

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen
Reverend Brian Steadman—Pastor



Volume 23 Issue 6

June 2025

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Continuing from the May Reformer, here are some more answers to the questions I had to answer during the candidating process of the RCA.

Name at least one challenge for a pastor who accepts a call to lead a church whose culture is other than his/her own?

Having lived in New York City for the past 17 years, one of the greatest blessings of living in a multicultural setting is the beauty and joys of experiencing what so many different cultures have to offer. Especially the food. Of course, one of the greatest challenges to living in a multicultural environment is that so many people live differently than how you choose to live. Sometimes, it's extremely difficult to live with people who do not value the same things you value. You combine that so many of us have different racial, ethnic, religious, political, familial commitments with the overarching Western value that our greatest good is to choose for ourselves what makes us happy and no one can stand in our way of obtaining our happiness, it can be pretty miserable trying to live with each other. That is the challenge of not only pastoring, but just living with neighbors whose culture is different than one's own. How do I maintain a beginner's mind and patiently learn from someone whose way of leaning into the world may be so foreign to my own? Even if you come to the conclusion that you disagree or their way is still not for you, how do you patiently allow the Other without judging it and condemning it?

My ministry in NYC has meant that I have had to navigate a congregation that is not mono-cultural. Especially politically. It would be much easier if we all agreed on the same things. But then again, if we did, we wouldn't be challenged to see our biases, prejudices, and blind spots. And there's the rub to pastoring in a culture that is not your own, your sin tends to be exposed by another's point of view and experience. No one enjoys that process, but the challenge is a necessary part of becoming whole and living as God's multicultural, beautiful community.

Pastor Brian



Before pressure-washing



After pressure-washing



RCPE Calendar of Events

June 2025

1st Communion, Pastor Brian Steadman's first service as our new Minister.

8th Children's Sunday at the Church followed by a picnic

29th Breakfast Church & Praise, 10am, Fair-brother Hall with worship

July 2025

27th Breakfast Church & Praise, 10am, 10:00an Fair-brother Hall

August 2025

31st Breakfast Church and Praise, 10 am, Fair-brother Hall

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.



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

Prayer List

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, 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.

Consistory Meets

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

Next meeting June 10h

ELDERS

Matt Van Aken

Ray Wells

Linda McCarthy

DEACONS

Colleen Sutton

Tom Gallagher

Monica Kelbaugh

Petitions of healing, protection, and deliverance –Mr.& Mrs. James Deisinger, Peggy McFaddy, Jeff Mitchell, Bill Hass, Ben Bauer, Tom Kelly, Kim Schaffer, JoAnne Cross, Bill Geisel, Jenny, Carol, Rena Beall, Charles Burnett III.

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

Homebound/Nursing Homes/Institutions - Bea Hogan.

Grieving –Family & friends of Carol White, Ruth Schroer, Carl Schnorr, Betty Davenport, Melissa & Clay Harshberger– on passing of his grandmother Haron Carlson Clearwater.

Praise! - Dean Barnes is cancer free! (M.Falcinelli's brother)



Stewardship Moment

Day 17– Some people are called to extravagant generosity

Acts 4:34-37

There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time, those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

It's been one said one of the best reasons to buy real estate is because it is the only thing they're not making any more of it. This is a light-hearted way to note the importance of land. Residential real estate is one of the most significant purchases a person can make. Home ownership is so important to people that they will pay for that home for 30 years of their life! The home people live in is very commonly the most valuable possession they have.

The book of Acts records the growth and development of the church in the early days after Jesus ascended to heaven. In chapter 4 of this book, it describes how some believers went so far in their generosity that they were selling their houses and land in order to provide money for the church in its need. Just as it be no small decision if you were to sell your home, or whatever you own that is most valuable, it was undoubtedly no small sacrifice for these believers either. So why did they do this? They saw a need and they felt called to be extravagantly generous to meet that need.

