

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen
Reverend Brian Steadman—Pastor



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RCPE Family,

Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. - Matthew 19:13-14

Do you promise to love, encourage, and support these brothers and sisters by teaching the gospel of God's love, by being an example of Christian faith and character, and by giving the strong support of God's family in fellowship, prayer, and service? - Congregational vow from the RCA liturgy for baptism of children and infants

A healthy church invests its resources (time, money, talents) in caring for the little ones in their midst. Our Lord and Savior's example alone should be enough to convince us of this truth and motivate us accordingly. So in addition to Jesus' priority to welcome children, include them in the kingdom of God, and bless them, my personal experience after 18 years of ministry has proven that a church can not expect to grow in number and health if it does not prioritize ministry to children.

You have heard me say, there are no magic formulae or foolproof strategies to growing a church. Why some churches grow and others do not is honestly a mystery to me in our current context. However, I do believe there are things that while they won't guarantee your church will grow, they certainly will hinder your ability to attract and retain our non-churched or unchurched neighbors. If the preaching stinks, if the music and congregational singing stink, and if the children's ministry stinks. Based on your feedback, my preaching is at least better than average. Check. Our music and congregational singing is excellent and robust (i.e. it's not embarrassingly awkward). Check. Our children's ministry does not stink. Bonnie, Shannon, Colleen, and Kathy have worked hard with the resources they have to welcome the children who come to us with the love of Jesus. You should thank them for their service. Our current children's ministry does not stink, but we can invest more into this ministry.

First, after consulting with Bonnie, the families we currently have, and the consistory, we believe moving our children's ministry to coincide with our regular Sunday worship will better serve the children, parents, and caregivers we have and will be more attractive to the children and families we don't have yet. This will allow children of all ages and their parents or caregivers to be with us in the worship service. The most formative habit we can have as followers of Jesus is weekly gathered worship. Everything else throughout the week are the ripple effects of gathered worship. In addition, today's modern families are simply not attracted to getting to church early for the historic practice of Sunday School. Moving our children's ministry to the midst of our worship service is more attractive to new families considering a church home.



(continued on page 2)

Second, it can not and should not fall to just a handful of faithful volunteers to create a robust children's ministry. It is the responsibility of every member of a local church to welcome our little ones as your own and to help sustain them in their journey of faith and assist their parents and caregivers in the Christian nurture of their children. I realize not everyone who attends RCPE is on the membership roll. Doesn't matter. If you consider RCPE to be your local church family and community of faith, nurturing the children in our church is your responsibility too. If you care that your church family be robust and growing, you should want to prioritize our children's ministry. Every member and regular attender should want to know our children's names, where they go to school, what their favorite activities are, and most of all, make sure the children know that Jesus loves them and they are welcome here. Think about your own journey of faith. Do you have adults who encouraged your faith when you were a child or youth? Aren't you grateful they took the time to take an interest in your spiritual journey?

Lastly, many hands make light work. The more volunteers we have in the rotation to serve our children's ministry, the less burdensome it is to execute well. Also, think in terms of scalability. Sure, we only have about 6 children in our church now. But what about when our church grows and we have 12 children attending? 20? 30? We should go ahead and begin cultivating a solid base of volunteers now in expectation that day will come and we'll be ready for it. Besides, you will no longer have to get up extra early (most of you are up early anyway) to volunteer in children's ministry before worship. Our children's ministry curriculum is simple plug and play, it will not require a ton of prep. Anyone can do it. And if leading a lesson is still too intimidating, that's ok, our safe ministry practices require two adults minimum to work with youth and children. You can sign up to partner with a teacher and be their aid (i.e. gentle bouncer). All volunteers will be background checked and given training in our curriculum and our safe ministry practices. We won't just throw you to the little wolves unprepared.

So, church family, I implore you to get involved in our children's ministry. Let Bonnie Lalor know you are willing and able ASAP. Together, let's welcome and bless all the children who come to us in the name of Jesus.

Pastor Brian

Brian's Birding New Additions

No new additions in September. Hopefully now that I'm more mobile, I'll get out and see some new birds during the fall migration. What new birds did you see in September?

Many hands make light work.... and it made the work so much more fun!

The RCPE had many helpers keeping up with the weeds on our property all summer long. Not an easy task with the hot summer we had! Then we were rewarded with an extra set of paws when Molly Sutton arrived at the end of summer to "help!"

Thank you to everyone that contributed!

