

# JACOB'S WELL

## OCTOBER 2024



### October 6<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Janice Cornell

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Bridget Critelli

Counters: Patrick Woomer, Bridget Critelli

Communion Setup: Anne Mitchell

Communion Servers: Bridget Critelli, Patrick Woomer,  
Anne Mitchell

Communion Cleanup: Jim Brockman

### October 13<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Karl Thayer

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Patrick Woomer

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Cindy Brockman

### October 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Richard Behrens

Liturgist: Pastor Susan

Usher: Bill Olmert

Counters: Patrick Woomer, Cindy Brockman

### October 27<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Anne Mitchell

Liturgist: Pastor Susan

Usher: Bridget Critelli

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli



### Sermons & Liturgy Readings

**Theme for the month:** "Living in Faith"

**October Choral Call to Worship:**

#59, v1-2 "Let Us, With a Gladsome Mind"

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

#### October 6<sup>th</sup>

#### World Communion Sunday

**Sermon:** "When the Bible Gives Us More  
Questions than Answers"

**Readings:** Job 1:1-2, 2:1-10

Psalm 26

Mark 10:2-16

#### October 13<sup>th</sup>

**Sermon:** "When Life Isn't Fair"

**Readings:** Job 23: 1-9, 16-17

Psalm 90

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

#### October 20<sup>th</sup>

**Sermon:** "When Global Change Is Needed"

**Readings:** Job 38:1-7, (34-41)

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35

Mark 10:35-45

#### October 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Reformation & Heritage Sunday

**Sermon:** "How to Proclaim Our Faith"

**Readings:** Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Mark 10:46-52

## PASTOR'S PONDER



What a September it has been! We've enjoyed much more sun than rain, with the highlight at church having been a very successful Yard Sale! Of course, the only reason it was such a wonderful day was because of the many hours spent by those faithful volunteers who Just Showed Up—with heartfelt thanks to everyone who brought donations, to those energetic souls who sorted and organized and priced and carried and moved and then packed up the left-overs at the end onto the fortuitously arranged truck, off to find new homes.

It could not have happened without the cooperation of the many volunteers, commandeered by Event Organizers Amber and Bridget, with Bonnie, Jean, Terri—those who pitched in to clean and categorize; at the risk of forgetting someone (Help!)—Sales folks and Food folks: Paula and Becca and Richard and Sheryl, Chris and Cindy... with Special Mention to Christopher for the wonderful music enjoyed by all! I would be remiss if I neglected to sing the praises of all who appeared to help move tables out onto the green on Friday night, including Scouts led by Anne and Bridget, as well as strong and capable family and friends! Another shout out of sincerest gratitude to everyone who magically appeared or had the fortitude to stay after the sale to pack up and return the church to “normal”. For a small congregation, it was a big day, and it was wonderful to be able to serve as host to the community at large while raising money to meet our budget! Well done, good and faithful servants!

For the month of September, I've been preaching on the theme, “Our Christian Legacy”—and look forward to moving into a new theme in October, “Living in Faith”. We will remain in the gospel of Mark until Advent begins, paired in the coming month's lectionary with readings from the Old Testament book of Job. There are some interesting challenges in the readings, so I hope you will give a listen on Sunday, and join in worship with me! I always welcome questions or discussion during fellowship after worship, as well as the opportunity to check in face-to-face. In the meanwhile, may God bless you and keep you!

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)***

*“Make Me a Servant”*

*“Make me a servant, humble and meek,  
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak;  
And may the prayer of my heart always be;  
Make me a servant, make me a servant,  
Make me a servant today.”*

In the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of Mark’s Gospel we read about some of Jesus’ disciples having an argument over which of them was the greatest. Jesus intervened and said, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”

Contemporary American composer and Christian musician Kelly Willard has captured this thought in the form of a prayer, to give us the chorus of “Make Me a Servant”, combining both text and music. The simple message conveys the need to be humble and meek in our service, and to focus on lifting up those who are weak.

