

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen
Reverend Brian Steadman—Pastor



Volume 23 Issue 10

November 2025

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RCPE Family,

Sunday, October 26th, we began soliciting recommendations from the congregation for the offices of deacon and elder at RCPE.

First, let us all thank Ray Wells (Elder), Monica Kelbaugh (Deacon), and Tom Gallagher (Deacon) for their service. Well done, good and faithful servants!

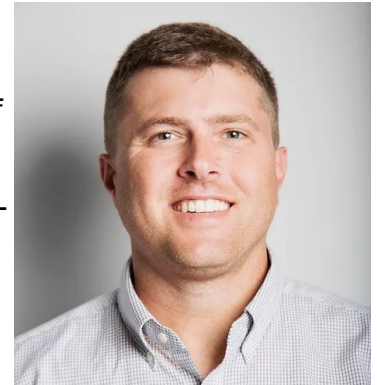
RCPE is led by Ministers, Elders and Deacons. While church government is not explicitly prescribed in the Bible, the Church has seen that it is God's intentional design to nurture, protect and grow His Body and Bride through these roles.

This calling exceeds the possession of natural abilities as we commonly see with candidates in our political process. Instead, calling involves the power and wisdom of God at work in an individual's life, which requires recognition not only by the nominee (internal calling) but also by the church members, the Pastor, and the Elders (external calling). So, the identification of nominees is not swayed primarily by their vocational achievements or by their physical or outward attributes. Instead, identifying nominees involves selecting individuals in whose love for God is clearly at work. This is indicative of a heart for ministry and responsibility rather than a title or position to which one might be assigned.

Some guidelines when making your recommendation.

1. You must be an active member in good standing to submit a recommendation.
2. Only active members in good standing can be considered for office. If you have not seen a person in a very long time, please do not recommend them to serve an office of the church. Invite them back into the life of our church family instead.
3. It's a good practice not to recommend your family members.
4. Recommend men and women who you already see exercising their gifts to serve the church. Not who you think might be a good fit, but who you already witness is a good fit.
5. Confessing (active) members may make nominations from the floor at the annual meeting with the following conditions: written consent to serve must be obtained and submitted to the chair of the Nominations Committee before that nominee is accepted as a candidate. The nominee must be a confessing (active) member in full communion who has attained the age of twenty-one years.

The peace of Christ be with you, Pastor Brian



Save The Date! November 29 — Decorate for Christmas!

Christmas is coming....sooner than we think! Please save **November 29** (*Saturday after Thanksgiving*) to join the choir as we prepare the Sanctuary and Fairbrother Hall for the Christmas season.

We'll gather from 11am, till 1 pm. There will be snacks, music and lots of fellowship.

Thank you all- see you then!

— RCPE Choir



Who Makes the best Pie? Find out Nov. 2!

Sunday, Nov. 2, will be the first ever RCPE Pie Baking Contest. We are blest with some outstanding cooks, and this will be an event not to be missed! Join in the fun by contributing your favorite creation, or a food item which will complement pies.

See you after church in Fairbrother Hall!



ULSTER COUNTY PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



Members' Annual Exhibit -- "Our Best Shots"
at the Duck Pond Gallery, Esopus Library - November 6 to December 3, 2025

Opening Reception & Members' Book Fair:

Sat. November 8, 11:00 am to 3:30 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being so kind as I recovered from a difficult hip surgery. Your calls, cards, gifts, and, especially, your prayers brightened my days. Everything you did made a positive difference in my recovery. Ray and I feel blessed and very grateful for all that you did for us. It is a joy to be feeling better with each day as we celebrate those who have helped us.

Blessings to all,

Linda Wells

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. Next meeting November 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 — Prayers for our country, troubled areas 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, a solution for the refugee crisis, for all the homeless.

Church Worldwide — Religious persecution in Bangladesh, the persecuted Church (China, Nigeria, North Korea).

RCA — Sudan Mission, Oman Protestant Church and Bode family, Al-Amada Ctr.

Mid-Hudson Classis — John Young, Rev. Ann & Ron Rost, Bob Vanderlaan.

Petitions of healing, protection, and deliverance — the people of Jamaica, Rayla Suzanne Bart, Jeff Kloss, Joe A. Relyea, Thomas Rocco, Bobby Williams, Brie Bauer, Gary Van Aken, Sr.

