

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen
Reverend Brian Steadman—Pastor



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September 2025

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RCPE Family,

Hope you all had a wonderful summer! Mine got a bit derailed there at the end but still was able to (mostly) enjoy spending some time away with my family before we hit the ground running this fall.

This fall, we will be spending time in the book of Exodus with a sermon series called "Finding God in the Wilderness." The events of Exodus are in many ways the defining narrative of the Old Testament. And its history is our history as those of faith are the descendants of Abraham (Galatians 3:6-9). And the story of the Israelites being delivered from slavery only to wander in the wilderness is very relevant to where we find ourselves as the Church in a post-secular age. So let's embrace this wilderness journey we find ourselves in and consider what the Spirit has to say to His Church in 2025.

On that note, I will be leading the Wednesday Bible Study beginning this fall. For our time together, we will work our way through Exodus, reading aloud sections at a time and reflecting on God's Word together. Bible Study will resume Wednesday, September 10th, 12:30PM weekly in the church library.

Finally, I am excited to introduce a new weekly offering for your consideration. Also beginning September 10th, 7:00PM weekly in the sanctuary, a service of contemplative prayer. I introduced this practice at my church in Brooklyn and it was one of the most rewarding efforts I have done since Hurricane Sandy recovery. If you are unfamiliar with contemplative prayer, not a problem. We will learn together. The service is a simple time of *Lectio Divina*, a historic practice of the Church where we read a passage of Scripture aloud three times, pausing in silence between each reading to rest in God's Word. The practice is concluded by a time of silent contemplation, where our only intention is to BE with God, as He is, not as who we want Him to be or think He should be. We will also sprinkle in the simple music of *Taize*, a contemplative prayer musical tradition developed in France.

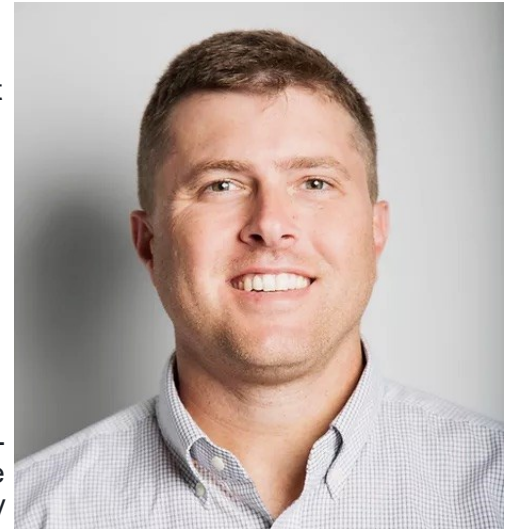
I hope you will join us in any and all of these practices this fall. And please, invite your friends and neighbors to come along for the journey.

Pace e Bene,
Pastor Brian

Brian's Birding New Additions

Here are my new additions in July and August. What birds did you see this summer?

Black and White Warbler, Razorbill, Black Headed Gull, Red Crossbill, Great Cormorant, Black Tern



Loving Immigrants 7-22

We invited Rev. Liz Estes, pastor of Old Dutch Church and Clergy Spokesperson for Ulster Immigrant defense Network (UIDN), to speak with us regarding how to love our immigrant neighbors. After a presentation giving an overview of the complex immigration situation, Pastor Estes answered our many questions regarding services available and what our role might be as Christians.



Meeting With JJ Tenclay

We were blessed to have JJ Tenclay, missionary and Refugee Ministries Coordinator for RCA Global Mission, preach for us Aug. 24. Following the service, she facilitated a conversation with us on global migration & forced displacement, the people affected by displacement worldwide, and the biblical mandate to care for those seeking refuge.



Words of encouragement to those returning to school.

Matthew 6:34 Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

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. Confidentiality pledged.

Consistory Meets

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

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 — 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 — Mary Beth Buck out, Victims of Texas floods, Bob Gaunt, Emerie DeGasperi, Linda Wells, Peggy O'Connor, Brie Bauer, Kim Schaffer, JoAnne Cross, Bill Geisel, Jenny, Carol, Rena Beall, Charles Barnett III.

Church Family — Safe travels for Colleen & Tom, Harry McCarthy, Bob Shelightner, Billy, Rev. Nick & Linda Miles, Penny Harries, Rick Whitaker, Sunny Scherry, Bev Sickler, Linda Bresnahan-McCarthy, Fred Harries, Sr., Austin Stokes,

Bob Schlichting, Monica Kelbaugh, Janis Loring, Rhoda family.

Homebound/nursing homes/institutions — Bea Hogan.

