

JACOB'S WELL

April 2021



Church is open for worship services!

April 4 EASTER SUNDAY **Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. James Swanson**

Lectionary Readings: Acts 10: 34-43; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24;

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; John 20: 1-18

Greeter: Bill Olmert

Liturgist: Carolyn Markwith

Usher: Terri Richards

Counters: Cindy Brockman/Amber Deyoe

April 11 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Rev. Rett Zabriskie will begin his time as our Transitional Minister

Lectionary Readings: Acts 4: 32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1: 1-2:2; John 20: 19-31

Greeter: Kim Thayer

Liturgist: Pat Woomer

Usher: Karl Thayer

Counters: Paula Sheely/Mark Booth

April 18 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lectionary Readings: Acts 3: 12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3: 1-7; Luke 24: 36b-48

Greeter: Pat Woomer

Liturgist: Dick Behrens

Usher: Kim Thayer

Counters: Cindy Brockman/Bruce Guerineau

April 25 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lectionary Readings: Acts 4: 5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3: 16-24; John 10: 11-18

Greeter: Duffy Whitehouse

Liturgist: Victoria Starnella

Usher: Bridget Behrens

Counters: Anne Mitchell/Paula Sheely

***Our worship services begin at 10:00am. The sanctuary is handicapped accessible.
Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month. (There will be no
communion service in April.)***

Musings in the Interim

WHAT'S RISEN?

April 2021

Do you have a heaven you can use? As April begins, we celebrate the Great Festival - Christ Risen. And we are full of the hope that the Resurrection gives. But I am finding that, when pressed, folk find it often difficult to articulate that hope. And that's because we don't have a heaven we can use.

The heaven we have is the one left to us by the Bible writers and the medieval mystics. St. John, in the book of Revelation, describes heaven in terms of a desert or island paradise - warm, sunny, lots of vegetation. How will the Eskimos fare there, not to mention the four or five of us who actually like the weather in New York? The medieval mystics, Dante being the chief, conjure an empyrean filled with music, vapoural beings, and intellectual delight. How will football fans fare there, not to mention farmers, metalworkers, and police officers? The whole idea of heaven as a place where we turn into angels, sit on clouds, and play harps is simply a reduction of the Bible and the medievals into an insipid blah that never attracted anyone.

We need a heaven we can use. What does God indeed intend? As always, Christ is the answer. Look at Jesus following the Resurrection! He lives a full human existence but with many plusses. Distance is no object - he goes from Emmaus to Jerusalem faster than a Star Trek transporter could do it. He can choose his location in creation, earth, sky, whatever. What were miracles before, walking on water, healing illness, are now normal activity.

It can not be that God only wants to resurrect "religious" people. He created them all and he loves them all. And his instructions at the beginning were clear - we are to get involved with one another and care for one another. To be companions with one another and with God.

So a heaven we can use will be life as God intended it - many cultures but no racism; food but no one starving; love but no one lonely. In the creeds we acknowledge "I believe in the resurrection of the body". That's us we are talking about, and the resurrection locus is heaven. Learning how to live there is a life long task for which preparatory seminars are held each Lord's Day at OSRC. I look forward to seeing you in your accustomed place.

Rett Zabriskie

CHURCH FAMILY

BIRTHDAYS

2: Harold Burch
2: Colleen Burch
4: Leah Demick
5: Gabriel Paul Alexanian
7: Jikke (Bierma) Loughlin
8: Janice Cornell
9: Sarah Zotzmann
13: Allene Cobart
15: Sarah Mathis
17: Kathryn (Sherman) Clark
20: Carl Douglass
21: Maggie Cox
23: John Deyoe, Jr.
23: Bryn Radigan
24: Jillian Perkins
27: Edward Robert Richards Fish
30: Michael Shaver

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

ANNIVERSARIES

17: Donald and Kathleen Bartholomay, 1970

(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
Florence Sherman	Florence Brown
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

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 Giving Circle for a gift of **\$312** to support a teacher for a year

THANKS EXTENDED

*..to **Dick Behrens** who purchased the roping to keep the sanctuary pews in compliance with physical distancing, and, with the help of **Bridget Behrens**, braided all the ropes*

*..to **Victoria Starnella** who has agreed to be our church housekeeper, following the retirement of **Terri Richards***

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Congratulations to **Jim Brockman**, who officially retired from Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory on March 1. Jim has worked as an engineer at KAPL for 37 years. During that time he has had the opportunity to travel to Scotland and England, as well as to various naval bases in the United States: Pearl Harbor, Seattle, Norfolk, Groton, and Kings Bay. At each of these locations, Jim trained sailors on how to operate power plants on nuclear subs. Jim currently has no specific plans for retirement, but hopes to be able to travel, with one goal being to visit St. James Gate in Dublin, Ireland.

