

# The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen

Reverend Brian Steadman—Pastor



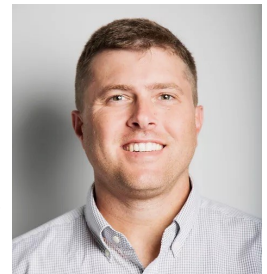
Volume 23 Issue 4

**April 2025**

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When I had my candidate visit on January 5<sup>th</sup>, the Rev. Melody Meeter commented that she wished all of RCPE could have read my answers to the RCA Ministerial Profile form I had to submit to become a ministerial candidate in the RCA. At the time I thought, that's not a bad idea! Here's one of the questions asked on the form and my answer:



What caused you to enter ministry, and what are the core values that define your vision for ministry?

Why I entered ministry is a longer, more colorful story I can share more properly in person. But in short, I received an external call to the ministry first and then an internal call followed. My faith journey in Christ began to grow in earnest while I was in college. I was heavily involved in a campus ministry and over time as my gifts for leadership were recognized, I was offered leadership opportunities in campus ministry. Those opportunities then began to grow into greater amounts of responsibility. This in turn led to mentors and peers encouraging me to consider vocational ministry post undergrad. While I had plenty of external calling to ministry, internally I was skeptical of that calling to ministry. While I recognized my success at effectively leading others in their spiritual journey in Christ and my own enthusiasm for my personal journey, I still was not sure I was supposed to enter full time ministry. For several years, I tried very hard to do anything but enter the ministry. It was only after all my other endeavors were thwarted that I gave in and enrolled in seminary to pursue the pastorate. Over my four years of seminary education, my internal call became stronger, and I left seminary confident of my calling to be a pastor in a local church community.

The core value that defines my vision for ministry is that Christ is our Life. Every aspect of who we are as his creatures is that we were created by God's love, for God's love. The gospel of Jesus is multifaceted, but that is the note of the song meant to be struck above all others. God is Love and we are all the beloved of God. This is our fundamental identity from which everything else about us is meant to flow. I often joke that all my sermons the last five or so years are about one thing, I want to convince you that God does in fact actually love you.

The second core value stems from the first, welcome. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have existed for all eternity in a community that welcomes, celebrates, and serves the other. Created in God's image, we are designed to do the same, to create sacred spaces of welcome and celebration of who we are as the

beloved of God. I spent a lengthy time in my ministry preaching the lectionary gospel texts on Sundays. It struck me in a way that has defined my ministry since that the thing that got Jesus into trouble the most was that he welcomed those that culturally he was not supposed to associate with. The thing that threatened the political and religious leaders the most, was that Jesus refused to participate in their structures of who got to be in and who was out. He regularly subverted the status quo, radically eating with, touching, conversing with, and welcoming into his circle those in power said he should not. His common metaphor for what the kingdom of God is like being a celebratory feast routinely emphasized that God's concern is not if you deserve to be there, but just that you are there. I believe that in our current cultural moment in North America, Jesus' radical welcome is necessary for the Church to regain the ear and confidence of our watching neighbors.

The third core value in my ministry is worship. We are created worshipping, desiring beings. You are what you worship, and you worship what you love, to borrow the phrase from James K. A. Smith. As I alluded to above, weekly gathered worship is the habit at the center of our Christian practice that ripples out into our daily practices of worship. While there are all sorts of habits and practices one can engage in our daily lives, in recent years I have begun to explore and integrate into my personal habits the practices of contemplation. I have found great value in these practices and have begun to share them with others as a priority in my ministry. The combination of weekly gathered worship and daily personal practices of worship are meant to shape and form us to see how all of life is worship. You will worship something. The question is what you will worship. Our habits and practices are what determine the answer to that question.

The fourth core value is the culmination of the first three, witness. Jesus calls us as his followers to be witnesses, living testimonials, to the good news that Jesus is The King of the cosmos, and his rule is one of love. If we are convinced that we are the beloved, welcoming others to come and experience that fundamental truth, practicing together habits of worship that shape our hearts and souls to love God and love our neighbor, then we will inevitably witness to our neighbors the love of God, in both word and deed.

