



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church – July/August 2016

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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*Summer Worship Time is 9:30am
July 2 - August 20*

*Camp Fowler Retreat August 25-27
(no worship service at SRC on Aug. 27)*

*September Newsletter Deadline:
August 23*



Message from the Interim Pastor

Hard Shell of a Turtle: Soft Wings of God

"For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. For you have heard my vows, O God..."

- Psalm 61: 2-5

I forgot that at this time of year, now mid-June, one of the joys of driving from Glen to Schoharie or Cobleskill is the turtle population. These are the only places I've seen turtles on the move. I was recently reminded of this on my way to the church as I turned off 30A to take Junction Road over the Schoharie Creek. There's a field there and a turtle looking to cross the road. This past week, a mile from this spot was sadly a turtle dead on the side of the road.

I find the turtle fascinating, with its hard shell of protection and the ability to draw inside the shell to protect itself from harm. Unfortunately, with our man-made machines, the speed with which we travel, and our lack of attention, a turtle's hard shell is no match. The shell won't protect the turtle from humanity, only animal predators.

We humans are much like the turtle. When we sense danger, we retreat into our own hard shell rather than allow people to care for us. We are vulnerable. We, too, take risks to cross to the other side, to get to where God needs us to be. We also retreat to our place of safety when we sense danger, betrayal, or

brokenness. What is your safe haven? Do you rest in the love and protection of God? Do you rest in the care of your brothers and sisters in Christ? Psalm 61:1-5 assures us of the protection that God offers: strong tower, refuge, tent, shelter, and wings. These are the words the Psalmist uses when we need protection, not a hard shell like the turtle or our human walls of defense.

As we move through our summer months and have opportunities to spend time with one another and with those we don't know very well, may we get out of our hard shell of protection; take a risk and connect with other people, knowing that God is our tent and shelter, a wing for us to take refuge under. When we need to retreat, may it be into the soft wings of God who loves us and cares for us, not our hard shell of defense. Let's shed some shells this summer for soft wings!

Peace be with you,

Betsy Westman
Interim



Buildings & Grounds Update:

Fellowship Hall Renovations

The kitchen cabinets are scheduled to be delivered and installed by the end of June. Countertops will follow along with a host of detail and finish items.

To minimize cosmetic "do overs", painting fire doors and stain/poly'ing wood doors is waiting until the kitchen is complete.



Thank You

From Marathon for a Better Life: Thank you for your donation to the Marathon for a Better Life. Every cent of your donation will go to help cancer patients in Schoharie County.

From Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church: Thank you for all you do for the Schoharie Valley Community Camp.

From Scho-Wright Ambulance: We would like to express our thanks for your recent contribution to Scho-Wright Ambulance Service, Inc. It is gratifying to know that the work we do merits the support of our many friends.

Thank you from SRC to Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church for their recent donation to Schoharie Valley Community Camp.



What's Happening:

August 25-27: Camp Fowler Congregational Retreat – NOW is the time to reserve your place for a weekend of connection and reflection! There are still several openings available. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex; ask Paul & Edie Schultz for details.

Schoharie Valley Community Camp is looking for volunteers – there are so many ways you can contribute! An "I Can Help" form is enclosed with the bulletin. Counselor applications are available in the narthex and on our website.

Toilet Paper/Paper Towels & AA batteries wanted! Please bring your donations of TP, paper towels, and AA batteries for Day Camp to church. Collection boxes will be in the church back entryway and the Heritage House dining room.

Lily Festival July 15: If you would like to help tidy up the Lily Park, including the Ecumenical Reflective Area, donate to the project, or have a booth or table at the Lily Festival on July 15, please contact schohariepromo@yahoo.com 295-7801 or 295-8118.

Operation Christmas Child Workshop July 15, 9:30-11:30am (see article): This is a great opportunity to learn more about coordinating our OCC activities!

Sunday School Kick-off September 10, 9:15am: Come join us for a Pancake Breakfast to start off our Sunday School year!

September 28-30: Room for All National Conference in Holland, MI. The theme for RfA's conference, "A Kaleidoscope of Intersections," focuses on the multiple identities that LGBTQ people embody and which shape their experiences; specifically, the intersections of LGBTQ identity and race, faith expression, and life journey. Full details are at <https://roomforall.com/events/national-conferences>, including a link to online registration. If you need help with registration, please call 201-364-4538.

