

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen



Volume 22 Issue 11

December 2024

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The story of Jesus' birth is told in simplicity and yet also in complexity.

The scene takes place in "down to earth" locations, Nazareth and Bethlehem, and in a stable with an audience of animals. It had to be a difficult journey, miles on the back of a donkey because of a requirement by a foreign government. Mary and Joseph were average people from average families.

They didn't have any special position in Nazareth or have a lot of money. They were just average people, but at the same time somewhat frightened, Mary expecting a special child soon. What does that mean for the future, having a special child?

They were fortunate enough to find a stable, out of the weather at least. And, a blessing in disguise one might say, in that it wasn't in a noisy inn where people were drinking and probably complaining about these Romans soldiers making sure payments were made. Then, the **BIRTH.**

What next? Well, shepherds arrived with a wild story about angels revealing to them news of a special birth in town. A special birth for all ages was proclaimed by angels. God was at work. No government could stop what God wants to do. God cares about us! God intervenes for us. There is Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love for everyone. Amen? Amen.





Come Join Us!

Christmas Decorating Party

Sat., Dec. 7, 10 am-Noon

~Snacks~ ~Carols~ ~Fellowship~

Let's deck the halls- and the Sanctuary!



Women's Ministry

Christmas Tea and Luncheon

Monday - December 16th, 2024 - 11:30 am

Join us and bring a friend

Come and share good food, good company

And the Good Word !

(and maybe a few fun games)

Remember to bring a friend !



RSVP by December 11th to Bonnie (845) 417-3504 or Bmombalor2@aol.com

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 December 10th

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 — JoAnne Cross, Regina, Bill Geisel, Carla Lesh, Gary Van-Voorhis, Mary Bolde, Mike Goodrich, Brie Bauer, John Pugleesi, Matt Sutton, Mary O’Brien, Jenny, Carol, Rena Beall, Tyson, Charles Barnett III.

Church Family — Austin Stokes, Bob Schlichting, 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: Robin Ferrini, John Lattieri. Light the Advent Candle General Announcement



December Birthdays

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



January Birthdays

- 2 Linda Bresnahan-McCarthy
- 4 Rick Whitaker
- 12 Ann Beukelman
- 16 Vera Rubeo
- 26 Ray Wells

BOOK LAUNCH & BOOK SIGNING

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024

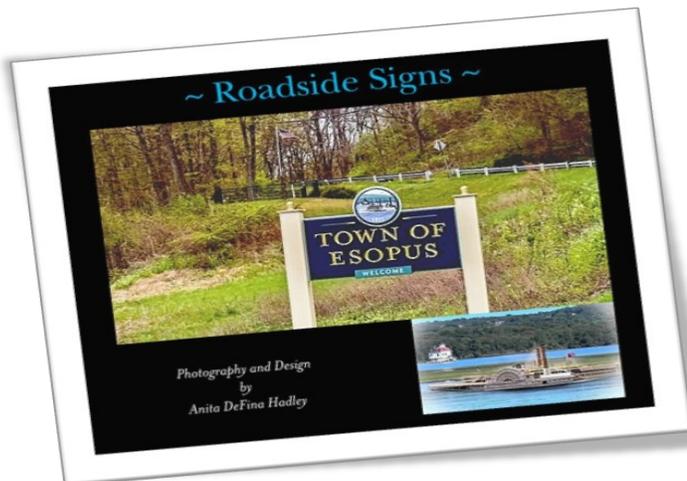
11:30 to 1:30

Town of Esopus Library, 128 Canal St., Port Ewen, NY 12466

“~Roadside Signs ~ Town of Esopus~”

**Photography and Design by
Anita DeFina Hadley**

A *Coffee Table* book of local interest, “Roadside Signs” features those amazing Hamlet signs we see around town. Finely crafted, these signs serve to welcome visitors upon entering the various Hamlets within the Town of Esopus.



“I have put together this collection of both the Roadside signs, and a photo I made of each of the depicted images on the signs themselves.

As a proud resident of Port Ewen for over 30 years, and a local photographer, I felt a ‘calling’ to celebrate this very impressive community effort.”

~ Anita DeFina Hadley *** Purchase price: \$25.00, tax included

Stewardship Moment

Day 12- Live for your Heavenly Home, not for this life.

