

# JACOB'S WELL

March 2021



## Church opens 3/7 for worship services!

- March 7 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**    **Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. James Swanson**  
***Celebration of the Lord's Supper***  
**Lectionary Readings:** *Exodus 20: 1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25;*  
*John 2: 13-22*  
*Liturgist: Anne Mitchell*  
*Usher: Karl Thayer*  
*Counters: Mark Booth/Anne Mitchell*
- March 14 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**    **Worship Leader: Marcial Reyes**  
**Lectionary Readings:** *Numbers 21: 4-9; Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22;*  
*Ephesians 2: 1-10; John 3: 14-21*  
*Liturgist: Rob Hayner*  
*Usher: Pam Seward*  
*Counters: Amber Deyoe/Cindy Brockman*
- March 21 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**    **Worship Leader: Dick Behrens**  
**Lectionary Readings:** *Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Psalm 51: 1-12 or*  
*Psalm 119: 9-16; Hebrews 5: 5-10; John 12: 20-33*  
*Liturgist: Sandy Jones*  
*Usher: Bridget Behrens*  
*Counters: Anne Mitchell/Paula Sheely*
- March 28 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY**    **Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. James Swanson**  
***Celebration of the Lord's Supper – Servers: Cindy Brockman/Mark Booth***  
**Lectionary Readings:** *Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 31: 9-16; Philippians 2: 5-11;*  
*Mark 14: 1-15:47 or Mark 15: 1-39, (40-47)*  
*Liturgist: Paula Sheely*  
*Usher: Paula Sheely*  
*Counters: Bruce Guerineau/Mark Booth*

***Our worship services begin at 10:00am. The sanctuary is handicapped accessible.  
Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.***

## ***Musings in the Interim***

Hello! (Almost!)

How does one meet new people in COVID time? For many folk, there is, and has been right along, a short answer – we don't! But there are, as always, exceptions. Old Saratoga Reformed Church is one of them. With the retirement of Joyce deVelder after 38 years, there is a meeting with a new minister coming, in spite of COVID.

Now, granted, this will not be a "real" new minister! "Real" ministers are part of the community. They normally live within five miles or so of the church building and they have other relationships in the community besides being the minister of the church. But still, this will be a "genuine" new minister! There are fewer of this kind than there are of "real" ministers and not every congregation gets to have one. In some areas of the Church they are called "Interim Ministers" and in some areas "Transitional Ministers." That is what Old Saratoga is getting in April when I am looking forward to joining you for a time as Interim Minister.

Why are we having an interim? Well, that is a good question! In some congregations, there is an obvious answer. In one of my past assignments, the minister committed suicide and everything fell apart. In another, a congregation accustomed to having both a minister and associate minister for the past 50 years suddenly found itself with none at all. In short, interim ministers are often working with congregations in crisis. But that is not Old Saratoga! Joyce has retired, but that is not a crisis. It is simply the normal course of human events. So why an interim for you? I think the best answer is, "To ensure that when a new 'real' minister comes to Old Saratoga, both minister and congregation will have a common, conscious awareness and understanding of God's calling for 21<sup>st</sup> century ministry." We all know that our world is changing. Maybe the pace is not really faster but it sure seems so. Things that were certainties and dependables a mere 20 years ago are either changed beyond recognition or no longer exist. The two essential questions of life – "What is real?" and "How do I fit in?" have few, if any, broadly shared answers in our current world. Likewise, how to be Church is now a valid question that needs answers appropriate to the circumstances of people and place.

So I am looking forward to spending some months with you – wondering together about who we are as God's children and what it is God would have Old Saratoga be about in the next few years. We will look at past and present, wonder a bit about worship, check to make sure we know just what the community – Schuylerville and surrounding- is actually like just now. As we get some ideas about that, we will begin looking for the "real" minister. By the time that person arrives, we all pray and hope COVID time will be well behind us. I am praying for you now and looking forward to our conversations.