Grieving — Family & friends of: Amanda Peterson, George Baxter, Kevin McCauley, Bill Scileppi.



After a refreshing summer break, it's time to dive back into learning about God and our Savior, Jesus!

Sunday Church School

All children are welcome to join us for Sunday Church School at 9 AM each Sunday. It's a wonderful opportunity for young hearts to grow in faith and understanding.

Wednesday Bible Study

Adults are encouraged to join Pastor Brian for Bible Study on Wednesdays at 12:30 PM in the church library. Delve deeper into the scriptures and enrich your spiritual journey. Don't worry if you don't have a Bible; we can supply one for you.

To inspire teachers returning to school, consider these encouraging thoughts:

- Remember the impact you have on your students' lives; you are shaping future leaders.
- Embrace the opportunity to foster creativity and critical thinking in your classroom.
- Build strong relationships with your students; connection enhances learning.
- Stay adaptable and open to new teaching methods and technologies.
- Celebrate small victories; every step forward is progress.
- Prioritize self-care to maintain your passion and energy throughout the year.



RCPE Calendar of Events

September 2025

14th Installation Service for Rev. Steadman
4pm

21st Sunday Church School kickoff Beach
Picnic Service. Combined service with
TOEUMC

27th Town of Esopus Days Bake/Book Sale

October 2025

Stewardship Moment

Day 19 – God blesses you financially so that you can bless others.

Hebrews 6:10-11

God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.

When children are little, they are learning new things virtually every single day. As they learn how to do new things, they also want to show their parents. This results in something like, “Look mommy, look daddy, look what I can do!” And this process repeats for about as many times as the parent has patience.

See, growing up is an exciting time. New discoveries are constantly being made. The child, not yet understanding concepts like humility or bragging, recognizes that they have made an accomplishment and they want to be sure that their parents know about it.

Living the Christian life, we are called to many moments of quiet generosity. We might even be called to act generously in ways that no one will ever know we had a part. Think how many things go on at church and how you have no idea who does them! But, God is always watching. In Hebrews 6:10, the author says that God will never forget the love his children show Him as they help His people. Unlike people who have such short memories (So, what have you done for me lately?”), God will never forget the times we loved Him by living generously toward others. That doesn’t mean we go around saying, “Look at me, God; Look at me!” But, God is gracious in that He is pleased by all the various ways His people show themselves to be generous.

If you’ve ever wondered how to love God, well here’s one great way. Go be generous to His people. Randy Alcorn once said, “Giving is a giant lever positioned on the fulcrum of this world, allowing us to move mountains in the next world. Because we give, eternity will be different – for others and for us.” If you’re rusty on your physics, we can say it this way; God’s going to give His children huge credit in eternity for the generosity they show in this brief moment in our life.

Today’s Generosity Challenge:

Okay, this one is easy. Years ago, a man who I had been discipling gave me a tent out of the blue. That’s right, a tent! Why a tent? Because he knew I loved backpacking and that I needed a new tent. He took the time and did the research to find just what I needed. It was the best personal gift I can remember receiving. So, today, I want you to go and bless your Pastor or another spiritual leader in your life that has spent their life pouring themselves into you. Be thoughtful and make it meaningful to them. Then be sure to journal the experience – and the reactions – at <http://GenerousLife.net/Day19>

* Michael L. Stickler, *A Journey to Generosity (41 Days to a Generous Life)* the Visiongroup Ltd. 2013. Pages 50



Lectionary Scripture Readings for September 2025



First reading And Psalm	Alternate first reading	Second reading	Gospel
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Sept. 7, 2025	Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6,13-18; 1 Philemon 1:17-27; Luke 14:25-33		
Sept. 14, 2025	Jeremiah 4:11-12,22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10		
Sept. 21, 2025	Jeremiah 8:8-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13		
Sept. 28, 2025	Jeremiah 32:1-3a,6-15; Psm 91:1-6,14-16; 1 Timothy 5:6-19; Luke 16:19-31		

The Prayer Shawl Ministry offers handmade prayer shawls as a symbol of God's love and a tangible expression of prayer for the recipient. These shawls are created through a spiritual practice, with thoughts and prayers for the individual woven into each one.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

The shawls are given freely and serve various purposes:

- **Comfort:** To console those experiencing grief or illness.
- **Hope:** To bring solace to those in despair.
- **Celebration:** To mark life's milestones and joyful occasions.

If you know someone who could benefit from a prayer shawl, or if you wish to obtain one for a specific purpose, please contact ***Joyce Pade*** or the church office.