The writer’s thoughts are consistent with Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. There Jesus speaks of the blessings of being poor in spirit, meek, and merciful. The message of Willard’s chorus also reflects the teachings found in the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Philippians, where he speaks of Jesus’ incarnation. We read that the Son of God emptied himself, taking the form of a servant; humbled himself, and was obedient to God’s will.

Willard’s apparent intent is that we make these words a daily prayer, humbling ourselves, and freely offering ourselves for Christian service as servants.

*“...through love become servants to one another.” (Galatians 5:13c)*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPZy5HKn9AY>

**Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 8/31/24)**

		<b>Missions</b>			
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Carryover</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Paid</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Albany Synod Mission	\$100.00				<b>\$0.00</b>
Quarterly Ministries	\$800.00		\$240.00	\$400.00	<b>(\$160.00)</b>
ADK Save a Stray	\$100.00		\$95.00	\$100.00	<b>(\$5.00)</b>
Wellspring	\$110.00		\$75.00		<b>\$75.00</b>
Camperships	\$300.00	\$100.00		\$300.00	<b>(\$300.00)</b>
Gateway House of Peace	\$110.00		\$75.00	\$110.00	<b>(\$35.00)</b>
Bottles/Cans Ministries	\$600.00	\$7,469.08	\$198.00	\$2,450.00	<b>\$5,217.08</b>
Things of My Very Own	\$110.00		\$88.00	\$110.00	<b>(\$22.00)</b>
Community Hospice	\$110.00		\$83.00	\$110.00	<b>(\$27.00)</b>
Disaster Relief	\$200.00			\$750.00	<b>(\$750.00)</b>
SAIL	\$100.00		December		
Rebuilding Together	\$150.00		September		
Prospect Hill	\$30.00				
Caring & Sharing	\$115.00		\$103.00	\$115.00	<b>(\$12.00)</b>
Schuyler Hose	\$125.00		October		
Saratoga Bridges	\$110.00		\$68.00	\$110.00	<b>(\$42.00)</b>
Habitat for Humanity	\$100.00		\$68.00	\$100.00	<b>(\$32.00)</b>
Guardian House	\$100.00		November		
Giving Circle(Teacher)	\$312.00			\$312.00	<b>(\$312.00)</b>
General Missions			\$292.00		<b>\$292.00</b>
Deacons' Disc. Fund	\$100.00	\$710.85			<b>\$710.85</b>
<b>Total Missions</b>	<b>\$3,782.00</b>	<b>\$8,279.93</b>	<b>\$1,385.00</b>	<b>\$4,967.00</b>	<b>\$4,697.93</b>
<b>Pastor's Disc. Fund</b>	\$1,000.00	\$1,411.68		\$630.95	<b>\$780.73</b>
<b>Carpet Fund</b>		\$2,549.87	\$300.00		<b>\$2,849.87</b>
<b>Memorial Fund</b>		\$490.00		\$490.00	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>					<b>\$8,328.53</b>

Deacons' Fund by Month				
Jan. \$83	Apr. \$68	Jul. \$88	Oct. \$	
Feb. \$78	May \$68	Aug. \$75	Nov. \$	
Mar. \$95	Jun. \$75	Sept. \$	Dec. \$	
Quarterly Missions				
<b>Drilling for Hope</b>	<b>Fowler</b>	<b>World Missions</b>	<b>Giving Circle</b>	
1: \$125	2: \$95	3: \$20	4: \$	

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2024 Fund Raisers (As of 9/16/24)				
	Income	Expenses	Profit	Profit
<b>2023 Pecans</b>	\$306.00		\$306.00	NA
<b>Souper Supper</b>	\$760.00	\$180.64	\$579.36	76.23%
<b>Lasagna Dinner</b>	\$2,691.00	\$506.39	\$2,184.61	81.18%
<b>Yard Sale</b>	\$3,012.00	\$65.59	\$2,946.41	97.82%
<b>Harvest Dinner</b>			\$0.00	
<b>Pecans</b>			\$0.00	
<b>Holiday Sale</b>			\$0.00	
<b>Blue Box</b>	\$1,275.05		\$1,275.05	100.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,044.05</b>	<b>\$752.62</b>	<b>\$7,291.43</b>	

