



Dec. 2 FIRST SUNDAYOF ADVENT Lighting the Advent Candle of Promise -the Booths

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Lectionary Readings: Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Psalm 25: 1-10; I Thessalonians 3: 9-13; Luke 21: 25-36

Greeter: Bridgett Critelli Liturgist: Amber Deyoe

Ushers: Dick Behrens/Holly Deyoe

Counters: Cindy Brockman/Amber Deyoe

Communion Servers: Paula Sheely, Anne Mitchell, Amber Deyoe

**Communion Cleanup: Bill Olmert** 

Dec. 9 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Lighting the Advent Candle of Bethlehem- the Mitchell Family

Lectionary Readings: Malachi 3: 1-4; Luke 1: 68-79; Philippians 1: 3-11; Luke 3: 1-6

Greeter: Patti Booth

Liturgist: Carolyn Markwith

Ushers: Matthew Waldinger/Ajay Deyoe Counters: Anne Mitchell/Amber Deyoe

Dec. 16 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Lighting the Advent Candle of Shepherds - The Women's Guild

Celebration of Baptism for McKenzie Marie Helwig

Lectionary Readings: Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Isaiah 12: 2-6; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 7-18

Greeter: Cindy Brockman
Liturgist: Dick Behrens

Ushers: Hank Harrington/Karl Thayer Counters: Paula Sheely/Cindy Brockman

Dec. 23 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Lighting the Advent Candle of Angels- Susana Combs and Joe Corsetti

Lectionary Readings: Micah 5: 2-5; Luke 1: 46-55; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45, 46-55

Greeter: Bill Olmert
Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Ushers: Katrina Harrington/Makenzie Harrington Counters: Anne Mitchell/Bruce Guerineau

Dec. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE Lighting the Christ Candle, Candle- the Mellen Family

**Lectionary Readings**: Isaiah 62: 6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3: 4-7; Luke 2: 1-7, 8-20

**Greeter: Bill Olmert** 

Ushers: Carol Burch/Cindy Brockman

Counters: Cindy Brockman/

Dec. 30 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS-A Service of Word and Song Ordination and Installation of Consistory

Lectionary Readings: I Samuel 2: 18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 41-52

Greeter: Anna Bierma Liturgist: David deVelder

Ushers: Holly Deyoe/Bridget Behrens Counters: Paula Sheely/Cindy Brockman



## Gelukkig Nieuwjaar!

(that's Happy New Year in Dutch)

## January 2019

Jan. 6 EPIPHANY Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalm 72: 1-7,10-14; Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12

Greeter: Patti Booth Liturgist: Paulette Foote

Ushers: Bridget Behrens/Paula Sheely

Counters: TBA

**Communion Servers:** 

**Communion Cleanup: Susanna Combs** 

Jan. 13 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY/BAPTISM OF THE LORD

**Lectionary Readings**: Isaiah 42: 1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10: 34-43; Matthew 3: 13-17

Greeter: Bill Olmert
Liturgist: Pat Woomer

Ushers: Terri Richards/Ajay Deyoe

Counters: TBA

Jan. 20 SECOND SUNDAY ATER THE EPIPHANY Remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 49: 1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; John 1: 29-42

Greeter: Amber Deyoe Liturgist: Pam Seward

**Ushers: Bill Olmert/Dick Behrens** 

Counters: TBA

Jan. 27 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 9: 1-4; Psalm 27: 1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18; Matthew 4: 12-23

Greeter: Bridget Critelli Liturgist: Chris Garney

Ushers: Holly Deyoe/Dick Behrens

Counters: TBA



## From the Pastor.....

"Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light, radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth."

Dear Members and Friends of Old Saratoga,

Advent greetings to you in the grace and peace of Christ!

The four weeks of **Advent** are the darkest time of the year. From ancient times, people around the world have longed for the light in this season; and many traditions have developed over the centuries of burning fires, lighting candles, and stringing electrical lights to ward off the darkness. Christmas Day comes just after the Winter Solstice on Dec. 21 when the days begin to lengthen and there is more light. The nature-cycle of darkness and light contributes powerfully to the meaning and celebration of the birth of Christ.

This year, the beloved and well-known Christmas carol, "Silent Night, Holy Night" is **200** years old. (Story has it that the carol was written in Austria for the Christmas Eve Mass at the small village Church of St. Nicholas. Church leader, **Father Joseph Mohr** authored the words, and **Franz Gruber**, the organist, put it to music. These two men sang the new carol together on Christmas Eve to guitar accompaniment because the church organ wasn't working.

