JACOB'S WELL
OCTOBER 2026



October 4th
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Greeter: *Cindy Brockman*
Liturgist: *Duffy Whitehouse*
Usher: *Karl Thayer*
Counters: *Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli*

Communion Setup: *Anne Mitchell*
Communion Cleanup: *Richard Behrens*
Communion Servers: *Paula Sheely, Bridget Critelli*

October 11th
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Greeter: *Karl Thayer*
Liturgist: *Richard Behrens*
Usher: *Anne Mitchell*
Counters: *Paula Sheely, Bridget Critelli*

October 18th
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Greeter: *Cindy Brockman*
Liturgist: *Anne Mitchell*
Usher: *Paula Sheely*
Counters: *Bruce Guerineau, Paula Sheely*

October 25th
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Greeter: *Richard Behrens*
Liturgist: *Paula Sheely*
Usher: *Cindy Brockman*
Counters: *Cindy Brockman, Bruce Guerineau*

Liturgy Readings

October 4th
Readings: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11th
Readings: Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18th
Readings: Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25th
Readings: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46



PASTOR'S PONDER: SEASONS CHANGE

"The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." Isaiah 58:11

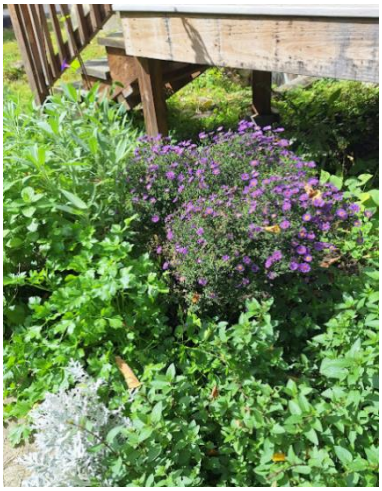
Dear Friends and Members of Old Saratoga,

As we watch the changing of the seasons, I am continually reminded of how carefully God has ordered Creation. I've been thinking about that vision this summer, as I have labored to transform the blank canvas of my house's yard into a multi-colored, meditative, sacred space for a future retirement home. I started with one vibrant purple aster last year, which is now nearly overwhelmed by culinary herbs gone bonkers: sage, parsley, lemon and chocolate and apple and pepper mints, rosemary, lavender, and basil, have made their own space luxuriously and gloriously at the back door, surrounding that solitary aster.

Throughout Scripture, Jesus often uses the imagery of growing things to describe our life together. Jesus called Himself the true vine and us the branches. Today, I write to you with that same image in mind, reflecting on our congregation as a living, breathing garden.

A garden is never just a collection of isolated plants. It is a complex, beautiful ecosystem where each living thing relies on the same soil, the same rain, and the same sunlight. In our Reformed tradition, we understand that the Christian life was never meant to be lived in isolation. When we confess our faith, we are not just declaring a private relationship with God; we are being planted together in a specific plot of soil. That soil is the local church.

Corporate worship is the primary way our spiritual roots are watered and fed. When we gather on the Lord's Day to hear the Word faithfully preached and to receive the sacraments, we are opening our lives to the sunshine of God's grace. It is here, side by side, that we receive the essential nutrients of covenant community. Just as a plant cannot survive for long if it is uprooted and left on a concrete sidewalk, a Christian cannot truly thrive apart from the regular gathering of the saints.



When you miss worship, the garden notices. Every plant in a garden provides shade, breaking the harsh wind for the smaller sprouts around it. Your presence, your voice in the hymns, your prayers in the pews, and your unique spiritual gifts provide vital shelter and encouragement to those sitting next to you. We need your growth to help us grow. When a section of the garden is left untended or separated from the rest, the soil dries out, and it becomes easier for weeds to take root.

I know that life is busy and the demands on your time are fierce. The world offers many different fields to plant your time and energy into. But I urge you to prioritize the cultivation of your spiritual home. Make weekly worship an unshakeable rhythm in your life. Stay deeply rooted in our fellowship, our small groups, and our times of service.

