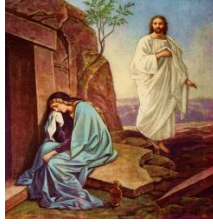


JACOB'S WELL



April 2023

April 2

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

*Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 118: 1-2,19-29; Psalm 31: 9-16; Matthew 21: 1-11;
Philippians 2: 5-11; Matthew 26: 14-27:66 or Matthew 27: 11-54*

Greeter: Carolyn Markwith

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Cindy Brockman

Counters: Cindy Brockman/Rob Hayner

April 9

EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

*Lectionary Readings: Acts 10: 34-43; Jeremiah 31: 1-6; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3: 1-4;
Acts 10: 34-43; John 20: 1-18; Matthew 28: 1-10*

Greeter: Chris Garney

Liturgist: Carolyn Markwith

Usher: Karl Thayer

Counters: Paula Sheely/Bridget Critelli

April 16

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Guest Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Dungan

Lectionary Readings: Acts 2: 14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20: 19-31

Greeter: Bill Olmert

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Paula Sheely/Mark Booth

April 23

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lectionary Readings: Acts 2: 14a,36-41; Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1: 17-23; Luke 24: 13-35

Greeter: Karl Thayer

Liturgist: Amber Deyoe

Usher: Richard Behrens

Counters: Bruce Guerineau/Mark Booth

April 30

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lectionary Readings: Acts 2: 42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2: 19-25; John 10:1-10

Greeter: Terri Richards

Liturgist: Pam Seward

Usher: Cindy Brockman

Counters: Cindy Brockman/Bridget Critelli



PASTOR'S PONDER

In two days from when I am typing this, it will be Palm/Passion Sunday. Many people prefer the waving palms and joyful "Hosannas" of Palm Sunday, over recalling the painful realities of the following Holy Week the Passion, that was endured by Jesus. But if I'm honest, I appreciate the annual reminder of the all-too-human

aspects of this final Lenten week that precede our Easter celebrations. I think it's helpful to us, amidst the daily onslaught of media coverage of the horrors of contemporary life—this week when yet another school shooting terrorizes our children-- this month when natural disasters sweep away the lives and livelihoods of entire communities-- amidst the senseless destruction of waging war in the world—those horrors that malign our human ability to care for one another— I find it somehow comforting to make the time to remember the conflicted roilings of the gospel crowds who were disappointed that Jesus-as-Messiah wasn't aligning with their expectations for militant victory over their oppressors, and also providing free lunches for life! I mean, really... What has changed?

Holy Week provides us a time set aside to acknowledge the failings of the world—and whatever part we may play in them (personally, communally, globally even). All the while we may also take to heart the powerful gift of life and death and life again, given for us by Jesus, from God.

There's an old hymn that for me summarizes this gift, one that has been cycling through my thoughts lately in a sort of tape loop of grace and gratitude, #489 in our hymnal:

I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."

Refrain:

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

I am looking forward to remembering that our great celebration day, Easter—the highest holy day of the Christian year—came at great price paid from a loving Creator by a divinely caring man, whose promise of eternal Presence in Spirit remains with us despite, alongside of, sustaining us through, even the darkest times in this life. Please come and worship that God with me, with us, here at Old Saratoga, as we acknowledge the depths of human pain... so that we can truly celebrate such a divine Gift of joy for all eternity!

-- In faith, *Pastor Susan*



CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations!

BIRTHDAYS

2: Colleen Burch; 2: Harold Burch; 5: Gabriel Paul Alexanian; 8: Janice Cornell; 9: Sarah Zotzmann; 15: Sarah Mathis; 17: Kathryn (Sherman) Clark; 20: Carl Douglass; 21: Maggie Cox; 23: John Deyoe, Jr.; 24: Jillian Perkins; 27: Eddie Fish; 30: Michael Shaver

ANNIVERSARIES

17: Donald and Kathleen Bartholomay

OSRC TRAVELERS

Welcome home to our travelers:

Becca and Zack Sheely-King who returned from a delayed honeymoon, after their September wedding. They went to Colorado where they visited Denver and Breckenridge, and had a side trip to Albuquerque.