The Mission of the Month for September will support the Robert Graves Elementary School PTO, located in Port Ewen. Donations collected will help provide funds for various student programs. Educational field trips, Assemblies and Enrichment experiences, Anti-Bullying Prevention or funding lunchtime recess equipment are all ways your contribution may help.

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



Note: The Mission of the Month for June collected \$361.00

September Birthdays

- 2 Susan Stocker
- 3 Margaret Rhoda
- 7 Betty Shelightner
- 19 Bonnie Vining
- 19 Colleen Sutton
- 26 Maryann Falcinelli



October Birthdays

- 4 Kathleen De Felice
- 5 Marcella Candlin
- 5 Lynn Barmann
- 6 Mackenzie Goodrich
- 9 Jim Beukelman
- 14 Stanley Brooks
- 15 David Stocker
- 21 Josh Alexander

September Anniversaries

- 4 Paula & Matt Van Aken
- 7 Kathy & Mike Kinsch
- 12 Sue & Brian Stocker



The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth

Peter used to eat with the Gentiles but he began to draw back from them cuz' he was afraid of the circumcision party?

Gal 2:12

Well duh!

Norman was not fond of Republicans or Democrats so being afraid of the Circumcision Party was a no-brainer.

Loving? Joyful? Gentle??
... only if I have to.

THEBACKPEW.COM - Jarson

THE FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT is not a TO-DO-LIST it should define us Gal 5:22

MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

Sept. 20, **EXIT THROUGH THE GIFT SHOP** (2010), Unison Arts, 9 Paradies Lane, New Paltz —

EXIT THROUGH THE GIFT SHOP

A Banksy film
The world's first Street Art disaster movie...



This is an inside story about street art directed by and starring (or maybe not) the mysterious and pseudonymous British street artist Banksy. The documentary primarily features footage by French-born, Los Angeles-based street artist Thierry Guetta. Guetta filmed Banksy during his Los Angeles projects, including a notorious 2006 Disneyland stunt in which Banksy placed a lifesize inflatable Guantanamo Bay detainee — hooded, manacled and dressed in orange prison coveralls — inside the Big Thunder Mountain Railroad roller-coaster ride area. Banksy later shaped the footage of his Disneyland intervention into this documentary, which explores the commercialization of street art and Guetta's transformation into the artist known as Mr. Brainwash. The amusing, engrossing look at underground art also questions the nature of artistic rebellion and seeks to deflate the myths and hype surrounding its subjects. *"Banksy proves that his talents extend beyond the spray can to the movie camera."* — Kaleem Aftab, The Independent. *"Brilliantly untrustworthy."* — Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune. *"An exhilarating hall-*

of-mirrors look at what happens when global art fame turns anonymous, artists become objects, fans turn into artists, and the whole what's-sincere-and-what's-a-sham spectacle is more fun than art was ever

Volunteers Needed for Lay Readers

We are looking for individuals who feel called to help share God's Word with our congregation through Scripture reading during services. If you have a gift for reading and a heart for ministry, we would love for you to be part of this important role in worship.

If you're interested or would like more information, please contact Cheri, our church secretary.

The Beginning of a New Day!

Adapted from Dr. W. Heartsill Wilson

This is the beginning of a new day.
I have been given this day to use as I will.
I can waste it or use it for good.

What I do with today is important,
Because I am exchanging a day of my life for it.
When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever,
Leaving in its place something I have traded for it.

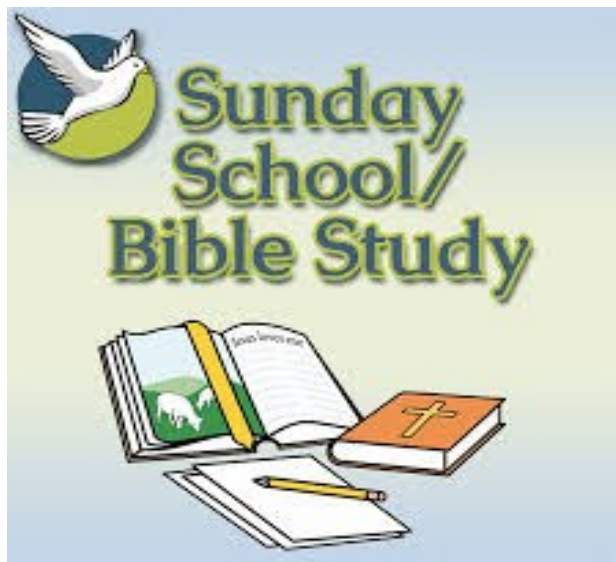
I want it to be a gain, not a loss;
I want it to be good, not evil;
I want it to be a success, not failure...
In order that I shall not regret the price I have paid for it.