Submitted by Paula Van Aken



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 — Rosie Stefink, Mary Haas, Carter Roscoe, Linda Wells, Peggy O'Connor, Brie Bauer, Kim Schaffer, JoAnne Cross, Bill Geisel, Jenny, Carol, Charles Barnett III.

Church Family — Bonnie Lalor, Matt Van Aken, Pastor Brian & Jessie, Monica Kelbaugh, Bob Shelightner, Billy, Rev. Nick & Linda Miles, Penny Harries, Rick Whitaker, Sunny Scherry, Bev Sickler, Fred Harries, Sr., Austin Stokes, Bob Schlichting, Janis Loring, Rhoda family.

Homebound/nursing homes/institutions — Bea Hogan.

Grieving — Family & friends of: Marion Warnecke.

**I CAN'T
BE-LEAF
FALL
IS HERE!**

AHA Family and Friends Life-Saving Skills Class

Learn, Practice, and Empower Our Community

Overview of the Event

A crucial opportunity is coming to Fairbrother Hall—a chance to learn vital life-saving skills that could make the difference between life and death in a moment of crisis. The American Heart Association (AHA) Family and Friends class will be held on October 20th, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. This program, hosted and facilitated by Nuvance Community Health and Beverly Gallagher, is designed to equip our community with the knowledge and practical skills needed to respond effectively in emergencies, especially those involving cardiac arrest.

Why Attend?

Victims of heart attacks often fare poorly in community settings because bystanders are nervous or unsure how to start CPR. This class helps overcome those barriers by teaching CPR and AED use in a friendly, supportive environment. With the church installing an AED in Fairbrother Hall, learning how to use it can truly save lives.

How to Join

Let Cheri know if you plan to attend

Pick up your manual by October 5th and read it before class.

Who Can Participate?

All are welcome—families, friends, church members, and community residents, regardless of prior experience. The emphasis is on learning together and supporting one another.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need experience? No, beginners are welcome.

Will there be a test? No, it's all hands-on practice.

Is there a cost? The class is free.

Will AED use be demonstrated? Yes, you'll learn and practice AED skills.

Conclusion

Emergencies require quick action, and with this training, you can make a real difference. Join us on October 20th to strengthen our community's ability to respond and save lives.

RCPE Calendar of Events

October 2025

5th World Communion Sunday

31st Halloween Handout Goodie Bags

November 2025

2nd Pie Baking Competition

26th Thanksgiving Eve Service

29th Church decorating

30th Advent begins

Stewardship Moment

Day 20 – Living generously even when you’re dead.

Proverbs 13:22

A good man leaves an inheritance for his children’s children; but a sinner’s wealth is stored up for the righteous.

Proverbs 13:22 says that one of the generousities a good man can show is by leaving an inheritance, not just for his children, but, to his children’s children. The idea is that this man, rather than spending all his resources on himself alone, chose to save his money so that it might bless people in ways he’ll never see. It is quite a selfless act of generosity to conserve one’s own use of resources and give them to future generations, and it is a practice that is to be commended.

Have you thought about how you can be generous for years after you are gone? This isn’t just a question for the wealthy who might be able to pass along large sums of money to their family. No this question applies to any kind of person. You might say, “I’m a pretty ordinary person, what can I possibly do?” You can live generously and pass on a legacy and model of generosity that will bless generations of descendants who will indirectly be blessed by your actions and attitude. You can generously pass along the wisdom and knowledge you have to younger generations. (All those mistakes have to add up to something!) If you are educated, maybe you can tutor. If you have been through lots of bad life decisions, maybe you can counsel people who might be in danger of making the mistakes you made.

When you invest in the generations still to come, you have no way of knowing how greatly the Lord can multiply your generosity. Imagine if your generosity affects just two people. Now imagine that each of those people bless two more people. If God chooses, the ripple of your generosity could spread far beyond anything you could ever have imagined and farther into the future than you thought possible. Never underestimate the value of blessing the generations to come.

Today’s Generosity Challenge:

Today, your challenge is to research, find and set an appointment with a financial planner. Even if you don’t have what you feel is much of an estate to plan, do it anyway. I think you’ll be surprised. Write down your surprises at <http://GenerousLife.net/Day20>.

* Michael L. Stickler, *A Journey to Generosity (41 Days to a Generous Life)* the Visiongroup Ltd. 2013. Pages 51-52

Embracing Digital Giving: A New Way to Support Our Church

Making Generosity Simple, Secure, and Convenient

Stewardship is at the heart of our church, and technology now offers us new ways to give. Digital giving is a simple and secure option that allows you to support our ministries and outreach, whether you’re at church or on the go.

