

JACOB'S WELL

OCTOBER 2025

October 5th

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Cindy Brockman

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Bruce Guerineau

Communion Setup: Cindy Brockman

Communion Servers: Anne Mitchell, Cindy Brockman

Communion Cleanup: Anne Mitchell

October 12th

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Cindy Brockman

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher:

Counters: Bridget Critelli, Cindy Brockman

October 19th

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship led by Preaching Elder Richard Behrens

Greeter: Janice Cornell

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Bridget Critelli

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli

October 26th

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Bridget Critelli

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Cindy Brockman

Counters: Bruce Guerineau, Cindy Brockman



Liturgy Readings

October 5th

Sermon: "Act with Creativity"

Readings: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

October 12th

Sermon: "Act with Perseverance"

Readings: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

October 19th

Pastor Susan away – worship led by

Preaching Elder Richard Behrens

Readings: Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalms 119:97-104

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 121

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

October 26th

Sermon: "Act with Courage"

Readings: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

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.

Pastor's Ponder

Welcome to Autumn, 2025! Recently I have attended several Classis functions: a couple of ordinations to ministry, installations of new ministers into churches, and the Fall round of committee meetings and Zoom workshops. It's a busy time of year for the church, as we scurry to "get everything done" before Advent begins and Christmas preparations are upon us all!

Questions are being asked in every quarter: What worked well in the past? Will it continue to serve us well this year? And more to the point: How can we best serve God, and meet the needs of the church and wider community in the service of Christ?

To answer those questions honestly, we look at our resources— financial and physical and human—and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to faithfully continue to live authentically as a church, bringing glory to God as disciples of Jesus Christ.

At Old Saratoga, we are already looking at preparing the reports for the Annual Meeting in November, and some simple truths are settling in. For instance, our numbers are vastly fewer than in the decades ago when our committee structure was developed. Simply put, doing things the way the "traditional" events were established is just not feasible anymore! It's as familiar as time: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." (Matthew 9:35-38)

And so, we look to change!

To that end, I put the question to the Consistory—and put it to you: What is the purpose of any church event? How can we best meet our mission with our present resources?

In times past, the Harvest Supper grew out of the abundance of Fall Harvest time, when church member farmers donated food for a large community dinner at the church, and everyone came together for a fund-raising feast to support the minister and missions for the coming year. Then these church suppers largely became about paying for the church's winter heat bill, and the tradition was doggedly maintained.

Here, I have to make the point that Old Saratoga today is not without money to pay for this winter's heating bills! The counter to that is that if we use our money, it will be GONE, and we'll be POOR again! (I understand that feeling all too well from personal experience.)

And so, as every church I know is undertaking to do, we move the questions around: Do we trust God to continue to provide for our church? Are we courageous enough to spend money to serve God... with lavish hospitality, generous benevolences, building new ways to bring people who need community connection and meaningful times of worship... in a holy and sacred space... to be with God and God's people in the midst of a fraught worldly existence?

Because of the term cycles, and turnover due to life changes, we need new Elders and Deacons to serve on Old Saratoga's consistory in the coming year. Is God calling to YOU? Talk to me!

In Christian love,
Pastor Susan



Hymns of Our Faith

Analysis and thoughts from Richard Behrens

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

“If My People’s Hearts Are Humbled”

***“If my people's hearts are humbled, if they pray and seek my face,
If they turn away from evil, I will not withhold my grace.
I will hear their prayers from heaven; I will pardon every sin.
If my people’s hearts are humbled, I will surely heal their land.”***

The text of this hymn written in 1986 by Claire Cloninger is a paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 7:14-15. The hymn is a call for humility, repentance, and renewal, both personal and collectively.

Claire Cloninger (1942-2019) was an American hymn writer, author, and speaker. She wrote dozens of songs and authored 18 books. The tunes applied to Cloninger’s texts are in the style of “gospel music.” Her highly regarded hymns won six Dove Awards from the Gospel Music Association of America. The music for “If My People...” is an exception to the contemporary gospel music genre. The tune applied is the same as that of “Love, Divine, all Loves Excelling” (1885). In my opinion, the 1855 tune is a better match for the hymn’s ancient text.

It is unknown if there was there a particular impetus in the year 1986 that spurred the writing of this hymn. 1986 had its share of calamities and intrigue. It was the year of the Chernobyl Disaster, the loss of the Challenger and seven astronauts, and the Iran-Contra Affair. But Claire Cloninger’s hymn is most certainly appropriate for our times. Our days are marked by pronounced self-interest, mistrust of institutions such as government and the church. We live in a badly divided nation with evident disdain for marginalized people.

“If My People’s Hearts are Humbled” and the message of 2 Chronicles 7 call us to both personal and collective renewal; to think less of self and more of others, to return to the “faith of our fathers”, and to recognize the sovereignty of the creator who will aid us to healing ourselves and our land.

