

# The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen

Reverend Brian Steadman—Pastor



Volume 24 Issue 5

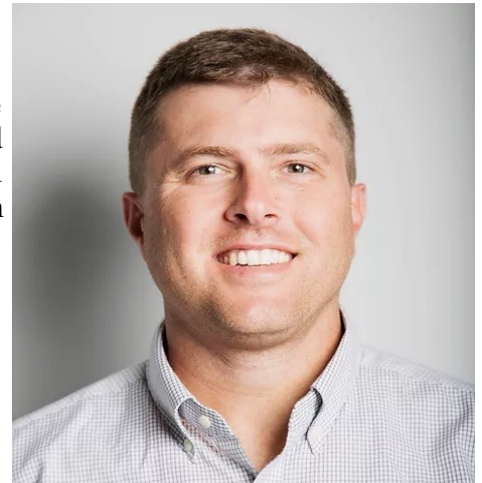
May 2026

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RCPE Family,

Yesterday (April 20th) I was working out in the yard and I felt something wet on the back of my neck. I look up in the sky...and it's snowing. That weird Dippin' Dots kind of snow, but snowing! I realize snowing in late April is a common occurrence in these parts. But still, this Alabama boy is tired of the cold and ready for warmer weather! Yes, the ice has melted off the Ashokan Reservoir but as of a week ago, the water temperature was still 48 degrees! My fish are too cold to bite! Get warm already!



Well despite the sky raining down Dippin' Dots, the signs that warmer weather and full on arrival of spring are here: daffodils and crocuses, Japanese magnolias and Bradford pear trees (which smell awful!), the birds are building their nests in your eaves and gutters and soon you'll be woken at daylight every morning to baby birds chirruping for their breakfast, baseball (although I am more excited for the Stanley Cup Playoffs, let's go Sabres!), and of course Mud Season!

These are the signs of spring - that change is on the way, that new life is on the way - flowers, plants, birds and bunnies, body bacteria as we start to perspire more, and so on. Signs, by their very nature, focus our attention on something up ahead: a change of season; a train stop; a highway exit or a landmark. In John's gospel, John doesn't refer to Jesus' mighty acts as miracles, he most often calls them signs, "Jesus did many other signs." Important to remember that Jesus' miracles are more than just awesome displays of his power to legitimize his divinity, they aren't just cool magic powers where he suspends the natural order of the world - in fact the miracles are a restoration of the natural order of the world, they are foretastes of him putting the world back to right. They are signs - they point the way to something bigger, something deeper, something more that is going on - we are like dogs, we too often just keep looking at the finger rather than to what the finger is pointing to in the first place.

Regularly, the followers of Jesus did not recognize Jesus at first after the resurrection. They did not have the eyes to see Jesus in his resurrection life. Throughout the gospels, Jesus talks a lot about having the eyes to see. The disciples questioned how they were going to see. Over and over again, there is emphasis on being able to see what God sees if you are ever going to experience the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Point is, there are signs, both big and small, all around us, every day, and

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especially this time of year, that are trying to get us to see that resurrection life is happening. Through death comes new life. If only we have the eyes to see it. The good news is, this kind of sight can be cultivated through practices that attune your awareness to be alert for them.

The songwriter Carrie Newcomer shares her practice of what it means to see what Jesus sees: My life as a songwriter and a poet has asked me to consider how I look at the world on a daily, moment -to-moment kind of way. Our first job is to pay attention and then to take in what we see with a certain kind of spirit and for me, a certain kind of love. I think it's a practice and the more you practice it, the more you see; the more you see, the more you see with love.

The big things I love: I love my husband. I love my daughter. I love justice. I love mercy. I love so many big things, but my life is also filled every day with all these glorious little loves. There can be great meaning and great love in small things. I love blueberries and I love the smell of lilacs and I love how little kids hold each other's hands when they go across the street.

In looking at the small moment and the small thing through love, it's not always completely joyous. You take it all. When you decide I'm going to be here, I'm going to be present, and I'm going to be present with love, you take it all.

The peace of Christ be with you,  
Pastor Brian

**Brian's Birding New Additions**  
Didn't want you to think I had given up on birding. I'm still very much paying attention to birds, just haven't seen any new ones to me that I can add to my Life List. But with the spring migration starting to happen, I'm excited to see what new ones may come my way, if only I have the eyes (and ears) to see.

