

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen

Reverend Brian Steadman—Pastor



Volume 23 Issue 5

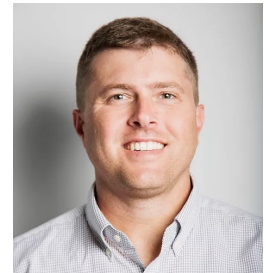
May 2025

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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 three of your most passionate hopes for the Church at large, and why they are significant to you.



My most passionate hope for the Church is to recover the fundamental truth of the gospel of Jesus, that we are created by God's love, for God's love. The question that should be driving the Church today is, "What does love require?" Rather than being driven by a defense of Truth, however one defines their version of the capital "T" truth, or driven by the Church being Pure, however they define purity, I hope to see the Church be driven by what does the love of Jesus require of us in our context.

I also hope for the Church to embrace what Jesus meant when he said to take up his cross and follow him. Jesus' incarnation shows us that the path to shalom (life, wholeness, flourishing) takes on a cruciform shape. The universal pattern of the cosmos is that the path to resurrection life must first go through death. The only way to obtain life is first you must die. Jesus' birth, life, ministry, teaching, passion, and death all show us that one wins by losing. That the path to ascent must first go through descent. We are a culture obsessed with winning. We are a culture where we as individuals and then in our tribes must be right above all costs. We can not stomach defeat. Our egos must be defended against all others. And the American Church is guilty of this mentality and has actively participated in this game for a long, long time. Yet, Jesus' own example is that winning comes by losing. I'd like to see the Church in our culture try that on for a while and see if it doesn't produce more effective witness to the gospel than always trying to "win".

I think if the Church at large can be committed to asking itself what does the love of Jesus require, and embrace that to follow Jesus is to embrace a cruciform pattern of life, then I hope the American Church can therefore become more honest about the ways it has been and still is complicit in intertwining the Christian faith in forms of racism, patriarchy, capitalism, xenophobia, homophobia, and the destruction of our environment. Perhaps if we can begin to name our failures in these ways, allow our collective

Church ego to appropriately die where it needs to, then we can begin to disentangle the Church from our society's unhealthy and destructive ways.

These three hopes of mine for the Church are significant to me because I believe that without them, the Church in the United States of America will continue to decline. Our neighbors do not see a difference between the Church and the world they live in every day. Therefore, why would they listen to what Christianity has to say and why would they voluntarily join such an organization to give their time and money to it? It isn't providing them with any different answers than what they can find on their news feeds, their podcasts, their reading lists, their affinity tribes, their politics, and their echo chambers. A radical love expressed by lives of honest, humble sacrifice on behalf of others is what I believe obedience to Christ as an institution will look like in our age. This is required if we ever as a Church want our neighbors to listen to what we have to say and fill our pews for gathered worship again.

Pastor Brian

RCPE Calendar of Events

May 2025

- 3rd Women's Luncheon
- 4th Communion Service 10 am
With Pastor Brian Steadman
- 11th Service 10 am
With Rev. James Alley
- 18th Service 10 am
With Rev. James Alley
- 25th Service 10 am
With Rev. James Alley

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

July 2025

- 27th Breakfast Church & Praise

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

(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 — young boy who was burned in a house fire, Bill Hass, Gary Van Voorhis, Brie Bauer, Tom Kelly, Kim Schaffer, JoAnne Cross, Bill Geisel, John Pogleesi, Mary O’Brien, Jenny, Carol, Rena Beall, 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.

Grieving — Family & friends of: Karon Carlson Clearwater, Vincent Kime, Faire Hart, Susan Nelson, Elnora McSpirit.

Praise! — Rev. Aaron Schultis recovery!