With digital giving, you can make one-time or recurring donations anytime, anywhere. It’s safe, easy, and helps us respond quickly to our community’s needs while also being environmentally friendly.

If you haven’t tried digital giving yet, we invite you to visit our website or speak with a church leader to learn more. Let’s make generosity accessible to all and continue building a caring church family together.

Installation of Pastor Brian!

Rev. Brian Steadman was officially installed as our Pastor and Teacher September 14 with a wonderful service including members of Classis, family, friends and his new church family. This was followed by a delicious dinner catered by Grounded, complete with fall-off-the-bone ribs!

We give thanks to God for sending to us the Steadman family, and to the many hands who helped organize the service *and dinner*. May Pastor Brian be blessed in his ministry with us.



Thank you to Linda Laestadius of Grounded NY Inc. for catering the delicious food for our installation dinner.

The October Mission of the Month will support *Christmas Wishes of Ulster County*. This non-profit organization founded in 2014 is dedicated to helping Ulster County families in need, not only during the Christmas season, but all year long. If you feel called to donate to this mission, please write checks to The Reformed Church of Port Ewen and write "October M.O.M." on the memo line. Online giving is also available.



In November we will have the opportunity to sign up to shop for a child through the Christmas Wishes program. We will receive wish lists to shop for specific Christmas gifts. The RCPE will once again volunteer selecting a time slot to wrap gifts at the Christmas Wishes location in December. Also in October.... The RCPE will be collecting food and personal care items for the Ascension Holy Trinity Mission Center Food Pantry in West Park. Donation baskets will be throughout the church. Look for item suggestions in our October Sunday bulletins.

Note: The Mission of the Month for September collected \$2255 for the Robert Graves PTO.

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



November Birthdays

- 1 Linda Miles
- 5 Kathy Kinsch
- 10 Monica Kelbaugh
- 11 Tom Gallagher
- 13 Janis Carlson-Loring
- 17 Kelsey Showers
- 20 Sonia (Sunny) Scherry

October Anniversaries

- 14 Carla & Glenn Knickerbocker
- 24 Jim & Anita Hadley

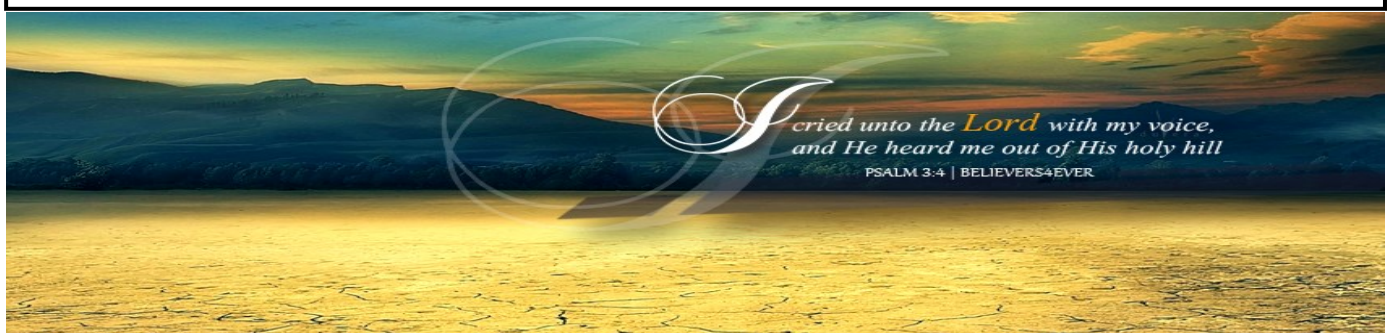
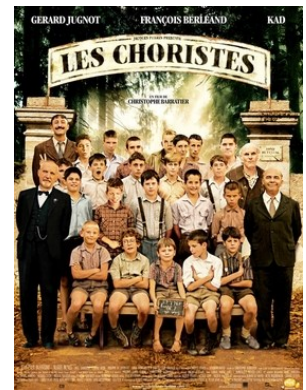


