

JACOB'S WELL

SEPTEMBER 2025



September 7th

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Kim Thayer

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Cindy Brockman

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Bridget Critelli

Communion Setup: Anne Mitchell

Communion Servers: Anne Mitchell,
Cindy Brockman

Communion Cleanup: Kim Thayer

September 14th

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Duffy Whitehouse

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Richard Behrens

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli

September 21st

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Richard Behrens

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Bridget Critelli

Counters: Mark Booth, Bill Olmert

September 28th

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Bill Olmert

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Karl Thayer

Counters: Bill Olmert, Cindy Brockman



Liturgy Readings

September 7th

Sermon: "The Way of the Righteous"

Readings: Psalm 1
Luke 14:25-33

***Fall Worship Series Begins 9/14:
"We Are the Church...LET'S ACT LIKE IT!"***

September 14th

Sermon: "Act with Power"

Readings: 1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 21st

Sermon: "Act with Generosity"

Readings: 1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 28th

Sermon: "Act with Acceptance"

Readings: 1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31



Sneak Peek: Upcoming Fall Series Themes

10/5: "Act with Creativity"

10/12: "Act with Preservation"

***10/19: Pastor Away*

10/26: "Act with Courage"

11/2: "Act as a Witness"

Pastor's Ponder



Another Big Old Tree has been taken down on the church property, and at first, I was pretty upset that a neighbor had written to us about a possible insurance liability issue caused by one of its big old branches stretching across the alley over the roofline of his building. But once it was down, it became exceedingly clear that in fact, this old tree had been a disaster waiting to happen!

I wonder how many of the other old trees around the church are secretly in a similar condition, and that presents both a concern, and the potential to rethink the general layout of the footprint of the property. The possibilities!!!

Is it time to consider adding some useful parking to the property in order to encourage and facilitate attendance? Is this a good time to think about placing a pedestrian “resting spot” with a prayer bench

and some landscaping around it somewhere on the grounds? Would there be any interest in a columbarium? A labyrinth? A Peace Pole? An apple tree (it’s biblical!)?

Your Consistory met on Saturday, July 12th to talk about church mission, attendance, membership, outreach, organization... and how God might be working in new ways here to encourage us to better share the Good News of the Gospel in this changed and changing world. Old Saratoga, to quote a movie line, has “a very particular set of skills, skills...acquired over a very long career”, since 1770 or so. How might we, who populate the pews and surrounding community of faith today, use the gifts we have been blessed with to be the church of NOW at Old Saratoga?

This second set of photos is what changed my mind about having taken down the tree. What would YOU do with this old stump, that dates back about 200 years?

With affection and curiosity,

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)***

“Come, All Christians, Be Committed”

***“Come, all Christians, be committed to the service of the Lord;
Make your lives for him more fitted, tune your hearts with one accord.
Come into his courts with gladness, all your sacred vows renew,
Turn away from sin and sadness, be transformed with life anew.”***

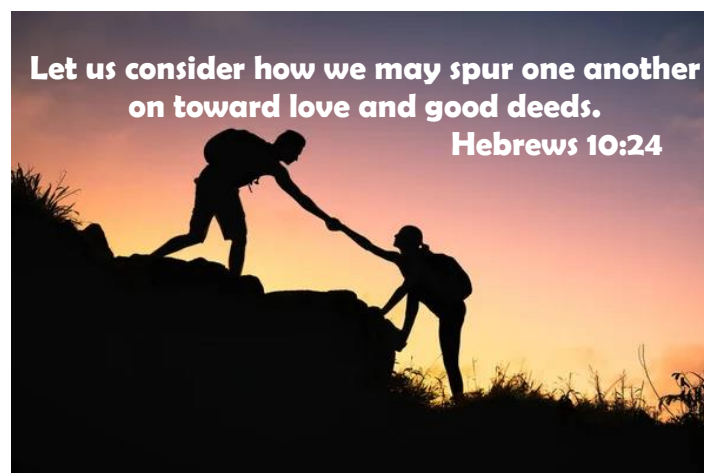
We will soon be celebrating Labor Day, a time to honor the American labor movement and the work and contributions of laborers to the life we enjoy in the United States. We might also take time to consider how we are each presently enriching the lives of others through our labors.

