

# JACOB'S WELL

## JULY/AUGUST 2025



**July 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Greeter: Duffy Whitehouse

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Anne Mitchell

Counters: Mark Booth, Cindy Brockman

Communion Setup: Mark Booth

Communion Servers: Cindy Brockman,  
Bridget Critelli

Communion Cleanup: Bill Olmert

**July 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Greeter: Bill Olmert

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Duffy Whitehouse

Counters: Bruce Guerineau, Anne Mitchell

**July 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Greeter: Richard Behrens

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Kim Thayer

Counters: Bridget Critelli, Bill Olmert

**July 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Greeter: Karl Thayer

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Anne Mitchell

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Bill Olmert

**Liturgy Readings**

**July 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Readings:** 2 Kings 5:1-14      Psalm 30  
Isaiah 66:10-14      Psalm 66:1-9  
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

**July 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Readings:** Amos 7:7-17      Psalm 82  
Deuteronomy 30:9-14  
Psalm 25:1-10  
Colossians 1:1-14  
Luke 10:25-37

**July 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Readings:** Amos 8:1-12      Psalm 52  
Genesis 18:1-10a      Psalm 15  
Colossians 1:1-15-28  
Luke 10:38-42

**July 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Readings:** Hosea 1:2-10      Psalm 85  
Genesis 18:20-32      Psalm 138  
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)  
Luke 11:1-13

### **August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Greeter: Cindy Brockman

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Duffy Whitehouse

Counters:

Communion Setup:

Communion Servers:

Communion Cleanup: Richard Behrens

### **August 10<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

Greeter: Janice Cornell

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Bridget Critelli

Counters:

### **August 17<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Greeter: Bridget Critelli

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Kim Thayer

Counters:

### **August 24<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Greeter: Anne Mitchell

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Duffy Whitehouse

Counters:

### **August 31<sup>st</sup>**

#### **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

Greeter: Jean Wells

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Kim Thayer

Counters:

### **Liturgy Readings**

#### **August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Readings:** Hosea 11:1-11  
Psalm 107:1-9, 43  
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23  
Psalm 49:1-12  
Colossians 3:1-11  
Luke 12:13-21

#### **August 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Readings:** Isaiah 1:1, 10-20  
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23  
Genesis 15:1-6  
Psalm 33:12-22  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16  
Luke 12:32-40

#### **August 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Readings:** Isaiah 5:1-7  
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19  
Jeremiah 23:23-29  
Psalm 82  
Hebrews 11:29-12:2  
Luke 12:49-56

#### **August 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Readings:** Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
Isaiah 58:9b-14      Psalm 103:1-8  
Hebrews 12:18-29  
Luke 13:10-17

#### **August 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Readings:** Jeremiah 2:4-13  
Psalm 81:1, 10-16  
Proverbs 25:6-7      Psalm 112  
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16  
Luke 14:1, 7-14



**The next 2 SAFER Sundays will be on July 13<sup>th</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup>.** Updated lists of their current needs will be printed in the Sunday bulletin each month, ideally 2 weeks ahead.

**Their current needs list includes:** canned soup of any kind, cooking oil, salad dressing, peanut butter, cereal

*SAFER is, of course, grateful to accept any donations that come their way. Every little bit helps!*



## PASTOR'S PONDER

Tammy Renée sang and witnessed for those who attended the ecumenical Safe Summer Supper hosted here at Old Saratoga on the evening of Wednesday, June 25. In the words of one of her YouTube spots, this native of Tennessee –

“Shares a piece of her heart. Tammy is a gospel recording artist who has a heart for people. To show them the same love, mercy and grace that God showed her. To show the love of God to all with no judgment. Tammy Renee travels the country sharing her testimony, music and heart wherever God opens a door. She only goes for a love offering and loves on people. Tammy has sung on big and small stages, won a few awards and been nominated for several, including a Dove award.

