

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen



Volume 23 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2025

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A piece of clay could become almost anything: a dragon, a flower, a star. It all depends upon the person who is shaping the clay whether the clay turns into something pretty or something ugly. The clay doesn't even get to decide who will shape it.

Like the clay our personalities can be shaped and molded. We can become kind people or hurtful people. We can become happy people or miserable people. There are so many things we can become. Some are good and some are not.

But unlike the clay we have some say in how we will turn out. We can choose what books we will read, what games we will play, what friends we will keep, and all those things help shape us into the people we will become. If we choose the right choices, we can turn into good and loving people.

The best shaper of all is God. God made us in the first place and God has a plan for what we should become. When we read the Bible and attend church, and follow God's rules, then we are allowing God to shape us. And we can be sure that God will make something very very good of you and me if we let God have God's way with us.

SOUNDS LIKE GOOD ADVICE TO ME

Rev. Nick



~Consistory Installation~

Congratulations, Colleen and Tom! During the worship service Jan. 12, Colleen Sutton and Tom Gallagher were installed to the consistory as Deacons. They each will be serving 3 year terms. Thank you for agreeing to serve our church as we seek to discern what God has planned for us.

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the faithful service of Bonnie Lalor, who has completed 2 consecutive terms as Deacon.

May God continue to bless and guide you all.



Our New Pastor! Meeting the Steadmans

We are thrilled to announce that Rev. Brian Steadman and his wife Jesse have accepted our call to lead our church as we serve Jesus Christ in the community of faith. We began the New Year by inviting Pastor Brian, at that time a candidate, to lead us in worship. Following the service, the congregation voted enthusiastically to accept the Consistory's decision to recommend Brian as our minister. A luncheon was held after the service to welcome Brian and Jesse. The delicious food prepared by our outstanding RCPE cooks helped to spur lively conversation.



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 February 11th

ELDERS

Matt Van Aken

Ray Wells

Linda McCarthy

DEACONS

Colleen Sutton

Tom Gallagher

Monica Kelbaugh



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

World — Troubled area of our world, Need for rain in California and an end to the fires, 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 — John Young, Rev. Ann & Ron Rost, Bob Vanderlaan.

Petitions of healing, protection, and deliverance — Audrey Weckesser, Tom Kelly, Dennis McSpirit & family, Kim Schaffer, Brie Bauer, Gary Van Voorhis, JoAnne Cross, Bill Geisel, Mike Goodrich, John Pugleesi, Matt Sutton, Mary O’Brien, Jenny, Carol, Rena Beall, Tyson, Charles Barnett III.

Church Family — Janet Whaley, Ryleigh Goodrich, Sunny Scherry, Fred Harries, Sr., 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.

Grieving — Family & friends of: Cathy Harshburger, Barbara Wiesmont, Gary White, Dr. Thomas Ingarra, Jr., Dewey Holmes, Regina, Robin Ferrini.



February Birthdays

- 4 Joseph Relyea
- 10 Mike Kinsch, Sr.
- 12 Bob Shelightner
- 18 Shannon Goodrich
- 19 Joseph Sutton
- 21 Bev Gallagher
- 24 Cheyenne Candlin
- 25 Marie Klippel
- 27 Paula Van Aken



March Birthdays

- 26 Pastor Nick Miles
- 30 Johnny Candlin

Looking for Ladies to help Plan the Year Ahead:

Contact Bonnie Lalor if you would like to help plan some events for the New Year 2025!



Sunday Church School needs you!

We would love to have you come and visit the Sunday School and get to know the students.
 We start at 8:45 each Sunday and finish at 9:45am.
 For anyone who would like to get a closer look at SCS without commitment, we would welcome helping hands in the classroom on any Sunday.
 Come and see what fun goes on.



Bonnie, Colleen and Shannon

"Say It With Flowers"



Chancel 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)

Stewardship Moment

Day 14 – Ordinary people, extraordinary generosity

Mark 14:3, 8, 9

*While He was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home
of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came
with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume,
made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume
on His head...*

*“She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body
beforehand to prepare for my burial.*

*I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached
throughout the world, what she has done will also be told,
in memory of her”*

Do you believe you are insignificant? Do you look at yourself sometimes and wonder how you could ever amount to anything worthwhile? Many of us share these doubts and misgivings. We know ourselves along with our weaknesses. We feel aimless, sometimes we even feel useless. The Gospel of Mark tells of one encounter that provides an unexpected encouragement to us.