## October Giving

### Mission of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: The Giving Circle

The Giving Circle is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization focused on seeking out communities and individuals in need and connecting them with resources to help. The organization was founded in Saratoga Springs in 2005 by Jefferson Award honoree Mark Bertrand. The organization was initially formed in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, and volunteers worked to help rebuild homes in southern Mississippi. Since then, they have expanded their efforts to the serve the Capital District, Uganda and Ukraine. Locally, they partner with nonprofit organizations to provide assistance to those in need such as helping the homeless, building wheelchair ramps, repairing homes, providing holiday assistance, etc. The Giving Circle Africa works on projects such as building schools, a health clinic, a savings and microloan bank, farming, and more in Uganda.

### October Deacon's Mission: Schuyler Hose Company

The Schuylerville Fire Department was organized on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1836 as a village fire department, then reorganized as Schuyler Hose Company on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1953, and incorporated in 1973. Their protection area covers approximately 20 square miles, which includes the Village of Schuylerville and portions of the Towns of Saratoga, Northumberland, Easton, and Greenwich.

### Deacon's Missions through the Rest of the Year

**November:** (E) Guardian House / (O) Shelters of Saratoga

**December:** SAIL

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**September's Yard Sale was a success!** The total profit from the sale was \$2946.41. We made \$2663 from the general sale, \$213 from the bake sale, and \$70.41 from the food sales. Thank you again to everyone who helped out!

**Ham Harvest Dinner – October 26<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm:** Ham dinner available for takeout or limited dine-in seating. Reservations highly recommended. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$8 for kids. To make a reservation, call Chris at 518-695-6638. We are looking for volunteers to assist with dinner prep, setup, and service. Please sign up if you would like to help out!

**We want to hear your voice!** We are looking to add members to our choir. If you can't commit to the entire choir season, please consider joining us even just for the holidays!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER

- 6<sup>th</sup>: Investment Committee Meeting – 11am
- 6<sup>th</sup>: Budget Committee Meeting – 7pm
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Ham Harvest Supper – 4-6pm

### NOVEMBER

- 17<sup>th</sup>: Annual Meeting
- 24<sup>th</sup>: Sinterklaas Potluck Brunch  
& Greening of the Church
- 30<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Sale

### DECEMBER

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Christmas Concert – 3pm
- 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve Service – 7pm

### JANUARY

- 25<sup>th</sup>: Souper Supper – 3-6pm



### RECURRING EVENTS:

- Tuesday Coffee Hour:** Tuesdays, 9:30am
- Ecumenical Bible Study:** Wednesdays, 9:30am
- Choir Practice:** Thursdays, 7pm
- AA Meetings:** Tuesdays 7-8pm, Sundays 5-6pm
- WIC Clinics:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month,  
9:30am-3:30pm (unless it is a holiday)

*\*dates and times are subject to change*



Do you help lead worship in your church? Are you a Preaching Elder? Do you want to learn more about how parts of the liturgy are chosen? Do you want to talk with others who also regularly lead worship? Do you want to hear from pastors and experts on how we can make worship more welcoming for all?

The Regional Synod of Albany's Synod Ministries Board will be hosting a Worship Festival on Saturday, February 22, 2025 from 9am to 2pm at the First Reformed Church of Scotia, New York. This Worship Festival is focused on the work and encouragement of lay leaders in our churches. Lay leaders include Consistory Members, Preaching Elders, Children, Parents, and all called to help lead worship in all possible forms and ways. Workshops will be offered in the topics of Participating in Worship, Planning Worship, and Worshipping as a Full Body, Mindful of All.

Registration and more information about the workshops and structure of the day will be coming in late November. Please add it to your calendar now!