***Rett Zabriskie***

# CHURCH FAMILY

## BIRTHDAYS

1: Rebecca Nicole Sheely  
1: Don MacMillan III  
3: Carolyn Cook  
5: Susan Fero Kurowski  
8: Glen Mathis  
8: Suzanne Guerineau  
9: Nasa Edgar  
12: Ashley Edgar  
10: Kimberly MacMillan  
10: Riley Peyton MacMillan  
11: Miles and Sasha Clifford  
14: Grace Louise Mellen  
15: Emily Brockman  
15: Rob Hayner  
19: Victoria Starnella  
20: Carol Cox  
25: Diane Mathis Asiel  
29: Bethany Olmert  
30: Kyle Burch  
30: Alisa Richards



## ANNIVERSARIES

25: Tammee and Adam Lockwood, 1989  
25: Brenda and Bill Buchanan

*(Please help keep our birthday, anniversary, and hospital lists current by giving us dates and updates! (695-3479 Thanks!)*

## IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Ruth Hayes	Bette Tucker
Claire Houston	Dwight Colvin
Alyson Fitzgerald	David Garrand
Rod Borgman	Trevor Lewie
Naomi Thayer	Evie Senecal
Alicia Lewie	Charlotte Morrill
Jim Miers	Charles Thayer
Peggy MacMillan	Sheryl Norton
Suzanne Guerineau	Sandy Jones
Anna Bierma	Florence Sherman
DanDan MacMillan	Cheryl Jones
Sherrie Mickel	Florence Brown



## 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

**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

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

## THANKS RECEIVED

We have received the following notes of thanks for our Mission gifts:

..from the Veterans Community Housing Coalition for **\$107.52**

..from The Giving Circle for **\$200**

..from SAIL (Southern Adirondack Independent Living) for **\$78**

## HOSPITALIZED IN FEBRUARY

**Anna Bierma**- Arlington, Texas

**Sandy Jones** – Saratoga Hospital

We pray for all those who have been affected by the COVID virus, either by having it, suffering aftereffects from having it, losing someone dear to them from it, or having their lives disrupted by it.

## IRISH BLESSING FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY – March 17



*May you see God's light on the path ahead*

*When the road you walk is dark.*

*May you always hear,*

*Even in your hour of sorrow,*

*The gentle singing of the lark.*

*When times are hard, may hardness*

*Never turn your heart to stone,*

*May you always remember*

*When the shadows fall*

*You do not walk alone.*

## THANKS EXTENDED

..to **Doug Sheely** who has plowed the church and parsonage driveways many times this winter

..to **Dick Behrens** who took the green communion table runner to the cleaners where the wax drippings were removed

..to **Christopher Tucker** for being our tech person and live streaming our worship services every week

..and to **Christopher** again for bringing the cross over and setting it up for the season of Lent and Eastertide

..to the **consistory** for authorizing the purchase of all the necessary equipment for streaming our worship services, so that Christopher does not have to bring his back and forth every week

## THANKS FROM CHRIS GARNEY

*"Dear Church Family,*

*Thank you so very much for the lovely note and the gift card to my favorite store (Barnes and Noble). It was certainly not necessary, but was sincerely appreciated and will be put to good use. The pandemic made scheduling pulpit supply more challenging than I anticipated, and I am truly grateful to the members of our congregation and the ministers and lay leaders from other churches who have led our services. It has been an honor to work with all of them.*

*Blessings!*

**Chris Garney**



# CHURCH LIFE

## OSRC MISSION STATEMENT

*In answer to God's call  
to share Christ's love,  
we welcome people  
of all abilities and life situations,  
and encourage everyone  
to fully participate in worship and service.*

## OSRC TO REOPEN!! Sunday, March 7 10am

At the February consistory meeting it was decided to reopen the church for in-person worship services. As in the past, all protocols for safety will be observed—masks, physical distancing, etc. It will be just about a year that we closed down for several months. We did reopen in July, through the end of December. Surely we will all be extra joyful to be able to worship in our building, especially for Palm Sunday and Easter!!

