

JACOB'S WELL



February 2023

Feb. 5 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Lectionary Readings: *Isaiah 58: 1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112: 1-9 (10);
1 Corinthians 2: 1-12; (13-16); Matthew 5: 13-20*

Greeter: *Patti Booth*
Liturgist: *Anne Mitchell*
Usher: *Paula Sheely*
Counters: *Rob Hayner/Paula Sheely*
Communion Servers: *Bridget Critelli, Bruce Guerineau, Paula Sheely*

Feb. 12 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Lectionary Readings: *Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; Sirach 15: 15-20; Psalm 119: 1-8;
1 Corinthians 3: 1-9; Matthew 5: 21-37*

Greeter: *Bill Olmert*
Liturgist: *Paula Sheely*
Usher: *Richard Behrens*
Counters: *Paula Sheely/Bruce Guerineau*

Feb. 19 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Lectionary Readings: *Exodus 24: 12-18; Psalm 2; Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1: 16-21;
Matthew 17: 1-9*

Greeter: *Karl Thayer*
Liturgist: *Amber Deyoe*
Usher: *Cindy Brockman*
Counters: *Mark Booth/Cindy Brockman*

Feb. 26 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Lectionary Readings: *Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11*

Greeter: *Terri Richards*
Liturgist: *Pam Seward*
Usher: *Bill Olmert*
Counters: *Bridget Critelli/Bruce Guerineau*



PASTOR'S PONDER

"For everything there is a season..." Ecclesiastes 3:1



February is here—full of surprises and contradictions! The new-fallen snow is lovely, but the arctic COLD is quite unwelcome! We warmly anticipate heart-warming Valentine's Day acknowledgements, but a week and a day later, look to the solemnity of Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. I think it's a month that's all about heart, and hope, and looking at how we live in preparation for a renewal season, both in the world and in the church. I enjoy the countdown afforded by Lent-to-Easter as an exercise in not only patience, but in faith.

In fact, Lent is probably my favorite season of the church year. Along with the opportunity for intentional self-examination in relationship to Jesus as we travel again along his biblical journey to Jerusalem, I—we-- get to stay alert for little signs that remind us that renewal of life is not only a spiritual thing, but is also dormant in the soil beneath our feet, hibernating in the stark tree branches. That creeping certainty that Spring is on its way is rich with reminders that God's creative Presence is eternally with us as well—especially in the cold, dark times of life.

-- Pastor Susan

Our Lenten Journey, 2023: "Meeting Jesus"

7 p.m.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| February 22, Ash Wednesday | St. Stephen's Episcopal |
| Wednesday, March 1 | Fort Miller Reformed |
| Wednesday, March 8 | Risen Hope Church |
| Wednesday, March 15 | Bacon Hill Reformed |
| Wednesday, March 22 | Schuylerville United Methodist |
| Wednesday, March 29 | Notre Dame/Ascension |
| Maundy Thursday, April 6 | Old Saratoga Reformed |
| Good Friday, April 7 | St. Stephen's (at NOON) |

**You are invited and encouraged to join in ecumenical
Christian worship throughout Lent.**

CHURCH FAMILY

BIRTHDAYS

3: Jean Wells
4: Robin Woomeer
5: Kobie Dyke
6: Kevin Casey
8: Sherrie Mickel
9: Brenda Buchanan
10: Jim Mellen
14: Margaret Jacobson
16: Ronald Hayes, Jr.
20: David deVelder
22: Randy Kerr
23: Joseph Barton

ANNIVERSARIES

10: Henrietta and Nugent Edgar
14: David and Bonnie Garrand

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Alyson Fitzgerald | Annabelle Gutasy |
| Trevor Mellen | Naomi Thayer |
| Alicia Lewie | Gerry Barber |
| Charles Thayer | Suzanne Guerineau |
| Florence Sherman | Florence Brown |
| Matthew Booth | Mark Booth |
| Nancy and Norman Howard | |
| The parents of Darrick Evensen | |
| The family of David Louis | |

OUR FRIENDS IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES/HOMEBOUND

Chauncey Mabb, Crescent Manor, 312
Crescent Blvd. , Bennington, VT 05201
Florence Brown, River Ridge Living Center,
100 Sandy Drive, Amsterdam, NY 12010
Florence Sherman, Wesley Community, 133
Lawrence St., Springs 204 , Saratoga Springs
NY 12866

