

JACOB'S WELL

SEPTEMBER 2024



September 1st – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Patrick Woomer

Liturgist: Rev. Susan Kerr

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Mark Booth

Communion Setup: Mark Booth

Communion Servers: Mark Booth, Anne Mitchell

Communion Cleanup: Bill Olmert

September 8th – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Anne Mitchell

Liturgist: Mark Booth

Usher: Cindy Brockman

Counters: Bruce Guerineau, Cindy Brockman

September 15th – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Bridget Critelli

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Karl Thayer

Counters: Mark Booth, Bruce Guerineau

September 22nd – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Cindy Brockman

Liturgist: Patrick Woomer

Usher: Richard Behrens

Counters: Patrick Woomer, Cindy Brockman

September 29th – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Jean Wells

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Terri Richards

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli

Sermons & Liturgy Readings

Theme for the month: "Our Christian Legacy"

Choral Call to Worship: #803 "Jesus, Stand Among Us"

**Note: no sung Kyrie Eleison until Advent begins*

September 1st

Sermon: "The Gift of Integrity"

Readings: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 8th

Sermon: "The Gift of Hope"

Readings: Psalm 146
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 15th

Sermon: "The Gift of Wisdom"

Readings: Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

September 22nd

Sermon: "The Gift of Service"

Readings: Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 29th

Sermon: "The Gift of Discipleship"

Readings: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50



PASTOR'S PONDER



On the one hand, it's been a fairly quiet summer at the parsonage for me, because much of my time and energy have been spent healing from knee replacement surgery.

I'm not a "fast healer", and also not a particularly patient person by nature.

That combination has been challenging.

My daughter said it will make me a better, more sympathetic pastor.

My son shows up to help around the house and

tells me to "get over it", and get used to the reality that it will take a year to heal.

Both are smart kids—well, adults now—and I listen to their wisdom. While they are both correct, my truth is that I struggle to let go of MY plans for me. So I've been practicing "being present in the moment" with what IS, and doing a lot of reading.

What does "being present in the moment" mean for you?

In Psalm 46:10a it reads, "Be still, and know that I am God."

So being still—being present in the moment—provides opportunities to be with God's very self.

For me, that has meant weeping over post-surgical pain and frustrated inhibitions of mobility.

It has meant mourning the deaths of two old friends who in my mind and heart were in the "You can never die!" category.

And it means consigning it all over into God's loving care, both in the here-and-now, and for eternity.

"Being present" also included joy in seeing ebullient blooms on every stalk of the transplanted Rose of Sharon (above left), acquired as a little stick on a visit to my first congregation's annual Plant Swap & Sale the first Spring I was here-- and placed hopefully in this new, old parsonage yard.

"Being present" meant celebrating a drier, healthier home with more efficient dehumidifying in the basement and central air conditioning flowing through the air ducts (Thank you, Consistory!).

It meant being thankful that my son Andrew painted the bilco door entry, installed a working front door bell, fixed the light in my china cabinet, and hauled out the scrap metal (photo above) from the basement for Doug Sheely (THANK YOU!) to take to recycling.

"Being present" this summer also has meant visits from family and friends, and... lots of icing an inflamed knee, OFTEN, amidst the joy of time spent with good people, like the Tuesday Coffee Hour folks' luncheon cruise on Raquette Lake (thank you Patti Booth for coordinating that!).

"Being present" in the NOW also means time to think about the future. For me that has meant pondering the next lectionary year, changing over from the gospel of Mark's insistent "Do! Do! Be! Next!" pace, into Luke's gospel with its very different rhythms and message of "This is who Jesus is, because it's important for you to know". I hope you will join me at church in "being still... and knowing God" ...together this fall.

In faith, Pastor Susan

Hymns of Our Faith

Analysis and thoughts from Richard Behrens

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

“Give me Jesus”

*“In the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise,
Give me Jesus”*

The believer in Christ has the greatest of all treasures, Jesus. When all else is lost, we have Jesus. The hymn reminds us of the Old Testament’s Job who lost everything, but in the end knew that God was still there and would not forsake him.