In Mark 14, days before Jesus is crucified he is having dinner in the home of a man named Simon. At some point in the meal, an unnamed woman enters, breaks an expensive bottle of perfume and pours the contents on Jesus' head. In our culture, that would be an especially bizarre occurrence, not to mention you might reek of perfume for days. But, Jesus sees it for the generous act that it was. Perfume was a costly commodity, worth almost a year's worth of wages, and Jesus tells them that this unnamed woman has done a good deed and has anointed His body for His burial to come. Moreover, He says that this woman's act of generosity and faith will be remembered wherever the Gospel is preached.

Isn't it remarkable that this ordinary and unnamed woman performed one of the most famous acts of generosity in all of history? We are not told that this woman was a famous philanthropist or even an especially upright person. We are not told whether she had been doing her daily devotions faithfully throughout her life or that she was far from perfect. What we are given to remember and learn from is that this woman, though ordinary was capable of performing extraordinary generosity to our Lord.

Few people might have a year's worth of wages to give away but, every person is capable of this kind of generosity. Jesus does not look at your generosity and add up in His head to decide if it is commendable or not. Rather, if your generosity springs from a heart grateful for the salvation Jesus accomplished, then your generosity can be extraordinary as well.

Today's Generosity Challenge:

You need a vision, a generosity vision for your life. Here is how you get one. Take the time to get away alone, today. No TV, radio, MP3 or conversation. Along with your Bible, sit down and ask the Lord for a vision of what He wants you to do with your life that will make a BIG difference in someone's else's life. Something beyond you, something GOD-sized, something a little scary. Once you have it, I want you to go to our website and tell the world here at <http://GenerousLife.net/Day14>. If you do we will send you an action plan on how to begin to put your idea into action.

Lectionary Scripture Readings for February 2025



First reading	Alternate first	Second reading	Gospel
And Psalm	reading		

February 2, 2025 Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

February 9, 2025 Isaiah 6:1-8,9-16; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

February 16, 2025 Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

Feb 23, 2025 Genesis 45:3-11,15; Psalm 37:1-11,39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:27-38

Reminder about inclement weather.

In the event we cancel church, a phone chain will be initiated. (make sure you are up to date in our system) and we will let you know if we will be able to have church via *Zoom*.

Thank you from the Worship Committee



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.

Prayer shawls will be blessed during our Sunday, February 9 service.

The Mission of the Month for February is Ulster County SPCA

The mission of the *Ulster County SPCA* is preventing animal cruelty, and providing temporary shelter, medical treatment and adoption opportunities for the abused, neglected and homeless animals of Ulster County and beyond. If you feel called to donate to this mission, please write checks to Reformed Church of Port Ewen and write "February M.O.M." on the memo line. Online donations are also available.



In February we will also be collecting canned food and treats for dogs, cats, puppies and kittens at the UCSPCA. Baskets will be located both in Fairbrother Hall and outside the church office.

Note: The Mission of the Month for December collected \$577.50 which included the Christmas Eve special offering of \$289 for the Children's Home of Kingston



Our kitchen in Fairbrother Hall is in need of some pot holders if anyone has any at home to donate or finds a good sale.

