

JACOB'S WELL

November 2023



November 5 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Paula Sheely

Liturgist: Mark Booth

Usher: Richard Behrens

Counters: Mark Booth and Cindy Brockman

Communion Set-up: Cindy Brockman

Servers: Paula Sheely, Cindy Brockman, Mark Booth

November 12 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Richard Behrens

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Cindy Brockman

Counters:

November 19 25th Sunday after Pentecost; Annual Meeting

Greeter: Jean Wells

Liturgist: Amber Deyoe

Usher: Bill Olmert

Counters:

November 26 Christ the King Sunday

Greeter: Amber Deyoe

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Karl Thayer

Counters:

December 3 First Sunday of Advent

Greeter: Carolyn Markwith

Liturgist: Carolyn Markwith

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters:

SUNDAY READINGS--

11/5 COMMUNION SUNDAY Joshua 3:7-17; Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37; Matt. 23:1-12

11/12 Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25; Ps. 78:1-7; Matt. 25:1-13

11/19 Judges 4:1-7; Ps. 123; Matt. 25:14-30

11/26 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps. 100; Matt. 25:31-46

REIGN OF CHRIST OR CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY. ADVENT BEGINS NEXT WEEK!



PASTOR'S PONDER

As I type this, it is the day after Halloween—November 1st, and it's snow-flurrying outside! Last night I got the usual flood of Trick-or-Treaters coming to the parsonage door, and met them with a bowl of candies and two little hysterically barking dogs, who kept me alert to respond to each small person's venture up those imposing stairs as smiling, proud moms and dads looked on from below. To a child, in return for their candy I

received a "Thank you!", and to my greeting of "Happy Halloween!", a similar wishing of happiness for the rest of the evening. There were only a couple of Anna/Elsas this year (the sisters from "Frozen")—a big shift from the past ten years. Instead, the popular costume for young girls of every age was Wednesday, the darkly macabre daughter from "The Adams Family". The little cowboys and bigger hobos from my youth were nowhere in sight, replaced by impressive large costume-constructions of dinosaurs or monsters or Hulk-ish characters. I'm not sure what all of that says about contemporary society, but I miss the fairies and princesses, the cowboys and astronauts and little furry-hooded farm animals who used to come in droves to the door for candy. I'm not sure what measure can be taken from that about society or parenting styles or the media children are exposed to nowadays, but it makes me feel both nostalgic and a bit sad somehow. It seems to be in keeping with the world news in general, and all of that turns my heart and mind to prayer... for all of us.

I recently reviewed an old sermon that contains the following section—

"The human (biblical) cycle is:

- The people sin
- God punishes them
- The people repent
- God delivers/saves them and life is GOOD – and so back to the first bullet.

Jesus (Easter) breaks the cycle; that is, God-self breaks the cycle! IF we participate."

My prayer for this month of Thanksgiving-- which leads us into a month of Advent preparation to celebrate the gift of Jesus once again—my prayer is that somehow, by God's grace, the world can desist in destruction and violence against other earthlings (a term I'll explain in a moment), and rejoice in the joy of peace. So... instead of seeing snow flurries as the beginning of the end of Autumn, I ask you to join me in seeing them instead as the beginning of a new beginning, where sin and sadness are washed away, akin to the brightness of newly fallen snow, and all the world rejoices with thanksgiving!

Check it out-- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uL3XcJL3KU>

"We are all Earthlings... spinning around together on a planet of the sun!" --The Muppets

-- In faith, *Pastor Susan*



OLD SARATOGA REFORMED CHURCH

Mark Your Calendars:

- November 1 All Saints Day Remembrance, Ecumenical Service
7 p.m. Quaker Springs United Methodist Church
- November 4 Harvest Ham Supper at OSRC 4-6 p.m.
- November 5 Home Communions after worship
- November 7 Consistory Meets, 6:30 p.m.
- November 18 Christmas Concert bulletin information due.
- November 19 Annual Meeting and Election of Consistory
- November 21 Set up church Christmas Trees for decorating on
- November 26 Decorating the Church for Advent/Christmas,
following worship. All hands encouraged to Help!
- December 2 Annual Holiday Sale!
- December 3 3 p.m. Community Christmas Concert at OSRC
Free Will offerings support children's Christmas fund.
- December 20 7 p.m. Blue Christmas Service for those who suffered loss,
find it difficult to be cheerful, or need a quiet space with God this year.
- December 24 Fourth Advent Worship 10 a.m.
7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship



GRATITUDE CORNER

THANKS TO Duffy for hosting a wonderful OctoberFest!

ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

WEDNESDAYS 9:30-10:30

Led by Preaching Elder Richard Behrens

YOU are welcomed!

