

Jacob's Well

May 2020



May 3 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Celebration of the Lord's Supper (online)

Lectionary Readings: Acts 2: 42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2: 19-25; John 10: 1-10

***Online Service planned. Please have your bread and juice ready
so that you may participate in the Communion Liturgy.***

May 10 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Mother's Day (online)

Lectionary Readings: Acts 7: 55-60; Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2: 2-10; John 14: 1-14

May 17 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lectionary Readings: Acts 17: 22-31; Psalm 66: 8-20; 1 Peter 3: 13-22; John 14: 15-21

Greeter: Joan Lapitsky

Liturgist: Dick Behrens

Ushers: Eddie Fish/Terri Richards

Counters: TBD

May 24 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lectionary Readings: Acts 1: 6-14; Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11;
John 17: 1-11

Greeter: Bridget Critelli

Liturgist: Carolyn Markwith

Ushers: Paula Sheely/Dick Behrens

Counters: TBD

May 31 PENTECOST Pastor Joyce's last Sunday at OSRC

Fellowship Hour hosted by the Fellowship Committee and the Consistory (tentative)

Lectionary Readings: Acts 2: 1-21; Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13;
John 20: 19-23 or John 7: 37-39

Greeter: Pat Woomer

Liturgist: Mark Booth

Ushers: Bill Olmert/Cindy Brockman

Counters: TBD

***Our worship services begin at 10am. The sanctuary is handicapped accessible.
Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of the month.***

From the Pastor...

Dear Members and Friends of Old Saratoga,

Greetings to you in the grace and peace of the Risen Christ!

I never imagined that my last months with you would be as they are right now! Under normal circumstances, I was imagining these last weeks of being your pastor, until my retirement on May 31, would be a time of worship, fellowship, and planning together, with opportunity for face-to-face visits and personal farewells.

But instead, Sunday worship is now being live-streamed, Bible Study and Coffee Hour are “on pause”; I’ve been making loads of calls and sending lots of emails, all the while longing to see you and be with you in person!

As I’m writing this at the end of April, we know that the physical distancing and social restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic will continue through May 15 in our state; and beyond that we’re not certain as to how things will be.

While things feel disappointingly strange, sad, and disordered to me—during this global health crisis—and also during a time of preparing to move and say farewell, I am grateful for the love, friendship and prayers that bind us together, no matter what time and change may bring!

That is the wonder and beauty of God’s Gift of Love—that it overcomes adversity; endures changes, and rises above disappointment or despair! “There is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God...” (Romans 8:39); and the same goes for our relationships with each other.

It is my intent to write a letter of farewell to you before my family and I leave Schuylerville; but for now, I want to say thank you for the faithful love, kindness, and support you have given us over the past 38 years. It has been a true joy of our lives to serve God along with you here in this place.

The time ahead will bring more change for all of us; but we go forward trusting in God, whose Love never changes. What we learn from this experience will hopefully strengthen the church and make us stronger in faith and service.

May we continue to love, pray and care for each other, to love God and love our neighbors, and to walk with Christ as people of faith!

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Joyce deVelder

Church Family

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

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

Anna Bierma, Arbrook Plaza, 401 Arbrook Blvd.
Arlington, TX 76014 Phone # 518-321-4498 (c)

Florence Brown, The Sentinel, 10 Market Street,
Room 10, Amsterdam, NY 12010

John Bodnar: Home of the Good Shepherd,
Rm. 113, 198 Bluebird Road, South Glens Falls,
NY 12803- Phone # 518-338-3027

THANKS EXPRESSED

..to **Chris Garney** who spent countless hours
calling, emailing and following up with the
pastors and church members who will be
preaching and leading worship at OSRC from
June through December 2020

..to **Doug Sheely** who kept our driveway
cleared of snow this past winter

..to **David and Mikael deVelder** who kept our
sidewalks shoveled

..to **David Garrand** who, for many years, has
mowed the church lawns and cleaned up the
leaves. He is cutting down his lawn care
business. Wish you well, Dave, and thanks!

