



The Open Door - July 2026

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

Pastor's Corner

Beloved Congregation and Friends,

Summer is fully here, bringing families together with picnics and barbecues, and sunny Sundays of worship. With so much happening in the Poconos area, it is easy to focus only on what happens inside our own building. However, our congregation does not walk alone. This past June, leaders from across the country gathered for the Reformed Church in America General Synod. You might wonder how a large national meeting impacts our daily life. The truth is, our connection to the wider denomination shapes who we are and strengthens our ministry right here in our neighborhood.

The General Synod is a gathering of pastors and elders who pray, discern, and make decisions together. Think of it as a family reunion with a purpose, ensuring our churches stay unified in faith and mission. This connection brings immense strength to our pews. It provides us with Sunday school materials, trains our leaders, invites Generation Spark to mentor intergenerational relationships, and vets our pastors. By pooling resources with other churches, our local mission budget goes further to support global relief. Most importantly, it reminds us of the truth in 1 Corinthians 12:12, which says, "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."

When we support the General Synod, we invest in the health of our own church family. It gives us accountability, deepens our roots, and expands our capacity to love and serve. Thank you for your prayers, your faithful giving, and your hands-on service that keep our connections so alive.

In Christ,

Pastor Marisol



Christmas in July

Please help the deacons to celebrate Christmas in July by filling a shoe box for children in need through the Operation Christmas Child program. There is a table set up in the narthex with boxes for you to fill, information about what to put in a box, and what is not allowed in a box. There are also prayer cards, ornaments and other items for your information. Please fill your box with the suggested items on the list, and bring it back during the month of July. It may be nice to ask a friend to do it with you to help with the cost, but most items can be found at a small cost at local dollar stores. If you would like to help with the shipping, which is \$10.00, please make the checks payable to the deacons. Please write postage on the memo line. If you have any questions please see Diane Jiorle, Juanita Rivera or Yvonne Rodriguez.

Thank you all; your gift will be a blessing to a child.

Breakfast - July 5th



Join us for a delicious Breakfast Buffet on Sunday, July 5th from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM! Come early before the worship service to enjoy yummy food, great conversation, and Christian fellowship. Invite a friend!



Fellowship Hour for July 5th is
As American as Red, White and Blue.
If you are able, please bring something
to share that is red, white or blue.

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

Articles for the August *Open Door* are due by Wednesday, July 15th.

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



Happy Birthday greetings for the month:

Mary Scarnecchia - July 6

Lisa Niper - July 16

Wayne Taylor - July 23

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

Faith, Hope & Charity (Love) - Maria Romero-Tomba

How is faith, hope and charity working in your life? The Bible says, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen..." (Hebrews 11:1 KJV). 1 Corinthians 13:2 also reminds us that with faith we can move mountains. When the apostle Paul was documenting Jesus' words, he was addressing the power of our spirit. "For God so loved the world, He gave his only Begotten Son ..." (John 3:16). When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, he reminded his disciples that "the spirit is indeed willing but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41). Jesus was telling his disciples they needed their spirit to get them through the tough times. As humans, we are multifaceted, and we need to rely on our spirit rather than our physicality. You will agree with me that we are comprised of a body, a soul and a spirit. The soul keeps us alive. "God breathed into his nostril the breath of life and man became a living soul." (Genesis 2:7). Once the breath departs permanently, we become a corpse. To quote Dr. Wayne Dyer who took a page out of French philosopher, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's work, coined the phrase, "We are spirits having a human experience."

Unfortunately, some of us believe we are on planet Earth to have a great vacation. It is also a given that not all vacations turn out to be the way we envision them. In those cases, we need to find the fortitude to surmount the adversities we encounter. Adversities, problems, calamities, whatever we wish to call them, are life's lessons, which build spiritual muscle. In these situations, we need to engage our spiritual self to get through, rather than focusing only on our physicality. Absorb God's essence which is love because IT "never dies."

