JACOB'S WELL
NOVEMBER 2026



November 1st
All Saints' Day

Greeter: *Janice Cornell*
Liturgist: *Chris Garney*
Usher: *Bridget Critelli*
Counters: *Cindy Brockman, Bruce Guerineau*

Communion Setup: *Cindy Brockman*
Communion Cleanup: *Karl Thayer*
Communion Servers: *Bridget Critelli, Anne Mitchell*

November 8th
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: *Kim Thayer*
Liturgist: *Duffy Whitehouse*
Usher: *Karl Thayer*
Counters: *Bridget Critelli, Paula Sheely*

November 15th
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: *Bridget Critelli*
Liturgist: *Richard Behrens*
Usher: *Cindy Brockman*
Counters: *Cindy Brockman, Bruce Guerineau*

November 22nd
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: *Cindy Brockman*
Liturgist: *Anne Mitchell*
Usher: *Paula Sheely*
Counters: *Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli*

November 29th
First Sunday of Advent

Greeter: *Karl Thayer*
Liturgist: *Paula Sheely*
Usher: *Anne Mitchell*
Counters: *Anne Mitchell, Paula Sheely*

Liturgy Readings

November 1st
Readings: Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
Matthew 5:1-12

November 8th
Readings: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 70
Matthew 25:1-13

November 15th
Readings: Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22nd
Readings: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Matthew 25:31-46

November 29th
Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Mark 12:24-37



PASTOR'S PONDER for NOVEMBER: COMMEMORATION TO ANTICIPATION

Romans 13:11 ***"The hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed."***

Dear Friends and Members of Old Saratoga,
The month of November opens with the solemn lighting of candles for All Saints' Day, a time when we look backward to the cloud of witnesses who have run their race.

Simultaneously, with the time change—"Fall Back"—that same weekend, the calendar begins its swift, unyielding march through the graying days of late autumn toward the **First Sunday of Advent**. This transitional season offers a profound liturgical pathway, mirroring the very nature of our earthly pilgrimage—standing between what has been and what is yet to come.

As the autumn leaves fall and the nights grow inexorably longer, we are invited into an annual and heartfelt pastoral reflection on the passing of time, grounded in the urgent words of the Apostle Paul:

"Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed." — **Romans 13:11**

In the church calendar, November functions as our kind of twilight zone. We begin by remembering the dead, confronted by our own mortality and the fleeting nature of human life. The bare branches outside our windows and rustling corn stalks left in the fields serve as a stark visual reminder that the seasons of this world are passing away. It is easy, in the chill of this seasonal shift, to succumb to a spiritual snooze—either lulled by the routine of daily anxieties brought about by anticipating the financial challenges of winter, or mid-term election results, or paralyzed by the grief of what and whom we have lost.

However, Romans 13:11 radically reorients our relationship with time. Paul does not view the passing of days as a trek toward emptiness, but as a countdown to completion. Every crossed out day on the calendar, every setting sun in November, is not a step closer to the grave, but a step closer to glory. **Salvation is nearer to us now.** Time is not simply slipping away; it is arriving.

As we approach Advent, the liturgical mood shifts from retrospective Remembrance to prospective anticipation. We slip away from the slumber of complacency. The darkness of late November is no longer a shroud, but the quiet womb of Expectation. We are waking up to the reality that Christ is making all things new.

Therefore, this season of fading light does not end in despair, but in a quiet, defiant **joy**. It is the joy of seeing the first faint streaks of dawn on the horizon. As we light the very first candle of Advent, we recall that the darkness does not have the final word. The time is short, the Lord is near, and our spirits arise in glad anticipation of the Light that no darkness can overcome. Join us here!

-- 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)

"He Hideth My Soul"

"A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, a wonderful Savior to me;
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, where rivers of pleasure I see.
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock that shadows a dry thirsty land;
He hideth my life in the depths of his love and covers me there with his hand."

