

JACOB'S WELL

NOVEMBER 2025



November 2nd

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Anne Mitchell

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Anne Mitchell

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Bridget Critelli

Communion Setup: Anne Mitchell

Communion Servers: Cindy Brockman,
Anne Mitchell, Pastor Susan

Communion Cleanup: Anne Mitchell

November 9th

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Jean Wells

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Richard Behrens

Counters: Bruce Guerineau, Cindy Brockman

November 16th

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost Worship led by Rev. Warren Blaisdell

Greeter: Kim Thayer

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Bridget Critelli

Counters: Chris Garney, Bruce Guerineau

November 23rd

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Richard Behrens

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli

November 30th

First Sunday of Advent

Greeter: Duffy Whitehouse

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Bridget Critelli

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Cindy Brockman

Liturgy Readings

November 2nd

Sermon: "Act as a Witness"

Readings: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

November 9th

Readings: Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Psalm 145:1-5, 1-21
Psalm 98
Job 19:23-27a
Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

November 16th

Pastor Susan away – worship led by Rev. Warren Blaisdell

Readings: Isaiah 65:17-25
Isaiah 12
Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

November 23rd

Readings: Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

November 30th

Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

Pastor's Ponder

Greetings, One and All!

I have very recently been felicitously gifted with an entrancing new book (thank you, Richard!): "First Nations Version, An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament". And so, from the Apostle Paul's greeting to the people of Ephesus, I pass on to you— Ephesians 1:1b-3--

"To the Great Spirit's holy people who live in Village of Desire (Ephesus), who walk the good path following the Chosen One.

Great kindness and peace to you from the Father above and from our Honored Chief Creator Sets Free (Jesus), who is the Chosen One.

All blessings belong to the Great Spirit, who is the Father of Creator Sets Free. From the spirit-world above he has gifted us with all spiritual blessings found in the Chosen One."

In those first few sentences, I find a sense of imagery and meaning that feels clearer and gentler than in the translations that we are accustomed to. Or perhaps it's simply that unfamiliar words used in a familiar text give new life to how we might perceive God, who is, after all, beyond our understanding, and who simply told Moses, "I AM WHO I AM," which Moses was instructed to pass on as "I AM has sent me to you".

When I contemplate why I might be here, now, instead of somewhere else doing something else, I find it very helpful to remember that "I AM", the Great Spirit, has put me here in this time and place... along with each one of you. And I try to discern what it is we are meant to be doing together in the name of the Chief Creator Sets Free (Jesus), who is the Chosen One of the Great Spirit. It's both very daunting, and empowering, at the same time—and, frankly, shares the responsibility across the board to "be here now" between us and the Creator of us all.

I was recently referred to as, "the Leader" in making a group decision— and I did what I try to always do (unless I am *absolutely positive*, through research and conversation and experience and prayer). I threw back the Final Say onto consensus, since there is great wisdom in the minds and hearts and experience of faithful folk.

Don't get me wrong. I can be stubborn when I am convinced of what I believe is right. (Aren't you?) BUT I always leave room in my thinking to acknowledge that there might be something better that God has in mind for a future that will continue to unfold in Spirit's time and not my own.

So, in this time of transitions: in the seasons, in the church, in the country, in our lives ("and now you're even older, and now you're even older...", to quote a song from They Might Be Giants), how are YOU attending to being faithful to the Spirit of Creator, and living as a follower of the Chief Creator Sets Free (Jesus)? ("And now you're even older...")

In the Final Words from Paul to the people of Ephesus, First Nations Version:

"Peace be to all the sacred family members, along with love and trust from the Great Spirit, who is our Father, and from our Wisdomkeeper, Creator Sets Free (Jesus), the Chosen One. May Creator's great kindness rest on all who love the Chosen One, with a love that will never grow old or fade away."

Amen, and Amen!

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)

“When the Church of Jesus”

***“When the Church of Jesus shuts its outer door,
lest the roar of traffic drown the voice of prayer:
May our prayers, Lord, make us ten times more aware
that the world we banish is our Christian care.”***

The Reverend Fred Pratt Green (2 September 1903 – 22 October 2000) was a British Methodist minister and hymnodist. During his career as a minister, he wrote numerous plays and hymns. It was not until he retired, however, that he began writing prolifically.

Green's hymn-poem is a “wake-up call” reminding the Church that it has responsibilities outside of its doors. It is a challenge to the Church not to be so concerned with its own life that it neglects the needs of the poor and the hungry. Green asks the Lord to teach us “how true Christians live.”

The message of the hymn is well supported by holy scripture. In Matthew's Gospel, chapter 23, Jesus denounces the Scribes and Pharisees for their selfish and neglectful ways. Jesus said to them: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice, and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.”

The Apostle James in a general letter to Christian churches declares: “...be doers of the word and not hearers only.” (James 1:22). He also wrote: “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows, in their distress... (James 1:27).

In many parts of the Church of today there is a tendency to be only Sunday worship oriented. Our time together in communal worship is important. It is a time to be “hearers of the word”, enriching our understanding of the God we worship. But we need to be reminded of the God whom we serve. Our “servant-role” compels us to look outside of our church doors to engage the world, to bear witness to God's love and saving grace.