..to **Patrick Woomer, Christopher Tucker** and
Bridget Critelli for their faithful assistance in
helping with our virtual Sunday services and/or
getting them posted online!

BIRTHDAYS

1: Caitlin (Clary) Perkins
2: Meghan Coral Hayes
4: Charlotte Morrill Gorham
6: Ethan Clary
7: Desiree DiCiccio
8: Samantha Galagan
8: Jeffrey Booth
8: Paula Hayes Sheely
10: Bridget Critelli
11: Mark Booth
11: Paulette Foote
15: Myra Edgar
15: Cheryl Jones
17: Anne Mitchell
18: Nugent Edgar
25: Katrina Harrington
26: Maggie Correll
27: Anna Bierma
28: Rev. Joyce deVelder
28: James Thayer
28: Amanda (Fugle) Markwith
29: Pam Seward

Congratulations NICE GOING!
GREAT! Way to Go!
Yea! FELICITATIONS
CHEERS Take A BEST
BOW! WISHES!

ANNIVERSARIES

2: Bruce and Suzanne Guerineau
8: Roger M. and Yvonne Sherman
14: Joshua and Wendy (Russell) Fedderly
15: Richard and Pat Behrens
17: Kenneth and Jessica Mac Millan
26: Marion (Davies) and Franck Beaufreton

IN OUR PRAYERS

"Pray at all times in the Spirit....making supplication for all the saints." (Ephesians 6: 18)

Ruth Hayes	Bette Tucker
Dwight Colvin	Alyson Fitzgerald
Anne Mitchell	Jim Miers
Thomas Altrogge	Anna Bierma
Rod Borgman	John Bodnar
Trevor Lewie	Naomi Thayer
Pat Hayes-Howd	Sandy Horsfield
Alicia Lewie	Peggy MacMillan
Gerry Barber	Toni Bentley
Sandy DeGregory	Charles Thayer
Mona Perkins	Danny MacMillan
Suzanne Guerineau	Clyde Wells
Dee Periard	Florence Brown
Carol Lehmann	Glenn Stamile
Roger and Joan Sheely	Susan Seward

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

On Thursday, April 23, **Dick Behrens** began another course in his Preaching Elder training through the Classis of Schenectady. The course, on the "New Testament" (*Interpretation and Preaching*) will be his third. It will be taught by **Dr. Lynn Japinga**, and will end on June 11. Please remember Dick in your prayers as he participates and prepares to serve the church and classis as a certified Preaching Elder!

We are happy to hear that **Anna Bierma** will be coming to visit Schuylerville in late July. We plan to have a coffee hour so that she can see all her friends at once. The date is still up on the air, but will be announced as soon as it is firmed up.

THANKS RECEIVED

..from **The Giving Circle** for a donation of **\$312** to support a teacher for a year
..from **Gary's House** for a donation of **\$200** to provides a haven for families of hospitalized loved ones in Portland, Maine
..from **Community Hospice** for a donation of **\$107** which supports the care of terminally ill persons

NEW BABIES



We are happy to share the good news of the births of **four** new babies!

Sandy Jones is the great -grandmother of **Levi** , who was born at 10:30am on March 23 to her grandson **Jacob Dyke** and his partner, **Saraya Worthen**. Levi weighed 10lbs 10oz. His siblings, **Kobie, Kylie and Aaron** are happy to have a new little brother!

Duffy and Bill Whitehouse's granddaughter **Samantha** and her husband, **Ethan Bliss**, welcomed their first son on March 23 at 11:26pm. **Brody David** was 7lbs 15oz and was 19 inches long, and is the first grandchild for Sam's parents, **Eric and Angela Whitehouse**. Brody and his parents live in Schuylerville.

Nathaniel deVelder and Emily Stephens welcomed the birth of their first child on April 5 (Palm Sunday). The baby's name is **Elliot deVelder Stephens**. He weighed 8lbs 1oz at birth. Nathaniel, Emily and their son are currently living in Watertown, MA, not far from Boston. The happy first-time grandparents are **Joyce and David deVelder** and **Susan Wright and Doug Stephens**.

