

JACOB'S WELL

JUNE 2025

June 1st

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Greeter: Janice Cornell

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Bridget Critelli

Counters: Bridget Critelli, Mark Booth

Communion Setup: Bridget Critelli

Communion Servers: Bridget Critelli,

Mark Booth, Pastor Susan

Communion Cleanup: Anne Mitchell

June 8th

Pentecost

Greeter: Bridget Critelli

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Richard Behrens

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Bruce Guerineau

June 15th

First Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Anne Mitchell

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Karl Thayer

Counters: Bill Olmert, Cindy Brockman

June 22nd

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Jean Wells

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Mark Booth

June 29th

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Kim Thayer

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Bill Olmert

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Bruce Guerineau



Liturgy Readings

June 1st

Readings: Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

June 8th

Readings: Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21
John 14:8-17, (25-27)

June 15th

Readings: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

June 22nd

Readings: 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a
Psalm 42 and 43
Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 29th

Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21
Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62



PASTOR'S PONDER

Psalm 118 begins with a line that is repeated over and over again in the Bible:

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!"

That declaration is a testament to a key facet of God's character: Enduring Love for all of creation, for all living beings, for... you. There are times in life when you simply have to enjoy the moment and give thanks to God for the goodness, letting go of your worries and fears and challenges so that you can absolutely bask in the beauty of the gift. And thus, I think of those words frequently these days—they spring easily to mind as I putter in the yard once again: There was the year I proudly harvested my first ever cucumber from the parsonage yard, and gleefully ate it at

lunchtime, expecting many more to come. Those expectations were dashed by the invasion of the suburban deer herd that took up residence in the neighborhood, using all our tended yards as their personal buffet. So instead, I enjoyed observing the regular presence of triplet fawns, often parked in the yard to nap while their mother made her rounds of the neighborhood bounty—a kind of "making lemonade out of lemons"!

This year, I was given a gift—O give thanks to the Lord!—in the glorious and fragrant blooming of a little stick of a lilac that I planted in hope two years ago. I expect a lilac to take three to five years to produce a flower, but this little one surprised me with not one but two lovely and heavenly scented blooms!

I think of that unexpected beauty as we struggle through yet another year of denominational meetings fraught with the undertones of opposing opinions about what God thinks of human sexuality and relationships. Honestly, it gets tired! Using scarce and strictly contextual verses as foundation for the argument that God limits love, simply feels way off the mark as it continues to derail and dissect the church's ability to function as the Body of Christ in the world, where we are called to be united in God's love and gathered around one Table of communion and grace!

And so, I give thanks for small gifts along the way, such as being part of the Schenectady Classis, which is steadfast in seeking Christ's love in every good thing. As we restructure our dwindling denomination, the Classis has stood together to send a letter to the Regional Synod Restructuring Committee reminding them in part about our bylaws, which state:

I.4 The Classis of Schenectady celebrates the wide diversity of people within its bounds. As such, the classis does not discriminate against its candidates, members and delegates on the basis of gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, race, color, national or ethnic origin, or disability nor does it prevent consistories and congregations from holding differing views on matters of same-sex marriage and affirmation of LGBTQ+ persons.

I.5 If individual members of classis find that their consciences, as illumined by Scripture, would not permit them to participate in the licensure, ordination or installation of LGBTQ+ persons as Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, they shall not be required to participate in decisions or actions contrary to their consciences, but may not obstruct the classis in fulfilling its responsibility to arrange for the care, ordination, and installation of LGBTQ+ candidates and ministers by means mutually agreed on by such persons and the classis.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!"

Let THAT mantra be our focus as we restructure, rather than any human divisiveness. And may we celebrate each small victory as an unexpected gift of grace!

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)

Because He Lives

*“Because he lives I can face tomorrow;
Because he lives all fear is gone;
Because I know who holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because he lives”*

These words are the refrain to what is for many people, the favorite of all the music written by contemporary gospel music writers Bill and Gloria Gaither. “The Gaithers said that the refrain reflected their awareness that our world is filled with injustices, betrayal of national and personal trust, bigotry, greed, and immorality”.¹ But in the midst of an atmosphere of uncertainty, we have the assurance of the Lordship of the risen Christ.

During this season of Eastertide, let us all rejoice in the knowledge that our Redeemer lives and reigns.

Our hope is in the risen Christ who told us in his Word:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPW9xYEvijQ>

1. The Worshiping Church: A Hymnal. Worship Leaders Edition. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL, 1991, P. 238.