For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:10

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal,

But, store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

What if I told you I'd give you a \$100 bill for every one dollar of Monopoly money that you gave me? This would be quite a good deal for you wouldn't it? You would be saying, "I can give up something that is not really worth anything, and in exchange I receive back something that is really worth a decent amount."

God asks us to view life in a similar way. What He says is this: I have entrusted you with temporary and earthly resources. Your time, your energy, your finances, these are the kinds of blessings He gives us on earth. What God also says, though, is: based on how you handle these temporary blessings; I am willing to give you abundantly more in heaven. If God's children are willing to live generously with what God has given them and to not shrink away from the roles God has called them to play, then truly they can expect treasure in heaven that makes any earthly goods pale in comparison.

Jim Elliot said, "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose."

In your heart do you believe what Jesus said in Matt 19:29 that whatever He calls you to give up in this world you can expect 100 times as much in return in heaven? This is not a simple thing but, understand this; Jesus is not saying what you have in this world is worthless. Rather, He is saying that even with how much your worldly things are worth, He can give you so , so much more. We are called to live generously, not because of what we expect in this life; but because of what God promises us in heaven. Life is not so simple as a game of Monopoly. But, then again, the reward that awaits us is infinitely more glorious than a mere \$100 bill.

Today's Generosity Challenge:

Okay this is a big one. While you were reading today's devotion, what came to mind to give up? Does it frighten you? Is it a car, a large sum of money, or a piece of property? Through prayer, if you think this is something with which to bless someone else, THEN DO IT! Be sure to write down your experience, your feeling of fear, and the blessings at <http://GenerousLife.net/Day12>. Return to this day often.

Lectionary Scripture Readings for December 2024



First reading	Alternate first reading	Second reading	Gospel
And Psalm	reading		

Dec. 1, 2024	Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:26-36
Dec. 8, 2024	Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
Dec. 15, 2024	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
Dec. 22, 2024	Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
Dec. 29, 2024	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52



A telemarketer called and said can I speak with the owner of the business? It tweaked me a little that he didn't even know who he was calling. There is no owner of the church. So, I said well, Sir that would be very hard. We are a church. You would have to speak to God himself. And, the funniest part was I started laughing after I said it. I do crack myself up at times! He laughed a little, stuttered and said well, that's ok. And hung up. Every night when I get into bed I try to remember all the good that happened and especially the funny stuff.



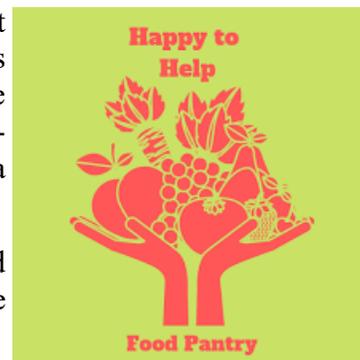
The mission of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is to provide a tangible reminder of God's love to those in need. The making of a prayer shawl is a spiritual practice which embodies our thoughts and prayers for the receiver. It is a gift freely given with no strings attached. Made in prayer, as prayer, for 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 December is the Happy to Help Food Pantry

The *Happy to Help Food Pantry* is located out of the St. James United Methodist Church at 35 Pearl Street in Kingston. The food pantry provides quality food items to households experiencing food insecurity. It operates more like a grocery store allowing patrons to choose what food they want. The pantry is staffed almost entirely by local volunteers and has been open since 2010. It serves 600 families a month and is open 3 Sundays per month from 10:30 am-2:00 pm.

If you feel called to donate to this mission, please write checks to Reformed Church of Port Ewen and write "December M.O.M." on the memo line. Online donations are also available.



Note: The Mission of the Month for October collected \$325.00

Consistory Highlights November, 2024

- Parsonage repair work is progressing.
- Woodstock Weavers will begin utilizing the Hall for their monthly business meeting.
- Family Care is looking for people to sign up for coffee hour donations.
- Elders are meeting with new members.
- Christmas wishes gifts are due Sunday December 1st. We will be signing up to help this organization wrap gifts once the schedule is out.

