

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen

Reverend Brian Steadman—Pastor



Volume 24 Issue 6

June 2026

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RCPE Family,

In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' - Acts 20:35

Ask almost anyone if they feel more blessed to give than to receive, most will say they agree with that sentiment. And the statistics sort of back that up, 33% of Americans give zero dollars to any charitable cause, religious or otherwise. So the majority of the American population make at least one contribution to charity annually. But when you dig deeper into the numbers, Americans give 2-3% of their gross income away every year. So if most people agree that it is more blessed to give than to receive, why do they not give more away and thus experience more blessing?

It's a complex question to answer. Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson published a book *The Paradox of Generosity: Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose*, in which they share the results from a *Science of Generosity* survey conducted by the University of Notre Dame. The book covers a lot of ground, but as one New York Times writer summarized briefly, the top three reasons why Americans do not give more of their income away are:

1. Americans do not understand the benefits of giving.

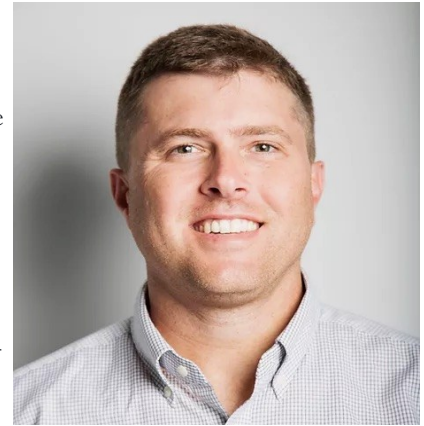
While many experience the good feelings (blessedness) of being generous with their money, many also experience a lot of anxiety around giving money away. Yet, Smith and Davidson in their book point to research that shows "a strong and highly consistent association between generous practices and various measures of personal well-being like happiness, health, a sense of purpose in life and personal growth." In other words, giving and generosity may actually reduce your stress and anxiety, not increase it.

2. I don't have enough money to give money away.

Perhaps the most common explanation for why Americans do not give is that they feel they simply do not make or have enough money to take care of themselves. They commonly believe, "I will give more money when I make more money." And yet, statistics continue to show that families who make less than \$50,000 annually give away more money (14% of their income) than those who make over \$50,000 per year (2.5%). It's not until you get to the extremely wealthy, those who make over \$10 million per year, before it begins to rise to about 8% of total income given away. Which sorry to be skeptical, but my guess is that has more to do with tax benefits than a desire to be generous. Hopefully I'm wrong about that. All that to say, waiting around until you make over \$10 million per year in order to give more money to others statistically does not hold true.

3. Giving is too complex.

Many Americans report they would give more generously, but knowing how to give and where to give is too confusing. Many Americans worry that their giving will not



(continued page 2)

actually benefit the people, animals, plants, or causes they are giving their money to support, and for good reason. While online and digital forms of payment have increased exponentially in recent decades and the statistics show that these forms of giving translates into more generous and more consistent giving, there is still a large slice of the population who distrust or are just disinterested in online giving. Whatever the case, Americans want their giving to be simple and straightforward before they feel confident they can be generous with their money.

So how about you? Is it more blessed to give than to receive? Is generosity easy for you? Would you like for that to be true, but if you're being honest, you don't experience existential bliss when you are generous with your money? Do any of these three barriers to generosity resonate with you? If not, what are your barriers to generosity?

I encourage you to prayerfully sit with these questions. While the statistics quoted above are based on all Americans regardless of religious affiliation, we of course are a church who professes to follow Jesus as Lord. And Jesus talks about money more than he talks about any other one specific topic in his teachings. Whether or not we feel blessed to give, we do not have the option to ignore the call to generosity as disciples of Christ.

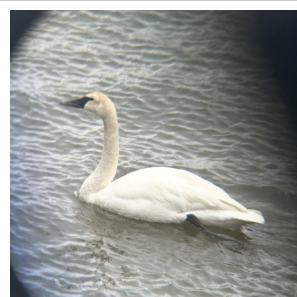
The peace of Christ be with you,
Pastor Brian

Brian's Birding New Additions May 2026
Great Crested Flycatcher



Are large flycatchers with fairly long and lean proportions. Like many flycatchers they have a powerful build with broad shoulders and a large head. Despite its name, this bird's crest is not especially prominent. The bill is fairly wide at the base and straight; the tail is fairly long. Larger than the Eastern Bluebird; smaller than the American Robin.

