

JACOB'S WELL

NOVEMBER 2024



November 3rd – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Patrick Woomer

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Patrick Woomer, Bruce Guerineau

Communion Setup: Patrick Woomer

Communion Servers: Patrick Woomer,
Cindy Brockman, Bruce Guerineau

Communion Cleanup: Richard Behrens

November 10th – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Anne Mitchell

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Cindy Brockman

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Anne Mitchell

November 17th – 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Bridget Critelli

Liturgist: Patrick Woomer

Usher: Karl Thayer

Counters: Mark Booth, Patrick Woomer

November 24th – Christ the King Sunday

Greeter: Cindy Brockman

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Terri Richards

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Bridget Critelli

Sermons & Liturgy Readings

Theme for the month: "We Worship a Living God!"

October Choral Call to Worship:

#813 "For the Life That You Have Given"

*Note: no sung Kyrie Eleison until Advent begins

November 3rd

Sermon: "Our Home is Always and Everywhere
in God"

Readings: Ruth 1:1-18
Psalm 146
Mark 12:28-34

November 10th

Sermon: "God's Goodness Can Be Mysterious"

Readings: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

November 17th

Sermon: "How Is It Humanly Possible?"

Readings: 1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

November 24th

Sermon: "God Always Wins"

Readings: Revelation 1:4b-8
Psalm 132:1-12
John 18:33-37

PASTOR'S PONDER

Greetings in Christ to Members and Friends of Old Saratoga!

Autumn is a season of both change and celebration: just look around, and the shift in the annual seasonal cycle from summer to autumn to winter's approach is in the air, and in all of nature. Recently, we celebrated an awesomely successful Harvest Ham Supper—thank you to organizers Bonnie and Cindy—and we look forward to celebrating the Spirit's Presence in the upcoming Advent and Nativity events (see the Events Calendar--).

Gathering as God's People for worship is the "easy" part of being in a church for many of us. Sunday morning and special services, like this Friday night's ecumenical All Saints worship, provide us with time together to focus on praising God through Word and song. But how do we praise God when we collaborate outside of worship to present a once-a-year event to one another and the community? Ah! That's when human tempers can grow short, physical challenges are amplified, and "success" can focus on numbers rather than on relationships.

So, for each of us and for our family gatherings to come—both at church and at home—here are some helpful guidelines to assist us in successfully getting through, giving the glory to God, and building closer relationships with our Savior and one another.

How does the Bible say to resolve church conflict? When Jesus taught his disciples how to resolve their disputes with each other, he advised them that **private discussion** between the two was an important step to take. Moreover, if your brother or sister sins against you, go and tell them their fault between you and them alone. If they hear you, you have gained a brother or sister. To put it into practice, here are some steps to take—always starting with prayer and examining yourself before going to the other person with Christ's love between you:

- **Communicate:** Start with prayer and try to work out the issue directly with the person involved.
- **Practice forgiveness:** Forgive the other person and let go of past grievances.
- **Be charitable:** Believe the best about others until you have evidence to the contrary.
- **Listen:** Try to understand the other person's perspective.
- **Ask questions:** Ask questions to make sure you understand the other person's point of view.
- **Use the PAUSE principle:** Prepare, affirm relationships, understand interests, search for creative solutions, and evaluate options objectively.
- **Diffuse explosive meetings:** Summarize the issue and indicate that everyone will follow a format (of mutual respect and listening) when speaking.
- **Involve a mediator:** If the issue isn't resolved, ask an Elder to mediate a conversation.
- **Track workload:** Stay attuned to your team's emotional health and manage workloads.

May God continue to bless each of us with holy caring for and of one another, wisdom in managing our emotions and health, and grace to forgive and build closer relationships one-to-another, and ever closer to God, through the love of Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Yours 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)

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

***“Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.”***

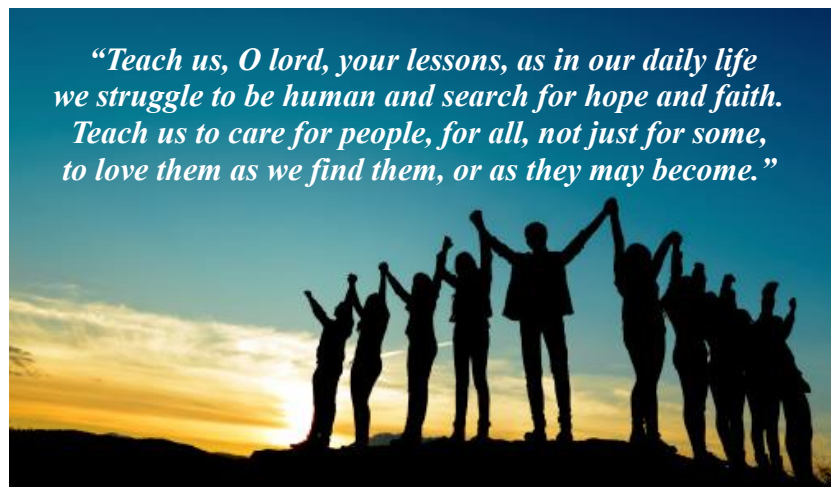
In the 1970's, writer Tom Wolfe labeled “baby boomers” the “Me Generation.” They were characterized as those who rejected tradition and expressed increased self-esteem and assertiveness. Self-indulgence was observed in the growth of self-help programs. A negative result was observed in the increase in depressive symptoms.