Faith like hope is nebulous and intangible. We cannot grab hold of it with our hands. We cannot touch it or feel it with our hands. They exist in the ethereal, they are substances that exist in the mind as a thought. They are both intangible elements that propel us to connect with our spirit which is also ethereal. The spirit also cannot be seen, but its force can be felt through the elevation of consciousness which allows us to transcend our physicality and connect to our spirituality where we can discover and experience the essence of who we truly are. There is no fear in faith.

Love is also ethereal, but we have managed to drag it down to our level, by creating “love objects” which we can touch and visualize with our physical senses, and these objects can range anywhere from people to trinkets and everything in between. Love is so maligned, which is quite possibly why Jesus chose to use the world charity to describe love.

May God help us to discover who we truly are, because this discovery will elevate our consciousness and vibration and bring us closer to him.

The Angel's Closet Update

The Angel's Closet continues to be busy, and we appreciate the generous support from our church family. We have given out 84 bundles so far this year to families in need in our surrounding communities. If you know of anyone who needs a bundle, please contact us. We make newborn through 12 month bundles. We will make bigger size bundles if we get donations of bigger sizes. We especially need footed sleepers in 0-3 months, 6-9 months and 12 months. We always appreciate new bibs, new socks and receiving blankets.

Please see Caroline Agosto, Diane Jiorle or Mary Scarnecchia if you have any questions.

Thank you all!

A Journey Through Romans: Give Yourself Completely to God

By Bryon Kenne



Take a few minutes to read Romans chapter 6.

Romans 6 teaches us about both positional and practical sanctification. This chapter builds on Romans 5 by showing that sin came through Adam's headship, while sanctification, life, and righteousness come through Christ's headship (cf. Romans 5:16). Because Christ removes the guilt of sin for those who trust in Him, He can also work in their lives to make them righteous and good.

At the heart of our reading, Paul writes, “Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.” (Romans 6:12-13 NLT) This directly applies to the topic of sanctification by emphasizing that believers are no longer ruled by sin but are called to actively surrender every part of life to God. Sanctification is the ongoing process by which God transforms us so that our thoughts, desires, words, and actions become instruments of righteousness for His glory.

You may ask, what is positional and practical sanctification; and this is a perfect place to start as we explore Romans 6. **Positional Sanctification** is what is already true of the believer because of union with Christ: as believers, we have been identified with Christ in His death and resurrection, so sin no longer has the same ruling claim over us. The first half of Romans 6 focuses on positional sanctification (cf. Romans 6:1-14). The second half of Roman 6 deals with **Practical Sanctification**, which is the daily outworking of that position: as believers, we must now “present” ourselves to God instead of returning our bodies to sin. Romans 6 moves from what God has made

true positionally to how the Christian should live practically—by faith, obedience to Christ, dependence on the Holy Spirit, and presenting every part of life to God.

As we move from the relationship between the justification of Romans 5 to the sanctification of Romans 6, we must realize that Paul is building a foundation. Upon the foundation of justification, we can begin being sanctified. Justification deals with our standing before God. The guilt and penalty of sin have been removed through Christ. However, sanctification deals with God's continuing work in us. Whereas grace through faith in the redemptive work of Christ Jesus brings instantaneous salvation, sanctification, on the other hand, is a lifelong process preparing us for the new world to come.

This is why Romans 6 is so important. Paul teaches that believers have been united with Christ in His death and resurrection. "For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives." (Romans 6:4, NLT). Our position has changed. We are no longer in Adam, under the reign of sin, but in Christ, under grace. Romans 6:11 (NLT) says, "so you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus."

It is crucial to note that being dead to sin "positionally" does not mean believers no longer struggle with sin "practically." The old nature, our old sin nature, still remains present; and Christian life cannot be lived by human strength alone, rather through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is why Paul commands believers, "do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires." (Romans 6:12, NLT).

Sanctification, therefore, involves surrender. Paul continues, "do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God." (Romans 6:13, NLT).

