

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen

Reverend Brian Steadman—Pastor



Volume 24 Issue 7

July/August 2026

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RCPE Family,

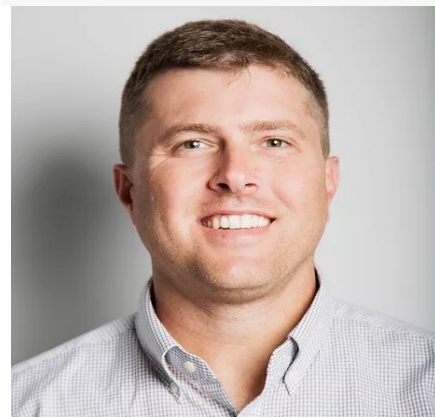
I wanted to share with you three responses the General Synod of the RCA passed at this June's meeting. The full report can be found on the RCA website at: <https://www.rca.org/general-synod-2026-news-summary/>

Prompted by the [Commission on Christian Action](#), the synod discussed the conflict in the Middle East and how the RCA can be an active participant in pursuing peace in that region. Ultimately, the General Synod approved an amended recommendation calling for the general secretary to write a letter to Prime Minister Netanyahu with concern over expansionism and the lack of equal treatment for Palestinians; calling upon RCA members to "contact senators and representatives demanding that funding for Israel be stopped until Israel stops its expansionism"; and instructing the GSC's Office of Finance to study potential divestment strategies and policies, for report to General Synod 2027.

We, the delegates to the 219th General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, declare the doctrine of Christian Nationalism to be opposed to the gospel of Christ.

We believe:

God governs this world through both church and state. The church is to affirm authentic faith and show fruits of the Spirit, seeking wholeness and care for everyone. The state is to work for the safety, security, and peaceful order of all those under its care. Full humanity is both spiritual instructing us in faith and righteousness and political educating us to be citizens. We must not misapply to politics God's call to spiritual freedom. The church must invite the state to greater nobility, freeing the enslaved, relieving the oppressed, comforting the afflicted. We have a necessary voice in the public debate but, as Christ's body, gathered around Word and sacrament, we must not conflate national identity with God's reign, lest we mute our prophetic voice and replace discipleship to Jesus Christ with political ambition.



We belong to Jesus Christ, not to anyone or anything else. We are called to influence the public square through persuasion rather than coercion, to work for unity among all people and nations, to reconcile everyone, and to stand in God's Spirit without the corrupting influence of temporal power. Christian Nationalism represents a false church, fundamentally distorting the gospel.

Trusting in our Triune God, we call on all Christians to renounce this error and work for justice, wholeness, and peace for all.

We, the delegates to the 219th General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, acknowledge the truth that every person is made in the image of God (Genesis 1). We are called and commanded to love the stranger (Deuteronomy 10) and show hospitality to foreigners and prisoners (Hebrews 13). Therefore, we denounce the immigration policies of any government that treats people as less than human.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we cannot remain silent when the U.S. government:

utilizes racial profiling,

detains without proper judicial warrants,

arrests and deports without due process,

practices cruel and inhumane treatment (including, but not limited to, deprivation of adequate food, sanitary facilities, and medical care),

subjects anyone to physical, emotional, or mental assault,

separates children from families,

engages in third country deportations,

operates mass detention centers,

and transfers individuals as a means of inhibiting legal counsel and preventing family contact.

We confess and lament our role in supporting such a system and recognize any and all such actions as sin. "The church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged.... in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others" (Belhar, Art. 4).

Brian's Birding Additions June 2026

No new birds to my Life List in June. I came close to seeing my first Baltimore Oriole on two occasions, but couldn't find them in the tree canopy. I'm hoping the flowers Jessie and I planted in the parsonage garden attract hummingbirds when they begin to bloom!

Peace and all good things to you, Pastor Brian

Pastor Brian

Save the Date!

September 20th Joint Service Picnic at the Town Beach/Freer Park

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. No meeting July and August

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.

Prayers for healing — Jeb Saracino, Cal Knickerbocker, Bill Geisel, Colleen Tiano, Jimmy Banks, Diane (Falcinelli) Deck, Wayne Scherry, George Smith, Patty Van Voorhis, Oakley Shalor, Steven Hioe, Bill Haas, Arlelene Carlson, Dean Barnes.

Church Family—Rev. Nick Miles, Cheri Van Deusen, Jim Hadley, Fred Harries.

Homebound/nursing homes/institutions—Bea Hogan,

Bereavement—Family & friends of Annabelle Sarr, Charles Barnett III, Brian Lowe, Ray of Ponca Nation.

