

JACOB'S WELL

November 2021



November 7 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Lectionary Readings: *Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9: 24-28;
Mark 12: 38-44*

Greeter: Kim Thayer

Liturgist: Dick Behrens

Usher: Dick Behrens

Counters: Cindy Brockman/Mark Booth

Servers: Mark Booth/Cindy Brockman

November 14 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Lectionary Readings: *1 Samuel 1: 4-10; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10: 11-14; (15-18),
19-25; Mark 13: 1-8*

Greeter: Pat Woomer

Liturgist: Carolyn Markwith

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Bruce Guerineau/Amber Deyoe

November 21 REIGN OF CHRIST THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

Lectionary Readings: *Daniel 7: 1-14; Psalm 132; Revelation 1: 1-8; John 18: 33-38*

Greeter: Bridget Behrens

Liturgist: Pat Woomer

Usher: Karl Thayer

Counters: Anne Mitchell/Cindy Brockman

November 28 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Greeter: Carolyn Markwith

Liturgist: Victoria Starnella

Usher: Dick Behrens

Counters: Paula Sheely/Bruce Guerineau

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

Musings in the Interim

HOW'S BY YOU?

November 2021

In the midst of Hallowe'en, we remember that it is also the anniversary of the Reformation, which formed the Reformed Church grounded in the teachings of John Calvin. Ask a Calvinist, "How are you?" and you can expect to hear "Totally depraved". For those of you who do not read the tomes of the Reformation as devotional literature, the first of five doctrinal points in The Canons of the Synod of Dordrecht, 1619 is the one that deals with the doctrine of Total Depravity, explaining that all of life is infused with sin. Just for fun, I bring up "Grim John" in sermons now and again to see if Calvinism has much life or interest among people today.

Up front, it appears there are not many Calvinists among us. A Gallup poll, conducted before the 2016 election started moving all the polls, indicated that 55% of us were satisfied with "the way things are going in the United States at this time". And even more unCalvinistically, 83% were satisfied with the way things are going in their personal lives.

I wonder who made up that 83%. I suspect that the 53% of young Black families with children who were living below the poverty level in 2014 were not among them. I hunch that the baby of a single Black mother under 25 who now has a 9 out of 10 chance of being poor for life is also not included. On the fourth Thursday of this month, struggling families will be thankful for the little they do have. Will the 83%? Or will their feelings be more a sort of jaded relief at not being more stressed out - with a "thankful" label tenuously stuck on? I would like to pray that there are not any Christians included in the satisfied 83% but of course the numbers mean that there are. About 50% of the US population still claim Christianity so at least 30+% of them must be among the satisfied.

Those numbers illustrate two ways modern Christians are bedeviled. First, that we are more formed by our culture than our faith. No Christian would deliberately refuse to help another person whose need was plain and obvious. That we feel satisfied with life and do so refuse on grounds of taxes, self-determination, social class, and limited perspective is due to our being products of our culture rather than products of the Holy Spirit. Secondly, we are more concerned with the opinion of our friends than with God's. We would sooner stifle feelings and opinions than embarrass ourselves by contradicting the prevailing norm.

Being people of our age is a problem all humans share. No one in any age since Eden has escaped the isolation of being alone in a world we did not make. God invites us, however, to be part of the Triune Conversation in the world which God has made and is making. Modern media pays God no attention at all. Yet God's people know God's activity as tangible and real. In that most real world, all will finally be whole and there will be neither crying nor pain. God joined our world in Christ just to issue that invitation. And the invitation is renewed and re-issued each Lord's Day at Old Saratoga Reformed Church. I hope to see you in your regular place to both receive the invitation and respond.

Rett Zabriskie

HAM HARVEST SUPPER

SAT. NOVEMBER 6

4:30pm through 6:00pm



OLD SARATOGA REFORMED CHURCH

48 Pearl Street Schuylerville, NY

**Menu: Baked Ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash,
green beans, Dutch Kraut, roll, Apple Crisp**

Adults \$14 - Children 5-12 \$7 - Under 5 free

Drive through takeouts only

Reservations Recommended

Call 518-695-6638

CHURCH FAMILY

BIRTHDAYS

1: Roger Sherman
2: Carol Burch
3: Roger M. Sherman
3: David Woormer
6: Wendy (Russell) Fedderly
10: Emily Buchanan
12: Robert Haney
12: Thomas Pooler
12: Doug Sheely
13: Peggy MacMillan
14: Sawyer Russell Fedderly
18: Linda Barter
20: Melanie (Whitehouse) Casey
22: Sandy Jones
23: Ryan Markwith
24: Chauncey Mabb
25: Timothy Cox



ANNIVERSARIES

9: Donald and Kimberly Mac Millan, 2002
10: Anne and Doug Mitchell 2012
25: Bill and Duffy Whitehouse, 1967