Many believers have trusted Christ for salvation, but the real question is whether we are trusting Him in daily life. Are you trusting and counting on Christ daily? Our problems as Christians often come when we allow ourselves to indulge in the old nature instead of presenting ourselves to God.

Maybe this can be illustrated by an analogy: A man once moved out of an old, broken-down house into a beautiful new home that had been prepared for him. Yet every evening, instead of enjoying the warmth, light, and safety of the new house, he kept walking back to the old house to sit on the porch. One day a friend asked him, "Why do you keep coming back here when you no longer live here and, in fact, have a new, perfect home?" The man replied, "I guess I never learned to stop living like this was still my home."

That is how many believers struggle in the Christian life. In Christ, we have been given a new position, a new life, and a new Master, yet we often drift back toward the old patterns that once ruled us. Romans 6 reminds us not to live too close to the old life, but to return ourselves fully to God and walk in the newness of life Christ has given us.

Romans 6 also uses the image of slavery. Paul writes, "Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey?" (Romans 6:16, NLT). In Paul's world, this was a powerful picture and resonated with his audience. In the Roman Empire, nearly half of 120 million people were slaves, and many Christians were slaves as well. Paul's point is that everyone serves someone. The believer has been set free from sin to become a servant of righteousness.

Therefore, Romans 6 teaches that sanctification is both positional and practical. Positionally, believers have died and risen with Christ. Practically, they must present themselves to God each day. The good news is that sin no longer has the final authority over the believer. "Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace." (Romans 6:14, NLT).

Because we belong to Christ, we are called to live like those who are alive from the dead, giving our whole lives to God for His glory.

Amen and Amen.

Greetings Brothers and Sisters

Recently we concluded a Bible study on the Minor Prophets. I wanted to share with you some things The Holy Spirit shared with me during this study.

First is that King Jesus is coming back soon! Did you know that the Bible speaks of Jesus second coming much more than His first? It's true yet we don't discuss it nearly as much. We can easily look back at the past and see how God has worked in the life of the Israelites (like we studied), or the birth and life of Jesus that occurred over 2000 years ago but when it comes to the future.....if we are honest, it's just all to supernatural. We must ask ourselves, do we really have faith? Do we really believe He is coming back and will reign as King in Jerusalem for 1000 years? He is.

Second thing is "The great and dreadful day of the Lord" is just as layered and multifaceted as the prophecies we studied. Judgement is coming. In our lives, our nation and for the world. We must look at the Bible as a mirror and repent of our sin. A Holy God simply can't allow evil to remain. He is perfectly just and perfectly merciful. During this study He revealed over and over the sin of Israel and the impending judgement it triggered. We are guilty of the same sin. Our idols may not be other foreign gods but they are money, pride, even relationships. Our injustices are equal or greater than theirs. We must not just look at the past but look at our lives and repent. If we don't judgement will be ours.

The third thing is that God still speaks as specifically and with the same detail today. Are we listening? Are we putting away the things of this world to spend time with our Lord? It's in that quiet place with that still small voice that Lord wants to reveal Himself to you. He put pieces of the Bible together for me that I never saw before. As we were studying The Holy Spirit reminded me of other scriptures that pertained to the millennium, the same imagery we were studying that were in different books (like Revelation and Ezekiel). It was like He was connecting the dots for me.....it drew me in and got me excited about what He was doing. One word from the Lord can change everything!!

He wants us to know Him more, He wants to warn you of the consequence of sin because He wants to spend eternity with you.....I encourage you to seek Him with your whole heart.....there is nothing that compares.