MISSION GIVING

Deacon's Mission for November is The Guardian House of Saratoga

The Female homeless veteran's house located in Ballston Spa, NY, is a beautiful historical home that houses up to eleven female veterans. The grassroots effort to establish a veteran's home for women began in 2008, and we are pleased to help support it.

The 4TH Quarter Mission is The Giving Circle

The Giving Circle is a Saratoga Springs-based all-volunteer organization founded on the principle of neighbor helping neighbor and community helping community.

Thank You Note Received from *Things of My Very Own* for our donation of **\$138**.

Annual Congregational Meeting



Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, November 19th immediately following the Service. All are encouraged to attend! This is the time for electing our Consistory for 2024 and hearing about Your Church! Refreshments will be served.

Get Your Fresh Georgia Pecans!

OSRC is once again offering fresh Georgia Pecans for purchase.

Plain pecans (one lb. bag) are \$12 and
Dark chocolate-covered (12 oz. bag) are \$15.



Volunteer Opportunities Available



If you haven't already done so, please take time to look at and fill out a green volunteer slip (available in your Sunday Bulletin)!

Old Saratoga Reformed Church Sentence 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.



Hymns of Our Faith

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

***We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be:
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.***

In the liturgy for a recent a recent Sunday (Matthew 22:15-22), Jesus was asked, "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not? " Jesus's reply confounded the Pharisees and Herodians, spoiling their trap, saying, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's."

One interpretation of Jesus's answer is that we are to be good citizens and pay our taxes, since "the authorities that exist are instituted by God." (Romans 13:1). But, our allegiance must be to God, the creator and giver of all that is good.

An English clergyman of the 19th century, Willam Walsham How, captures the essence of this interpretation in his 1858 hymn, "We Give Thee but Thine Own" since "all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee."

Bishop How was called "the poor man's bishop", since he was known for his work among the destitute in the London slums and among factory workers in west Yorkshire. This helps our understanding of his poetry when we read the verse that says, "To comfort and to bless, to find a balm for woe, to tend the lone and fatherless is angel's work below."

How's compositions are characterized as "simple, unadorned, but enthusiastically practical hymns". Among his other contributions are, "O Jesu, Thou art Standing", "For all the Saints who from their Labors Rest", and "O Word of God Incarnate". Nearly sixty of How's hymns are in common use today—three published in our red hymnal.

*"And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be;
What-e'er for thine we do, O Lord, we do it unto thee."*

To give a listen, copy and paste the following link into your browser:

<https://my.hymnary.org/song/397/we-give-thee-but-thine-own?instrument=full&capo=None&>



Church Family



1: Roger Sherman; **2:** Carol Burch; **3:** David Woomer, Roger M. Sherman; **6:** Wendy (Russell) Fedderly; **10:** Emily Buchanan; **12:** Thomas Pooler; Doug Sheely, Robert Haney; **14:** Sawyer Russell Fedderly; **15:** Andrew Perti (Pastor Susan's son); **20:** Melanie (Whitehouse) Casey; **22:** Sandy Jones; **23:** Ryan Markwith; **24:** Chauncey Mabb



10: Anne and Doug Mitchell

Welcome Home Travelers: to Paula and Doug Sheely,
to Patti and Mark Booth!

In Our Prayers

Florence Sherman

Alicia Lewie

Chris Garney

Trevor Mellen

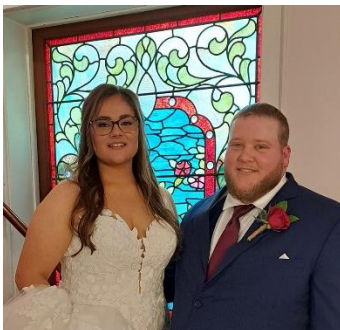
Gerry Barber

Claire Houston

Florence Brown

Nancy and Norman Howard

Naomi and Charles Thayer



Congratulations and God's Blessings to

Melanie Luke and Kevin Casey,
united in holy marriage here
on Saturday, October 21.

Condolences to:

Sandy Jones and Family on the death of Cheryl Coffin on October 3 after a short illness.

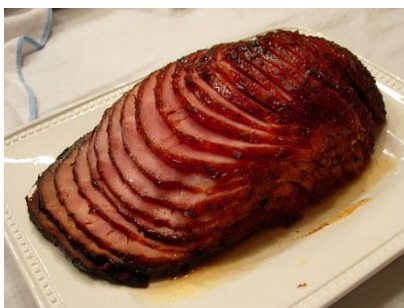
Doug and Paula Sheely and Family on the death of Doug's mother, Joan Sheely.

May God turn their grief and loss to joy in the resurrection, through Jesus Christ.