Paula and Doug Sheely who recently cruised from Miami to the Bahamas, St. Thomas, St. John, Tortola, and the Dominican Republic. They enjoyed adventures including zip-lining, and sliding down waterfalls, but also had a lot of time to relax and recharge.

Cindy and Jim Brockman recently returned from a weeklong trip to Nova Scotia, where they visited with their daughter, **Emily**, who attends dental school in Halifax, and was on spring break. While there they traveled around the area, and also enjoyed several Monckton hockey games.

Patrick Woomer traveled to Clearwater, Florida, where he and his friend **Rich** (who was best man at his wedding) spent a week enjoying the sun and watching the Phillies at Spring training.

And Bon Voyage to:

Pastor Susan Kerr, who will be traveling to Scotland to spend ten days with her family. While there she will be taking a day trip to Loch Ness, and then a trip to Paris with her daughter, **Catherine**.

Kim Thayer, who will be traveling on April 21 for a guided group tour of Athens, Greece and the Greek islands of Mykonos and Santorini, and Naxos and Paros before heading home on May 4



THANKS RECEIVED

...from the RCA Care Network International Disaster Relief Fund (Turkey/Syria Earthquake) for a donation of \$250

...from the Community Hospice of Saratoga for a donation of \$159

THANKS EXTENDED

*..to **Doug Sheely** who cleaned up the large limbs which were knocked down in the last wet, heavy snowstorm*

*..to **Richard Behrens** who cut off the limb which split from the redbud tree by the path to the back door*

CHURCH LIFE

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION 2023

Long gone are the days of buying a church pew for you and your family. Long gone are the days of the church tax. Support for ministry in our time is wholly based on the voluntary gifts of members and friends. Stewardship Invitation 2023 is a special appeal aimed at ensuring that select budget items will be satisfied. These items include worship materials, office supplies, and maintenance programs. Support for these specific items guarantees that certain worship materials will be purchased, that the piano and organ will be tuned, that the furnace will be inspected. Church members, adherents, and friends of Old Saratoga Reformed Church are invited to underwrite one or more items, either in whole or in part.

Please note the response form included in this issue of Jacob's Well. The form contains the list of selected items and gives further information concerning how you can help. Your response can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or by placing a call to the church secretary (518-695-3479) any Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday morning between 9AM and noon.

The Consistory and the Finance Committee are asking members and friends of the church to prayerfully consider underwriting, either in whole or part, one or more of our budgeted expenditures for the 2023 financial year. We request that this act of stewardship be in addition to your regular giving. **Your gift may be offered in a single payment, or in as many payments as you find convenient over the course of the year.**

| <u>Budget Item</u> | <u>Annual Amount</u> | <u>My Gift</u> |
|---|----------------------|----------------|
| Choir Music | \$100 | Paid |
| Christian Literature "Upper Room" Lg. Print | \$100 | Paid |
| Church Parsonage Sewer Rent | \$696 | _____ |
| Church Parsonage Water Rent | \$528 | _____ |
| Classis Dues | \$108 | _____ |
| Copier/Printing Expenses (one month) | \$140* | _____ |
| Envelopes for Offering | \$215 | Paid |
| Fire Alarm System Inspection | \$300 | _____ |
| Fire Central Station Monitoring | \$300 | Paid |
| Furnace Inspection/Maintenance Contract | \$400 | _____ |
| Office/Paper Supplies (one month) | \$83 | _____ |
| Organ/Piano Tuning | \$520 | _____ |
| Postage (one month) | \$150* | _____ |
| Worship Materials | \$175 | _____ |

(Asterisk = monthly cost)

Please return this form to the Church Office, or drop in the offering plate; or email your response to oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com Make checks payable to OSRC, earmarked "Stewardship".