The theme of "love's pure light" was significant when this carol was first heard in December, 1818. It was a difficult time in Europe. There were wars and military occupations; for many people, shortage of food, sickness and poverty were a part of everyday life. The economic and political woes had cast a shadow of darkness, dimming the hopes of the people for better days and a brighter future.

This may be one of the reasons that the carol found such a receptive place in peoples' hearts the world over with its simple message of the Light, hope and love God gives to the world in the coming of Christ the Savior.

For many, the highlight of our Christmas Eve service is when the electrical lights are turned off and the candles are lit with light from the Christ-candle. In the glow of this pure light, we sing the words of "Silent Night, Holy Night". This is a time above all, when the meaning of Jesus' quiet, simple birth in Bethlehem, gives inner light and peace to our hearts, and we celebrate the divine gift of "Love's pure light" that overcomes all darkness.

May that pure light of God's Love shine in our hearts and world throughout this holy season and help us radiate its beams of kindness, joy and hope!

My family and I wish you all a Blessed Advent and Christmas.

Pastor Joyce de Velder

## Church Family

## **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

17: Vicki and Brian Perkins, 1994

21: Wayne and Marion Barton

31: Sue (Fero) and Steve Kurowski 2012

## **BIRTHDAYS**

2: Rosie Driscoll

4: Rixt (Bierma) Clifford

5: Bette Tucker

10: Eran Dickinson

15: Florence Brown

16: Danny MacMillan

17: Sue Usher

25: Cheryl Sherman-Baust

28: Ava Rose Russell

29: Jennifer (Barton) Bruneau

31: Stephen Alexanian

## OUR FRIENDS IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES/HOMEBOUND

(We've listed the names and addresses of our church members/friends for the purpose of remembering them in prayer or with a card.)

Chauncey Mabb, Crescent Manor, 312 Crescent Blvd., Bennington, VT 05201, 1-802-379-3148

Shirley Mabb, Saratoga Center A 110, 149 Ballston Ave., Ballston Spa NY 12020

**Bette Tucker,** Wesley Community, Victoria 212, 133 Lawrence St. Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

**Pat Burke**, Wesley Community, Victoria, 133 Lawrence St. Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

#### THANKS EXTENDED

- ..to **Amberlyn Deyoe** and **Terri Richards** for planning and preparing the Holiday Sale on 12/1 and to all the groups and individuals who donated baskets for the raffle
- ..to **David deVelder** for all the help with the Holiday Sale and setting up the Christmas tree in the church front yard
- ..to **Paula and Doug Sheely** for the donation of three cases of copy paper

## **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

21: John and Amberlyn Deyoe, Jr., 1995

## **BIRTHDAYS**

1: Patrick Woomer

1: Tyler Jon Squires

1: Donna Mellen

3: Schuyler Loughlin

3: Caleb Dickinson

4: Kara Woomer

11: Gary Cummins

13: Donna-Ella Marie Mellen

17: Chris Cox

21: Cindy Barber

22: Morgan Wilbur

23: Kaylin Erbe

25: Christopher Tucker

26: Lucian McCarty

27: Julia (Behrens) Pooler

27: Casey Perkins

29: Alicia Mellen Lewie

sister) and their family.

29: Logan Tomlinson

31: Elizabeth Fero

31: Brad Markwith

## **SYMPATHY**

The church extends sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of **David Slay** (65) who died on Sunday, Dec. 2 at his home in Granite City, IL. He had lived with cancer for a long time and was under hospice care at the time of his death. David is the brother-in-law of **Patrick and Robin Woomer.** We pray God's comfort and

peace for David's wife, **Debbie**, (Patrick's

#### CONGRATULATIONS

..to Becca Sheely, daughter of Paula and Doug Sheely, who will complete her MS in Civil Engineering at the University of Buffalo this month. She will start working at Chazen Companies, where she interned for several summers, shortly afterwards.

## RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED



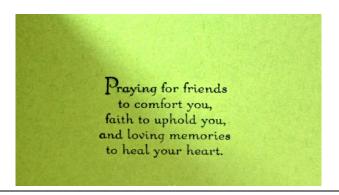
**Sue Wilbur-** Saratoga Hospital ER **Charlotte Morrill –** Saratoga Hospital ER

## **SYMPATHY**

The church extends sympathy in Christ to the family and friends of **Cheryl M. Durkee**, who died at home on Sunday, Nov. 25. Cheryl had been under hospice care for several months as the lung disease she had for many years grew worse. Cheryl, who was a long-time friend and co-worker of **Sandy Jones**, began worshipping at Old Saratoga several years ago, and was a member of the Women's Guild. She was formerly an LPN, and later worked as a cook at the Pleasant Valley Infirmary (now called The Washington Center.) Her memorial service was held on Nov. 27 at Old Saratoga, with **Pastors Joyce and Jenn, and Sandy Jones** 

participating. Following the service, 65-70 members and friends stayed for a luncheon in Loomis Hall, prepared by **Cindy Brockman**, the Fellowship Committee, and other members of the church.