"Awards and Trophies are great but they are not my heart," Tammy says. "My heart is for souls."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zI5CWQK8uO4>

Tammy brought with her on this multi-legged tour, her husband Lee and three teenage grandsons in an older model station wagon, pulling a small box trailer for her equipment behind. Her concert was from the heart and faithfully, throughout the vagaries of life, lyrically pointing to Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our Help and Guide. It was truly professional and very well packaged. Her voice, even following a heart attack with the medical notice that the intubation tubes will have altered her throat, is wonderful and true (think of the vocal quality of Loretta Lynn or Tammy Wynette). I wish more of the community had been able to come—but on that HOT early summer night, even moved indoors out of the worst of it into a much cooler Loomis Hall, the crowd we had at the buffet line and tables filled the space “just right” with fans blowing in every direction!

It was a joy for me to sit at the table with friends, neighbors, other church folks from around the area with their ministers, and hear the Good News of the sustaining love of God in Jesus Christ preached through Tammy’s musical talent and testimony: a change of pace from my beloved Reformed Church tradition to be sure-- which is the point of ecumenism after all. We hold fast together to our common faith in Jesus Christ, and benefit by opportunities throughout the year to experience and share our traditions with one another.

I highly recommend that you make a point of attending the next occasion when we all come together in Christian fellowship and worship; it may be life-changing. It is certainly life-enhancing!

Yours in faith, Pastor Susan

p.s. This summer’s Sunday morning worship theme is, “Spend the Summer With Luke”. Join us!

# *Hymns of Our Faith*

## *Analysis and thoughts from Richard Behrens*

*“Sing to the Lord, ye saints of God. (Psalm 30:4)*

### ***“Pentecostal Power”***

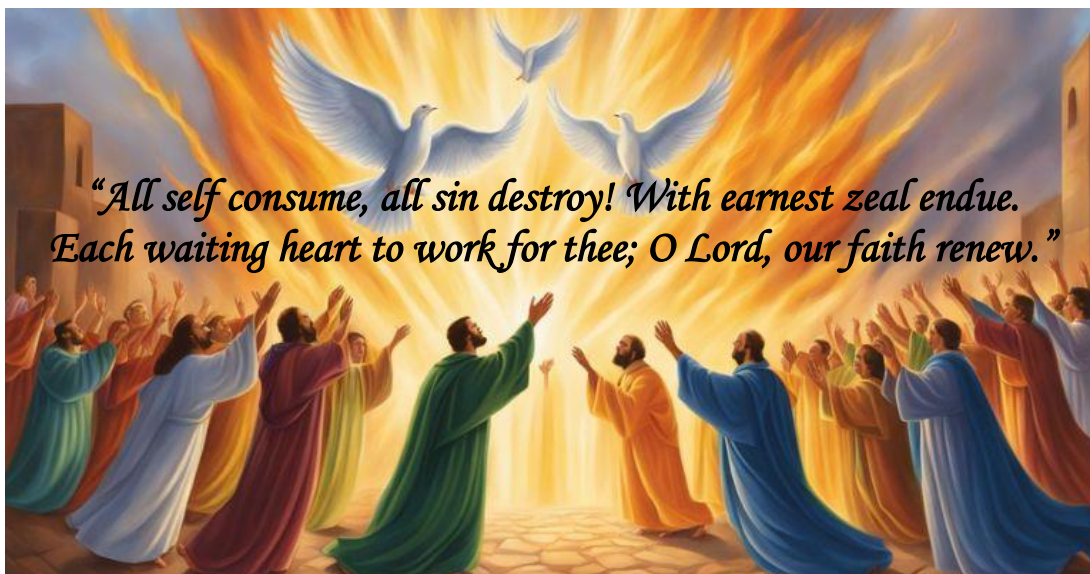
“Lord, as of old at Pentecost thou didst thy power display,  
With cleansing, purifying power, descend on us we pray.  
Lord, send the old-time power, the Pentecostal power,  
Thy flood gates of blessing on us throw open wide.  
Lord, send the old-time power, the Pentecostal power,  
That sinners be converted and thy name glorified.”

