

JACOB'S WELL

MAY 2025

May 4th

Third Sunday of Easter

Greeter: Richard Behrens

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Karl Thayer

Counters: Bridget Critelli, Cindy Brockman

Communion Setup: Cindy Brockman

Communion Servers: Cindy Brockman,

Bill Olmert, Pastor Susan

Communion Cleanup: Karl Thayer

May 11th

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Greeter: Bill Olmert

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Bruce Guerineau, Bill Olmert

May 18th

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Greeter: Cindy Brockman

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Bill Olmert

Counters: Mark Booth, Bill Olmert

May 25th

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Greeter: Karl Thayer

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Cindy Brockman

Counters: Bridget Critelli, Cindy Brockman



Liturgy Readings

May 4th

Readings: Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

May 11th

Readings: Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

May 18th

Readings: Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 25th

Readings: Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29 **OR** John 5:1-9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The profit from April's Lasagna Dinner was \$1948.64. Thank you again to all who contributed!

WIC Clinics at OSRC will be moving from monthly to quarterly. More information will be provided when it becomes available. Currently, we are still expecting them on June 5th from 9:30am-3:30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 4th, 10am-1pm: Canal Clean Sweep at Hudson Crossing Park – An excellent opportunity to make our park even more beautiful by helping to prepare the trails, grounds, gardens, and banks of HCP for summer. Volunteers will meet at the Hudson Crossing Park Pavilion and are asked to wear sturdy shoes or boots, clothing that they can get dirty, and to bring a hat, sunscreen, a full reusable water bottle, and work gloves. Parking is available in the HCP parking lot located behind Champlain Canal Lock 5.

May 9th, 5pm: "A Week in Monjas, Guatemala" Presentation at Schuylerville United Methodist Church (51 Church Street, Schuylerville) – You're invited to join and experience the amazing difference people can make. The PowerPoint presentation begins at 5pm, with a free will offering meal of authentic Guatemalan food to follow in the fellowship hall.

May 17th: Plant Sale and Chicken BBQ at Quaker Springs United Methodist Church (466 Route 32 South, Schuylerville)
The plant sale runs from 9am to 3pm, and the BBQ from 2pm to 4pm. The BBQ is takeout only and prepared by The Ugly Rooster Cafe. For \$16 the meal includes ½ chicken, baked potato, baked beans, cornbread, coleslaw and dessert. Reservations are strongly encouraged and can be made starting April 7th by calling 518-584-1812 or 518-396-8430. Profits from this fundraiser will go towards building repairs and support for their mission team.

May 17th, after 4pm Mass: Spring Fever BBQ at Notre Dame Visitation (18 Pearl Street) – Enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers, and barbecue sides (limit of 2 meat items per person). The cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 10.

May 18th, 11am: Composting Workshop at Hudson Crossing Park – A free workshop offered by Sustainable Saratoga to learn how and why to set up a residential composting unit. All material provided for Schuylerville Village residents. Village residents can pre-order at info@villageofschuylerville.org or by calling 518-695-3881

May 18th, after 3pm Mass: La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe at NDV – All are welcome, there will be tamales, chalupas, quesadillas, gorditas, and Jarritos available for purchase

May 21st, 6:30pm: May Consistory Meeting in Loomis Hall

May 24th, 10am-4pm: "Open the House" at Camp Fowler – Camp Fowler is looking for assistance in tackling a long list of work projects ahead of the campers' return in June. They will have tasks suited to all ages and ability levels. Work projects will be happening from 10am and 4pm, and you can join for lunch at noon. Pre-registration is required, you can see more information and/or sign up on their website here: <https://www.campfowler.org/events/open-the-house>

June 1st, 12pm: Family Fun Day at Notre Dame Visitation – All are welcome to join in the fun and bring a dish to share.

June 2nd: Schuylerville Village Trash Week begins – \$10 per household for special pink garbage sticker. You must register at the village office by Thursday May 29th if you would like to participate. Be sure to have trash curbside or in the alley by June 1st, but no earlier than May 25th.

PASTOR'S PONDER

'Tis the season for Spring flowers—bleeding hearts, daffodils, tulips, violets, emerging hosta and irises and day lilies and lilies of the valley, with the promise of lilacs ahead. It is also the season for exams as all of our students, as well as ministry candidates, prepare for the next season of their lives.

