

JACOB'S WELL

SEPTEMBER 2026



September 6th

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Anne Mitchell

Liturgist: Duffy Whitehouse

Usher: Paula Sheely

Counters: Bill Olmert, Paula Sheely

Communion Setup: Paula Sheely

Communion Cleanup: Kim Thayer

Communion Servers: Bill Olmert, Paula Sheely

September 13th

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Janice Cornell

Liturgist: Anne Mitchell

Usher: Bridget Critelli

Counters: Cindy Brockman, Anne Mitchell

September 20th

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Kim Thayer

Liturgist: Paula Sheely

Usher: Cindy Brockman

Counters: Bridget Critelli, Cindy Brockman

September 27th

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Bridget Critelli

Liturgist: Chris Garney

Usher: Richard Behrens

Counters: Anne Mitchell, Bill Olmert

Liturgy Readings

September 6th

Readings: Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 13th

Readings: Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114 or
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20th

Readings: Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27th

Readings: Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32



PASTOR'S PONDER: FALL IS COMING!

Grace to you, and peace... Friends and Members of Old Saratoga,

Have you managed yet to fulfill all your Summer 2026 ambitions? Time is running out! Although, truth be told, this morning I read an on-line daily pastoral reflection that encouraged us all to... STOP constantly thinking about what comes next, and instead, be in the moment, and appreciate whatever is happening NOW, whether it's the interplay of sun through a window, or the way the rain hits the ground. Now, that's always come across as sound advice—"Don't worry about NEXT, pay attention to NOW"—but I confess, it made me smile, because as an ADD person, one of my biggest challenges is to transition into what is next, and NOT get lost or distracted in the NOW. It brought to mind that one person's wisdom might be another one's folly! And from there, I started reading Proverbs just for fun... and then some Ecclesiastes... and spend a lovely new NOW, becoming late to get going on the chores of the day.

So, honestly, I am behind on sorting Things around the house to donate to our church's annual Yard Sale, but glad to know that we have until September 5th to get to it and get things over to church that can be passed on for use by someone else. I wonder how you are doing with that? We are anticipating another fun time of setting up and marketing this year, grateful for the boxes of donations already received. The week beforehand always feels like Christmas to me, when volunteers unpack and categorize and arrange the goods donated for the sale—opening up boxes and bags and discovering treasures to share with the community! This will be the second year that everything will be available to take home by donation rather than pre-priced, so please come with your budget in mind and cash on hand, and tell all your friends, as we share the bounty of our neighbors' gifts. It is the major Fall fund-raiser to help Old Saratoga offset budget needs, as well as a great day of fellowship, music, food, mutual regard, and cooperation for everyone, workers and shoppers alike. Thanks in advance to everyone putting in the time and money to make it a success! I'm looking forward to the hotdogs and bake sale!

Other upcoming events are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, with opportunities to come together at church in ways and at times in addition to Sunday mornings; I hope to connect with you at one or more of them—and especially encourage you to think about making time this year to attend Richard Behrens' Ecumenical Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. He's starting off on September 16 with a several-weeks in-depth look at Peter—disciple, apostle, Rock, impulsive, outspoken, the second disciple of Jesus.

I'll close my page with this Bible passage—for a mutual ponder!—Proverbs 9:1–6

“Wisdom builds a house, prepares a feast, and calls the simple to come and learn how to live.”

Simply Join us in worship—10 a.m. Sunday mornings—for
ALL ARE WELCOMED. *You*, especially: old friends, and new.
Find your place alongside to thrive in the congregation.

BLESSED BE, ONE AND ALL! -- 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)

“God Has Spoken by the Prophets”

***“God has spoken by the prophets, spoken God’s unchanging Word,
each from age to age proclaiming God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world’s despair and turmoil one firm anchor holds us fast:
God is king, God’s truth eternal, God the first and God the last.”***

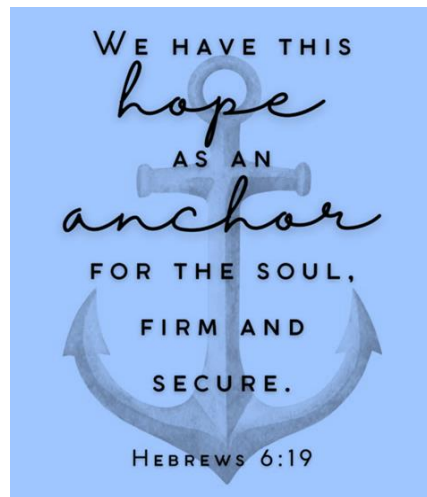
Reformed theology and practice prioritize the primacy of God’s Word. The foundation of “Sola Scriptura” declares God’s Word as the final authority in matters of doctrine. Pastors in the Reformed Church are ordained as “Ministers of Word and Sacrament.” The central portion of reformed worship is the “hearing of the word,” both from Holy Scripture and from the pulpit. It is no wonder then, that hymnals employed by Reformed churches include many hymns devoted to the importance of God’s Word. “God Has Spoken by the Prophets” is one of these.

