

JACOB'S WELL

MARCH 2024



March 3rd – Third Sunday of Lent

Greeter: Anne Mitchell

Liturgist: Patrick Woomer

Usher: Bill Olmert

Communion set-up: Anne Mitchell

Communion Servers: Mark Booth, Bruce Guerineau,
Patrick Woomer

Communion Cleanup: Anne Mitchell

March 10th – Fourth Sunday of Lent

Greeter: Bill Olmert

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Cindy Brockman

March 17th – Fifth Sunday of Lent

Greeter: Richard Behrens

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Paula Sheely

March 24th – Palm Sunday

Greeter: Janice Cornell

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Bridget Critelli

March 31st – Easter Sunday

Greeter: Karl Thayer

Liturgist: Mark Booth

Usher: Terri Richards

Liturgy Readings

March 3

Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22

March 10

Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21

March 17

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33

March 24

Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9

Psalm 31:9-16

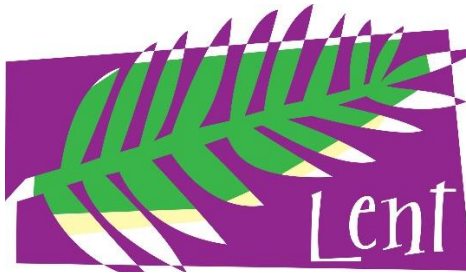
Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15:47

March 31

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-21

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8



PASTOR'S PONDER

Here we are in Lent—the church season traditionally set aside for thoughtful consideration of our lives, repentance, and turning our hearts back to God—and it began on Valentine's Day this year! At first, I confess I was very dismayed by that confluence, but those

faithful folks who attended the first Lenten Ecumenical worship instead declared by their presence that Ash Wednesday trumps the secular Valentine's Day... and affirmed that in our relationships, especially our relationship with God, *every day should be special!*

Here's a Fun Fact: Did you wonder why Easter is so early this year? Easter is determined by the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal (or spring) equinox. In 2024, the vernal equinox is on 20th March and the following full moon is on 30th March. Therefore, Easter is on the 30th of March! I wonder if any crocuses, daffodils, and tulips will be poking up by then?

And DID YOU KNOW...

We are in Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary which means that we are reading from the Gospel of Mark, with some additions from Luke and John. The Old Testament readings are from the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch), and from the books of Joshua and Judges. In this cycle the Old Testament readings serve as a framework for understanding the Gospel readings.

For the past several years I've been preaching faithfully from the Revised Common Lectionary cycles, but starting this June I am planning to preach through a couple of thematic series instead. The first will be focused on biblical themes from our stunning stained glass windows. The second will be working our way through themes found in the New Testament book of James. I hope you will enjoy them as much as I am taking pleasure in the planning (already!). Then we'll finish up Year B by returning to the lectionary and Mark this fall.

Year C and the Gospel of Luke (with smatterings from John) begins on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1st, this year—only three days after Thanksgiving!

For now, I encourage you to make an effort to attend one or more of our Ecumenical Lenten Wednesday Night services (schedule found elsewhere in this newsletter). It is one of the joys of being a pastor here in Schuylerville to be able to participate in such an active and mutually supportive group of clergy, lay people, and congregations during this holy season. I love visiting our neighbors' churches, listening to others' preaching, and to share bountifully in the joy of communal singing. I highly recommend it for inspiration, spiritual focus, renewal, and Christian fellowship.

See you in church--



--In faith, *Pastor Susan*

Hymns of Our Faith

by Richard Behrens

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

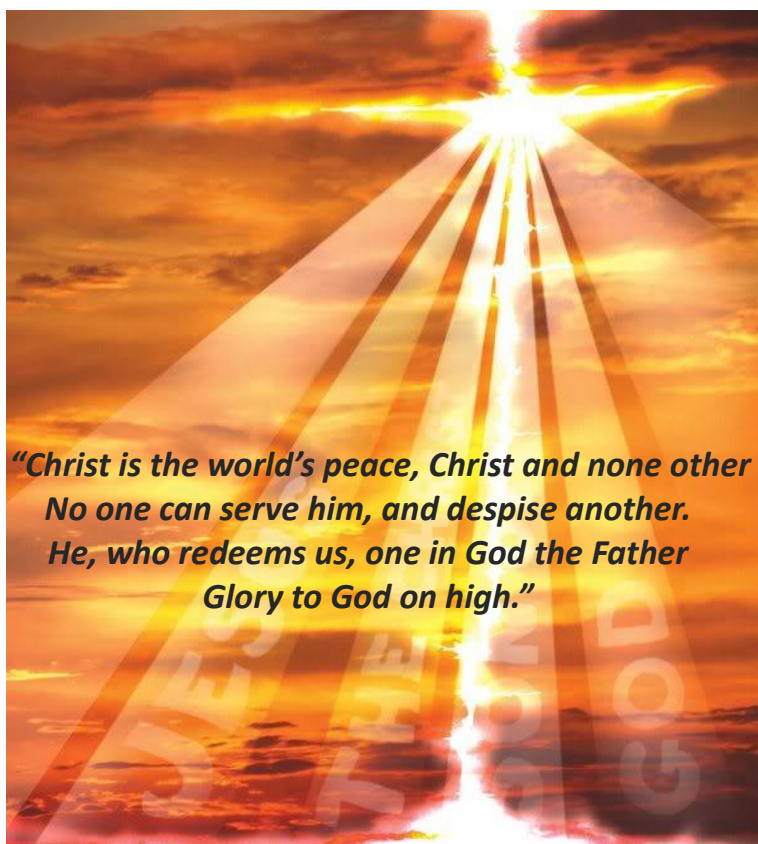
“Christ is the World’s Light”