Bruce and Suzanne Guerineau welcomed a new grandson on April 20. **Keller Guerineau** was born at Bennington Hospital, weighed 6lbs. 5oz. and was 17" long. Keller and his happy parents, **Nicholas and Brandi**, are living in Cambridge, NY.

Church Life

1²nd QUARTER MISSION

Fowler Ministries

The Mission for the second quarter (January-March) is **Fowler Ministries**, which helps support and sustain not only the camp itself, but its programs and ministries. "The camp has been set aside for over 65 years to allow congregations to experience a holy world, loved-redeemed-sustained by a Holy God. We are, all together, stewards of 245 acres, 100 feet of lakefront, over 30 buildings, all the children who visit, and all the creatures that make their homes there." **Rev. Kent Busman** *(Coin boxes are available on the back table, and are due back Sunday, June 28. If you would like to support this mission, please make your check out to OSRC, earmarked Fowler Ministries. Thank you!)*

250th ANNIVERSARY-9/20/20 2pm

The date set for the celebration of OSRC's 250th Anniversary is Sept. 20, 2020. Plans were underway, but came to an abrupt halt with the pandemic crisis. Please check the next issues of JW for updates.

SYNOD PROGRAM

Elder **Susanna Combs** will participate in a virtual gathering of the Regional Synod of Albany on Sat. May 2 from 9-11:45, serving as one of several representatives from our Classis of Schenectady. Normally the Synod meets once a year in a designated location, but this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the synod will gather online to bring together the ministers and elders from across the region to worship, hear reports, share ideas and engage in workshops.

Thank you for your prayers for Susanna and for the Synod of Albany on May 2.

HYMNS OF OUR FAITH

"Sing to the Lord, ye saints of God." Psalm 30: 4

"Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know"

"Ask ye what great thing I know, that delights and stirs me so?"

What the high reward I win? Whose the name I glory in? Jesus Christ the crucified."

A unique hymn in that the text is composed mostly of questions. Nine questions within four verses. With a complete reading of the lyrics one will note that most of the questions begin with the word "who." While most hymns of praise contain laudatory statements throughout, the praise here is reserved until the last sentence which provides the answer to the "who" question; "Jesus Christ, the Crucified."

The hymn reflects the ideas expressed in three quotations from the Pauline epistles. "For I resolved to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified." 1 Cor.2:2 "...so that Christ might have first place in everything." (Col.1:18) and "May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Gal. 6:14) The supremacy of Christ, in all of life's situations, was paramount to the author. The poem was written by the son of a German farmer, Johann Christoph Schwedler, who became a Lutheran pastor at the start of the 18th century. It reflects the basis and centrality of the Christian faith, Christ alone, a message that has been proclaimed since the days of the early apostles, and which we should proudly proclaim today.

In the season of Lent our worship liturgy focused on Jesus' earthly ministry and his preparation to be the one who would be crucified for the sins of the world. In dying and rising from the dead Christ claimed victory over sin and death. Is there any greater thing that we absolutely need to know? Of whom else should we boast?

"This is that great thing I know; this delights and stirs me so; Faith in him who died to save, him who triumphed o'er the grave, Jesus Christ the crucified."

Dick Behrens

BOTTLE AND CAN PROJECT

Can you help?



Old Saratoga has been collecting deposit bottles and cans to benefit church missions since 1995, when we began our annual mission trips to the Pringle Home Orphanage in Jamaica. For the past 25 years, **David and Mikael deVelder** have been collecting, sorting and depositing the bottles and cans on a weekly basis. Thousands of dollars have been raised to help support our mission projects over the years!

With Pastor Joyce's retirement and family relocation, David and Mikael will no longer be doing this project. The consistory would like to see the project continue as it helps benefit the church and community! We are looking for a volunteer (one or more) to oversee this project and make sure the bottles and cans are taken weekly to a deposit center.