Let us tend this church garden together, ensuring that no one is left to wither in isolation. May we remain firmly attached to the Vine, so that our collective life might bear much fruit to the glory of God, for it is in the combining of spicy, fragrant, savory, and sweet, that the garden of Old Saratoga Reformed Church may hope to thrive. Grace and peace be with you, as we continue to grow together.

-- 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 God of Every Nation"

"O God of every nation, of every race and land,
Redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand,
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
In love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world."

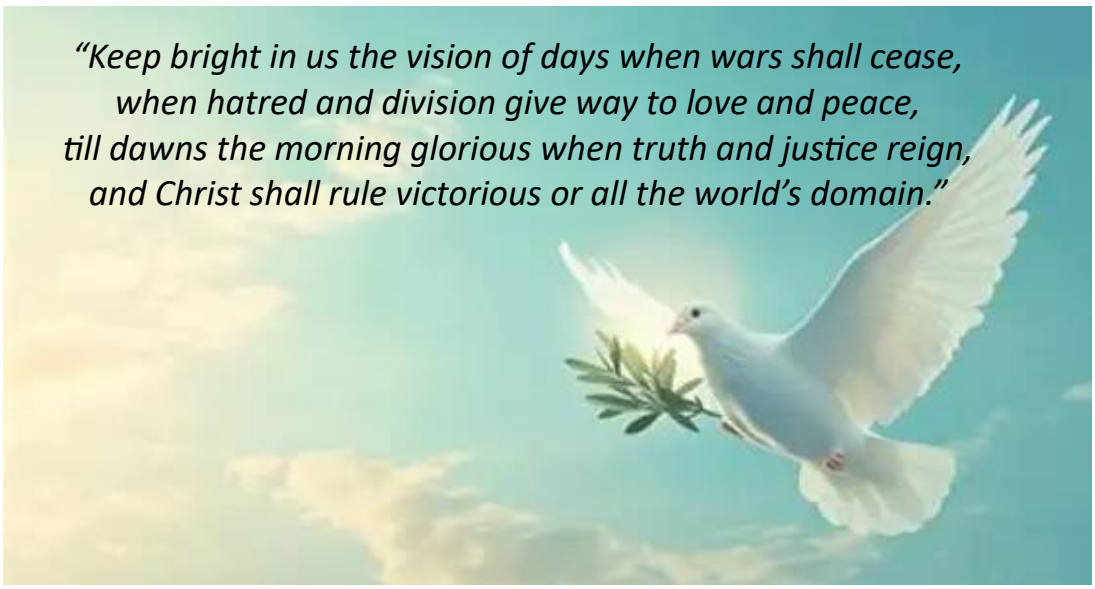
It is a sad fact that history does repeat itself, and we are slow in learning to avoid self-destruction. The names and places may change, but our tendency to revert to being creatures of wrath again rises. We once more find our world in this regressive state as we witness harmful division around the globe and even in our own nation. Need we further proof than the current threat to annihilate another nation?

"O God of Every Nation" was written in 1923 by an American, William W. Reid, Jr. I am certain that the devastation of World War I was fresh in his mind, "the war which would end all wars." And history did repeat itself some twenty years later, and the world has been in turmoil ever since.

Our hymn goes on to mention the roots of division and subsequent strife when it speaks of the search for "wealth and power and scorn of truth and right", "pride of race and nation and blindness to your (God's) ways."

Holy Scripture admonishes us to seek peace. In his day, King David urges his people to *"pray for the peace of Jerusalem",* (Psalm 122:6) – a prayer which we need to repeat today.
Jesus said – *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."* (Matthew 5:9), and Hebrews 12:14 advises *"Strive for peace with everyone…"* a pursuit that reflects God's character.