“Give Me Jesus” is an Afro-American Spiritual. The verse quoted above is followed by stanzas speaking of the darkness of midnight, all through the day, and at the time of dying. Whatever life circumstances may arise, the plea is still “Give me Jesus”.

What I find of particular interest is that the hymn suggests not only the knowledge that Jesus is always available, but also the eagerness to claim him in all situations.

In support of this notion, the chorus suggests that even if the singer had all of the best in life, what is most valued is the presence of Jesus.

*“Give me Jesus,
Give me Jesus,
You may have all this world,
Give me Jesus”*

My prayer is that our life circumstances, both the desired and the undesirable, will never exclude the one who is our all in all.



Financial Update July 2024

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 7/31/24)					
		Missions			
Organization	Budget	Carryover	Received	Paid	Balance
Albany Synod Mission	\$100.00				\$0.00
Quarterly Ministries	\$800.00		\$220.00	\$200.00	\$20.00
ADK Save a Stray	\$100.00		\$95.00	\$100.00	(\$5.00)
Wellspring	\$110.00		August		
Camperships	\$300.00	\$100.00		\$300.00	(\$300.00)
Gateway House of Peace	\$110.00		\$75.00	\$110.00	(\$35.00)
Bottles/Cans Ministries	\$600.00	\$7,469.08	\$198.00		\$7,667.08
Things of My Very Own	\$110.00		\$88.00		\$88.00
Community Hospice	\$110.00		\$83.00	\$110.00	(\$27.00)
Disaster Relief	\$200.00			\$750.00	(\$750.00)
SAIL	\$100.00		December		
Rebuilding Together	\$150.00		September		
Prospect Hill	\$30.00				
Caring & Sharing	\$115.00		\$103.00	\$115.00	(\$12.00)
Schuyler Hose	\$125.00		October		
Saratoga Bridges	\$110.00		\$68.00	\$110.00	(\$42.00)
Habitat for Humanity	\$100.00		\$68.00	\$100.00	(\$32.00)
Guardian House	\$100.00		November		
Giving Circle(Teacher)	\$312.00			\$312.00	(\$312.00)
General Missions			\$267.00		\$267.00
Deacons' Disc. Fund	\$100.00	\$710.85			\$710.85
Total Missions	\$3,782.00	\$8,279.93	\$1,265.00	\$2,207.00	\$7,337.93
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					\$11,458.53

Deacons' Fund by Month				
Jan. \$83	Apr. \$68	Jul. \$88	Oct. \$	
Feb. \$78	May \$68	Aug. \$	Nov. \$	
Mar. \$95	Jun. \$75	Sept. \$	Dec. \$	
Quarterly Missions				
Drilling for Hope	Fowler	World Missions	Giving Circle	
1: \$125	2: \$95	3: \$	4: \$	

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2024 Fund Raisers (As of 7/31/24)				
	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	\$202.75		\$202.75	100.00%
Harvest Dinner			\$0.00	
Pecans			\$0.00	
Holiday Sale			\$0.00	
Blue Box	\$918.90		\$918.90	100.00%
Total	\$4,878.65	\$687.03	\$4,191.62	

September Giving

Quarterly Mission: RCA World Missions - Healthy Child Program - Nicaragua

Many children in Bluefields, Nicaragua, live in poverty with limited access to nutritious meals, health care, and educational resources. Tabitha's House Bluefields (THB) exists to develop programs that address these needs. THB has two feeding centers where they serve a healthy meal and share the gospel with 200 children daily.