With the fifty days of Easter having ended, we now enter the liturgical season of Pentecost. We recall Jesus’ instructions to his disciples to gather and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them, empowering them to spread the Gospel to all the world, and to continue Jesus’ ministry. Believers in our day are part of this tradition. We are bearers of the Good News, and we, like the first disciples, must be empowered and filled by the Holy Spirit.

In the two-thousand-year history of the Christian Church, spiritual revival was a phenomenon that occurred periodically, usually in response to rampant moral decline and a turning away from honoring God. The first, and most notable among several revivals, was the Great Awakening of the 1740s. The 19<sup>th</sup> century alone gave rise to several such revival movements. In many parts of America, the turning of the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century was a time of spiritual revival, soon followed by spiritual decline during the “roaring twenties”.

The hymn “Pentecostal Power” was written in the year 1912. Both its lyrics and melody reflect the revival spirit. The lyrics allude strongly to the Bible text found in the early chapters of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles and the ensuing ministries of the early Christians. References to the promise of the Holy Spirit, fire, power, and God’s mighty deeds are evident in both.

Charles Hutchinson Gabriel (1856-1932), an Iowan, was a composer and lyricist of gospel songs and tunes and is credited with over 7,000 musical works. He came from a “musical family” but is reported as having no formal training in music. He traveled extensively in the United States, spreading the joy that came from singing about God’s love and mercy. Among his most loved hymns are “Send the Light,” “Wonderful Love of Jesus,” and “O That Will be Glory.” His range of compositions was broad and included many sacred cantatas. He served as music director at Grace Methodist Episcopal Church in San Francisco. His later work in Christian music found him serving as an editor for Rodeheaver Publishing in Chicago.



# Financial Update

| Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 5/31/25) |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  |                   | Missions          |                   |                   |                   |
| Organization   | Budget            | Carryover         | Received          | Paid              | Balance           |
| Albany Synod Mission   | \$100.00          |                   |                   |                   | \$0.00            |
| Quarterly Ministries   | \$800.00          |                   | \$265.00          | \$205.00          | \$60.00           |
| ADK Save a Stray   | \$100.00          |                   | \$85.00           | \$100.00          | (\$15.00)         |
| 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          |                   | \$55.00           |                   | \$55.00           |
| Habitat for Humanity   | \$100.00          |                   | \$58.00           | \$100.00          | (\$42.00)         |
| Shelters of Saratoga   | \$100.00          |                   | November          |                   |                   |
| Giving Circle(Teacher)   | \$312.00          |                   |                   | \$312.00          | (\$312.00)        |
| General Missions   |                   |                   | \$175.00          |                   | \$175.00          |
| Deacons' Disc. Fund  | \$100.00          |                   | \$650.00          | \$250.00          | \$400.00          |
| <b>Total Missions</b>  | <b>\$3,782.00</b> | <b>\$3,021.93</b> | <b>\$1,488.00</b> | <b>\$1,192.00</b> | <b>\$3,317.93</b> |
|  |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Pastor's Disc. Fund</b>                                     | \$1,000.00        | \$522.04          |                   | \$326.39          | \$195.65          |
|  |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Capital Improv.</b>   |                   | \$2,849.87        | \$150.00          |                   | \$2,999.87        |
|  |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Memorial Fund</b>   |                   |                   | \$1,255.00        |                   | \$1,255.00        |
|  |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>                                  |                   |                   |                   |                   | <b>\$7,768.45</b> |



| Deacons' Fund by Month   |               |                      |                      |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Jan. \$78                | Apr. \$58     | Jul. \$              | Oct. \$              |
| Feb. \$85                | May \$55      | Aug. \$              | Nov. \$              |
| Mar. \$85                | Jun. \$       | Sept. \$             | Dec. \$              |
| Quarterly Missions       |               |                      |                      |
| <b>Drilling for Hope</b> | <b>Fowler</b> | <b>World Mission</b> | <b>Giving Circle</b> |
| \$205.00                 | 2: \$60.00    | 3: \$                | 4: \$                |

| Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2025 Fund Raisers (As of 5/31/25) |                   |                 |                   |         |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------|
|   | Income            | Expenses        | Profit            | Profit  |
| <b>2024 Pecans</b>  | \$24.00           |                 | \$24.00           | NA      |
| <b>Souper Supper</b>  | \$698.00          | \$118.64        | \$579.36          | 83.00%  |
| <b>Lasagna Dinner</b>   | \$2,489.50        | \$540.86        | \$1,948.64        | 78.27%  |
| <b>Yard Sale</b>  |                   |                 |                   |         |
| <b>Harvest Dinner</b>   |                   |                 |                   |         |
| <b>Pecans</b>   |                   |                 |                   |         |
| <b>Holiday Sale</b>   |                   |                 |                   |         |
| <b>Blue Box</b>   | \$575.20          |                 | \$575.20          | 100.00% |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$3,786.70</b> | <b>\$659.50</b> | <b>\$3,127.20</b> |         |

## Summer Mission 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 their services for survivors are free, confidential, and non-judgmental. They 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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Yard Sale Volunteers:** We are going to be looking for volunteers to help sort and price items, set up tables ahead of the sale, and to help run the sale on the day of. We will also be looking for bakers for the bake sale. If you can help in any way please be sure to sign up, many hands make light work! Keep an eye out for volunteer signup sheets, they should be out soon if they aren't out already.

**Yard Sale Donations:** We will begin accepting yard sale donations of CLOTHING ONLY starting sometime in July. We will make announcements when we have a specific date, as well as when we will begin accepting donations of other items.

*Once we begin accepting donations, please try to get your items to the church as early as possible so our volunteers have ample time to sort and price them ahead of the sale.*

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

**July 20<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12pm: Pollinator Plant Sale at Hudson Crossing Park** – HCP will be offering native plants grown in and for our eco-region. At 10am there will be a walking tour of the pollinator gardens and the Allee of the Oaks with the garden keepers. Registration is appreciated for the walking tour. You can register on the Hudson Crossing Park website.

**August 9<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm: Annual Cardboard Boat Races in Hudson Crossing Park:** On-site boat building begins at 9am, the first race kicks off at 1pm. More information about race rules, registration, fees, etc. can be found on the event page on the HCP website: <https://www.hudsoncrossingpark.org/cardboard-boat-races>

**September 13<sup>th</sup>: Annual Yard Sale at OSRC**

**October 15<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm: Craft Fair at Cavalry Episcopal Church (85 Lake Hill Road, Burnt Hills)** – Vendors Wanted! \$20 for an inside booth, \$15 for an outside booth (check or money order). Handcrafted items only, all vendors are asked to donate one item for raffle. Food trucks on site. Contact for vendor form: [rdrummond@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rdrummond@nycap.rr.com) 518-339-1951



You're invited to Local Mission 2025, a two-day gathering hosted by RCA Global Mission that is designed to collaborate and explore what being missional in our local context can look like and how our congregation and community can thrive through our efforts to live and love like Jesus right where we are. This is an ideal opportunity for people who are passionate about loving and serving their neighbors. Topics will include responding to natural disasters, how to start and sustain a local ministry, how to be inclusive through disability ministries, and so much more. Whether you're just starting to explore what local mission could look like or you're ready to expand your reach, this event offers practical steps, inspiration, and meaningful connections to help you move forward.



September 23–24, 2025



Cost: \$100 (Travel and lodging not included)



DeWitt Ministry Center, Grand Rapids, MI



Registration closes September 9, 2025

Register now: [www.rca.org/local-mission-2025](http://www.rca.org/local-mission-2025)

# RCA NEWS

## **News from General Synod 2025**

Several dozen leaders from within the Regional Synod of Albany were in Tucson, Arizona from June 5 to 10 to be part of the RCA General Synod. Over these six days there were inspiring times of worship, reports from many councils and committees, opportunities to hear from leaders within the denominations, and voting on a wide variety of motions. Go to [rca.org/synod](https://rca.org/synod) to see all the details.