Not all generosity is extravagant. In fact, daily and regular generosity is a great Christian witness in and of itself. But some people might have both the means and the calling to be extravagantly generous. Is that you? If you think the Spirit might be leading you to be generous in this way, do yourself a favor. Pray about it faithfully, and seek the counsel of the Word of God and people you trust. Investigate the need and investigate what kind of generosity you might be able to show. If you after all this; you think you are called to be generous in an extravagant way, then go ahead and be generous unto the Lord.

Are you balking at the decision because it would be such a large act of generosity? It's totally understandable if there are some nerves involved, big decisions are like that. Sit down and think it through again. If you already have the desire, if it is not a foolish choice, and if God through his word and through prayer seems to be confirming your desire to be generous, then perhaps, the only way you are going to be happy is if you follow His call to live generously. And, lastly remember this: Extravagant generosity is also a privilege. Few people in history have had the chance to support God's work with extravagant generosity. Go ahead and enjoy the opportunity before you!

Today's Generosity Challenge:

Go back to your challenge from day 12 and review it again. Did you follow through? If not, why not do it today? If you did: Congratulations! Now, do it again and allow the Lord to show himself faithful. This time I want you to go to <http://GenerousLife.net/Day17> and write down your experience.

Lectionary Scripture Readings for June 2025



First reading	Alternate first	Second reading	Gospel
And Psalm	reading		

June 1, 2025	Acts 16:16-34; Revelation 22:12-14,16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26
June 8, 2025	Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34,35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17
June 15, 2025	Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 14:8-17,25-27
June 22, 2025	2 Kings 19:1-15a; Psalm 42; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39
June 29, 2025	2 Kings 2:1-26-14; Psalm 77:1-2,11-20; Galatians 5:1,13-25; Luke 9:51-62

My Dad, Hank

"My father, Henry, preferred to be called Hank, a name that somehow suited his warm and caring nature. He was the kind of man who felt a deep responsibility for his entire family, always striving to ensure their well-being. As an Army veteran who served in WWII, he likely carried a strong sense of duty and resilience. Though a skilled and hardworking carpenter, the economic realities of the late 1950s and early 1960s often made finding stable employment a challenge. To complement his carpentry work during those lean times, he wasn't afraid to try his hand at different ventures, even becoming a Fuller Brush salesman for a period and later running an egg farm for a couple of years. Despite these varied experiences and the substantial age difference between me and my half-siblings, he always made time for me, ensuring I never felt any less loved than they were. When I finished high school and joined the Navy, his pride in me was evident, and he consistently showed a keen interest in my travels and whereabouts around the world. While he has been gone for many years now, I often find myself thinking of him, especially around Father's Day, as well as on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, a testament to the lasting impact he had on my life. I miss him."

Mike



The Mission of the Month for June will be **Tilda's Kitchen**. Located on Broadway in Kingston, Tilda's Kitchen & Market breaks bread with the community. The market provides groceries, goods and services provided by its neighbors and local businesses. They give away meals almost every day. When community members buy a Pay-It-Forward Meal Card, it is hung up next to the register. Neighbors then know that meals are available. The donations we collect for our June M.O.M. will support this program.



Tilda's also has a Free Soup Program where farms donate to their community kitchen. On the last Tuesday of every month, they have The Open Table, when free breakfast and lunch are available all day.

If you feel called to donate to this mission, write a check to the Reformed Church of Port Ewen and write "June M.O.M." on the memo line. Online giving is also available.

During the month of June we will also be collecting non-perishable food and personal care items for the Ascension Food Pantry in West Park. Collection baskets will be located throughout the church.

