

Jacob's Well December/January 2020/21



**Our service is held in the sanctuary or
you may watch it on our Facebook page**

Dec. 6 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT Worship Leader: Rev. James Swanson
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Those at home, please prepare your bread /juice to participate in the Communion Liturgy

Lectionary Readings: *Isaiah 40: 1-11; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8*

Greeter: *Bill Olmert*

Liturgist: *Dick Behrens*

Usher: *Cindy Brockman*

Dec. 13 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT Worship Leader: Dick Behrens

Lectionary Readings: *Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24;
John 1: 6-8, 19-28*

Greeter: *Cindy Brockman*

Liturgist: *Carolyn Markwith*

Usher: *Karl Thayer*

Dec. 20 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT Worship Leader: Rev. Kent Busman

Tentative Installation of New Consistory Members

Lectionary Readings: *2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26; Romans 16: 25-27;
Luke 1: 26-38*

Greeter: *Patti Booth*

Liturgist: *Mark Booth*

Usher: *Paula Sheely*

Dec. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE Worship Leader: Chris Garney

8pm online only

The service will be online only and may be accessed on our Facebook page

Facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch

Lectionary Readings: *Isaiah 9: 2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-14, (15-20)*

Dec. 27 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Worship Leaders: *Members of the Turning Point Fellowship Team*

Greeter: *Jenny Middlebrook*

Liturgist: *TBD*

Usher: *Terri Richards*

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

**Jan. 3 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS EPIPHANY Worship Leader: Rev. James Swanson
Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

Those at home, please prepare your bread /juice to participate in the Communion Liturgy

Lectionary Readings: Jeremiah 31: 7-14; Psalm 147: 12-20; Ephesians 1: 3-14;
John 1: (1-9), 10-18

Greeter: Bill Olmert

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Cindy Brockman

Jan. 10 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Baptism of the Lord Worship Leader: Marcial Reyes

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 1: 1-5; Psalm 29: Acts 19: 1-7; Mark 1: 4-11

Greeter: Cindy Brockman

Liturgist: Rob Hayner

Usher: Karl Thayer

Jan. 17 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. James Swanson

Lectionary Readings: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10; Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20;
John 1: 43-51

Greeter: Duffy Whitehouse

Liturgist: Mark Booth

Usher: Paula Sheely

Jan. 24 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Worship Leader: Christopher Tucker

Lectionary Readings: Jonah 3: 1-5; 10; Psalm 62: 5-12; 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31;
Mark 1: 14-20

Greeter: Pat Woomer

Liturgist: Pam Seward

Usher: Terri Richards

Jan. 31 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Worship Leader: Patrick Woomer

Lectionary Readings: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13;
Mark 1: 21-28

Greeter: Bill Olmert

Liturgist: Victoria Starnella

Usher: Paula Sheely



(in Dutch!)



“Are we there yet?” I doubt there is a parent around who hasn’t cringed as those words were screamed from the back seat of the car. A few weeks ago, I met with the Worship Committee to discuss the logistics of recording the Christmas Eve service (which will only be available online) and asked if we were going to use our traditional Advent lighting liturgy or find something else. Dick Behrens offered to look for other options and gave us several to choose from. One had responsive readings, one included poetry, and the one we chose, ***Are We There Yet?*** focuses on our impatience with getting ready for Christmas.

We decided that was an appropriate theme for 2020 which has been filled with events that make us impatient. First there is the pandemic with its many necessary restrictions. When will it ease up so we can resume normal life? When will it be safe to get together with family and friends? When can we all come to church and sing without masks? When can we safely hug each other again? Then there is the retirement of Pastor Joyce and the lengthy process to replace a beloved pastor who served us for 38 years. How long will it take? Will we have a full-time or part-time minister? How hard will it be to find a good match for our congregation?

Just as we eventually reach our destination on a road trip, these questions will all be answered in time. As Paul reminded the church at Rome, “... if we look forward to something we don’t have yet, we must wait patiently and confidently.” (Romans 8: 25)

During this season of Advent, let’s try to focus less on the mad rush of getting ready for Christmas and more on preparing for the changes God is trying to make in each of our lives. Let’s allow God to use each of us to help spread the Advent messages of peace, hope, joy, trust, and love that the birth of Jesus promises.