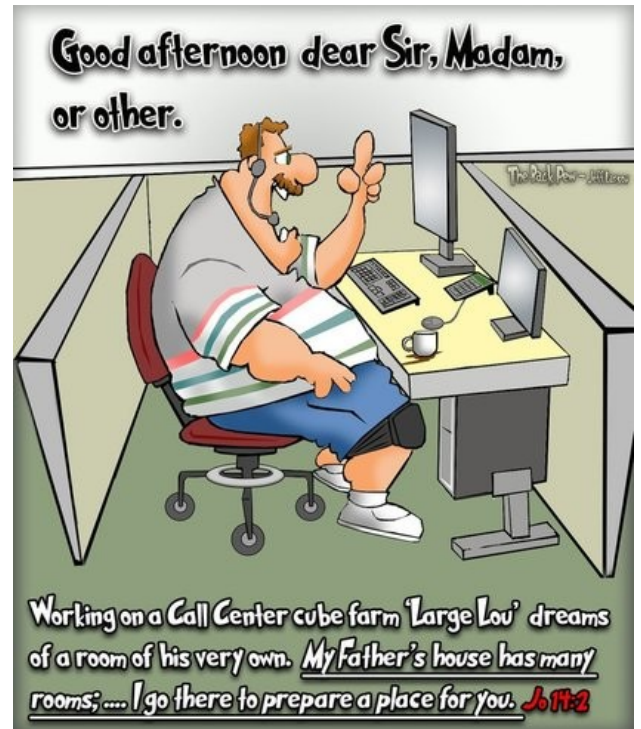
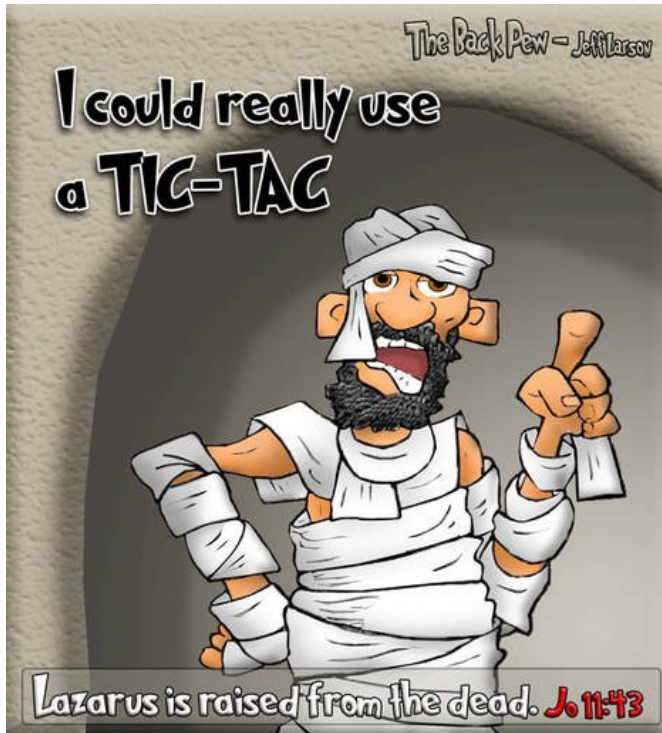
It has been told by more than one pilot that a plane when in the air is off course about 95% of the time due to wind currents, barometric pressure, etc. Because of this, the pilot must be vigilant in making continual minor course corrections to bring the plane back on course. If he does not, he will find, after several hours of flying that his plane is actually hundreds of miles off course.



The good and faithful steward is like the attentive pilot in flight – continually examining the course of his or her life to determine if it is still following the flight pattern that has been set by the "Tower." The steward will routinely make whatever midcourse corrections to his life that are needed regardless of how subtle or how dramatic they need to be. He recognizes that the gravitational pull of this world and the unpredictable winds of temptation can very quickly get him off course.

Socrates correctly concluded, "The unexamined life is not worth living."

The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth



MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

Feb. 15, MUDBOUND (2017), New Progressive Baptist Church, 8 Hone St., Kingston — Set in the rural American South just after World War II, this epic story by director Dee Rees tells of two families, the McAllans and the Jacksons. They are pitted against each other by racial segregation and social hierarchy, yet also bound together by the Mississippi Delta farmland they share. Henry and Laura McAllan (Jason Clarke and Carey Mulligan), a genteel white couple newly transplanted from Memphis, are unprepared for farming's harsh demands and barely scrape by. At the same time, Hap and Florence Jackson (Rob Morgan and Mary J. Blige) — Black sharecroppers whose family worked the land for generations — struggle to build a dream of their own despite the strict social barriers. The war's end disrupts both families' plans as their returning loved ones, Jamie McAllan (Garrett Hedlund) and Ronsel Jackson (Jason Mitchell), forge a friendship that challenges the brutal realities of the Jim Crow South. Winner of 36 critic and festival awards. "A sober, clear-eyed, and haunting work of art." — Alissa Wilkinson, Vox. "Captivating." — Aisha Harris, Slate. "A fiercely intimate epic that couldn't be more timely." — Peter Travers Rolling Stone. *Rated R.*



“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” – I CORINTHIANS 13:4-7 NIV

Lord, Because love is patient... Help me to be slow to judge, but quick to listen, hesitant to criticize, but eager to encourage, remembering your endless patience with me.