***“Then my eyes will see their sorrow, then my ears will hear their plea.
If my people’s hearts are humbled, I will set their nation free.
If my people's hearts are humbled, if they pray and seek my face,
If they turn away from evil, I will not withhold my grace.***



Financial Update

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 8/31/25)					
		Missions			
Organization	Budget	Carryover	Received	Paid	Balance
Albany Synod Mission	\$100.00				\$0.00
Quarterly Ministries	\$800.00		\$410.00	\$405.00	\$5.00
ADK Save a Stray	\$100.00		\$85.00	\$100.00	(\$15.00)
Wellspring	\$110.00		\$68.00		\$68.00
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	\$344.75	\$410.00	\$2,956.68
Things of My Very Own	\$110.00		\$110.00	\$110.00	\$0.00
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			\$290.00		\$290.00
Deacons' Disc. Fund	\$100.00		\$650.00	\$1,600.00	(\$950.00)
Total Missions	\$3,782.00	\$3,021.93	\$2,301.75	\$3,782.00	\$1,541.68
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					\$5,838.24

Deacons' Fund by Month			
Jan. \$78	Apr. \$58	Jul. \$110	Oct. \$
Feb. \$85	May \$55	Aug. \$68	Nov. \$
Mar. \$85	Jun. \$68	Sept. \$	Dec. \$
Quarterly Missions			
Drilling for Hope	Fowler	World Mission	Giving Circle
\$205.00	2: \$110	3: \$95	4: \$

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2025 Fund Raisers (As of 8/31/25)				
	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				
Holiday Sale				
Blue Box	\$1,025.65		\$1,025.65	100.00%
Total	\$4,237.15	\$659.50	\$3,577.65	

October Giving

Quarterly Mission: 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. The organization was initially formed in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, and volunteers worked to help rebuild homes in southern Mississippi. 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.

October Deacons' Mission: Schuyler Hose Company

The Schuylerville Fire Department was organized on August 15th, 1836 as a village fire department, then reorganized as Schuyler Hose Company on November 16th, 1953, and incorporated in 1973. Their protection area covers approximately 20 square miles, which includes the Village of Schuylerville and portions of the Towns of Saratoga, Northumberland, Easton, and Greenwich.

How to Read the Bible and
Understand Scripture as the
Word of God



By Dr. J. Todd Billings

DID YOU KNOW?

The link below, from the RCA website, is an excellent resource to expand your understanding of the Reformed approach to the Bible.

<https://www.faithward.org/understanding-the-bible/how-to-read-the-bible-and-understand-scripture-as-the-word-of-god/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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
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. For more information or 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

Join Camp Fowler for a celebration honoring Uncle Kent's Retirement

Rev. "Uncle" Kent Busman is retiring after 39 years as the Executive Director of Camp Fowler. Camp Fowler is hosting a series of banquets and fundraisers to honor his leadership and celebrate the future of a ministry that has touched so many lives. Tickets are \$60 and must be purchased ahead of time at campfowler.org/retirementcelebrations. Contact development@campfowler.org with any questions.

Fri 10/24 6-8pm Young Sommer Winery in Williamson, NY

Sun 10/26 3-6pm First Reformed Church of Scotia in Scotia, NY

Mon 10/27 5:30-8pm First Reformed Church of Scotia in Scotia, NY

You are also welcome to join Albany Synod and Camp Fowler on October 14th, 10am-1pm for an Open House to welcome new Camp Fowler director, Pat Kinne. 1790 Grand Blvd. Schenectady, NY

October 15th, 6:30pm: October Consistory Meeting

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

November 8th: Harvest Soup Supper – we are trying something a little different this year, details soon!

November 23rd: Annual Meeting

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The profit from the yard sale came out to be \$2,706.50. Thank you again to all who helped out!

The Christmas Concert will be here before we know it! If you would like to add a performance to the schedule, please inform the office and provide all pertinent details by November 7th.

Consistory Status for 2026

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

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.

CHURCH FAMILY

October Birthdays

10/2: Eric Garney
10/4: Bill Olmert
10/7: Kim Thayer
10/9: Mikael de Velder
10/12: Dawn Alexanian
10/13: Barrett Tueller Fedderly
10/13: Tammee Lockwood
10/14: Rev. Jennifer Legg
10/15: Paisley Ann Casey
10/16: Bridget Behrens
10/21: Nathaniel de Velder
10/21: Oscar Everts
10/25: Alma Westcott
10/27: Bruce Guerineau
10/29: Jean Stark
10/29: Rev. Susan Kerr

October Anniversaries

10/6: Pat & Harvey Howd
10/9: Jennifer & Todd Bruneau
10/16: James & Donna Mellen
10/16: Julia & Thomas Pooler
10/21: Kevin & Melanie Casey
10/22: Florence & Roger Sherman
10/25: Dawn & Stephen Alexanian
10/27: Ryan & Amanda Markwith

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Moving forward, the church will be locked during office hours when there is not another church function happening at the same time, such as Bible Study or Coffee Hour.

If you are a keyholder, this is a heads up to be sure to have your key on you! If you are not a keyholder (or you don't have your key on you) and need to stop by the church during office hours, please call or text the office phone that you need to be let in. Thank you!

The office phone number is 518-695-3479 and can receive both calls and texts.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Florence Sherman, Gerry Barber, Claire Houston, Sue & Gene Usher, Carolyn Markwith, Sheryl Norton, Richard Behrens, Mark Booth, Karl Thayer, Barb Elcox, Karen Flewelling

Please continue to uplift in your prayers those with ongoing life challenges, whether spiritual, physical, or emotional, and commend them to God's care.



It is with heavy hearts that we uplift in prayer the family of Treena Wells Carter, who has died. May light eternal shine upon her in the love of God's care.

YARD SALE 2025: A BEAUTIFUL DAY!



Sacrament of Holy Communion: October 5th

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

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