*Save this Date - - June 28th*

*Children's Day Picnic*



# R.C.P.E. Yellow Pages

## Data at your fingertips

### Prayer Chain

The purpose of our prayer chain is a way to practice a spiritual work of mercy of praying for the living and the dead. Prayer is a powerful way we can support others by entrusting them into God's care. The prayer chain provides spiritual support for members and their families and friends.

*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

Meetings open--call 331-2782 for agenda space. Next meeting May 12, 2026 at 10:30 am

#### ELDERS

Beverly Gallagher

Sunny Scherry

Len Falcinelli

#### DEACONS

Matthew Van Aken

Linda Bresnahan-McCarthy

Colleen Sutton



## Prayer Requests



### Prayer List

**World** — World Peace, 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, 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** — Rev. Ann & Ron Rost, Bob Vanderlaan.

**Petitions of healing, protection, and deliverance** — Jeb Saracino, Cal Knickerbocker, Bill Geisel, Colleen Tiano, Jimmy Banks, Diane (Falcinelli) Deck, Wayne Scherry, George Smith.

**Church Family** — Bev Sickler, Tim Trescari, Monica Kelbaugh, Rev. Nick Miles.

**Homebound/nursing homes/institutions** — Bea Hogan.

**Grieving** — Family & friends of: Annabelle Sarr, Charles Barnett III.

### Consistory Committee Chairs

- Buildings and Grounds - Linda McCarthy / Matt Van Aken
- Faith Formation (Christian Education) - Len Falcinelli
- Church Family Care & Fellowship -Sunny Scherry
- Mission & Outreach - Matt & Paula Van Aken
- Stewardship & Finance - Colleen Sutton
- Worship (Spiritual Life) - Beverly Gallagher

Thank you to the crew that helped prepare and cook the breakfast meal for after the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday at the George Freer Park. Your dedication and teamwork ensured everyone enjoyed a delicious meal, and your efforts truly made the event memorable. Also, thanks to the cleanup volunteers whose hard work kept everything tidy and organized. Another successful endeavor!

They were (L to R) Kayla Van Aken, Len Falcinelli, Ben Bogossian, Matt Van Aken, JD Alexander, Doug Merte, Ray Wells and Dan Snively.



(L to R) Kathy Kinsch , Colleen Sutton and Bev Gallagher

On April 2nd, we hosted a Seder with about 30 people attending. These are part of the crew responsible for preparing the food for this event. The gathering was a vibrant celebration, blending tradition and community spirit. The Seder table was beautifully set, featuring symbolic foods such as matzah, bitter herbs, and charoset, each representing elements of the Passover story. Guests participated in the retelling of the Exodus, reading from the Haggadah and singing traditional songs. The crew’s dedication and teamwork ensured that every dish—from appetizers to desserts—was thoughtfully crafted and elegantly presented. Their collaborative efforts fostered a warm, welcoming atmosphere, making the evening both meaningful and memorable for all who attended.

***Maunday Thursday Seder At RCPE***~The Maunday Thursday service was made especially meaningful this year with the assistance of Rav Peter and Rebbetzin Debra Lundgren, leaders of Adat Chaim, a Messianic Synagogue in Lake Katrine, who led us in celebrating a Seder. We thank them for helping us learn more about our Jewish roots and sharing their Passover observance with us.



## Stewardship Moment

### Day 27- Blessed be the generous

#### Proverbs 22:9

A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.

Generosity is often portrayed as what you do for other people. When someone needs a ride, you go pick him or her up. When someone is lonely, you reach out to him or her. When there is a financial need, you see what you can do to meet it. Generosity becomes defined as what you do for others.

Now there's no doubt, helping people is a big part of generosity – and the person so helped is greatly blessed. But, what people don't always realize is that generosity is also a blessing to the giver. Proverbs 22 says that a generous man will himself be blessed. That means that the generous person isn't just the one blessing others; but in that generosity the giver will also receive blessing. This blessing might come in different ways; but one sure way it will come is in the eyes of the Lord. In living generously, you will be pleasing Him and storing up eternal blessing for yourself. Know that God smiles on your generosity, is itself, a blessing.