I have been given this day to use as I will,
And I will do my best to use it well...
Because today is more than just a day—
It is a stepping stone to my future success.
Because the future depends on what I do in the present,
And because tomorrow depends on what I do today.

This is the beginning of a new day.
I have been given this day to use as I will,
And I will do my best to use it well...

How will you use your day, today?

Submitted by Sunny Scherry



Sunday Church School, (and/or Bible Study) is a program designed to teach Christian values and principles, primarily through the study of the Bible and other religious texts. It serves as a supplementary form of religious education, often offered alongside regular church services, and aims to strengthen individuals and families through learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Here's a more detailed look at the purpose and benefits of Sunday School:

1. Teaching Religious Principles:

Sunday School (and/or Bible Study) provides a structured environment for learning about the core tenets of Christianity, including the Bible, theology, and Christian ethics.

- · It helps individuals understand and apply religious teachings to their daily lives, fostering personal growth and spiritual development.
- · For children, it introduces them to the stories and teachings of the Bible in an age-appropriate manner.

2. Fostering Community and Fellowship:

Sunday School (and/or Bible Study) offers a space for people of all ages to connect with others who share their faith.

- · It creates a sense of belonging and encourages meaningful relationships within the church community.
- · These connections can be a source of support, encouragement, and mutual growth for individuals and families.

3. Spiritual Growth and Development:

Sunday School (and/or Bible Study) provides opportunities for individuals to deepen their understanding of God and their relationship with Him.

- · It encourages reflection, discussion, and application of religious principles, leading to personal transformation and spiritual maturity.
- · For children, it lays a foundation for a lifelong journey of faith.

4. Addressing Social Needs:

In the past, Sunday School emerged as a way to address social issues, such as providing education and moral guidance to children who worked long hours.

- · Even today, Sunday School (and/or Bible Study) can offer a safe and supportive environment for individuals to connect with others and find encouragement in their faith.
- · It can be a place where people can find community, learn about living a virtuous life, and develop a stronger sense of purpose.

5. Supporting the Church:

- Sunday School (and/or Bible Study) can be a valuable tool for equipping church members with knowledge and skills to serve their faith community.
- It can also help in the development of future leaders within the church.
- By offering a structured learning environment, Sunday School can enhance the overall effectiveness of the church's ministry.

In essence, Sunday School (and/or Bible Study) serves as a place where individuals can learn, grow, and connect with others in a supportive and faith-based environment. It's a valuable program that can strengthen individuals, families, and the church community as a whole.

What is the purpose of the church Prayer List?

A church prayer list serves as a tool to facilitate and organize intercessory prayer within a church community. It helps members remember and lift up specific needs and concerns of individuals, the church, and the wider world, fostering a sense of unity and shared faith. The list can include prayer requests for healing, guidance, comfort, and various other needs, as well as praise reports for answered prayers.

Here's a more detailed look at the purpose of a church prayer list:

Facilitating Intercessory Prayer:

A prayer list provides a structured way for individuals to pray for specific needs and concerns, ensuring that no requests are overlooked.

It encourages members to pray for one another, fostering a sense of community and support within the church.

Building Faith and Trust:

Witnessing answers to prayer, whether immediate or unfolding over time, strengthens the faith of those who pray and those for whom they pray.

It serves as a testament to God's faithfulness and encourages a deeper reliance on Him.

Encouraging Personal and Corporate Prayer:

The list can be used for personal prayer, allowing individuals to focus their time and attention on specific needs.

It can also be a resource for corporate prayer, where the congregation prays together for the needs listed.

Fostering Unity and Connection:

Sharing prayer requests and praying for one another strengthens the bonds between church members.

It creates a sense of shared responsibility and mutual care within the community.

Providing Accountability:

The list can serve as a reminder to pray for specific needs, promoting consistency in prayer.

It can also be a tool for accountability, encouraging members to follow up on prayer requests and see how God is working.

Addressing Various Needs:

Prayer lists can include a wide range of requests, from personal health and family matters to community issues and global concerns.

They can also include praise reports for answered prayers, acknowledging God's faithfulness.

Promoting Spiritual Growth:

By engaging in focused prayer, individuals can grow in their understanding of God's will and their relationship with Him. The process of praying for others can also cultivate compassion and empathy.

**Editor's Note:* If you have a need to add someone or something to the Prayer List or you want to join the Prayer Chain, please contact Kathy Kinsch at 845 853-2099 or call the church office.

Gutter Covers!