Chris Garney

Church Family

BIRTHDAYS

December

4: Rixt (Bierma) Clifford
5: Bette Tucker
15: Florence Brown
16: Danny MacMillan
17: Sue Usher
17: Doug Mitchell
25: Cheryl Sherman-Baust
28: Ava Rose Russell
29: Jennifer (Barton) Bruneau
31: Stephen Alexanian

January

1: Patrick Woomer
1: Tyler Jon Squires
1: Donna Mellen
3: Schuyler Loughlin
4: Kara Woomer
11: Gary Cummins
13: Donna-Ella Marie Brooks
17: Chris Cox
21: Cindy Barber
22: Morgan Wilbur
25: Christopher Tucker
26: Lucian McCarty
27: Julia (Behrens) Pooler
27: Casey Perkins
29: Alicia Mellen Lewie
29: Logan Tomlinson
31: Elizabeth Fero
31: Brad Markwith

ANNIVERSARIES

December

17: Vicki and Brian Perkins, 1994
21: Wayne and Marion Barton
31: Sue (Fero) and Steve Kurowski 2012

January

21: John and Amberlyn Deyoe, Jr., 1995

THANKS EXTENDED

..to **Bonnie Garrand** and all the helpers who made our first drive thru dinner a success

..to **Eric Garney** and **Kayleigh Goosens** who cooked the delicious ham dinner

..to **Dave Garrand** who spent many hours, some of them in the rain, cleaning up all the fallen leaves on the lawns of the church buildings

..to **Patti Booth, Cindy Brockman** and **Sue Derby** who made the beautiful paper stars for the sanctuary Christmas tree

..to **Mark Booth** and **Jim Brockman** who helped with the heavier decorations in the sanctuary

..to **Doug Sheely** who has again offered to plow our church driveway as his donation to OSRC

THANKS RECEIVED

..from Rebuilding Together in Saratoga County for a donation of **\$122**

..from Wycliffe Bible Translators for a gift of **\$111** (in support of **Priscilla Mellen**)



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 |
| Sandy Horsfield | Sheryl Norton |
| Alicia Lewie | Peggy MacMillan |
| Gerry Barber | Lisa Stover |
| Sandy DeGregory | Charles Thayer |
| Danny MacMillan | Suzanne Guerineau |
| Clyde Wells | Lena Hughes |
| Dee Periard | Florence Brown |
| Glenn Stamile | Florence Sherman |
| Roger and Joan Sheely | Susan Seward |
| Claire Houston | Charlotte Morrill |

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 West Arbrook Blvd., Arlington TX 76010

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

Florence Sherman, Wesley Community, Springs 322, 133 Lawrence Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, Phone # 518- 415-3012 (c)

4TH QUARTER MISSION

The Giving Circle (Oct. – Dec.)

The Mission for the fourth quarter(October – December) is The Giving Circle, whose purpose is to shape better lives by building and teaching sustainable solutions in education, health, farming and economic self-empowerment to end poverty and hopelessness. It is a local, all volunteer, non-profit organization, originally founded in response to Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. It has since expanded its efforts to work with under-served families in Saratoga County, helped to found and serve the Code Blue homeless shelter, and it supports the Koi Koi House orphanage in Africa.. For more info, go to www.thegivingcircle.org. Coin boxes are available and will be due back December 13, along with any checks made out to OSRC and earmarked The Giving Circle.

1ST QUARTER MISSION

Drilling For Hope (Jan. – Mar.)

The mission for the 1st quarter is Drilling For Hope, started in 2005 by Karen Fleweling. 100% of donations goes to people and well drilling endeavors, as Karen pays her own expenses. Drilling For Hope provides water wells to communities in need of clean water. Food, medicine, school supplies and farm animals are also donated. Your donation may be made to OSRC, earmarked Drilling For Hope and will be due by the end of March.

Church Life

OSRC ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting was held on **Sunday, Nov. 15** in the sanctuary following worship and on Zoom for those at home. Updates on the congregation, reports from committees and an investment report were given, as well as many affirmations for the ways that members and friends of the congregation have been helping to ease the transition from a long-time pastorate to the beginning of the search process.

Elected to the consistory for the 2021/22 term were Elder **Mark Booth** and Deacon **Cindy Brockman**. Both of these members have held these positions before, so will not be ordained, but installed on a date to be announced.

Vice President **Paula Sheely** presented the Faith Budget. Since we are not paying a full time pastor, but have many unknown expenses for the next year, the budget was truly a "faith" budget, and was passed unanimously.

Copies of the reports, etc. are available from the office to anyone who was unable to attend the meeting, but would still like be informed about what was presented.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will not be holding their annual Christmas Party this year, and in the interest of everyone's health, has decided to wait to meet again until it is safe to do so.