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### *RCPE Women's Schedule of Events*

#### **April 2025**

5<sup>th</sup> Communion Service 10 am  
With Pastor Brian Steadman

13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday 10 am  
With Rev. James Alley

17<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 pm  
With Rev. James Alley

18<sup>th</sup> Good Friday Service 7:30 pm  
With Rev. James Alley

20<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunrise Service (6:15 am, Beach)  
Followed by Breakfast at RCPE

20<sup>th</sup> Easter Service 10 am  
With Rev. Arlene Dawber

27<sup>th</sup> Service 10 am  
To Be Announced

#### **May 2025**

3<sup>rd</sup> Women's Luncheon

4<sup>th</sup> Communion Service 10 am  
With Pastor Brian Steadman

11<sup>th</sup> Service 10 am  
With Rev. James Alley

18<sup>th</sup> Service 10 am  
With Rev. James Alley

25<sup>th</sup> Service 10 am  
With Rev. James Alley

# 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 April 8th***

#### ELDERS

*Matt Van Aken*

*Ray Wells*

*Linda McCarthy*

#### DEACONS

*Colleen Sutton*

*Tom Gallagher*

*Monica Kelbaugh*



**Easter**



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

**World** — Prayers for our country, Troubled area of our 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** — John Young, Rev. Ann & Ron Rost, Bob Vanderlaan.

**Petitions of healing, protection, and deliverance** — Brie Bauer, Gary Van Voorhis, Rose Ann Vita, Alma, Pete Sarr, Chris Mabie, Audrey Weckesser, Tom Kelly, Kim Schaffer, JoAnne Cross, Bill Geisel, John Pugleesi, Matt Sutton, Mary O’Brien, Jenny, Carol, Rena Beall, Tyson, Charles Barnett III.

**Church Family** — Rick Whitaker, Curt Bradley, Sunny Scherry, Bev Sickler, Linda Bresnahan-McCarthy, Janet Whaley, Fred Harries, Sr., Austin Stokes, Bob Schlichting, Monica Kelbaugh, Rev. Nick Miles, Janis Loring, Rhoda family, Bob Shelightner.

**Homebound/nursing homes/institutions** — Bea Hogan.

**Praise** — For Sunny Scherry’s healing!

**Grieving** — Family & friends of: Susan Nelson, Elnora McSpirit, Henry Knapp, Glenn Bell, Michael Riley.

## **Stewardship Moment**

**Day 16 – Day 16 – God has good works for you to do in your lifetime**

### **Ephesians 2:10**

For we are God's workmanship,  
created in Christ to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do?

“What am I doing in life?” This is a question many people ask at many points in their lives. “Why am I here?” “What is my purpose?” Purpose drives us; it helps us understand why we get out of bed each day. When we have an answer to that question of “why,” then we understand how to make it through both good and bad times. If we don't have an answer, then life will discourage us, it will confuse us, and it will leave us searching desperately for meaning.

The Bible tells us our purpose is in life: We are alive to glorify God. Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:10 that one of the ways God's children can glorify Him is by doing the good works He has planned out for us. Paul tells us that we were designed to do good works; it is what we are meant for. And over the course of our life in Christ, God has laid out for us a whole plan of good works we get to do.

So Christians are meant to live out these good works. What does that mean? What exactly is a good work? Well, look around you, who do you see every day? Are there things you know you could do to be a blessing to those around you? Assess yourself. What kinds of things do you know how to do? It can be anything from playing music ...to doing manual labor ...to practicing medicine. Maybe you are just a friendly person. Whatever your talents may be, you can be generous with them for someone who is in need.

“Who?” you say? Look into your heart – what do you ‘have a heart for?’ Do you love children? The elderly? Do you have a heart to fight poverty or help in education? Pursue the things that God has put on your heart.

When we look at the world, we see there are so many good works that we can be doing. Every single day God has equipped you with the purpose and ability to live the generous life you were made for.

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

Go back and look at your entry from day 13. Reflect back on that day's entry and through prayer write down how you have been uniquely prepared for such a God-sized vision at <http://GenerousLife.net/Day 16>.

## *Lectionary Scripture Readings for April 2025*



First reading	Alternate first	Second reading	Gospel
And Psalm	reading		

April 6, 2025	Isaiah 43:16-21 - Psalm 126 - Philippians 3:4b-14 - John 12:1-8
April 13, 2025	Isaiah 50:4-9a - Psalm 31:9-16 - Philippians 2:5-11 - Luke 22:14-23:56
April 20, 2025	Isaiah 43:16-21 - Psalm 126 - Philippians 3:4b-14 - John 12:1-8
April 27, 2025	Acts 5:27-32 - Psalm 118:14-29 - Revelation 1:4-8 - John 20:19-31

### **Annual Chili Cook Off!**

After the service March 9, the aroma of chili enticed the congregation to stay and taste the delicious offerings from our fabulous chefs. After many samples, people voted for their favorite, and surprisingly, it was a two way tie!