Note: The Mission of the Month for April collected \$545.00

June Birthdays

- 6 Ryleigh Goodrich
- 6 Karin Lamb
- 7 Daniel Helmer
- 14 Matthew Sutton
- 23 Kevin Slusher
- 24 Debra Bogossian
- 25 Cheri Van Deusen
- 25 Jim Hadley
- 26 Len Falcinelli



July Birthdays

- 9 Jacqueline Stocker
- 14 Ben Bogossian
- 18 Beatrice Hogan
- 20 Joyce Pade
- 23 Glenn Knickerbocker
- 24 Melissa Banks
- 28 Ward Breithaupt

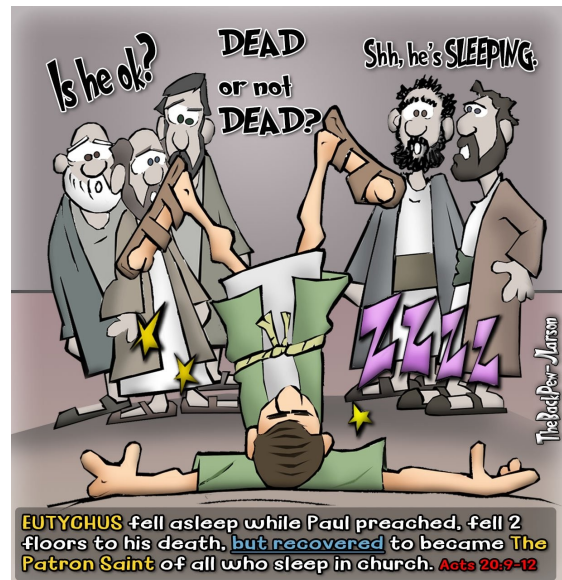
- 14 Ben & Debra Bogossian
- 22 Nick & Linda Miles
- 26 Shannon & Michael Goodrich
- 27 Ann & Jim Beukelman

June Anniversaries



www.funimda.com

The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth



MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

June 21, OCEAN OF PEARLS (2008), Vivekananda Retreat, Ridgely, 101 Leggett Road, Stone Ridge — Amrit Singh (Omid Abtahi), a brilliant young Detroit Sikh surgeon whose parents emigrated to Toronto from India in the 1960s, concludes his outward appearance is halting his professional advancement. So he shuns his family and does the unimaginable for a Sikh — he forsakes his turban and cuts his long black hair. “Why would someone work so hard to come to a new world just to keep on living in the old one?” he asks. But shedding his religious convictions proves far more complicated than he imagines in this penetrating, semiautobiographical tale about bigotry and self-realization. The film, which won three film-festival awards, is directed by Sarab Singh Neelam, a Sikh gastroenterologist from Troy, Mich. “An affecting story of ‘faith versus duty’ that examines personal compromise, hospital politics and U.S. healthcare.” — IndieWire. “A medical drama, a statement about racism and an unsentimental look at the vast divide between generations.” — Lisa Tsering, India-West. “That Neelam was a medical doctor before becoming a filmmaker gives his picture its exceptional impact and complexity.” — Los Angeles Times. *Rated PG-13.*



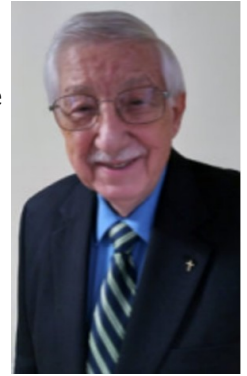
Rev. Ron Lokhorst Celebrates 60 Years of Ministry

“Making the Stranger known”

At age 85, Rev. Ron Lokhorst doesn't preach many sermons. But on July 31, 2022, Ron delivered the message for all three services at Central College Presbyterian Church, where he volunteers as the Parish Associate in Westerville, Ohio.

The occasion was the 60th anniversary of Ron's ordination as a pastor. On August 5, 1962, he was ordained and installed as a Minister of Word and Sacrament at the Reformed Church of Port Ewen, New York. In the years between, Ron served in the following roles:

Lead Pastor, St. Thomas Reformed Church, Virgin Islands
Executive Program Director, Warwick Conference Center, New York
Lead Pastor, Good Samaritan Church, Gahanna, Ohio
Interim pastor, 5 different churches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, & St. Croix, Virgin Is.
Lead Pastor, Reformed Church of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania
Pastor of Visitation, Mifflin Presbyterian Church, Gahanna, Ohio



Having grown up on a dairy farm in Baldwin, Wisconsin, Ron attended a one-room elementary school and a small high school. In 1959, Ron graduated from Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Next, Ron chose New Brunswick Theological Seminary to further prepare him for his call to serve the Church. NBTS introduced him to ministry in an urban setting. Ron learned that to be effective, “one must first understand and fully appreciate the setting.”

