

JACOB'S WELL

MARCH 2026



March 1st

Second Sunday in Lent

Greeter: Janice Cornell

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Bridget Critelli

Counters: Bruce Guerineau, Bridget Critelli

Communion Setup: Bridget Critelli

Communion Servers:

Anne Mitchell, Pastor Susan

Communion Cleanup: Richard Behrens

March 8th

Third Sunday in Lent

Greeter: Bridget Critelli

Liturgist: Richard Behrens

Usher: Anne Mitchell

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Paula Sheely

March 15th

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Greeter: Kim Thayer

Liturgist: Duffy Whitehouse

Usher: Cindy Brockman

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli

March 22nd

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Greeter: Cindy Brockman

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Richard Behrens

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Bridget Critelli

March 29th

Palm Sunday

Greeter: Richard Behrens

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Bridget Critelli

Counters: Bruce Guerineau, Paula Sheely

Liturgy Readings

March 1st

Readings:

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

or Matthew 17:1-9

March 8th

Readings:

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 15th

Readings:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

March 22nd

Readings:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

March 29th

Liturgy of the Palms:

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

or Matthew 27:11-54

PASTOR'S PAGE... *Enjoy! SK*

CHOIR ANTHEM SERIES DURING LENT

Our choir's anthems during the season of Lent are a selection of American spirituals. Born from the experience of enslaved African Americans, they resonate profoundly with Lent's themes in anticipation of Easter. Songs such as "Deep River" highlight the journey through wilderness to a promised land, reflecting on endurance, personal transformation, and trust in God. They are often poignantly rooted in longing, hope, and faith, and articulate beautifully the journey from the "wilderness" of sin and suffering (or bondage) towards the "Jordan" and the hope of resurrection (freedom).

We are blessed to sing them as part of our worship... to evoke introspection, and hopefully inspire your desire for spiritual renewal as we journey with one another toward Easter.



WHY "JACOB'S WELL"?



"Jacob's Well," Nablaus-Shechem, c. 1900-1920 -- Library of Congress collection

Jacob's Well still exists in the ancient land of Samaria. It isn't just a spring-fed well, it's an underwater cave system. It was dug by Jacob (hence its name), in the "parcel of ground" which he purchased from the sons of Hamor (Genesis 33:19). Jacob is a foundational patriarch in the Book of Genesis, grandson of Abraham, the son of Isaac and Rebekah, brother of Esau (whose birthright he stole through deceptive collusion with his mother Rebekah). Known as the father of the 12 tribes of Israel, Jacob's life is defined by wrestling with God, receiving the name Israel, and establishing the covenant lineage. His story, marked by deception and struggle, reflects God's grace and his role in forming the nation of Israel.

Samaria was the land between Judaea and Galilee. Conquered by the Assyrians in 722 BC, according to Assyrian records, new inhabitants were brought in from the east. This mixture of indigenous Israelites with imported Assyrians, along with their customs, was the beginning of the Samaritan people. In the 6th century BC, when the Jewish people returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, the new population of Samaritans in the north, considered to be half-breeds with foreign beliefs, wasn't invited to participate. So, after being snubbed, the Samaritans built their own temple on Mount Gerizim in Samaria about 330 BC.

The well was famously visited by Jesus, singularly reported in the Gospel of John, chapter 4. It is there that we read the account of a Samaritan woman, called and gifted to be a bearer of the Good News of Jesus Christ to the Samaritans.

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)

“Christ Upon the Mountain Peak”

*“Christ upon the mountain peak stands alone in glory blazing;
Let us, if we dare to speak, with the saints and angels praise him. Alleluia!”*

Jesus’ transfiguration is among the most spectacular manifestations of the Son of God. Whenever Jesus is revealed to us it is a momentous occasion, but the Transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Horeb literally shines. We continue to marvel at the revelations of the Son of God as understood in the visit of the Magi, Jesus’ baptism, the miracle at Cana, and victory over temptation in the wilderness, yet nothing is so spectacular, so ultimately revealing as the Transfiguration.

Recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke’s gospels, we see the preeminent Son of God with shining face, attested to by Moses and Elijah, while all else fades into the background. Jesus is the “First and Last, and only One.” Saints and angels, nations, and we today, standing in awe, can only rightfully respond with a loud “Alleluia.”

The hymn “Christ Upon the Mountain Top” is the work of Brian Wren (b.1936), English pastor and internationally published hymn-poet and writer. Wren has published seven hymn collections with a total of 250 hymns. Among the many positions he has held in church related occupations was his service as Professor of Worship at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. Wren has been quoted as saying, “Writing is for me a way into greater wonder and amazement at the love, life, pain, and joy of God.”¹

The gospel writer Luke, unlike Matthew and Mark, expands on the conversation among Jesus, Moses and Elijah, telling us that they were “speaking about his departure, which Jesus was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.” Thus Luke’s account and Wren’s hymn bring a climatic close to the Season of Epiphany, and move us into the Season of Lent – the forty day period of prayer, sacrifice, and renewal. Our hearts are being prepared to contemplate Christ’s redeeming work on our behalf leading to the Day of Resurrection and victory of over sin, death, and the grave. A day when our rightful worship will be to exclaim, “ALLELUIA!”

1. [Reformed Worship: Poet of Faith: An Interview with Brian Wren.](#)



Raphael; Romano, Giulio, *Transfiguration*, 1518-1520

Financial Update

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 1/31/26)					
		Missions			
Organization	Budget	Carryover	Received	Paid	Balance
Albany Synod Mission	\$100.00				
Quarterly Ministries	\$400.00				
ADK Save a Stray	\$50.00		March		
Gateway House of Peace	\$55.00		June		
Bottles/Cans Ministries	\$300.00	\$769.68			\$769.68
Things of My Very Own	\$55.00		July		
Community Hospice	\$55.00		\$90.00		\$90.00
Disaster Relief	\$200.00				
SAIL	\$50.00		December		
Rebuilding Together	\$75.00		September		
Prospect Hill	\$50.00				
Caring & Sharing	\$55.00		February		
Schuyler Hose	\$125.00		October		
Saratoga Bridges	\$55.00		May		
Wellspring	\$55.00		August		
Shelters of Saratoga	\$50.00		April		
Guardian House	\$50.00		November		
Giving Circle(Teacher)	\$312.00				
General Missions			\$25.00		\$25.00
Fund Raisers' Tithe			\$8.39		\$8.39
Deacons' Disc. Fund	\$100.00	\$1,940.00			\$1,940.00
Total Missions	\$2,192.00	\$2,709.68	\$123.39	\$0.00	\$2,833.07
Pastor's Disc. Fund		\$41.69			\$41.69
Capital Improv.		\$2,999.87			\$2,999.87
Memorial Fund		\$2,220.00			\$2,220.00
Total Designated Funds					\$8,094.63

Deacons' Fund by Month			
Jan. \$90	Apr. \$	Jul. \$	Oct. \$
Feb. \$	May \$	Aug. \$	Nov. \$
Mar. \$	Jun. \$	Sept. \$	Dec. \$
Quarterly Missions			
Drilling for Hope	Fowler	World Mission	Giving Circle
1:\$	2: \$	3: \$	4: \$

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2026 Fund Raisers (As of 1/31/26)					
	Income	Expenses	Profit	Tithe	Profit After Tithe
Souper Supper			\$0.00	▼	\$0.00
Lasagna Dinner			\$0.00	▼	\$0.00
Yard Sale			\$0.00	▼	\$0.00
Harvest Soup Supper			\$0.00	▼	\$0.00
Holiday Sale			\$0.00	▼	\$0.00
Blue Box	\$83.90		\$83.90	▼	\$75.51
Total	\$83.90	\$0.00	\$83.90	▼	\$75.51

March 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: Adirondack Save-a-Stray