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

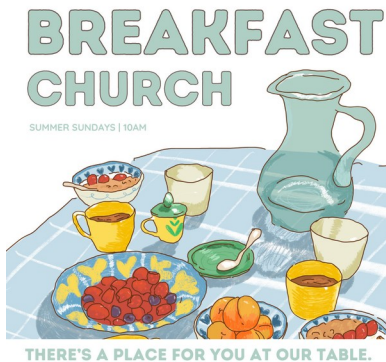




On Wednesday, June 24th the Bible Study Group celebrated the completion of Bible Study by having a picnic in Freer Park.

Attending (L to R) are; Kathy, Maryann, Alice, Sunny, Henry, Jim, Doug, Essie, Len, Lynn, and Pastor Brian. Not in the picture was Anita.

It's Back-Breakfast Church!



Summer is the time for Breakfast Church here at RCPE. **July 26 and August 30** we will gather in Fair-brother Hall at 10 am for a continental breakfast (pot luck, provided by our outstanding RCPE cooks) followed by a service filled with music. There will be coffee, juice, and time to have fellowship before and after the service. Please plan to join us- it's a perfect time to bring a friend!

Thank you, Choir!

Once again, it's time for our fabulous, devoted, choir to take a little break for the summer. We are blessed to have such wonderful musicians leading us in song and adding to the worship service.

Summer provides an opportunity for others in the congregation to try participating in Drop In Choir. Anyone interested in singing on a particular Sunday is invited to join us in the Sanctuary at 9 am. We will rehearse the anthem (usually something familiar) and hymns for that service. Warning- many of our regular choir members have joined us after trying Drop In Choir! Hope to see you this Summer. Questions? Contact me at 845-687-9664.

In Gratitude and Praise, Linda

Stewardship Moment

Day 29 – Forgetting to please God.

Hebrews 13:16

And do not forget to do good and share with others,

For with such sacrifices God is pleased

Something all Christians are susceptible to is letting life distract us from what matters most. We are saved by this glorious Gospel, we are amazed by our God of love and grace, and then we just sort of fade out. We go to work, we pay our bills, we cook our meals, we go on errands and we lose sight of the big picture. We go from being passionately on fire for God to just going about ordinary life without much thought about our Father in heaven.

The author of Hebrews knew this about people, that when it comes down to it, we are the most forgetful sort of people. And he gave this reminder; “don’t forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

There are many reasons we don’t do what pleases God. Sometimes we’re stubborn, sometimes we don’t know how, and, as the book of Hebrews mentions here, sometimes we just forget. When was the last time you made a point to do something good for or share with someone else?

Now let’s go a step further, let’s take out the ordinary sort of things like holding a door open or smiling at someone. When was the last time you did something good for someone, and it meant you really had to go out of your way?

Now if you’re like me you might have trouble thinking of much you’ve done for others. And if you’re like me. It’s not that you didn’t want to do good things, it’s that you live a busy life and you just haven’t gotten around to it yet.

So, let’s break the bad habit. Even today, go out and do something good for someone, share from what you have. And as you are doing that you are pleasing God.

Today’s Generosity Challenge:

This one is a little harder. Today, through prayer, pick up the phone and call someone you don’t like, you know someone you’re at odds with or their personality just bugs you—ask them out for coffee or lunch. Then, when you get together, ask them about themselves, say nothing about yourself. Just listen to understand, not to respond. And, when it’s all over and you part ways say, “Thank you for letting me know you a little better.” (Be sure to pick up the check.) Then, go home and write down what you learned new about them here <http://GenerousLife.net/Day 29>. Include how you were blessed.

* Michael L. Stickler, *A Journey to Generosity (41 Days to a Generous Life)* the Visiongroup Ltd. 2013. Pages 70-71

The **Mission of the Month** for July and August will support *the Odyssey Church*. Located in Dutchess County, *Odyssey* is a ministry that focuses on a safe place for people of all disabilities to be a part of a community where they experience God’s love and grace. They offer: Worship Services, Fun Nights, Bible Studies, Pastoral Care and Grief Processing, as well as other services. Visit their website at: odysseychurch.org if you would like to learn more.