The most significant item of business was the final vote on restructuring. After the restructuring proposals were passed at the 2024 General Synod and were supported by a super-majority of classes, this year's General Synod made the final vote to have one level of assembly between consistories and General Synod. The functions of the classis and Regional Synod will now belong to a single assembly, to be officially called the Middle Assembly. All the changes will be implemented by December 30, 2026.

## **Middle Assembly Transition Teams: Are You Called to Serve?**

**From Rev. Dirk Geiser, President Regional Synod of Albany**

The Regional Synod of Albany is embarking on a significant and hopeful transition toward the new "Middle Assembly" structure that is happening across the RCA.

To guide this process, as agreed at our May 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, two distinct Transition Teams are being formed. One team will focus on developing the "Upstate New York Middle Assembly Proposal." The second will shape a separate Middle Assembly initiated by a request from the Montgomery Classis.

These teams will spend the summer developing a clear vision, initial structure, and proposed function for each new body. Their foundational work will be presented for consideration at a special session of Albany Synod on Saturday, October 25, setting the course for our future doing God's work in this region.

This is a crucial moment for shaping what is to come. Albany Synod Executive Committee is building these teams with individuals who are committed to the future of the RCA, possessed of a vision for what could be, and willing to contribute their time and energy with generosity.

Beyond the primary team members, we are also seeking folks who have specific skills or expertise to offer as resource people.

Classis clerks are the primary source of recommendations for membership on the transition teams. However, ASEC is also open to receiving nominations from other quarters. **If you are interested in volunteering to help guide this restructuring process, or to offer specific skill (e.g., legal), please complete the application form linked here** <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2ZAJhM2HvG8W6YI3Tqpf7O9ZKLpUhEneP49NAZM2zAt1Uxg/viewform> **by June 30, so your willingness to serve can be considered.**



# CHURCH FAMILY

## July Birthdays

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

## July Anniversaries

7/20: Mark & Patti Booth

## August Birthdays

8/10: Brian Richards  
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

## August Anniversaries

8/2: Dale & Christine Cox  
8/3: Joyce & David de Velder  
8/8: Pam & Joe Driscoll  
8/15: Gene & Sue Usher



## **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](mailto:revskerr@gmail.com)

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

## GRATITUDE CORNER

Thank you to Jean Myers for hosting the Bible Study group for a luncheon at her home to close out the Ecumenical Bible Study season.

Thank you to Duffy Whitehouse for once again hosting the Church Family Picnic at her stunningly situated home.

Thank you to the members of the Schuylerville Area Ecumenical Council and all who volunteered their time and effort to put together this year's Safe Summer Picnic. A special thank you to gospel singer Tammy Renee for performing at the picnic, and to Christopher Tucker, Bridget Critelli, and Richard Behrens for their site assistance.

Thank you to Jim Brockman and Karl Thayer for fixing the broken window in the parsonage.

Thank you to Karl Thayer for organizing the driveway work.

Thank you to all others that commit their time and talents to the church throughout the year.

## OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

Florence Sherman and her family on the passing of her brother, Robert Demetras.

Bridget Critelli and her family on the passing of her paternal grandmother.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Florence Sherman, Alicia Lewie, Trevor Mellen, Gerry Barber, Claire Houston, Sue & Gene Usher, Carolyn Markwith, Sheryl Norton, Richard Behrens, Janice Cornell

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## CONGRATS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Bridget Behrens & Nadine Barton

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## **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: July 6<sup>th</sup> & August 3<sup>rd</sup>

Stay for Coffee Hour Fellowship 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

E-Mail: [oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com](mailto:oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com)

[www.old-saratoga.rcachurches.org](http://www.old-saratoga.rcachurches.org)

[www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch)

Phone: 518-695-3479