Adirondack Save-a-Stray's mission is to operate as a no-kill animal shelter in the community. They try to give back through their pet food bank, low-cost veterinary program, pet referral website, community education, adoptions, and more. They receive no federal, state, or local funding, and depend on donations to keep their doors open.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RCA Restructuring from Classes to Middle Assemblies Information: Throughout the next few months, members of both the Abiding Assembly Transition Team and the Northeastern Middle Assembly Team will share more information about their transition into a middle assembly for ministers and consistory members at regional events. To sign up to attend any of these events, click on the dates on the Regional Synod website at <https://www.albanysynod.org/restructure>

March 14th, 8am-12pm: St. Patrick's Breakfast at Risen Hope

April 11th & 12th, 2026: Free Medical Clinic at Schuylerville Central School (14 Spring Street, Schuylerville)
Free clinic offering dental, vision, and medical care. First come, first served until capacity is reached. No ID required. Clinic opens at 6am each day, and the parking lot opens Friday April 10th at 11:59pm.

April 11th: Chicken & Biscuit Take Out Dinner at Bacon Hill Reformed

April 18th, 3-6pm: Lasagna Dinner at OSRC

Option of meat or vegetarian lasagna available. Dine in or take out, cost is \$17. Reservations are appreciated. To make a reservation, please call Chris at 518-695-6638.

May 2nd, 9am-12pm: Clean Up Day at OSRC

First stop will be the kitchen - please help out if able!

May 2nd: Bacon Hill Bonanza 5K at Bacon Hill Reformed

June 6th: Chicken BBQ at Bacon Hill Reformed

June 17th: Baccalaureate Service at Risen Hope

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

March 4th	Third Lenten Service	Bacon Hill Reformed	7:00pm
March 11th	Fourth Lenten Service	Schuylerville UMC	7:00pm
March 18th	Fifth Lenten Service	Ft. Miller Reformed	7:00pm
March 25th	Sixth Lenten Service	Quaker Springs UMC	7:00pm
April 2nd	Maundy Thursday Service	Old Saratoga Reformed	7:00pm
April 3rd	Good Friday Service	St. Stephen's Episcopal	12:00pm
		Schuylerville UMC	7:00pm
April 5th	Easter Sunday Services	Bacon Hill, Sunrise Service	6:15am
		Old Saratoga Reformed	10:00am

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! Sessions will be held before each Lenten Wednesday worship from 6:00-6:45. p.m.

CHURCH FAMILY

March Birthdays

3/1: Rebecca Sheely-King
3/4: Irvin King
3/5: Susan Fero Kurowski
3/8: Suzanne Guerineau
3/9: Nasa Edgar
3/12: Ashley Edgar
3/14: Grace Louise Mellen
3/15: Emily Brockman
3/15: Rob Hayner
3/19: Victoria Starnella

March Anniversaries

3/25: Tammee & Adam Lockwood
3/25: Brenda & Bill Buchanan



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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The total profit from the Souper Supper in January came out to be \$643.00. Thank you to everyone for coming out to help!

Through the blood drive held here in February, the Red Cross was able to collect 24 units of blood out of their goal of 28. The 24 units that were collected will be able to provide up to 72 treatments!

For ease of access, some commonly used/requested forms are now located in the mailroom on the shelf above the mailboxes. These include building use request forms, reimbursement request forms, and more. Feel free to help yourself.

GRATITUDE CORNER

We have received letters of thanks from:

Wellspring for our donation of \$110.00

Shelters of Saratoga for our donation of \$100.00

Schuyler Hose Company for our donation of \$150.00

IN OUR PRAYERS

Florence Sherman
Claire Houston
Sheryl Norton
Barb Elcox

Gerry Barber
Sue Usher
Karl Thayer
Paulette Foote

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: March 1st

Stay for Coffee Hour Fellowship every Sunday following worship!

The word "MARCH" is written in a large, stylized, bubbly font. The letters are white with a thick green outline and a yellow-to-orange gradient fill. The font has a playful, decorative feel with swirls and curves.

Old Saratoga Reformed Church

48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville NY 12871

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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