
John Meinen's Bio

John is the campus minister for Reformed University Fellowship on the UVM campus. Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) is a campus ministry that encourages students to build a personal relationship with Christ based on the Reformed Theology through fellowship and Bible Study.

After graduating from the University of Colorado in Boulder, John began chasing a career in international development. He lived in Bangladesh for half a year in 2005, and became burned out. Without any spiritual resources, he converted to atheism. In 2006, he went to Uganda where he encountered Christians who leaned toward suffering. They were living lives that begged a question only Jesus could answer. John asked them, "Why are you doing this?" They talked of a God who moves toward suffering. He always thought, "Oh, Christians," but their witness brought him to the table in a new way.

Long story short, John was invited to participate in the Falls Church Fellowship Program, a church-based leadership development program for recent college graduates, and that year he became a Christian. From there, he went to Gordon Conwell Seminary. He didn't intend to become a minister. He just wanted to learn to read the Bible in the original languages. In 2012, John earned his Masters of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, was ordained later that same year, and has been a RUF campus minister ever since.

In 2010, John married a wonderful woman named Megan. Since graduating from Davidson College in 2007, Megan has done some really cool stuff: she spent 35 days in Patagonia mountaineering with NOLS, pursued a Masters in outdoor education at the University of Edinburgh, directed a place-based summer camp at the Crane Estate in Ipswich, MA, and more! She currently manages the UVM ropes course.

John and Megan live in the Old North End and attend Church at the Well. John loves mountain biking, fly fishing, and writing. (He is currently attempting to write a poem a day. Ask him about it!) They are the proud parents of Willa (4 year old daughter) and Fella (black lab). They love sharing meals with friends, watching anything good on Netflix, and playing outside. If you want to know more about them, RUF, etc., please don't hesitate to contact John via email (john.meinen@ruf.org), cell (802.922.4202), or on Facebook.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

One of the chief themes throughout the Christmas story is the joyful obedience of God's people in light of His incredible provision. Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds hear God's announcement that the Christ is born and then do what He says. The chief thing His followers do today is to gather together to worship Him.

Sunday

Please join together with God's people in gathered worship either in-person or by participating in the live-stream. *If you are able to go in-person at all*, please do so today as it is communion Sunday and that is only something you are able to fully participate in through being there physically.

READ: The Scripture passage from this morning's sermon text (Mt 2:1-12).

DISCUSS: How can we encourage one another to trust Christ in our daily lives?

SING: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

PRAY: "Glory to God in the highest! You are worthy of all our praise." Now thank Him for specific ways in which He is worth all of your praise!

Monday

READ: Matthew 6:16-34.

DISCUSS: How do you see Jesus providing everything we need?

SING: *Angels We Have Heard on High* and *Good Christian Men, Rejoice!*

PRAY: "Glorious God, we praise You for giving us the Light of the world. Lord Christ, we do believe in Your name. It is through Your name that we are made children of God, co-heirs with You. We worship and adore You."

Tuesday

READ: Matthew 7:1-12; *Heidleberg Catechism* Question & Answer #36

How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you? He is our Mediator; with His innocence and perfect holiness He removes from God's sight my sin—mine since I was conceived.

SING: *Good Christian Men, Rejoice!*

DISCUSS: How are followers of Christ to obey the commands of the Bible?

PRAY: Merciful Lord, teach us to rest in You. Cease our striving. Still our frantic spirits. Makes us to know Your love fully so that we might obey You.

Wednesday - The Feast of the Epiphany
Christ Worshipped by Gentiles

READ ALOUD: Matthew 2:1-12

The promise of redemption had been given time and again to God's people. He chose to work through the nation of Israel in order to bless all the nations of the world. Read God's promise given to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3.

SING: *As with Gladness Men of Old*

DISCUSS: What is the significance of Gentiles coming to praise the King of Israel?

PRAY: Thank the Lord for sovereignly ruling and reigning over all nations.

FEAST: Enjoy a special meal as a thanksgiving offering to the King of Kings!

Thursday

READ: Mark 1:39-35

DISCUSS: What did Jesus do the first thing that day? Why? Is Jesus doing the things He was sent to do? How should I give thanks to God for His ministry?

PRAY: Thank you Father for the plan You have put in place to fulfill Your plan. Guide us Holy Spirit, to work on earth doing what You have called us to do.

Friday

READ: Philippians 2:1-11

DISCUSS: Do I have encouragement being united to Christ? Do I have any comfort being united to Christ? Why? Why not? What should my attitude be? Am I selfish? Do I live in such a way as to consider my interest above others?

PRAY: Lord, thank You for giving to me Your Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, move me to listen to You and refrain from my selfish ways.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. **READ** Hebrews 3:1-6 and I Corinthians 1:15-18. Invite others to watch the *live-stream service* with you tomorrow.