4-20, 2:1-10; Psalm 113; Hebrews 10:11-14; Mark 13:1-8

Nov. 24, 2024— 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37



Annual Congregational Meeting

December 8, 2024

Fairbrother Hall

Following worship



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.

***The Mission of the Month for November is the R.Y.A.N. House  
(Raising Your Awareness about Narcotics)***

The mission of R.Y.A.N. is to promote substance abuse awareness, share their family's journey to dispel the myths of addiction, eliminate the stigma that is attached to it, and to support organizations that provide healthy programs for the youth of our community.

The vision of R.Y.A.N. is to live in a community that is aware and educated about the disease of addiction, where there is no stigma attached to it, and be a place where every person will have access to all necessary resources when seeking recovery.

R.Y.A.N. purchased the former Knights of Columbus building in Saugerties. They are renovating the property into a self-sustaining safe, sober, supportive home for individuals who are in recovery and are working to establish themselves back into the community.

If you feel called to donate to this mission, please write checks to Reformed Church of Port Ewen and write "November M.O.M." on the memo line.

Also this month, we are collecting names of those interested in adopting a child from **Christmas Wishes**. We would like an idea of how many children to adopt. If you would like to shop for a child this Christmas, please notify Paula Van Aken ([pvanakens@yahoo.com](mailto:pvanakens@yahoo.com)) by the 10th of November. For those of you interested in purchasing only one or two gifts, think about sharing a child. The RCPE will also sign up for a time slot to wrap gifts at the Christmas Wishes location in December. Stay tuned for more details on this later in the fall.

***Note: The Mission of the Month for September collected \$445.00***

***A special offering taken up on October 6th for Hurricane Helene victims was \$597.32***

***Consistory Highlights October, 2024***

Breakfast Praise and Worship - will be starting up again in January after the Advent and Christmas celebrations.

Repair and Update work in the parsonage is underway.

October Mission of the Month is Christmas Wishes

Search Committee reports our Candidate Lisa V. has taken another pastoral position. The search will continue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Lalor

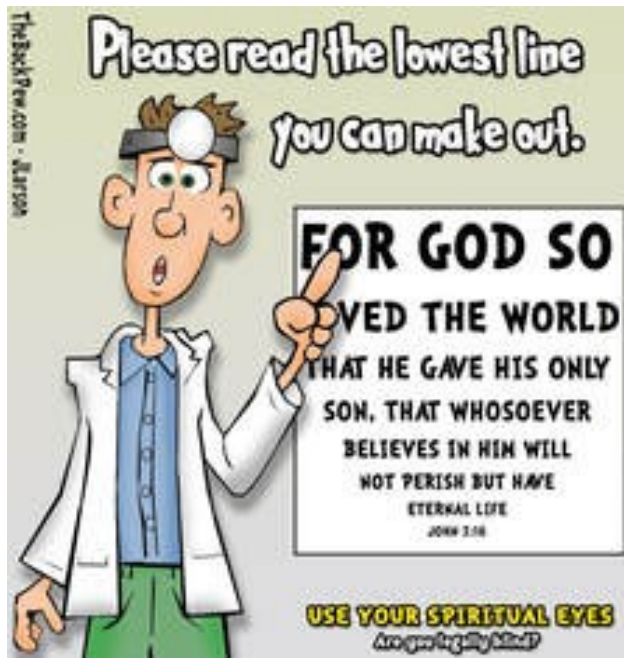
The United States will soon go to the polls in one of the most hotly contested elections in living memory. Yet many Christians are ambivalent about it. Some people think that politics and faith don't mix, but I would say that misunderstands God's nature. If your God is not interested in politics then you are not worshipping the God of the Bible. Take the Lord's Prayer for example. In it we pray that God's Kingdom would come - that is a politically loaded prayer. It is asking that the reign of God would come to fruition here on earth as it is currently in heaven. We pray not that souls would escape up to heaven, but for God's kingly reign to invade our world. Of course, politics is far more than voting in general elections. We seek God's reign for every second of our Christian lives, not just for one day every four years. So in one sense voting is the very least we can do. It is us, as believers, playing our part in the democratic process that we have been invited to participate in.