HAM HARVEST SUPPER

SAT. NOVEMBER 4

4:00 - 6pm



OLD SARATOGA REFORMED CHURCH

48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville, NY

Menu: Baked Ham, scalloped potatoes, squash, green beans, Dutch Kraut, roll, homemade Apple Crisp

Tickets: \$15 for Adults

\$9 for Children

Limited indoor seating available

Reservations Required by Nov. 2! Call (518-695-6638)

Enter from alley end of driveway, drive up to front door and a server will bring your dinners.

Exit onto Pearl Street.

All proceeds will go to the church and its local and global missions.



Forging Christmas

Nativities of Substance



Parks-Bentley Place
Historical Society of Moreau & South Glens Falls

*Visit our historic house and see more than
100 nativity sets crafted from metal, wood, glass,
ceramic & cloth!*

Open

Noon - 4 pm - Nov. 25 & 26

Dec. 1-3, 9 & 10, 16 & 17, 30

Noon - 7 pm - Dec. 8 & 15

Admission

\$5 Adults

\$3 Ages 12 & under

\$50 min. for group tours

Parks-Bentley Place
53 Ferry Blvd., South Glens Falls, NY

www.parksbentleyplace.org

We Live Our Faith: Local Recycling Opportunities that Help the Earth and Others



Pull Tabs

- 1. Bring pull tabs from cans to church. There is a container in the front entryway.**
- 2. The tabs are sent to the Shriner's Hospital. They are sold to a recycling company.**
- 3. The Shriners use the money to support the pediatric healthcare system for orthopedic, spine, burn and other specialty care for children.**

Clothing & Textiles

- 1. Bring clothes, shoes, linens, purses, belts, and stuffed animals to a Blue Box. There are Blue Boxes in the parking lots at Byron's (Broad St.) and Hearthstone Veterinary Clinic (Route 29).**
- 2. The items are sold to a recycling company. The items that are still good go to people who need them at a low cost. The other items are recycled into new materials.**
- 3. The money we get from the recycling company helps our church pay its bills.**

5¢ Deposit Bottles & Cans

- 1. Bring 5¢ deposit bottles and cans to church. There is a bin for them next to the back door.**
- 2. Church members take turns bringing them to Hannaford in Clynk bags which are scanned and dropped off in the recycling area. More helpers for this project would be wonderful.**
- 3. The church uses the money for mission projects to help others.**

Metal

- 1. Bring metal objects to the American Legion on Clancy St. There is a huge container in the parking lot.**
- 2. The metal gets sold to a recycling company.**
- 3. The American Legion uses the money to help Veterans and Boy Scouts.**



STILL SEEKING A NEW SECRETARY

The Consistory is seeking to hire a new church secretary. While it is an essentially clerical position, other considerations are important as well: a kindly phone and in-person manner, patience, efficient organizational habits, ability to prioritize, working knowledge of Microsoft Word and gmail, strong written and verbal communication skills and reasonable typing skill, as well as some proficiency with social media helpful (Facebook, website updates). Familiarity with the workings of a church and the Christian year 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. Please send resume and enquiries to the church email at:

oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com

HOLIDAY SALE

Saturday, December 2nd, 8 am-2 pm



Preparations are under way for our annual Holiday Sale!

Donations of new or gently used Christmas/Holiday items are always welcome!

Items can be dropped off at the church beginning Monday, Nov. 6.

If anyone is interested in creating a themed raffle basket (or contributing to one), or baking for the sale-- your donations would be **greatly appreciated!**

Upcoming Events

November 19: Annual Congregational Meeting

**November 26: Decorating of Christmas Trees in preparation for the
Season of Advent**

Community Events

November 18: Greenwich 11th Annual Holiday Lighted tractor parade at 6 PM

December 3: Community Holiday Concert at Old Saratoga Reformed Church



Dear friends at Old Saratoga Reformed Church,

This holiday season, **I want to invite your church to partner with RCA Global Mission through our Gift of Hope catalog.** Gift of Hope is a tangible way to provide basic needs, education, access to the gospel, and more to people around the world who need it most. Every gift you give through Gift of Hope reaches individuals on the margins with the resources they need and also with the love of Christ.

Your church should have recently received a Gift of Hope catalog in the mail (if not, please let us know!). Your church can give through the enclosed envelope or view and purchase this year's gifts online at giftofhope.rca.org.

Parking Reminder!

**With a few flurries in the air-a reminder that starting on December 1st,
alternate side parking begins!**

No Parking on the east side (church side) of Pearl Street

Monday, Wednesday or Friday 8 am – 8am

Old Saratoga Reformed Church

48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville NY 12871

PASTOR; Rev. Susan Kerr

518-366-3648

Consistory Members: Paula Sheely, Mark Booth

Bridget Critelli, Cindy Brockman, Rob Hayner, Bruce Guerineau

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, November 5th

Coffee Hour every Sunday following worship!



*We wish everyone a peaceful
Thanksgiving!*