## EASTER FLOWERS



We have a very short turnaround time to order our Easter flowers, as it must be placed by **March 10! Lilies, mums and azaleas are available for \$10 per plant.** Payment should accompany your order. If you will not be attending church, please call the office with your order. **(518-695-3479) MWF 9-noon or leave a message.**

If you wish to purchase a plant elsewhere, you may do so and bring it to the church by **April 1**, for inclusion on the flower list.

## HYMNS OF OUR FAITH

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

***"And Can It Be That I Should Gain"***

***"And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood? Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me, whom him to death pursues? Amazing love! How can it be that thou, My God, shouldst die for me?"***

This hymn, written by Charles Wesley, is considered one of the best-loved of his six thousand hymns. It was written in 1738 to celebrate Wesley's conversion to Christianity. The first verse, above, is inspired by Galatians 2:20.

Wesley expresses his conversion experience in the fourth stanza in terms of the Apostle Peter's escape from prison that we read about in Acts 12: 5-9.

***"Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night. Thine eye diffused a quickening ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light. My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed thee."***

At the time of his conversion, Charles was convalescing in the home of a Mr. Bray. Charles heard a voice saying, "In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, arise and believe, and thou shalt be healed of all thy infirmities." The voice was likely Mr. Bray's sister who felt commanded to say these words in a dream. According to Anglican hymn writer Timothy Dudley-Smith, Charles got out of bed and opening his Bible read from the Psalms (40:3) "He has put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God." Wesley wrote, "I have found myself at peace with God and rejoiced in the hope of the love of Christ."

This hymn is especially applicable to the Lenten Season when we follow themes having to do with our human brokenness, mortality, and the need for the saving grace that God has shown us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Dick Behrens**

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE



The Property Committee has met several times in the last month to further make plans on the best course to get the parsonage ready for a new minister. The first step has been to have an electrician upgrade the electrical entrance from 100 amp to 200 amp and install a new box. Then the wiring to the various rooms will have to be looked at to see what needs to be done there to make everything safe. Once those items are done, then the kitchen and bathroom fixes can begin. The consistory and the property committee held a joint meeting in the parsonage on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at which members of both groups decided that the goal of the repairs-renovations-remodels are to make everything safe first, and then to repair and replace following that.

## ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY

*Wednesdays at 10:00 am*



The Ecumenical Bible Study will resume meeting in Loomis Hall on **March 10**. The class will again be led by Dick Behrens. The group will be starting to read the Acts of the Apostles, so if you have had thoughts about learning more about the Bible, now is a wonderful time to begin! New members from any denomination are always welcome to attend.

## PALM SUNDAY AND...



Palm Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, **March 28** and will include the distribution of Palms, and the Sacrament of Communion. Our service will be led by the **Rev. Dr. James Swanson**.

***(If you are unable to attend the service and would like to have Palms, there will be some out in the back foyer for you to come get at your convenience during the week)***

## EASTER



Easter Sunday is on **April 4**. Once again, our service will be led by the **Rev. Dr. James Swanson**. This will be the last time that Pastor James will be on our pulpit supply schedule, as our interim pastor, **Rev. Rett Zabriskie**, will officially start his time with us the next day.

We are very grateful for the wonderful messages and beautiful music that Pastor James has given to us over the course of the past year.

## LOOKING AHEAD



**Saturday April 10 Drive Through Lasagna Dinner**

**Chaired by Bonnie Garrand**

# DRIVE THROUGH LASAGNA DINNER



**Sat. April 10**

**4:30-6:00 pm**

**Old Saratoga Reformed Church  
48 Pearl St., Schuylerville**

*Lasagna (meat and vegetarian), tossed salad,  
Italian bread, dessert*

**\$12 for adults- \$5 for children 5-10- Under 5 free**

**Reservations required, please!**

**(by Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>)**

**call 518-695-6638**

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS



Don't forget to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour at 2am on March 14<sup>th</sup>

## WOMEN'S GUILD

The Guild will resume meeting on **Monday, April 19 at noon** after the pandemic break. Hopefully, by then, most members will have received their vaccines and will feel comfortable attending a meeting together. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

## “CONSISTORY CONNECTION”

The most recent consistory meeting was held via zoom on February 18<sup>th</sup>. At that time, the consistory decided to reopen the church for worship services. The services will still be live streamed for those who do not feel comfortable attending in person. There will be a joint service of the Turning Point churches on May 30. Details will be announced at a later time, as they become available.

