

JACOB'S WELL

JULY/AUGUST 2024



July 7th – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Anne Mitchell

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Patrick Woomer, Mark Booth

Communion Setup: Bridget Critelli

Communion Servers: Patrick Woomer, Mark Booth

Communion Cleanup: Karl and Kim Thayer

July 14th – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Bridget Critelli

Liturgist: Victoria Starnella

Usher: Kim Thayer

Counters: Bruce Guerineau, Anne Mitchell

July 21st – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Cindy Brockman

Liturgist: Mark Booth

Usher: Anne Mitchell

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Bridget Critelli

July 28th – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service led by Patrick Woomer

Greeter: Richard Behrens

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Duffy Whitehouse

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Bruce Guerineau

Liturgy Readings

July 7th

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Psalm 48

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalm 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

July 14th

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalm 24

Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

July 21st

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Psalm 89:20-37

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28th

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalm 14

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-18

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

August 4th – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Janice Cornell

Liturgist: Patrick Woomer

Usher: Bridget Critelli

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Bruce Guerineau

Communion Setup: Cindy Brockman

Communion Servers: Bridget Critelli, Bruce Guerineau

Communion Cleanup: Anne Mitchell

August 11th – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Karl Thayer

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Cindy Brockman

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Patrick Woomer

August 18th – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Jean Wells

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Bill Olmert

Counters: Patrick Woomer, Anne Mitchell

August 25th – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Anne Mitchell

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Kim Thayer

Counters: Mark Booth, Bridget Critelli

Liturgy Readings

August 4th

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a Psalm 51:1-12

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 Psalm 78:23-29

Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35

August 11th

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130

1 Kings 19:4-8 Psalm 34: 1-8

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51

August 18th

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 Psalm 111

Proverbs 9:1-6 Psalm 34: 9-14

Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58

August 25th

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Psalm 34:15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69



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

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.

Pastor's Ponder



Greetings Friends and Members of OSRC,
School is out! Graduations have happened, meetings are wrapped up, students and families are starting in on summer activities. Camp Fowler's first group of campers descend on the church's Adirondack Great Camp property this weekend, with staff already there and prepared for another great season.

What is going on at Old Saratoga?

I'm going to call it conversation, contemplation, and preparation.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a calendar of events and activities upcoming through the rest of this year, including community events as well as congregational volunteer activities that serve as fund-raisers and fellowship opportunities. Be sure and check it out, and mark your calendars to invite friends and family!

To kick off our summer, on Wednesday evening, the 26th, we hosted nearly sixty people at the second annual ecumenical Safe Summer Supper picnic along with six other local congregations who helped provide food, beverages, and desserts. Thanks to Christopher Tucker for providing ambient music and a sound system for our dining pleasure; special thanks to grill chefs Richard and Bridget Behrens for cooking the hotdogs and burgers! It is truly a pleasure to serve as a gathering place for our ecumenical friends and neighbors—and we look forward to doing so again with the community Christmas Carol Concert in December.

At the parsonage, my son Andrew spent seven weeks serving as a supportive care-giver, chef, and driver following my April 9th knee replacement surgery. He also managed to work between rain storms to complete "putter projects" in and around the house, and to do minor repairs before painting the exterior porch trim and deck on the north side of the parsonage. I'm delighted to have a working door bell, a drawer full of sharpened kitchen knives, and a clean-like-new car! More recently, consistory moved forward to get central air conditioning installed at the parsonage (thanks to Jim Brockman for coordinating that!), and I am delighted to report that it has already made for a much healthier house (not to mention a happier, functioning pastor) with improved air quality. I'm sure consistory will notice the difference at our next meeting in August!

For the rest of the summer, I invite you to join with me in questioning what new ways we as a congregation can serve the community, given our talents and abilities? What might God be calling you and Old Saratoga to do in the next... oh, five years... to share the love of God and the saving grace of Jesus Christ to others in the world who, like us, are in need of community, sense of purpose, healing, and renewed connection to God and one another in this post-Covid, often isolating and diverse world? It's very exciting to consider co-creating ways to come together as People of God to invite others into this special place!