We remember in prayer Cheryl's husband of 48 years, Crosby Durkee, and their three children Stacy (Durkee) Tyler, Jason Durkee, and Chad Durkee and their families. Cheryl (and Crosby) had six grandchildren who were a special joy in her life.



## PASTOR JENN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DEC/JAN



 Sun. 12/2
 FMRC
 Sun. 1/6
 FMRC

 Sun. 12/9
 Vacation
 Sun. 1/13
 OSRC

 Sun. 12/16,23
 OSRC
 Sun. 1/20
 BH

 Sun. 12/30
 BH
 Sun, 1/27
 OSRC

## THANKS RECEIVED...

..from Rebuilding Together for a donation of \$108
..from the Reformed Church in America for a donation
(\$200) to the Disaster Fund
(Hurricane Michael)

## **CONGRATULATIONS**



..to **Jim Brockman** and to **Hank Harrington**, who were honored this fall at a dinner at the Glen Sanders
Mansion, given by the Knolls Atomic
Power Lab, where they each work.
Jim has been there for 35 years and
Hank for 25.

## Church Life

## **ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study Meets on **Wednesdays at 10am**, when they study the Gospel of Luke. Interested people of all denominations are always welcome! The December schedule will be:

Dec. 5 – regular meeting

Dec.12 – 11:30am Christmas brunch at home of Jean Myers, 22 Church St.

Dec. 19, 26 – No Bible Study (Resumes 1-2)

During the winter months, if Schuylerville

Central is closed due to weather conditions,

Bible Study will not meet.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**



Sat. Feb. 9 8am-12pm Blood Drive at OSRC Sat. Feb. 16 4:30-6pm Lasagna Dinner Sat. March 2 4:30-6pm "Souper Supper"

## **CAMP FOWLER 2019**

Registration opens Dec. 1 for Summer Camp

(The first 150 campers and 30 cabin counselors to register get a free T-shirt)

Visit CampFowler.org for more information



### HARVEST SUPPER REPORT

We had another very successful Harvest Supper, thanks to our co-chairs **Bonnie Garrand and Michelle Gordon**, and **all** the kitchen help, dining room workers, bakers, servers, setup people, ticket sellers and to those who attended. A big thank you goes to **Eric Garney**, who once again ably filled his dad's shoes and cooked the delicious meal! We were able to raise **\$1096.94** for our General Fund.

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one at Christmas, instead of purchasing a poinsettia plant, **memorial envelopes are available in the foyer**. Your gift will be noted on the Christmas flower list.

## WOMEN'S GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Women's Guild will hold their annual Christmas Party on Mon. Dec. 17 at noon at the Dovegate. Cost will be \$21, and will cover the meal, tax and tip. The Guild will then take a two month winter break, resuming meetings on Monday, March 18 at noon.



## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

Mon. Dec. 24 8pm



You are invited to come to the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service to join in the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The Christmas Story will be read, anthems and carols sung, and a Christmas Message will be given by **Pastor**Joyce deVelder. The highlight of the service will be the candle lighting during the singing of Silent Night. All are welcome!

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL LETTER

The Annual Christmas Letter of Appeal has been mailed. Please consider giving a Christmas gift to the church in the envelope provided for your convenience. Thanks for your ongoing support.

## ANNUAL MEETING REPORT



Members and friends of OSRC met on Nov.18 to hear reports, to vote on the Faith Budget, and offer affirmations to those who serve the church in both seen and unseen ways.

Elected to the office of Elder was **Susanna Combs.** Elected as Deacons were **Oscar Everts** and **Bridget Critelli. Paula Sheely**presented the Plan for Ministry (budget)

which was passed by consensus. Extra copies of the annual report are available if you were unable to be present for the meeting.

## **HYMNS OF OUR FAITH**

"Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name." (Psalm 30: 4)
"Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing tidings bringing; Christ the babe is Lord of all."

Unique to many of the songs relating to the seasons of Advent and Christmastide is that their origins are found in anonymous texts and tunes, meaning that they may be considered ancient in time, and that there is uncertainty about the identity of th author or composer. This hymn is one of those, and speaks to me of the centrality to our faith of the coming of the Christ Child, who would become our Savior.