"Say It With Flowers"



Members can regularly request dedicating altar flowers to commemorate special occasions, memorials, etc. of loved ones (or entities), throughout the year. Please see Anita Hadley to make arrangements. (email: Anita.adh@gmail.com)

“I have the watch”

With Christmas quickly approaching, I think about the shepherds who watched over their flocks by night. They would gather all of their sheep together before night and then one of the shepherds would take the first watch for a portion of the night and then the next would do the same. This way one of them would be awake to make sure their flocks were looked after and protected their flocks from danger. This is still carried on today by all of our military. They are protecting our country from other countries that would want to harm us. When I used to stand watch, we would do 4 hours at a time. When we were in port, one of the watches I stood was called the sail watch. I would be perched in the sail of the submarine, fully protected by metal all around me. I would have the advantage of picking off the threat before they knew I was there. This was a position where we protected the sailors that were standing watch topside of the submarine. When I would arrive to relieve the previous watch, they would give me the report of what had been going on the 4 hours they were on watch. I would acknowledge that I understood and we would go over other watch information, like how many rounds of ammo and check the weapons clear. I would then tell the person I was relieving, “I have the watch!!” Once I said that, the responsibility was transferred from him, to me. It was now my responsibility to protect the people below. Our local Public Safety personal and Emergency Service Providers do the same. They look after us locally. We even do this with our own families. Parents are watching over their children. Or maybe they are watching over their elders. One way or another, we all “have the watch”. If you know someone that is in this situation and they have no one to share the watch with, try and help share the watch with them!

Submitted by Matt Van Aken

Poinsettia Order Form



_____ @ \$8.50 each = \$ _____

In honor and/or memory of

Given by:

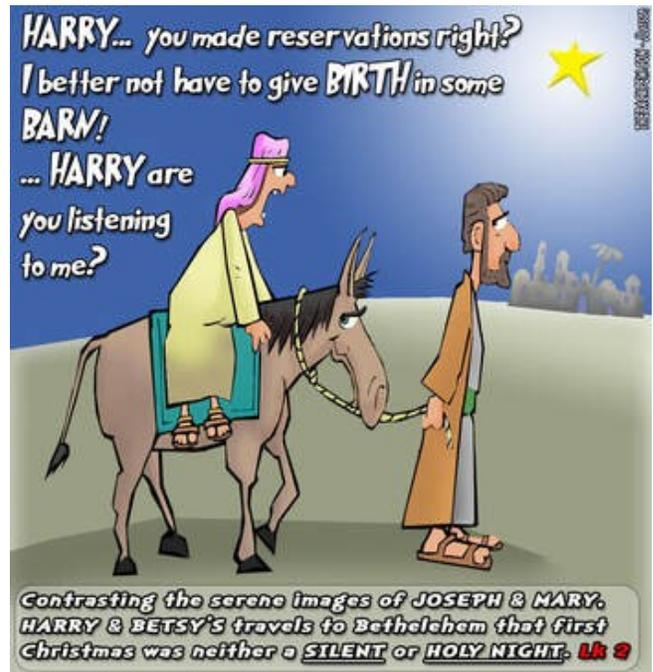
Please place in offering plate, or give to Bonnie Lalor by Dec 15th.

Please check box below indicating whether you would like to take your poinsettia home after Christmas or donate to the church.

Take Home

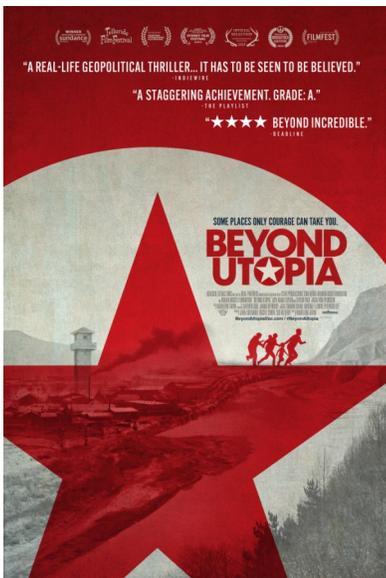
Donate to church

The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth



MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

Dec. 14, BEYOND UTOPIA (2023), Woodstock Reformed Church, 16 Tinker St., Woodstock — This suspenseful, riveting documentary follows three families as they try to flee



North Korea, a land they grew up believing was a paradise. Central to the film are a courageous pastor, Sung-eun Kim, on a mission to help a mother reunite with the child she was forced to leave behind, and a family of five — including small children and an elderly grandmother — on a treacherous journey into the hostile mountains of China. Leaving their homeland is fraught with unimaginable danger, yet these individuals are driven to take the risks. Gripping, thrilling and timely, director Madeleine Gavin embeds the viewer with these family members as they attempt their perilous escapes, palpably conveying life-and-death stakes. Winner of seven critic and festival awards. "A staggering achievement, the sort of nonfiction project that takes unfathomable guts and skill." — Lena Wilson, The Playlist. "Unforgiving, high-stakes and clear-eyed." — Tomris Laffly, Harper's Bazaar. "Harrowing . . . stories of unsung heroism that deserve to be shared with the world." — Fred Topel, United Press International. *In English and Korean with English subtitles. Rated PG-13.*