HAPPY
Mother's
DAY

Consistory Meets

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

Next meeting May 13th

ELDERS

Matt Van Aken

Ray Wells

Linda McCarthy

DEACONS

Colleen Sutton

Tom Gallagher

Monica Kelbaugh

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 May 2025



First reading	Alternate first	Second reading	Gospel
And Psalm	reading		

May 4, 2025	Acts 9:1-6; Psalm 30; Revelation 21:11-14; John 21:1-9
May 11, 2025	Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 14:23-29
May 18, 2025	Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-16; John 13:31-35
May 25, 2025	Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 47; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29



Kelsey and John Showers along with big sister Hailey welcomed Jackson Daniel to the family on January 20th.

The Mission of the Month for May is “Mentor Me of Ulster County.”

It began in 2020 as one social worker’s response to an urgent need during a challenging time. It has grown into a community-wide movement of caring adults helping young people thrive. Their evidence-based program creates lasting connections between youth and mentors, while providing comprehensive support to families throughout Ulster County.

Visit their website for more information at <https://mentormeulster.org> or if you would be interested in becoming a volunteer.

Note: The Mission of the Month for March collected \$590.00

Many thanks to all of the kitchen crew that helped make our Easter Breakfast a success!



Palm Sunday, 2025

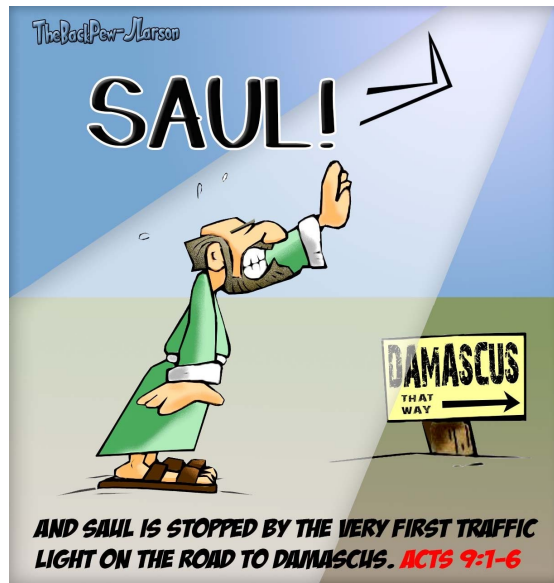
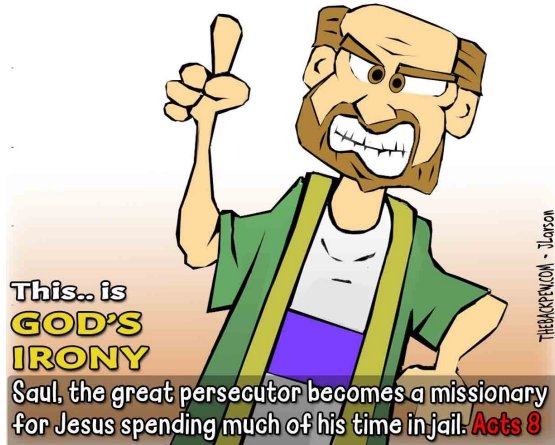
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords!

Glory, Halleluiah!



The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth

A LIFE BEHIND BARS awaits those who preach **Jesus Christ**.



MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

May 17, DRIVEWAYS (2019), Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 22 Livingston St., Kingston — Single mother Kathy (Hong Chau) travels with her shy 8-year-old son Cody

(Lucas Jaye) to her late sister’s house in the mid-Hudson Valley to clean and sell it. As Kathy uncovers how little she knew about her sister, Cody timidly talks with a lonely, widowed Korean War veteran next door after the veteran helps him to drink water from a garden hose. Protective Kathy at first wants Cody to avoid the veteran, Del (Brian Dennehy, in his final role), telling Del she doesn’t let her son talk to strangers. But when Del’s ride to a local veterans event falls through, Kathy takes him to the Veterans of Foreign Wars lodge herself. Over the summer, Cody and Del develop a friendship, and, with Del’s encouragement, Cody gains the courage to come out of his shell. Meanwhile, he and his mother find a new place to call home. Winner of six critic and festival awards. *“Deeply moving.”* — Bilge Ebiri, New York magazine. *“I*



loved every moment.” — Richard Propes, The Independent Critic. *“For a movie about isolation and the risk of reaching out, it’s a generous example of how nourishing a sense of connection really is.”* — David Fear, Rolling Stone. *Not Rated.*