SYMPATHY

..to the family and friends of **Allene (Squires) Cobart**, who died on Sunday, January 15 at Saratoga Hospital, following a long illness. Allene had worked for 21 years at the Van Raalte Co. in Saratoga. She took great pride in her home, yard and flower garden and enjoyed hosting family gatherings. She was predeceased by her eleven siblings, her husband "**Coby**", and her son, **Lenny**. Allene's funeral service was held on Jan. 20 at OSRC, with the **Revs. Susan Kerr and Joyce deVelder** officiating. Memorials in her name may be made to the Old Saratoga Reformed Church, 48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871.

"TOP SECRET" MEMO

Our "top secret" memo last month, in which we requested contributions to thank our **Christopher Tucker** for all that he does at no cost to the church, (directing the choir and streaming our Sunday service, both of which are usually paid positions in other churches) was very successful! We were able to give Christopher over **\$300!!** We thank everyone who contributed !

THANKS RECEIVED

..from *Shelters of Saratoga* for a donation
of **\$100**

..from the *RCA Care network Disaster Relief*
for a donation of **\$200**

..from *Wellspring (Domestic Violence)* for a
donation of **\$100**



CHURCH LIFE

2022 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our church continues to be blessed! God has answered our prayers for a new pastor and our finances are in good shape. We are grateful to each person who contributes to our ministry through their offerings of time, talent, and donations.

We began the year with a balance of **\$9,740.36** in our general fund and ended with **\$12,393.40**. We did not have to withdraw any investment income to cover our expenses and had paid all of our bills and mission donations by the end of December.

At the end of the year, The Women's Guild closed their bank account and transferred the money to the church account. They also gave us a Savings Bond which was cashed in for **\$1,095.20**. The Guild has faithfully supported many of our programs over the years and we are grateful to them.

Mission donations this year included helping people who had been affected by natural disasters and the war in Ukraine. As always, our donations come from gifts designated for missions and from the bottle and can recycling. We could use more volunteers to help with recycling.

The parsonage renovations continued and are close to being completed. We cashed in an additional **\$73,500** for work on the parsonage. This was funded by an endowment specifically for capital improvements that we received years ago.

Our budget this year will cover some expenses that we did not have last year. It is more expensive to have a pastor than to cover worship with pulpit supply, but it is also better in so many ways. Expenses for snow removal and utilities are expected to be high. We are fortunate to have the cushion of investment income, but we are even more fortunate to have the financial support and prayers of the people who believe in our ministry and mission.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Garney, Treasurer

PARSONAGE PHONE

The phone at the parsonage was disconnected quite some time ago, since no one was living there. If you have need of pastoral care, please call **Pastor Susan at 518-366-3648**.

NEW DIRECTORY

A new, updated church directory has been printed and is available for you to have. Those who pre-ordered a copy can find theirs on the back table of the sanctuary, labeled with your name on it. There is also a pile of extras if you didn't request one in advance. You may notice that the directory is significantly smaller than the last one. If a name and number that you need is no longer in this directory, please feel free to call the office (**518-695-3479 -Tu, W, F**) to request the information, as all old copies are kept in a file.

CONSISTORY CONNECTION

At its most recent meeting, held on January 17, the following were re-elected to their respective offices:

Vice President: Paula Sheely

Financial Secretary: Cindy Brockman

Clerk of Consistory: Bridget Critelli

Classis Delegate: Mark Booth

We thank each of these people for their willingness to continue serving OSRC.

HYMNS OF OUR FAITH

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

“O how blest are the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of heaven; And how blest are the sad and mournful – they’ll be consoled by God.”

This hymn is a direct paraphrase of Matthew 5: 12, called the Beatitudes. They are a part of Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount.” The sermon begins with blessings and sayings. The word “beatitude” speaks of supreme blessings; divine joy and perfect happiness. The word “blessed” is often read as “happy.” And so we could read “happy are those who are meek,” “happy are those who mourn,” “happy are the pure in heart.” The Beatitudes are statements of Jesus’ intent to establish the kingdom of heaven on earth. They are instruction to the first disciples, and to disciples of today, to walk as children of the light.