While thinking of oneself first seems to have been paramount in the 70's, the concept of self-preservation has always been a basic instinct, arguably a positive trait for the most part. From the Christian point of view, however, self-preservation and thinking of oneself first clashes in many ways with a faith that speaks of being “willing to die for a righteous man,” and whose founder lived out this example in giving his life for our salvation.

The composer Fred Kaan, author of the hymn “Help Us Accept Each Other”, prays for a change in attitude and direction. He prays that we all might be changed “in living situations to do the truth in love.” Kaan pleads for “new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on” so that we will recognize and accept those “who are in need, and hunger for acceptance.”

Fred Kaan was a living example of accepting others. He experienced the loss of three of his grandparents in 1945 as a result of the Nazi-induced famine in Holland. As an ordained pastor in the Congregational church in England, his life's work centered on issues of human rights and inter-church relations. Kaan worked with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and his final ministry found him working with Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and Reformed Churches.

His passion for peace and justice led Fred Kaan to accept those in need; to accept and work with others despite differences in theology and practice. His hymn writing enables the Church to sing the faith in plain but moving speech.



***“Teach us, O lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.”***

Financial Update September 2024

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 9/30/24)					
		Missions			
Organization	Budget	Carryover	Received	Paid	Balance
Albany Synod Mission	\$100.00				\$0.00
Quarterly Ministries	\$800.00		\$290.00	\$400.00	(\$110.00)
ADK Save a Stray	\$100.00		\$95.00	\$100.00	(\$5.00)
Wellspring	\$110.00		\$75.00	\$110.00	(\$35.00)
Camperships	\$300.00	\$100.00		\$300.00	(\$200.00)
Gateway House of Peace	\$110.00		\$75.00	\$110.00	(\$35.00)
Bottles/Cans Ministries	\$600.00	\$7,469.08	\$198.00	\$2,450.00	\$5,217.08
Things of My Very Own	\$110.00		\$88.00	\$110.00	(\$22.00)
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		\$71.00		\$71.00
Prospect Hill	\$30.00			\$30.00	(\$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			\$332.00		\$332.00
Deacons' Disc. Fund	\$100.00	\$710.85			\$710.85
Total Missions	\$3,782.00	\$8,279.93	\$1,546.00	\$5,107.00	\$4,718.93
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	\$0.00
Total Designated Funds					\$8,349.53

Deacons' Fund by Month				
Jan. \$83	Apr. \$68	Jul. \$88	Oct. \$	
Feb. \$78	May \$68	Aug. \$75	Nov. \$	
Mar. \$95	Jun. \$75	Sept. \$71	Dec. \$	
Quarterly Missions				
Drilling for Hope	Fowler	World Missions	Giving Circle	
1: \$125	2: \$95	3: \$70	4: \$	

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2024 Fund Raisers (As of 9/30/24)				
	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	\$3,012.00	\$65.59	\$2,946.41	97.82%
Harvest Dinner			\$0.00	
Pecans			\$0.00	
Holiday Sale			\$0.00	
Blue Box	\$1,275.05		\$1,275.05	100.00%
Total	\$8,044.05	\$752.62	\$7,291.43	



November Giving

Mission of the 4th 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, in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. 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.

Deacon's Mission: The Guardian House

Located in Ballston Spa, The Guardian House is a supportive housing program for homeless female veterans. It is the only homeless veteran housing program that is supported by the VA in New York State and 1 out of only 7 in the country. Dedicated case managers provide extensive support to these veterans and help them navigate and overcome the challenges they face so that they can successfully transition into independent and productive lives within our community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pecans! We have ordered 24 bags each of plain and dark chocolate covered giant pecans. The cost is \$12 for a 16oz bag of plain pecans and \$15 for a 12oz bag of dark chocolate covered pecans. The order we have placed is due to arrive around 11/8. There are sheets in Loomis Hall where you can leave your order, or you can call the office phone at 518-695-3479 and leave a message.

♪♪♪ Join our choir! We are always looking for new voices – even if you can't commit to the full choir season, consider joining us just for the holidays! ♪♪♪

PARKING REMINDER! December 1st begins alternate street parking in Schuylerville!

