

JACOB'S WELL

MAY 2024

May 5th – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Greeter: Bridget Critelli

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Cindy Brockman

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Mark Booth

Communion Setup: Bridget Critelli

Communion Servers: Cindy Brockman, Mark Booth,
Bruce Guerineau

Communion Cleanup: Jim Brockman

May 12th – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Greeter: Bill Olmert

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Patrick Woomer

May 19th – Day of Pentecost

Greeter: Anne Mitchell

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Terri Richards

Counters: Mark Booth, Bruce Guerineau

May 26th – Trinity Sunday

Greeter: Richard Behrens

Liturgist: Victoria Starnella

Usher: Karl Thayer

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli



Liturgy Readings

May 5th

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

May 12th

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

May 19th

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 26th

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

Pastor's Ponder



These words of Jesus spoken in Matthew 19:14, Mark 10:14, and Luke 18:16 have been coming to me lately. I learned them as a small child in Sunday School from the King James translation of the Bible, so those are the words I recall—“Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”

I think they're repeated in all three synoptic gospels because they were important to Jesus, and so very important to God. At the moment they have special meaning to me because, three weeks on from total right knee replacement surgery, I have been treating myself like a five year old, with good success. Let me explain.

This is an involved and painful surgery, make no mistake! The first week or two after it are ROUGH, and progress thereafter steady but slow going so far (again, it's only three weeks since for me...). I have found that, as with a little child, the following is true:

I don't respond well to threats, since in the moment the outcome is meaningless to me. “Just do it or you won't heal well!” (Exercises) doesn't help at all, but “Let's just try one! Good job! Can you try another?!” distracts from the pain and discomfort, and yes, I can do another. Or two more!

An encouraging mantra such as, “Today is going to be a great day! You're going to do great!”, no matter how I actually feel, keeps me going—especially when repeated to myself (often followed by, “Good job!”).

Words from others like, “Quit the drama and get on with it!” make me want to quit all together. Words like, “I care about you and am sorry you're in pain, but it WILL get better, and you can get through this!” help enormously. They really do.

Sometimes a good cry and some wailing and lamenting to God and the universe are at least as therapeutic as drugs if not more so, both emotionally and physically. (Really—look it up: “Crying for long periods of time releases oxytocin and endogenous opioids, otherwise known as endorphins. These feel-good chemicals can help ease both physical and emotional pain. Once the endorphins are released, your body may go into somewhat of a numb stage. Oxytocin can give you a sense of calm or well-being.”)

So I'm going to continue to treat myself, at least for a few more weeks, like a little child, and work at remembering always that to God, I AM that little child: a little child who is beloved, a little child who thrives on encouragement, a little child who hurts and can heal, a little child who is never alone in either pain or triumph.

So are you!

May Christ's blessings abound--

--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)

Blessing and Honor and Glory”

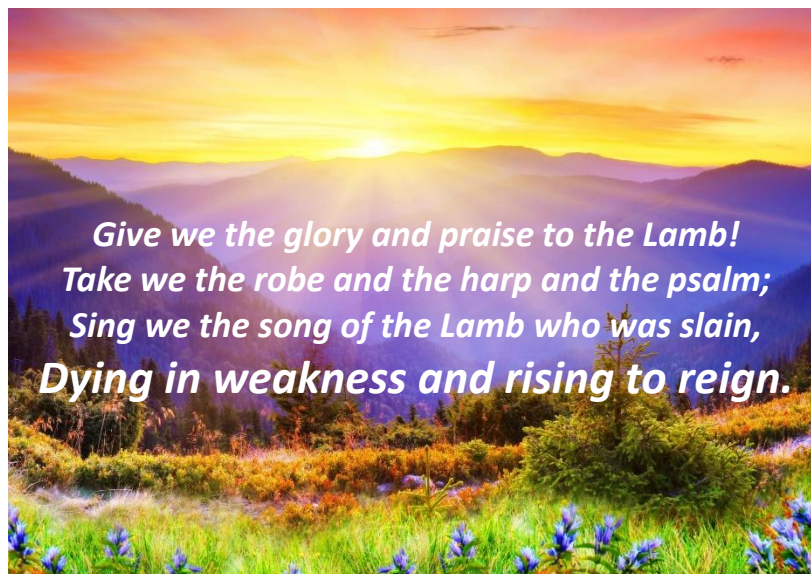
***“Blessing and honor and glory and power
Wisdom and riches and strength evermore,
Offer to him who our battle has won.
Whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne.”***