The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth



MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

Oct. 18, THE CHORUS (LES CHORISTES) (2004), Rondout Valley United Methodist Church, 25 Schoonmaker Lane, Stone Ridge — Set in postwar France, this moving and beautifully scored period drama explores the redemptive power of music and mentorship. The story centers on Clément Mathieu (Gérard Jugnot), a gentle, down-on-his-luck music teacher who takes a job as a supervisor at a strict boarding school for troubled boys. The school is ruled by stern headmaster Rachin (François Berléand), whose motto is “Action–Reaction.” Though the boys initially resist his efforts, Mathieu gradually earns their trust — especially Pierre Morhange (Jean-Baptiste Maunier), a gifted but rebellious student. As he discovers their potential, Mathieu forms a choir, using music to bring hope, healing and unity to their lives. Bolstered by heartfelt performances, especially from Jugnot and young Maunier (a real-life choirboy), the drama offers an emotionally rich experience that celebrates compassion, artistic expression and the lasting impact of a teacher who chooses inspiration over punishment. *“An enchantingly beautiful and moving film.”* — Claudia Puig, USA Today. *“Infused with nostalgia, optimism and authenticity.”* — Doris Toumarkine, Film Journal International. *“Delivers its uplifting message with succinctness, sincerity and skill.”* — William Arnold, Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Winner of 12 critic and festival awards. In French with English subtitles. Rated PG–13.



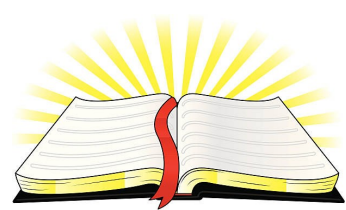
Worship at the Beach!

Sunday, September 21st was our annual combined worship service with our TOEUMC friends. The day was perfect, the fellowship was energizing, and the food was excellent! Many thanks to the volunteers from both churches who helped make the service and picnic a revitalizing event. What a wonderful opportunity to give our praises to God!





Lectionary Scripture Readings for October 2025



First reading And Psalm	Alternate first reading	Second reading	Gospel

October 5, 2025	Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10
October 12, 2025	Jeremiah 29:1,4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-10
October 19, 2025	Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 11:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8
October 26, 2025	Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18: 9-14

Frequency of Communion in the Reformed Church in America
Guidance and Practice

Overview

The Reformed Church in America (RCA), as a historic Protestant denomination, holds the celebration of the Lord’s Supper—often called Communion or Eucharist—as a central sacrament of Christian worship. The RCA affirms the importance of regular participation in Communion as a means of grace, spiritual nourishment, and communal unity.

Recommended Frequency

While the RCA does not mandate a single, uniform frequency for Communion across all its congregations, the general guidance is that it should be celebrated regularly and often enough to remain central to the life and worship of the church. Traditionally, many RCA congregations have observed Communion monthly, although some may choose to celebrate it more frequently, such as bi-weekly or weekly. Others may hold Communion on significant Christian holy days and special occasions.

Historical Perspective

Historically, RCA churches tended to celebrate the Lord’s Supper quarterly or monthly, reflecting longstanding Protestant practice. In recent decades, there has been a trend toward more frequent celebrations, with some congregations embracing weekly Communion as part of their worship renewal.

Congregational Discretion

The RCA gives individual congregations the freedom to determine the most appropriate schedule for Communion, taking into account their liturgical traditions, pastoral leadership, and the needs of their members. The denomination encourages churches to reflect on the spiritual significance of Communion and to make it a regular and meaningful part of worship.

Conclusion

In summary, the Reformed Church in America recommends that Communion be celebrated regularly, most commonly on a monthly basis, but allows flexibility for congregations to adjust the frequency to best serve their community’s spiritual life. The intention is always to honor the sacrament’s role in connecting believers to Christ and to one another.

October 2025

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

			1 12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm Contemplative Prayer	2	3	4 6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Comm Dance (FH)
5 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	6	7 5-8 PM AA (FH)	8 12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm Contemplative Prayer	9	10 7 pm Private (FH)	11 10 am—8 pm Private (FH)
12 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (SCS) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	13	14 9 am—2 pm Woodstock Weavers 5-8 pm AA (FH) 7:00 pm Consistory Mtg. (Lib)	15 12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm Contemplative Prayer	16	17 5-9:00 pm ANA (FH)	18
19 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	20 REFORMER DEADLINE 5-7:00 pm Defibrillator Class	21 5-8 PM AA (FH)	22 12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm Contemplative Prayer	23	24	25
26 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	27	28 5-8 PM AA (FH)	29 12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm Contemplative Prayer	30	31 Halloween Handout Goodie Bags	



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