



## The Open Door - June 2026

The Reformed Church of Bushkill  
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*"Striving to Do What Christ Tells Us through Scripture"*

*1 Corinthians 3:6: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."*

Beloved Congregation and Friends,

Water is important and essential for life. As we slip into the summer months, plants use water and sunlight to make their own food. This releases the oxygen we need to breathe. When the apostle Paul was speaking to the church and its leaders in Corinth, he was not explaining the photosynthesis of plants. He was speaking of the past, the present, and God in all of it. This is a message for the church today.

It is a great message for a church in transition. In transition we are reframing how the church functions and continue to work together, by using the divine power of God, who remains our only permanent constant. Those who planted the seeds are all those leaders who decided to break new ground to establish ministries and cast a new vision for the Reformed Church of Bushkill. There was a lot of work done and big decisions made that were necessary.

When that season ended, the waterers came in. We are the waterers! We are in the season of making sure everyone is nurtured, managed and cared for. The foundation is strong and all we have to do is sustain it, to keep watering this seed.

As the apostle Paul said, God is the Grower. We have seen leaders come and go, seasons come and go but, the source of life does not. People ask how they can make the church grow. Sisters and brothers, only God can guarantee the survival and expansion of the church. Only God can make faith grow.

The "waterer" uses different tools than the "planter." The congregation must allow new leaders to use their specific gifts to nurture the church. Therefore, we don't panic in transition because we have faith in our Grower.

Enjoy all the growth you see this summer. And remember to continue watering.

May the warmth of Christ be with you,  
Pastor Marisol

### Men's Target Shoot June 6th



The Annual Men's Target Shoot will be at Steve Schoonover's home in Bushkill on Saturday, June 6th, beginning at 10:00 AM.

There will be several hours of target shooting, followed by lunch and a time of devotion.

All men are welcome, however, boys younger than 18 years old must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Please sign up on the flyer in Rottenberg Hall or email Steve, [grgroups@ptd.net](mailto:grgroups@ptd.net) that you are attending so he can plan for food.



### Breakfast - June 7th

Join us for a delicious Breakfast Buffet on Sunday, June 7th from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM! Come early before the worship service to enjoy hot food, great conversation, and Christian fellowship. Invite a neighbor!

The *Open Door* is for everyone and it is a great way to update everybody on what is going on in the church and what your ministry doing, as well as those seeking out a church online.

Articles for the July *Open Door* are due by Tuesday, June 16th.

Leave them in the church office mailbox across from the nursery, stop by the church office or e-mail directly to the church office:  
bshklch@ptd.net

Father's Day is Sunday, June 21st and why not have some fun that day.



If you are able, men should wear crazy socks that day and the craziest socks have a chance to win prizes!



We will have a Movie Matinee at 12:30 PM on Tuesday, June 23rd in Rottenberg Hall, "The Blue Miracle".

Bring your lunch if you'd like; some snacks will be provided.

## Mission Trip - June 22 through 27

This year's mission trip will be the week of June 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. The majority vote was to Asheville, North Carolina. We will leave early in the morning on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and drive 11 hours. We decided to use a rental van to guarantee ample room for all passengers and their belongings.

Housing, food, and supplies for our use are provided. If you are on a special diet, please bring your own food.

We will be doing disaster, rebuild, cleanup and etc. There is also a food pantry, VBS, senior camp, family, ministry, clothing, distribution, and other ministries if rebuild is not for you.

There is no age limit, however, if someone is under 18 they may come as long as they have adult supervision.

Anyone who would like to go, please let Kristen VanWhy know as soon as possible; our paperwork needs to be filled out to secure our housing and such. You will need to bring sleeping bag and pillow.

All will need to have a background check, certificate of ministry, safe sanctuary or similar program. This can be done online and we were informed it's very easy.

We are awaiting response to see if we need to bring our own tools.

Please contact Kristen with any questions or concerns, 570-994-3056.

Happy Birthday greetings for the month:



Erin Reagan - June 7

Theresa Taylor - June 12

Caroline Agosto - June 23

Volunteers are needed to make dessert for the monthly birthday celebration. See Kristen or call her, 570-994-3056, if you can help.

## Financial Report - Joe Bush

Month of April 2026:

Income: \$8,933.19

Year to date: \$38,146.64

Budgeted: \$83,890.00

Expenses: \$18,721.45

Year to date: \$88,608.41

Budgeted: \$197,149.71

God bless,  
Joseph Bush

## A Journey Through Romans: The Benefits of Justification

By Bryon Kenne



Romans 5 reminds us that salvation is not only about what God will do for believers in the future; Paul also wants us to appreciate the blessings that justification brings right now. In our last article on Romans 4, Paul explains that we are justified by faith, not by works.

Then in Romans 5, he begins to unfold the tangible benefits that flow from being made right with God through Jesus Christ.

Paul writes, “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” (Romans 5:1, BSB). This peace is one of the first great benefits of salvation. In our world, people are constantly searching for peace—peace between nations, peace in families, peace in their own hearts. Yet as long as sin rules the human heart, lasting peace will always remain out of reach. True peace begins not with politics, comfort, or circumstances, but with being reconciled to God.

