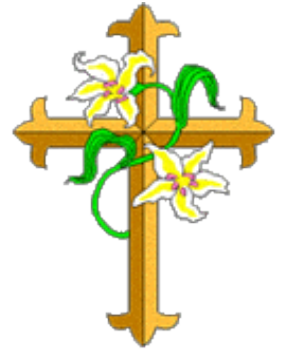




The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church – April 2017

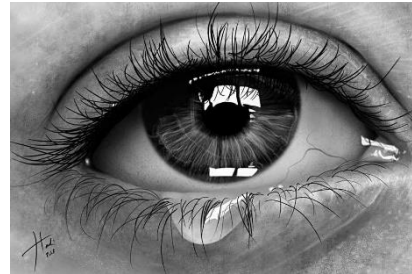
Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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May Deadline - April 24



Moved by Love

“When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.”

- John 11:33

I remember several years ago sitting in a clergy meeting with a group of fellow pastors. We were discussing an article written by a religious writer arguing that Christians of the time seemed to be focusing more on the suffering and pain of Jesus, and not enough on the resurrection and victory of Jesus over pain, suffering, and death. I remember one colleague explaining how he saw things through an interesting analogy about being a patient in a hospital. He said, “Imagine if you were a patient in a hospital dying of an illness. Which would you rather have in that moment – a person who was sick and suffering in the bed next to you, who could relate with your own pain and suffering, or would you want the doctor with the cure for your illness?” Now given the choice between those two options it probably seems like a “no-brainer.” I think all of us would opt to have the doctor with the cure.

But the more I have thought about this analogy and the more I have brought it to the actual person of Jesus that we encounter in the gospels, I have come to see that there is a breakdown with this analogy. The breakdown is that with Jesus, it is not an “either/or” situation, but rather a “both/and.” We don’t have to choose. We get both. In the love of Jesus, we get both the victorious savior and the suffering servant. We get one who offers us healing and hope, as well as one who meets us in our pain with true compassion and deep empathy. We can

Think Spring!

see this clearly in the story of the resurrection of Lazarus. Twice in the story, before Lazarus is raised, John tells us that Jesus was “deeply moved.” And of course, there is also the classic verse, “Jesus wept.” Jesus does tell them, “*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.*” But he allows them to express their feelings of pain and even anger, “*Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.*” Jesus also allows himself to feel his own feelings of grief, sorrow, and loss. Not once does Jesus tell them that they should not be feeling what they are, or that they are being unfaithful or untrusting in their expressions of grief. Rather he allows their pain and sorrow to move him deeply.

I can't help but wonder if that isn't an important piece of the story? For Jesus to not just give us a sign of his resurrection power, but also to make room for sharing in the anger, hurt, fear, pain, and loss we all feel as a part of being human. Perhaps Jesus is sharing his own heart for us to be challenged in how we share ours? Do we have the courage to enter into the pain of another? Can we let go of our needs to “fix” or “convince” and our desires to “lessen” or “recolor” the pain and grief of others, in order for us to truly share with them in love? Can we instead allow their pain to touch us in the depths of our own lives, that we can truly share tears and love with them? Perhaps it is the courage to be “moved by love” that helps us find our way to resurrection hope?

Let us be reminded of the last verse of the hymn, “*Let Your Heart Be Broken.*”

Let your heart be tender and your vision clear

Serve mankind as God sees, serve him far and near

Let your heart be broken by a brother's pain

Share your rich resources, give and give again.

May the hope of the resurrection free us from the fears of suffering with others, that we may share compassion, empathy, and love with them, feel it in ourselves, and together celebrate the joy of resurrection in this season, and in every season!

Seeking to be Moved by Love,

Pastor Mike and Pastor Sherrí Meyer-Veen



Celebrate Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 9



We will begin our Palm Sunday celebration by joining with our ecumenical brothers and sisters in a special Palm Sunday Parade through the village of Schoharie. We will gather at the **Schoharie United Presbyterian Church at 9:15am on Sunday, April 9.** We will then parade down Main Street waving our palm branches and stopping at various points along the way to hear scripture and sing songs. Please dress accordingly and join us for this special celebration. Following the Palm Sunday parade we will gather for our Palm Sunday worship service at 10:30am back at the Schoharie Reformed Church.



Maundy Thursday, April 13

A Maundy Thursday service will take place at the Schoharie Reformed Church at 7:00pm on Thursday, April 13. This service of worship, including communion by intinction, will take place in the sanctuary.



Good Friday, April 14

This year our ecumenical Good Friday service will be held at **12:00pm** at the *Schoharie Reformed Church*. The service will once again conclude with a chance for you to put your own nail in the cross. Please join us in recognition of this Holy Day! Following the Good Friday service, you are invited to join us for a "Bring your own lunch" gathering next door in the Heritage House.