Because love is kind... Help my words to be gentle and my actions to be thoughtful. Remind me to smile and to say “Please” and “Thank You” because those little things still mean so much.

Because love does not envy or boast, and it is not proud... Help me have a heart that is humble and sees the good in others. May I celebrate and appreciate all that I have and all that I am, as well as doing the same for those around me.

Because love is not rude or self-seeking... Help me to speak words that are easy on the ear and on the heart. When I’m tempted to get wrapped up in my own little world, remind me there’s a great big world out there full of needs and hurts.

Because love is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs... Help me to forgive others as you have forgiven me. When I want to hold onto a grudge, gently help me release it so I can reach out with a hand of love instead.

Because love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth... Help me stand up for what is right and good. May I defend the defenseless, and help the helpless. Show me how I can make a difference.

Because love always protects and always trusts... Help me to be a refuge for those around me. When the world outside is harsh and cold, may my heart be a place of acceptance and warmth.

Finally, because love always perseveres... Help my heart continually beat with love for You and others. Thank you for this day when we celebrate love, and for showing us what that word really means. Amen



THE SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING AND SERVING

A Ministry of the Mid-Hudson and Orange Classes

WINTER-SPRING 2025 COURSE OFFERINGS

Church History Part 1 (General Interest; Preaching Elder & Commissioned Pastor candidates; required for CP candidates)

Instructor: The Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich

Dates: Tuesdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4 & 11, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Via Zoom Tuition: \$125, plus books and materials

For close to 2000 years the church has existed. Over that time it has undergone many successes and struggles. The study of church history is not the study of dates and times to be recited, but the study of God's story with God's church. The reason we study is to see how the church navigated the trials and successes and what we can learn from them. As so many denominations undergo restructure and changes the lessons of the past both successes and failures can help us as we seek to listen to how God is calling the church to be in the 21st century and beyond. The course will examine both why we study history for guidance but also the period of time when the church formed to when it split at the reformation. Course book will be Justo Gonzalez's *The Story of Christianity V1*.

Coming in April: Elements of Worship with the Rev. Dr. Daniel Meeter

Revisiting the roles of Elder (4/21) and Deacon (4/28) with the Rev. Jay Vogelaar.

Course registrations need to be received by the Registrar one week prior to the course unless otherwise stated or arranged. All registrations and tuition need to be mailed to the Registrar unless other arrangements are made in advance. Please register in time to insure the class will run.

Scholarships are available from the School. Please contact SCLS Treasurer Desiree Albizu for financial assistance at desireeralbizu@gmail.com

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mail: Juliete Gaebel, SCLS Registrar PO Box 38, Youngsville, NY 12791

Phone: (845) 417-8924; Email: juliete210@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to The School for Christian Living & Serving or SCLS.
Thank you.



Warming up



Lighting the candles



Leading the Congregation in song

SCS Students Light the Advent Candles

On the second Sunday of Advent we were treated with the Sunday Church School Chorus leading us in song and lighting the Advent candles. The older students lit the candles and led the congregation in the liturgy, while the younger ones lent their angelic voices to the chorus of "Light The Advent Candle", inviting the congregation to join with the verses. Thank you, kids! We hope to hear from you again soon!

Welcome, Ben and Debra!

Sunday, Jan. 19, just prior to the snowstorm, Ben and Debra Bogossian became the newest members of RCPE. We welcome them into our family and look forward to walking with them on their faith journey.

God Bless you both!