Throughout their lives, Christians look at themselves and ask, "How can I grow as a believer?" As they pursue living out the Gospel, they work on praying more faithfully, on studying the Word, on working on their character and the way they react to sin and temptation. There are all these critical ways to pursue our faith.

But, one way that people don't always think of is through generosity. God will bless you and grow you as a Christian when you seek to live generously in His name. So when you are looking to please God and grow, definitely invest yourself in prayer and the Word and good things like that. But, don't forget about generosity, after all, generosity is just one more tool God is using to make you like Christ.

#### Today's Generosity Challenge:

Let's talk about the little things. Who do you know that could use a ride to church, to the doctor, or to a hair appointment? What single mom could use an oil change or some household repair? How could you come along side someone that just needs a little something that we usually take for granted? Now, go and do it. Afterwards, write down the effect it had on them and you at <http://GenerousLife.net/Day27>.

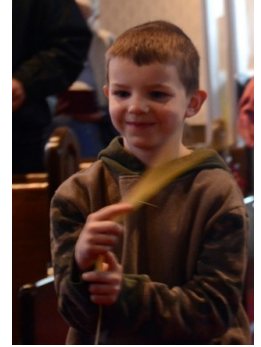
\* Michael L. Stickler, *A Journey to Generosity (41 Days to a Generous Life)* the Visiongroup Ltd. 2013. Pages 65-66

Live streaming of our Sunday worship service will now be hosted on our RCPE YouTube channel. Zoom will no longer be used for tuning in to our worship services. Our YouTube channel can be found at :

**[www.youtube.com/@TheReformedChurchofPortEWen](http://www.youtube.com/@TheReformedChurchofPortEWen)**

## Palm Sunday

Hosannah To The King! *Children's Church leading the procession!*



## Easter Sunday

Kayla joyfully proclaims, "Christ has Risen, Indeed!" This heartfelt exclamation embodies the spirit of Easter, expressing profound gratitude and unwavering faith in the miracle of the resurrection.

Through these words, Kayla highlights the central message of Easter, a time when believers come together to commemorate Christ's victory over death. The phrase itself serves as both a declaration of hope and a reminder of the transformative power of faith.

The announcement inspires a sense of unity and celebration among those who hear it. As Kayla's words reverberate, they invite others to join in the joyful affirmation, fostering a collective spirit of reverence and praise.



*God of love and comfort, you have called us to rejoice with those who rejoice and to mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12). We are grateful to live into that calling, to celebrate one of our ministries here at the Reformed Church of Port Ewen and – in an act of love for our Christian brothers and sisters – share a tangible gift to those in need, the prayer shawl. You take our gifts, and by the work of the Holy Spirit, sanctify them and use them in your redeeming and healing work in our community. We thank you God.*

***If you know of anyone in need of a shawl, please see Joyce Pade or Cheri in the office.***



The **Mission of the Month** for May will support **Camp Warwick and the Warwick Conference Center**. Established in 1959, this camp is owned and operated by the Synods of Mid-Atlantics & New York of the Reformed Church of America. Camp Warwick exists to encourage others in their experience and growth in God, while creating lasting friendships. The RCPE has supported this camp and center for many years. Visit their website at [campwarwick.org](http://campwarwick.org) for more information. If you feel called to donate to this mission, please write checks to: The Reformed Church of Port Ewen and write "May M.O.M." on the memo line. Online giving is also available at: [TheRCPE.org](http://TheRCPE.org).

Also during the month of May, the baby bottles will be available to collect money for the Bravo/Pregnancy Support Center.

*Note : the Mission of the Month for April 2026 Angel Food East*

*Collected \$*

***May Birthdays***

- 1 Jennifer (Lalor) Roscoe
- 5 Bonnie Lalor
- 10 Tammy Candlin
- 14 Fred Rhoda
- 21 Lukas Harries
- 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



