

# JACOB'S WELL

December 2021 /January 2022



**December 5 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Advent Candle of Hope- Thayers  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

**Lectionary Readings:** Malachi 3: 1-4; Philippians 1: 3-11; Luke 3: 1-6

*Greeter: Karl Thayer*

*Liturgist: Anne Mitchell*

*Usher: Paula Sheely*

*Counters: Anne Mitchell/Amber Deyoe*

*Servers: Anne Mitchell/Amber Deyoe*

**December 12 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Advent Candle of Joy - Choir**

**Lectionary Readings:** Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Isaiah 12: 2-6; Philippians 4: 4-7;  
Luke 3: 7-18

*Greeter: Bill Olmert*

*Liturgist: Rob Hayner*

*Usher: Karl Thayer*

*Counters: Cindy Brockman/Mark Booth*

**December 19 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Advent Candle of Peace-Chris and Duffy**

**Lectionary Readings:** Micah 5: 2-5a; Psalm 80; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-55

*Greeter: Duffy Whitehouse*

*Liturgist: Pat Woomer*

*Usher: Dick Behrens*

*Counters: Bruce Guerineau/Cindy Brockman*

**December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE Advent Candle of Light - Mitchells**

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

*Greeter: Bridget Behrens*

*Ushers: Karl and Kim Thayer*

**December 26 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**Ordination and Installation of Consistory**

**Lectionary Readings:** Isaiah 61: 10-62:3; Psalm 145; Galatians 4: 4-7;  
Luke 2: 22-40

*Greeter: Kim Thayer*

*Liturgist: Paula Sheely*

*Usher: Paula Sheely*

*Counters: Paula Sheely/Bruce Guerineau*



**January 2 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS Celebration of the Lord's Supper**  
**Lectionary Readings:** *Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3: 1-12;*  
*Matthew 2: 1-12*

*Greeter: Karl Thayer*  
*Liturgist: Anne Mitchell*  
*Usher: Paula Sheely*  
*Counters: Anne Mitchell/Amber Deyoe*  
*Servers: Anne Mitchell/Amber Deyoe*

**January 9 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Baptism of the Lord**  
**Lectionary Readings:** *Isaiah 43: 1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8: 14-17;*  
*Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22*

*Greeter: Bill Olmert*  
*Liturgist: Rob Hayner*  
*Usher: Karl Thayer*  
*Counters: Cindy Brockman/TBA*

**January 16 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**Lectionary Readings:** *Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 36: 5-10; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11;*  
*John 2: 1-11*

*Greeter: Duffy Whitehouse*  
*Liturgist: Pat Woomer*  
*Usher: Dick Behrens*  
*Counters: Bruce Guerineau/Cindy Brockman*

**January 23 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**Lectionary Readings:** *Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19;*  
*1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a; Luke 4: 14-21*

*Greeter: Carolyn Markwith*  
*Liturgist: Carolyn Markwith*  
*Usher: Duffy Whitehouse*  
*Counters: TBA*

**January 30 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**Lectionary Readings:** *Jeremiah 1: 4-10; Psalm 71: 1-6; 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13;*  
*Luke 4: 21-30*

*Greeter: Kim Thayer*  
*Liturgist: Paula Sheely*  
*Usher: Paula Sheely*  
*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*

### **Goodbye!**

December 2021

As we have known from day one, my stay with you as interim minister has a limit. The limit is now clear, as I shared with you on Christ the King Sunday. I intend to complete my work with OSRC as of December 2021 and our last time together will be Sunday December 26.

I learn something from each of my interim encounters and OSRC is no exception. Indeed, the learnings here for me about the decisiveness in the mix of congregational and community culture as well as new confirmation of previous learnings about smaller congregations in stable communities has been significant. Those I will be privileged to serve in the future will benefit from the education you have provided.

It is my hunch that this news will be neither a surprise nor unwelcome. The relationships with interim ministers are similar to relationships with orthodontists - they are important for a time, but the whole purpose is for them not to be needed. Unlike contracting with an orthodontist, OSRC hired a specialist with neither OSRC nor the specialist knowing precisely what value there might be in the relationship or whether what value there was would be worth the investment. Our nine months together, while not exhaustive, do provide two clear conclusions.