Most people assume that Roses are the official flowers of February due to their association with love and Valentines Day. However, its not true. Yes, people do give roses on Valentine’s Day, but it’s not the flower associated with February-born people. There are three flowers associated with Feb-born people. Primrose and Violet, and third are Iris.

If you want to spoil your special ones born in February, then this is the right time to do it with the right flowers. The above flowers are associated with this romantic month and convey the message of love, peace, hope, faith, and loyalty which are truly required in any relationship.

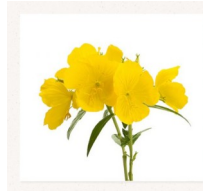
Violet is the official birth flower for people born in February. The scientific name of this flower beautiful flower is Viola Odorata.



This is a great blue-purple and sweet-scented flower which you always find bell-shaped. The flower is not only available in blue-purple shades, but they are also available in yellowish and cream-ish colors. In ancient Greece, this flower is associated with love and fertility. Blue Violets represent faithfulness, so when you receive this flower, it means the sender is ensuring you all his love and loyalty. People also choose white violets as they symbolize purity and innocence. When you want to give your friends Violet flowers on their birthday, make sure you choose the yellow shades as they symbolize goodness. The

Violet flower is also a sign of good fortune and health.

Primrose is another awesome flower associated with February-born people. The scientific name of this beautiful flower is Primula



February
PRIMROSE

Luck
Devotion
Youthfulness
Affection
First Love

vulgaris which is quite soft, delicate, and edible in nature. Primroses are usually available in light yellow color, but you can also find them in different beautiful shades such as pink, white, red, and purple. Despite their name and wonderful varieties of colors available, the primrose is not associated with roses. It has got its name from the Latin word called “primus” which means “first.” When you give someone primrose, it means you are wishing them a life full of

luxury, love, and pleasure. In romantic terms, giving your partner a primrose flower means, you are expressing your undying love for them and you cannot live a minute without them. According to its name, the flower blooms in the early spring season which means if you or your friend is getting married, you can simply use these flowers to either send as a gift or decorate the venue. In terms of ancient Greece, the primrose flower is referred to the twelve gods as well as it has been used frequently in different useful ailments. It helps treat gout, speech problems, vertigo, paralysis, and others. The most surprising feature of primrose is, you can use it as an ingredient in making soups, wines, or different salads, which makes it a necessary thing that adds taste to your food. When you give someone primrose, it means you are wishing them a life full of luxury, love, and pleasure. In romantic terms, giving your partner a primrose flower. In romantic terms, giving your partner a primrose flower means, you are expressing your undying love for them and you cannot live a minute without them.

Iris Another awesome flower for February-born people. The scientific name of this beautiful flower is Iris germanica which is



mainly bulbous and has thick rhizomes. The stunning flower is derived from the Greek word which means “rainbow”. In terms of Greek mythology, this unique flower is the pure embodiment and goddess of a beautiful rainbow. Irises are very famous garden plants not just because of their elegance but also for their soft, rugged, as well as easy to grow features & characteristics. They are available in a huge range of colors, the same ones in the rainbow; and that’s how the flower got its name. So, when you give to someone who is born in February, it means you are sending them the message of nobility, hope, courage, and wisdom.

The above flowers are associated with this romantic month and convey the message of love, peace, hope, faith, and loyalty which are truly required in any relationship.

February 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

2 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	3 5:30-7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30-7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	4	5 12:30 pm Bible Study 49:30 pm SCA (FH)	6	7	8 9 am-10 pm SCA (FH/Kit)	1 6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Comm Dance (FH)
9 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (SCS) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	10	11 9 am-2 pm Woodstock Weavers 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting	12 12:30 pm Bible Study 49:30 pm SCA (FH)	13	14	15	
16 9:00 SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	17 5:30-7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30-7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	18	19 12:30 pm Bible Study	20 REFORMER DEADLINE	21 5-9 pm ANA (FH)	22 1-5 pm Private (FH)	
23 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	24	25	26 12:30 pm Bible Study 49:30 pm SCA (FH)	27	28		



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February 2025 Reformer

We're on the net!
Thepcpe.org

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

Port Ewen, NY 12466

P.O. Box 580

at Salem and Green Streets

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen

Our facilities are handicapped accessible