Congratulations to Colleen Sutton and Kathy Kinsch,  
the **2025 Chili Cook Off Champions!**



*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”* 1 Peter 1:3

The Search Committee announces that the Rev. Brian Steadman and his wife Jessie will be joining us officially on June 1st. Prior to then, Brian will be preaching each Communion Sunday to June.



**The Mission of the Month for April** will support **The Bravo Center of Ulster County** (formerly **The Pregnancy Support Center**) located on Albany Avenue in Kingston. The Bravo Center is affiliated with Care Net, an international organization of pregnancy centers. They are a not-for-profit, non-partisan, Christian organization supported by individuals and churches. Their services are free and confidential.

Visit their website for more information at <https://pscuc.org>.



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

You may also sign out a baby bottle to collect spare change for The Bravo Center. The bottle are in Fairbrother Hall or you can contact Paula Van Aken. Bottles are due back to church on Sunday, April 27th or may be left with Cheri in our church office prior to this date.

**Note: The Mission of the Month for February collected \$410.00**

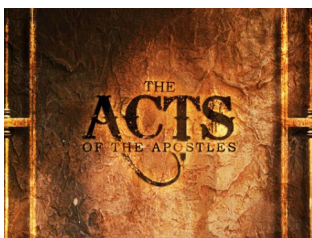


God of love and comfort, you have called us to rejoice with those who rejoice and to mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12). We are grateful to live into that calling, to celebrate one of our ministries here at the Reformed Church of Port Ewen and – in an act of love for our Christian brothers and sisters – share a tangible gift to those in need, the prayer shawl. You take our gifts, and by the work of the Holy Spirit, sanctify them and use them in your redeeming and healing work in our community. We thank you God.

If you know of anyone in need of a shawl, please see Joyce Pade, Kathy Kinsch or Cheri in the office.

**Bible Study** – There is room for you on Wednesdays at 12:30 in the library to join us as we explore different sections of the Bible under the guidance of the Rev. James Alley. ALL ARE WELCOME!

We are currently exploring the Acts of the Apostles. Bibles available.

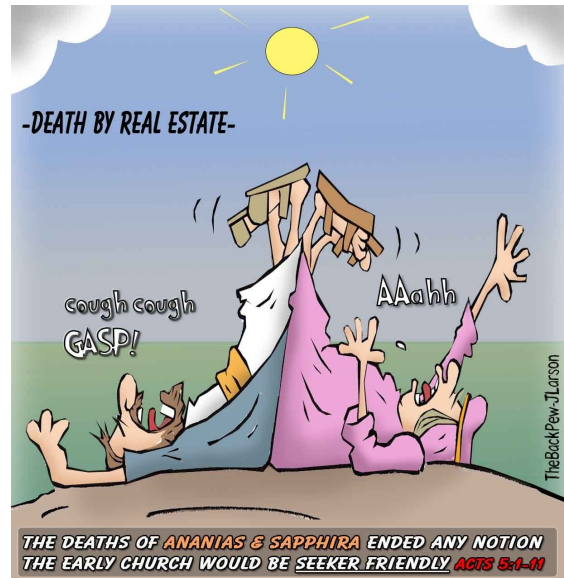


# The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth

**Which is right in God's eyes?  
To listen to you, or God? As  
for us we cannot stop sharing  
what we have seen  
and heard.**



Peter & John chat with the Sanhedrin Acts 4:19



## MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

**April 19, THE DUKE (2020), Episcopal Church of the Messiah, 6436 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck** — This is a fun and true story about a surprising real-life art heist. On Aug. 21, 1961, someone stole Francisco de Goya's Portrait of the Duke of Wellington from London's National Gallery. It was the gallery's only theft since it opened in 1824. The police think the thief must be a criminal genius, and the public imagines him like the villainous Dr. No in the James Bond movie. Indeed, in that 1962 film, No shows the stolen painting to 007 in his lair. The real art thief reveals himself four years later. He is Kempton Bunton (Jim Broadbent), a 61-year-old cab driver, who says he took the painting to protest the Crown's treatment of the working class. He says he especially wants the government to stop making elderly people pay an annual license fee to watch TV. What happens next is epic and becomes fabled. *"An easy-to-watch, easy-to-love crowd-pleaser."* — Mike Scott, The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune. *"Will steal your affections from under your nose."* — John Nugent, Empire Magazine. *"You could dine on nothing but lard for twenty years and still not develop the hardness of heart necessary to avoid being won over."* — Jessica Kiang, The Playlist. **Rated R.**