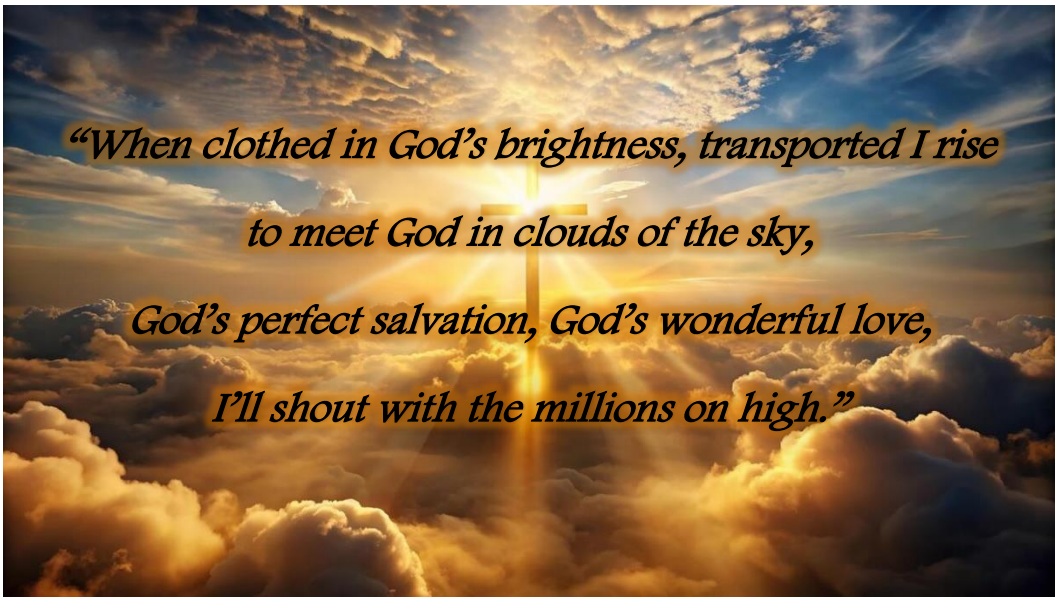
"He Hideth My Soul" recalls Israel's separation from God after the golden calf incident and Moses' intercession asking for God's presence, emphasizing intimate fellowship with God. Moses speaks with God "up front and personal," as a friend speaks with friend. Moses is not permitted to see God's face, but God provides a place, a niche, a "cleft in the rock," where Moses can experience God's glory as God passes by (Exodus 32 & 33).

The first verse speaks of the pleasant nature of being in God's presence despite life's harsh realities. God's action on Moses' behalf emanates from God's love and desire to keep us in safety.

The middle verses of this month's featured hymn are notes of praise. They speak of God's power to lift our burdens, provide strength, and help keep us steadfast in our faith. God's blessings are "numberless" and fill us anew each day.

The hymns author, Fanny J. Crosby, was a 19th century American mission worker, poet, lyricist, and composer. Although blind from infancy, she became a prolific hymnist, writing more than 8,000 hymns. She also learned to play piano, organ, and harp. Fanny was an activist who advocated for the blind, emphasizing education and a rightful place in society.

The closing verse of "He Hideth My Soul" expresses Fanny Crosby's anticipation of Christ's Second Coming and the joy she will find in seeing her Redeemer face to face.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkMzaQlToOk&list=RDKkMzaQlToOk&start_radio=1

Financial Update

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 9/30/26)					
		Missions			
Organization	**Budget**	**Carryover**	**Received**	**Paid**	**Balance**
Albany Synod Mission	$100.00				
Quarterly Ministries	$400.00		$290.00	$200.00	**$90.00**
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	**$0.00**
Community Hospice	$55.00		$90.00	$90.00	**$0.00**
Disaster Relief	$200.00				
SAIL	$50.00		December		
Rebuilding Together	$75.00		$78.00		**$78.00**
Prospect Hill	$50.00			$250.00	**($250.00)**
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		$55.00	$55.00	**$0.00**
Shelters of Saratoga	$50.00		$65.00	$65.00	**$0.00**
Guardian House	$50.00		November		
Giving Circle(Teacher)	$312.00			$312.00	**($312.00)**
General Missions			$295.00		**$295.00**
Fund Raisers' Tithe			$470.67		**$470.67**
Deacons' Disc. Fund	$100.00	$1,940.00	$300.00	$1,000.00	**$1,240.00**
Total Missions	**$2,192.00**	**$2,709.68**	**$2,051.67**	**$2,312.00**	**$2,449.35**
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	**$0.00**
Total Designated Funds					**$7,669.22**