May the words of the last verse of our hymn for October be our prayer today.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_A7pqFdY6I&list=RDu_A7pqFdY6I&start_radio=1

Financial Update

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: Designated Funds (As of 8/31/26)					
		Missions			
Organization	**Budget**	**Carryover**	**Received**	**Paid**	**Balance**
Albany Synod Mission	$100.00				
Quarterly Ministries	$400.00		$240.00	$200.00	**$40.00**
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		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		$55.00		**$55.00**
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			$270.00		**$270.00**
Fund Raisers' Tithe			$300.01		**$300.01**
Deacons' Disc. Fund	$100.00	$1,940.00	$300.00	$1,000.00	**$1,240.00**
Total Missions	**$2,192.00**	**$2,709.68**	**$1,728.01**	**$2,007.00**	**$2,430.69**
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					**$7,650.56**

	Deacons' Fund by Month		
Jan. $90	Apr. $65	Jul. $71	Oct. $
Feb. $70	May $43	Aug. $55	Nov. $
Mar. $80	Jun. $60	Sept. $	Dec. $
	Quarterly Missions		
Drilling for Hope	**Fowler**	**World Mission**	**Giving Circle**
1:$80	2: $100	$60.00	4: $

Old Saratoga Reformed Church: 2026 Fund Raisers (As of 8/31/26)

	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	$35.00		$35.00	$3.50	$31.50
Harvest Soup Supper			$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Holiday Sale	$42.45		$42.45	$4.24	$38.21
Blue Box	$807.60		$807.60	$80.76	$726.84
Total	**$3,336.05**	**$335.78**	**$3,000.27**	**$300.03**	**$2,700.24**

As of September 13th, the profit from the September Yard Sale came out to be a total of $1,520.27, which breaks down to a profit of $1,391.15 for the General Fund and $139.12 for Missions. Thank you to all those who contributed to the sale's success!

OCTOBER MISSIONS

Quarterly Mission: The Giving Circle

The Giving Circle is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization focused on seeking out communities and individuals in need and connecting them with resources to help. The organization was founded in Saratoga Springs in 2005 by Jefferson Award honoree Mark Bertrand. The organization was initially formed in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, and volunteers worked to help rebuild homes in southern Mississippi. Since then, they have expanded their efforts to the serve the Capital District, Uganda and Ukraine. Locally, they partner with nonprofit organizations to provide assistance to those in need such as helping the homeless, building wheelchair ramps, repairing homes, providing holiday assistance, etc. The Giving Circle Africa works on projects such as building schools, a health clinic, a savings and microloan bank, farming, and more in Uganda.

October Deacons' Mission: Schuyler Hose Company

The Schuylerville Fire Department was organized on August 15th, 1836, as a village fire department, then reorganized as Schuyler Hose Company on November 16th, 1953, and incorporated in 1973. Their protection area covers approximately 20 square miles, which includes the Village of Schuylerville and portions of the Towns of Saratoga, Northumberland, Easton, and Greenwich.