The verses of the hymn are relatively modern, having been written in the mid-twentieth century by an English clergyman, George W. Briggs. The tune, however, is from Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy” which was composed in 1824.

In the hymn there is reference to the Holy Trinity. In addition to the Bible, God speaks through the prophets, through Christ Jesus, the Word incarnate, and through the Spirit.

The third line of the first verse speaks to the world’s despair and turmoil. This may well be the hymn writer’s reflection on his own life experiences, having lived in Europe during both the 1st and 2nd World Wars. The mention of an “anchor” may well reflect his experience as a British Navy Chaplain. The “world’s despair and turmoil” may also be descriptive of the present day. But even in the worst of times God’s Word is our anchor.

***“Through the rise and fall of nations one sure faith yet standing fast:
God abides, his Word unchanging, God the first and God the last.”***



Financial Update

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 7/31/26)					
		Missions			
Organization	Budget	Carryover	Received	Paid	Balance
Albany Synod Mission	\$100.00				
Quarterly Ministries	\$400.00		\$180.00	\$200.00	(\$20.00)
ADK Save a Stray	\$50.00		\$80.00	\$80.00	\$0.00
Gateway House of Peace	\$55.00		\$60.00	\$60.00	\$0.00
Bottles/Cans Ministries	\$300.00	\$769.68	\$80.00		\$849.68
Things of My Very Own	\$55.00		\$75.00		\$75.00
Community Hospice	\$55.00		\$90.00	\$90.00	\$0.00
Disaster Relief	\$200.00				
SAIL	\$50.00		December		
Rebuilding Together	\$75.00		September		
Prospect Hill	\$50.00				
Caring & Sharing	\$55.00		\$70.00	\$70.00	\$0.00
Schuyler Hose	\$125.00		October		
Saratoga Bridges	\$55.00		\$43.00	\$55.00	(\$12.00)
Wellspring	\$55.00		August		
Shelters of Saratoga	\$50.00		\$65.00	\$65.00	\$0.00
Guardian House	\$50.00		November		
Giving Circle(Teacher)	\$312.00			\$312.00	
General Missions			\$225.00		\$225.00
Fund Raisers' Tithe			\$282.88		\$282.88
Deacons' Disc. Fund	\$100.00	\$1,940.00	\$150.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,090.00
Total Missions	\$2,192.00	\$2,709.68	\$1,400.88	\$1,932.00	\$2,178.56
Pastor's Disc. Fund		\$41.69		\$41.69	\$0.00
Capital Improv.		\$2,999.87			\$2,999.87
Memorial Fund		\$2,220.00			\$2,220.00
Classis Gift			\$40,000.00		\$40,000.00
Total Designated Funds					\$47,398.43

Deacons' Fund by Month			
Jan. \$90	Apr. \$65	Jul. \$71	Oct. \$
Feb. \$70	May \$43	Aug. \$	Nov. \$
Mar. \$80	Jun. \$60	Sept. \$	Dec. \$
Quarterly Missions			
Drilling for Hope	Fowler	World Mission	Giving Circle
1:\$80	2: \$100	3: \$	4: \$

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2026 Fund Raisers (As of 7/31/26)					
	Income	Expenses	Profit	Tithe	Profit After Tithe
Souper Supper	\$643.00		\$643.00	\$64.30	\$578.70
Lasagna Dinner	\$1,808.00	\$335.78	\$1,472.22	\$147.22	\$1,325.00
Yard Sale			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Harvest Soup Supper			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Holiday Sale	\$42.45		\$42.45	\$4.24	\$38.21
Blue Box	\$671.30		\$671.30	\$67.13	\$604.17
Total	\$3,164.75	\$335.78	\$2,828.97	\$282.90	\$2,546.07