This past week, I sat in with other ministers and elders of the Schenectady Classis to hear the oral exams, administered by the classis, of 3 candidates for ordination, and 3 ministers seeking to transfer into the RCA and into our classis from another denomination (the CRC—Christian Reformed Church). It was quite an interesting collection of folks and their gifts, and most did impressively well... but I confess, I came away with an overwhelming sense of age. I calculated that I have about forty+ years of life experience on all of them, and it surprised me to recognize and remember how much my own (aged!) mentors through that process contributed to my formation. I hoped I could faithfully in some way fill the big shoes those nearly-all-now-dead-- and all men!— walked in. But it feels both very odd to me, and honestly, an honor, to be one of the oldest people in the room! We all prayed that God will use us to the best of our God-given abilities.

I wanted to share with—or remind you of—the standards for ministry in the RCA that are reflected in the exams we take to be ordained, so below is a picture that makes it clear. All of the candidates examined were required to answer questions in each category—I used to call it, when it was me on the hot seat, The Spanish Inquisition! It's not really “out to get you”, but nowadays, male or female, the intent of the questions is to share knowledge, breadth and depth and faithful understanding, of each of the required sections of examination. “Back in my day”, there were still a couple of classis men who were unconvinced that a woman should “legally” be *allowed* to serve as an ordained minister—a challenge I also had to answer to in my first two Calls to serve. I love the change of not being known as “the first woman minister” at Old Saratoga!



And finally, I'm sharing the following verses from the devotional Bible passage from Ephesians 3 that opened our time together in preparation for the exams. We were asked to take notice of words or phrases that stood out for us, and these sentences are mine, verses 20-21:

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Amen! May God bless you and keep you! In faith-- *Pastor Susan*



Hymns of Our Faith
Analysis and thoughts from Pastor Susan

(Giving Richard Behrens a break!)

“But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” John 14:17

“Come Down, O Love Divine!” Hymn #304 in our hymnal

According to the information on the bottom of the hymnal page of this Pentecost hymn, the words were penned by Richard F. Littledale in 1867, after Bianco da Siena, 15th C. (More about them in a moment.). The tune, called Down Ampney, is attributed to Ralph Vaughan Williams more “recently”, in 1906. Right there—that’s a lot of history for this prayerful, inspiring hymn.

Wordsmith Richard Frederick Littledale was born in Dublin, Ireland, on 14 September 1833, the fourth son of an auctioneer. (For reference, the Irish Potato Famine was 1845-52. It is said that he suffered from chronic ill-health, which one wonders perhaps stemmed from food deprivations during his growing, adolescent years.) Nevertheless, Littledale continued with great success through higher education, including Trinity College and Oxford, and eventually became a father confessor in the Church of England. He authored many books in support of Anglicanism, including *The People’s Hymnal* in 1867, which contained his translation of “Discendi amor santo”, a poem by Bianco da Siena (1350 - 1399) which became the inspiration for the hymn, “Come Down, O Love Divine”. Da Siena was a popular Italian mystic poet in the Middle Ages.

The roots of our hymnody—and Christian spirituality—run deep!

“Come Down, O Love Divine” is usually sung for the festival of Pentecost, coming up in just a month or so, on June 8. It makes reference to the descent of the Holy Spirit as an invocation to God to come into the soul of the believer.

That just leaves us with... who was composer Ralph Vaughan Williams?! Therein lies a tale with some surprises (for those of us who enjoy the show, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, I’ll just hint that he had some interesting forebears!). But that’s a story for another *Jacob’s Well*!

*Come down, O Love divine, seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.*