The poem which is the basis for this hymn was composed by Horatius Bonar, a 19th century Scottish Presbyterian churchman, poet and prodigious hymn writer. He was descended from a long line of pastors who, in aggregate, served 364 years in the Church of Scotland. Horatius was an avid Bible student who also excelled in preaching and hymn-writing. He wrote nearly 600 hymns in total, 100 of which are still in use in English speaking countries.

This month’s hymn reflects a number of scriptural references speaking to God’s many attributes and worthiness of our adoration. The hymn is especially suited to the Ascension story and the advent of the spread of the gospel to all the nations of the world.

The first verse, quoted above, is inspired by the Apostle John’s imagery found in Revelation 5:9-14 and restated in Revelation 7:10-12. The hymn finds its title in 5:13, “...blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever. This verse recounts Christ’s victory – “who our battle has won” – over sin and the grave. The second stanza is a call for heaven and earth to “echo his praises and tell of his power” and can be associated with Psalm 148. Verse three alludes to the reciprocity between the saints on earth and the gift of love emanating from God’s throne – “song and joy ascending,” “love descending.” Verse four echoes verse one with ascription of “glory and praise to the Lamb.” “Take we the robe and the harp and the psalm” relates to that time when the saints of God will join the heavenly hosts and continually sing God’s praises.

I have always been moved by Bonar’s very last line, “dying in weakness and rising to reign.” For me it is the sum of the Lenten, Passion, Easter, and Ascension stories. I am humbled that the Son of God would leave heaven’s glory, experience the suffering and pain that we know, take the form of a servant, give up his life for us, and then triumph over evil and its consequences. It truly is the greatest story ever told.



Financial Update April 2024

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 4/30/24)					
		Missions			
Organization	Budget	Carryover	Received	Paid	Balance
Albany Synod Mission	\$100.00				\$0.00
Quarterly Ministries	\$800.00		\$125.00	\$200.00	(\$75.00)
ADK Save a Stray	\$100.00		\$95.00	\$100.00	(\$5.00)
Wellspring	\$110.00		August		
Camperships	\$300.00	\$100.00			\$0.00
Gateway House of Peace	\$110.00		June		
Bottles/Cans Ministries	\$600.00	\$7,469.08			\$7,469.08
Things of My Very Own	\$110.00		July		
Community Hospice	\$110.00		\$83.00	\$110.00	(\$27.00)
Disaster Relief	\$200.00			\$250.00	(\$250.00)
SAIL	\$100.00		December		
Rebuilding Together	\$150.00		September		
Prospect Hill	\$30.00				
Caring & Sharing	\$115.00		\$78.00	\$115.00	(\$37.00)
Schuyler Hose	\$125.00		October		
Saratoga Bridges	\$110.00		May		
Habitat for Humanity	\$100.00		\$68.00		\$68.00
Guardian House	\$100.00		November		
Giving Circle(Teacher)	\$312.00			\$312.00	(\$312.00)
General Missions			\$120.00		\$120.00
Deacons' Disc. Fund	\$100.00	\$710.85			\$710.85
Total Missions	\$3,782.00	\$8,279.93	\$569.00	\$1,087.00	\$7,761.93
Pastor's Disc. Fund	\$1,000.00	\$1,411.68		\$630.95	\$780.73
Carpet Fund		\$2,549.87	\$300.00		\$2,849.87
Memorial Fund		\$490.00			\$490.00
Total Designated Funds					\$11,882.53