This peace is like the calm that comes after a violent storm. The wind may still blow, and the ground may still be wet, but the storm has passed. In the same way, believers may still face pressure, stress, and hardship, but the greatest conflict has been settled. Through Christ, God no longer holds our sins against us. We are forgiven. We are no longer guilty before Him. That is the peace Paul is describing—not a temporary feeling, but a settled, forever relationship with God.

A second benefit is **access**. Romans 5:2 (BSB) says that through Christ “through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we stand.” Because of sin, humanity lost the close fellowship with God that Adam and Eve enjoyed in the Garden of Eden. But through Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension, the way back into relationship with God has been opened. Believers now have access to God in prayer.

This access is like a child running freely into the arms of a loving father. The child does not need to earn permission every time. The relationship already exists. In Christ, we do not stand outside the door hoping God will notice us. We are welcomed into His presence by grace.

The third benefit is **hope**. Paul also tells us that believers “rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.” (Romans 5:2, BSB). The “glory of God” refers to His perfect and wonderful presence. This hope is not wishful thinking. It is a secure future based on God’s promise. Isaiah 14:26 reminds us that God has a plan for the whole earth, and part of that plan is to restore His relationship with His people. Because of this, Christians should be joyful and eager to share the good news with others.

The world is hungry for hope. Many people are restless, disappointed, and searching for meaning. Like dry ground waiting for rain, the human heart longs for something that can truly satisfy. The world often promises fulfillment but leaves people empty. Only the presence of Christ can fill that emptiness with lasting hope.

Romans 5 also teaches that believers can have **victory in troubles**. Paul says, “Not only that, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” (Romans 5:3–4, BSB). This does not mean suffering is easy or enjoyable; rather, it means God can use trouble to produce spiritual strength in us.

A tree does not grow strong in a windless field. Its roots deepen as it faces storms. In the same way, trials can deepen our faith. God uses difficulty to produce patience, endurance, and hope. Trouble does not have the final word in the Christian life. God is at work even during the hardest of times.

Another blessing is the **love of God**. Romans 5:5 (BSB) says that “And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.” This does not mainly refer to our love for God, but to God’s love for us. The Holy

Spirit makes God's love real in the hearts of believers. We need to be reminded continuously that God loves us—not because we are worthy, but because He is gracious.

This love is like sunlight breaking through the clouds. The sun was always there, even when hidden from view. In the same way, God's love is constant, even when we do not feel it. The Holy Spirit helps us become aware of that love and rest in it. Romans 5:6 reminds us that Christ died for us while we were still weak. Regardless of who we are or what we have done, we cannot stop God from loving us.

Paul also mentions the gift of the **Holy Spirit**. Romans 5:5 is the first time in the book of Romans that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is mentioned. Paul will say much more about the Spirit later in Romans 8, but here we learn something deeply important: the Holy Spirit is given to every believer. He is not given only to a few special Christians. He is given to all who belong to Christ. The Spirit makes God's love personal and real to us.

Another benefit is **deliverance from wrath**. Romans 5:9 (BSB) says, "Therefore, since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from wrath through Him!" Believers are not saved because they are worthy. We are saved by grace. We live by grace. And for all eternity, we will remain in the presence of God by grace. Our confidence is not in ourselves but in the finished work of Christ.

Finally, Romans 5 points us to **joy**. Verse 11 says, "Not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." (Romans 5:11, BSB) God has worked out a plan to save us because of His love. He has given us peace, access, hope, strength in trouble, His love, the Holy Spirit, deliverance from wrath, and joy. These are not distant blessings only for heaven. They are present gifts for the believer today at this very moment.

Romans 5 calls the church to rejoice! We have been brought from guilt to forgiveness, from distance to access, from despair to hope, and from enmity to friendship with God. Like a river flowing from a deep spring, these blessings come from the grace of God in Jesus Christ. Since God has done all this for us, we should live with gratitude, confidence, and a renewed desire to share this good news with the world around us.

Amen and Amen.

Note to reader: the eight benefits of justification are adapted from Dr. Vernon McGee in his classic series *Thru the Bible with Vernon McGee*.

Recommended Reading: *Letters from the Desert* by Carlos Carretto.

## A Note from The Angel's Closet

We would like to thank everyone who generously donated items to The Angel's Closet during our Mother's Day donation event. We appreciate your willingness to help families in need.

We are so grateful to have such a wonderful church family and we really love being here at the church; our workroom space is perfect for us.

If you would like to make an appointment to see Pastor Marisol, call the church office, 570-588-6773.

If you have a mid-week prayer request for our e-mail prayer team please e-mail Jen Schoonover, schooent@ptd.net or call/text her at 570-534-5752.

If you'd like to be on our mailing list to receive the *Open Door*, any other mailings and weather-related updates, please e-mail, bshklch@ptd.net or call the church office, 570-588-6773.

The church receives points back from Staples for recycled ink cartridges, which we use for office supplies.

If you have any depleted ink cartridges, please consider leaving them in the church office mailbox located near the nursery or see Mary after the service.

Please bring in your Mignosi's Foodtown receipts.

There is a bin in the narthex for them. Mignosi's generously donates 1% of the receipts minus a few ineligible items.

Thank you!

The *Our Daily Bread* devotional is always available in the narthex as well as large-print editions.

Feel free to take a copy and some extras for your friends and family.