AUGUST MISSIONS

Quarterly Mission: RCA World Missions

For over 375 years, RCA Global Mission has impacted millions around the world through God's love. They aim to partner with global churches in ways that are collaborative and mutually meaningful. Today around 100 RCA missionaries and partners are at work in over 30 countries across the globe, sharing ministries of compassion, developing leaders, and sharing the good news.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Consistory Nominations: For 2027, we will need to elect two new deacons due to consistory term limits, and one elder. To serve on consistory you must be at least 21 years old, an active confessing member, have a faith commitment to Jesus Christ and gifts/abilities for leadership. Start thinking about who you might want to see serving the church in this role – nomination forms should be going out soon! If you are interested in serving on consistory and have any questions, please chat with Pastor Susan or a sitting consistory member.

Yard Sale Volunteers: We are in need of volunteers to help run the yard sale. There are various tasks including sorting items, table set up, bake sale contributions, food preparation/service, checkout table, cleanup, etc. *If you are planning to volunteer, please be sure to put your name down on the signup sheets so that we can keep track of what jobs still need to be filled and can plan accordingly to the volunteer turnout. Signup sheets are on the table in Loomis Hall.*

Annual Meeting Reports: The annual meeting is scheduled for November 15th. This is an early reminder for those who have information or reports to contribute to the annual meeting packet. The deadline for submitting reports to the office will be November 12th, but please try to submit reports as soon as you are able. As a reminder, here is a list of reports typically included in the annual meeting packet:

- Pastor's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Annual Faith Budget
- Property Report
- Investment Report
- Consistory Actions Taken in the Past Year
- Annual Membership Information Report
- Ecumenical Bible Study Report
- Deacon's Mission Plan for the Upcoming Year

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 30th: Planning Meeting for Fall Soup Supper & Deacons' Meeting, both after worship

September 5th: Last day to drop off yard sale donations

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

September 16th, 9:30am: Ecumenical Bible Study resumes

September 18th, 6pm: OSRC Movie Night – "Sister Act II"
Popcorn and drinks will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own drinks and snacks – no alcohol please.

September 20th: September Consistory Meeting & Elders' Meeting, both after worship

September 26th, 9-11am: Prayer Walk for the World at Hudson Crossing Park, hosted by the Schuylerville Area Ecumenical Council

November 14th: Fall Soup Supper at OSRC

November 15th: Annual Meeting, after worship

December 5th: OSRC Holiday Sale

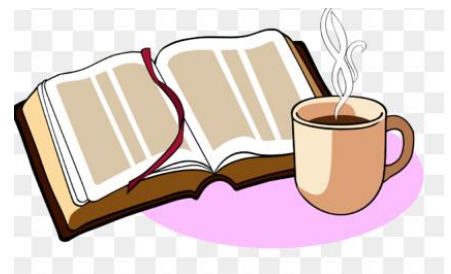
December 6th, 3pm: Community Christmas Concert at OSRC

Ecumenical Bible Study

Bible Study is set to resume on September 16th at 9:30am.

Led, as always, by Richard Behrens, we will start the season off with an in-depth look at Peter, the second disciple of Jesus.

The group meets in Loomis Hall on Wednesdays at 9:30am. If you haven't attended Bible study here before but are curious, consider joining us – even just for one session to try it out! We would love to welcome you to the group!



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
9/18: 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

Do you know of any community events that you think should be included in the JW? If so, please submit all relevant information to the church office by the 21st of the month.

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 on Mondays & Tuesdays)

GRATITUDE CORNER

Thank you to Richard Behrens for his generous donation of a new computer monitor for the church office.

Thank you to Doug Sheely for installing the new light fixture in the vestibule – it looks great!

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In addition to volunteers that help with fundraisers and large events, thank you to all of the volunteers that quietly handle small tasks at the church that may not always receive recognition, such as taking care of the bottle and can returns, dropping off collections to the food pantry, providing coffee hour refreshments, making sure the property and the building are being maintained, and much more.

Although it is easy sometimes to not think of these things, it is because of the attentiveness of volunteers that we are able to “not notice” the mundane tasks that keep the church running.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Florence Sherman

Claire Houston

Sheryl Norton

Barb Elcox

Gerry Barber

Sue Usher

Karl Thayer

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: September 6th
Stay for Coffee Hour Fellowship every Sunday following worship!

Old Saratoga Reformed Church

48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville NY 12871

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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