(Please help keep our birthday, anniversary, and hospital lists current by giving us dates and updates! (518-695-3479 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
Trevor Lewie	Charles Thayer
Naomi Thayer	Alicia Lewie
Charlotte Morrill	Sherrie Mickel
Peggy MacMillan	Sheryl Norton
Suzanne Guerineau	Florence Sherman
Florence Brown	DanDan MacMillan
Barbara Vincent	Tom Esposito
Thomas Zabriskie	Annabelle Gutasy
Paul Hisert	



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
Shirley Mabb, Wesley Community, Springs 502, 131 Lawrence St, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Florence Sherman, Wesley Community, ****Springs 204**, 133 Lawrence Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, Phone # 518- 415-3012
****new building and room #**

St. Nicolaas Holiday Sale at Old Saratoga Reformed Church

Sat. Dec. 4
8am-2pm



Gently used Christmas decorations,
basket raffles, refreshments

Please check your decoration
boxes for items no longer wanted
to donate to the sale!

No electronics or MUGS!! (please)

Donations accepted after Nov. 1

CHURCH LIFE

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee met for the first time on Sunday, Oct. 24. **Chris Garney** has agreed to chair the committee. Members will be working on developing a church profile, based on an email from the Reformed Church in America. The Office of Ministry Services provides information to ordained ministers who are seeking a call, and to churches who are seeking ordained ministers. It does not recommend any particular candidate or church, but instead serves as a resource to both. The next meeting will be **Sunday, Nov. 7**, following worship.

OUR MISSIONS - November

Deacons' Fund-Shelters of Saratoga

The Shelters of Saratoga gives "shelter," because every individual deserves the right to the most basic needs – food, clothing, and shelter. They do this by providing a safe and secure atmosphere. They give "opportunity to change lives due to homelessness." They give "support" to rebuild lives through advocacy, rehabilitation and transitioning programs.

Quarterly Mission – The Giving Circle

Its purpose is to shape better lives by building and teaching sustainable solutions in education, health, farming and economic self-empowerment. It's an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, originally founded in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, but has since expanded to work with underserved families in Saratoga County, the Code Blue homeless shelter, and support for the Koi Koi House orphanage in Africa.

GENERAL SYNOD 2021

The General Synod of the RCA met in Tucson, Arizona October 14-19. For the past twenty years, as the surrounding culture has become more accepting of variations in human sexuality, a significant number of ministers and congregations of the RCA have wanted the denomination to take a definitive stand that would prevent any RCA entity from accepting or accommodating the cultural changes. That discussion/disagreement, with recommendations, was presented in the Vision 2020 Report, which was discussed and acted upon at this Synod.

All the details, for those who wish to dig deeper, are available at www.rca.org. The short story is that no changes were made to the Church Order, the rules by which the RCA operates. Instead, affirmation of our Global Mission program remaining RCA controlled, rather than distributed among both remaining and leaving congregations, was approved. Also, several recommendations to allow ministers and congregations to more easily leave the denomination, were approved. A number of both ministers and congregations, primarily in the far West and Indiana, have left already and some more are expected to do so in the near future. In addition, a fifteen person task force will be appointed to consider specific changes that have been suggested, to report at Synod 2024.

Synod 2021 was a waypoint for affirming the decisiveness of personal relationships in cultural change. Some will leave the church, but OSRC will continue to live with the need to discover new ways to be Church in a changed culture. The actions of Synod 2021 neither change nor prescribe the ways OSRC works at that task.

Reft Zabriskie

HYMNS OF OUR FAITH

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

***"We are called to be God's people, showing by our
lives his grace, One in heart and one in spirit, sign of
hope for all the race.***

***Let us show how he has changed us, and remade
us as his own, Let us share our life together as we
shall around the throne."***

This contemporary hymn takes us well beyond the comfort of Sunday morning worships into our everyday lives, where we are called into ministry for the sake of God's kingdom. All believers in Christ are called to spread the "Good News" to a world that needs the knowledge of God's grace.

In verse three we see application of the hymn to current national and world-wide issues. The Baptist hymnwriter, Thomas A. Jackson, implores us to "speak for the truth and right," "stand firm for godly justice," and bring evil things to light," so that "the world may know the blessing of doing God's will."

Matthew 20:27 reminds us that the "Son of Man (Jesus) came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." In Ephesians 4: 1 the Apostle Paul begs us to "lead a life worthy of our calling..." As imitators of Christ, we are to boldly identify with the master and accept our calling as servants and prophets.

***"We are called to be God's servants, working
in his world today.***

***Taking his own task upon us, all his sacred
words obey,***

***Let us rise then to his summons, dedicate to
him our all,***

***That we may be faithful servants, quick to
answer now his call."***

Dick Behrens

LOST AND (not) FOUND

Many times, after an event at church, someone kindly offers to take the tablecloths and dishtowels home to wash and return. The hunt has been on for a cream colored, round tablecloth which is used on the round table in Loomis Hall. Please check your linen supplies to see if it mistakenly got in your drawer. It would be wonderful if we could find it to use again, as we have several events coming up for which it could be used. Thanks!