As followers of Christ, we should also consider our labors for God’s Kingdom here on Earth. We might well reflect on the vows made at our baptism, either for us or by us, “to advance God’s purposes here and throughout the world.”

In her hymn, “Come, All Christians, Be Committed”, Eva. B. Lloyd speaks “of our time and talents give ye, they are gifts from God above, to be used by Christians freely to proclaim his wondrous love.” The author “emphasizes personal responsibility to reject a detachment from earthly reality and to adopt a life characterized by stewardship and responsible participation in the ministry of the church.” ¹ We are exhorted to “consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” (Hebrews 10:24)

In the history of hymnody, Eva B. Lloyd (1912-2006) is known for this one hymn alone. A native Missourian, she labored as a public school teacher and taught English literature at the university level for 15 years.

***“Come in praise and adoration, all who on Christ’s name believe;
Worship him with consecration, grace and love will you receive.
For his grace give him the glory, for the Spirit and the Word,
And repeat the gospel story until all his name have heard.”***



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIcI1JoDsGE&list=RDTIcI1JoDsGE&start_radio=1

1. The Worshiping Church: A Hymnal, Worship Leaders’ Edition, Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL, 1991, p. 578

Financial Update

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 7/31/25)					
		Missions			
Organization	Budget	Carryover	Received	Paid	Balance
Albany Synod Mission	\$100.00				\$0.00
Quarterly Ministries	\$800.00		\$315.00	\$205.00	\$110.00
ADK Save a Stray	\$100.00		\$85.00	\$100.00	(\$15.00)
Wellspring	\$110.00		August		
Camperships	\$300.00			\$300.00	(\$300.00)
Gateway House of Peace	\$110.00		\$68.00	\$110.00	(\$42.00)
Bottles/Cans Ministries	\$600.00	\$3,021.93	\$247.45	\$410.00	\$2,859.38
Things of My Very Own	\$110.00		\$110.00		\$110.00
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	\$110.00	(\$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			\$255.00		\$255.00
Deacons' Disc. Fund	\$100.00		\$650.00	\$1,600.00	(\$950.00)
Total Missions	\$3,782.00	\$3,021.93	\$2,006.45	\$3,472.00	\$1,556.38
Pastor's Disc. Fund	\$1,000.00	\$522.04		\$480.35	\$41.69
Capital Improv.		\$2,849.87	\$150.00		\$2,999.87
Memorial Fund			\$1,255.00		\$1,255.00
Total Designated Funds					\$5,852.94

Deacons' Fund by Month			
Jan. \$78	Apr. \$58	Jul. \$110	Oct. \$
Feb. \$85	May \$55	Aug. \$	Nov. \$
Mar. \$85	Jun. \$68	Sept. \$	Dec. \$
Quarterly Missions			
Drilling for Hope	Fowler	World Mission	Giving Circle
\$205.00	2: \$110	3: \$	4: \$

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2025 Fund Raisers (As of 7/31/25)				
	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	\$889.00		\$889.00	100.00%
Total	\$4,100.50	\$659.50	\$3,441.00	

September Mission Giving

Quarterly Mission: RCA World Missions - Healthy Child Program - Nicaragua

Many children in Bluefields, Nicaragua, live in poverty with limited access to nutritious meals, health care, and educational resources. Tabitha's House Bluefields (THB) exists to develop programs that address these needs. THB has two feeding centers where they serve a healthy meal and share the gospel with 200 children daily.

