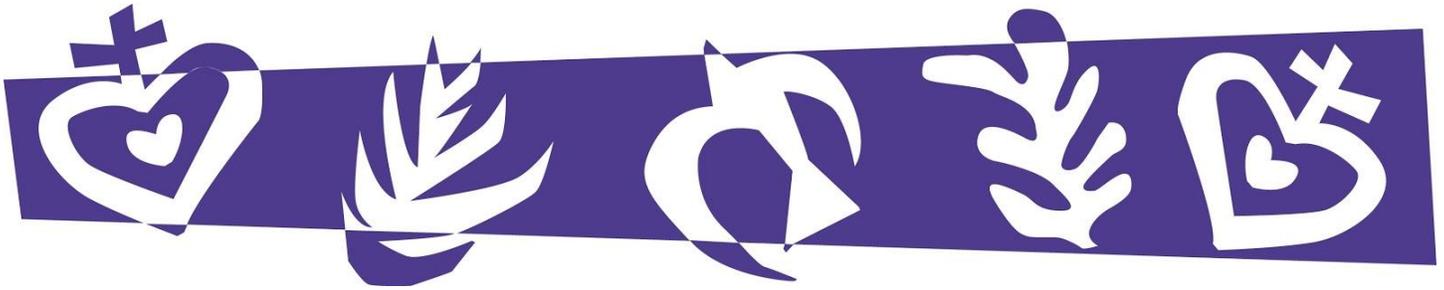


JACOB'S WELL



March 2023

Mar. 5 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Lectionary Readings: *Genesis 12: 1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17;
Matthew 17: 1-9*

Greeter: *Richard Behrens*

Liturgist: *Mark Booth*

Usher: *Karl Thayer*

Counters: *Mark Booth/Bridget Critelli*

Communion Servers: *Bridget Critelli, Mark Booth, Rob Hayner*

Communion Cleanup: *Richard Behrens*

Mar. 12 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Lectionary Readings: *Exodus 17: 1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42*

Greeter: *Amber Deyoe*

Liturgist: *Anne Mitchell*

Usher: *Cindy Brockman*

Counters: *Rob Hayner/Bruce Guerineau*

Mar. 19 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Lectionary Readings: *1 Samuel 16: 1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9: 1-41*

Greeter: *Jean Wells*

Liturgist: *Robin Woomer*

Usher: *Bill Olmert*

Counters: *Rob Hayner/Bruce Guerineau*

Mar. 26 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Lectionary Readings: *Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45*

Greeter: *Cindy Brockman*

Liturgist: *Chris Garney*

Usher: *Richard Behrens*

Counters: *Paula Sheely/Cindy Brockman*



PASTOR'S PONDER

I don't know about you, but I often find it personally *challenging* to muddle along towards an identified goal. Some examples: If I'm looking for a new piece of furniture and find THE one, then I don't want to wait for it to be ordered—I'd like the floor model delivered tomorrow! As my children can attest to, if the wallpaper is peeling and destined to come down, I will start peeling it off in every spare minute I can find—despite being surrounded by moving boxes—and small children may assist! (How patient are you?)

Easter however, is an exception. I am in no hurry to get there every year! Instead, I relish the weeks in the Season of Lent that lead up to the church's "highest holy day". Lent, as the purple (symbolic of Christ's majesty and a mourning color) label above states, is "A Season of Renewal". I love that!

Lent (like Advent) provides us with a period of several weeks set aside for us to sort things out, and to re-experience all the ways that the world around us, AND the life within us, not only *can be* but also IS alive and newly different... better... through the grace of God.

In a world that was often already full of scarcity, Lent traditionally has been characterized as a time of "giving something up", rather than rediscovering what we already have: *the gift of God's powerful and eternal love*. During Lent, I like to explore the ways in which we can see that love around us, and ponder new ways to reflect it to the rest of the world. Here is a list I like of things to strive to **give up** in Lent, in order to help that process of forgiveness and redemption:

Complaining. Gossiping. Binge...anything. Worrying. Being self-critical. Busy-ness. Making snap decisions. Sarcasm (an oldie but a goodie!). Ignoring and not making time for what's good for my body (healthy eating, exercise, getting outdoors).

That's my admittedly partial list of Things to Give Up, but I also like to use this season of impending Spring and renewal to redeem in my life what is *good and gracious and redemptive*: participating in community worship, paying better attention to my spiritual well-being through meditation and reading Scripture, and yes... by prayerfully anticipating once again the wonder of Jesus's compassion and sacrifice through Holy Week, so that when Easter morning comes, our celebration far exceeds the secular celebration of Spring flora and fauna, bunnies and chocolate. There's simply no comparison to the miracles that Christ's death and resurrection promise, and I don't want to miss a moment of acknowledging that proof of God's grace in our lives! I hope you can join me along the way, and at Easter. I'd love to hear your version of Lent!