NEWS FROM THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

The annual week-long General Synod Meeting of the Reformed Church in America, which was scheduled to take place in Orange City, Iowa in June, has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. RCA General Secretary, **Eddy Aleman**, announced that there would be a special session of the General Synod in the fall, if possible, to review the report of the 2020 Vision Team. If it is still unsafe to meet at that time, the next meeting of the General Synod will be June, 2021.

WOMEN'S GUILD (tentative)

The Women's Guild resumed its regular monthly meetings after being on winter break. Their next meeting will be on **Monday, May 18 at noon**. Please bring a sandwich; dessert and beverage are provided. Hostess for the month is **Terri Richards**. Following lunch, the women will hold a business meeting, led by **President Sandy Jones**. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY (tentative)

The Ecumenical Bible Study is continuing their study of the Gospel of Luke. New members of any denomination are always welcome to join the group, which meets at **10am on Wednesday mornings** at OSRC.

TURNING POINT CHURCHES HOLD ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE



Thanks to the help of **Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck** (President of Schenectady Classis and Supervisor at Fort Miller Reformed Church) the three Turning Point churches (Bacon Hill, Fort Miller and Old Saratoga) were able, to have a joint online worship service on **Sunday April 19!**

The service celebrated the wonders and care for God's creation, with Earth Day in mind. Earth Day is celebrated each April 22, and is 50 years old this year!

Pastor Jonathan, with **Pastors Jan and Joyce** and members of the three churches, participated in the joint service. Participants from Old Saratoga included **Paula Sheely, Dick Behrens** and **Christopher Tucker**.

**Next joint worship: 9/6 10am @ Bacon Hill
Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

CAMP FOWLER 2020

Registration open for Summer Camp
Visit CampFowler.org for more information
Decision will soon be made as to whether or
not there will be summer camp!

THANKS FOR OFFERINGS

Grateful thanks go to all of the members and friends of the congregation who have sent in their offerings, even though we have not had church services in the building. There are still expenses which need to be paid (insurance, classis dues, etc.) While some people may have had to stay home from work and are feeling the loss of a paycheck, it is helpful when those who are able to donate mail in their offerings. An option which is available as well is to set up your giving online. Please go to the church's website

www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org

and check on the home page for the link for **Tithe.ly** to see how to donate.

DEATH IN THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA (RCA)

The Reformed Church in America was deeply saddened to learn of the death of the **Rev. Dr. Allen Janssen**, who died April 3 from complications due to COVID-19. Rev. Janssen, ordained in 1973, served as pastor, seminary professor, author and scholar in church theology and church order. He retired in 2018 and lived with his wife, **Colleen**, in Glenmont, NY. He was a faithful and esteemed servant of Christ and generous in many contributions to the RCA.

*(Rev. Janssen was supportive to **Pastor Joyce** in the late 70's during her quest for ordination; he was a recent teacher of **Dick Behrens** in the Preaching Elder training program; and had accepted the invitation of **Chris Garney** to preach and lead worship at OSRC later this year.*

Please keep his family in your prayers for God's comfort and peace.

WORSHIP CHANGES AT OSRC DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Sunday, March 15 was our last in-person gathering for worship since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since that time we have been live-streaming our worship service at 10am each Sunday morning. People can watch this service "live" or see it later when it's posted to our website and You Tube. We have **Patrick Woomer**, our website administrator, our Facebook manager, **Bridget Critelli**, and **Christopher Tucker**, our Minister of Music, to thank for their technological services. We thank Christopher also for reading scripture and singing during the online service. *(If you would like more information about how to access these services, please let us know. Our website and Facebook pages are listed on the back of this newsletter.)*

On Sunday, May 3, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper on line. While this is not the traditional way to have "communion" we believe that Christ is present in the blessing over bread and juice and the communal act of receiving these elements as signs of his love and grace. For those of you who would like to participate, we ask that you have your bread and juice ready so that you may participate in the Communion Liturgy.

UPPER ROOM

The May/June issues of the **Upper Room** daily devotional magazine are here and are on a table in the back entryway for you to pick up at your convenience. If you regularly read it, but are unable to get out and get one and would like the latest copy, please call the church office so that arrangements can be made for you to get a copy.