***“Christ is the world’s light, Christ and none other;
Born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father
Glory to God on high.”***

This contemporary hymn (1963) was the creation of English clergyman Fred Pratt Green. The poem was joined to a 300-year-old melody, *Christe Sanctorum*, a very singable tune.

Ordained in 1928, Pastor Green served Methodist churches throughout England for over fifty years. He authored poems and hymns during that time, but his work as a writer became prolific after retiring from the pulpit. Over two decades, Green wrote around 300 hymns and songs. His work spread across theological, denominational, and national boundaries, and gained particularly wide use in the USA. In addition to his own hymns, Green also produced translations – notably, one of Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s late poems as the hymn “By Gracious Powers So Wonderfully Sheltered.”

“Christ is the World’s Light” introduces the worshipper to Christ as the world’s light, peace, and life, and firmly dismisses any other source of true light, peace, or life. Each verse of the hymn identifies Christ’s relationship to the Father, and sends a clear social gospel message concerning our relationship to others made in God’s image and likeness. Themes of unity and tolerance are easily understood, and echo Jesus’ command that loving and serving God sees its fulfillment in loving and serving others.



RCA Global Mission Update: Lebanon

Dear Friends,

In early December, Peter Ford and I sent you an urgent appeal for funds to provide emergency care for people in Lebanon who were fleeing the escalation of drone and missile strikes along the Israel/Lebanon border (and to provide care for those living in small villages near the border who have remained in their homes).

I'm grateful to share that RCA Global Mission has sent \$17,000 (USD) to Rev. Linda Macktaby in Lebanon, and she and her colleagues have used those funds to provide shelter, mattresses, clean water, food, medicine, diapers, and fuel for cooking and heating for 1,100 displaced people! \$10,000 was sent immediately through the Refugee Care Crisis Fund, and we've raised an additional \$7,000 through the [Lebanon Displacement Relief Project](#).

Thank you! Your compassionate and generous gifts to the Refugee Care Crisis Fund and/or the Lebanon Displacement Relief Project have made a significant impact in providing life-saving and life-sustaining care for displaced people in Lebanon by supporting the work of Rev. Macktaby and her colleagues in Lebanon.

One day, as Rev. Macktaby was delivering supplies to one of the three main shelters housing displaced people near Beirut, she witnessed this ray of sunshine bursting through the clouds. It is a wonderful reminder that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5 NRSV).

However, as the length of time that people are displaced continues to grow, the needs of those displaced continue to grow as well. Rev. Macktaby herself has reported that she is often eating one meal per day, so that she can share what little food she has with others. This is the love of Christ in action.

If you have not done so yet, will you join us in providing compassionate, Christ-like care for displaced people in Lebanon? Will you share this appeal with others, so that Rev. Macktaby can meet the needs of hundreds of other displaced people who have been referred to her for assistance?

Online: Give to the Lebanon Displacement Relief Project: www.rca.org/give/lebanon-displacement-relief-project/

By phone: Call Terri Boven at 616-541-0835.

By mail: Make all donations out to the "Reformed Church in America" and designate Lebanon Displacement Relief Project" in the memo portion of your check. Please send your check to Reformed Church in America, Attn: Finance Dept., 4500 60th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512, or, in Canada, to Regional Synod of Canada, PO Box 1583 Stn Main, Woodstock, Ontario N4S 0A7

If you have any questions about this project, please contact me at jjtenclay@rca.org.

In Christ Alone,
JJ TenClay
refugee ministries coordinator
RCA Global Mission

February Financial Update

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2024 Fund Raisers (As of 2/29/24)				
	Income	Expenses	Profit	Profit
2023 Pecans	\$306.00		\$306.00	NA
Souper Supper	\$760.00	\$180.64	\$579.36	76.23%
Lasagna Dinner			\$0.00	
Yard Sale	\$150.00		\$150.00	100.00%
Harvest Dinner			\$0.00	
Pecans			\$0.00	
Holiday Sale			\$0.00	
Blue Box	\$102.05		\$102.05	100.00%
Total	\$1,318.05	\$180.64	\$1,137.41	



March Giving

Quarterly Mission: Drilling for Hope

Drilling for Hope helps to provide clean, accessible water wells to villages with an overwhelming poverty problem. Since 2005, Drilling for Hope has established over 130 wells and water systems around the world. Donations not only help fund the drilling of water wells, but also provides the gift of self-reliance and sustainability by: providing livestock and greenhouses; sponsoring education to those who could not otherwise afford it; providing medical supplies; and funding operations.