September Deacon's Mission: Rebuilding Together

Rebuilding Together is a nonprofit focused on helping homeowners who are not capable of making necessary repairs to their homes, mainly focusing on older adults, individuals living with disabilities, active/retired members of the armed services, and families with children. They coordinate the volunteers, contractors, tools, and supplies necessary and fix the homes at no cost to the homeowner. The Saratoga County affiliate chapter of Rebuilding Together was founded in 2003 by Michelle Larkin, with support from her husband, Dan, her family and friends, and the National Rebuilding Together organization. The Larkin family had traveled with church groups to help rebuild homes in other cities, and wondered if similar services might be needed in their own community, thus, the Saratoga County chapter was born. Since its founding, the organization has repaired 1,506 homes, revitalized 109 nonprofit centers and community spaces, and replaced 30 substandard manufactured homes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS MONTH:

Sept. 14th, 8am-3pm: Yard Sale at OSRC

Sept. 21st, 3pm: Musicians of Ma'alwyck concert

RECURRING EVENTS:

Tuesday Coffee Hour: Tuesdays, 9:30am

Ecumenical Bible Study: Wednesdays, 9:30am (resuming 9/18)

Choir Practice: Thursdays, 7pm (resumed 8/29)

AA Meetings: Tuesdays 7-8pm, Sundays 5-6pm

WIC Clinics: 1st Thursday of the month from 9:30am-3:30pm (unless it is a holiday)

LATER:

October 6th: Investment Committee Meeting

October 26th: Ham Harvest Supper

November 17th: Annual Meeting

November 24th: St. Nicholas Potluck Brunch & Greening of the Church

November 30th: Holiday Sale

December 1st: Christmas Concert

January 25th, 2025, 3-6pm: Souper Supper

**specific times and additional information will be added once confirmed, dates may be subject to change*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Yard Sale – Saturday September 14th, 8am-3pm

We are still accepting donations for the yard sale in Loomis Hall until 9/9. Donations may be dropped off on Tuesdays from 8am-1pm, Fridays from 8am-7pm, and Saturdays from 9am-3pm. We cannot accept electronics, furniture, coffee mugs, or full sets of dishes.

We are also looking for volunteers to help out with the sale. We need as many people as we can get, especially for sorting/pricing items and set up/clean up. We also need bakers to help contribute to the bake sale. Signup sheets will be on the table in Loomis Hall if you would like to help out.

Ecumenical Bible Study resumes on September 18th, led by Richard Behrens, Wednesday mornings from 9:30-10:30am. "Ezra and Nehemiah: Rebuilding and Recommitting" - we will be reading through the Old Testament Books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Musicians of Ma'alwyck Concert - Saturday September 21st, 3pm

The Musicians of Ma'alwyck will be returning to OSRC to perform a Player's Choice concert featuring music from each of the core musicians' favorite composers including Amram, Ximénez, Doppler, and Bréval. Admission is free for church members; otherwise the ticket price is \$20 for adults and \$5 for students. A signup sheet will be on the table in Loomis Hall, please sign up if you plan on attending! There will also be a signup sheet for refreshments if you would like to contribute. Bring your program to The Basin Grill after the performance for a 10% discount on your meal! Tickets can be purchased on their website: musiciansofmaalwyck.org

Choir practice resumed on August 29th, led by Christopher Tucker, with plans to sing for the first time this season on Sunday September 8th. **We are looking for more choir members!** Rehearsals are on Thursday nights at 7pm. Please join us, we would love you have you!



OSRC GREEN GUIDELINES

As I have been going through files in the office, I came across a list of green guidelines that had been created for the church at some point. I have listed the guidelines below, as a reminder of what we can do to be more environmentally friendly, not only within the church but at home as well.

CHURCH OFFICE

- Use recycled paper products
- Recycle paper and magazines
- Recycle ink and printer cartridges
- Utilize 2-sided copies
- Recycle computers, monitors, and other electronic equipment
- Use space heater when possible

CHURCH BUILDING

- Turn off all lights in unused spaces
- Lower thermostat when leaving the building
- Switch lightbulbs to LED
- Use low-flow faucets
- Change furnace filters regularly
- Keep recyclable paper out of trash baskets