NEW HOUSEKEEPER

The Property Committee is pleased to announce that **Victoria Starnella**, one of our new members, has agreed to be the church housekeeper. Victoria is very "green" conscious about cleaning products, so she is on board with all the protocols for the pandemic and the environment. Welcome, Victoria!

SYMPATHY

The church extends heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Anna (Brunner) Bierma (88)** who died on March 20 in Mansfield, TX, at the home of her daughter, **Jikke Loughlin**. Anna's other daughter, **Rixt Clifford** (from Colorado) was there with her as well.

Anna lived over half of her life in the United States, but she was born and raised in the Province of Friesland in the Netherlands. She came to the US in 1967, the year that she and **Hans Bierma** (who arrived with her) were married. They owned and operated a dairy farm south of Schuylerville, where Anna continued to live after Hans' death in Feb. '97.

For many years, Anna was busy raising her daughters, helping Hans with the farm, and, as a talented weaver, working her loom. Later on, she became active in the Saratoga YMCA and the Hudson Mohawk Weaver's Guild. She loved playing bridge with friends, reading, traveling, and going to concerts, plays and other cultural events.

Anna was actively involved at Old Saratoga Reformed Church for over 40 years. She came to church almost every Sunday and was a long-time member of the Women's Guild and Fellowship Committee. She visited people who were home alone or hospitalized, and sent cards, in addition to giving hundreds of hours as a volunteer at church dinners and other gatherings and events.

Anna is survived by her two daughters, **Rixt and Jikke**, her son-in-law **David Clifford**, six grandchildren, her five remaining siblings in the Netherlands, and by countless numbers of friends. Condolences may be sent to:

**Rixt Clifford, 833 Village Road,
Carbondale, CO 81623
Jikke Loughlin, 1305 Westridge Drive,
Mansfield, TX 76063**

**Memorial donations may be sent to Old
Saratoga Reformed Church**

**Anna's memorial service will be held at
Old Saratoga Reformed Church**

Saturday, July 10 at 11 am

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 8th)

call 518-695-6638

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.*

COFFEE HOUR **Mondays at 9:30am**



Our weekly coffee hour has resumed, but is now meeting on Monday mornings at 9:30am. All are welcome to have a cup of coffee, some delicious baked treats, and enjoy conversation with church friends. It's a great way to get to know the people whom you see at worship each Sunday in an informal setting!

GROUPS WHICH ARE USING THE BUILDING

The consistory has given permission to the following groups to return to use the building again. All protocols in use during the pandemic are being observed: mask wearing, social distancing, hand sanitizing, limited use of the space, sanitizing surfaces which have been used, and disposing of any garbage generated by the group.

AA - Sunday evening at 5pm

AA- Tuesday evening at 7pm

Living Resources – as scheduled

HYMNS OF OUR FAITH

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

"Come Share the Lord"

***"We gather here in Jesus' name, his love is burning
in our hearts like living flame;
For through his loving Son, the Father makes us one;
Come, take the bread, come drink the wine, come
share the Lord."***

In 1984, English born hymnwriter Bryan Jeffrey Leech thought to write a communion anthem. He first invented a melody but was having difficulty coming up with the lyrics. He struggled for more than six months. However, upon visiting a musician friend in California, he played the tune and asked for a reaction. The friend then said, "It's obvious: holy communion." Within moments the words were completed. The song is now his most popular and is sung in many denominational settings. You can find it on You Tube and witness its worldwide popularity.

Each of the three verses presents a theme, each exhibits the spiritual intimacy of the Lord's Supper. Verse 1, We gather in Jesus name and everyone is welcome. Verse 2, Jesus joins us. He is risen, and he breaks the bread, we are a family. Verse 3, We'll gather in the glory of our Lord and King and enjoy an everlasting feast. The observance of the Lord's Supper binds the family of God. It is a time when we can set aside our differences and be as one- the visible body of Christ. "We engage together with thanksgiving, in a holy remembrance of the death of Christ our Savior, and as we thus confess our faith."¹

***"We'll gather soon where angels sing, we'll see
the glory of our Lord and coming King;
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come, take the bread, come drink the wine,
come share the Lord."***