Church Family — Lori Nichols, Rev. Linda & Nick Miles, Curt Bradley, Mike Kinsch.

Homebound/nursing homes/institutions — Bea Hogan.

Grieving — Family & friends of: Mary Bono, Johanna Purganan.

Remembering Those Who Served: A Christian Reflection for Veterans' Day

Introduction

Veterans' Day is a time set aside to honor and remember all those who have served in the armed forces. For Christians, this day carries a special significance, as it calls us to reflect on themes of sacrifice, service, gratitude, and peace. Remembering veterans is not only a civic duty but also an expression of Christian love and compassion.

Honoring Sacrifice

Jesus taught us, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). On Veterans' Day, Christians are reminded of those who have willingly put their lives on the line to protect others. Their courage and selflessness mirror the sacrificial love that Christ demonstrated. We honor them by acknowledging their service, praying for their wellbeing, and supporting their families.

Praying for Peace and Healing

War brings pain, loss, and trauma. As followers of Christ, the Prince of Peace, we long for a world where swords are turned into plowshares and nations no longer learn war. On Veterans' Day, we pray for healing for those who bear visible and invisible wounds, and for wisdom for leaders to pursue peace. Our prayers extend to families who wait anxiously and to communities affected by the cost of conflict.

Expressing Gratitude

Gratitude is at the heart of Christian living. On Veterans' Day, we give thanks for the freedoms and security we enjoy because of the sacrifices of veterans. We remember that our gratitude is not passive; it calls us to action. We can serve veterans in our communities by listening to their stories, volunteering, or advocating for their needs. In doing so, we embody the love of Christ in tangible ways.

Living Out Our Faith

Remembering those who served is more than a once-a-year observance. It is a continual call to live out our faith in service to others. Whether through prayer, acts of kindness, or working for justice and peace, Christians are invited to be instruments of God's love and reconciliation in the world.

Conclusion

As we mark Veterans' Day, let us remember and honor those who have served. May our reflections lead us to deeper gratitude, compassion, and commitment to peace. In all things, may we follow Christ's example of sacrificial love and pray for a world where peace prevails.



Stewardship Moment

Day 21 – Life is more than the things we own.

Luke 12:23

³Life is more than food, and body more than clothes.

What makes for a full life? Is it the home we live in? Is it the car we drive or the vacation we've been on? Few people would think that their life is defined by their home, car or vacation; yet many people live their lives this way. It's been said that those possessions we own eventually own us. That is to say, as we attain more and more of the belongings we desire, we can reach a point when the obligations attached to them begin to run our life. For example, a man who buys a sports car might spend all of his time working to pay it off without ever getting on the road and enjoying the car he bought. What happens when our life is defined by all the stuff we own?

If this is you, I suggest two things:

- One, at the end of the day, when you put your head on the pillow, your possessions aren't actually satisfying your soul.
- And two, you are so absorbed in the world's things that you've completely lost sight of the fact that we are meant to live for so much more.

Hear how Jesus put it in Luke 12:23; "Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes."

If you are a child of God, you are not supposed to live a life that is only concerned with material things. You have a Father in heaven that gave His only Son to save you from your sins. He poured out indescribable wealth upon you and now you are one of His own!

People who come to believe that material things are the absolute best things we have in life are going to have an incredibly difficult time parting with those things. Once you realize that life is so much more than material things, you can live generously. In eternity, no one will care about what kind of car you drove or how many square feet your house was. But one thing that will matter in eternity: Did you look beyond the world's "stuff" and live the generous life that God treasures?

Today's Generosity Challenge:

What did the research into a financial planner tell you about your approach to storing up treasures here on earth or in heaven? In your actual estate plan, what are you going to change, what will your goal be to give more? Write down your ideas at <http://GenerousLife.net/Day21>.

* Michael L. Stickler, *A Journey to Generosity (41 Days to a Generous Life)* the Visiongroup Ltd. 2013. Pages 53-54

14 have answered the call!

Thank you to all the volunteers who have joined the Children's Church Team. We are well under way but it's not too late to join our team and bring our Love of God to the children in our church.
See Bonnie to join in!

The Blessing of the Prayer Shawls was on October 12th.