CHURCH KITCHEN

- Recycle cardboard and all plastic and metal containers
- Discontinue use of Styrofoam products
- Discourage use of bottled water
- Reuse yogurt and other plastic containers
- Use "green" cleaners
- Eliminate "non-green" products (such as pesticides, caustic chemicals, bleach, etc.)
- Avoid using disposable dishware when possible
- Don't let the sink faucet run while doing dishes
- Clean refrigerator/freezer coils for better efficiency
- Utilize Energy Star rated appliances



NEXAMP: COMMUNITY SOLAR

Since joining in February 2020, our lifetime impact has been (as of 5/24/2024):

\$759.70 saved by using community solar

91,483lbs of CO2 emissions saved

Which is the equivalent of:

1,050 trees planted

100,776 air miles avoided

2,519 gallons of gasoline



ANNUAL MEETING 2024

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING IS TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 17TH.

Volunteer sheets and Consistory nomination forms will be going out soon, so it's a good time to start thinking about what kind of commitments you might want to make to the church in the upcoming year, and who you would like to see serving on Consistory.

As a reminder, here are the current Consistory terms for 2024.

Each consistory member is able to serve 3 consecutive 2-year terms, with a required 2-year break after the maximum number of consecutive terms have been served.

Deacon Bruce Guerineau: Term 2, Year 2 – **eligible** for re-election in 2025 for a 3rd term

Deacon Cindy Brockman: Term 2, Year 2 – **eligible** for re-election in 2025 for a 3rd term

Deacon Bridget Critelli: Term 2, Year 1 – **ineligible**, serving second year of term in 2025

Elder Mark Booth: Term 2 Year 2 – **eligible** for re-election in 2025 for a 3rd term

Elder Anne Mitchell: Term 1, Year 1 – **ineligible**, serving second year of term in 2025

Elder Patrick Woomer: serving a 1-year interim term, **eligible** for election, if desired

Paula Sheely is on the required break, and is ineligible for election in 2025.

For 2025, we will need to elect/re-elect 2 deacons and 2 elders.



RCA MISSION 2025: ROOTS AND BRANCHES

January 16-18, 2025

DoubleTree by Hilton Universal Studios in Orlando, FL

Mission 2025: Roots and Branches is 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 inspire individuals and churches to root deeper in God's call to serve globally, while also reaching and growing wherever God might be leading. Mission 2025 attendees will leave equipped with practical tools, resources, and next steps for engaging in mission.

There are limited scholarships available for young adults ages 18-28. The deadline to apply for scholarships is September 30th.

The early bird registration rate lasts through August 31st. After that the prices are set to increase on September 1st, then again on November 1st. The last day to register will be December 16th.

Visit www.rca.org/mission2025 for more information, to register, or apply for a scholarship.

Church Family

September Birthdays

9/2: Cindy Brockman
9/4: Patricia Hayes-Howd
9/4: Jim Brockman
9/5: Karl Thayer
9/9: Bridgette Lewie
9/11: Barbara Elcox
9/14: Mike Hughes
9/16: Gene Usher
9/18: Brian Driscoll
9/23: Gage Woomer
9/29: Patti Booth

September Anniversaries

9/11: Patrick & Robin Woomer
9/16: Sue & Mike Hughes
9/21: Paula & Douglas Sheely
9/24: Karl & Kim Thayer



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:

Many thanks to Patti Booth for organizing the Tuesday Coffee group's Luncheon Cruise on Raquette Lake!



Thanks Received:

We have received letters of thanks from the following:

Gateway House of Peace for our donation

World Central Kitchen for our donation of \$250

*RCA World Missions for our donation of \$500 to the
Nicaragua Healthy Child Program*

Saratoga Bridges for our donation of \$110

In Our Prayers

Florence Sherman, Alicia Lewie, Trevor Mellen, Gerry Barber, Claire Houston, Florence Brown, Sue and Gene Usher, Naomi and Charles Thayer & Family, Sandy DeGregory, Carolyn Markwith, Charlotte Ross

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.

Sacrament of Holy Communion: September 1st

Coffee Hour every Sunday following worship!



Old Saratoga Reformed Church

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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