Dear Congregation, and Friends of Old Saratoga Reformed Church,

The Consistory of OSRC hopes this letter finds you in good health and good spirits in this very trying time. As many of you know, the Reverend Joyce deVelder will be retiring. Pastor Joyce's last Sunday will be May 31, 2020. This is according to the Reformed Church in America Book of Church Order which requires the ministerial relationship to terminate at age 70.

So what happens next? At the time of Joyce's retirement, a supervisor over the church will be appointed by the classis to help the church through the transition of finding a new minister. As you can appreciate, this will take some time. During this transition the church can take time to reflect on God's purpose for OSRC. This will be a crucial period for the congregation to have input for the church's future.

Who will lead worship? Various lay volunteers from the church, ordained guest preachers and preaching elders from the classis will conduct service at OSRC. A big thank you goes out to Chris Garney for taking on the pulpit supply project.

Ongoing ministry and activities of the church, the Prayer Chain and Ecumenical Bible study will continue under new leadership. The consistory will work closely with Duffy Whitehouse, the church office manager, to ensure that communication with the congregation is transparent. Pastoral care needs and visits will be addressed by the elders and deacons of OSRC.

Please know that in this uncertain time we share in your concerns and anxieties. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ will provide comfort and guidance as we move forward toward a bright future for Old Saratoga Reformed Church.

Blessings and continued good health,

The Consistory of Old Saratoga Reformed Church

Deacons Bruce Guerineau, Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli

Elders Paula Sheely (Vice President), Amberlyn Deyoe, Susanna Combs

Community Life

SECOND HAND ROSE THRIFT SHOP

116 Broad Street, 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 May ? at 9:30 at OSRC

SAFER

Schuylerville Area Food Relief

Open 9-12 noon M, F & 3rd Saturday

518-507-6043

MONDAY NIGHT PRAYER

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

BLOOD DRIVE

On **Sat. May 16 from 8am- 12noon**, the American Red Cross will host a blood drive at the **American Legion Post 278, 6 Clancy Street, Schuylerville**. Blood donations are desperately needed! You can walk in or make an appointment by calling **1-800 - REDCROSS**



RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP DURING COVID-19

The church has a Deacon's Discretionary Fund set up to help people with emergency needs- such as medications, new glasses, etc. and other needs. Please contact **Pastor Joyce** or **one of the deacons (Bruce Guerineau, Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli)** if you could use some assistance. We are gladly accepting donations to the fund to keep it going in times like these! ***Thanks to the generosity of The Way (clothing store mission of the Schuylerville Methodist Church) we were given six \$20 coupons to purchase food at Byron's Market in Schuylerville. If you or someone you know who live in the Schuylerville School District could use one of these, please contact Pastor Joyce (518-605-3260) There are currently five coupons left.***

The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY is seeking donations to help keep up with current needs. A spokesperson wrote: "We are responding in many new and different ways than we ever have before and at a level unprecedented in our 38 year history." If you would like to send a donation, please make your check payable to Regional Food Bank of NENY, and mail to: **Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY, 965 Albany-Shaker Road, Latham NY 12110**

LASAGNA DINNER

The Lasagna Dinner, originally scheduled for April 25, but cancelled due to the COVID-19 epidemic, will not be rescheduled this year.

"Jacob's Well"

Old Saratoga Reformed Church
48 Pearl St. Schuylerville, NY 12871

Pastor: Rev. Joyce deVelder

Office Manager: Duffy Whitehouse

Consistory Members: Amberlyn Deyoe, Paula Sheely

Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli, Susanna Combs, Bruce Guerineau

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

E-Mail: oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com

www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org

www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch

Phone and Fax: 518-695-3479

Celebration of the Lord's Supper (on line)

Sunday May 3 10am

***Please prepare your bread and juice so that you may
participate in the Communion Liturgy from home***

Pentecost

Sunday May 31 at 10am

Pastor Joyce's Last Sunday at OSRC

Coffee Hour following worship

tentative,

***depending on whether gatherings
are permitted at that time***