First, as we opined to one another at the beginning, there is no major dysfunction at OSRC that needs repair. OSRC is a normal small congregation with quirks and delights. Your minister retired after long and successful service. That is just life, not a problem to be fixed. What you did need from an interim minister was an intentional review in some depth of how OSRC experiences itself as a Christian congregation. In personal conversations during the Spring and in our more formal group conversations this Fall we have begun together conversations you can continue over how OSRC experiences the presence of God among us and the ways in which a Minister of Word and Sacrament can be most helpful to this gathering of God's people.

Second, given the nature of OSRC and the reality of current ministerial availability, it is likely, though by no means certain, that finding the most effective next pastor will take some time - perhaps measured in years rather than months. For me to remain with you until a new pastor is settled would not, I believe, be a nourishing experience for either of us. There is no more real interim work to do and I am too expensive to use just as pulpit supply. So, Thank you! And Goodbye in its original form, God be with ye! My prayers for you will continue, as well as my thanks for a 28<sup>th</sup> opportunity to share in the real life of a congregation.

Rett Zabriskie

# CHURCH FAMILY

## BIRTHDAYS

### December

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  
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

*(Please help keep our birthday, anniversary, and hospital lists current by giving us dates and updates! (518-695-3479 Thanks!)*

## ANNIVERSARIES

### December

17: Vicki and Brian Perkins  
31: Sue (Fero) and Steve Kurowski

### January

21: John and Amberlyn Deyoe, Jr.

## 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 Mellen     | Charles Thayer    |
| Naomi Thayer      | Alicia Lewie      |
| Charlotte Morrill | Suzanne Guerineau |
| Florence Sherman  | Florence Brown    |
| Dan Dan MacMillan | Barbara Vincent   |
| Tom Esposito      | 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

**Florence Sherman**, Wesley Community, **\*\*Springs 204**, 133 Lawrence Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, Phone # 518- 415-3012

**\*\*new building and room #**

## SYMPATHY

The church extends sympathy in Christ to the family of **Susan Seward** (83) who died on Saturday, November 13 at the Fort Hudson Nursing Home, after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Susan was the wife of **Ashley Seward**, mother to three children, and was the sister-in-law of **Pam Seward**. Condolences may be sent to Pam at 20 Woodlawn Ave, Apt 218, Greenwich NY 12834.

## GOOD NEWS

The church recently received a communication from Cobblestone Reformed Church (Second Reformed Church of Rotterdam) In it was a check for **\$1000**, in honor of **Joyce deVelder**, for her kind, caring ways, and for the help she had given to the Classis of Schenectady.

We also recently received a **\$400** donation from a friend who watches our worship services online with her elderly mother, who is not able to get out.

## CONGRATULATIONS!



**Kim Thayer** was recently promoted at her job with the State Ed, Dept. She was working with Higher Ed data, but now will be working on the Smart Schools Bond Act and Property School Tax Caps. She began her new position on Friday, Nov. 12.

## THANKS EXTENDED!



..to **Bonnie Garrand** and **Cindy Brockman** who both did a wonderful job with chairing our Harvest Supper on Nov. 6. Thanks also goes to **all those who helped behind the scenes**, peeling potatoes and apples, making the Dutch Kraut, organizing the assembly line to get the dinner out to the people in the cars and to those who stayed to clean up.

..thanks also to **Dick Behrens** who spent a large part of two days using his leaf blower to get the fallen leaves off the church and parsonage lawns in time to be picked up by the village

..thanks to **Amber Deyoe** and **Terri Richards** who are preparing Loomis Hall to hold our annual Holiday Sale

..thanks to **Doug Sheely** who is working hard on the parsonage bathroom, and who has again offered to plow the church driveways this winter

..thanks to **Jim Brockman** who has fixed several small issues around the church building (replacing light bulbs, replacing batteries in the paper towel dispenser, replacing batteries in the no-touch toilet mechanism ) and for getting the Christmas decorations down from the attic. We're glad you're retired, Jim!

..thanks to all who helped decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season: **Jim Brockman, Cindy Brockman, Patti Booth, Duffy Whitehouse**

# **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)**

# CHURCH LIFE

## BIBLE STUDY NEWS

Our Ecumenical Bible Study group has just completed working through the Book of Acts. The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of the early Christian church – its Spirit-filled beginning on the Day of Pentecost, the spread of the Gospel throughout the then-known world, miracles of healing, and overcoming persecution. On **Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 9:45** the group will begin a new study, this time discussing the Apostle Paul's letter to the church at Rome.