Deacons' Fund by Month				
Jan. \$83	Apr. \$68	Jul. \$	Oct. \$	
Feb. \$78	May \$	Aug. \$	Nov. \$	
Mar. \$95	Jun. \$	Sept. \$	Dec. \$	
Quarterly Missions				
Drilling for Hope	Fowler	World Missions	Giving Circle	
1: \$125	2: \$	3: \$	4: \$	

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2024 Fund Raisers (As of 4/30/24)				
	Income	Expenses	Profit	Profit
2023 Pecans	\$306.00		\$306.00	NA
Souper Supper	\$760.00	\$180.64	\$579.36	76.23%
Lasagna Dinner	\$2,691.00	\$506.39	\$2,184.61	81.18%
Yard Sale	\$197.75		\$197.75	100.00%
Harvest Dinner			\$0.00	
Pecans			\$0.00	
Holiday Sale			\$0.00	
Blue Box	\$394.85		\$394.85	100.00%
Total	\$4,349.60	\$687.03	\$3,662.57	

May Giving

Quarterly Mission: Fowler Ministries

Owned and operated by the RCA, Camp Fowler is a non-profit children's camp located in Lake Pleasant, NY. Camp Fowler aims to be a place grounded in love, openness, and compassionate Christianity, where kids can be themselves and learn from those who are different from them. All are welcome, whether you consider yourself a follower of Christ or not. All camp generated income from retreats, summer camp, facility rentals fees, and donations help to ensure that any child who wants to attend camp, can.

Deacon's Mission: Saratoga Bridges

Founded in 1954 (originally under the name Saratoga County ARC, changed to Saratoga Bridges in 2006) by a group of parents from Saratoga, Rensselaer, Washington, and Warren Counties with the aim to provide better personal and social opportunities for their children. Today, their mission is "To empower individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families to identify and pursue their life goals through knowledge, collaboration, and experience." Saratoga Bridges provides clinical/medical supports, day habilitation, family and community support services, advocacy and outreach, employment, transportation, and recreational/social opportunities. Through their residential program, they provide community-based homes, family care homes, and supported apartments.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS MONTH

May 4th, 9:30am-12:30pm:

Cleanup of Fort Hardy Park – wear sturdy shoes and bring work gloves

May 5th, 3pm:

Café Musica Benefit Concert at OSRC

May 11th, 4-6pm:

Eagle Scout Fundraiser Meatloaf Dinner at OSRC

May 19th, 10am-12pm:

Composting Workshop at Hudson Crossing Park

LOOKING AHEAD

June 3rd:

Village Trash Week begins: register at the Village Office on or before May 30th, \$10 per household

June 26th:

Safe Summer Picnic on the Lawn

September 21st:

Musicians of Ma'alwyck concert

September, TBD:

OSRC Annual Yard Sale

Cafe Musica



"THIS TIME AROUND"

*Local musicians (Greenwich/Schuylerville)
An eclectic mix with focus on Folk Music.*

**BENEFIT CONCERT:
SUNDAY MAY 5, 2024
3 PM
OLD SARATOGA REFORMED CHURCH
48 PEARL STREET SCHUYLERVILLE NY**

Free will donations benefit:
"Drilling For Hope"



Scan me!



Camp Fowler's 70th Church Picnic

Come enjoy at day at your camp!

- 10am Tours and Boats
- Noon Lunch*
- 1pm Sing-a-long and Dedication
- 2pm Enjoy the grounds
- 4pm Depart

Saturday, May 25th • 10am - 4pm

152 PELCHER ROAD, LAKE PLEASANT, NY 12108



If you are able bring pie to share

*Fowler will provide a picnic lunch



Eagle Scout Fundraiser - Meatloaf Dinner!