Financial Update

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 3/31/25)					
		Missions			
Organization	Budget	Carryover	Received	Paid	Balance
Albany Synod Mission	\$100.00				\$0.00
Quarterly Ministries	\$800.00		\$210.00	\$205.00	\$5.00
ADK Save a Stray	\$100.00		\$85.00		\$85.00
Wellspring	\$110.00		August		
Camperships	\$300.00				\$0.00
Gateway House of Peace	\$110.00		June		
Bottles/Cans Ministries	\$600.00	\$3,021.93	\$37.00		\$3,058.93
Things of My Very Own	\$110.00		July		
Community Hospice	\$110.00		\$78.00	\$110.00	(\$32.00)
Disaster Relief	\$200.00				\$0.00
SAIL	\$100.00		December		
Rebuilding Together	\$150.00		September		
Prospect Hill	\$30.00				\$0.00
Caring & Sharing	\$115.00		\$85.00	\$115.00	(\$30.00)
Schuyler Hose	\$125.00		October		
Saratoga Bridges	\$110.00		May		
Habitat for Humanity	\$100.00		April		
Shelters of Saratoga	\$100.00		November		
Giving Circle(Teacher)	\$312.00			\$312.00	(\$312.00)
General Missions			\$105.00		\$105.00
Deacons' Disc. Fund	\$100.00		\$650.00	\$250.00	\$400.00
Total Missions	\$3,782.00	\$3,021.93	\$1,250.00	\$992.00	\$3,279.93
Pastor's Disc. Fund	\$1,000.00	\$522.04		\$251.44	\$270.60
Capital Improv.		\$2,849.87	\$150.00		\$2,999.87
Memorial Fund			\$1,105.00		\$1,105.00
Total Designated Funds					\$7,655.40

Deacons' Fund by Month			
Jan. \$78	Apr. \$	Jul. \$	Oct. \$
Feb. \$85	May \$	Aug. \$	Nov. \$
Mar. \$85	Jun. \$	Sept. \$	Dec. \$
Quarterly Missions			
Drilling for Hope	Fowler	World Mission	Giving Circle
\$205.00	2: \$5.00	3: \$	4: \$

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2025 Fund Raisers (As of 4/7/25)				
	Income	Expenses	Profit	Profit
2024 Pecans	\$24.00		\$24.00	NA
Souper Supper	\$698.00	\$118.64	\$579.36	83.00%
Lasagna Dinner	\$2,489.50	\$540.86	\$1,948.64	78.27%
Yard Sale				
Harvest Dinner				
Pecans				
Holiday Sale				
Blue Box	\$408.05		\$408.05	100.00%
Total	\$3,619.55	\$659.50	\$2,960.05	
Note: There will be more money deposited and more expenses paid for the Lasagna Dinner				

NEXAMP SOLAR: OUR LIFETIME IMPACT

Since joining Nexamp we have generated 71609 kWh of clean energy. This is equivalent to:

110510 lbs of CO2 emissions 1268 trees planted 121735 air miles avoided 3043 gallons of gasoline saved



May Missions 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.

CHURCH FAMILY

May Birthdays

5/4: Sheryl Norton
5/8: Paula Hayes Sheely
5/10: Bridget Critelli
5/11: Mark Booth
5/11: Paulette Foote
5/15: Myra Edgar
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, Bill Olmert

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

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.

GRATITUDE CORNER

THANKS EXTENDED:

Thank you to all those who contributed to and joined us for our Palm Sunday Potluck Breakfast.

Thank you to all the participants and attendees of this year's Ecumenical Lenten services.

THANKS RECEIVED FROM:

Karen Flewelling from Drilling for Hope, thanking us for our continued support of her work in Africa. She states that our donation will be put towards a well at a school in Togo. She also thanks us for prayers of healing following her recent surgery.

WELCOME!

On Sunday, April 27th, great-grandmother Duffy Whitehouse presented Kevin and Melanie Casey to have their daughter Paisley Ann Casey be baptized, with godparents Patrick and Mia Mehan standing alongside them. It was a joy to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on a beautiful Sunday morning, and we welcome Paisley into our church family and the Family of Christ.

UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES:

A graveside service for Florence Brown will be held Thursday, May 1st, at 2:00pm at Briggs Cemetery in Ballston Spa. Her obituary can be found online at armerfuneralhome.com.

A graveside service for Chauncey Mabb will be held on Friday, May 9th, at 11am at the Glens Falls Cemetery. His obituary can be found online on the Flynn Bros. website.

If you remember Florence and Chauncey, you are welcome to attend. The Rev. Joyce deVelder will be officiating.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Florence Sherman, Alicia Lewie, Trevor Mellen, Gerry Barber, Claire Houston, Sue and Gene Usher, Carolyn Markwith, Naomi Thayer, Sheryl Norton, Bonnie Garrand & Family, Michele Gordon & Family, Richard Behrens, The Garney & Stealey Families

Sacrament of Holy Communion: May 4th

Stay for Coffee Hour Fellowship every Sunday following worship!



Old Saratoga Reformed Church

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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