Trumpeter Swan



Trumpeter Swans demand superlatives: they're our biggest native waterfowl, stretching to 6 feet in length and weighing more than 25 pounds—almost twice as massive as a Tundra

Swan. Getting airborne requires a limbering take-off along a 100 yard runway. Despite their size, this once -endangered, now recovering species is as elegant as any swan, with a graceful neck and snowy-white plumage. They breed on wetlands in remote Alaska, Canada, and the north western U.S.. And winter on ice-free coastal and inland

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

The 2nd Friday of each month at 11:00 AM Meetings open--call 331-2782 for agenda space. Next meeting June 12, 2026

ELDERS

Beverly Gallagher

Sunny Scherry

Len Falcinelli

DEACONS

Matthew Van Aken

Linda Bresnahan-McCarthy

Colleen Sutton

Prayer Requests



Prayers will stay for one month unless notified otherwise.

World—The conflicts between Israel and Palestine, Russia and Ukraine, Israel/U.S. and Iran, U.S. and Venezuela, India and Pakistan, civil war in Sudan, Taiwan, North Korea, criminal violence in Mexico, and refugees and immigrants worldwide.

RCA—Justin Meyers and The AlAmama Center in Oman, JJ TenClay and Refugee Ministries, Sara Appleyard-Pekich and Odyssey Church Poughkeepsie.

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

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

Church Family—Tim Triscari, 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



Congratulations to Laura Van Aken on receiving her Master's degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from the University of New Haven on May 15th!



Chili Cook-Off 2026!

May 17 was our annual Chili Cook-Off, with a twist...Contestants were the gentlemen of the congregation! After sampling the varying degrees of heat and flavors, the attendees declared that the delicious offering prepared by Mircea Catona was the winner. Congratulation!



Sunny Scherry and Mircea Catona



Thank you, Kitchen Crew!



Attendees enjoying the samplings

Stewardship Moment

Day 28 – How to give generously.

1 Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

When you consider your generosity and your giving to God, do you feel like you have a pretty good sense of how to please God in this way? You can easily see it going at least two different ways.

Some might give next to nothing and then pat themselves on the back thinking they really did a great job. Others might give a huge amount; but feel guilty that they haven't made God happy.

And there are a lot of other types of people that might exist; but it's an important question: What does God expect of us in terms of our giving?

I think we can learn a helpful lesson from Paul's first letter to the Corinthian Church. In chapter 16, Paul talks about a collection he wants them to make. What I find really helpful is where he says, when you take this offering, you are to set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income. That means, give to this offering in proportion with the money God has given you.

There are so many reasons this is helpful.

First, we see that God isn't comparing you to other people. He is looking at you and your personal situation and He understands what you are doing when you give.

Second, this also gives direction to people of every kind, young, old, poor, rich – everyone can find help in this. God isn't so much concerned with the amount you give, as He is that you be faithful in proportion to what He has given you.

When you give, don't worry if it doesn't seem like you are able to give as much as other people, just start by giving faithfully from what God has given you. And, if from there you desire to give more, you can do so, not out of fear or guilt; but, out of love and gratitude.

Today's Generosity Challenge:

Over dinner tonight open the conversation with this question: For our family what is the right percentage of giving in keeping with our income? But, before you respond, be prepared to justify your answer. What did you learn, how did their answer reflect their hearts and yours? Are you aligned when it comes to giving? Or is there much more to be done. Write down what you have observed here <http://GenerousLife.net/Day28>.

* Michael L. Stickler, *A Journey to Generosity (41 Days to a Generous Life)* the Visiongroup Ltd. 2013. Pages 67-68

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

Flag Day

Whether Christians should celebrate Flag Day (June 14) is a matter of personal conscience, balancing patriotism with, and, in some cases, the separation of church and state. It is generally viewed as an opportunity to honor national history and freedoms, provided the flag does not become an idol replacing loyalty to God.