Elder Erin Reagan

Financial Report - Joe Bush

Month of May 2026:

Income: \$10,410.37

Year to date: \$157,118.96

Budgeted: \$83,890.00

Expenses: \$14,837.52

Year to date: \$221,367.60

Budgeted: \$197,149.71

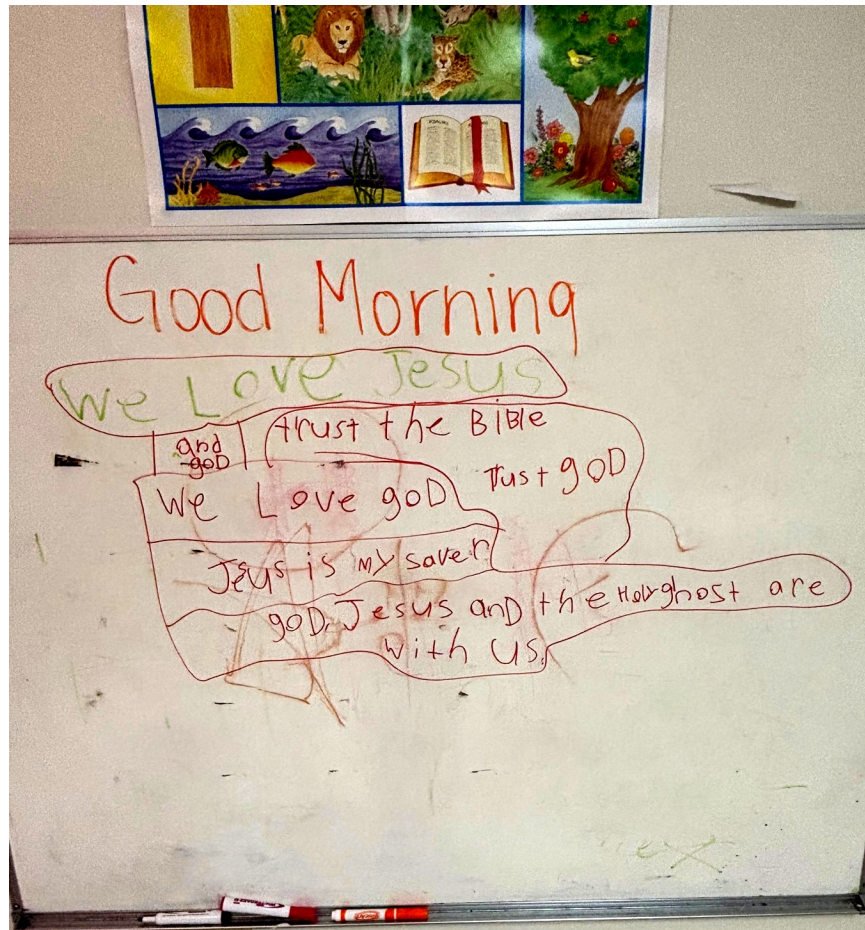
God bless,
Joseph Bush

Another year of Sunday School has come to a close!

Two faithful kids attended every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month because of breakfast. We learned that GOD loves us more than anyone and cares for us all the time. Praying was something we talked about and learned there are many different ways to talk to GOD. There were Bible stories, many games and even a craft or two to strengthen the lesson.

Our Sunday school may not look the same as other Sunday School classes, as we have a span of ages and challenges. I often wonder are they learning, do they understand, and is it making a difference. Then I look at the white board at the end of a lesson, where I think a kid is drawing, and I see THIS!

I ask that you pray about Sunday School, for the kids, the leaders, and growth. I would also like to have you consider helping out with this important mission! I have been in this role for 18 years. The joy is something you should experience and the children could use. We stand and promise GOD that we will lead them in the way when the children are baptized, let's do what we say (ouch that is harsh)! Please help out, I am tired and the kids need Sunday School.



A Note from Joe and Dorothy

To our church family,
 Words cannot express our gratitude for all the
 support - care and love shown to us during
 this difficult time in our lives.
 To lose a grandchild is very hard.
 A scholarship was set up so more children
 can study the culinary arts as she was or
 biotechnology.
 Thank you so much for your help in this cause.

Blessings to all,
 Joe and Dorothy Bush

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.