

JACOB'S WELL

December 2022



Dec. 4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT **Advent Candle of Hope**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Lectionary Readings: *Isaiah 11: 1-10; Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19;
Romans 15: 4-13; Matthew 3: 1-12*

Greeter: Anne Mitchell

Liturgist: Patrick Woomer

Usher: Terri Richards

Counters: Cindy Brockman/Bruce Guerineau

Servers: Bruce Guerineau, Mark Booth, Cindy Brockman

Dec. 11 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT **Advent Candle of Joy**

Lectionary Readings: *Isaiah 35: 1-10; Psalm 146: 5-10;
Luke 1: 46b-55; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-22*

Greeter: Pat Woomer

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Dick Behrens

Counters: Mark Booth/Bruce Guerineau

Dec. 18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT **Advent Candle of Love**

Lectionary Readings: *Isaiah 7: 10-16; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19;
Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1: 18-25*

Greeter: Carolyn Markwith

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Paula Sheely/Cindy Brockman

Dec. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE **Advent Candle of Light**

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

Greeter: Patti Booth

Ushers: Jim and Cindy Brockman

Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

Lectionary Readings: *Isaiah 62: 6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3: 4-7;
Luke 2: (1-7), 8-20*

Greeter: Bill Olmert

Liturgist: Mark Booth

Usher: Pat Woomer

Counters: Paula Sheely/Bridget Critelli



PASTOR'S PONDER



And now December has crept up on us! Like so many others, I've spent the last week quite ill and laid low with a rotten cold—but thankfully, tested negative for Covid and strep-- and seem now to be firmly on the mend (thanks be to God!). I'm gathering energy around Advent and (of course) Christmas preparations for the activities coming up, and all of the "firsts" I get to experience here at Old Saratoga, and here in Schuylerville!

I'm grateful to be able to hold on to some of the traditional personal favorites as well that are like old friends: topping the list at the moment is readying the parsonage to welcome congregants, friends, and neighbors to a Pastor's Family Open House on the 18th following worship, 11:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Then on the 21st, I will be joining with ecumenical clergy and laity inviting the community to settle into the beautiful Old Saratoga sanctuary to acknowledge the Longest Night, or Winter Solstice, with a 7 p.m. Blue Christmas service. It is a contemplative service designed to make space for those of us who find it challenging to be steadfastly joy-filled this year in this "season of cheer", or simply seek cherished time to live into some peace and faith in the coming Light of the Christ as part of the miracle of God's created order. Candles will be lighted, songs and readings shared, prayers and blessings provided. If this service is a "first" for you, please come and experience one of my favorite times-- to remember loved ones and experiences past, while living into the confident hope of God's enduring love, shown to us in the coming of the Holy Child!

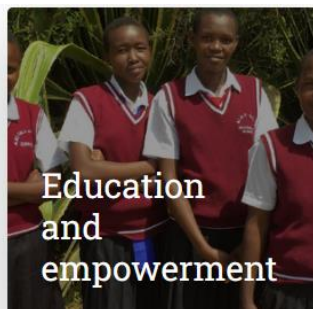
I look forward to seeing both familiar and new faces at church throughout this holy season, and give thanks every day to God for the many, many blessings which surround us! -- Pastor Susan



Animals



Basic necessities



Education and empowerment



Families and children

CHURCH FAMILY

BIRTHDAYS

15: Florence Brown
17: Sue Usher
17: Doug Mitchell
25: Cheryl Sherman-Baust
29: Jennifer (Barton) Bruneau
31: Stephen Alexanian



ANNIVERSARIES

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

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, 1-802-
379-3148

Florence Brown, River Ridge Living Center,
100 Sandy Drive, Amsterdam, NY 12010

Florence Sherman, Wesley Community,
Springs 204, 133 Lawrence Street, Saratoga
Springs, NY 12866

THANKS RECEIVED

*..from Wellspring (Domestic Violence Services)
for a donation of **\$100**
..from the RCA for a donation of **\$200** to
Disaster Relief (2022 Hurricane Ian)
..from Shelters of Saratoga for a donation of
\$100 to Code Blue (safe shelter in inclement
weather for people who are homeless)*

THANKS EXTENDED

*..to the **Christmas Elf** who donated two cases
of copy paper to the office
..to all those who took a label with a gift
suggestion on it for a family in the
Schuylerville Central School District
..to **Patti Booth, Cindy Brockman, Robin
Woomer and Sueane Derby** for making all the
beautiful heart decorations for our Love Tree
in the front of the sanctuary
..to all those who came and decorated the
church for the Advent and Christmas Seasons
and enjoyed a delicious and abundant brunch
for their efforts!*

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Many people bring in Christmas cards which they receive in the mail from various charities. We have a large supply of these lovely cards, and you are welcome to come and take what you may need. Perhaps you'd like to send some to those of the congregation who are unable to come to worship. It would be a wonderful way to let them know that they are being thought of during the Christmas Season.



CHURCH LIFE

HYMNS OF OUR FAITH

"Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name."

Psalm 30: 4

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

"Savior of the nations, come, show yourself the Virgin's son. Fill with wonder, all the earth, that our God chose such a birth."

The text of this hymn has ancient origins. First written in Latin by an early church father, Ambrose, it was translated into German a millennium later by Martin Luther and finally into English by a modern churchman.

The hymn begins with a common Advent theme – the exhortation to invite the Messiah into our midst. The anticipated advent is a time in which hope is restored for God's people, and the prospect for peace is enhanced. The remainder of the text is the story of the Messiah's ongoing work for those he came to save – his suffering, resurrection, and intercession on our behalf.

In the third stanza the reader is reminded of the Messiah's reason for coming to us;

"Christ laid down his majesty, passed through dark Gethsemane; Though he left his Father's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne."