Streets running East and West: T, Th, Sat, Sun from 8am-8am – park on the odd side of the street
M, W, F from 8am-8am – park on the even side of the street

Streets running North and South: T, Th, Sat, Sun from 8am-8am – park on the even side of the street
M, W, F from 8am-8am – park on the odd side of the street

Parking on Broad Street: T, Th, Sat, Sun from midnight to 6am – park on the even side of the street
M, W, F from midnight to 6am – park on the odd side of the street

Pearl Street runs North and South. On Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, park on the side of the street that the church is on. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, park on the side of the street across from the church. These parking regulations last until March 31st.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1st, 7pm – Ecumenical All Saints Day Service of Remembrance hosted by Schuylerville United Methodist Church.

November 10th, 2pm – Sponsor Circles for Welcoming Refugees: SUMC: Ecumenical Meeting!

With the recent dramatic increase in the displacement of populations worldwide, and the numbers seeking refuge in the United States, the federal government has looked beyond the traditional network of resettlement agencies to ensure an orderly and humane process for meeting the need. Private sponsors can apply to welcome refugees already known to them, or they can be matched with refugees seeking sponsors through programs such as the Welcome Corps. Successful sponsorship requires a team effort, often involving faith communities or local volunteer organizations. **Terry Diggory and Maxine Lautenberg of Saratoga Immigration Coalition** will describe such efforts in our region and explain how you/we! might get involved.

November 17th – Annual Meeting, after worship

November 24th – Sinterklaas Potluck Brunch & Greening of the Church, after worship

November 30th – Holiday Sale, 8am-2pm

December 1st – Christmas Concert, 3pm

December 24th – Christmas Eve Service, 7pm

January 25th – Souper Supper, 3-6pm

February 15th – Red Cross Blood Drive at OSRC, 8am-12pm

February 22nd – Albany Synod Worship Festival, 9am-2pm at First Reformed Church in Scotia

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 on the topics of Participating in Worship, Planning Worship, and Worshipping as a Full Body, Mindful of All. Registration and more information will be coming in late November.



HOLIDAY SALE!

AT OLD SARATOGA REFORMED CHURCH

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, 8AM-2PM

BASKET RAFFLE AND BAKE SALE



Community Christmas Concert

at Old Saratoga Reformed Church

Sunday December 1st, 3pm

Featuring local choirs and music groups, refreshments to follow

All are welcome, free will donation



*Sounds
of the
Season*

Wreaths Across America

With Veteran's Day and the holidays just around the corner, consider sponsoring a veteran's wreath.

"What does it mean to sponsor a wreath? Sponsoring a veteran's wreath is a personal gift of gratitude and remembrance for someone who served this country so that we can be free.

Your sponsorship supports the yearlong mission to remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom, while making new and existing free programs available to the masses. With each sponsorship made, a veteran's wreath will be placed to honor an American hero at participating locations this year on National Wreaths Across America Day.

With each veteran's wreath placed by a volunteer, we ask that they "say their name" to ensure that the legacy of duty, service, and sacrifice is never forgotten."

National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 14th, 2024. The cost to sponsor a wreath for a veteran is \$17. If you would like to sponsor a wreath, or volunteer your time to Wreaths Across America, visit their website: www.wreathscrossamerica.org



CHURCH FAMILY

November Birthdays

11/1: Roger Sherman
11/2: Carol Burch
11/3: Roger M. Sherman
11/3: David Woomer
11/6 Wendy Fedderly
11/10: Emily Buchanan
11/12: Robert Haney
11/12 Thomas Pooler
11/12: Doug Sheely
11/13 Peggy MacMillan
11/14: Sawyer Russell Fedderly
11/20: Melanie Casey
11/22: Sandy Jones
11/23: Ryan Markwith
11/24: Chauncey Mabb

November Anniversaries

11/10: Anne and Doug Mitchell

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

*Note: Pastor Susan's days off are Monday and
Tuesday*

GRATITUDE CORNER

THANKS EXTENDED:

Thank you to Bonnie Garrand and Cindy Brockman for organizing the Ham Harvest Supper. Thank you to all who volunteered their time, labor, and goods to make the dinner a success!

Thank you to Doug Sheely for replacing the back door on the church and repairing the shed roof that was damaged last winter.

Thank you to Jim Brockman for coordinating the tree service for the church and setting up the lights along the sidewalk to the back door of the church.

WELCOME!

Congratulations to Kevin and Melanie Casey on the birth of their daughter Paisley Ann Casey!



OUR CONDOLENCES TO

The family of Wayne Barton on his passing. Please keep them in your prayers.

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, Janice Cornell

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: November 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

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