Easter Sunday, April 16

The Easter Sunrise Service will be held at **6:30am** at the home of Matt & Emily Fagnani. A light potluck breakfast will follow. Please bring a dish if you are able. Directions below.

The Easter Worship Service at the church will be at its regular time of **10:30am**. Please note that there will be **NO Sunday school**, but kids are invited to take part in a resurrection egg hunt following the worship service.

Directions to the Easter Sunrise Service

- From the village, follow Bridge Street up Schoharie Hill
- Going up the hill turn left/stay straight at the curve onto Sunnyside Rd.
- Continue on Sunnyside Rd for 1.5 mi., passing Cooper Village
- 491 Sunnyside is on the right. It has a long driveway with horses in front of the house.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Wednesday April 5, 6pm - Lenten Soup & Bread

Evening in the Heritage House. Worship begins at 6:45. We still need both soup & bread for the final gathering on April 5. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who would like to provide a soup or bread. Please join us for this special time of fellowship and reflection!

Easter memorial plants are available this year. The order form is in your church bulletin. Forms and payment are due by Sunday, April 2; late orders will have limited color choices.

May 6-7, 9am-6pm: Faithwalking event at the Quality Inn in Schoharie. Scholarships are available. For more information, pick up a brochure in the narthex or contact Pastor Sherri at (518)231-2151 or PastorSherriMV@gmail.com, and check out the article on page 5.

NCCC volunteers will be here March 25-April 20.

They will be using kitchen daily, and possibly other rooms, as available. They will work around our scheduled uses.

Nursery volunteers needed: This is a great opportunity to enjoy spending time with little ones, while providing a service to your church family. The sign-up sheet is next to the flower sign-up sheet. Thank you!

Lost & Found: Several nice jackets and a child's shirt & pants are on the rack in the Heritage House – any takers? Unclaimed lost & found items will be donated in April.

The Food Pantry is open Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12-2pm, looking for a **driver** to pick up at Hannaford's every Tuesday AM, AND **volunteers** for the second Thursday of each month to serve our clients from 12 to 2 pm. We welcome donations of food (including fresh produce), paper products, personal care & cleaning products, empty egg cartons, to drop off here or in the SUPC Christian Ed building. **If you'd like to help with the Food Pantry**, please call or e-mail Jean Sparks, 295-6032; sparksviking@gmail.com.

Christian After-School Program at the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church seeks volunteers - forms are by the sign-up sheets.

Aluminum Tabs for the Shriners - Please continue to bring can tabs to the church; John Nixon and Ron Filmer will deliver them to help Shriner's Hospital. Thank you!

Building & Grounds

Fellowship Hall Renovations

Framing is nearly done – the space is again starting to look like a Fellowship Hall (meeting room, kitchen, toilets). “Boxing in” ductwork and other detail around the ceiling takes time. Rough plumbing and electric is underway.



Plumbing and electric in the common wall between the toilets and kitchen.



Standing at the back door looking toward the kitchen. Note the piles of sheetrock.

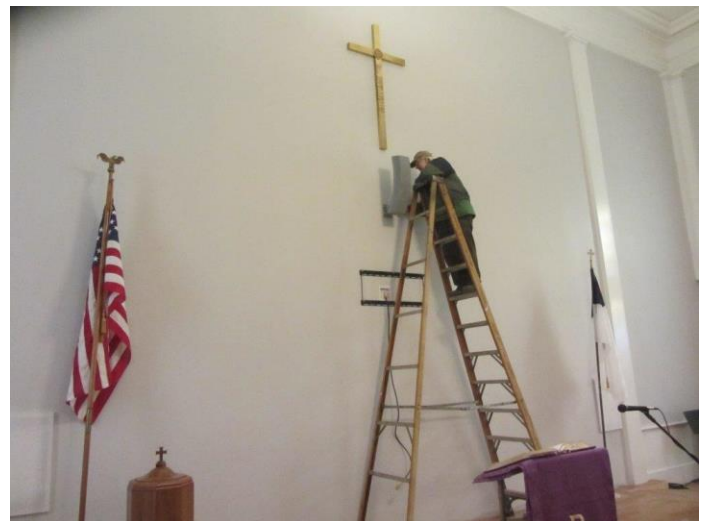
Next will be to finish the rough plumbing and electric; followed by the smoke alarm system. Sheetrocking starts the middle of April. We are shopping for kitchen cabinets.

Sanctuary

Our sound system is operational. We expect to hang our big flat screen monitor early this month. After that will be the hearing aid enhancement system.

Pews – Using feedback from the congregation, the seating group determined that a mix of our pews with loose upholstered “worship” chairs would be the best way to honor our Church’s history while providing flexibility to meet different needs (including wheelchair and handicap space). Specifically, the first row of pews (as you walk into the Sanctuary) and the last two rows (toward the pulpit) will be replaced with chairs. Upholstery will complement the carpet runners.