Yay- No more gutter cleaning! We hired Brothers Who Do Gutters to cap the gutters on the church and the parsonage, eliminating an expensive maintenance chore. This has already helped in keeping water away from our buildings.



September 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

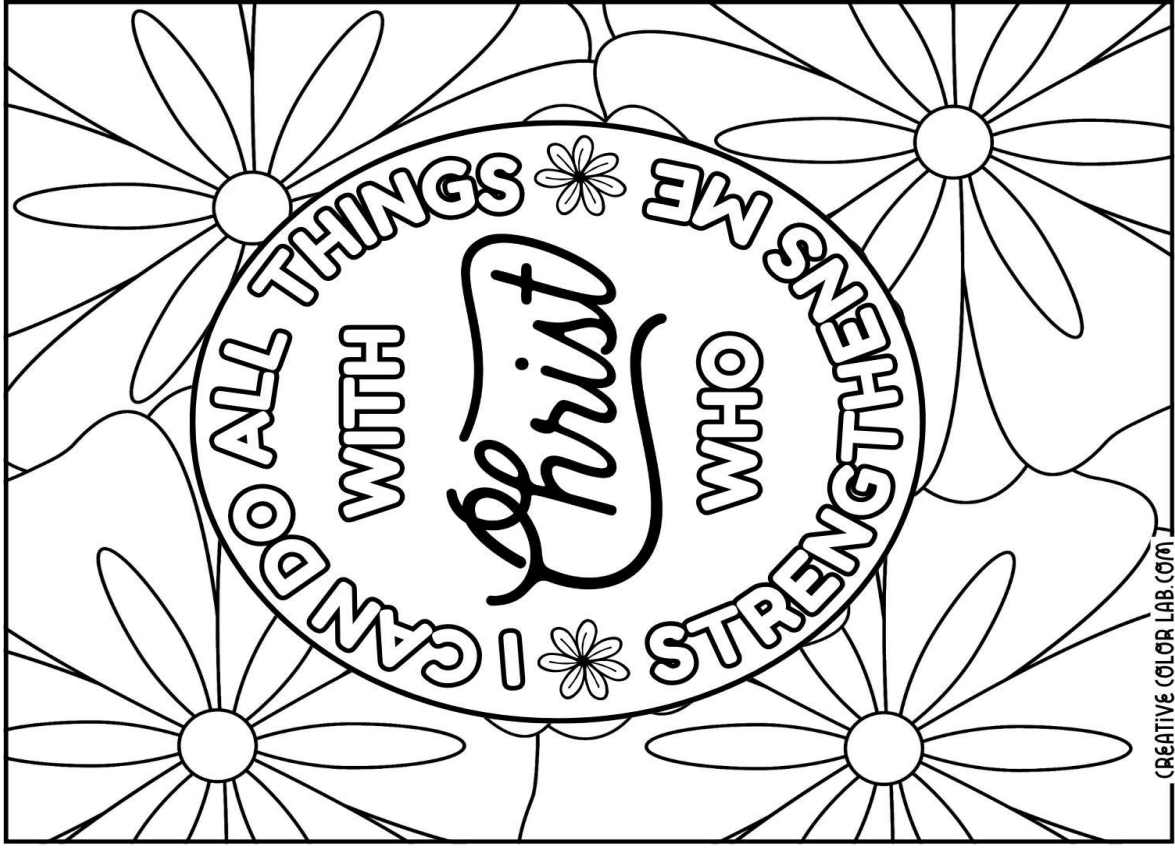
Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
		5—8:00 pm AA (FH)	4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)			6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Comm Dance (FH)
7 8:45 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	8	9 9 am—12 pm Woodstock Weavers (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH) 7 pm Consistory Meeting (LIB)	10 12:30 pm Bible Study (LIB) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7:00 pm Contemplative	11	12 Private (FH)	13 Private (FH)
14 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Pastor Brian's Installation & Dinner	15	16 5—8:00 pm AA (FH)	17 12:30 pm Bible Study (LIB) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7:00 pm Contemplative	18	19 5-9:00 pm ANA (FH)	20 REFORME R
21 9:00 SCS 10:00 am Worship at Town Beach 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	22	23 5—8:00 pm AA (FH)	24 12:30 pm Bible Study (LIB) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7:00 pm Contemplative	25	26	27 TOWN OF ESOPUS DAYS
28 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	29	30 5—8:00 pm AA (FH)	27 12:30 pm Bible Study (LIB) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer (SANC)	28	29	30



CREATIVE COLOR LAB.COM

September 2025 Reformer

Our facilities are handicapped accessible

We're on the net!
Therpc.org

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