Supports Bridget Behrens and her Eagle Project for
Schuyler Hose Company



Meatloaf Dinner!

Old Saratoga Reformed Church (48
Pearl Street, Schuylerville)

May 11, 4-6 PM

Meal includes: Meatloaf, Baked Potato,
Green Beans, Rolls, and Dessert.

Tickets are \$12 per person.

Reservations recommended: call
Christine at (518) 695-6638 by May 4th.

Available for Eat-in or Take-out.

The money raised in this fundraiser will be going towards the creation of a system of signs to indicate the places where fire departments can get water for their trucks when responding to emergency calls. It will be beneficial to both Schuyler Hose trainees and other fire departments supplying mutual aid.

All extra money will become a cash donation to the Schuyler Hose Company.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The profit from the Lasagna Dinner was \$2184.61!

"RCA Global Mission is excited to invite you to Mission 2025: Roots and Branches—a gathering of people with a passion for and a desire to engage in mission. This three-day event will be packed with an amazing lineup of 20+ missionaries and speakers who will inspire individuals and churches to root deeper in God's call to serve globally while also reaching and growing wherever God might be leading. Early bird registration opens on April 8. Don't miss out on this chance to be part of something incredible! www.rca.org/mission2025."



SHOUT OUT FOR CONSISTORY MEMBERS

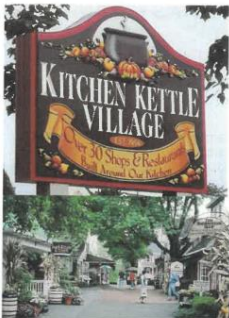
"Jumping the gun"? YES!

Or, rather, Prayerful Pre-Planning:

There will be several openings for voting in new Consistory members at this coming November's annual Congregational Meeting, due to terms coming to an end at the finish of 2024.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE THE NEXT TO SERVE?

An exciting travel opportunity! Below is information for a group trip run through Notre Dame Visitation Church – the invitation is open to anyone who would like to attend!



SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

2 DAYS - 1 NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 16 - 17, 2024

\$339.00 Per Person Double Occupancy
\$418.00 Per Person Single Occupancy

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- * 1 Night's Lodging
- * 1 Breakfast
- * 1 Dinner at Yoder's
- * Kitchen Kettle Village
- * Performance of "Daniel" at Sight & Sound Theatre (11 am)
- * Souvenir Gift
- * Taxes & Meal Gratuities
- * Motorcoach Transportation

Cancellation insurance available & highly recommended; see reverse side.

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

WANT TO HAVE FUN GROUP
Patricia Patrick-Henry
220 Route 4 North
Schuylerville, NY 12871
(518) 316-9726



SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

2 Days - 1 Night

The sample itinerary described below is approximately like the itinerary your group will be following during your stay with WHITE STAR TOURS. However, the exact times, days, and destinations may vary for your group.

- Day 1** Depart from New York State and travel to the Amish Lands of Pennsylvania. Upon arrival in the area you will proceed to Kitchen Kettle Village in the town of Intercourse. You'll have time to browse in the unique specialty shops displaying everything from local art to fine leather coats, quilts, accessories, and pottery. Later, arrive at Yoder's Restaurant for a buffet dinner. Continue to your hotel to check in for a restful evening.
- Day 2** After breakfast at the hotel, check out and depart for the Sight & Sound Theatre to see a brand-new, original, live morning performance of Daniel. Witness one of the Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life in this original stage production. Taken from his people, Daniel is exiled far from home in the powerful kingdom of Babylon. Now this faithful servant must navigate his new life inside a palace filled with golden statues and shifting empires. As royal pressures mount, Daniel is faced with a dangerous choice. Will his trust in the one true God remain steadfast through every test of faith? From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, Daniel is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family. After the performance, depart for home with a lunch stop on your own along the way ... taking with you lasting memories of Pennsylvania Dutch Country!