May Christ's blessings abound--

--In faith, *Pastor Susan*

Hymns of Our Faith

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

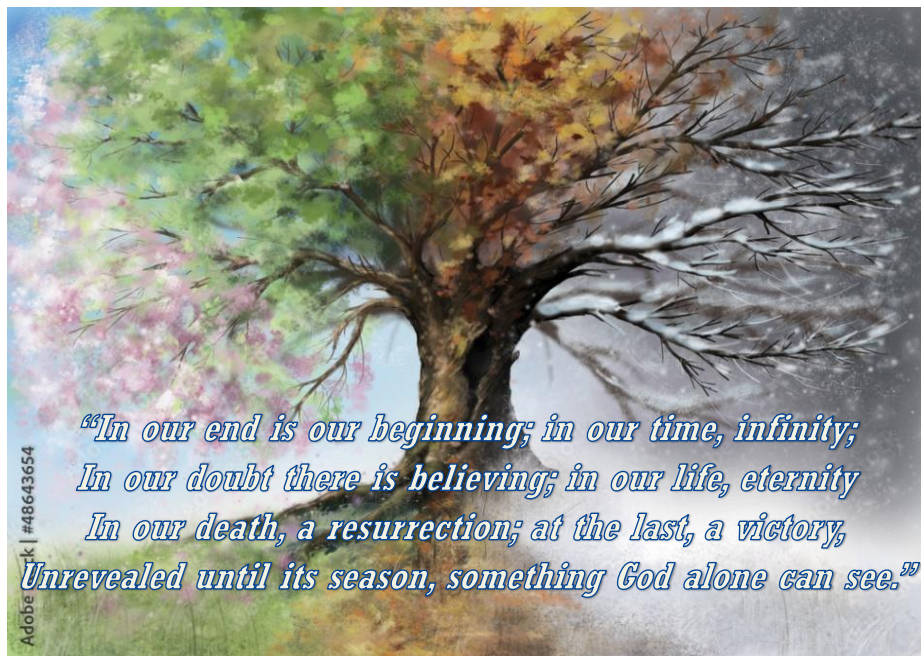
“In the Bulb There is a Flower”

*“In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed an apple tree;
in cocoons a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its’ season, something God alone can see”*

Composing sacred anthems was Natalie Sleeth’s forte. Many a congregation has been blessed with hearing of one or more of her over 180 anthems. Congregations have been doubly blessed by Sleeth’s adaptation of several anthems into hymn genre – “In the Bulb...” being one of these.

Originally titled “Hymn of Promise,” it was dedicated to Dr. Ron Sleeth, Natalie’s husband who was diagnosed with cancer and died weeks after the anthem’s premiere. While often sung at funerals and memorial services, it is appropriate for any worship service. It truly is a “hymn of promise” in that, while acknowledging present existence, it abounds with a message of hope. The hymn juxtaposes opposites – death/resurrection, winter/spring, song/silence – and echoes the words of the Apostle Paul found in 1 Corinthians, chapter 15. “What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each seed its own body.” (NRSVUE)

“The Christian life is distinctive in that it is not completed in this present existence, but looks for fulfillment in a future life.” ¹ As with the natural world, the course of events is entrusted to the giver of life, and is revealed in God’s time.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RHek8k5WoY>

Update from Maasai Outreach Mission, June 2024

Dear friends,

This is a summary of what God has done via our partnership with the RCA in 2023. We are grateful for the enduring spirit of partnership between the RCA and Maasai Outreach Mission (MOM). June 2023 marked 16 years of partnership that began with providing clean water via water wells and progressed into primary education, leadership development, community gardens, water rollers, and healthcare. The goal of MOM is to reach the Maasai with the gospel deep into the interior—the bush—where the Maasai live. Our strategy has been to proclaim the gospel in word and deed in a responsible, contextualized way so the Maasai can be their authentic Maasai selves and come to know God through the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank God for the completion of nine water wells, the building of three primary schools and four church buildings, the training of seven primary school teachers, one lawyer, one medical doctor, one communications specialist, advocate for girls, and train nine pastors from the initial pastoral team, and the launching of Maasai health clinic.

A significant tool of evangelism and outreach at each well site has been water rollers. Traditionally, Maasai women work tirelessly, bearing the weight of carrying water daily. These 90-liter water rollers have assisted them greatly. Now it takes less time to transport water. At the end of 2023, we have given out approximately 2,000 water rollers.



One of the great achievements in 2023 was the [opening dedication of the Namanga clinic](#) on October 27. Rev. Derrick Jones, RCA Africa mission supervisor led the dedication along with a small delegation from the RCA. This celebration was the fulfillment of our long-awaited dream to provide quality healthcare to the Maasai who are extremely underserved. The World Health Organization recommends that for optimal access everyone should live within a five km radius to a health facility. In this border town of Namanga, the Maasai have to travel up to 35 km on the Kenya side and up to 90 km on the Tanzania side to access a quality healthcare facility. Mama Grace Saita is the clinic director. She is Maasai with a wealth of experience as a district health nurse and years of leading international NGOs in Africa.

It was Mama Grace Saita's dream to return to her people and provide quality healthcare. Clinic nurses accompany the pastors/evangelism team to minister to the village people both spiritually and physically. The nurse will provide health education, immediate health services, immunizations for children, examinations for pregnant women, and invite them to the clinic for tests and proper prenatal care.