***We are now a family of which the Lord is head,
Though unseen he meets us here in the
breaking of the bread."***

1. The Belgic Confession

PROPERTY COMMITTEE



The Property Committee reports that the electrical upgrade has been completed, and now the electrician is working on adding new outlets and more lighting in the parsonage. The committee has decided on a kitchen design, which will essentially be the same as the foot print which is already in place. **Doug Sheely** has been removing an old brick “chimney to nowhere for no purpose” which will enable better planning in the kitchen and the upstairs bathroom. Several helpers came on March 29 to do some cleaning in the parsonage, to get off the first layer of dust and dirt from the chimney removal before **Pastor Rett** comes. We will be having another cleanup just before he arrives to stay in the parsonage.

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 in our pulpit, since 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, and we look forward to having him back when Pastor Rett takes a Sunday off for vacation.

ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 10:00 am



The Ecumenical Bible Study resumed meeting in Loomis Hall on **March 10**. The class will again be led by **Dick Behrens**. The group has started to read the Acts of the Apostles, so if you have had thoughts of joining the group, now's the time! Interested people of any denomination are welcome to attend.

BOTTLES AND CANS



Come take a turn, returning the bottles to CLYNK! It'll be fun!
You'll love it!

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 at the parsonage on March 16, and was attended by **Pastors Rett Zabriskie (our Transitional Pastor) and Matthew van Maastricht** (who is our classis appointed supervisor) as well as the consistory members. The guests were eager to see the parsonage and get an idea of the scope of the renovation/repairs which are needed, and the consistory was interested to see what progress has been made.

DEACONS FUND FOR APRIL

Habitat for Humanity (Glens Falls Chapter)

Habitat for Humanity works with communities to provide simple, decent, affordable housing in partnership with those in need. A family must be unable to qualify for a regular mortgage, live in substandard housing, and agree to put in 500 hours of volunteer work. They also must have money for a down payment and be able to pay the mortgage, taxes and insurance. It is also expected that families will help others to realize their dream of home ownership. At the end of the process there is a dedication ceremony, attended by the family and the volunteers. Your donation will help to provide housing for those who so desperately need it.

SECOND QUARTER MISSION

Fowler Ministries

The mission for the second quarter (April – June) 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, 1000 feet of lakefront, over 30 buildings, all the children who visit, and all the creatures that make their homes there."
(Rev. Kent Busman)

GENERAL SYNOD UPDATE



The General Synod, which usually meets in June, will be holding a pro forma meeting to declare the lack of a quorum due to the pandemic. They will make plans to meet at a later date, in October, at a place and time to be determined by availability.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ecumenical Lenten Services

4/1 7pm at SUMC (hybrid service)
4/4 Bacon Hill Reformed Church
Rev. Janet Vincent (virtual and outdoor Easter Sunrise Service at 6:15am)

SECOND HAND ROSE THRIFT SHOP

Open 9-12 noon M, F 9-12 518- 695- 4624

SAFER - Schuylerville Area Food Relief
M,F 9am-noon 518-507-6043

An Easter Prayer



O Jesus, our beloved companion and inspiration, we thank thee at this glorious Easter time for guiding our lives and protecting our homes and families;

And for sharing with us the warmth of thine unseen presence. We thank thee, for being our way to God, for lighting our pathway to the Spring, the source from which all beauty, peace and life endlessly flow.

In this miraculous season of rebirth, as the flowers, trees and grasses emerge from winter's slumber; as the butterflies and dragonflies take to the breeze once again; as creatures big and small nurture a new generation; as the days grow longer, the nights warmer, and the skies bluer;

We thank thee, O Jesus, for bringing us to Easter, in order that we might recall thine own marvelous rebirth so long ago - when the task of thy temporal ministry had drawn to a close, and God, by grace to us, brought thee back to life and into that dimension which is his own, which is all around us, and which is called heaven; that ye shalt dwell by our side as an unseen, but ever-present protector and counselor for the rest of these days.

And lastly, O Jesus, even as thou has steadfastly protected us, we reaffirm our promise to protect the gifts of nature that have been bestowed upon us. Amen.

(Anonymous)

“JACOB’S WELL”

Old Saratoga Reformed Church

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www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org

TRANSITIONAL MINISTER: Rev. Rett Zabriskie

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

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

***Saturday April 10
Drive Through Lasagna Dinner
4:30-6pm
(see inside for details)***

***Sunday April 11 10am
Pastor Rett Zabriskie will begin as Transitional Pastor***