*Note : the Mission of the Month for June 2026 CAPS
Collected \$445.00*



July Birthdays

August 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
- 28 Ward Breithaupt

- 1 Pastor Brian Steadman
- 2 Aubrey Stokes
- 5 Robert Schlichting
- 12 Charlie Harries
- 13 Diane Bradley
- 15 Maria Finger
- 16 Anita Hadley
- 16 Brian Stocker
- 27 Eben Steadman



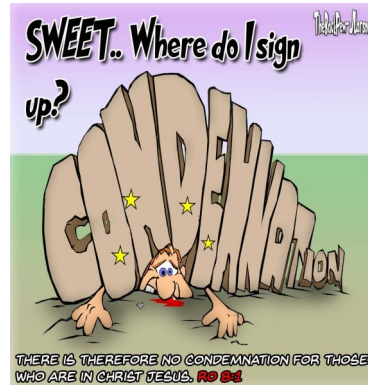
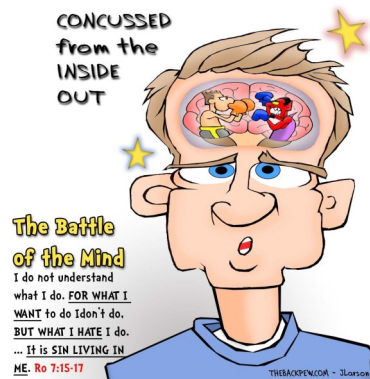
July Anniversaries

August Anniversaries

- 8 Linda & Ray Wells
- 24 Linda & Harry McCarthy

- 3 Vera & Paul Rubeo
- 4 Bonnie & Kevin Lalor

The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth



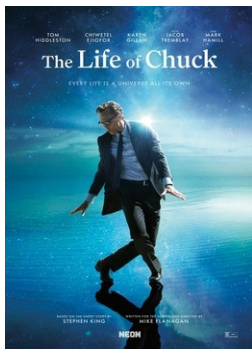
MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

July 18, THE PENGUIN LESSONS (2024), Kingston Library, 55 Franklin St., Kingston — A heart-warming comedy drama, inspired by a true story. It follows disillusioned British school-teacher Tom (Steve Coogan), who goes to work in Argentina in 1976. Argentina just had a coup d'etat (or *golpe de estado* in Spanish) with the overthrow of President Isabel Perón and the installation of a military junta. Not knowing what to expect but thinking his job would be easy, Tom finds his class of students to be unteachable. When a bombing in the city sends students home for a week, Tom takes a trip across the nearby border to Uruguay and happens on an oil slick on a beach that killed several Patagonian penguins — except for one. Tom takes the surviving penguin to his hotel room to clean it in the bathtub. He then releases the penguin back to the ocean, only to find it keeps coming back to him. A week later, after he can't get rid of the penguin, Tom brings it into his classroom. The penguin becomes a catalyst for connection and transformation, engaging previously indifferent students and fostering a renewed sense of purpose. *“An engaging delight from start to finish.”* — Frank Scheck, The Hollywood Reporter. *“A work of surprising depth and subtle, irresistible impact.”* — Rex Reed, The (New York) Observer. *“Wins us over with amusing antics that are accompanied by deeper ideas about identity and political integrity.”* — Rich Cline, Shadows on the Wall. *Rated PG-13.*

The Penguin Lessons



Aug. 15, THE LIFE OF CHUCK (2024), Woodstock Reformed Church, 16 Tinker St., Woodstock — A life-affirming, thought-provoking story — told in reverse — about three defining chapters in the life of ordinary man Charles Krantz (Tom Hiddleston). Based on Stephen King's novella, the film begins in a crumbling world, where mysterious billboards appear: “Charles Krantz. Thirty-nine great years. Thanks, Chuck!” As the narrative rewinds, we witness his adult joys, childhood fears and quiet moments that shaped him. Blending existential wonder, nostalgia and surrealism, the story reminds us that life's fleeting pleasures — a perfect dance, a blue-sky day, a serendipitous meeting — can be what truly define us. *“A deeply moving film about the fleeting nature of life and the importance of embracing every moment.”* — Louisa Moore, Screen Zealots. *“One of the best ensembles of the year.”* — Brian Tallerico, RogerEbert.com. *“Only the hardest of cynics won't be won over by the uplifting, earnest depiction of the complex universes — of the multitudes — within each and every one of us.”* — Megan Navarro, Bloody Disgusting. *Rated R.*



What is the Lord's Prayer? Breaking down how Jesus teaches prayer.

By Rev. Stephanie Soderstrom and Rev. Terry DeYoung

A lot of people, whether they are raised in the church or not, are familiar with or aware of the [Lord's Prayer](#). But what is it really? And what can it teach us about how to pray as Jesus prayed?

In this series, we will explore the Lord's Prayer phrase by phrase. We will consider what each petition means and think about how to apply it to our own lives. We believe that prayer is a powerful tool for shaping how we think about God, ourselves, the world, and our role in the world. The Lord's Prayer not only teaches us how to pray like Jesus by giving us words to say, but it also leads us into a rich and meaningful way of talking to and hearing from the Lord.