May Birthdays

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



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

You are invited to:

Women's Spring Brunch



*Good Food, Good Friends, God's Word
With Lessons on Spring Cleaning!*

Kindly Join us on:

May 3rd, 2025

11:00 am

Reformed Church of Port Ewen

Fairbrother Hall

Bring a friend or two!

RSVP by May 1st

Bonnie Lalor

845-417-3504 or Bmomlalor2@aol.com

Introducing May's Birth Flowers - Lily of the Valley and Hawthorn

May's birth flowers, the Lily of the Valley and the Hawthorn, hold significant historical and symbolic value. They make for perfect gifts to honor loved ones born in May.

The Lily of the Valley symbolizes humility and sweetness with its delicate white bell-shaped flowers and sweet fragrance. Meanwhile, the Hawthorn symbolizes hope and supreme happiness with its pink and white blossoms. Both these flowers add beauty and charm to any setting and carry powerful messages to celebrate life, love, and new beginnings.

The symbolism of the Lily of the Valley Flower

The Lily of the Valley flower symbolizes purity, innocence, and happiness. Its bell-shaped blooms exude a sweet fragrance often associated with the sweet nectar of life. In many cultures, the Lily of the Valley is believed to bring luck and wealth to its bearer.



This timeless flower has been used in various ways, from medicinal remedies to religious ceremonies. The Lily of the Valley flower has even been mentioned in the literature, most notably in the classic novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Whether used to signify the joys of spring-time or to bring solace to those in mourning, the Lily of the Valley remains an enduring symbol of beauty and hope.

Meaning of the Hawthorn Flower

The Hawthorn flower symbolizes hope, life, love, and new beginnings. It has been used in traditional medicine and folklore for centuries. Its delicate and beautiful pink or white blooms have captured the hearts of many, but its meaning goes beyond its aesthetics.



The Hawthorn flower represents the beauty after hardship, the strength from surviving tough times, and the love that grows from difficult situations. Whether going through a difficult time or celebrating a new chapter in your life, the Hawthorn flower can serve as a reminder of the beauty and hope that always exist, even in the darkest moments.

Choir Notes... Thank you, musicians! We are blessed to have such wonderful voices, both in our Senior Choir and our Sunday School Chorus. In addition, the Alumni Choir (our graduates who are able to join us during the holidays) and our guest instrumentalists enhance the musicality of our offerings.

I am thankful for their dedication, their faithfulness, and their friendship. We welcome new members. If you are interested, please contact me at 845-687-9664, or see me or a choir member after church. In Christ, *Linda*



Four Biblical Mothers to Remember this Month

We hope you'll take some time this month to pay respects to your mother—or if that isn't possible, to somebody in your life who embodies the grace and wisdom we associate with godly mothers. Attached is a list of four famous moms from the Bible, along with a list of some of our best devotions for moms.

The Bible speaks highly of mothers who raise children and guide their families in a righteous manner; in the oft-quoted Proverbs 31, the “wife of noble character” is honored by her husband and children for her virtues.

Motherhood wasn't a requirement for godly women in Bible times—and just as today, not every woman who wanted children was granted her wish. But the mothers and matriarchs of the Bible exhibit qualities that all of us, male or female, parent or not, should strive to emulate. Here are a few of the famous mothers of the Bible, with links to their stories:

1. Mary, the Mother of Jesus

Perhaps no more famous mother exists than Mary, who at a young age learned from an angel that she would give birth to the long-awaited Messiah. Her song of praise in response, and the well-known events of Christ's birth, are what usually spring to mind when we think of Mary. But her role as mother brought her grief as well as joy; we can only imagine what it must have been like for her to witness Jesus' crucifixion. Read her story in John 19.