Miriam Nailois Mutete graduated from Qiqihar Medical University in China in July 2023. She has joined the Namanga clinic staff providing services at least two days per week while she completes her medical exams to become a licensed medical doctor in Kenya. In April 2008, Miriam was diagnosed with a major life-threatening heart condition. A visiting mission group of RCA pastors and other Maasai Well Project supporters raised the funds for Miriam's heart surgery that saved her life. Her family was extremely grateful for this support. She developed a passion for medicine with a dream of becoming a cardiologist and OB/GYN. By God's grace, in 2024, she will fulfill her dream and God's call on her life.



With the current capacity of our clinic in the first year, our projection plan is to reach 2,000 adults and children yearly. We appreciate those who supported the building of the clinic. We have four rooms, a pharmacy, a children's room, a laboratory, and a consultation room. We are appealing for more funds to build a good maternity room for women in labor, resources for the overall operation of the clinic—which includes medicine, medical supplies, and salary support for our staff of two nurses, a lab technician, a secretary, two cleaners, and two watchmen. We hope to see this clinic and the Maasai Community Health and Evangelism program reach sustainability in three years so we can duplicate this model in other needed areas.

After nearly 17 years of partnership with the RCA, we started with 39 churches, 4,000 members, and a pastoral team of 9. To date, we have over 250 local churches with more than 25,000 members with 42 ordained pastors. In 2023, we planted 12 new churches and baptized 1,230 new converts.



We greatly appreciate this partnership centered on holistic church planting. It began with providing clean water to the Maasai people. Indeed, water is life. Water has helped many to give their lives to Jesus, the water of life. Via our Maasai Clinic and Community Health and Evangelism initiative, we look forward to many more Maasai giving their lives to Christ. We also hope to do three more water wells in the future.

Finally, we thank all of the churches and individuals who contributed to the work that touches and transforms our community through the love of Jesus Christ.

Pray for

1. Ongoing medical ministry and outreach support at \$20,000 yearly
2. Support to place greenhouses at the remaining five water well sites to improve food security (\$5,000 each)
3. For Maasai scholarships to train more primary school teachers and nurses to serve the community.
4. Our partnership and evangelistic efforts to bear more fruit with the planting of more churches so many more Maasai will come to Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Simon Muntolol, Founder of the Maasai Outreach Mission

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Budget: *Many of us go away on vacations during the summer months, but the church's ministry and mission obligations do not go away. Your gracious continuing support of Old Saratoga truly matters. Thank you for your caring, and your thoughtful generosity in continuing the ministry of this beloved historic church.*

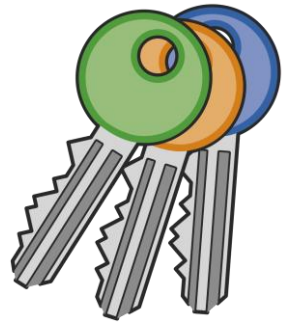
Second Hand Rose Thrift Store is looking for Board members, specifically a treasurer familiar with Quicken. If interested, stop in the store or call the store at 518-695-4640.

AA Meetings are held at the church on Tuesday evenings from 7pm-8pm, and Sunday evenings from 5pm-6pm.

WIC Clinics are held at the church on the first Thursday of the month from 9:30am-3:30pm. (**NOTE:** WIC will not be holding a clinic on July 4th, due to the holiday.)

ARE YOU A KEYHOLDER?

We are trying to update our list of keyholders. If you hold keys to the church, please let the church office know. You can reach out to the office in person, via email, written note, phone call, or text. The church office phone number is 518-695-3479 and can receive calls and texts. The church office email is oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com. Thank you!



RCA ANNOUNCEMENTS

RCA Mission 2025: Roots and Branches - January 16-18, 2025, Orlando, FL

Early bird registration for Mission 2025 goes until August 31st. You can register on the RCA website here: <https://www.rca.org/global-mission/mission-2025/registration/>

Scholarships for Mission 2025 are available for individuals between the ages of 18-28 that are associated with the RCA. The deadline for scholarship applications is September 30th. You can see more information and submit applications on the RCA website here: <https://www.rca.org/global-mission/mission-2025/scholarships/>

Workshop Sneak Peek: Workshops will provide the opportunity to dive deeper into a specific ministry area. During Mission 2025 you will attend 2 workshops. A preview of some of these workshops can be found on the RCA website here: <https://www.rca.org/global-mission/mission-2025/workshops/>

2024 General Synod

General Synod 2024 focused largely on the work of the restructuring team and the ten recommendations they brought. The full outcomes of the decisions made at General Synod are available on the RCA website.