Attending NBTS informed Ron's thinking and perspective. Professors challenged his biblical and theological interpretations. Deep relationships with fellow students taught him to value authenticity (“being real”) and inclusivity.

Ron recognizes that during his seminary years (1959-1962), inclusivity at NBTS was more aspirational than actual: Ron graduated in a class of 25 white men. He is impressed by the diversity reflected today in NBTS's faculty, staff, and students.

So what text does one choose on the anniversary of 60 years in ministry? Ron chose John 1:26, where John the Baptist refers to Jesus when he says to the priests and Levites, “Among you stands one whom you do not know.” This same passage was used by NBTS professor Dr. Vernon Kooy at Ron's ordination. Ron borrowed the same title also: “The Well-Known Stranger.” Ron remembers Dr. Kooy saying, “Ron, there is one reason you are ordained to the ministry: you are to make the stranger Jesus known in the lives of people you are called to serve.” Sixty years after graduating from NBTS, Ron continues to serve, both in his church and in the memory care unit of Inniswoods Village in Westerville, where he lives with his wife Karen, who has dementia. “Blessed to be a blessing” is his mantra and his witness.

This article was written by Kimberly VanEs for Cathy Proctor, Alumni Communications Director at New Brunswick Seminary. It is the result of a telephone interview with Kim

*Editors Note: Pastor Ron informed me that Karen passed on February 14th.

Biblical fathers, both literal and symbolic, are important figures in the Bible, often serving as examples of both positive and negative qualities of fatherhood.

Adam:

As the first human father, Adam's story in Genesis highlights the challenges and responsibilities of fatherhood, as well as the potential for both obedience and disobedience to God.

Noah:

Noah stands out as a righteous man who followed God's instructions, even in the face of widespread wickedness, serving as a model of faithfulness and obedience.

Abraham:

Abraham is often called the "father of the faithful" and is seen as a key figure in the lineage leading to Jesus. His story showcases God's covenant with him and his descendants, and his faith in God, even when facing difficult tests.

Jacob:

Jacob, whose name was later changed to Israel, is the father of the twelve tribes that would become the Israelites. His story is a complex one, marked by both cunning and eventual repentance and blessing from God.

Joseph (Jesus' Earthly Father):

The New Testament emphasizes Joseph as the husband of Mary and the earthly father of Jesus, highlighting his role in fulfilling God's plan for salvation.

God the Father:

The concept of God as the Father is central to Christian theology, emphasizing God's role as a loving and caring provider and authority figure for believers.

King David:

King David, a prominent figure in the Old Testament, was known for his relationship with God and his role as both a king and a father.

Other Notable Figures:

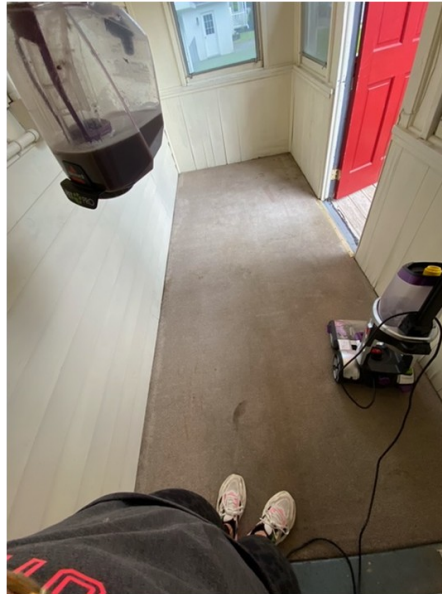
The Bible also mentions other figures who are considered fathers, including [Zechariah](#) (father of John the Baptist), [Elias](#) (a prophet), [Boaz](#), and [Caleb](#).