September Deacon's Mission: Rebuilding Together

Rebuilding Together is a nonprofit focused on helping homeowners who are not capable of making necessary repairs to their homes, mainly focusing on older adults, individuals living with disabilities, active/retired members of the armed services, and families with children. They coordinate the volunteers, contractors, tools, and supplies necessary and fix the homes at no cost to the homeowner. The Saratoga County affiliate chapter of Rebuilding Together was founded in 2003 by Michelle Larkin, with support from her husband, Dan, her family and friends, and the National Rebuilding Together organization. The Larkin family had traveled with church groups to help rebuild homes in other cities and wondered if similar services might be needed in their own community. Thus, the Saratoga County chapter was born. Since its founding, the organization has repaired 1,506 homes, revitalized 109 nonprofit centers and community spaces, and replaced 30 substandard manufactured homes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13th, 8am-2pm – Yard Sale at OSRC

September 24th, 6:30pm – September Consistory Meeting

October 15th, 9am-3pm: Craft Fair at Calvary 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 518-339-1951

The Merry Musical Family: A Celebration of Dutch Composers – presented by Musicians of Ma'alwyck

This October, Musicians of Ma'alwyck presents a concert of rarely heard chamber music by Dutch composers of the 17th and 18th centuries, performed at three historically significant venues across the Capital Region. Featuring works by Pieter Hellendaal, Josef Schmitt (the "Dutch Haydn"), and Christian Graf, the program celebrates the longstanding cultural ties between the Netherlands and the Capital Region. To reserve tickets, visit: musiciansofmaalwyck.org or call 518-512-9479.

October 24th – Bethesda Episcopal Church, Saratoga Springs

October 26th – Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, Albany

November 2nd – First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

November 1st, 4pm: Ecumenical All Saint's Celebration at St. Stephen's Episcopal

November 8th: Ham Harvest Supper at OSRC

November 23rd, 3pm: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Fort Miller Reformed

December 6th: Holiday Sale at OSRC

December 7th, 3pm: Christmas Concert at OSRC

January 31st, 3-6pm: Souper Supper at OSRC



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.

Register now: www.rca.org/local-mission-2025 (registration closes on 9/9)

September 23–24, 2025

DeWitt Ministry Center, Grand Rapids, MI

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

RCA: UPCOMING SHORT TERM INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

South Africa – October 20-31, 2025

Bahrain (Young Adult Trip) – March 26-April 4, 2026

Europe Church Planting Week – May 2026

Peru (Young Adult Trip) – June 2026

For more information, please contact shortterm@rca.org. In addition to these trips, the RCA is available to curate a trip for you or your church group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is still time to volunteer for the yard sale! We need volunteers to help sort items, set up tables, run the sale on the day, and contribute goods for the bake sale. Anything you may be able to contribute helps. Without our volunteers our fundraisers would not be possible! Please check in with Bridget for where you might best be of help.



Any Suggestions?



A suggestion box has been placed in the vestibule. What kind of things would you like to see here? How can we get this church to grow? Please leave us a note with any ideas you may have. Thank you to those who have left suggestions for us already! Your consistory will be happy to consider all constructive ideas and queries.

The next season of Ecumenical Bible Study will begin on September 17th, led by Preaching Elder Richard Behrens. We will begin the season by continuing to study the life of the Biblical David – tender of sheep, national hero, great king, and sinner. Sessions are held on Wednesday mornings at 9:30am. All are welcome; please join us!



This is not homework, but if you would like to look ahead, the readings for the first session will be:

2 Samuel 7: 8b-17

2 Samuel 11:1-5, 14-17, 22-26

2 Samuel 12:1-15, 24-25

CONSISTORY STATUS FOR 2026

As a reminder, here are the current Consistory terms for 2025.

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.

Deacons

Bruce Guerineau: Term 3, Year 1 – serving second year of term 3 in 2026.

Cindy Brockman: Term 3, Year 1 – serving second year of term 3 in 2026.