Approved at General Synod:

- Condense regional synods and classes into a single assembly*
- Update the name of the merged assembly: middle assembly*
- Ensure equity in the new judicial bodies
- Hold General Synod in-person every three years
- Resize the delegation of General Synod
- Experiment with a consensus model for decision making
- Adjust the approval process for changes to the Book of Church Order
- Pursue an equitable and just ordination and reception process (amended)
- Adjust the commissions' sizes and requirements (amended)
- Allow gifted elders to serve as church supervisors* (amended)

Rejected at General Synod:

- Deacons will not serve as voting delegates to middle assemblies
- No 2 percent cap on General Synod covenant shares

** denotes a constitutional change, which now needs approval by two-thirds of classes, then ratification by General Synod 2025. The other approved recommendations were assigned to various commissions or boards, who will bring suggested changes to General Synod 2025 and 2026.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

OSRC EVENTS

September 14th: OSRC Yard Sale

September 21st: Musicians of Ma'alwyck Concert

October 26th: Ham Harvest Supper

November 17th: Annual Meeting

November 24th: Greening of the Church

November 30th: Holiday Sale

December 1st: Christmas Concert

January 25th, 2025: Soup Supper

Specific times to be announced when confirmed, dates may be subject to future changes

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Every Tuesday, June-October, 3:30pm: Hikes and History Cruises – A free event combining history and nature, limited to 12 participants per session. A group of 6 will embark on a cruise from Lock 5 to Eagle Point, while the other group of 6 will take a 1.5 mile hike through Hudson Crossing Park's scenic trails, then the groups will switch activities. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, visit:

<https://fareharbor.com/mohawkmaidencruises/items/176002/>

July 14th, 9am-12pm: Pollinator Plant Sale at Hudson Crossing Park

August 4th, 1pm: Turning Point Parade on Broad Street

August 10th, 8am-2pm: 18th Annual Cardboard Boat Races at Fort Hardy Park Beach

August 10th, 4pm: Turning Point Festival at Fort Hardy Park



Summer Giving

Quarterly Mission: RCA World Missions

For over 375 years, RCA Global Mission has impacted millions around the world through God's love. They aim to partner with global churches in ways that are collaborative and mutually meaningful. Today around 100 RCA missionaries and partners are at work in over 30 countries across the globe, sharing ministries of compassion, developing leaders, and sharing the good news.

July Deacon's Mission: Things of My Very Own

Founded in 2008, Things of My Very Own provides crisis intervention services to children impacted by abuse/neglect, or at risk of a Child Protective Services intervention. Their goal is to keep children out of the foster-care system and with non-abusive family members, whenever possible. They offer transitional assistance for those leaving abusive situations, education programs for children who may have missed extensive amount of school, life skills development programs, and a shopping center to bridge the gap between crisis intervention services and independence. They also have a Family Crisis Intervention Initiative that aims to provide intensive case management to families with trauma induced mental health conditions that are at risk of child protective services intervention.

August Deacon's Mission: Wellspring

For over 40 years, Wellspring has provided domestic violence and sexual assault services for Saratoga County. All of their services for survivors are free, confidential, and non-judgmental, and include: emergency shelter, 24/7 hotline and live chat, counseling, long-term housing assistance, case management, etc. They also offer education, training, and prevention programs to the community, as well as free wellness programs.

Church Family

July Birthdays

7/2: Harvey Howd
7/6: Shirley Mabb
7/9: Richard Behrens
7/10: Henrietta Edgar
7/17: Duffy Whitehouse
7/20: Alyson Fitzgerald
7/26: Catherine Alice Pooler
7/28: Trevor Scott Mellen
7/28: Florence Sherman
7/30: Amberlyn Deyoe
7/30: Helen Lofgren

August Birthdays

8/10: Brian Richards
8/11: David Garrand
8/12: Maeve Gilman
8/13: Terri Richards
8/18: Zachary Mellen
8/19: Stephen Bodnar
8/20: Declan Mellen
8/21: Crystal Richards
8/24: Carolyn Markwith
8/25: Sarah Brockman
8/27: Nicholas Thayer



July Anniversaries

7/20: Mark and Patti Booth



August Anniversaries

8/2: Dale and Christine Cox
8/3: Joyce and David deVelder
8/8: Pam and Joe Driscoll
8/15: Gene and Sue Usher

In Our Prayers

Florence Sherman, Alicia Lewie, Sue Usher, Trevor Mellen, Gerry Barber, Claire Houston, Florence Brown, Barb Elcox, Nancy and Norman Howard, Naomi and Charles Thayer and Family

Gratitude Corner

Thanks extended to:

Richard Behrens for his faithful work in leading another wonderful season of Bible Study

Jim Brockman for coordinating the installation of AC in the parsonage

Doug Sheely for installing the window panel for the AC installation

Pastor Susan's son, Andrew, for installing a new doorbell, painting the Parsonage porch, and everything else he helped with during his stay

Thanks received from:

Adirondack Save-a-Stray for our donation of \$100

Sacrament of Holy Communion: July 7th & August 4th

Coffee Hour every Sunday following worship!



Old Saratoga Reformed Church

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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