



# OUR NEXT PASTOR

**Reformed Presbyterian Church**

Ephrata, PA | August 2022

21 E. Locust Street  
Ephrata, PA 17522

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# Who We Are

## Mission Statement

Reformed Presbyterian Church (RPC) exists to be a stream of God's refreshing grace for people from all walks of life.

RPC's purpose is to allow this stream to penetrate our lives and empower our ministries so that we might be a changed people in whom God's grace prospers and abounds (John 15, Galatians 3:3). We desire for God's grace to flow out of our lives and ministry into all of our relationships so that our friends and community might see, taste, and experience the Father's healing grace (Psalms 36:8-9, John 7:38).

For a more complete description of our Vision for Ministry [please click here.](#)





# Where We Are

RPC is located in the heart of downtown Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

Ephrata Borough is a small town surrounded by suburban developments and farmland in northern Lancaster County, PA. It is centrally located to several cities and attractions: downtown Lancaster (30 min.), Reading (30 min.), Hershey (45 min.), Harrisburg (50 min.), Philadelphia (90 min.), Baltimore (90 min.) and Washington D.C. (2.5 hours).



Ephrata is proud of its history and heritage. It is named after the biblical town Ephrathah and is sister city to Eberbach, Germany, the origin of its founder, Conrad Beissel. Ephrata was established in 1732 as a religious community, known locally as the Ephrata Cloister, and was well known for its calligraphic *Frakturschriften* art, music, and printing works. As the cloister community declined in the early 19th century,

the town itself grew to become a regional center of commerce. The openings of the Mountain Springs Resort and the Mount Vernon House, as well as its fame as a key stop along the Reading & Columbia Railroad further fueled the town's development. Ephrata became an incorporated borough in 1891.

In recent years, Ephrata has established itself as a thriving community, cultural hub, and tourist destination. It is home to a lively downtown plaza, the largest street fair in Pennsylvania, a beautiful rail trail, several parks and recreational areas, and an abundance of family-owned eateries and businesses.



**For further information, please visit:**

Mainspring of Ephrata: <https://mainspringofephrata.org/>

Borough of Ephrata: <https://ephrataboro.org/>

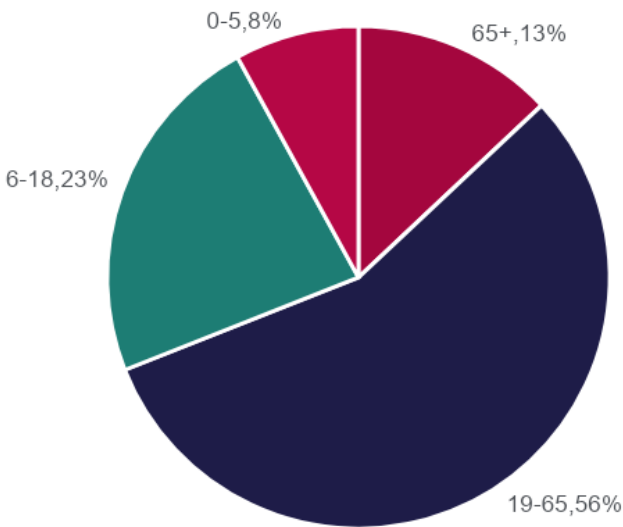
Ephrata Area School District: <https://easdpa.org/>

# Ephrata Area Statistics

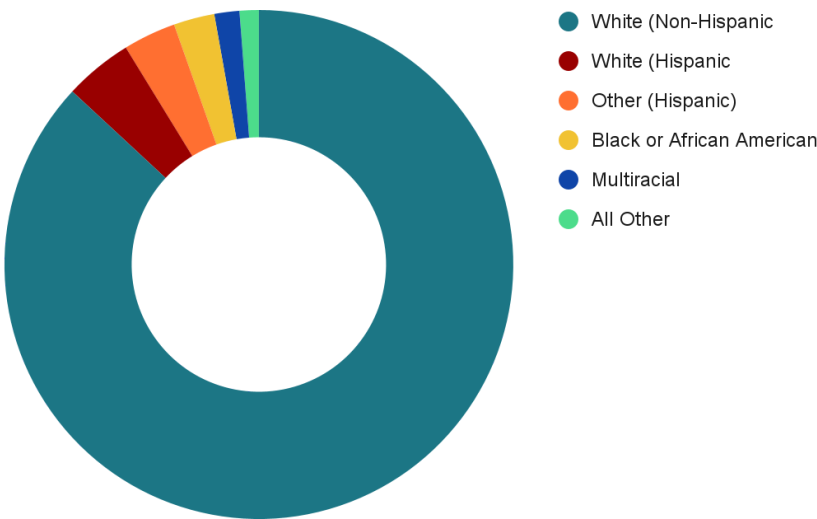
**13,394**  
PEOPLE

AVG HOUSEHOLD INCOME  
**\$47,357**

Age Distribution



Race & Ethnicity



# Our Story



Reformed Presbyterian Church was founded on March 8, 1982, when a small group of members from Westminster Presbyterian Church (Lancaster, PA) met in the living room of a home in Ephrata. Within a few short years, that group grew into a church of 65 members, called Rev. Stephen Beck as their organizing pastor, and acquired the former Pioneer Fire Company building as their new home. RPC became a particularized church in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America on May 20, 1984.

