

The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church –February 2017

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



February



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*Deadline for March Newsletter
submissions: February 22*



Present over Perfect

"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living." -Psalm 27:13

Several years ago, the A&E television station ran a series of advertisements on cable television with the theme of, "Escape the Ordinary." Escape the ordinary. If we are honest, there have probably been times in our lives when that has sounded really good to us. Times when we felt like the life we were living had somehow "fallen short" of the perfect image we once dreamed. Or times when it left us exhausted because we just couldn't keep up with all of the needs, and demands in the ways we felt like we "should."

As a result, we became worn down, fed up, and burned out by an everyday life that left us drained of energy and empty of meaning. Along the way, we are also continually tempted by the siren call of our consumer culture that wants us to believe that our happiness and our wholeness are found in something outside of our everyday lives. Whether it is turning on the television, taking a vacation, buying something new, or changing our appearance, the message is the same – "Your real happiness and wholeness are not found in your current life."

But what if the reality was that our everyday, “ordinary” lives held all of the joy and fulfillment we truly longed for and that it comes to us not by our “escaping” but by our “deepening?” The Psalmist declares, “I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.” What if that were truly so for us? What if we could slow down and even cease our exhaustion, transform our perception of ordinary into extraordinary, and instead of looking beyond, look around and discover the “goodness of the Lord” in our everyday lives? In her book, “Present over Perfect,” author Shauna Niequist writes these words,

“Present is living with your feet firmly grounded in reality, pale and uncertain as it may seem. Present is choosing to believe that your own life is worth investing deeply in, instead of waiting for some rare miracle or fairytale. Present means we understand that the here and now is sacred, sacramental, threaded through with divinity even in its plainness. Especially in its plainness.”

Over the course of the next month we want to invite you to take a journey with us through the book “Present over Perfect” as we discover the blessings, the joys, and the hopes of truly getting present to our lives, as well as the reality of God’s goodness and grace in our midst. We hope you will join us for this journey as we seek to live more fully into the lives God has blessed us with, and discover the extraordinary love and goodness of God in the midst of our ordinary days! This book will be the focus of our Monday evening small group at 7:00pm, as well as a Wednesday morning small group at 10:00am. Both small groups will meet in the library of the Heritage House and will begin the week of February 6th. If you would like to be part of a small group, please email or call the church office and let us know.

Seeking to be Present with you,

Pastor Mike and Pastor Sherri

Think Spring!



Upcoming Events

February 6, 7pm: Small Group Book Study begins, focusing on the book *Present over Perfect*. We will meet on Monday evenings at 7:00pm and on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am, both in the Heritage House. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. There is a suggested donation of \$10.00 if you would like to give towards the cost of the book. Please join us!

February 25, 12-4pm: The Fellowship Committee invites you to an afternoon of collage making, hosted by Denise Misiph. Bring a bag lunch. \$15.00 will be collected at the door. Bring a friend and join us for a fun time of creating! Please RSVP by 2/17 to Cindy Parks at 295-7419 or email at cjparks7@midtel.net.

Irish Dance lessons for beginners of all ages will be held in the Heritage House on Tuesdays from 4:15-5:15pm, beginning January 31. Contact Jennie at the church office or 295-8560 to sign up.

May 7: CROP Walk in Cobleskill to raise funds for relief from hunger. If you are interested in walking or sponsoring a walker, please contact Jennie in the church office.

Announcements

Consistory: We are excited to announce that Luke Jacobs, Paul Schultz, and Kim Charboneau have been nominated to serve on our consistory.

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!

We're looking for some "Kitchen Angels" to check supplies, do a little extra cleaning, wash dish towels, etc. once a month, and de-clutter the fridge every 6 months. If you would like to serve in this way, please talk with Pastor Sherri.

Reminder: Recipes sought for Schoharie Reformed Church Cookbook by March 31! The cookbook project is making progress, and we want your favorite "go to" recipes, holiday recipes, too! Please print or type your recipes as soon as possible, bring them to church on white paper or the form in the narthex, or mail/e-mail them to Cindy Parks: cjparks7@midtel.net.

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 Shriners' Hospital. Thank you!

Food Pantry

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.

Jean is recovering from a broken hip, so extra help will be appreciated!



Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship committee (formerly Capital Campaign committee) met on January 23. The committee worked on a variety of events. The first event will be Collage Making, hosted by Denise Misiph. Mark your calendars for February 25, 2017 from noon to 4:00 pm. Bring a bag lunch. \$15.00 will be collected at the door. Bring a friend and join us for a fun time of creating. Please RSVP by 2/17 to Cindy Parks at 295-7419 or email at cjparks7@midtel.net.

The next item we worked on is our new cookbook. We will need all recipes by March 31st. You can email them to cjparks7@midtel.net, mail them or just give them to her. Also, there will be lots of opportunities to help put the cookbook together: typing, sorting, and binding. Let the committee know if you'd like to be involved.

Blessings,
Cindy Parks
Committee Chair



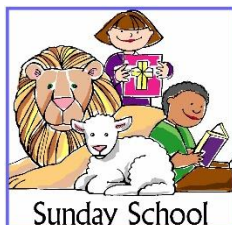
Sunday School Update

Throughout the month of January, our Sunday School students have been learning about having faith in God by studying the story of David and Goliath. We have played with balloons, been led through mazes blindfolded, and made sheep out of marshmallows while learning that even little people can do big things when they trust in God.

In the month of February and into early March, we will be learning about Queen Esther. We will continue to talk about trusting in God and relying on Him for help. We will be watching more VeggieTales videos, creating golden scepters, and playing with chopsticks. All of these activities, and so many more, will be focused on helping children learn to have courage in any situation by trusting in God.

Sunday School Calendar – 2017

February 5th – Regular Sunday School
February 12th – Regular Sunday School
February 19th – No Sunday School – Winter Break
February 26th – Regular Sunday School
March 5th – Regular Sunday School
March 12th – No Sunday School
March 19th – Regular Sunday School
March 26th – Regular Sunday School
April 2nd – Regular Sunday School
April 9th – Regular Sunday School
April 16th – No Sunday School - Easter
April 23rd – Regular Sunday School
April 30th – Regular Sunday School
May 7th – Regular Sunday School
May 14th – Regular Sunday School
May 21st – Last Day of Sunday School – Picnic following Worship service



Thank You Notes

From Schoharie County Christmas for Kids:

We would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$250 to the Schoharie County Christmas for Kids program. Your thoughtfulness helped to brighten the holidays for children and their families throughout our county.

With your contribution and the contributions of other caring individuals and businesses, SCC for Kids was able to provide gifts to more than 700 Schoharie County children. Your gift made it possible for more than 270 Schoharie County families to have a happier and more joyful Christmas this year. Thank you again for your generosity.

From the Reformed Church in America Global Mission Team:

Dear Friends of Schoharie Ref. Church,
Thank you for your support of our ministry. 2016 was a difficult year as the number of migrants/refugees who arrived in Italy via the Mediterranean Sea was the largest in history, as were the number of deaths at sea. The number of women from Nigeria being trafficked to Italy for sexual exploitation also rose, as well as the number of people fleeing Syria, so we remain steadfast in our work in all of these areas...work we could not continue without your support.

Blessings,
JJ, Tim, Sophia & Petra TenClay
RCA Global Mission Co-Workers



Greetings from Sicily!