### Here are 10 reasons why Christians should vote:

1. Voting publicly recognizes that we submit to the authority of the political system in our nation as established by God. (Romans 13:1-7)
2. Voting recognizes the equality of all people and their right to speak and be heard. (Deuteronomy 10:17-19)
3. It is one way that we can obey God's command to seek the good of those around us and our nation as a whole. (Jeremiah 29:5-6)
4. It shows that we care deeply about who our leaders are as we are urged to offer prayer and intercession on their behalf. (1 Timothy 2:1,2)
5. It is a simple yet significant way we can do something about politics in our nation. 'All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing', Edmund Burke. (Psalms 34:14)
6. It makes a difference the way a grain of salt makes a difference, and that is how we are to influence our society for good. (Matthew 5:13)
7. It is a privilege not to be taken for granted. Those of us who reap the benefits of living in a democracy should play a part in upholding democracy.
8. Not voting is a form of voting, as it will influence the outcome. We need to take responsibility for our actions, as well as our lack of actions. (Luke 10:25-37)
9. Voting has biblical precedence for example Acts 14:23 describes that the early Christians elected elders by voting.
10. Voting is part of our stewardship to use all the resources we have been given in ways that honor God; to waste a vote is to squander a gift.



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



The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



As Jesus was baptized Calvin Carp watched on. The next time Cal would see Jesus was when Jesus fed 5,000 with a few loaves of bread, Calvin and a couple of his buddies.

## MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

**Nov. 16, ONE LIFE (2023), Woodstock Jewish Congregation, 1682 Glasco Turnpike, Woodstock** – This drama, starring Anthony Hopkins, tells the incredible true story of a young



London stockbroker, Nicholas Winton (Johnny Flynn), who rescued 669 children in Czechoslovakia, most of them Jewish, from the Nazis in the months leading up to World War II. Winton had visited Prague in December 1938 and saw families and children living in desperate conditions amid an impending Nazi invasion. He decided he must rescue the children right away and send them to safety in Britain. With time running out before the Nazis closed the borders, he compiled a list of as many children as he could and found homes for them in Britain. Yet for decades he was haunted by the fate of the children he was unable to save, always blaming himself for not having done more. Indeed, his humanitarian achievements went unnoticed by the world until 1988, when the BBC discovered the list and invited Winton (now

played by Hopkins) to be in the audience of a live TV show called “That’s Life!” The show’s host spoke on the air about Winton’s work, showed the 50-year-old list and asked if anyone in the audience “owes their life to Nicholas Winton. If so, could you stand up please?” Unbeknownst to Winton, dozens of the men and women around him — the children he had saved — stood up in unison. *“As we continue to grapple with today’s issues of war, refugee crisis and growing anti-Semitism, the film’s relevance is so troubling that you cannot fail to be moved by it.”* — Rex Reed, Observer. *“Tells a story that needed to be told and tells it impeccably.”* — Mick LaSalle, San Francisco Chronicle. *“[An] excellent film that should not be missed.”* — Pete Hammond, Deadline Hollywood. *Rated PG.*

## Gift of a Medicine Wheel

During the service on Oct. 13, Josh Alexander gifted to the church a medicine wheel he crafted as thanks for all the guidance and support he has received from us since childhood. Josh is Native American and wanted to share his tradition of using the medicine wheel for healing, guidance, protection, and spiritual growth. His gift included wampum, tobacco and other items traditionally used to provide healing and strength. These will be displayed in Fairbrother Hall once a case can be constructed.

Thank you, Josh, for this beautiful gift.



Photos by Harry McCarthy

# November 2024

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

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



# November 2024 Reformer

*Our facilities are handicapped accessible*

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

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