-- In faith, Pastor Susan



CHURCH FAMILY

BIRTHDAYS

1: Rebecca Sheely-King
1: Don MacMillan III
5: Susan Fero Kurowski
8: Suzanne Guerineau
9: Nasa Edgar
12: Ashley Edgar
10: Kimberly MacMillan
10: Riley Peyton MacMillan
14: Grace Louise Mellen
15: Emily Brockman
15: Rob Hayner
19: Victoria Starnella
25: Diane Mathis Asiel
29: Bethany Olmert
30: Kyle Burch
30: Alisa Richards

ANNIVERSARIES

25: Tammee and Adam Lockwood, 1989
25: Brenda and Bill Buchanan

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Mazie Zelazney	Claire Houston
Trevor Mellen	Naomi Thayer
Charles Thayer	Gerry Barber
Florence Sherman	Florence Brown
Suzanne Guerineau	Alicia Lewie
Matthew Booth	Mark Booth
Sheryl Norton	Nancy and Norman Howard

SYMPATHY

..to the family and friends of **Peg Jeram**, who died on Feb. 23 following an accident with a motorcycle. Condolences may be sent to her daughter and granddaughter, **Janice Cornell and Bridget Critelli**, **42 Salem Street, Greenwich NY 12834**

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

THANKS EXTENDED

..to **Jean Wells** who made and donated two sanctuary wreaths for the Lenten and Spring season
..to **Jim Brockman, Christopher Tucker and Doug Sheely** for putting up the cross in the sanctuary for the Lenten season
..to the **anonymous donor** who brought in several rolls of postage stamps

THANKS RECEIVED

"What helps the people of Ukraine survive and be resilient through all the devastation is the overwhelming support that the world has given to them. Standing and praying with the Ukrainian people is a reflection of your loving and caring nature. We are grateful for your spiritual, financial and humanitarian aid and are hopeful that the Almighty hears our prayer, and Ukraine will begin to rebuild and again prosper as a free nation."

Rev. Mikhail Myshchuk
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church,
Watervliet

CHURCH LIFE

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



The OSRC Red Cross Blood Drive held on Saturday, Feb. 18, was a success, collecting 18 whole blood units and four power reds. **Anne Santino**, Director of the Albany Red Cross, was very pleased with the turnout. We will look forward to holding another one next February!

RCA ROUND TABLE

On **Sunday, March 5th**, 4-6pm, the Niskayuna Reformed Church will host a roundtable discussion for all Reformed Church members. There will be updates from the Restructuring Team, with opportunity to give feedback. Especially welcome are young people with a heart for the RCA's future. If you would like to attend, please see **Pastor Susan** about carpooling. **(518-366-3648)**

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

On **Sunday, April 2nd**, we will again have our popular Palm Sunday breakfast. A signup sheet is posted in the foyer. Please bring a breakfast food to share (egg dish, meat, bread, juice, fruit, buns, donuts, etc.) All are welcome!!

OSRC MISSIONS FOR MARCH

Deacons' Fund – ADK Save a Stray (new!)
The ADK goal is to save lives and find homes for the animals. It is an open concept shelter and as cage-free as possible. All the animals are neutered or spayed before adoption. Your donation will help to bring unwanted animals from kill shelters in southern areas on their "freedom ride" to the north.
Mission of 1st Quarter – Drilling for Hope

COMING UP AT OSRC



Tu. 3/21 6:30pm Consistory Meeting
Wed. 3/22 7pm Pastor Susan preaches at Schuylerville Methodist
Sun. 4/2 8:45 Palm Sunday Breakfast followed by worship at 10am
Thu. 4/6 7pm Maundy Thursday, the Lord's Table and Tenebrae at Old Saratoga Reformed
Sun. 4/9 10am Easter Sunday
Sat. 4/15 Lasagna Dinner at OSRC (see flier for details)
Fri. 5/5 5pm Cinco de Mayo at the home of Duffy Whitehouse
Sat. 5/6 9am Church Spring Cleanup Day

LASAGNA DINNER



Sat. April 15
4:00-5:30pm

Old Saratoga Reformed Church
48 Pearl St., Schuylerville

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

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

**Reservations for eat-ins and take outs by calling
518-695 6638**

CONSISTORY RETREAT SUMMARY *from Pastor Susan*

I ENCOURAGE you to consult with your consistory on, “How was the Retreat?” held on Saturday, February 18. I can only report that I was VERY happy with it—happy that everyone showed up and participated, happy that we made it through my proposed agenda, happy to get to learn more about Old Saratoga and the leaders I get to work with currently on Consistory!

One of the exercises we did together was to answer the question, “What is one word that describes the organizational culture of OSRC?” The results were as follows:

Old Saratoga as a church organization is...

Welcoming. It feels like home; we experience peace, and comfort here.

Traditional. The sense is that OS/worship/culture is reliable, there is a “sameness”, consistency, it is familiar, there are standards we adhere to.

Unified. Mutually supportive, working to strengths of people.

