

# JACOB'S WELL

June 2023

## OSRC STATEMENT OF INCLUSION



*Led by the love of Jesus Christ, we, the people of OSRC in Schuylerville, faithfully declare that we are a Welcoming and Affirming congregation. We welcome into the full life of our congregation all persons whom God calls to us, and affirm their gifts to the Glory of God.*

### **June 4 TRINITY SUNDAY Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

**Lectionary Readings:** *Genesis 1: 1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13;  
Matthew 28: 16-20*

*Greeter: Carolyn Markwith Liturgist: Richard Behrens*

*Usher: Cindy Brockman*

*Communion Servers: Mark Booth/Rob Hayner/TBD*

*Communion Cleanup: Karl and Kim Thayer*

*Counters: Rob Hayner/Mark Booth*

### **June 11 SECOND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**

**Lectionary Readings:** *Genesis 12: 1-9; Psalm 33: 1-12; Hosea 5: 15-6:6; Psalm 50: 7-15;  
Romans 4: 13-25; Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26*

*Greeter: Patti Booth*

*Liturgist: Pam Seward*

*Usher: Bill Olmert*

*Counters: Paula Sheely/Bridget Critelli*

### **June 18 THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**

**Lectionary Readings:** *Genesis 18: 1-15. (21: 1-7); Psalm 116: 12, 12-19; Exodus 19: 2-8a;  
Psalm 100; Romans 5: 1-8; Matthew 9: 35-10:8 (9-23)*

*Greeter: Bill Olmert*

*Liturgist: Paula Sheely*

*Usher: Karl Thayer*

*Counters: Cindy Brockman/Mark Booth*

### **June 25 FOURTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**

**Lectionary Readings:** *Genesis 21: 8-21; Psalm 86: 1-10,16-17; Jeremiah 20: 7-13;  
Psalm 69: 7-10, (11-15); Romans 6: 1b-11; Matthew 10: 24-39*

*Greeter: Karl Thayer*

*Liturgist: Amber Deyoe*

*Usher: Paula Sheely*

*Counters: Paula Sheely/Bruce Guerineau*

**Worship services begin at 10am. Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of the month.  
Our sanctuary is handicapped accessible.**



## PASTOR'S PONDER

As we continue to make our way out of the pandemic years, I've begun to think about what we might have learned from it, to assess what has been

lost, what has been gained... what has changed irreparably, and what to do

with what we have now. There are children old enough to be walking, who escaped the brunt of it—and others, just a bit older, who will be entering school for the first time this fall with indelible experiences of masks and isolation. How have you fared?

One thing I learned during Covid is that I enjoy designing and putting in a pretty garden. Over two years, I created four planting areas full of interesting, colorful, and diverse varieties of flowering plants. My goal was to create a place of beauty for passers-by to enjoy, to give them something to smile at in a world of fear and loss—to provide a visual diversion to remind us that goodness and beauty are always the best part of this gift of a life, and that it continues to be so even during times of trauma and sadness. I was fortunate that my son was able to come and do much of the heavy lifting—turning over earth using gardening tools inherited from my grandfather, dragging and spreading 24 cubic yards of mulch—while I had the joy of choosing plants, putting them into the freshly enriched soil, tending them, watching them develop. I treasured the moments when passing pedestrians smiled or gave me a thumbs up, or chatted from a safe distance, unmasked, outdoors.

Some of the lessons gleaned from gardening will stick with me: plants need water on a regular basis, some daily, some less often, but every growing thing needs moisture. That seems obvious, but I learned from daily observation which plants love water to thrive, which do well with a hit-and-miss approach, which prefer sand and sun over monsoons.

As you might imagine, it occurred to me that congregants are much the same: some crave constant attention, some just faithfully show up, some are there occasionally, and others simply reach out in times of crisis and celebration. I think that's why our congregational structure developed as it is. One minister cannot be all things to all people all of the time—and so we have Elders and Deacons and a Consistory to pitch in and work together to assess and meet the diversity of pastoral and practical needs around us, sensitive as a group to who needs what, and when.

Old Saratoga is blessed with a wonderful core of individuals who cooperate to meet everyone's needs—with the confidence that if something or someone is missed, that God's own Self is there and available, always, even when people are not. Together, we treasure each and all of you faithful souls! On another note, it is well known that pastoral wisdom for new ministers includes the mantra, "Make no major changes in your first year; learn, listen, look, pray." We have come to the end of my ninth month here as "the new pastor"—time enough, it occurs to me, to give birth to a new life! I continue to follow the wisdom of generations of people entering new congregations—and ask that you, too, continue to pray with and for me, and for this new era of ministry and mission at our lovely Old Saratoga Reformed Church. I am ever aware that together we hold this place in trust for the future that God has in store for it... and seek your inspiration on how we might most effectively and faithfully meet God there, and now. I have a few ideas... what are yours? In the meantime, see you around this summer!