2. Elizabeth

Mary's was not the only miraculous birth recorded in the New Testament. Elizabeth was a godly woman who was “righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly”—and yet she and her husband were unable to conceive a child. God answered her prayers late in her life and she gave birth to John the Baptist, but is perhaps best known for her prophetic encouragement of the young (and perhaps frightened) Mary: *“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”* Read her story in Luke 1.

3. Hannah

Hannah is one of the most inspiring mothers in the Bible, although her story is less well-known. Despite years of patience and prayer, she remained unable to have a child. One day “in her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly”—and God answered her prayer at last. But Hannah's character truly shone when, in gratitude to God, she dedicated her newborn son to His service. Her son would one day become one of Israel's greatest prophets. Read her story in 1 Samuel 1.

4. Sarah, the Wife of Abraham

Sarah is one of the great matriarchs of the Bible—yet she didn't become a mother until very late in life. In fact, her reaction to God's promise that she would have a son was to laugh, as memorably recorded in Genesis 18. Nevertheless she did give birth to a son, and her lineage would include Jesus Christ himself. Read her story in Genesis 18.

There are many more famous mothers described in the Bible; many of them righteous, some not so much, but all used by God to bring about His design. This month, as we give thanks for the mothers in our lives, consider how you can embody the traits that define a godly mother—patience, kindheartedness, faithfulness—and consider how you can encourage the mothers in your community, young and old, as they work to meet that same standard.

Memorial Day typically marks the start of summer. We pull out our grills, hop in the pool, head to the beach, or otherwise jumpstart our warm-weather festivities.

But Memorial Day is much more than an excuse to barbecue. On Memorial Day, we remember and honor those who died serving our country – and thus preserved the right we have to life and liberty.

Here are three things you can do to celebrate this Memorial Day.

This Memorial Day, make a point to remember those who sacrificed their lives to serve and protect our country.



1. Remember

This Memorial Day, make a point to remember those who sacrificed their lives to serve and protect our country. Perhaps you know someone who sacrificed his life – a friend, family member, loved one or neighbor.

If you want to join with others in this remembrance, you can pause at 3 pm on Memorial Day. During this [“National Moment of Remembrance,”](#) you’ll join with millions of others in remembering those who have given their lives for us.

2. Thank

Many of us often confuse Memorial Day with [Veteran’s Day](#), a day in November designated to thank every one who has served in the armed forces. While the two are separate holidays, it wouldn’t hurt to use this opportunity to thank a veteran you know, as they rarely get the thanks they deserve.

3. Pray

We can use Memorial Day as an invitation to pray for those who serve in the military. Here are some simple ways to pray:

Pray for their health and safety, as they willingly put their lives on the line.

Pray for their families, who often bear the weight of long deployments, distance and the overall challenges of military service.

Pray for those who have lost loved ones in their service to our country.

Pray for chaplains, who seek to share the love of Christ in these communities.

Pray for salvations, that God would help these men and women to realize their sinfulness, see their need for a Savior and trust in Christ as their Savior.

Memorial Day may mark the start of summer, but it also offers us a special opportunity. Let’s remember those who gave their lives. Let’s thank those who served. And let’s pray – for their health, safety and souls.

Easter Dawn

We gathered at the beach on a beautiful Easter morning to witness the Resurrection with the dawning of the sun. Reverend Arlene Dawber led us in worship as the sun rose over the Hudson river. Following the service, everyone was invited to a delicious breakfast at the church.