Understanding. Tolerant. Accepting of differences.

Determined. Dedicated. Fund-raising/supportive.

Another set of questions we entertained was,

“What are our gifts as a community facility?” The answers were:

- Financial stability.
- Beautiful stained glass windows!
- A variety of gifted and talented members
- Beautiful and handicapped-accessible bathrooms
- Handicapped accessibility to the entire building
- Location: street visibility
- Historicity
- The front lawn

“What is holding us back?” Answer: Scheduling conflicts and energy levels!

And finally, **“What change is needed?”**

That last question has not yet definitively been answered, of course! It is SO broad and yet specific, that discernment, communication, dreaming, analysis, and inspiration are needed to proceed. When people question, or make suggestions, or constructively critique, we are to bear in mind, that WE ARE THE CHURCH—there is not a “they”, as in, “They should...”; and when the sentence begins with, “We should/could/would...”, it means, at the heart of it, that any action taken or not taken includes YOU... your prayers, your energy, your contributions of time, talents, and financial support.

This is an exciting and challenging time to “be church”! We can remain confident that God knows what comes next, and how it will be accomplished, so that the ministry and mission of Old Saratoga in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world takes on new life, to the glory of God!



HYMNS OF OUR FAITH

"Sing to the Lord, ye saints of God." (Psalm 30:4)

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"



*"Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin;
From earthborn passions set me free and make me pure within."*

When we speak of ancient hymns, we must include "Lord Jesus Think on Me" as being one of the oldest in Christian literature. The poem, written in the Greek language around the year 410 AD by Synesius of Cyrene, was put to music in 1579 by William Damon, a musician in the court of English Queen Elizabeth I, noted for his work of putting music to psalms.

Synesius of Cyrene was Bishop of Ptolemais, in Libya. Born into a wealthy family, he was a philosopher, scientist, mathematician, and, even for a brief time, a military leader. Despite being of the upper class, and favoring a quiet life, Synesius championed the cause of those who fell into difficulties. He also exhibited great responsibility for his city and people. Synesius was an accomplished writer. His hymns, written in majestic tones, are among the gifts that we enjoy today.

We are able to appreciate Synesius' hymns in our native language, due to the work of Allen Chatfield (1808-1896). Chatfield, a vicar in the Church of England, of whom it was said that his command of Greek was admirable, was himself the author of hymns, but is better known as a translator.

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me" is essentially a lament, and seems most appropriate for use during the Lenten Season. It is meditative, and introspective, while also ending each verse with hope.

*"Lord Jesus, think on me, with care and woe appressed,
Let me thy loving servant be and gain eternal rest."*

"This hymn combines an expression of close and personal friendship that God knows all about us- both our sins and our virtues." ¹

*"Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity point thou the heavenly way."*

1. The Worshipping Church: HYMNAL, WORSHIP LEADERS' EDITION, HOPE PUBLISHING COMPANY, CAROL Stream, IL 1991, p. 462

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Wed. March 8	THIRD LENTEN SERVICE 7:00 PM at Risen Hope Community Church Preaching: <i>The Rev. Janet Vincent</i>
Wed. March 15	FOURTH LENTEN SERVICE 7:00 PM at Bacon Hill Reformed Church Preaching: <i>The Rev. Nancy Russell</i>
Sat. March 18	PRAYER STATIONS 9am-noon at Quaker Springs UMC 2-5PM at Schuylerville UMC
Wed. March 22	FIFTH LENTEN SERVICE 7:00 PM at Schuylerville UMC Preaching: <i>The Rev. Susan Kerr</i> <i>Prayers for healing and anointing</i>
Wed. March 29	SIXTH LENTEN SERVICE 7:00PM at Notre Dame-Visitation Preaching: <i>The Rev. Scott Cutting</i>
Thurs. April 6	MAUNDY THURSDAY The Lord's Table 7:00 PM at Old Saratoga Reformed Preaching: <i>Deacon Helene Patterson</i> 7:00PM at St. Clements
Fri. April 7	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE -Reading the Passion of Jesus 12:00PM at St. Stephen's Episcopal – followed by luncheon Preaching: Deacon Jim Carbino
Sat. April 8	EASTER VIGIL at 8 PM at St. Clements
Sun. April 9	EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 6 AM Bacon Hill Reformed (Outdoor Chapel) <i>Led by the Rev. Janet Vincent</i>

BACON HILL HAMLET IS FOCUSED IN 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. March 18 8:30-1pm St. Patrick's Day Breakfast at Risen Hope

**Sat. April 15 4:00-5:30pm Lasagna Dinner at Old Saratoga –reservations requested
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
Register online – cost is by donation**

Lenten Poem by Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time to let the power
of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....

Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.



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

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www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org

www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch

Phone: 518-695-3479

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday, March 5 10am



Coffee Hour every

Sunday following worship!

Ecumenical Lenten Services Schedule (See inside)

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

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