-- In faith, *Pastor Susan*

# CHURCH FAMILY

## THANKS EXTENDED

.. to all the wonderful volunteers who gave up a Saturday morning (May 6) to clean up outside the church and inside, too. They were able to declutter several areas of the building, due to Head Start's removing their equipment from Loomis hall and the shed. Now the shed has our occasional use items, and also items for the garage sale we will hold in the fall. We now have cleaned, welcoming doors, a showcase without dust, a clean kitchen and a straightened up storeroom, music room, and downstairs closet.. Those who helped were: **Karl Thayer, Jim Brockman, Christopher Tucker, Mark and Patti Booth, Pastor Susan, Janice Cornell, Bridget Critelli, Victoria Starnella, Duffy Whitehouse; and Cindy Brockman** who was unable to be here on cleanup day, but put in several hours of work both before and after! Special thanks to **Paula and Doug Sheely, Becca Sheely-King, and Mike Hayes** who braved the attic and repaired the other steeple bell! Both bells were rung for the first time in many years on Sunday, May 7! We hope to get the carillon up and running again soon.

## THANKS RECEIVED FROM DRILLING FOR HOPE

"Thank you for your continued support (\$200) for my work. I will use it towards a well at a school in Kenya. You are helping to change lives!" **Karen (Flewelling)**

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Matthew Booth, Trevor Mellen, Alicia Lewie, Charles and Naomi Thayer, Florence Brown, Mazie Zelazney, Margaret Jacobson, Nancy and Norman Howard, Florence Sherman, Claire Houston, Gerry Barber*

## CELEBRATIONS



### Birthdays this month:

2: Vicki Perkins, 3: Dale Cox, 3: Kylie Dyke, 5: Chris Garney, 5: Bonnie Garrand, 5: Eric Richards, 9: Rich Zotzmann, 11: Donald MacMillan, 11: Gerry Barber, 12: Pam Driscoll, 15: Mellenie Booth, 16: Zoe Bartholomay, 16: Nicholas Casey, 17: Ajay Thomas Deyoe, 21: Adam Burch, 21: Matthew Waldinger, 23: Olivia Edgar, 24: Jenny Middlebrook, 25: Patti Zotzmann, 27: Kenny MacMillan, 28: Wally Kroner, 29: Sue Hughes

### Anniversaries this month:

1: Darryl and Cheryl (Sherman) Baust, 2: Randy and Cindy Kerr, 9: Jean Stark and Walter Kroner,

# CHURCH LIFE

## HYMNS OF OUR FAITH

### “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”



***“Upon the mountain my Lord spoke, out of his mouth came fire and smoke.  
All around me looks so shine. Ask my Lord if all is mine.  
Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the  
Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.”***

This is a hymn for the Season of Pentecost, or for any time that we consider the Afro-Americans experience prior to the US Civil War. Both the author and the composer are anonymous, but this gift to our hymnary developed out of several sources.

Pentecost (from the Greek “pentekoste”- fiftieth day) was fifty days after Jesus’ resurrection. Jesus has ascended into heaven and the Holy Spirit, as promised, came upon believers, filling the entire house where they were assembled, and empowering them to spread the Gospel. (Acts, chapter 2)

For the Afro –American slave, the hymn may also find its Biblical root in the apostle Paul’s understanding of the Spirit as found in Romans 8:26. “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with signs too deep for words.” The sufferings of the slaves in the period before the Civil War never erased their belief in a loving and caring God. “Black people have never had any concept of a God who could not be “felt.”<sup>1</sup> The Spirit-filled feeling elicited the need to pray.

The mountain experience mentioned in the first verse is likely an allusion to Moses on Mt. Sinai. In Numbers 19:18 we read that “Mt. Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the Lord had descended upon it in fire.” The mention of the Jordan River in verse 2 could be a place of physical freedom in the north, or perhaps the Promised Land.

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is the Spirit of God, our Advocate, and our Comforter. Those who are born of the Spirit of God have access to the Holy Spirit in times of need, in times of empowerment, and in times of praise.