	Deacons' Fund by Month		
Jan. $90	Apr. $65	Jul. $71	Oct. $
Feb. $70	May $43	Aug. $55	Nov. $
Mar. $80	Jun. $60	Sept. $78	Dec. $
	Quarterly Missions		
Drilling for Hope	**Fowler**	**World Mission**	**Giving Circle**
1:$80	2: $100	$110.00	4: $

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2026 Fund Raisers (As of 9/30/26)

	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	$1,631.72		$1,631.72	$163.17	$1,468.55
Harvest Soup Supper			$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Holiday Sale	$58.55		$58.55	$4.24	$54.31
Blue Box	$901.35		$901.35	$90.14	$811.22
Total	**$5,042.62**	**$335.78**	**$4,706.84**	**$470.68**	**$4,236.16**





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting Reports: The deadline for submitting reports to the office will be November 12th. *(Thank you to those who have already gotten them in!)* Below is a list of reports that are still outstanding as of the publication of this newsletter.

-Pastor's Report
-Treasurer's Report
-Annual Faith Budget
-Property Report
-Consistory Actions Taken in the Past Year
-Annual Membership Information Report
-Investment Report

Faithful Neighboring: How We Can Better Serve Immigrants and Refugees

Every day, US citizens hear reports about Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, picking people of color up off the streets of our communities. All of us are faced with questions about how we can be better, more supportive neighbors to immigrants and refugees among us.

On Monday, November 16th, from noon to 1:30 PM EST, the Reformed Church Center will be hosting a panel to discuss the real need for serving the refugees and immigrants living in our communities. We invite you to join us with an open heart and ready to walk through practical ways to be a faithful neighbor. This webinar is free and open to the public, but all participants must register at this link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tBsU_GaqTESRMIV0rAyJ8A#/registration

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 4th, 7pm: All Saint's Service at St. Stephen's
November 7th, 3-5pm: Takeout Lasagna Dinner at Bacon Hill Reformed Church – Cost is $17.00. For reservations, please call 518-796-5318.
November 15th: Annual Meeting, after worship
November 22nd, 3pm: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Ft. Miller
November 24th, 11am: Setup for the Greening of the Church
November 28th, 11am-12pm: Greening of the Church
December 6th, 3pm: Community Christmas Concert at OSRC
December 16th, 7pm: Blue Christmas Service at OSRC
December 24th, 7pm: Christmas Eve Celebration of the Nativity
December 27th, 10am: Three Churches Collaborative Worship at OSRC
January 30th, 3-6pm: Winter Soup Supper at OSRC

Spend time with God this Advent.

Simple…Sacred…Reconnecting with your spiritual self.



REMINDER!

Christmas Concert participants: Please send your information for the concert program to the office by **November 20th!**

Information can be submitted to:

OSRC office email: oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com

OSRC office phone (calls and texts): 518-695-3479

Or leave a note in the office mailbox or on the desk! Thank you!

CHURCH FAMILY

November Birthdays

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

November Anniversaries

11/10: Anne & Doug Mitchell

First Sunday of Advent
November 29th



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 all who have taken the time to prepare reports for the Annual Meeting and thank you in advance to those who attend. We would love to hear your opinions, please join us at the meeting on **November 15th!**

Thank you to all those who have already filled out worship server/volunteer forms – your commitments to the church are appreciated! ***If you intend to fill out a volunteer or worship server sheet, please be sure to return it to the church office by December 1st!***

Happy Thanksgiving!



IN OUR PRAYERS

Florence Sherman	**Gerry Barber**
Claire Houston	**Sue Usher**
Sheryl Norton	**Karl Thayer**
Barb Elcox	**Karen Flewelling**

All who are victims of war, suffering from addictions, living with cancer, grieving.

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. Let us also give prayers of Thanksgiving for times of joy and beauty!

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 1st

Stay for Coffee Hour Fellowship every Sunday following worship!

Old Saratoga Reformed Church
48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville NY 12871
Sunday Worship: 10:00 am
E-Mail: oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com
www.old-saratoga.rcachurches.org
www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch
Phone: 518-695-3479