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name"

The opening of the Lord's Prayer begins by telling us about God, the one we are praying to. It addresses God with praise and adoration. Starting with praise and proclaiming the truth of who God is before anything else highlights the importance of who God is. Biblically, it is often true that what comes first matters the most. Before we talk about ourselves and our needs, we praise God—and do so with reverence. The way that we name and honor God in the Lord's Prayer tells us four important things about God.

Our

The first word of the Lord's Prayer reminds us that we are not individuals praying alone, as if claiming that God is unique to us. We are part of a greater community, the body of Christ, reaching out to the God who first reached out to us, the God who made us a people ([1 Peter 2:10](#)).

Father

We name God as Father because we also know Jesus Christ as the Son. By naming God as his father, Jesus reveals the familial relationship and intimacy that is part of God's own life (Father, Son, Spirit), which is Trinitarian and relational. To address God as Father is not to say that God is inherently or exclusively male. Christians have always believed that God is greater than any human conception of gender. God the Father is God the Creator, who spoke the world into existence. God the Father is God the Creator, who knows the number of hairs on your head. God is not only expansive beyond understanding, but also personal and in close relationship to each of us. God the Father knows us intimately; in fact, God knows us better than we know ourselves.

In heaven

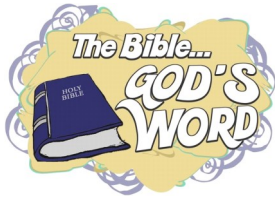
Where is God? The Lord's Prayer locates God in heaven, a realm that is beyond the earth and its boundaries, beyond our countries and our sanctuaries. We properly name that God is not of this earth, because the world cannot contain God. God cannot be made small, domesticated, or tamed. We also acknowledge that while God is the Creator, God is not creation itself. God is above and beyond the created world and cannot be contained by it.

Hallowed be your name

Hallowed isn't a word that we throw around very often. It means holy, honored, greatly revered. So if you want to say, "Holy is your name," that would also be acceptable. God is holy and above all other names or beings. Naming God as holy sets God apart from us and humbles us. It is also part of an Old Testament tradition of naming God based on God's character ([Genesis 16:13](#), [Genesis 21:33](#), [Jeremiah 23:6](#)).

As you take time to pray and meditate on this phrase in the Lord's Prayer, praise God by continuing to name God's character. What other words describe God? How do you know God is holy? Consider how you can actively show your reverence for God today.

Lectionary Scripture Readings for July and August 2026



First reading and Psalm	Alternate first reading	Second reading	Gospel
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July 5, 2026	Gen24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Rom7:15-25a; Mat 11:16-19, 25-30
July 12, 2026	Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19, 2026	Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-2, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30
July 26, 2026	Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33
August 2, 2026	Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
August 9, 2026	Genesis 37:1-4; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
August 16, 2026	Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28
August 23, 2026	Exodus 1: 8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
August 30, 2026	Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Men's Fellowship Night

June 30th, 7pm to 9pm at the parsonage, bring your own beverages and snacks



MEN'S GROUP



July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 6:30-10:30 pm
5 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church	6	7 5-8 pm AA (FH)	8 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	9	10	11
12 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church	13	14 9 am—3 pm Woodstock Weavers (FH)	15 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	16	17	18
19 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church	20 REFORMER DEADLINE	21	22	23	24	25
5-8 pm AA (FH)		5-8 pm AA (FH)	4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)		5-9:00 pm ANA (FH)	
2 10:00 am—12 pm Breakfast Church & Praise	27	28 5-8 pm AA (FH)	29 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	30	31	
5-8 pm AA (FH)		5-8 pm AA (FH)	4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)			

August 2026

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	3	4 5-8 pm AA (FH)	5 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	6	7	8	
9 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church	10	11 9 am—3 pm Woodstock Weavers (FH)	12 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	13	14	15	
16 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church	17	18 5-8 pm AA (FH)	19 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	20 REFORMER DEADLINE	21 5-9:00 pm ANA (FH)	22	
23 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Children's Church 5-8 pm AA (FH)	24	25 5-8 pm AA (FH)	26 4-9:30 pm SCA (FH)	27	28	29	
30 10:00 am—12:00 pm Breakfast Church & Praise 10:00 am Children's	31						



July / August
2026

We're on the net!
Therpcpe.org

(845) 331-2782 Church Office
(845) 331-2782 Church Hall
E-mail: office@rcape.info

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen
at Salem and Green Streets
P.O. Box 580, Port Ewen, NY 12466
Reverend Brian Steadman—Pastor

Our facilities are handicapped accessible