Fun factin the past 10 years the RCPE has blessed 150 shawls! Thank you Joyce Pade for her work with this ministry. If you know someone in need of prayer who would appreciate the warmth of a shawl, contact Joyce or the office.



Thank You to My Church Family

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my dear church family for the incredible outpouring of love and support following my recent back surgery. Your kind words, thoughtful prayers, and the many letters and emails I have received have meant so much to me during this time of recovery.

Knowing that I am surrounded by such a caring and compassionate community has been a true blessing. Your encouragement and prayers have brought me comfort and strength, and I am deeply thankful for each and every one of you.

May God bless you all as you have blessed me. Thank you again for your kindness and support.

Love and peace,

Mike Kinsch

RCPE Calendar of Events

November 2025

2nd Pie Baking Competition

29th Church decorating 11am —1pm

30th Advent Begins

December 2025

TBD Christmas Wishes Wrapping Party

24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

28th Christmas Carol Sing Service

The ***Mission of the Month*** for ***November*** is the ***Hudson Valley National Center for Veteran Reintegration (HVNCVR)***.

This organization is dedicated to the well-being of veterans and community through purpose, dignity, respect and honor. They provide support for veterans and current military personnel assisting with the sometimes difficult transition to civilian life.

Your contributions help enhance the quality of life for our military veterans and give them programs and services they need to survive and thrive.

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

Also, In November we will be sponsoring children through Christmas Wishes of Ulster County by signing up to purchase specific gifts. More details coming soon.



Correction : The Mission of the Month for September collected \$225 for the Robert Graves PTO.

Note : the Mission of the Month for October collected \$405 for Christmas Wishes of U.C.

November Birthdays

- 1 Linda Miles
- 5 Kathy Kinsch
- 10 Monica Kelbaugh
- 11 Tom Gallagher
- 13 Janis Carlson-Loring
- 17 Kelsey Showers



December Birthdays

- 5 Mike Bradley
- 13 Jessie Steadman
- 14 Georgia Steadman
- 20 Laura Van Aken
- 26 Harry McCarthy

November Anniversaries

- 24 Peg & Fred Rhoda



The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth



MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

November 15, THE SAMUEL PROJECT (2018), Woodstock Jewish Congregation, 1682 Glasco Turnpike, Woodstock — In this heartwarming multigenerational comedy drama, outcast high school student Eli (Ryan Ochoa) is interested in nothing other than drawing, much to the annoyance of his father (Michael B. Silver). But a school project assigned by his multimedia teacher (Philippe Bowgen) finally catches his attention. The assignment: “Tell a story that teaches a lesson from history no matter how unknown, using a multimedia format that we have studied in class.” Eli had recently learned his grandfather Samuel (Hal Linden), a Jewish San Diego dry cleaner, was heroically saved from Nazi Germans by a young woman during the Holocaust. Eli thinks this inspiring survival story will make for a great animated short film for his class, but Samuel doesn’t want to cooperate. Winner of at the San Diego Film Awards’ Best Actor (Linden), Best Director (Marc Fusco) and Best Narrative Feature Film honors. “*Inspirational and evocative.*” — Aced Magazine. “*Real feeling and a strong message shine through.*” — Kimber Myers, Los Angeles Times. “*In the Bible, the generation gap was bridged by the elderly Eli tutoring the youthful Samuel. . . . This time it is Samuel tutoring Eli; the result will warm your heart and give you hope for our future.*” — Jay D. Homnick, The American Spectator. *Rated PG-13.*



10 REASONS WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD VOTE



1. Voting publicly recognizes that we submit to the authority of the political system in our nation as established by God. (Romans 13:1-7)
2. Voting recognizes the equality of all people and their right to speak and be heard. (Deuteronomy 10:17-19)
3. It is one way that we can obey God's command to seek the good of those around us and our nation as a whole. (Jeremiah 29:5-6)
4. It shows that we care deeply about who our leaders are as we are urged to offer prayer and intercession on their behalf. (1 Timothy 2:1,2)
5. It is a simple yet significant way we can do something about politics in our nation. 'All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing', Edmund Burke. (Psalms 34:14)
6. It makes a difference the way a grain of salt makes a difference, and that is how we are to influence our society for good. (Matthew 5:13)
7. It is a privilege not to be taken for granted. Those of us who reap the benefits of living in a democracy should play a part in upholding democracy.
8. Not voting is a form of voting, as it will influence the outcome. We need to take responsibility for our actions, as well as our lack of actions. (Luke 10:25-37)
9. Voting has biblical precedence for example Acts 14:23 describes that the early Christians elected elders by voting.
10. Voting is part of our stewardship to use all the resources we have been given in ways that honor God; to waste a vote is to squander a gift.

