

JACOB'S WELL

December 2023/January 2024



December 3 First Sunday of Advent

Greeter: Carolyn Markwith
Liturgist: Carolyn Markwith
Usher: Paula Sheely
Communion Servers: Bridget Critelli, Paula Sheely, Mark Booth
Communion Cleanup: Bill Olmert
Counters: Paula Sheely and Bruce Guerineau

December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

Greeter: Patrick Woomer
Liturgist: Pam Seward
Usher: Richard Behrens
Counters: Cindy Brockman and Paula Sheely

December 17 Third Sunday of Advent

Greeter: Bill Olmert
Liturgist: Chris Garney
Usher: Cindy Brockman
Counters: Cindy Brockman and Mark Booth

December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Greeter: Terri Richards
Liturgist: Patrick Woomer
Usher: Bill Olmert
Counters: Paula Sheely and Bridget Critelli

December 31 First Sunday After Christmas Day

Greeter: Terri Richards
Liturgist: Anne Mitchell
Usher: Karl Thayer
Counters: Mark Booth and Bruce Guerineau

January 7 First Sunday after Epiphany

Greeter: Richard Behrens
Liturgist: Patrick Woomer
Usher: Bill Olmert
Communion Servers:
Communion Cleanup: Bill Olmert
Counters:

January 14 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Greeter: Janice Cornell
Liturgist: Anne Mitchell
Usher: Bridget Critelli
Counters:

January 21 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Greeter: Karl Thayer
Liturgist: Richard Behrens
Usher: Paula Sheely
Counters:

January 28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Greeter: Jean Wells
Liturgist: Chris Garney
Usher: Cindy Brockman
Counters:



PASTOR'S PONDER

The first Sears Christmas Book, published and mailed to homes across America in 1933, was a modest 87 pages. It offered fruitcakes and Mickey Mouse watches and live canaries. By

1968, the catalog had ballooned to **608 pages**, and sold quilted robes and copper fondue pots and Electric Football games. The last one was printed and mailed out to homes in 1993, and marked the end of an era of childhood wishing.

I remember methodically perusing pages of toys and dresses, flannel pajamas and fuzzy slippers, and turning down page corners to let anyone who might be interested, know just what I was hoping would show up in a package with my name on it, under the tree on Christmas morning. In bonus years, up until 1985, I remember exercising a similar routine with the Montgomery Wards catalogue, and in one or two years, the J.C. Penney catalogue as well: an embarrassment of hopeful wishing!

If anyone asked me today what I hopefully wish for this Christmas, my answer would echo what I hear in the prayers of many these days: Peace. And an end to war and violence and conflict between peoples. No more killing, and no more hunger, and no more undrinkable water that makes the thirsty ones sick when that's all they have, and no more polluting this spectacular planet earth, so full of natural beauty.

I'm not real hopeful that those things will show up for me this year—or even in my lifetime—but I am prayerfully confident that we can make a good dent in improving things, even from where we are as a small rural congregation in an Upstate New York historic town with limited resources. Jesus said, "When you do it for the least of these, you do it for me." I'm a firm believer in the energy of the Holy Spirit of God, promised by Jesus, moving around and through us when we take notice and put our energies into making the world some better, somewhere. Maybe all you can do is pray to God to power into peace-makers across the world. Maybe you can send money via check or internet connection to feed a family, educate a child, or provide clean water by clicking on the RCA website Missions link. (I'm biased toward our denomination's helping sites, because it's "feet on the ground" of folks we know, can contact personally, and are accountable to us for how the money given is spent.) So here's that link—<https://www.rca.org/global-mission/support/>

And may your Christmas this year be especially merry, and bright!




--In faith, *Pastor Susan*



OLD SARATOGA REFORMED CHURCH

Mark Your Calendars:

- December 2** Annual Holiday Sale!
- December 3** **3 p.m.** Community Christmas Concert at OSRC
Free Will offerings support Caring & Sharing 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** **10 a.m.** Fourth Advent Worship
7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
- January 14** **10 a.m.** Consistory Installation and rededication.
- January 27** **3 p.m.** Musicians of Ma'alwyck Concert, A Tribute to
Hilary Tann and Her Music.
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GRATITUDE CORNER

THANKS To the Crafters for another beautiful sanctuary tree!



ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

WEDNESDAYS 9:30-10:30

Led by Preaching Elder Richard Behrens

Blue Christmas

A Service of Wholeness and Healing

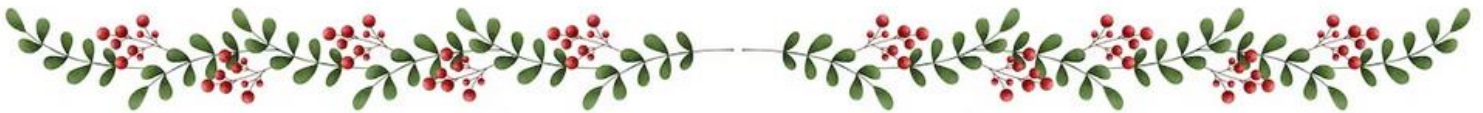
“Comfort, comfort my people, says God”

There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort. There are tough times when we yearn for consolation. Christmas can be a time for many when we are in need of that reassurance and comfort. Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or have experienced the loss of a job. We wonder how we will get through the holidays.



Old Saratoga will host a Service of Wholeness and Healing with the theme of “Blue Christmas” this year, on Wednesday, December 20th, at 7:00 p.m. upstairs in the Sanctuary (there is a lift available).

The service will offer the opportunity for quiet reflection and meaningful words and music, sharing in the good news of “God with us: Immanuel!”, followed by a time of fellowship and refreshment.



December Giving

MISSION OF THE 4th QUARTER *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.

DEACONS' MISSION *SAIL-*

SAIL's pledge is to continue to do our best in serving the community, and to ensure each individual we serve receives the help they need. SAIL promotes the independence, equality and dignity of people with disabilities in all aspects of personal and community life. For people with disabilities and their families, Independent Living means knowing what services and supports are available; having the ability to choose the services that are right for each person, family and lifestyle; and taking responsibility for personal choices and actions. We provide the core services of an Independent Living Center-providing information and referral, peer services, independent living skills, advocacy for individuals and in the community, and help with life transitions.

Old Saratoga Reformed Church 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.



Hymns of Our Faith

by Richard Behrens



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



*“O come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”*

As we enter the liturgical season of Advent, our hearts thrill with the celebration of the birth of Jesus, and we are once again encouraged to invite the Christ child into our hearts and make our hearts his dwelling place.

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” is a hymn originally written in Latin in the 12th century, with the current hymn tune attached in 1854. Each verse of the hymn features an Old Testament name for the Messiah. The names are “Emmanuel” (“God with us”), “Rod (Branch) of Jesse”, “Dayspring” (“Morning Star”), “Key of David”, and “Desire of Nations.” It is sung as a prayer that speaks to the “coming of Jesus” at several points in spiritual experience, these being the coming of Christ as a baby in Bethlehem, coming into our hearts, and coming again in glory. In faith, knowing that each of these is true, we sing the glad refrain, “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”

The last stanza breathes the prayer that one would hope is the desire of every human heart:

*“O Come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill all the world with heaven’s peace.”*

https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-e&q=oh+come+o+come+emmanuel+hymn#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:39ce7660,vid:7xtpJ4Q_Q-4,st:0

Church Family



December

- 15:** Florence Brown
Andrew Perti (Pastor Susan's son)
17: Sue Usher
Doug Mitchell
29: Jennifer (Barton) Bruneau
31: Stephen Alexanian

- Dec. 17:** Vicki and Brian Perkins
Jan. 21: John and Amber Deyoe

January

- 1:** Patrick Woomer
Donna Mellen
4: Kara Woomer
13: Donna-Ella Marie Brooks
17: Chris Cox
21: Cindy Barber
22: Morgan Wilbur
25: Christopher Tucker
27: Julia (Behrens) Pooler
29: Alicia Mellen Lewie



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		



Condolences to:

The family and loved ones of John Hayes. May his caring and community spirit live on in our community, and may his memory bring joy to his family.

The family and loves ones of Diana Irish. May wonderful memories sustain the family and friends in this difficult time.

