

JACOB'S WELL
FEBRUARY 2026



February 1st

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Greeter: Cindy Brockman

Liturgist: Duffy Whitehouse

Usher: Richard Behrens

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Bruce Guerineau

Communion Setup: Anne Mitchell

Communion Servers: Anne Mitchell, Cindy

Brockman, Pastor Susan

Communion Cleanup: Kim Thayer

February 8th

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Greeter: Kim Thayer

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Paula Sheely, Bridget Critelli

February 15th

Transfiguration Sunday

Greeter: Janice Cornell

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Bridget Critelli

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Cindy Brockman

February 22nd

First Sunday in Lent

Greeter: Richard Behrens

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Bruce Guerineau, Bridget Critelli

Liturgy Readings

February 1st

Readings: Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

February 8th

Readings: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

February 15th

Readings: Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

February 22nd

Readings: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11



PASTOR'S PONDER for the SEASON AFTER EPIPHANY

I think there's a general feeling that after Christmas and New Year's, there's **nothing** to celebrate at church until Easter. Or possibly, if we MUST, we remember that Lent comes before Easter Sunday, and that season perniciously starts with Ash Wednesday sometime around Valentine's Day. I'm happy to say, that is NOT the case! (Well, it's true about Ash Wednesday, which is on Feb. 18th this year.)

Twelve days after Christmas we celebrated Epiphany—the Visit by the Wise Ones to the infant Jesus. And coming up this Sunday, forty days after Christmas, is a slightly obscure—at least to most Protestants-- celebration called Candlemas.

Candlemas, celebrated on February 2nd, is a traditional Christian feast day commemorating the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem, which occurred 40 days after his birth. On that occasion, the prophet Anna declared the child as the Messiah; faithful Simeon recognized Jesus as a "light for revelation to all people," leading to its nickname as the "Feast of Lights".

As with many Christian rituals, some of its roots go very deeply into ancient human experience of the Sacred, when, in the midst of the darkness of Winter, the days miraculously begin to grow longer, the darkness of nights shorter, and there is again the hope—the promise—of a Springtime resurrection across the land.

To mark that day, on Sunday, February 1st, we'll light extra candles in worship along with a prayer of thanks to God for the majesty and mystery of Creation, as we remember and celebrate Christ's living Presence with communion.

I'm anticipating that it will be extra special, because, following the recommendation of the Worship Committee, we have moved our Sunday worship into Loomis Hall until Palm Sunday. The reasoning for this is at least two-fold. Obviously, we can more responsibly steward our resources during this extremely cold winter by not heating the sanctuary on Sundays. And, more excitingly, it affords us a very different mode of worship during the darkest and coldest time of the year. We get to experience a renewed sense of worship in community, away from the formality of having the worship leaders—minister, choir, lectors—"way up there" with congregants scattered individually around the sanctuary—to a more relaxed, intimate experience of blended voices and shared warmth. We will be sitting at tables (think Conference Room) with our hymnals and bulletins. We will follow the Reformed and familiar liturgy, afforded a greater sense of sharing in our hour together to worship, praise, and honor the Sacred as the Body of Christ.

So... Come on Sunday! Bring a friend or family member! Experience Lent anew and in a fresh way, as the days continue to lengthen into light, and the darkness of the cold nights slips away in the cycle of creation and renewal. A prayer for Candlemas:

"Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true Light enlightening every soul born into this world. Help us to live in that Light, to make it our own, and to kindle it in the souls of others. Amen!"

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)

“O How Blest Are the Poor in Spirit”

***“O how blest are the meek and humble, they will inherit the earth.
And how blest those who hunger for goodness – they all will feast with God.”***

The two song lines above form the second verse of a hymn based on the “Beatitudes” from Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount”. The word “beatitude” finds its root in the Latin word “beati” meaning “blessed”. These sayings of Jesus are moral and ethical standards which contrast with the atmosphere created by a repressive Roman Empire governing much of the then-known world in Jesus’ time.

Pride, self-aggrandizing and aggression were common characteristics of the ruling power. On the other hand, Jesus admonishes his disciples and a crowd of followers to adopt a different identity and lifestyle, where the “poor in spirit” practice humility when interacting with others, leading to deeper relationships and a greater sense of community.