PECANS

Since the Holiday Sale has been cancelled, we still have many bags of plain and chocolate covered pecans available for your holiday baking, or as a small gift for someone. Each type will sell for **\$12 a bag**. Please call the **office M-W-F, 9-noon with your order**. Thanks for your support of this fundraiser.

BOTTLES AND CANS



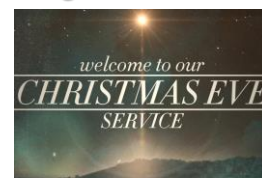
OSRC is grateful to **Dick Behrens** and **Cindy Brockman** who have both taken turns with taking bottles and cans to Hannaford to get credit on our CLYNK account. Now it's time for some other members to take a turn for a month. All information is in the office, or you may get the needed information about how to go about it from either Dick or Cindy. Thanks!!!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Due to the pandemic and the limited seating because of physical distancing, we will not have a Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary this year. **However the service will be available to view on our Facebook page at 8pm on Christmas Eve and we hope you will be able to be a part of it.**

Facebook.com/

Oldsaratogareformedchurch



HOLIDAY SALE CANCELLED

Our tireless workers, **Amberlyn Deyoe and Terri Richards**, who have chaired the Holiday Sale for many years together, have decided that the times we are in have dictated that the wise decision is to cancel the sale for this year. The difficulties of physical distancing, and the sanitizing of the items donated is quite a responsibility. Amber and Terri are looking into a way that we can still have the basket raffle and we will keep you updated on that.

Thank you to those who have already brought in donations, which will be saved for another year. And to those who intended to donate, you now have another year to go through your "stuff" to find items which you no longer want!

HARVEST DINNER UPDATE



It is with great pleasure that we announce that the profit for our General Fund from the recent "Drive Through" Harvest Dinner was **\$1308.65**. This greatly exceeded our expectations, since we had to buy everything this year. However, thanks to generous monetary donations from the guild and members of the congregation, many of the expenses were covered and did not have to be taken from profits. The dinner was much easier to run, required fewer helpers and was an easier cleanup also—a success for many reasons!!

"CONSISTORY CONNECTION"

The consistory did not meet in November, but will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday, December 8.

Members did, however, meet with a potential "transitional" pastor on Saturday, November 21. No decision has been made as there are still many details to be worked out.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Members of OSRC who will be serving on the Search Committee are the following: **Amberlyn Deyoe, Anne Mitchell, Paula Sheely, Christopher Tucker, Chris Garney, Duffy Whitehouse and Becca Sheely.**

The first task will be to work on a profile of the church and determine its strengths and weaknesses. It is quite a lengthy process and will help the committee to work together to figure out what type of a ministry OSRC will want to pursue for the future. Then the process of finding a person who will best be able to work within that profile will begin.

OUR HOUSEKEEPER RESIGNS

For many years **Terri Richards** has kept our church spotless, even staying after dinners at which she had already put in several hours to make sure that the church was clean for the next day. We are sad to learn that she has resigned her position as of Dec. 31, but wish her well as she pursues other interests. We will soon be looking for someone who would be interested in cleaning the church.

HYMNS OF OUR FAITH

"Sing to the Lord, ye saints of God; praise his holy name." Psalm 30: 4

In the Bleak Midwinter

English poet, Christina Rossetti, paints a scene of bleakness, readily understood by those who do not favor the winter season. She wrote descriptively of "moaning frosty winds," "earth as hard as iron," "water like a stone" and depicting a blizzard she wrote "snow on snow, snow on snow." Yet, from out of the bleakness we greet the Savior of the world, the Word of God Incarnate in the form of a baby, born in the humblest surroundings.

Rosetti writes

***"Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain.
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed,
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ."***

In the second verse, quoted above, the poet craftily contrasts Christ's first and second coming. A third verse presents another contrast, that being between the ethereal angels attendant at Christ's birth with Mary's ability to render Jesus physical attention.

***"Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim thronged in the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss."***

The poem concludes with introspective thoughts, appropriate for the shepherds and Wise Men who visited, and certainly of significance for us today.

***"What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part.
Yet what can I give him: give my heart."***

Christina Rossetti's poem was placed to music by the renowned English composer Gustav Holst – a perfect union of word and song. May we all be richly blessed as we marvel at the birth of our Savior during this Advent and Christmas season.

Dick Behrens

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Sheryl Norton...

has been coming to Old Saratoga since last year, when she was invited to come by **Amberlyn Deyoe**. Sheryl was born in Rutland VT, but grew up in Granville. She married, had two children, but divorced and eventually married Forrest Norton, who helped her raise her children. Together they had a daughter, and a son who was killed in a car accident. His daughter now lives with Sheryl and Forrest. Though this was a difficult time in her life, Sheryl feels that “God provides, God loves, and God is in my heart now, and that’s a good thing.” She hopes to pass this love along to her children and grandchildren.