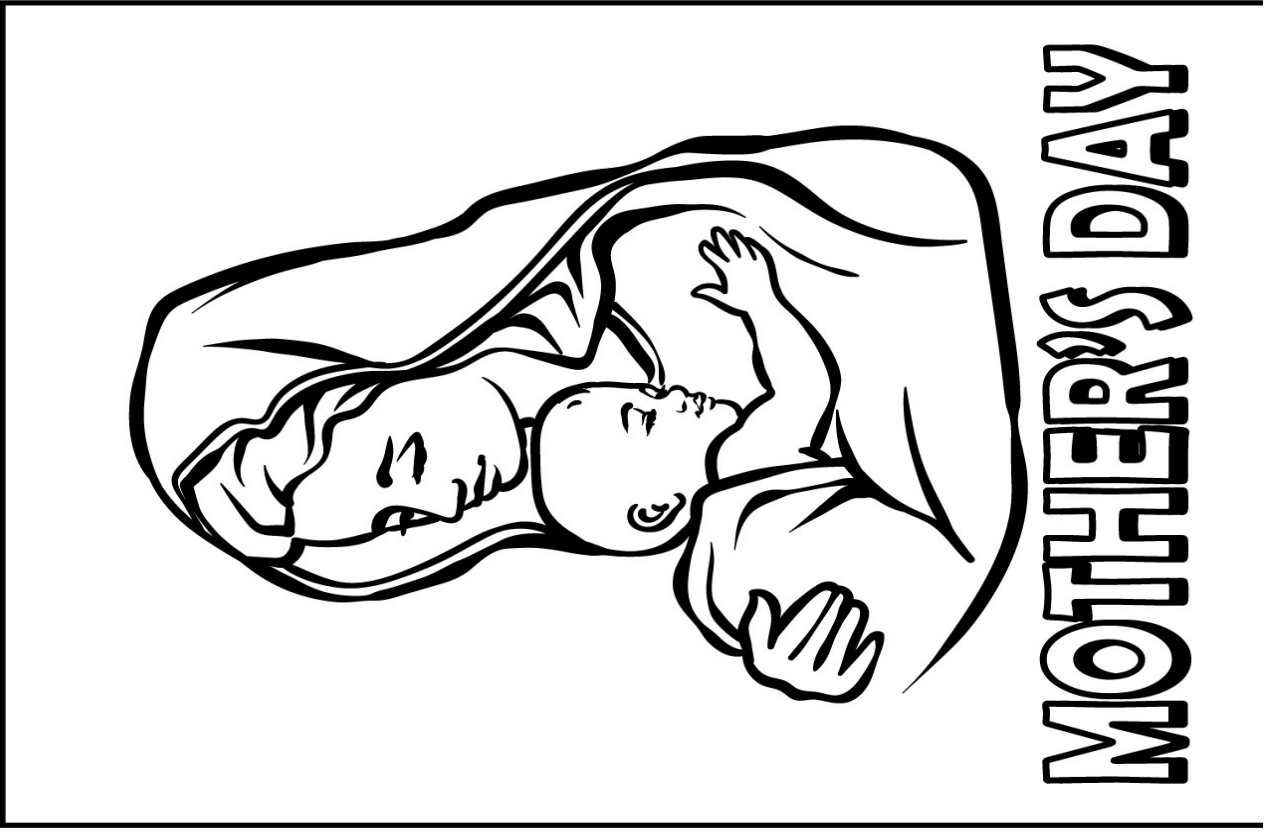
He is risen! He is risen indeed! Halleluiah!



Photos by Harry McCarthy

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 9 am-9 pm Private (FH)	3 11:00 am Women's Luncheon 6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Comm Dance (FH)
4 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	5	6	7 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	8	9	10
11 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (SCS) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	12	13 9 am-2 pm Woodstock Weavers 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting	14 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	15	16 5-9:00 pm ANA (FH)	17
18 9:00 SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	19	20 REFORMER DEADLINE	21 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	22	23 5-9 pm Private (FH)	24 12-3 pm Private (FH)
25 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27	28 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	29	30	31



Our facilities are handicapped accessible

We're on the net!
Therpcpe.org

Reformer

May 2025

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The Reformed Church of Port Ewen