***“If our hearts are lifted where devotion soars
high above this hungry, suffering world of ours:
lest our hymns should drug us to forget its needs,
forge our Christian worship into Christian deeds.”***



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

November Deacon's Mission: Shelters of Saratoga

Shelters of Saratoga is a Saratoga County based human service agency that provides food, shelter and housing services to individuals facing homelessness. They operate a temporary emergency shelter for up to 31 people at a time, as well as a Code Blue shelter which provides meals and 75 warm beds each night between the months of November and April. They also own and manage 16 affordable apartment units in downtown Saratoga Springs where tenants receive ongoing support services and onsite case management, including resource navigation, transportation, financial assistance, and education. Their mission is to transform the lives of neighbors facing homelessness by providing supportive services, safe shelter, and a path to independence.

Reminder: *If you are responsible for providing a report for the Annual Meeting, please be sure to submit your information to the office by November 19th.*

ANNUAL MEETING 2025

This year's meeting is set to be held on November 23rd, after worship.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 5th, 7pm: Ecumenical All Saint's Celebration at St. Stephen's

November 8th, 3-6pm: Harvest Soup Supper

November 23rd: Annual Meeting, after worship

November 24th, 6:30pm: November Consistory Meeting

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

November 29th, 9am: Greening of the Church – Bring your families and help us decorate!

December 6th, 8am-2pm: Holiday Sale at OSRC

December 7th, 3pm: Christmas Concert at OSRC

December 20th, 8am-12pm: Red Cross Blood Drive at OSRC –Visit reddcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment to donate.

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

February 14th, 8am-12pm: Red Cross Blood Drive at OSRC

HARVEST SOUP SUPPER

NOVEMBER 8TH, 2025 3-6PM



Adults: \$12 Children under 12: \$8

Menu includes a variety of soups, salad, bread, and dessert.

To make a reservation, please call
Chris at 518-695-6638.



Old Saratoga Reformed Church
**HERE FOR YOU: A HOUSE OF PRAYER
THROUGHOUT ADVENT (Dec. 1-24)**

Mondays & Fridays 6pm-8pm

Saturdays 2pm-4pm

**Find Peace and Respite--
Contemplative - Self-directed
Gift yourself a Welcome break;
spend time with God during this busy season.**

(Enter through the front door.)



OSRC HOLIDAY SALE

December 6th, 2025

8am-2pm

Holiday themed items for sale, basket raffle, and bake sale.

We will begin accepting donations for the sale on November 9th.

The church will be open for donation drop off on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am-1pm. Outside of these hours, donations can be left in the vestibule by the back door. We ask that you please be mindful to not block entry to the building or leave items outside.

The deadline for donations to be dropped off will be December 1st.



Community Christmas Concert

December 7th, 2025

3:00pm

Join us for a Christmas concert featuring local choirs and musical groups.

Free will donation to benefit the Schuylerville Caring and Sharing program.

Refreshments and fellowship to follow.

All are welcome!



CHURCH FAMILY

November Birthdays

11/1: Roger Sherman
11/2: Carol Burch
11/3: Roger M. Sherman
11/3: David Woomer
11/6: Wendy Russell Fedderly
11/10: Emily Buchanan
11/12: Robert Haney
11/12: Thomas Pooler
11/12: Doug Sheely
11/13: Peggy MacMillan
11/14: Sawyer Russell Fedderly
11/20: Melanie Casey
11/22: Sandy Jones
11/23: Ryan Markwith

November Anniversaries

11/10: Anne & Doug Mitchell

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 Steve Bodnar for providing the dirt to fill up the tree stump for planting flowers.

Thank you to the Consistory for approving the purchase of the flowers that brighten the churchyard this fall!

OUR CONDOLENCES

To the family and loved ones of
Gene Usher on his passing.

Please keep them in your prayers.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Florence Sherman
Claire Houston
Carolyn Markwith
Richard Behrens
Karl Thayer
Karen Flewelling

Gerry Barber
Sue Usher
Sheryl Norton
Mark Booth
Barb Elcox

All who are traveling and those in mourning

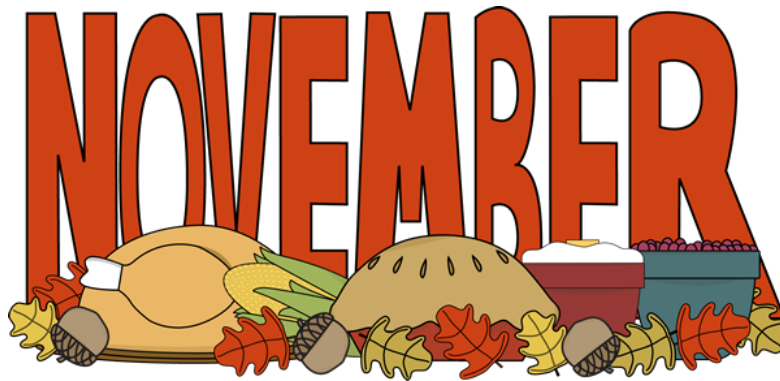
Please continue to uplift in your prayers those with on-going life challenges, whether spiritual, physical, or emotional, and commend them to God's care

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: November 2nd

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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