Our group meets for one hour on Wednesday mornings. Our very friendly members would love to have you join us. Coffee and tea are provided. Just bring your Bible, or one will be provided. No homework, no tests- everyone gets an "A!"

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The OSRC Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, November 21, following worship. Review of last year's minutes, reports from church groups, and statistics regarding the congregation were discussed. Thanks was extended to outgoing consistory members **Anne Mitchell** and **Amber Deyoe**. Elected to fill two elder positions were **Paula Sheely** and **Rob Hayner**. Elected to fill one Deacon position was **Bridget Critelli**. The 2022 Faith Budget was presented by **Paula Sheely** and passed unanimously.

## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has met 3 times. We have reviewed the statements people shared at the Coffee Hour Conversations which Rett led and used some of those statements to create a congregational survey. The surveys are due back by December 1<sup>st</sup> and we will meet again on the 5<sup>th</sup> to review the data.

We have also begun working on creating a Church Profile to send to the RCA which will be available for potential candidates. The profile contains information about the kind of minister we are looking for and how we view ourselves as a congregation. We will also be sharing that information with other denominations that are compatible with our beliefs. Our goal is to have that completed and sent out before the end of the year.

We ask you to pray for us as we tackle this vital work. If you have any questions – or leads about people looking for a position as a minister – please let us know.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Christine Garney** (Chair)

## HARVEST SUPPER UPDATE

We had a very successful Harvest Supper on Saturday, Nov. 6, with thanks to **Bonnie Garand and Cindy Brockman** who chaired the dinner, to **Eric Garney** who cooked, and to **Sue Hughes, Mike Hughes, Robin Woomer, Patti Booth, Mark Booth, and Paula Sheely** who did a large part of the food preparation. Our net profit was **\$1262.13!**

## OUR MISSIONS – December/January

### **Dec. Deacons' Fund-SAIL**

Southern Adirondack Independent Living promotes the independence, equality and dignity of people with disabilities in personal and community life. It means knowing what services and supports are available, having the ability to choose what's right for each person, family and lifestyle, and taking responsibility for personal choices and actions.

### **Jan. Deacons' Fund- Community Hospice**

Its mission is to make friendly visits, provide companionship and practical support for Hospice patients and their families, at home, in the hospital or nursing homes. Volunteers deliver medical supplies, help with clerical work in the office and provide bereavement support to families during the grieving process.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 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.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Mission – Drilling For Hope**

Drilling For Hope was started in 2005 by Karen Flewelling. Since Karen pays for her own travel, lodging and food expenses, 100% of donations go to people and well drilling endeavors. Through the generosity of donors, Drilling For Hope provides water wells and farm animals to communities around the world in need of clean water. Food, medicine and school supplies are also donated, along with the sponsoring of children who would otherwise not receive an education.

## HYMNS OF OUR FAITH

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

***"Watchman tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.***

***Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height, see that glory beaming star.***

***Watchman, does its beauteous ray aught of joy or hope foretell? Traveler, yes- it brings the day, promised day of Israel."***

A hymn for the season of Advent, "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" is the work of the Englishman John Bowring (1792-1872.) A distinguished scholar, Member of Parliament, and diplomat, Bowring was also an accomplished poet and hymnwriter. Eighty-eight of his hymns have been published; among them the Lenten hymn "In the Cross of Christ I Glory."

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" is replete with notions and themes of the Advent season- God's promises, the beaming star, travelers, light, hope, deliverance, and peace. It is based on the prophecy of Isaiah found in chapter 21. The prophecy expresses hope for the people of Judah – the hope that morning will come, and God's promised deliverance will be realized in the advent of the Prince of Peace.