**Alleluia!  
Christ is risen!  
He is risen, indeed!  
Alleluia!**

**April Birthdays**

- 3 Emma Spinnenweber
- 5 Beverly Sickler
- 5 Tom Sutton
- 6 Claire Steadman
- 13 Matt Van Aken
- 18 Elizabeth Finger
- 21 Lori Nichols
- 30 Tim Triscari



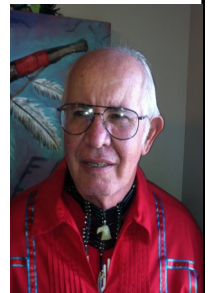
**May Birthdays**

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

**April Anniversaries** 15 Len & Maryann Falcinelli

Dear Members and Friends of the Reformed Church of Port Ewen,

For the last three years I have served God as the leader of worship for the Reformed Church of Port Ewen. For those who have not heard, I have decided to retire again from preaching on a regular schedule at the end of March. Linda and I continue to live in Ulster Park, the Town of Esopus, a community similar to the one I grew up in as a child and youth. These years have been filled with many opportunities to grow in our faith and trust in God, as well as our relationships with one another. Together, we have witnessed in a variety of ways to the love of God, through the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ.



The variety of experiences we have shared together are too numerous to mention, but I thank you for the privilege and blessings of sharing your lives with me, for all the significant and not so significant moments, for the times of joy and the times of sorrow, for we grow from each one of them.

As I said, we love the area and will, no doubt, see many of you at various events throughout the community and church events. I continue to be involved with various events related to my Native heritage, including meeting at the church hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month (except July and August) for a pot luck meal, followed by drumming and dancing.

May God bless you all always and know that you will always have a place in my heart.

Yours in Christ,

Nick Miles



The birth flowers for April are the daisy and the sweet pea. Both flowers symbolize love, purity, and gratitude.

### Daisies

Daisies are native to Europe and parts of North Africa.

They are known for their resilience and can be found in meadows, lawns, and cracks in sidewalks.

Daisies are said to be one of the oldest flowers on earth, with drawings of them carved in stones dating back to at least 3000 BC.

Daisies symbolize innocence, loyalty, and transformation.



### Sweet peas

Sweet peas originated in the UK and Southern Italy.

They became popular in mainstream cultivation in the 17th century.

Sweet peas are known for their sweet fragrance.

Sweet peas symbolize gratitude, blissful pleasure, and farewells.

Sweet peas are often used in floral arrangements and bouquets.



### Holy Week Schedule:

**Palm Sunday** – April 13, 10 AM

**Maundy Thursday** – April 17, 7:30 PM

**Good Friday** – April 18, 7:30 PM

**Easter Sunrise** – April 20, 6:00 AM

George Freer Park

Followed by Easter Breakfast in the Church Hall

**Easter Resurrection Service** - April 20, 10 AM



***The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel.***

Mark 1:15

The Congregation of the  
**Reformed Church of Port Ewen**

*Invites you to join us for*

**~Holy Week Services~**

**Palm Sunday**

April 13, 10 AM

**Maundy Thursday**

April 17, 7:30 PM

**Good Friday**

April 18, 7:30 PM



**Easter Sunrise**

April 20, 6:00 AM,  
**\*George Freer Park\***

~Followed by~

**Easter Breakfast**

**\*in the Church Hall\***

**~Easter Resurrection Service~**

10 AM-----

*Services at RCPE, 160 Salem St.  
Port Ewen 12466*

***Info: Church Office 845-331-2782, office@rcpe.info***

### Easter Lily Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount ordering \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8.50 each = \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Please write clearly

Please return to the office or place in the Offer-

Please check the box below indicating whether

or donate to the church.