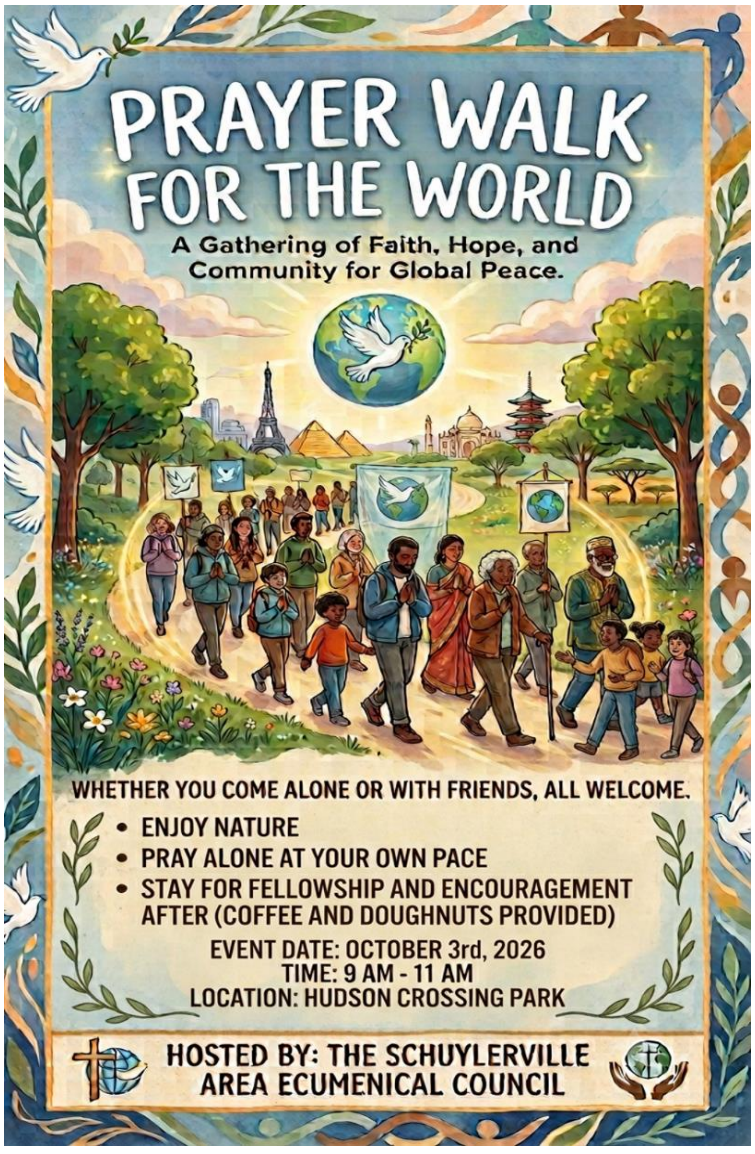
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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



November 4th, 7pm: All Saint's Service at St. Stephen's

November 15th: Annual Meeting, after worship

December 5th: OSRC Holiday Sale

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

January 30th, 3-6pm: Winter Soup Supper at OSRC

Fall Soup Supper at OSRC

November 14th, 3-6pm

Free will donation – meal includes soup, salad, bread, dessert and beverages. Be sure to arrive early for the best selection of soups!



CHURCH FAMILY

October Birthdays

10/2: Eric Garney
10/4: Bill Olmert
10/7: Kim Thayer
10/9: Mikael de Velder
10/12: Dawn Alexanian
10/12: Barrett Fedderly
10/13: Tammee Lockwood
10/14: Jennifer Legg
10/15: Paisley Ann Casey
10/16: Bridget Behrens
10/21: Nathaniel de Velder
10/21: Oscar Everts
10/25: Alma Westcott
10/25: Holly Deyoe
10/27: Bruce Guerineau
10/29: Jean Stark
10/29: Rev. Susan Kerr

October Anniversaries

10/6: Pat & Harvey Howd
10/9: Jennifer & Todd Bruneau
10/16: James & Donna Mellen
10/16: Julia & Thomas Pooler
10/21: Kevin & Melanie Casey
10/22: Florence & Roger Sherman
10/25: Dawn & Stephen Alexanian
10/27: Ryan & Amanda Markwith

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 everyone who came out to participate in last month's church cleanup day. The amount of progress you all were able to make cleaning out the library is astounding - the space is so much more functional now!

A huge thank you to all the volunteers that offered up their time to help make the yard sale happen. It takes a lot of work to get the sale set up, cleaned up, and run smoothly on the day, and we are so appreciative of all who collaborate to make it a successful event. Special thanks to Bridget Crtielli for taking charge in organizing the event.

IN OUR PRAYERS

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



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: October 4th

Stay for Coffee Hour Fellowship every Sunday following worship!

Old Saratoga Reformed Church
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