***"Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends. Traveler, blessedness and light..peace and light its course portends. Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth? Traveler, ages are its own; see it bursts o'er all the earth."***

***"Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn. Traveler, darkness takes its flight, doubt and terror are withdrawn. Watchman, let thy wanderings cease; hie thee to thy quiet home. Traveler, lo! The Prince of Peace, Lo! The son of God is come!"***

**Dick Behrens**



## CONSISTORY CONNECTION



Consistory met on Nov. 16 and discussed the following:

1. **Agreed to the lease of a new copier from North Country Xerographics from whom we have leased for the last 20 years**
2. **Granted permission to cub scouts to meet in the building**
3. **Decided to put the ropes up in the sanctuary again with the ramp up of COVID**
4. **Approved the draft of the Holiday Appeal letter**
5. **Discussed possible soup lunch fundraiser at the end of February**
6. **Classis assessments for 2022 will be \$108.01**

## PROPERTY NEWS

The Property Committee has had both pianos tuned. The tuner complimented the church on the sanctuary piano, which he said was second only to a Steinway, and was over a hundred years old! We have also had the fire extinguishers inspected, and the furnaces inspected. It was discovered that we needed a new condenser on the church furnaces to correct a problem with a water leak. It was necessary to purchase a 12 foot stepladder, which came in handy to replace burned out bulbs in the sanctuary chandeliers, and to place some of the decorations for the Christmas season. A special thanks to **Jim Brockman** who, while he was on the ladder replacing bulbs, dusted all six chandeliers!! **We still have not been able to find someone to snowblow our walks, despite numerous attempts. If you can suggest someone, that would be wonderful!!**

## WINTER

Please remember that the sanctuary may not be as warm as what you are used to at home, so dress warmly in order to remain comfortable during the service.

When the weather is snowy or icy and you are wondering if there is going to be a worship service, please check with either Vice President **Paula Sheely (518-695-4684)** or **Chris Garney (518-695-6638.)** You may also check our Facebook page for information on whether there will be a service. As always, safety is the concern, and come only if you feel safe doing so! *Alternate side of the street parking is in effect Dec. 1-March 31.*

## CHRISTMAS EVE



Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at **8pm on Friday, Dec. 24.** Traditional carols will be sung, the Christmas story will be read, and the choir will sing an anthem. Special to this evening will be our own **Christopher Tucker** singing "O Holy Night." The Christmas Message will be given by **Patrick Woomer**, with all the other parts of the service being led by several of those who so willingly offered or agreed to lead worship during the past year. A highlight of the worship experience will be the Candlelighting and singing of "Silent Night." Please join us for this most special evening!

## 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](http://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, 14 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."**

# COMMUNITY LIFE

## SAFER

Schuylerville Area Food Emergency Relief

12 Spring St. 518-507-6043

M,F 9-noon

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.



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## 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

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## BLOOD DRIVE

Sat. Feb 19<sup>th</sup>

at OSRC

8am-12pm

Mark your calendar!!

## BACON HILL "RADA" TRUNK SALE

Sat. Dec. 4 10am-12pm



The Bacon Hill Reformed Church will be having a "trunk sale" on its inventory of RADA cutlery surplus at sale prices. You may also buy from the catalog or on the website.

*(RADA is a company that offers kitchen items, rubs, and sauce mixes as well as high quality cutlery. Need some quick gifts to "fill out?" Stop in, after visiting OSRC's Christmas Sale!!)*

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## AMERICAN LEGION PANCAKE BREAKFAST

When: Sunday, Dec. 5, 9-11am

Menu: Pancakes, scrambled eggs,

bacon, sausage, milk, juice, coffee,  
tea

Cost: Adults \$9

Children 6 and under \$4

First Sunday of the month -Eat in or takeout

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## SCHUYLERVILLE ST. NICOLAAS FESTIVAL

Sat. Dec. 4 4pm

The Annual St. Nicolaas Walk will celebrate the beginning of the holiday season, and will head down Broad Street to the village tree lighting. Children are invited to light St. Nicolaas's way with lanterns, hear his story and listen to music. Local businesses on Broad Street will be open into the evening for treats, hot drinks, Christmas shopping and dining.

**"Jacob's Well"**

**Old Saratoga Reformed Church**

**48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville NY 12871**

**Church office: 518-695-3479**

**Email: [oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com](mailto:oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com)**

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

**TRANSITIONAL MINISTER: Rev. Rett Zabriskie**

**201-819-7629**

**Office Manager: Duffy Whitehouse**

**Consistory Members: Amber Deyoe, 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](https://facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch)**

### ***Holiday Sale***

***Sat. Dec. 4 8am-2pm***

### ***Celebration of the Lord's Supper***

***Sunday, Dec. 5 and Jan. 2 10am***

### ***Christmas Eve Candlelight Service***

***Friday Dec. 24 8pm***

### ***Ordination and Installation of Consistory***

***Sunday, Dec. 26 10am***