### Hudson River Superfund Site Five Year Review Draft Presentation and Community Forum

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 6:00pm  
Gateway Visitor Center, 30 Ferry Street**

*A presentation on the EPA's five-year review report of the Hudson River PCB Superfund Site, given by Stephen Ballantine, Director of Environmental Advocacy, Government Relations & Public Policy of Scenic Hudson, Inc., and member of the Hudson River Advisory Group. The purpose of the review is to determine if the cleanup remedy is working as intended and is protective of human health and the environment. The public is encouraged to comment, express concerns, and ask questions before the review is finalized on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.*

# **A Message from Camp Fowler**

## **A New Era of Camp Fowler**

Fowler Friends and Family,

As many of you may have heard, after an incredible 38 years, Kent Busman, is retiring at the end of 2025. Kent has provided an incredible vision and leadership during his time here, mentoring thousands of young adults and youth over the years, and will surely be missed! The continuity, thoughtfulness, intentionality, and quality of Uncle Kent's presence at Fowler have laid an incredible foundation for the next generation of campers and community to experience the simplicity of God's presence in an ever-changing world.

The Fowler Board of Trustees (FBoT) has renewed its commitment to Fowler's mission and vision. Planning has been underway for this transition for the last 9 years. We concluded a master planning process back in 2017 with consultants keenly familiar with Fowler, its mission, and operations specifically to plan a smooth transition. A fellow was hired for a multi-year contract this year and will be present with the incoming Executive Director. Fowler continues to have an incredible team with some solid tenure in Harv, Lauren, Jen, and Josey who are amazing and have everything moving in the right direction!

A Transition Team has been working diligently for the last 8 months doing the preliminary legwork to review and vet candidates for our next Executive Director. They have a communication plan in place for the process to keep the Fowler Family apprised as appropriate, have now finished the job description, and conducted well over 100 interviews with volunteers, summer staff, year-round staff, and others to ensure insights from a vast range of stakeholders are considered in the process. They are also charged with planning the onboarding process to ensure our next director has all the resources needed and can quickly get up to speed with the operation.

Many folks have asked what they can do to support Fowler in the meantime. There are four ways you can help support your camp as we continue the process:

1. Pray for the FBoT and Transition Team for discernment
2. Pray for the existing staff for patience and peace as they await a change in leadership
3. Share the job description with your contacts
4. Donate your time, talents, and funds – whatever you're able, particularly when the new Executive Director starts, it will be important for them to be able to build relationships with people when hired and will need the support of time and talents to continue Fowler's mission.

Thank you for all you each do for Christ's ministry at Fowler! As the Transition Team continues its work, there will be quarterly updates to keep stakeholders informed of the progress.

All our blessings,

The Fowler Board of Trustees and Transition Team

# ANNUAL MEETING 2024

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING IS TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>.

Volunteer sheets and Consistory nomination forms will be going out soon.

**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 nomination in 2025 for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term.

**Deacon Cindy Brockman:** Term 2, Year 2 – eligible for nomination in 2025 for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term.

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

**Elder Mark Booth:** Term 2 Year 2 – eligible for nomination in 2025 for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term.

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

**Elder Patrick Woomer:** completes 1-year interim term, leaving an open full term to fill.

Paula Sheely is on the required break, and is ineligible for nomination until 2025.

**At this meeting, we will need to elect 2 deacons and 2 elders.**

## THE GOVERNANCE OF THE CHURCH ACCORDING TO OUR BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER

The Reformed Church in America (RCA) is part of the Reformed tradition in the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ. The RCA has its immediate source in the Reformed Church in the Netherlands and other European countries. These churches grew out of attempts to reform the church catholic in the sixteenth century. Such reform is committed to be ongoing and is guided “according to the Scriptures”—both Old and New Testaments—as the revealed Word of God.

The *Book of Church Order* (also known as the *BCO*) is more than the rule book of the RCA. It provides a way for us to live and work together as the body of Christ, following 1 Corinthians 14:40's admonition that “all things be done decently and in order.” Order is a way to express our unity and achieve cooperation and harmony in the body of Christ as we seek to fulfill our mission. It's our theology lived out in the ways we live and work together.