In 2019 Sheryl was hired as the first female employee, by the Schuylerville DPW. Though she was injured on the job in September, she hopes to get back to work as soon as possible.

Sheryl has been looking forward to her baptism and becoming a member of OSRC. She is thankful to Amber for getting her to church, and for the way that church made her feel: “They welcome you with open hearts – and without judgment.”

Victoria Starnella...

has been worshiping with us since the fall of 2019, when she was invited by **Bridget Critelli and Janice Cornell**, who met each other when they were moving in and out of apartments in Greenwich.

Victoria graduated from high school in Westchester County and moved upstate, living in Glens Falls and Saratoga, eventually moving to Greenwich. Until the pandemic, Victoria was working at the Tuesday Morning Store but now works at Peter Harris. She also works as a housecleaner and organizer, since she enjoys helping people.

Victoria and her fiancée , Rob Hayner, both joined OSRC by Confession of Faith. She and Rob were pleased to note how welcoming and kind everyone was when they moved to the area. She likes the Reformed Church and feels aligned with what it believes about the faith and how it worships.

Rob Hayner...

Rob was born in Albany and grew up in Lansingburgh, where he graduated from high school, where he played basketball and was president of his class.

He is very interested in art, particularly drawing and painting, and attended Hudson Valley Community College where he received an Associate’s Degree. He earned a Bachelor’s in Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

He and Victoria met about ten years ago. Rob has been working at the Four Winds Hospital in Saratoga Springs since 2004, where he is employed as a mental health worker. He enjoys hiking on area trails.

Rob shared that he is glad to be at OSRC. He mentioned how he loves the stained glass windows, how he enjoys the singing and the sermons on various topics in the Bible that pertain to life and its meaning.

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, co-worker 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 Broad Street, Schuylerville NY



Tues.- Sat. 11am -4pm

**Donations gladly accepted during
store hours
by appointment only!**

**Volunteers are always needed!
Call Charlotte at 518-695-4640**

SAFER



Feeding the Community

Schuylerville Area Food Relief

Open 9-12 noon M, F

518-507-6043

Please call ahead!

THURSDAY NIGHT PRAYER



Faith Chapel opens its doors every Thursday from 6-8pm to anyone who wants to come in and pray or meditate. Hot chocolate and tea are available.

VIRTUAL ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Ecumenical Clergy group is planning a virtual Christmas Program for **Sunday evening, December 13th at 7:00**. Planning is in the early stages so there is a lot of information we don't have yet, but we will try to get it to you through our Facebook page and a church email. This event, which will feature Christmas songs and readings, is a fund raiser for Caring and Sharing. Pam Driscoll, a member of our congregation and nurse at Schuylerville Schools, helps to manage this fund which provides help to students at the holidays and throughout the year. Our annual ecumenical Christmas Concert has supported Caring and Sharing in the past. Although we can't gather for a concert this year, there is still a great need to help families in our community.

This program will be available on Facebook or through Zoom. There will be information during the program about making donations, but if anyone would like to make donations ahead of time, checks made payable to Caring and Sharing can be dropped off or mailed to the church before December 13th or mailed to:

**Caring and Sharing
c/o Pam Driscoll
Schuylerville High School
14 Spring St.
Schuylerville NY 12871**

"Jacob's Well"

Old Saratoga Reformed Church

48 Pearl St. Schuylerville, NY 12871

Office Manager: Duffy Whitehouse

Consistory Members: Amberlyn Deyoe, Paula Sheely

Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli, Susanna Combs, Bruce Guerineau

Published ten times yearly in Schuylerville, NY 12871

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

E-Mail: oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com

www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org

www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch

Phone: 518-695-3479

Sunday December 6 10am

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Worship Leader: Rev. James Swanson

*(Those at home, please prepare your bread and juice ahead of time to partake in the
Communion Liturgy)*

Guest Worship Leaders in December/January

Dec. 13 Dick Behrens

Dec. 20 Rev. Kent Busman Tentative Installation of Consistory

Dec. 24 Chris Garney Christmas Eve 8PM ONLINE ONLY

(on [Facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch))

Dec. 27 Joint Worship with Turning Point Reformed Churches at OSRC

also on Facebook page

Jan. 3 Rev. Dr. James Swanson Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Jan 10 Marcial Reyes

Jan. 17 Rev. Dr. James Swanson

Jan 24 Christopher Tucker

Jan 31 Patrick Woomer