Financial Update

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 4/30/25)					
		Missions			
Organization	Budget	Carryover	Received	Paid	Balance
Albany Synod Mission	\$100.00				\$0.00
Quarterly Ministries	\$800.00		\$215.00	\$205.00	\$10.00
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		May		
Habitat for Humanity	\$100.00		\$58.00		\$58.00
Shelters of Saratoga	\$100.00		November		
Giving Circle(Teacher)	\$312.00			\$312.00	(\$312.00)
General Missions			\$125.00		\$125.00
Deacons' Disc. Fund	\$100.00		\$650.00	\$250.00	\$400.00
Total Missions	\$3,782.00	\$3,021.93	\$1,333.00	\$1,092.00	\$3,262.93
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			\$1,155.00		\$1,155.00
Total Designated Funds					\$7,688.40

Deacons' Fund by Month			
Jan. \$78	Apr. \$58	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: \$10.00	3: \$	4: \$

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2025 Fund Raisers (As of 4/30/25)				
	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	

June Mission 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: Gateway House of Peace

Founded in 2006 by Joni Hanchett, Gateway House of Peace is a community support home for end-of-life care, dedicated to providing a safe, comfortable and caring residence for terminally ill patients in need of a home during their final days. Located in Ballston Spa, the facility has beds for two residents at a time and offers a home-like setting – including a spacious living room, fully equipped kitchen, and large dining room table for home cooked meals – so that residents, families, and friends can spend their last days together in a comfortable, compassionate, and peaceful environment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The last Bible Study session for the season will be on June 4th. We will resume meetings again in September.

The last choir worship participation will be on Pentecost on June 8th; rehearsals will resume again in the fall.

Beginning Sunday June 8th, we will be implementing “S.A.F.E.R. Second Sunday”, where on the second Sunday of every month we will be collecting donations for the local food pantry. Stay tuned for their wishlist!

We are planning to begin accepting donations for the September yard sale of **CLOTHING ONLY** starting in July. A date for donations of other items has not been decided at this time. Stay tuned for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 5th, 9:30am-3:30pm: WIC Clinic at OSRC

June 8th, 11:30am: Room for All Capital Pride Parade at Washington Park, Albany – All Room for All congregations and friends are welcome to join the Room for All group in the parade. Kickoff is at 11:30am. All are welcome to join at 10am for a 30-minute Pentecost and Pride-themed drive-in worship service at The First Church in Albany (110 N Pearl Street, Albany) before the parade. For more information or to sign up to join the parade group, email treytirpak@gmail.com.

June 11th, 6:30pm: June Consistory Meeting

June 21st, 10am-1pm: The Great Collaborative Potluck at Lynwood Reformed Church (3714 Carman Road, Schenectady) – You are invited to join for a feast and fellowship sponsored by the Albany Synod Collaborative Ministry Learning Committee. Let's wonder together about how to better support one another as church leaders and congregations as we collaborate and encourage one another in ministry. Bring something to share, a dish or just your presence. For questions reach out to the CLMC coordinator, Greg Town, at gntown@gmail.com.



Church Family Picnic

Kindly hosted by Duffy Whitehouse at her home

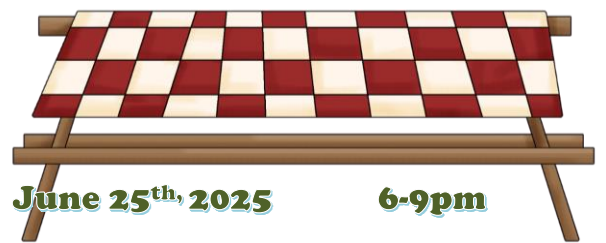
June 22nd, 2025 after worship

Please sign up if you plan to attend!



SAVE THE DATE!

**Safe Summer Picnic on the Lawn at
Old Saratoga Reformed Church**



June 25th, 2025

6-9pm

**Featuring live music performance by
gospel singer Tammy Renee! Rain or
shine!**

CHURCH FAMILY

June Birthdays

6/3: Dale Cox
6/3: Kylie Dyke
6/5: Chris Garney
6/5: Bonnie Garrand
6/5: Eric Richards
6/9: Rich Zotzmann
6/11: Gerry Barber
6/12: Pam Driscoll
6/15: Mellenie Rose Booth
6/16: Nicholas Casey
6/17: Ajay Deyoe
6/21: Matthew Waldinger
6/23: Olivia Edgar
6/24: Jenny Middlebrook
6/25: Patti Zotzmann
6/28: Wally Kroner
6/29: Sue Hughes

June Anniversaries

6/9: Jean Stark & Walter Kroner
6/25: Cindy & Jim Brockman

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

GRATITUDE CORNER

THANKS EXTENDED:

Thank you to Richard Behrens for his tireless work in leading us through another Bible Study Season.

Thank you to Christopher Tucker for leading the choir in another wonderful year of music, and to all who faithfully participated in making our services meaningful and joyful by sharing the gift of music!

THANKS RECEIVED FROM:

Adirondack Save-A-Stray for our donation of \$100

OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

The family, friends, and loved ones of Naomi Thayer on her passing. Please keep Karl and his family in your prayers.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Florence Sherman, Alicia Lewie, Trevor Mellen, Gerry Barber, Claire Houston, Sue & Gene Usher, Carolyn Markwith, Sheryl Norton, Richard Behrens, and all those who are in recovery and receiving treatments.



Bequests have often made all the difference to a church's ability to continue to serve God and share the Gospel in ministry or close its doors. Look around Old Saratoga! How many memorial dedications can you identify that have enriched our worship or ministries? Have you remembered the church in your will?

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: June 1st

Stay for Coffee Hour Fellowship every Sunday following worship!



Old Saratoga Reformed Church

48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville NY 12871

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

E-Mail: oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com

www.old-saratoga.rcachurches.org

www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch

Phone: 518-695-3479