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING WHITE STAR TOURS TO BE A PART OF YOUR TRAVEL PLANS!



TRIP CANCELLATION PROTECTION

Cancellation protection is encouraged for medical emergencies that may occur. The Enhanced option must be paid within 14 days from the day the first deposit for the trip is paid to the organization and/or group leader. There is an additional Enhanced upgrade - Cancel for Any Reason. Cancellation must be made no later than 48 hours prior to your scheduled departure, conditions, limitations, and exclusions do apply. These plans are only valid for trips booked through White Star Tours. To purchase the protection, please contact NTA/AON Insurance via their website at <https://nta.ontravelprotect.com> and provide the Tour Operator Location #386097.

254 YEARS AND COUNTING...

What's coming up to fit Old Saratoga for the next fifty years in ministry?

Here are some project suggestions (in no particular order) going to the Consistory for discussion. How would YOU prioritize them?

Rank from 1 – 5, with 1 being “I don’t care” and 5 being “Let’s get it done NOW!,”

1 2 3 4 5

- Remove the fencing around storage shed.....

Reason: It’s unneeded, and a maintenance headache and health hazard (ticks)
- Reconfigure/expand choir loft, including removal of first row of pews....

Reason: An extended chancel platform will provide greater flexibility for varying modes of worship as well as for community programs.
- Recarpet the Sanctuary.....

Reason: The existing carpet is worn in key places.
- Tree trimming and removal across church property.

Reason: Mitigate damage from dead and hazardous branches and trees.
- Church attic and bell tower access improvements.

Reason: Safety.
- Carillon replacement.

Reason: Eliminate clutter behind the organ pipes; improve sound; increase use.
- Parsonage air conditioning (already approved; ductwork in place).

Reason: Improve living and work conditions during hot and humid weather.
- Church & Parsonage foundations sealing evaluation.

Reason: Both basements leak; remediate moisture and potential mold issues.
- Install screen and projector with laptop integration in Loomis Hall.

Reason: Increased potential for teaching and diversified programming & use.
- Create a church library with built-in white shelving outside the office.

Reason: Provide an organized, dedicated space to share and care resources.

What questions or suggestions do YOU have to help us help others to meet Jesus at Old Saratoga?



Church Family

May Birthdays

5/4: Charlotte Morrill

5/4: Sheryl Norton

5/8: Paula Sheely

5/10: Bridget Critelli

5/11: Mark Booth

5/11: Paulette Foote

5/15: Myra Edgar

5/15: Cheryl Jones

5/17: Anne Mitchell

5/18: Nugent Edgar

5/28: Rev. Joyce deVelder

5/28: James Thayer

5/28: Amanda Markwith

5/29: Pam Seward

May Anniversaries

5/2: Bruce & Suzanne Guerineau

5/8: Roger M. & Yvonne Sherman

5/14: Joshua & Wendy Fedderly

5/15: Richard & Pat Behrens

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

Gratitude Corner

Thanks Extended:

Thank you to all the volunteers that donated their time and resources to making the Lasagna Dinner a success!

Thank you to all of the guest preachers who have served in Pastor Susan's absence.

Thanks Received:

We have received a letter from the End of the Rainbow Group, Alcoholics Anonymous thanking us for our support over the past twenty-plus years.



In Our Prayers

*Florence Sherman, Alicia Lewie, Trevor Mellen,
Claire Houston, Florence Brown, Gerry Barber
Judith Little, Nancy and Norman Howard
Naomi and Charles Thayer and Family*

Sue Usher, Rev. Susan Kerr

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

Sacrament of Holy Communion: Sunday May 5th

Coffee Hour every Sunday following worship!



Old Saratoga Reformed Church

48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville NY 12871

Published ten times yearly in Schuylerville, NY 12871

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

E-Mail: oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com

www.oldsratoga.rcachurches.org

www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch

Phone: 518-695-3479