Perspectives on Celebrating Flag Day

- **Supportive Views:** Many Christians see Flag Day as a way to celebrate freedom and justice, viewing the nation's founding ideals as aligned with Christian values. It is viewed as a time to pray for the country and honor its history.

Cautious Views: Others emphasize that ultimate allegiance is to God (Exodus 20:3), and Christians should be cautious not to worship or idolize a national symbol.

Separation of Church and State: Some argue that national flags should not be displayed in church sanctuaries, as it may confuse the Kingdom of God with the United States, signaling that the two are equivalent.

How Christians Observe the Day

Personal Application: Individuals often display flags at home, honor veterans, and use the day to reflect on Christian heritage in American history.

Service and Community: Some suggest celebrating by serving neighbors, such as donating to food banks or gifting flags to veterans.

Distinction: The key, for many, is to view the flag as a symbol of earthly citizenship, while the Cross remains the primary symbol of eternal allegiance.

Be safe : Schools out for summer

Summer break is finally here! To keep the kids safe and healthy, prioritize sun and heat protection, water safety, and digital boundaries. Stay sun-smart, watch for signs of heat exhaustion, and establish clear check-in routines so everyone enjoys a fun, worry-free vacation.

Top Summer Safety Tips

Beat the Heat & Sun: Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) and reapply often. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated and try to plan outdoor play for the cooler hours of the day (early morning or evening).

Water Safety: Never leave children unattended near water. Whether at a local pool, beach, or lake, always ensure a responsible adult is actively watching.

Road & Wheel Smarts: Remind kids to always wear helmets when riding bikes or skateboards. Because children are out and about more, drivers should be extra cautious in residential neighborhoods, keeping an eye out for kids darting into the street.

Online Boundaries: With extra free time, screen time tends to creep up. Set limits, monitor app usage, and remind older kids about cyber safety and the importance of not sharing personal information with strangers online.

Emergency Preparedness: Post a list of emergency numbers (including trusted neighbors, your cell, and 911) on the fridge so kids can easily find them.



The **Mission of the Month** for June will support **CAP's Fund, Inc.** (Cancer Assistance for Parents) a not-for-profit corporation located in Kingston. The mission of CAP's is to assist families financially in dealing with the complications of cancer. From diagnosis to treatment to recovery, they rally the community to provide a helping hand for families. Visit their website at: capsfund.org If you feel called to donate to this mission, please write checks to the Reformed Church of Port Ewen and write "June MOM" on the memo line. Online giving is available through our website at: theRCPE.org.



Thank you to everyone who accepted a baby bottle to contribute to the **BRAVO/Pregnancy Support Center** in Kingston. All 25 bottles were signed out and are due back by Sunday, June 7th.

*Note : the Mission of the Month for May 2026 Warwick Conference Center and Camp
Collected \$305.00*



June Birthdays

- 6 Ryleigh Goodrich
- 6 Karin Lamb
- 7 Daniel Helmer
- 9 Diane Hull
- 14 Matthew Sutton
- 23 Kevin Slusher
- 24 Debra Bogossian
- 25 Cheri Van Deusen
- 25 Jim Hadley
- 26 Len Falcinelli
- 27 Janet Whaley



July Birthdays

- 9 Jacqueline Stocker
- 12 Chris Mabie
- 14 Ben Bogossian
- 17 Charlene Kelsey
- 18 Beatrice Hogan
- 20 Joyce Pade
- 23 Glenn Knickerbocker
- 24 Melissa Banks

June Anniversaries



- 14 Ben & Debra Bogossian
- 26 Shannon & Michael Goodrich

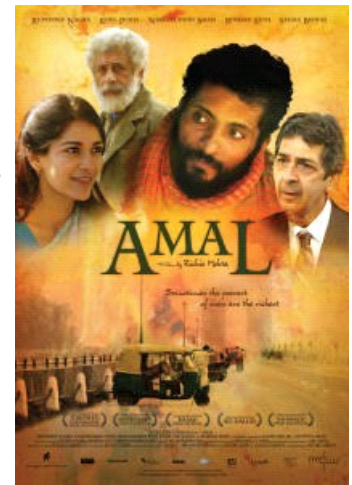
The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth

For the wages of sin is death;
Ro 6:23 but the gift of God is
 eternal life through Jesus Christ
 our Lord.
 An offer you
 should not
 refuse.



MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

June 20, AMAL (2007), Vivekananda Retreat, Ridgely, 101 Leggett Road, Stone Ridge — This beautiful and moving drama unfolds in the chaotic heart of New Delhi, where kindly, hardworking Amal Kumar (Rupinder Nagra) drives the auto-rickshaw he inherited from his late father. Amal is content with his modest but meaningful role in the world — ferrying passengers with grace and integrity. One day, he gives a ride to a shabbily dressed, irascible old man, G.K. Jayaram (Naseeruddin Shah), who was just denied a ride by another driver. G.K.'s insults and impatience roll off Amal, who responds with quiet deference and calm. What Amal doesn't realize is that the man is actually a billionaire in disguise — dying and disillusioned by his corrupt, money-hungry children. Seeking a final act of goodness, G.K. hopes to ensure his wealth goes to someone truly deserving. Struck by Amal's decency, G.K. changes his will on his deathbed, naming the driver as the sole heir to his fortune. But now his principled lawyer (Seema Biswas) has only a month to find Amal in a city of 14 million — or the inheritance will revert to G.K.'s corrupt heirs. Vividly textured and life-affirming, this drama offers an unvarnished portrait of modern-day India and asks: What does it mean to live well — and succeed — in a world driven by status and wealth? *"However one measures success, though, 'Amal' is unquestionably a rich cinematic experience."* — Chad Greene, Boxoffice. *"A light along the path as we explore human nature through cinema."* — Bruce Kirkland, Jam! Movies. *"Its sincerity and the warmth of its actors make it difficult to resist."* —



"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society."

—Billy Graham

Marked As Christ's Own

April 26 was a very special day in the life of our church. We were blessed to witness the baptism of three brothers! Landon, Lukas, and Charlie Harries were welcomed into the RCPE community of faith with great joy. God bless you and keep you as you grow in faith



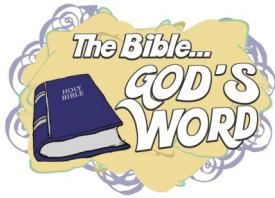
“The older I get, the smarter my father seems to get.”

—Tim Russert

“Fathering is not something perfect men can do, but something that perfects the man.”

—Frank Pittman

Lectionary Scripture Readings for June 2026



First reading	Alternate first reading	Second reading	Gospel

<p>June 7, 2026 Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26</p> <p>June 14, 2026 Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8</p> <p>June 21, 2026 Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39</p> <p>June 28, 2026 Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42</p>
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The 5 P's of fatherhood represent key roles for raising healthy children:

- ◆ ***Provider*** Beyond financial support, this includes nurturing a child's mental emotional and academic needs.
- ◆ ***Protector*** Acting as a shield to ensure safety, peace, and emotional security.
- ◆ ***Priest/ Principle Guide*** Leading in spiritual nourishment, setting moral values, and instructing children in character.
- ◆ ***Player/ Participant*** Actively engaging in play, being present, and building a strong relationship through time.
- ◆ ***Preparer/ Promoter*** Training children for life, lifting them up, and fostering their potential.

June 2026

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

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	5:30-8:00 pm Private (FH)	5-8 pm AA (FH)	12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm		6-8:00 pm Private	10:00 am—3 pm Private (FH) 6:30-10:30 pm Hudson Valley Community Dance (FH)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church	9 am—9 pm (FH) Private 1:00 pm Book Club	10:30 am Consistory Meeting 9 am—3 pm	12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church		5-8 pm AA (FH)	12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm		5-9:00 pm ANA	REFORMER DEADLINE
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
FATHER'S DAY 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am		5-8 pm AA (FH)	12:30 pm Bible Study (Lib) 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH) 7-7:45 pm			
28	29	30				
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am—1:00		5-8 pm AA (FH)				