Name of Giver _____

Hymns of Our Faith

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”



***“Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
All creation join to say Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!”***

It is almost certain that this great processional hymn will be sung in most Christian churches on Easter Sunday. The composer, Charles Wesley, a co-founder of the Methodist movement, was inspired by 1 Corinthians 15, and the hymn was first composed with eleven stanzas. Originally given the title “Hymn for Easter Sunday”, it contains what seem to be all the themes that we associate with the Resurrection story – the work of redemption completed, death vanquished, new life, Christ’s victory praised. Wesley’s original text did not contain the “alleluias”. They were added some time later, adding a strong note of praise.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) was the great hymn writer of the Wesley family. When one considers the quantity and quality of Wesley’s work, he may be the greatest hymn writer of all time.

The resurrection of Jesus was a historical event occurring some 2000 years ago. Yet it is significant to note Wesley’s use of the present tense, “Christ the Lord is risen today”. The actual event happened once, but for Wesley, and for all believers, it is an on-going event which impacts our lives every day.

Verse four of the hymn describes how believers “live out” this glorious on-going event. We rise with renewed strength following the Savior, imitating the Christ in rising to new life, and anticipating eternity in Christ’s presence.

***“Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!”***

Richard Behrens

Old Saratoga Reformed Church
48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville

LASAGNA DINNER

Sat. April 15th

\$15 for adults- \$8 for children 5-10



Reservations requested, please!

Call 518-695-6638

Curbside and

limited indoor seating

4-5:30 pm

*Lasagna (meat and vegetarian),
tossed salad, Italian bread, dessert*

MISSIONS OF OSRC

April Deacons' Fund is Habitat for Humanity (GF Chapter) which works with communities to provide simple, decent and affordable housing in partnership with those in need. A family must put in 500 hours of volunteering, and have money for a down payment, and be able to pay the mortgage, taxes and insurance. They must also help others realize their dream of home ownership.



Quarterly Mission is Fowler Ministries. Donations for this mission will go to the upkeep of the camp buildings and grounds, and support the programs which happen during the year, apart from the summer camping program for students. Many animals (deer, birds, squirrels) live around the grounds of the camp, and careful stewardship of the area is part of the mission of Camp Fowler.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST



Our Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast will happen on Sunday, April 2nd at 8:45am. All are welcome to attend. Please bring a dish to share: breakfast egg dish, breakfast bread, sausage or bacon (cooked), rolls, buns, fruit, juice, or something which you like to have at a brunch. After the meal, please plan to attend the Palm Sunday Worship Service at 10am.

CINCO DE MAYO



The Fifth of May seemed like a good day to get together for food, fun and fellowship! So plan to come to the home of Duffy Whitehouse for Mexican Lasagna, corn bread, salad, salsa, queso and chips, guacamole, and dessert! Festivities will start at 5pm until all have arrived! Signup sheet posted soon!! Ole!!

CLEAN UP DAY: SATURDAY, MAY 6 at 9 A.M.



Come to help clean up the church grounds and places in the building (not the routine cleaning of each week.)

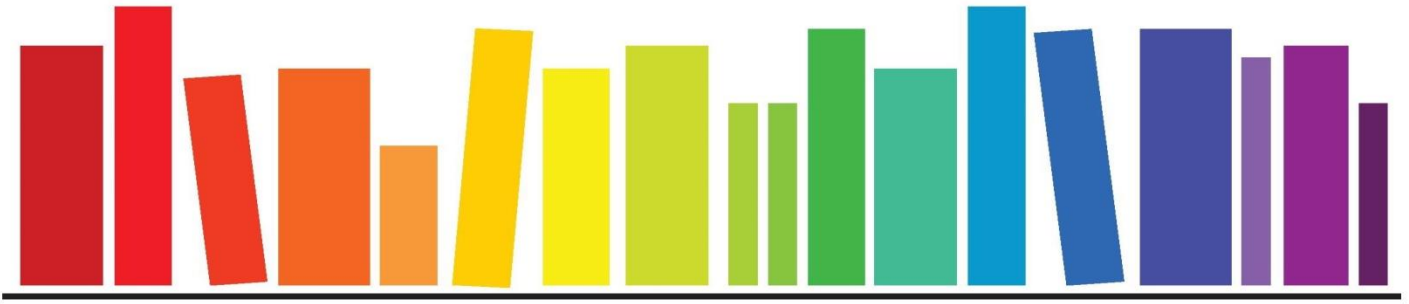
There are some storage areas that could use a good straightening out. Head Start is coming soon to clean out their half of the shed, so that will help us to have a place to put some of the items that are infrequently used, which take up space in the building. We will be taking a short break for coffee and a “goodie” at mid-morning. Please plan to help for all or part of the morning. Signup sheet is posted!!