Deacon's Mission: Adirondack Save-a-Stray

Adirondack Save-a-Stray's mission is to operate as a no-kill animal shelter in the community. They try to give back through their pet food bank, low-cost veterinary program, pet referral website, community education, adoptions, and more. They receive no federal, state, or local funding, and depend on donations to keep their doors open.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2nd, 9am: Wreath Pickup at Saratoga National Cemetery – please bring a broom handle or a pole if you have one

March 9th, 9:30am-2pm: Enneagram Workshop facilitated by Rev. Susan Kerr – Please take the online test to find your number before the workshop. If you do not have internet access and need a copy of the test, see Pastor Susan for a copy. Please bring a bag lunch. Coffee, tea, and cookies will be provided. \$5 to cover copy costs due by March 1st. There is a signup sheet in Loomis Hall, or you can call the church office at 518-695-3479 to RSVP.

March 10th, 12:30pm: Pysanky Egg Painting Class – \$30 per person, limited to 12 people. See Cindy Brockman to RSVP

March 25th, 9am: Palm Sunday Potluck Brunch – a signup sheet will be in Loomis Hall

April 6th: Lasagna Dinner – more information to come!

April 6th & 7th: Free medical/dental/vision clinic – the clinic will be held at Hudson Falls High School, 80 E. Labarge Street, Hudson Falls. The parking lot will open no later than 11:59pm on April 5th, and the clinic doors typically open at 6am. All services are free and open to the public, no ID required. For more information, you can visit ramusa.org or call 865-579-1530.

April 21st, 10am-1pm: Canal Clean Sweep at Hudson Crossing Park – join Hudson Crossing Park and NYS Canals for cleanup of Lock 5

January 16th-18th, 2025: RCA Mission 2025: Roots and Branches in Orlando, FL – registration for the conference opens in April. For more information, you can visit: www.rca.org/mission2025



Upcoming Lenten Services

3/6 – Fourth Lenten Service 7:00pm @ Schuylerville United Methodist Church
Preaching: The Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson

3/13- Fifth Lenten Service 7:00pm @ Risen Hope Community Church
Preaching: The Rev. Helene Patterson, Deacon

3/20 – Sixth Lenten Service 7:00pm @ Fort Miller Reformed Church
Preaching: The Rev. Scott Cutting

3/28- Maundy Thursday 7:00pm @ Quaker Springs United Methodist Church
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

3/29 - Good Friday Noon @ St. Stephen's – Light lunch to follow.
Reading of the Passion
7pm @ Schuylerville United Methodist Church-- Tenebrae service

**3/31 - Easter Sunday –6:30 am Sunrise Service at Bacon Hill Reformed Church
Outdoor Chapel**

Church Family

March Birthdays

3/1: Rebecca Sheely-King
3/5: Susan Fero Kurowski
3/8: Suzanne Guerineau
3/9: Nasa Edgar
3/12: Ashley Edgar
3/14: Grace Louise Mellen
3/15: Emily Brockman
3/15: Rob Hayner
3/19: Victoria Starnella
3/20: Carol Cox



March Anniversaries

3/25 Tamme and Adam Lockwood
3/25 Brenda and Bill Buchanan

In Our Prayers

Florence Sherman, Alicia Lewis, Trevor Mellen, Gerry Barber, Claire Houston, Florence Brown, Judith Little, Sheryl Norton, Nancy and Norman Howard, Naomi and Charles Thayer and Family, Carolyn Markwith

Uplift those undergoing medical procedures and thanksgiving for those who are recovering, comfort for those in mourning, strength for those fighting cancer and for all caregivers, and those seeking spiritual and emotional well-being.

MARCH 10



Announcements

Our annual Soup Supper brought in a profit of \$579.36! Thank you to all those who helped out!

From the Blood Drive held at OSRC, the Red Cross was able to collect 28 units, surpassing their goal of 23.

Gratitude Corner

Thank you to Jean Wells for the new purple sanctuary wreath for the Lenten Season.

Thank you to Mark Booth for setting up the new church phone.

Thank you to Jim Brockman for fixing the lights downstairs in the counting room.

Thank you to Paula and Doug Sheely for acquiring and replacing the tables in the rear of the sanctuary.

THE CONSISTORY OF OLD SARATOGA

ELDERS: Mark Booth, Anne Mitchell, Patrick Woomer
DEACONS: Bruce Guerineau, Cindy Brockman, Bridget Critelli
MINISTER: Rev. Susan Kerr 518-366-3648
revskerr@gmail.com

Sacrament of Holy Communion: Sunday March 3rd

Coffee Hour every Sunday following worship!



Old Saratoga Reformed Church

48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville NY 12871

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

E-Mail: oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com

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www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch

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