“O How Blest Are the Poor in Spirit” is a contemporary hymn written in 1979 by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh. It is based on Matthew’s Gospel, Chapter 5, verses 3-12. There are translations of the Beatitudes where “happy” replaces “blessed”. Other verses of the hymn speak to the subjects of the “blessedness” that can be found in “mourning”, “hunger and thirst”, “purity”, “peacemaking”, and “persecution”. Radical teachings, to say the least.

Humble and meek are often used interchangeably to describe someone who is modest and unassuming. However, there is a subtle difference between the two. Humble typically refers to someone who is not boastful or arrogant, while meek suggests a more gentle and submissive nature. Both qualities are seen as positive traits, and the Master desires that we practice being both meek and humble.

The theme for this year’s Ecumenical Lenten Service series is “Blessed are the Meek.” To learn more about “meekness” you are invited to join with fellow believers in our community at these services. Be watching for announcements concerning dates, time, and locations.

The refrain of the hymn reads as follows:

***“Blest and happy we shall be - listen to the Master’s word!
Soon the kingdom’s coming – watch and see; the kingdom of the Lord.”***



Cosimo Rosselli, Sermon on the Mount, 1481-1482, Sistine Chapel

Financial Update

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 12/31/25)					
		Missions			
Organization	Budget	Carryover	Received	Paid	Balance
Albany Synod Mission	\$100.00			\$100.00	(\$100.00)
Quarterly Ministries	\$800.00		\$545.00	\$805.00	(\$75.00)
ADK Save a Stray	\$100.00		\$85.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Wellspring	\$110.00		\$68.00	\$110.00	\$0.00
Camperships	\$300.00			\$300.00	\$0.00
Gateway House of Peace	\$110.00		\$68.00	\$110.00	\$0.00
Bottles/Cans Ministries	\$600.00	\$3,021.93	\$344.75	\$410.00	\$584.68
Things of My Very Own	\$110.00		\$110.00	\$110.00	\$0.00
Community Hospice	\$110.00		\$78.00	\$110.00	\$0.00
Disaster Relief	\$200.00				\$0.00
SAIL	\$100.00		\$70.00	\$100.00	(\$30.00)
Rebuilding Together	\$150.00		\$63.00	\$150.00	\$0.00
Prospect Hill	\$30.00			\$280.00	\$0.00
Caring & Sharing	\$115.00		\$85.00	\$115.00	\$0.00
Schuyler Hose	\$125.00		\$150.00	\$150.00	\$0.00
Saratoga Bridges	\$110.00		\$55.00	\$110.00	\$0.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$100.00		\$58.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Shelters of Saratoga	\$100.00		\$60.00	\$100.00	(\$40.00)
Giving Circle(Teacher)	\$312.00			\$312.00	\$0.00
General Missions			\$430.00		\$430.00
Deacons' Disc. Fund	\$100.00		\$2,590.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,940.00
Total Missions	\$3,782.00	\$3,021.93	\$4,859.75	\$5,172.00	\$2,709.68
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			\$4,160.00	\$1,940.00	\$2,220.00
Total Designated Funds					\$7,971.24

Deacons' Fund by Month			
Jan. \$78	Apr. \$58	Jul. \$110	Oct. \$150
Feb. \$85	May \$55	Aug. \$68	Nov. \$60
Mar. \$85	Jun. \$68	Sept. \$63	Dec. \$70
Quarterly Missions			
Drilling for Hope	Fowler	World Mission	Giving Circle
\$205.00	2: \$110	3: \$105	4: \$125

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2025 Fund Raisers (As of 12/31/25)				
	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	\$2,706.50		\$2,706.50	100.00%
Harvest Soup Supper	\$496.00		\$496.00	100.00%
Holiday Sale	\$1,265.55		\$1,265.55	100.00%
Blue Box	\$1,517.95		\$1,517.95	100.00%
Total	\$9,197.50	\$659.50	\$8,538.00	

February Missions

Quarterly Mission: Drilling for Hope

Founded in 2005 by Karen Flewelling, Drilling for Hope helps to provide clean, accessible water wells to villages with an overwhelming poverty problem. Drilling for Hope has established over 130 wells and water systems around the world. Donations not only help fund the drilling of water wells but also provide the gift of self-reliance and sustainability by providing livestock and greenhouses, sponsoring education to those who could not otherwise afford it, providing medical supplies and funding operations.