DENOMINATIONAL RESTRUCTURING MEETING

(Report of the Restructuring Team Roundtable, from March 5 attended by Pastor Susan and Chris Garney)

“Our work focused on spiritual discernment and determining what we should be restructuring toward, and what outcomes we want from new structures. The team discerned that, as a denomination, we should be working toward an outcome of making disciples who grow disciples. We have had input from hundreds of RCA members, who have helped us to discern the mind of Christ together, as a covenantal family of the RCA. We are listening to God’s voice in the midst and diligently striving to put systems in place to engage the denomination, to build momentum, and prepare us for a new envisioned future.”

The team hopes to present a rough draft of restructuring at this June’s General Synod, and a final report at the 2024 General Synod.



Dear Members and Friends of Our Congregation,

As your new minister, I have of course inherited much from the previous ministry here at Old Saratoga, including the past, pre-Covid, careful study and prayerful discernment by the consistory and other members about where God is leading us into ways of opening the doors of our church a little wider, and to ensure that all members of the community we serve understand our commitment to welcoming and affirming all people who come to us.

In picking up that topic once again last month in the consistory, it was determined to seek affirmation from all,8 to declare Old Saratoga as a Welcoming and Affirming Congregation in the Reformed Church in America, by joining the roster of non-discriminating congregations within our denomination. It was agreed by consensus that this important step would faithfully reflect to the world the following reassuring and welcoming belief, already in practice here:

“We the people of the Old Saratoga Reformed Church in Schuylerville, humbly and faithfully declare that we are a Welcoming and Affirming congregation. We joyfully accept all persons into our community of faith who seek a closer relationship with God and who desire to express their devotion to Jesus Christ through the fellowship of the church. We welcome into the full life of our congregation all persons whom God calls to us, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, age, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, marital standing, socio-economic status, or physical or mental or emotional ability.”

The consistory of Old Saratoga requests, if you have any questions, concerns, or reflections regarding this important step in faithfully declaring before God and the world our belief in God’s goodness shown in and through all people, that you speak to me or another member of the Consistory for information and clarity for all of our benefit.

We are hopeful that this statement will lead us as individuals and a church toward a life of ever-increasing compassion and love. We pray that we remain firm in our commitment to building a community of God for all people, acting accord to the love of Christ that abides within each of us.

Yours in faith, Pastor Susan

COMMUNITY LIFE

BACON HILL HAMLET IS THE FOCUS OF HISTORY CENTER VIDEO

The Saratoga Historical Society has announced that the hamlet of Bacon Hill will be the subject of an upcoming documentary, as part of the Forgotten Crossroads series, which tells the history and stories of people living in still-existing communities that started in the early days of Saratoga County. The video will premiere at Brookside Museum in Ballston Spa in late March and at the **Bacon Hill Reformed Church in mid-April.**

Please visit www.brooksidemuseum.org for updates and announcements.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sat. April 15 4:00-5:30pm Lasagna Dinner at Old Saratoga –reservations requested for curbside or limited indoor seating
518-695-6638**

Sat. April 22 5 and 10K Bacon Hill Road Race – register online



**Sun. May 21 noon St. Stephen's Annual Chicken BBQ at the monument
Reserve online –cost by donation**



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

***Palm Sunday Breakfast Sun. April 2 8:45am (see inside for details)
followed by Worship Service 10am***

***Sacrament of Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday, April 6 7pm***



Coffee Hour every Sunday following worship!

***Easter Sunday Celebration of the Resurrection
Sunday, April 9 10am***

Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser Sat. April 15 (see inside for details)