THE CONSISTORY OF OLD SARATOGA

ELDERS: Paula Sheely, Rob Hayner, Mark Booth

DEACONS: Bruce Guerineau, Cindy Brockman, Bridget Critelli

MINISTER: Rev. Susan Kerr 518-366-3648 revskerr@gmail.com

Annual Congregational Meeting



Our annual meeting of the congregation was held on Sunday, November 19th. Anne Mitchell was elected Elder to fill the empty seat left by Paula Sheely, who has served the maximum of 3, 2 year terms allowed by this church's by-laws. We thank Paula for her service as vice-president of consistory, and also for her service as a consistory member on the Search Committee to find a new pastor.

Elder Rob Hayner, who was elected to a second term, unfortunately declined serving at this time due to personal and work obligations, and so the consistory has appointed Elder Patrick Woomer, who has agreed to serve for the coming year until the next election in 2024, when the elder's seat will be open for nomination again. We are grateful both to Rob for his service, and to Patrick for stepping in to serve the congregation at this time. May God bless us all in the year ahead!

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.



If you haven't already ordered poinsettia(s) to decorate the church at Christmastide, and would like to, please contact the church office immediately (Tuesday and Friday 9 am-1 pm) with the number of plants you would like to contribute, the color, and provide the memorial or dedication information for the bulletin insert. Each plant costs the church \$16 from a local florist.

Thank you for your contribution to making our Christmas

Volunteer Schedules Coming Soon!

The results of the "green volunteer sheets", found in the bulletin and back of the church for the past month, have been tallied and schedules formulated for Greeters, Ushers, and Readers for 2024. Keep a look out for your copy, if you added your name to our lists!



HOLIDAY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Please join us on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7pm at the Greenwich Elks Club, 130 Bulson Rd, Greenwich, NY, 12834
Please RSVP to Jamie or Jason at 518-695-3138 or 518-692-2680 with the number of family members attending and the names of the loved ones you wish to remember by lighting a candle

Update on Missions/Stewardship/Fundraising

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 11/30/23)

Organization	Budget	Missions			Balance
		Carryover	Received	Paid	
Albany Synod Mission	\$100.00				\$0.00
Quarterly Ministries	\$800.00		\$430.00	\$600.00	(\$170.00)
ADK Save a Stray	\$100.00		\$73.00	\$100.00	(\$27.00)
Wellspring	\$110.00		\$88.00	\$110.00	(\$22.00)
Camperships	\$300.00				\$0.00
RCA Missions	\$110.00		\$53.00	\$110.00	(\$57.00)
Bottles/Cans Ministries	\$600.00	\$8,189.18	\$420.90	\$250.00	\$8,360.08
Things of My Very Own	\$110.00		\$138.00	\$138.00	\$0.00
Community Hospice	\$110.00		\$159.00	\$159.00	\$0.00
Disaster Relief	\$200.00			\$250.00	
SAIL	\$100.00		December		
Rebuilding Together	\$150.00		\$78.00	\$150.00	(\$72.00)
Prospect Hill	\$30.00				
Caring & Sharing	\$115.00		\$108.00	\$115.00	(\$7.00)
Schuyler Hose	\$125.00		\$163.00	\$163.00	\$0.00
Saratoga Bridges	\$110.00		\$88.00	\$110.00	(\$22.00)
Habitat for Humanity	\$100.00		\$55.00	\$100.00	(\$45.00)
Shelters of Saratoga	\$100.00		\$78.00		\$78.00
Giving Circle(Teacher)	\$312.00			\$312.00	(\$312.00)
General Missions			\$292.00		\$292.00
Deacons' Disc. Fund	\$100.00	\$1,810.85	\$100.00	\$1,250.00	\$660.85
Total Missions	\$3,782.00	\$10,000.03	\$2,323.90	\$3,917.00	\$8,406.93
Pastor's Disc. Fund		\$1,000.00		\$329.40	\$670.60
Carpet Fund			\$2,549.87		\$2,549.87
Memorial Fund			\$490.00		\$490.00
Total Designated Funds					\$12,117.40