Our church has been asked to host the next Classis meeting, to be held on Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. The delegates hope to be able to meet outdoors. Pre-pandemic, they enjoyed a dinner before the meeting. We do not know yet if that will be the case when they come to OSRC.

The next consistory meeting will be March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the parsonage. **Pastors Matthew Van Maastricht and Rett Zabriskie** will also be attending this meeting.

## DEACONS FUND FOR MARCH *Support for AIDS Housing Services*

The entire mission of Support Ministries is the housing needs of people living with AIDS. They can be served by one of four programs of Support Services: either by residing in the Ahana House in Waterford, or in the Jim Perry Residence in Albany. Additionally, Project HELP provides temporary transitional housing, with the goal of achieving independent living. Last, there is an Advocacy Program, in which a case manager assists people living with AIDS to find permanent housing. Your donation will continue this work.

## FIRST QUARTER MISSION

The Mission for the first quarter is Drilling for Hope, which was started in 2005 by Karen Flewelling. Since Karen pays her own travel, lodging and food expenses, 100% of donations go to well drilling endeavors and people. DFH provides water wells, and farm animals. Food, medicine and school supplies are also donated, along with the sponsoring of children who would otherwise not receive an education.

*Donations to either of these missions may be sent to the church, earmarked AIDS Housing or Drilling For Hope*



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE



*This year's Lenten Series theme is "The U- Turn." Each preacher will focus on a person from the Bible or from more modern times who made a decision to change his or her life and live for Christ and others.*

*All services are live streamed on the Schuylerville United Methodist Church Facebook page at 7m on Wednesday evenings.*

- 3/3 Rev. Meaghan Keegan  
3/10 Elder Richard Behrens  
3/17 Rev. Scott Cutting  
3/24 Deacon Helene Patterson  
4/1 Rev. Janet Vincent (Maundy Thursday – Communion)  
4/2 Rev. Meaghan Keegan –noon and  
7pm at SUMC (hybrid service)  
4/4 Rev. Janet Vincent (virtual and outdoor Sunrise Service at 6:15am)

## DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR LENT



Go to [www.rca.org/lent](http://www.rca.org/lent)  
Click on "Daily Devotions for Lent"  
Subscribe to mailing list to get devotions for Lent in your e-mail

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## SECOND HAND ROSE THRIFT SHOP

116 Broadway, Schuylerville NY Tues. – Sat. 11am-4pm

Donations gladly accepted during store hours- appointment needed!

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

## SAFER

Schuylerville Area Food Relief Open 9-12 noon M, F 9-12 518- 507-6043

**“JACOB’S WELL”**

**Old Saratoga Reformed Church**

48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871

Church Office: 518-695-3479

E-Mail: [oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com](mailto:oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com)

[www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org](http://www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org)

OFFICE MANAGER: Duffy Whitehouse

**Consistory Members:** Amber Deyoe, Paula Sheely,  
Mark Booth, Cindy Brockman, Bruce Guerineau,  
Anne Mitchell

**Published ten times yearly in Schuylerville, NY 12871**

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am OR our Facebook page

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

**Sunday, March 7 10 am**  
**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**  
**Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. James Swanson**

**Sunday March 14 10 am**  
**Worship Leader: Marcial Reyes**

**Sunday March 21 10 am**  
**Worship Leader: Dick Behrens**

**Sunday March 28 10 am**  
**Palm Sunday Celebration of the Lord's Supper**  
**Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. James Swanson**

**Sunday April 4 10 am**  
**Easter Sunday Celebration of the Resurrection**  
**Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. James Swanson**