Bridget Critelli: Term 2, Year 2 – eligible for re-election in 2026 for a 3rd term.

Elders

Mark Booth: Term 3, Year 1 – serving second year of term 3 in 2026.

Anne Mitchell: Term 1, Year 2 – eligible for re-election in 2026 for a 2nd term.

Bill Olmert: Term 1, Year 1 - serving second year of term 1 in 2026.

For 2026, we will need to elect/re-elect 1 deacon and 1 elder.

DRILLING FOR HOPE UPDATES

FROM KAREN FLEWELLING

Karen will be traveling to Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania, and Togo.

Ghana

This will be Karen's seventh trip to the Northern area of Ghana, specifically Bolgatanga. In the remote areas girls and women spend hours hauling dirty water for their families. Once a school gets a well, girls attend school on a regular basis and all lives are changed.

- \$31,200 will be used for 6 borehole wells with hand pumps
- \$1,500 will be used for school supplies
- \$3,000 will be used for goats and chickens
- \$1,500 will be used for clothing and shoes
- \$9,000 will be used for 3 nursing students, 1 teacher room/board/tuition/laptop
- \$10,000 will be used for medical school for 2 doctors

Senegal

The rural areas of Senegal face a lack of potable drinking water. Women and girls are vulnerable to abuse and attack when fetching and carrying water. Clean water will make their lives safer and healthier.

- \$30,000 will be used for 5 borehole wells with hand pumps
- \$5,000 will be used for goats and chickens
- \$1,500 will be used for school supplies and soccer balls

Tanzania

This will be Karen's 18th trip to the rural areas of Tanzania. Thus far, Drilling for Hope has funded 37 wells (mostly deep borehole solar powered) in this country. Funding wells at schools allows girls to attend classes, as clean water is easily accessible.

- \$30,000 will be used for 2 solar powered deep borehole wells
- \$4,500 will be used for 1 greenhouse
- \$8,500 will be used for 10 fistula operations
- \$6,000 will be used for 20 sewing starter kits for women after fistula
- \$5,000 will be used for school supplies and animals
- \$3,000 will be used for shoes and slides for children
- \$2,000 will be used for soccer uniforms and soccer balls

Togo

Togo lies east of Ghana, thus a 3-hour trip to a new country for Drilling for Hope. Over 50% of the population lives below the poverty line. The people in rural areas have no electricity or potable water. The environment is extremely hot and the need for any water is great.

- \$10,600 will be used for 2 borehole wells with hand pumps
- \$200 will be used on school supplies and soccer balls

CHURCH FAMILY

September Birthdays

9/2: Cindy Brockman
9/4: Patricia Hayes-Howd
9/4: Jim Brockman
9/5: Karl Thayer
9/9: Bridgette Lewie
9/11: Barbara Elcox
9/14: Mike Hughes
9/16: Gene Usher
9/18: Brian Driscoll
9/23: Gage Woomer
9/29: Patti Booth

September Anniversaries

9/11: Patrick & Robin Woomer
9/16: Sue & Mike Hughes
9/21: Paula & Doug Sheely
9/24: Karl & Kim Thayer
9/24: Rebecca & Zach King



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

(Pastor Susan is off Mondays & Tuesdays)

GRATITUDE CORNER

Thank you to Paula and Doug Sheely for fixing up the church replica and organizing all the details for us to participate in this year's Turning Point Parade.



Thank you to Bridget Critelli for her work in organizing the upcoming yard sale, and to all the volunteers that have committed their time. Thank you to the members of the congregation and the community that have donated items to the church for the sale.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Florence Sherman, Alicia Lewie, Trevor Mellen,
Gerry Barber, Claire Houston, Sue & Gene Usher,
Carolyn Markwith, Sheryl Norton, Richard Behrens,
Mark Booth, Karl Thayer

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: September 7th

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

www.old-saratoga.rcachurches.org

www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch

Phone: 518-695-3479