Take home

ing plate by 4/6

you would like to take your lily home after Easter

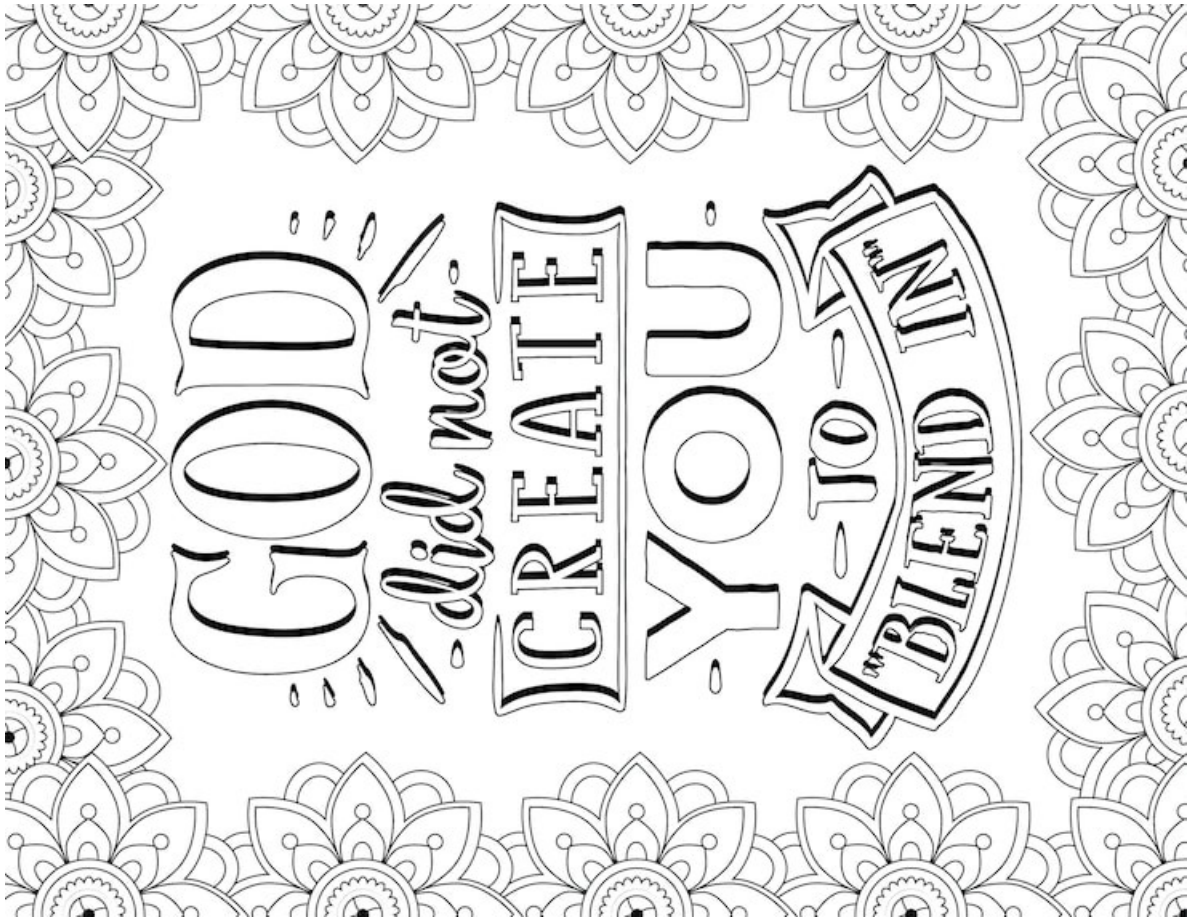
Donate to church

# April 2025

**Sun**      **Mon**      **Tue**      **Wed**      **Thu**      **Fri**      **Sat**

	1	2	3	4	5
<b>6 5th SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>8</b> 9 am-2 pm Woodstock Weavers  7:00 pm Consistory Meeting	<b>9</b> 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 2-9 pm Private (FH)	<b>12</b> 2-9 pm Private (FH)
<b>13 PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4H (SCS) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	<b>17 7:30 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP</b>	<b>18 7:30 PM GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP</b>	<b>19</b> 8 am-8 pm Private (FH)
<b>20 REFORMER DEADLINE EASTER</b> 6:00 am Easter Sunrise followed by breakfast 9:00 SCS 10:00 am Easter Worship 2-4 pm 4H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)			





*Our facilities are handicapped accessible*

We're on the net!  
Therpcpe.org

Reformer

April 2025

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen  
at Salem and Green Streets  
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