***May 17th  
Men Chefs Only***

# The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth



## MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

**May 16, MONSIEUR IBRAHIM (2003), Kerhonkson Synagogue, 26 Minnewaska Trail, Kerhonkson** — For Momo (Pierre Boulanger), a young Jewish kid growing up in a working-class neighborhood of Paris in the early 1960s, life is pretty exciting. He’s friends with many of the local prostitutes and loses his virginity to one of them, Sylvie (Anne Suarez). He also catches glimpses of a famous movie star (Isabelle Adjani) filming in his neighborhood. But it’s his friendship with a Muslim shopkeeper, Ibrahim (Omar Sharif), that’s the most rewarding part of his life — because Momo is actually lonely. Gradually, the older man becomes a surrogate father — teaching Momo about joy, compassion and the subtle art of living. With quiet humor and deep humanity, this beautifully acted film unfolds like a fable, offering lessons in tolerance, love and the enduring power of kindness. *“A mystery at heart, about identity, fatherhood, religion and how early transistor radios transformed young people’s lives.”* — James Verniere, Boston Herald. *“Contrary to expectation, it’s neither a movie about religion nor the coming together of enemies. What it is, at heart, is a movie about love.”* — Michael O’Sullivan, The Washington Post. *“A delicate, tender tale about how a good father can show up at unlikely times, bridging uneasy cultures — and in doing so help a fragile bud of a boy bloom.”* — Lisa Kennedy, The Denver Post. *Winner of five critic and festival awards. In French and Turkish with English subtitles. Rated R.*





*Articles of Interest for the Reformer*

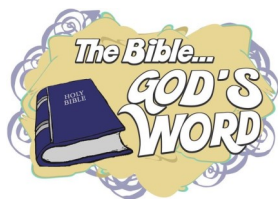
*Pictures, stories, jokes, grandkids etc.*

### *Happy Birthday, Pastor Nick!*

We celebrated Rev. Nick Miles' birthday after church March 31 with a special coffee hour. In attendance were Pastor Nick's son and grandchildren, as well as friends from ANA, Bloomington church and his RCPE church family. May God bless you, Nick.



## Lectionary Scripture Readings for May 2026



First reading and Psalm	Alternate first reading	Second reading	Gospel
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<b>May 3, 2026</b>	<b>Proverbs 4:10-18; Psalm 119:9-32; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14</b>
<b>May 10, 2026</b>	<b>Ezekiel 34:1-7; Psalm 115; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21</b>
<b>May 17, 2026</b>	<b>Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 21:1-7; 1 Peter 4:12-14; John 17:1-11</b>
<b>May 24, 2026</b>	<b>Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34,35b; 1 Corinth12:3b-13; John 7:37-39</b>
<b>May 31, 2026</b>	<b>Genesis 1:1-2, 4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20</b>

### *Remembering My Mother on Mother's Day*

Mother's Day is a time to honor and cherish the incredible women who have shaped our lives. Today, I find myself reflecting on the love, wisdom, and warmth my mother brought into my world. Her gentle guidance and unwavering support were the foundation upon which I built my values and dreams.

Though she is no longer with me, her memory lives on in every kind gesture and thoughtful word I share. I remember her laughter, her nurturing spirit, and the countless sacrifices she made for our family. Her presence is felt in the traditions I uphold and the compassion I strive to show others. On this special day, I celebrate her life, grateful for every moment we spent together and for the lessons that continue to guide me.

Mother's Day is not only about honoring mothers who are present, but also about keeping alive the legacy of those who have passed. I carry my mother's love in my heart, and her influence inspires me daily. Today, I remember her with gratitude and affection, hoping to make her proud as I navigate my own journey in life. I thank God for her every day, cherishing the bond we shared and the everlasting impact she has had on who I am.

I love you, Mom.



# May 2026

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

					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Community Dance (FH)
<b>3</b> 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>6</b> 12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm Contemplative Prayer (Sanctuary)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 11:00 am Consistory Meeting (Lib)	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>11</b> 1:00 pm Mystery Book Club (Lib)	<b>12</b> 10:30 am Consistory Mt. 9 am-3 pm Woodstock Weavers 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>13</b> 12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm Contemplative Prayer (Sanctuary)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 4-9 pm ANA (FH)	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Men's Chili Cook-Off 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>20 REFORMER DEADLINE</b> 12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-8:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm Contemplative Prayer (Sanctuary)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 5-8 pm AA (FH)	<b>27</b> 12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm Contemplative Prayer (Sanctuary)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

HAPPY  
Mother's Day!



# May 2026 Reformer

*Our facilities are handicapped accessible*

We're on the net!  
Therpcpe.org

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