A local contractor is currently refinishing the pews we will need. The refinished units will be stacked in the Sanctuary until all are completed and then reassembled. Toward the end, Sunday worship may get crowded - some folks may need to sit in the balcony.



Mounting speaker and flat screen monitor bracket.

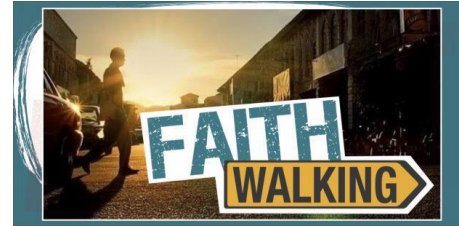
Can You Hear Me Now?

The installation of the Audio-Video System in the church sanctuary is nearing completion and has been operational for the past couple of weeks. Now there is a need of personal to operate the system during services held in the sanctuary.

We want to establish a weekly schedule of people who would like to participate in this new ministry. Although not necessary, some computer and tablet skills would be helpful. There will be training sessions of this system for the next few Sundays following the morning worship service.

If you are interested in becoming part of this ministry, please contact Vince Smith at 518-423-0845.

There will be a TRAINING SESSION of our new AUDIO-VIDEO SYSTEM following the worship service on Sunday, April 2 for all who are interested in learning to operate it.



**May 6th (9am-6pm) and 7th (9am-6pm)
at the Quality Inn & Suites in Schoharie, NY**

Our Purpose

Faithwalking is a spiritual formation process where people are increasingly following the way of Jesus, experiencing ongoing transformation, and developing effective practices for missional living: serving the poor, the marginalized, and those in need; working for the common good; and restoring individuals, social systems, communities, and nations to God's intended design.

What We Do

Faithwalking is a series of four courses (FW101, 201, 202, and 301) open to anyone, where we teach, coach, and empower you to master the components of your ongoing transformational journey. Our core work centers around helping you and those in your community to master the work of spiritual formation, inner healing, emotional maturity, and missional living. We believe that this work in personal transformation clears space for us to effectively get on mission with God in the world.

For More Information

You're welcome to pick up a brochure in church, or talk with Pastor Sherri or Pastor Mike for more information.

Financial Assistance Available

The Consistory encourages everyone to consider participating in the Faithwalking 101 Retreat. If you are interested and need financial assistance, please let Pastor Mike or Pastor Sherri know.

To Register

To register, please enter the link below into your browser. Select the option of retreats 'Open to specific churches, organizations or Faithwalking Circles.' Choose the NY Event and Pay By Circle; payment link will be sent in confirmation e-mail.

<https://www.faithwalking.us/101-registration/>

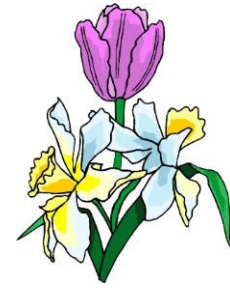
Schoharie Valley Community Camp

Schoharie Valley Community Camp will be held from July 17-21. We will once again be working with the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church and Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church to design a fun, interesting Christian program for children from the age of 4 to the eighth grade. Camp Fowler will also contribute to the camp.

This year's theme is "Seeking the Light," with inspiration from Cave Quest. Cave Quest is where children can go exploring through dark caves with Jesus as the light, through activities done at camp. It teaches children that Jesus is one who lights the way and gives us hope for each new day. His love illuminates when our path is dark. Cave Quest encourages kids to follow Jesus wherever he leads them. Children will have the chance to learn about God's light, and how he leads us, through song, dance, and activities at camp.

The Schoharie Valley Community Camp will also be participating in the Memorial Day Parade on May 25 at 6:30pm. We will be putting together a float for the Day Camp staff and volunteers to ride on. Through this float in the Memorial Day Parade, we hope to promote Day Camp and attract children in the community and new volunteers. Sunday school students are invited to walk along with the float, accompanied by a responsible adult. If you would like to help make decorations, decorate the float, or walk/ride in the parade, please contact the church office.

The Schoharie Valley Community Camp is currently accepting applications for counselor and Young Leader positions. Applications and job descriptions are available in the narthex, or by contacting the church office at 295-8177 schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com. We hope to see you at camp as we follow a treasure-seeking group of characters on their adventures to "Seek the Light." Join us for some fun!



Easter Memorial Plants and Donations

Easter memorial plants will be available again this year. Or you might choose to remember loved ones by donating to the rebuilding fund...or perhaps both! Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office. The plants are \$10.00 each again this year. Forms need to be submitted by Sunday, April 2. Late orders will have limited color choices. Thank you for helping to beautify our Easter services while remembering special loved ones.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Memorial to: _____

In honor of: _____

In celebration of: _____

Number & color of plants:

Easter Lilies White	Hyacinths Pink, blue, white
Tulips Red, orange, yellow, pink, purple, white	Daffodils Yellow, white

*Donation to Rebuilding Fund _____

Paid \$ _____

Owe \$ _____

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April 2017