The text closes with a song of praise for the coming of the new-born king, and a prayer that his eternal kingdom will truly come.

"Praise to you, O Lord, we sing; praise to Christ, our newborn king! With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come."

The Season of Advent is about always looking forward. A new age is dawning. The themes are those of hope, love, joy and peace. All are found in the One long promised – now with us, making everything new. His salvation is for all who will believe.

Richard Behrens

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Saturday, Dec. 24 at 8pm



All are welcome to attend the OSRC Christmas Eve Service, Saturday, Dec. 24 at 8pm. Carols will be sung, the Christmas Story read, and the choir will sing a Christmas anthem. The highlight for many is the darkening of the sanctuary, and the returning of light with the lighting of the Christmas candles, while singing "Silent Night."

We will be having holding a regular Sunday worship service at 10am on Christmas Day. We welcome everyone to join in this blessed time of worship.

WORSHIP IN WINTER



You may want to bundle up a bit during worship services in winter. Our sanctuary will probably be cooler than what you are used to at home. Sitting further up front will keep you warmer, too, as you will not feel the drafts from the door opening quite as much.

During bad weather please check with Pastor Susan to see if there will be a worship service, and come only if you feel safe doing so.

PASTOR SUSAN'S COMMISSIONING SERVICE

It was a happy day at OSRC on Nov. 13 when the Schenectady Classis commissioned Pastor Susan as the pastor of Old Saratoga Reformed Church! Many classis ministers were here to support her, as were members of the congregation. Participating in the service were **the Rev. Abby Levering-Norton, the Rev. Kent Busman, and the Rev. Matthew van Maastricht**, all of whom had played a part in Pastor Susan's journey to OSRC. Refreshments were served after the service.

GIFTS FOR OSRC



Some people of the congregation ask what the church could use at this Christmas Season. Here are some small "gifts" that would be most welcome:

- A book of stamps
- A can of decaf coffee
- A sleeve of hot cups (without lids)
- A roll of paper towels
- A box of small (13 gal.) garbage bags
- A box of 30 gal. bags
- Garbage stickers
- A bag of sugar

Since we are having coffee hour every Sunday, we are using some of these supplies more quickly than before.

POINTSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS



We are again ordering red poinsettias from Dehn's Florist in Saratoga. They will be in 6 ½ inch pots with red foil and will be **\$11** per plant. We have had very good luck getting our flowers from Dehn's, and have had the ones that have been left here last through January. You may order one or more in memory or honor of a loved one or friend by calling the office, or filling out a slip that is found in your Sunday bulletin.

If you'd rather memorialize a loved one with something more lasting than flowers, memorial donation envelopes may be found on the foyer showcase. All names will be listed, whether flowers or monetary donation.

FLYNN BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME
5th Annual Remembrance Service
7pm Monday, Dec. 5 at the
Greenwich Elks Club, 130 Bulson Road

Missing friends and family members during the holiday season can be hard. Come together with others in the community to celebrate the lives of your loved ones. Tips for grieving through the holidays, a candle lighting ceremony, prayers and music will be shared.

Please RSVP to Jamie at 518-695-3138 with a name to be remembered during the candle lighting, and number attending.

***If it's a last minute decision to join in, everyone is always welcome.*

OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE
Sunday, Dec. 18 from 11:15-2pm



Pastor Susan has invited the congregation to a Christmas Open House at the parsonage. Come to see the newly renovated and repaired home which has been occupied by many pastors of OSRC. If you have never been in the building, this is a great **opportunity to see it all decorated for Christmas!!**

WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN SCHUYLerville

Beginning on Dec. 1st and going through March 31st, there will be alternate side of the street parking in the village, to facilitate snow removal. On MWF you may legally park on the west side of Pearl Street. All other days you must park on the church side of the street.

PULPIT SUPPLY

Amber Deyoe and **Sheryl Norton** will be leading worship on Sunday, January 15th, when Pastor Susan takes a Sunday off, per her contract. We are grateful to them both for their willingness to fill in.

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION



Instead of a St. Nicolaas celebration in Schuylerville this season, the Winter Solstice will be celebrated! “Look to the Starlight” will be the theme of the month long celebration of the return to the light on Dec. 21, as the days begin to get longer again.

“Starry Windows” in select downtown businesses will be on display, with an opportunity to vote for your favorite. The winning window’s store will receive a \$20 gift certificate from either Bound By Fate Brewery or Kickstart Café, as will one lucky voter!

Homes and businesses are encouraged to place luminaries outdoors, and on the evening of winter solstice to turn on as many lights as possible from 4- 9pm.

BLOOD DRIVE AT OSRC IN FEBRUARY
Sat. Feb. 18, 8am-noon



While it may seem early to be thinking about February, you might want to schedule your blood donations so that you can donate when OSRC holds its Annual Blood Drive. February is Heart Month, and a great time to donate during the month of Valentine’s Day, when we think about those we love. Schedule soon, by calling **800-RED CROSS**.

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, 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."**

Old Saratoga Reformed Church
48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville NY 12871
Church office: 518-695-3479
Email: oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com
www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org

MINISTER: Rev. Susan Kerr
518-366-3648

Office Manager: Duffy Whitehouse
Consistory Members: Rob Hayner, Paula Sheely, Mark Booth,
Cindy Brockman, Bridget Critelli, Bruce Guerineau

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Sunday Worship: 10:00am OR Facebook page
facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, Dec. 4 10am

Community Christmas Concert

Sunday, Dec. 4 3pm

Christmas Open House at the Parsonage

Sunday, Dec. 18 11:15-2pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, Dec. 24 8pm

Christmas Day Worship Service

Sunday, Dec. 25 10am