In explanatory comments, "Infant Holy" is noted as a Polish carol, and its tune is dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and the text to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It was translated into English in the early 1900s and first appears in English hymn books in 1925. Since 1975 the carol's popularity has greatly increased.

Especially appropriate for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, the carol speaks of the most humble birth of a child who was not newsworthy. But the importance of this very special birth changes in the third line with angels proclaiming that "Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Having heard the tidings brought by angels, shepherds rejoice and greet the new day with hope; they too are included as individuals who "own" the Savior. We too can rejoice in knowing that "Christ the babe was born for you."

Suggestion: On your computer enter "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly." Click on the video that presents itself as "Music Video-

Mormon...YouTube." Viewing this video was a moving experience for me.

**Dick Behrens** 

## **AMAZON SMILE**



A while back I was buying some office equipment for the church office, I noticed that Amazon had a program for charitable giving. It's called Amazon Smile. You select a charitable organization, such as OSRC, and almost every purchase made from Amazon ends with a small donation to the church. It's not much – only 0.5%. Over the last year, the few things I've purchased from Amazon has resulted in a little less than \$10 for the church. I didn't pay anything extra to Amazon. I didn't have to buy anything I wasn't going to buy anyway. If you wouldn't buy it from Amazon to begin with, you don't need to change your shopping habits.

But if you're going to shop with Amazon, why not have a part of that purchase come back to the church? Support your local merchants, and but the things you need and keep the money local. But if you're going to buy something online anyway, think about Amazon Smile. We buy coffee for our son, David, a particular flavor that's not available locally.

Go to smile.amazon.com. On your first visit you can designate Old Saratoga Reformed Church as your charity. Then whenever you're shopping on line, go to smile.amazon.com and your account will keep track of your purchases and donate that small 0.5% to OSRC.

If you have any questions, just ask me after church one Sunday.

**Pat Woomer** 

## WEATHER AND HEAT IN WINTER



Please remember that the temperature in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings may not be what you are used to at home. It is a good idea to wear an extra layer and boots when you come to worship. It is warmer in the front, too, as the opening and closing of the doors does not affect the temperature as much as in the back.

On stormy Sundays, there will still be a worship service. Please come, only if you feel safe doing so.

## **WORSHIP SERVERS**

The schedule for those who volunteered to serve in worship is in preparation and will be available soon. Until then, please check the January worship page in this newsletter to find out if you are scheduled. Thanks!

## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The church office will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 1, reopening on Wednesday, Jan. 2.



## **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT**



Many thanks to all who came and/or participated in the concert on Sunday, Dec. 2. We were pleased that 8 different musical groups sang or played, including choirs from Old Saratoga, Fort Miller, Notre Dame-Visitation, Schuylerville and Quaker Springs UMC, and Centenary UMC of Greenwich. New groups this year Included The Community Ringers Chime Choir, directed by **Debi Craig**, and the Faith Chapel Worship Band.

Pam Driscoll and Lisa Schwartz were present to tell about *The Caring and*Sharing Fund. The free will offering for this fund amounted to \$727.72. Thanks goes to Cindy Brockman and the Fellowship Committee and others for the great refreshments following the concert!

## **HOLIDAY SALE**

Thanks to all who helped make the Holiday Sale an enjoyable event! Donations for Christmas items and raffle tickets totaled \$1234.50! The Women's Guild Bake Sale, organized by Robin Woomer, made \$202.

Our special thanks to **Amberlyn Deyoe** and **Terri Richards** for chairing this fundraising event for the church!

## **PRAYER**

(Anonymous)

I leave aside my shoes - my ambitions,

Undo my watch -my time table,

Take off my glasses -my views,

Unclip my pen -my work,

Put down my keys -my security,

To be alone with you, the only true God.

After being with you,

I take up my shoes -to walk in your

ways,

Strap on my watch -to live in your time, Put on my glasses - to look at your world,

Clip on my pen -to write up your thoughts,

Pick up my keys -to open your doors.

## **SAVE THE DATES!**

Wed. Jan. 16 2019 at Wolf Hollow Brewing

6882 Amsterdam Rd. Glenville, NY
"Theology On Tap"
6-7pm Dinner by Buzzards Bay BBQ (\$15pp)
7-8pm Beer and Hymnsing led by Rev. Jordan White

#### LOCAL INTERFAITH EVENT



On **Sunday**, **Jan. 20 (time TBA)** there will be a gathering in the Saratoga Town Hall in Schuylerville (Rt. 29) for people who would like to come together during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, to honor the values of non-discrimination, equality, love, peace and goodwill toward all beings. All are welcome! Light refreshments! Watch for details TBA!