We have **four offices** in the RCA. Three offices are involved in the government of the church: Minister of Word and Sacrament, elder, and deacon. A fourth office, General Synod professor, is employed in the seminaries or the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency for the training of students for the ministry. Those who are ordained to office act as servants who represent Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit.

A **consistory** combines the ministerial functions and governmental powers of the offices of the minister, elder, and deacon in the service and supervision of a local church. The whole body acts as the representative of the congregation.

**Ministers** are called to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and to the ministry of the Word of God.

In the local church **elders** are chosen members of spiritual discernment, exemplary life, charitable spirit, and wisdom grounded in God's Word. Elders, together with the installed minister serving under a call and/or commissioned pastor/s (if any), are to have supervision of the church entrusted to them. They are set apart for a ministry of watchful and responsible care for all matters relating to the welfare and good order of the church. They are to study God's Word, to oversee the household of faith, to encourage spiritual growth, to maintain loving discipline, and to provide for the proclamation of the gospel and the celebration of the sacraments. They assist the minister with their good counsel and in the task of visitation. They seek to guard the sacraments of the church from being profaned. An elder may administer the sacraments, if authorized by the board of elders.

**Deacons** are chosen members of spiritual commitment, exemplary life, compassionate spirit, and sound judgment, who are set apart for a ministry of mercy, service, and outreach. They are to receive the contributions of the congregation and to distribute them under the direction of the consistory. The deacons give particular attention and care to the whole benevolence program of the church. They have charge of all gifts contributed for the benefit of the poor and distribute them with discretion. They visit and comfort those in material need and perform such other duties as the consistory may assign them.



# Church Family



## Gratitude Corner

### *Thanks extended:*

*Thank you to Amber Deyoe and Bridget Critelli for all their hard work organizing the annual yard sale, and thank you to all of the volunteers that donated their time, energy, and goods to the sale.*

*Thank you to everyone that baked and helped set up and serve refreshments during the Musicians of Ma' alwyck concert.*

*Thank you to Richard Behrens for his diligent work in organizing and preparing for this season of Ecumenical Bible Study.*

### *Thanks received:*

*We have received letters of thanks from the following:*

*LifeWorks Community Action for allowing them to use our space to hold WIC Clinics.*

*Camp Fowler for our donation of \$200.00*

*Things of My Very Own for our donation of \$110.00*

### October Birthdays

- 10/2: Eric Garney
- 10/4: Bill Olmert
- 10/6: Wayne Barton
- 10/7: Kim Thayer
- 10/9: Mikael de Velder
- 10/12: Dawn Alexanian
- 10/12: Barrett Fedderly
- 10/13: Tammee Lockwood
- 10/14: Jennifer Legg
- 10/16: Bridget Behrens
- 10/21: Nathaniel de Velder
- 10/21: Oscar Everts
- 10/25: Alma Westcott
- 10/25: Holly Deyoe
- 10/27: John Hayes
- 10/27: Bruce Guerineau
- 10/29: Jean Stark
- 10/29: Rev. Susan Kerr

### October Anniversaries

- 10/6: Pat and Harvey Howd
- 10/9: Jennifer and Todd Bruneau
- 10/16: James and Donna Mellen
- 10/16: Julia and Thomas Pooler
- 10/22: Florence and Roger Sherman
- 10/25: Dawn and Stephen Alexanian
- 10/27: Ryan and Amanda Markwith

### **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

## *In Our Prayers*

*Florence Sherman, Alicia Lewie, Trevor Mellen, Gerry Barber, Claire Houston, Florence Brown, Sue and Gene Usher. Naomi and Charles Thayer and Family, Sandy DeGregory, Carolyn Markwith, Charlotte Ross, Janice Cornell, Karen Flewelling*



### **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: October 6<sup>th</sup>!

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

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