These examples of biblical fathers, both positive and negative, offer insights into the importance of fatherhood in scripture, the role of authority, and the potential for both faithfulness and imperfection in human relationships.

What a Crew!

Many hands make light work, and there was a LOT of work to do to get the Parsonage ready for the Steadmans to move in.

It was also spring cleaning time for the church grounds. Fortunately for us, we have many hands.

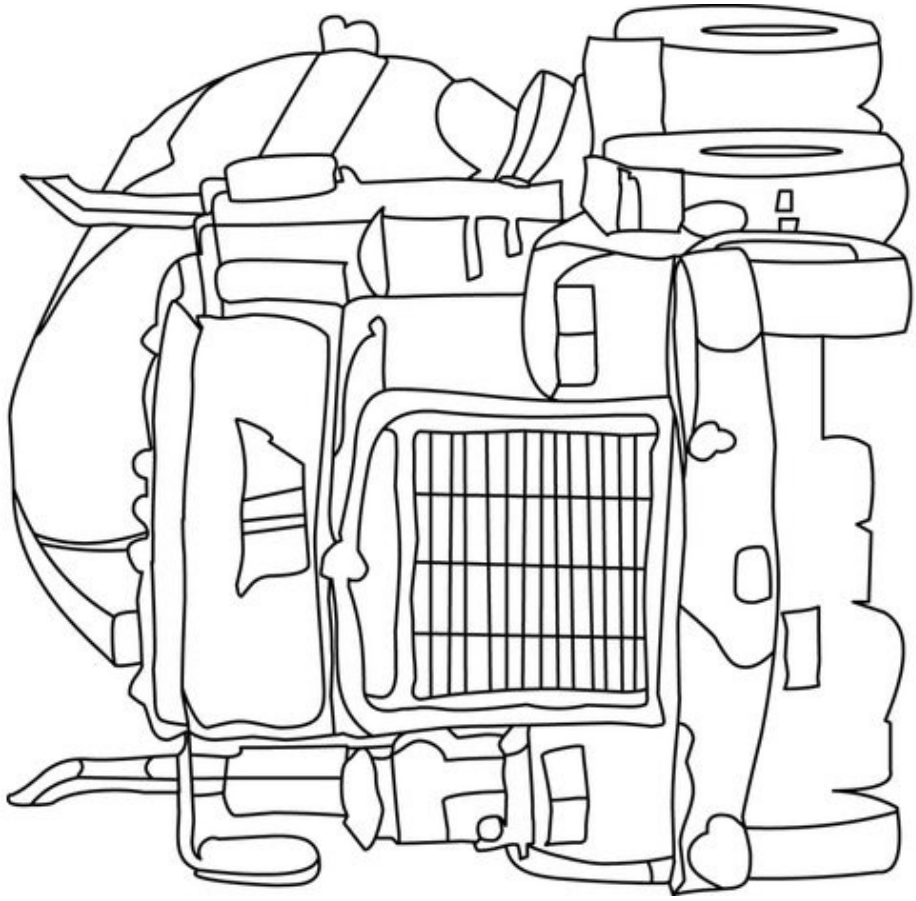


Many Thanks to: Matt and Paula Van Aken, Deb and Ben Bogossian, Len Falcinelli, Tom Gallagher, Ray Wells, Kathy Kinsch, Colleen Sutton, Harry and Linda McCarthy

June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	2	3	4 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	5	6	7 6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Comm Dance (FH)
8 PENTECOST 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship followed by Children's Picnic 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (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
15 FATHER'S DAY 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (SCS) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	16	17	18 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	19 JUNETEENTH H HOLIDAY	20 REFORMER DEADLINE	21
22 9:00 SCS 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 (FH)	26		28
29 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	30					

Happy Papa's Day



twistynoodle.com

Our facilities are handicapped accessible

We're on the net!
Therpcpe.org

Reformer

June 2025

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