## HOW YOU CAN HELP OTHERS THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

The following suggestions are offered for those who want to celebrate the birth of Christ by helping others locally:

- 1. Give a monetary gift to the Northeast Regional Food Bank in Albany which helps provide low-cost food to our local pantry and hundreds of others. Every dollar contributed purchases \$10 worth of food. Check www.regionalfoodbank.net to see how to make a donation.
- 2. Give a gift to benefit the Caring and Sharing Fund of Schuylerville Central School, which helps students in need during the holidays and throughout the year. Your gift can be mailed to Caring and Sharing, c/o Pam Driscoll, Schuylerville Central School, Spring Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871
- 3. Gifts are being received for OSRC's Deacons Discretionary Fund to help church and community members with emergency needs. Your donation may be sent to the church, 48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville 12871, and earmarked "Deacon's Discretionary Fund."
- 4. Do a Reverse Advent Calendar- Each day add a food item to a box (Dec. 1-Dec. 24), then donate the box to your local food pantry.
- 5. Make this an Advent of Kindness: Each day do an act of kindness. A few examples are: buy a friend, coworker or stranger a cup of coffee, offer to help someone, write a thank you note, donate unwanted books to charity, or do something unexpected for someone.



## Community Life

#### SECOND HAND ROSE THRIFT SHOP

116 Broadway, Schuylerville NY



Tues.- Sat. 11am -4pm

Donations gladly accepted during store hours

Volunteers are always needed!

Call Charlotte at 518-695-4640

Next Board meeting: Dec.7 at 9:30 at OSRC

#### **SAFER**

Schuylerville Area Food Relief
Open 9-12 noon M, F 518-260-4779

## CHRISTMAS AT PARKS-BENTLEY 53 Ferry Blvd, S. Glens Falls



The annual Nativity exhibit will be open Dec. 1,2,7,8,9,14,15,16, 28,and 29 from 1-4pm. Open 6-8pm on Dec. 14, 28. The theme this year "Nativities Across the Empire"

(Creches from the British Empire and Beyond) Adults \$5; children \$3.

For more info: purinton73@gmail.com

#### **TUESDAY NIGHT PRAYER**

Faith Chapel opens its doors every Tuesday evening from 5-8pm to anyone who wants to come in and pray or meditate. Hot chocolate and tea available.

## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY AND CAROLING AT BACON HILL

Bacon Hill Reformed Church invites all youth, grades 5-12, to come to a Christmas Party and Caroling on **Sunday afternoon, Dec. 16!** For more info call Pastor Jan Vincent at 518-321-7518 or Pastor Jenn Legg at 919-600-9240.

#### KIDS DAY OUT

Sat. Dec. 8th 9am-12pm
Schuylerville United Methodist Church
51 Church Street, Schuylerville
Have holiday shopping to do? Drop
your children off for a morning of
stories, games crafts and a movie.
Return at 11:30 to enjoy pizza with your
children.
Text or phone 518-538-4832 to make

Text or phone 518-538- 4832 to make a reservation

## "MERRILY WE RING"

The United Church (Greenwich) Ringers will present a

## Holiday Handbell Concert Sunday, Dec. 9 at 1pm

No charge, but free will offering taken to purchase items for the school Health Office to keep children warm and comfortable in school

### **UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS**

St. Stephen's Episcopal Book Study
Sat. Dec. 8 & 22 at 10-11am - 12 session
study (will continue in January)
"Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World"
(Books available for purchase)

Service of Remembrance

Monday, Dec. 10 7pm
at Greenwich Elks Club
A service to help grieving families find
comfort and healing

Please contact <u>Flynnbrosinc@gmail.com</u>
with names of those who have passed, and
those of family who will attend

### "JACOB'S WELL"

**Old Saratoga Reformed Church** 

48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871 E-Mail:oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com

Fax: 1-518-695-3479

www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org

PASTORS: Rev. Joyce deVelder, Rev. Jennifer Legg

OFFICE MANAGER: Duffy Whitehouse

Consistory Members: Amber Deyoe, Paula Sheely,

Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli, Oscar Everts, Susanna Combs

Published ten times yearly in Schuylerville, NY 12871

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Sunday School: (Sept.-June) 10:00am-11:00am

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Mon. Dec. 24 8pm

Merry Christmas! Tuesday, Dec. 25

Ordination and Installation of Consistory
Sun. Dec. 30 10am

Epiphany Celebration of the Lord's Supper Sun. Jan. 6 10am