Deacon's Mission: Caring and Sharing

Schuylerville School District's Caring and Sharing program helps provide resources to children and families in need. Throughout the year donations help to ensure children have the supplies needed for their classes. During the holidays, the program provides gifts of toys, clothing, and other essentials to local children in need.

CALENDAR WITH LITURGICAL COLORS



2026							
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA	
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	JAN
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	FEB
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MAR
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31	1	2	3	4	APR
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	1	2	MAY
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	JUN
31	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	JUL
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	AUG
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	SEP
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	OCT
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	NOV
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	DEC
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

KEY DATES OF THE CHURCH YEAR

2026

- Epiphany, January 6
- Baptism of the Lord, January 11
- Transfiguration Sunday, February 15
- Ash Wednesday, February 18
- First Sunday in Lent, February 22
- Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29
- Maundy Thursday, April 2
- Good Friday, April 3
- Easter Sunday, April 5
- Ascension of the Lord, May 14
- Pentecost, May 24
- Trinity Sunday, May 31
- All Saints Day, November 1
- Christ the King Sunday, November 22
- First Sunday of Advent, November 29
- Christmas, December 25

-  = Preparation and penitence
-  = Celebration, joy, purity, and victory; use with gold (triumph) for all festivals of our Lord
-  = Growth and mission
-  = Passion of Christ; fire of the Holy Spirit
-  = No color

RCA HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

January	New Year's Day: January 1 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (U.S. only): Third Monday in January
February	Presidents Day (U.S. only): Third Monday in February Canada Family Day: Third Monday in February
March	Day of Prayer for Crops and Industry: Second Sunday in March Daylight Saving Time begins: Second Sunday in March
May	National Day of Prayer (U.S.): First Thursday in May May Friendship Day (Church Women United): First Friday in May Rural Life Sunday: Second Sunday in May Mother's Day: Second Sunday in May Women in Ministry Sunday: Third Sunday in May Victoria Day (Canada): Monday before May 25 (earliest it could fall is May 18, if May 25 is a Monday) Memorial Day (U.S.): Last Monday in May
June	Children's Day: Second Sunday in June Day of Prayer for General Synod: Sunday before General Synod begins General Synod: varies year to year Father's Day: Third Sunday in June RCA Camp Sunday: Fourth Sunday in June St. Jean Baptiste Day (Quebec): June 24. If June 24 falls on a Sunday, it is observed on Monday, June 25.
July	Canada Day: July 1. If July 1 falls on a Sunday, it is observed on July 2. Independence Day (U.S.): July 4. If July 4 falls on a Saturday, it is observed on Friday, July 3. If it falls on a Sunday, the holiday is observed on Monday, July 5.
August	Civic Holiday (Ont., Mani.); British Columbia Day; Heritage Day (Alberta): First Monday in August
September	Labor Day: First Monday in September
October	World Communion Sunday: First Sunday in October World Hunger Sunday (Canada): Second Sunday in October Disability Awareness Sunday: Usually second Sunday in October Thanksgiving Day (Canada): Second Monday in October History and Heritage Day (U.S.) (Columbus Day): Second Monday in October (will come before Canada's World Hunger Sunday if October begins on a Monday) Peace with Justice Sunday: Third Sunday in October Laity Sunday: Third Sunday in October Reformation Sunday: Sunday before October 31 (unless October 31 falls on a Sunday, then it is just called Reformation Day) Reformation Day: October 31
November	World Community Day (Church Women United): First Friday in November Native American/Aboriginal Awareness Sunday: First Sunday in November Daylight Saving Time ends: First Sunday in November Stewardship Sunday: Second Sunday in November Veterans Day (U.S.) (Remembrance Day, Canada): November 11. If November 11 falls on a Saturday, it is observed the day before, on Friday. If it falls on a Sunday, it is observed the following Monday. National Bible Week Begins/Bible Sunday: Sunday before U.S. Thanksgiving World Hunger Sunday (U.S.): Sunday before U.S. Thanksgiving
December	Christmas Day: December 25 Boxing Day (Canada): December 26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The profit from December's Holiday Sale came out to be \$1185.00.