In 1993, Rev. Tom Nicholas was installed as RPC's Senior Pastor. A large-scale renovation took place in 2000 to add a sanctuary, Sunday school rooms, and additional office space. Rev. Kevin Sheahan was hired as Assistant Pastor in January 2018 and was elected to the Associate Pastor position in 2020. Since Tom's retirement in June 2022, Kevin has been fulfilling pastoral duties while RPC seeks a solo pastor.

Over the years our ministry focus has evolved as the needs of our congregation and community have changed. We have a rich history of supporting and sending out missionaries, many of whom are "homegrown", to such places as England, Germany, South Asia, Taiwan, and Niger, among others. Supporting individuals and families touched by disability and ministering to their unique and specific needs have always been a hallmark of our church. We strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus within the Ephrata community through mercy ministry, outreach, and the occasional new endeavor. For example, we are currently piloting an English as a Second Language (ESL) program focused on reaching our non-English-speaking neighbors. This program is set to launch in Fall 2022.

Our congregation is blessed to be a family that spans a wide age range and multiple generations. We seek to train up our covenant children through our Children's Worship, Sunday school, Youth Group, and summer Kingdom Kids programs. We also prioritize adult Christian education through various means such as (but not limited to) Bible study, CAFE and elective Sunday school classes, and small groups. Because building relationships and loving one another well is important to us, we also host multiple corporate fellowship events scheduled throughout the year. Our summer picnic and fall tailgate party & chili cookoff are big favorites! For a more thorough description of our ministries, [please click here](http://www.ephratarpc.com).



# Our Core Values

- We are a congregation composed of various social and religious backgrounds who have found unity in the grace of Jesus Christ.
- We want to explore the richness of God's truth and grace as revealed in the Bible, and offer lives of humble gratitude in response.
- Biblical honesty and mutual respect are important to us.
- We are a part of a growing and biblically passionate denomination.
- We strive to take care of one another. While we're still learning the best ways to do that, God has taught us a great deal over the years.
- We seek to love our neighbors by serving in our neighborhoods. You will find us to be a congregation that is actively involved in serving the greater Ephrata area in a variety of creative ways.
- Our ultimate desire is to be used by the Spirit to connect the hopeless, the wandering, the hurting, and the ordinary to the grace and hope of Jesus.



# Our People

156

Active Members

116

Avg Service  
Attendance



97

Family Units

12

Avg Youth  
Attendance

28

Avg Children  
Attendance



\$358,462

Annual Budget

# Our Staff and Leadership



## **Rev. Kevin Sheahan, Associate Pastor**

Kevin began as Assistant Pastor at RPC in January 2018 and was elected by our congregation to become our Associate Pastor in 2020. He was raised in Vermont, received his BA in Philosophy from James Madison University (2000), an MFA in Creative Writing from Southern New Hampshire University (2009), and an M.Div. from Reformed Theology Seminary in Orlando (2014). Kevin is married to Angie and they have two sons.



## **Debi Hartranft, Office Manager**

Debi is a Lancaster County native and graduated from Conestoga Valley High School. She graduated from Columbia Biblical University with a BS in Bible. Debi began work as RPC sexton (part-time) and has been working in the RPC office since 2003. Debi has been married to Craig since 1991 and they have one son, Ethan.



## **Alycia Weaver, Director of Children's Ministry**

Alycia has served as Director of Children's Ministry since the summer of 2021. She has a BS in Early Children Education and a BS in Special Education from Lebanon Valley College. She has worked as a Learning Support Director and an independent learning consultant. She and her husband Josiah have two daughters and one son.



## **Courtney Fogie, Director of Music Ministry**

Courtney was raised in Strasburg, PA and has attended RPC for over 25 years. She married her husband Seth in 1998 and is now a busy mother of four children. In addition to homeschooling her children she works part-time as a Client Services Manager for Crosswalk Investment Advisory, Inc. Courtney joined the RPC Praise Team in 1996 and has been the Director of Music Ministry since 2020.