CONSISTORY CONNECTION

Consistory met on Oct. 19 and discussed the following:

- Chris Garney has offered to write the Holiday appeal letter
- Nominations for consistory positions have started. Someone will present a short explanation of what these positions entail at a worship service
- The Room For All committee will disband and be part of the search for a new pastor
- We will be having our Annual St. Nicholaas Brunch and tree trimming on Sat. Nov. 27
- Christmas Eve service will be "in person" and held at 8pm
- We will be having our Holiday Sale on Sat. Dec. 4 from 8am-2pm
- The next meeting will be held on Nov. 16, to approve the budget for presentation at the Annual Meeting

Next consistory meeting will be 11/16.



PROPERTY NEWS

The Property Committee met briefly to check on the progress of the renovation in the parsonage. **Doug Sheely** and **Jay Ellis** met to lay out the plumbing and wiring specs for the bathroom. Once that is done, the insulation and sheet rock can be installed, the heated floor can be put down and the fixtures installed.

The company who took care of our sidewalks last year called to say that they may not have the labor to do it for us again this year, but are checking on it. If you have any suggestions, in case they are not able to help us, please call the office (518-695- 3479)

ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY DATES

With the holidays fast approaching, the Ecumenical Bible Study announced their schedule for November and December. There will be **NO** Bible study on the following dates:

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Wednesday, Dec. 15 – meeting at the home of Jean Myers instead

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, **January 5, 2022 at 9:45am.**

THANKSGIVING AND ADVENT

Our Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, Nov. 21. The following week, Nov. 28 will be the first Sunday in the Season of Advent. We hope that you will be able to join in these special times of the church year.

OSRC ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, Nov. 21

Each year, on the third Sunday of November, OSRC holds its Annual Meeting. This year it will be held on Sunday, Nov. 21, immediately following worship. Important decisions regarding the ministry and programs of the church are made at this meeting. Elders and Deacons are elected to consistory positions, and our Faith budget is presented for approval. Reports and statistics are also presented. It is an important day in the life of this church. We hope that you will join in, express your opinion, and, most importantly, vote.

PECANS

We will again be offering fresh Georgia pecan halves for your holiday baking, and dark chocolate covered pecan halves for gift giving or snacking. Both kinds will be selling for **\$12**, the same price as last year. Please call the office to order, as quantities are limited, or sign up on the sheets at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your support!

ST. NICOLAAS BRUNCH

Saturday, Nov. 27 at 10am

One of the seasonal events to which we look forward each year is decorating the church for the Christmas Season, accompanied by the St. Nicolaas Brunch. First we decorate for a bit, and then enjoy a delicious brunch, provided by those who have come to help. It is always a fun time and a good way to get yourself into the Christmas spirit! If you are not able to climb ladders, we can always use people who will sit and get the decorations ready for others to place on the trees. A signup sheet will be posted soon.

COMMUNITY LIFE

SAFER

Schuylerville Area Food Emergency Relief
12 Spring St. 518-507-6043
M,F 9-noon

SAFER will be giving Thanksgiving baskets but has not yet received the paperwork for patrons to fill out. If you would like to apply for one, please call SAFER first to see if the paperwork has arrived. The baskets will be prepared at Byron's Market and will be available there also.

If you would like to donate, SAFER has a need for paper supplies. They cannot use what money they receive for anything but food items, so donations of paper towels, bathroom tissue, etc. would be greatly appreciated.



The Middle School will be collecting canned goods to donate to SAFER. The Future Business Leaders of America students, under the aegis of Ms. Sherry Depoy, are in charge of this project. The students will bring the donations to SAFER and get to see how the pantry operates.

SECOND HAND ROSE THRIFT SHOP

116 Broadway 518 695-4640
Tues-Sat. 11am-4pm



Not for profit,
low cost "previously owned" clothing items
Proceeds benefit community service
organizations

THE SMALL CHURCH

In a big world, the small church has
remained intimate.

In a fast world, the small church has been
steady.

In an expensive world, the small church
has remained plain.

In a complex world, the small church has
remained simple.

In a rational world, the small church has
kept feeling.

In a mobile world, the small church has
been an anchor.

In an anonymous world, the small church
calls us by name.

From "Grassroots"

"Jacob's Well"

Old Saratoga Reformed Church

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Email: oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com

www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org

TRANSITIONAL MINISTER: Rev. Rett Zabriskie

201-819-7629

Office Manager: Duffy Whitehouse

Consistory Members: AmberDeyoe, Paula Sheely, Mark Booth,
Cindy Brockman, Anne Mitchell, Bruce Guerineau

Published 10 times a year in Schuylerville, NY

Sunday Worship: 10:00am OR Facebook page

facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch

Annual Harvest Ham Dinner

Drive thru only

Sat. Nov. 6 4:30-6pm

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, Nov. 7 10am

OSRC Annual Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 21 following worship

St. Nicolaas Brunch and Tree Trimming

Sat. Nov. 27 10 am