December's Christmas Concert raised \$594.00 for Caring and Sharing.

Through the blood drive held here in December, the Red Cross was able to meet their goal of 31 units, including 19 whole blood units and 12 power red units.

The Consistory was installed and rededicated on January 11th, and we welcomed Paula Sheely as an Elder.
*The consistory is now as follows: Deacons Bruce Guerineau, Cindy Brockman & Bridget Critelli
Elders Anne Mitchell, Bill Olmert & Paula Sheely*

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 31st, 3pm-6pm: Souper Supper – Menu includes a variety of soups to try, bread, salad, and dessert. Walk-ins only, dine-in only, free will donation. We suggest arriving early to ensure that the widest variety of soups are available.

February 14th, 8am-12pm: Red Cross Blood Drive at OSRC – to make an appointment to donate blood please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

April 18th: Lasagna Dinner at OSRC

June 24th: Ecumenical Safe Summer Picnic at OSRC

September 12th, 8am-2pm: Yard Sale at OSRC

December 5th, 8am-2pm: Christmas Sale at OSRC

January 30th, 2027: Souper Supper at OSRC



ECUMENICAL LENTEN SCHEDULE FOR 2026

February 18th	Ash Wednesday Service	St. Stephen's Episcopal	7pm
February 25th	Second Lenten Service	Risen Hope Community	7pm
March 4th	Third Lenten Service	Bacon Hill Reformed	7pm
March 11th	Fourth Lenten Service	Schuylerville UMC	7pm
March 18th	Fifth Lenten Service	Ft. Miller Reformed	7pm
March 25th	Sixth Lenten Service	Quaker Springs UMC	7pm
April 2nd	Maundy Thursday Service	Old Saratoga Reformed	7pm
April 3rd	Good Friday Service	St. Stephen's Episcopal	12pm
April 5th	Easter Sunday Services	Bacon Hill, Sunrise Service	6:15am
		Old Saratoga Reformed	10am

During Lent we are challenged to strengthen our relationship to God. Dee-Dee Whitten of St. Stephen's Church has been studying spiritual direction and is excited to offer guidance on weekly disciplines to practice, designed to bring you closer to God and God's will. All of the disciplines are from Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us, by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun. Come to one, or all sessions! 6:00-6:45 p.m. before each Lenten Wednesday worship.

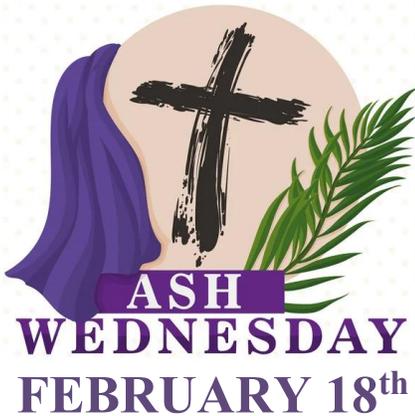
CHURCH FAMILY

February Birthdays

2/3: Jean Wells
2/4: Robin Woomer
2/5: Kobie Dyke
2/6: Kevin Casey
2/8: Sherrie Mickel
2/9: Brenda Buchanan
2/10: Jim Mellen
2/20: David deVelder

February Anniversaries

2/10: Henrietta & Nugent Edgar



THE CONSISTORY OF OLD SARATOGA

ELDERS:

Anne Mitchell, Bill Olmert, Paula Sheely

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 Bridget for organizing the Souper Supper, and to all those who contributed their labor, time and cooking skills to help make this event successful!

Thank you to all the members of the congregation that commit their time to tasks that allow this church to continue to function.

We have received letters of thanks from:

The RCA for our donation of \$200.00 to International Disaster Relief.

S.A.F.E.R for the food donations made from our S.A.F.E.R Sunday collections.

The Giving Circle for our donation of \$200.00.

SAIL for our donation of \$100.00.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Florence Sherman

Gerry Barber

Claire Houston

Sue Usher

Sheryl Norton

Karl Thayer

Barb Elcox

Paulette Foote

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: February 1st

Stay for Coffee Hour Fellowship every Sunday following worship!



February

Old Saratoga Reformed Church

48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville NY 12871

Published ten times yearly in Schuylerville, NY 12871

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch

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