Deacons' Fund by Month

Jan. \$159	Apr. \$55	Jul. \$138	Oct. \$163
Feb. \$108	May \$88	Aug. \$88	Nov. \$78
Mar. \$73	Jun. \$53	Sept. \$78	Dec. \$

Quarterly Missions

Drilling for Hope	Fowler	World Missions	Giving Circle
1: \$150	2: \$140	3: \$85	4: \$55

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2023 Fund Raisers (As of 11/30/23)

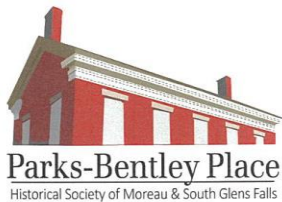
	Income	Expenses	Profit	Profit
2022 Pecans	\$24.00		\$24.00	NA
Amazon Smile	\$36.51		\$36.51	100.00%
Lasagna Dinner	\$1,704.00	\$284.92	\$1,419.08	83.28%
Yard Sale	\$1,366.56		\$1,366.56	100.00%
Harvest Dinner	\$1,897.00	\$745.57	\$1,151.43	60.70%
Pecans	\$402.00	\$793.44	(\$391.44)	
Holiday Sale	\$35.15		\$35.15	100.00%
Blue Box	\$1,197.30		\$1,197.30	100.00%
Total	\$6,662.52	\$1,823.93	\$4,838.59	

2023 Stewardship Giving as of 11/30/23

Budgeted Item	Amount	Received
Choir Music	\$100.00	\$100.00
Christian Literature	\$100.00	\$100.00
Church/Parsonage Sewer Rent	\$696.00	
Church/Parsonage Water Rent	\$528.00	
Classis Dues for a Friend	\$108.00	
Copier/Printing	\$1,700.00	
Envelopes for Offering	\$251.00	\$225.00
Fire Alarm System Inspection	\$300.00	\$300.00
Fire Central Station Monitoring	\$300.00	\$300.00
Furnace Inspection/Maintenance Contract	\$400.00	\$400.00
Office/Paper Supplies	\$1,000.00	
Organ/Piano Tuning	\$520.00	
Postage	\$800.00	
Worship Materials	\$175.00	\$175.00
Carpet Fund	\$150.00	
Undesignated	\$400.00	
Total	\$6,978.00	\$2,150.00

Forging Christmas

Nativities of Substance



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

<i>Open</i>	<i>Admission</i>
<i>Noon - 4 pm - Nov. 25 & 26</i>	<i>\$5 Adults</i>
<i>Dec. 1-3, 9 & 10, 16 & 17, 30</i>	<i>\$3 Ages 12 & under</i>
<i>Noon - 7 pm - Dec. 8 & 15</i>	<i>\$50 min. for group tours</i>

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

AM

A Tribute to Hilary Tann A Celebration of her Music and Love for Wales and her adopted home of Schuylerville

Featured Repertory--

Cresset Stone for solo violin

Slate Blue-Grey and Nothing Forgotten for piano, violin and cello

Seven Poems of Stillness for narrator and cello

Melangell Variations for voice, violin and piano



Musicians of Ma'alwyck--

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, Director & Violin

Andre Laurent O'Neil, Cello



Guest Artists--

Joseph Han, Baritone

Max Caplan, Piano

Saturday, January 27, 2024 3:00pm

Old Saratoga Reformed Church

Tickets: \$10 for adults \$5 for students

www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org

Parking Reminder

Beginning December 1, alternate side parking takes effect.

On Monday, Wednesday, Friday parking is on the west side of Pearl St.

On Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday parking is on the east side (church side) of Pearl Street

Community Events

December 2 8 am-2 pm Holiday Sale/Bake Sale at Old Saratoga Reformed Church

December 2 10 am-3 pm Hometown Christmas Craft Fair
at the Victory Mills Fire Department

December 3 3 pm Community Christmas Concert at Old Saratoga Reformed Church
To benefit the Schuylerville Caring and Sharing Program

December 4 7pm Holiday Service of Remembrance at Greenwich Elks Club



Sacrament of Holy Communion: Sunday, December 3rd

Coffee Hour every Sunday following worship.



*We wish everyone a peaceful Christmas
And a Blessed New Year!*

Old Saratoga Reformed Church

48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville NY 12871

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch

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