Dorcas Society

Meeting

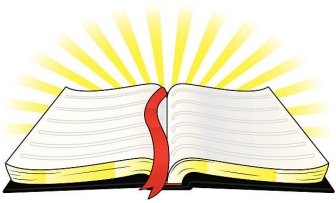


The Dorcas Society is a women's Christian organization that was established in the early 1800's. It was originally founded to provide clothing for the poor but with time expanded to address almost any church or local community need. The name is based on a woman in the New Testament named Dorcas, who was known for her good works and charitable deeds. Her story is also notable for her miraculous resurrection by the Apostle Peter after her death. The RCPE has had an active Dorcas Society for over 100 years. However, over the last few years their membership and charitable activities have declined. We are working on revamping the RCPE Dorcas Society into a vital resource

for our church and eventually our community. If you are interested in becoming a member of our team or just want to learn more about our ideas and plans, we welcome you to join us on December 16th at noon in the church. We plan on having a potluck lunch with the meeting. Please let Beverly Gallagher (845)-729-7171 or Diane Bradley (846) 382-6920 know if you would like to be included in the lunch.

- "Heavenly Father, thank you for your countless blessings and your unwavering love. Thank you for the gift of life, for the air I breathe, and for the strength you give me each day. Thank you for my family, friends, and the community you have surrounded me with... In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen".

Lectionary Scripture Readings for November 2025



First reading And Psalm	Alternate first reading	Second reading	Gospel

November 2, 2025 Hebrews 1:1-4,2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; 2Thess 1:1-4,11-12; Luke 16:1-10

November 9, 2025 Hebrews 1:15b-2:9; Ps 145:1-5,17-21; 2Thess 2:1=5,13-17; Luke 20:27-08

November 16, 2025 Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; 2Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 23, 2025 Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

November 30, 2025 Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

RE: Invitation to Visit the Library

The RCPE has had a church library that has been available to its congregation for many years. Libraries can be a useful resource for reference books, Bible study, entertainment, or personal growth. However, in recent years the RCPE library's existence has often been forgotten or its presence unknown. Because the library had been sparsely utilized it had become disorganized, cluttered, and unsightly. It has now been cleaned, restored, and is ready for you to come check it out.

There are a wide variety of books in our library. They are currently shelved under the following headings: Literature, Christian Classics, Faith & Inspiration, Christian Fiction, Kingdom Kids, Tot Spot, Teen Scene, Prayer, Spiritual Grow, Discipleship, and Bible Reference. Come help yourself. Our current library will use the honor system for book check-out and check-in. Peruse the bookshelves, make your choices, take them home and enjoy. When you are finished, please return your items to the side table located to the right of the library entrance.

We will not be adding additional books to the current library stock. Books left in the library for donation will be added to the Dorcas Society bookshelves, in Fairbrother Hall, where they will be sold and the proceeds will go to a worthy cause.

Submitted by Debra Bogossian



November 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Community Dance (FH)
2 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	3	4 5-8 pm AA (FH)	5 12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-8:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm Contemplative Prayer	6	7	8 10 am—8 pm Private (FH)
9 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	10	11 9 am—2 pm Woodstock Weavers 5-8 pm AA (FH) 7:00 pm Consistory Mtg.	12 12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-8:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm Contemplative Prayer	13	14	15
16 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	17	18 5-8 PM AA (FH)	19 12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-8:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm Contemplative Prayer	20 REFORMER DEADLINE	21 5-9:00 pm ANA (FH)	22 1-4 pm Private (FH)
23 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	24	25 5-8 PM AA (FH)	26 12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-8:30 pm SCA (FH) 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship	27	28	29 11 am—1 pm Christmas Decorate Sanctuary
30 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)						



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www.thercpe.org

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Our facilities are handicapped accessible

We're on the net!
Thercpe.org

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