***“Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.”***

1. [Discipleship Ministries/History of Hymns: ‘Every Time I feel the...\(umdiscipleship.org\)](http://umdiscipleship.org)

## **“SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE”**

All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads, though many go without a bed, ending up sleeping on couches, blankets and floors. This can affect their happiness and health. And that’s where Sleep in Heavenly Peace comes in – a group of volunteers dedicated to building and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. The OSRC deacons are looking into supporting this charity, and will eventually be seeking donations, and commitments to providing beds and accompanying linens, as well as labor to build beds for local children. Please check future issues of JW for further information.

## **GRADUATIONS**

The July/August issue of JW will list all those graduates with ties to OSRC through their parents or grandparents. If you have someone in your family who will be graduating, please contact the office with the following information: Name, school from which the person is graduating, and plans for the future.

## **COMING UP**



**July 23 Sun. following worship OSRC SUMMER PICNIC at the home of Duffy Whitehouse**  
**Our traditional summer get-together at a different time!**  
**Please bring a dish to share, your own meat (grill will be provided for you to cook your own) a lawn chair, your own beverage**

## **THANK YOU TO THE CHOIR**



Sunday, June 4 is the choir’s last Sunday to sing for this season. Their last anthem will be a rousing medley of several old hymns entitled, “He Keeps Me Singing.” Following the last rehearsal, the choir members went to King’s Dairy for their traditional ice cream cone! Rehearsals will start again in early September, and the choir will once again return to the chancel to help in the leading of worship through song. Please take a minute to thank **Christopher Tucker** and **Barbara Elcox** for their musical talents.



SCHUYLERVILLE'S  
SAFE  
SUMMER **Ecumenical Church Event** SUPPER  
ON THE  
OLD SARATOGA CHURCH LAWN  
**(corner Burgoyne & Pearl)**

PULLED PORK WITH SAUCES PROVIDED **by**  
**St. Stephen's**

OPTION TO BRING SIDE DISH TO SHARE  
OR DESSERT

6 PM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

PARTICIPATING HOST CONGREGATIONS:

Schuylerville United Methodist, Bacon Hill Reformed, Fort Miller



**SEEKING A NEW SECRETARY**

The Consistory is considering the details of a job description for Old Saratoga's next church secretary. However, it is one of those essentially clerical positions that fit the criteria of "you know who is right when you meet them", as much as requiring specific skills -- although those are important as well: things like a kindly phone and in-person manner, patience, efficient organizational habits, ability to prioritize, knowledge of Microsoft Word and gmail, strong written and verbal communication skills and reasonable typing skill, as well as some proficiency with social media (Facebook, website updates). Familiarity with the workings of a church and Christianity is a plus, but being a "quick study" is fine as well.

Ability to handle confidential information with discretion is a must. Scheduling at present is three mornings a week, 9 – noon, with some flexibility. *Do you know someone who would suit?* The position is open after June 30, with the expectation to begin on a regular basis as of September 1 at the latest.



**Coffee Hour Reception in honor of Duffy**

**Sunday, June 25**

**Loomis Hall**

**Following 10 o'clock worship**

**GRATITUDE CORNER**

Thank you to all of you who faithfully maintain your financial support of Old Saratoga throughout the summer months! While many families and individuals budget carefully for vacations every year, the habit of including church support in family budgets has fallen out of favor in our culture, which adds to the burden of building and program maintenance and renovation, just to keep current in the church! There is plenty of time to make your taxdeductible, charitable contribution

or special memorial remembrance to Old Saratoga in support of our ministries, to preserve and renew our facilities, and to give glory to God!

### **WHAT'S GOING ON AT CHURCH?**

Exciting things are happening around the church and parsonage! A picture is worth a thousand words... as we strive to provide “new wine skins” for God’s “new wine” —

**AT THE NEW GARAGE:**



From that...to this, in a couple of weeks!

**REPAIRED BRICKWORK AT THE PARSONAGE:**



**CHIMNEY REPAIRS, FOUNDATION AND BRICK REPOINTING AT THE PARSONAGE AND CHURCH**





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

[www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch) Phone:

518-695-3479

***Sacrament of Holy Communion***

***Sunday, June 4 10am***



***Coffee Hour every Sunday following worship!***

***"Safe Summer Supper"***

***(pulled pork provided by St. Stephen's, bring salads and desserts to share)***

***Wednesday, June 28 6pm on the OSRC lawn***

***All are welcome!***

***Sponsored by the Greater Schuylerville Ecumenical Association***

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*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)  
Stephen's, salads, desserts)*

*Wednesday, June 28 6pm on the OSRC lawn*

*All are welcome !*

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