Most hymns begin simply as poetry and are later combined with music by talented composers. Without a doubt, many great poets of old never knew that their poems became hymns. A more recent construct is the collaborative effort of a poet and composer to create hymns. “O How Blest...” is the result of a collaborative effort. The Rev. Richard Avery was pastor of 1st Presbyterian Church in Port Jervis, NY, and composer Donald Marsh served the church as a musician and arts director. Together they created more than 150 hymns, carols and anthems. Rev. Avery not only wrote about the Beatitudes, but it appears he also lived them. While at Port Jervis, Pastor Avery founded a ministry to poor people called Hope Center. The refrain of this hymn encourages us to listen to the Word and watch for the coming kingdom.

“Blest and happy we shall be, listen to the Master’s word! Soon the kingdom’s coming, watch and see: the kingdom of the Lord.”

Richard Behrens

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee met recently and discussed many aspects of the worship service, including extending kudos to Pastor Susan for honoring our past practices, while introducing some new aspects of the service. We will soon be having the usher bring the offerings to the front for blessing and singing the Doxology. Additional plates will still be in the back of the sanctuary for those who give their offering on the way out.

BLOOD DRIVE Feb. 18

You are reminded that OSRC will be sponsoring our Annual Blood Drive in Loomis Hall on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 8am-12:30pm. You may register to donate by calling 800-REDCROSS or online by visiting redcrossblood.org and use sponsor keyword SCHUYLERVILLE

Let’s break our record for donations this year!

SUMC SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER 5pm



Start the Lenten Season off this year by attending the Schuylerville United Methodist Church’s Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! The next day, Ash Wednesday, will begin the Ecumenical Lenten Services, held each Wednesday evening at 7pm at a different Schuylerville area church. You will find the schedule for these services on the Pastor’s Ponder page of this newsletter. (p.2)

WHAT'S A CONSISTORY RETREAT?

(according to Pastor Susan)

For me, a Consistory Retreat is FUN... and informative...and inspiring...and above all, faith-based.

Here are some off the book-shelf of resources I draw from to put together an experience based on where we are, seeking God's lead, expanding our knowledge of one another's working styles, and deepening our faith as church leaders:



“BEGINNINGS AND BEYOND” for Ministers in a New Setting

The Regional Synod of Albany hosts a retreat for ministers new to their ministry in the Regional Synod of Albany each year. Ministers who are in their first three years of ministry in a new setting are invited to join together each year for this retreat. Many classes within the Regional Synod expect that ministers beginning a new ministry will attend, including the Schenectady Classis, of which we are a part.

This year the retreat will be held February 12-14. The retreat begins around dinner time on Sunday, which allows many of us to still lead worship on Sunday morning before coming to the retreat. It will conclude around lunch time on Tuesday.

This year, the retreat planning team (Heather Kramer, Immanuel van Tonder, Jenn Legg, Abby Norton-Levering, and Lindsey De Kruif) have planned a time focused on reconnecting with one another around our passions. Ministers are encouraged to come prepared to share their passion with others!

Rev. Andy Bossardet will also join us as our resource person for the retreat and lead us in engaging in spiritual disciplines.

Please uplift Pastor Susan and the other ministers new to our ministries in prayer, as well as the retreat leaders and the *weather*, as they gather at Camp Fowler for this convocation just prior to Lent.



Old Saratoga Reformed Church
48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville NY 12871
PASTOR: Rev. Susan Kerr
518-366-3648
OFFICE MANAGER: Duffy Whitehouse
Consistory Members: Paula Sheely, Mark Booth,
Bridget Critelli, Cindy Brockman, Rob Hayner, Bruce Geurineau
Published ten times yearly in Schuylerville, NY 12871
Sunday Worship: 10:00 am
E-Mail: oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com
www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org
www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch
Phone: 518-695-3479

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday, February 5 10am



Coffee Hour every Sunday following worship!

Red Cross Blood Drive at OSRC

Saturday, Feb. 18 8am-12:30pm

Register at 800-REDCROSS or online at redcrossblood.org

Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service

at 7pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal

(see inside for schedule)