### **Our Elders:**

- Nick Crowther
- Chuck Felak
- Joseph Interrante
- Anthony Martin
- Jon McElhany
- Jason Rutter
- Rusty Rutter
- Fred Thomas
- Kevin Tiemann
- Josiah Weaver
- Phil Weaver
- Donn Youndt

### **Our Deacons:**

- Jim Brandt
- Roger Coiner
- Jesse Gehman
- Woody Long
- Cory Martin
- Shawn Rudy
- Curt Snively
- Randy Stewart
- Dean Weaver
- Eric Weaver

### **Our Diaconal Assistants (non-ordained):**

- Josh Falk
- Jeremy Labs
- Jan Long
- Ed Martin
- Herb Noack
- Vicky Ruckert
- Vernon Sweigart

# Pastoral Search Committee



## Joe Interrante

Joe and his wife Kelly have been members of RPC since 2010. They are involved in the music program. Joe is an elder, teaches Sunday school, and helps with several ministries in the church.



## Donn Youndt

Donn and his wife Karen have attended RPC for over 30 years. They have three grown children and one grandchild. Donn serves as an elder.



## Roger Coiner

Roger and his wife Patty have been married 42 years and have attended RPC for 35 years. He currently serves as a deacon at RPC.



## Tammy Bernarduci

Tammy has been a member of RPC for over 25 years. She manages RPC's website, serves on the Missions Committee, Tech Committee, and serves in the nursery. Tammy works in IT overseeing eCommerce, Mobile Apps, and other commercial applications.



## Emily Rudy

Emily has been married to her husband, Shawn, for 14 years, and they have two children. Her family has attended RPC since 2012, and she has been a member for six years. Emily serves with the Hospitality and Adult Christian Ed. Committees, sings in the choir, and homeschools her children.



## Kathleen Golias

Kathleen is married and has been a member of RPC for nearly 9 years. She serves on the Hospitality Committee, sings in the choir and loves to play piano for the LORD.



### **Nick Klein**

Nick Klein has been a member of RPC since 2012 and has served as its youth leader since 2017. Nick also serves as the Chief Risk Officer at Ephrata National Bank and lives in Manheim Township with his wife Rachel and their three kids.



### **Amy Weaver**

Amy and her husband have been members of RPC since 1998. They have two adult children. Amy served as the Director of Children's Ministry for 8 years. She also served as a Youth leader, and is currently a part of the women's ministry team.



### **Josh Falk**

Josh has attended RPC for 5 years with wife Katelyn and two young boys. He is involved in singing with the praise team, serves as diaconal assistant and has helped teach youth Sunday School. Josh is a high school math teacher and track coach.



### **Deb Felak - Alternate**

Deb Felak has been a member of RPC since 1994, but has been active in the women's ministry since 1988. She has been involved in nearly every ministry of the church over those years and loves the church in spite of her shortcomings.



### **Ed Voigt - Alternate**

As an RPC member since 1989, his primary involvement has been in the church choir and as an adult Sunday school teacher. Ed and his wife Karen have three adult daughters, one of whom is married with an infant granddaughter, and he works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Philadelphia.



# The Pastor We're Praying For

The pastoral search committee and the congregation have been seeking the Lord's provision in bringing us the next shepherd for RPC. Using 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 as our guide, we seek a Solo Pastor who exhibits the following attributes:

## **Pastoral and Ministry Leadership**

- Knows who he is in Christ and is faithful in studying and preaching the Word of God boldly with urgency and conviction, bringing to bear on the changing needs of individuals, the local community, and the broader world.
- Is competent in communication and organizational leadership.
- Is experienced with casting a vision for the church, mentoring the staff and working with the Session to support programs for all age groups.
- Accepts administrative responsibilities in a climate of delegated tasks, shared leadership with the Session, and is a willing agent of change.
- Expresses eagerness to know, love, and shepherd the flock with Christ-like compassion and empathy.
- Desires to teach the word of God to all, working with the Session to develop educational needs and goals to support the overall mission of the church.

## **Position Requirements:**

- Has a thorough knowledge of Scripture and experience as an excellent preacher of the Word of God.
- Has obtained a Master of divinity degree, or equivalent, with pastoral ministry experience.
- Holds ordination in the Presbyterian Church in America or is eligible to transfer into the PCA.
- Is a wise and humble leader with a minimum of 4 years of pastoral experiences.
- Exhibits competency in communication and organizational leadership.

**Theological Requirements:**

- Affirms the inerrancy of the Bible as supreme authority with a commitment to reformed and covenantal theology.
- Endorses the Westminster Confession of Faith.
- Understands church history and is interested in and understands current theological issues.

**Personal Traits and Skills (*not listed in order of priority*):**

- Is a believer in Jesus Christ with the desire to see the name of Jesus exalted by the advancement of God's kingdom through evangelism and missions.
- Is a man of humility, integrity, and self-discipline.
- Is a man with a servant's heart who is engaging, loving, hospitable, personable, and approachable.
- Is a family man who enjoys the support of his wife as his helpmate at home and in ministry.

**To apply, please submit your Ministerial Data file here: [info@ephratarpc.com](mailto:info@ephratarpc.com)**

For more information about Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ephrata please visit [www.ephratarpc.com](http://www.ephratarpc.com).

If you have questions for the search committee, please email [info@ephratarpc.com](mailto:info@ephratarpc.com).