Note: This screening is on the second Saturday

THE JESSE TREE STORY ADVENT CALENDAR

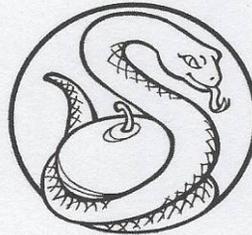
Journey through the Bible stories that led to the birth of Jesus this Advent. Each day, read a key Bible story and color a symbol that represents the story.



December 1
Isaiah 11:1-2



December 2
Genesis 1:26-31



December 3
Genesis 3



December 4
Genesis 6-9



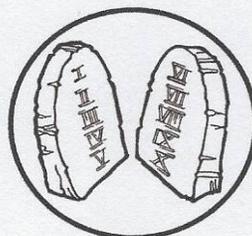
December 5
Genesis 12:1-7



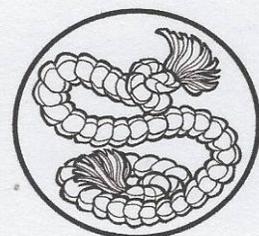
December 6
Genesis 15:1-6



December 7
Genesis 37



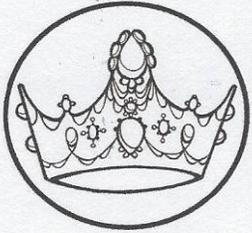
December 8
Deuteronomy 5



December 9
Joshua 2



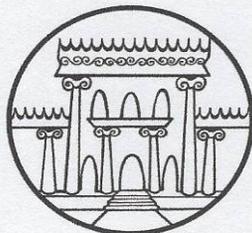
December 10
Ruth 2-4



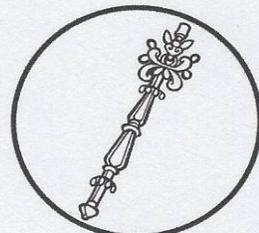
December 11
1 Samuel 16:1-13



December 12
2 Samuel 5:1-5



December 13
1 Kings 5:5; 1 Kings 6



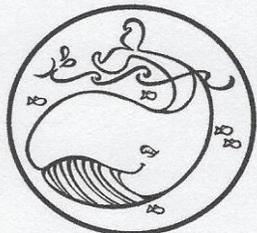
December 14
Esther 4



December 15
Isaiah 9:2-7



December 16
Isaiah 11:6-9



December 17
Jonah 1-3



December 18
Daniel 6



December 19
Micah 5:1-5



December 20
Luke 1:5-25



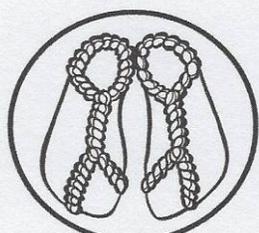
December 21
Matthew 3:1-6



December 22
Luke 1:26-38



December 23
Matthew 1:18-25



December 24
Luke 2:1-5



December 25
Luke 2:6-21

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	2 5:30-7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30-7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	3	4 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	5	6 4-9:00 pm Private (FH)	7 10-1 pm Christmas Decorating (FH) 10-11 am Daisy Troop (SCS) 6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Comm Dance (FH)
8 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Congregational Mig 2-4 pm 4H (FH)	9	10 9 am-2 pm Woodstock Weavers 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting	11 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	12	13	14 8 am - 6 pm Private (FH)
15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 1-5 pm Private (FH) 2-4 pm 4H	16 10 am-3 pm Christmas Luncheon 5:30-7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30-7:00 pm	17	18 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	19	20 REFORMER DEADLINE	21 10-11 am Daisy Troop (SCS)
22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	23	24 7:30 pm Worship	25 CHRISTMAS Worship?	26	27	28
29 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	30	31				



Our facilities are handicapped accessible

We're on the net!
Therpcpe.org

December 2024 Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen
at Salem and Green Streets
P.O. Box 580
Port Ewen, NY 12466
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