Early bird discount registration deadline: July 28. Final deadline: August 25.

The Food Pantry is open Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12-2pm, and welcomes volunteers. We appreciate 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. Especially needed at this time of year are lunch items and things for children. **If you'd like to help with the Food Pantry,** please call Diane Walion at 868--4629.

Schoharie Reformed Church seeks Operation Christmas Child Coordinator

Are you looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity? SRC seeks a new Project Leader for our Operation Christmas Child contributions. Jody Meinsma has done a great job with this for many years, but will not be available this year. If you're interested in coordinating the donations from our congregation and

Project Leader Workshop

Do you lead Operation Christmas Child activities at your church/community group/business? Then this workshop is for you!

- ✓ Hear shoebox recipient, Yves Dushime, share how receiving a shoebox gift impacted his life!
- ✓ Meet like-minded individuals in your community and learn more about the impact you are having on children around the world!
- ✓ Hear the latest Operation Christmas Child updates and take home 2017 resources!
- ✓ Share ideas with other Project Leaders and explore new ways to grow Operation Christmas Child in your church or group!

Saturday, July 15th, 9:30am-11:30am
Grace Fellowship Church - Halfmoon
1 Enterprise Ave, Clifton Park, NY 12065
Refreshments will be served

RSVP to the OCC Northeast office:
occnortheast@samaritan.org / (518) 437-0690

samaritanspurse.org/occ



Meet Yves Dushime, a shoebox recipient, and hear his story!



School's Out!

Power Up for Summer Fun!



Are you looking for FUN, FREE activities to do with your kids this summer?

Places throughout our community offer fun activities *and* healthy meals, all at no cost. There is no application—just show up when meals are served and enjoy!

Call your **Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP)** Coordinator to find a summer meals location near you.

Schoharie County
Community Action Program (SCCAP)
(518) 234-2568 x3035
Toll-free (866) 849-2402

Prepared by a project of Hunger Solutions New York; funded by NYSOTDA.
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Schoharie Valley Community Camp

Summer is here, and Schoharie Valley Community Camp is near! Camp will begin on Monday, July 17 and run through Friday, July 21, 2017. Morning Camp (8:30am-12:00pm) is for children ages 4 through entering 2nd grade and Day Camp (8:30am-4:00pm) is for children entering 3rd through 8th grades. We will also offer free aftercare that will be available on a first come, first served basis, at no extra charge. To enroll in aftercare, please contact Pastor Colleen Quirion at 295-8102.

We are excited to report that 100 campers have already registered to spend the week with us! With our theme of "Seeking the Light," campers will be focusing on the light that Jesus bring to the world, and participating in many cave-related activities. They will be building bat boxes to be hung around the community, learning about stalactites and stalagmites, and even taking a trip to Howe Caverns! We are already counting down the days until the caving fun begins! Please keep Day Camp in your prayers!



Volunteer Opportunities at Camp

Anyone over the age of 14 is invited to apply for a volunteer opportunity (additional age requirements relate to some positions as specified on the job descriptions). The volunteer positions include: Counselors, Junior Counselors, Maintenance Volunteers, Snack Volunteers, and Sign-In Volunteers, in addition to many others. Volunteer applications are due on or before Friday, July 1st. If you would like to volunteer, please fill out the "I Can Help" form in the back of the newsletter, or download the application materials from our website.

For more information, please contact the Schoharie Reformed Church Office at (518)295-8177, e-mail: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com. Job descriptions and application forms are available on our website.

The Planning Committee looks forward to seeing you at camp as a motley crew of cavers embark on the great adventure of "Seeking the Light."



Schoharie Valley Community Camp

Prayers for July

Week of July 2: Pray that God will prepare the hearts of campers to receive God's messages for them while attending the Schoharie Valley Community Camp.

Week of July 9: Pray for the health and safety of the children, teenagers and adults who will be taking part in the Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp.

Week of July 16: Pray for a week of good weather, inspired learning, good health, safety, and LOTS OF FUN for everyone taking part in the Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp.

Week of July 23: Pray that all who participated in the Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp will be blessed by the messages received, lessons learned, and friendships built during their week of camp. To God be the glory!



Gas Up

This year's Schoharie Reformed Church Food Booth at the Gas Up was a smashing success! The coordinators, Larry Poulin, Buck Berdan and Dottie Vojnar, were very pleased with the response from the many volunteers who stepped up to help out, and those who donated pies, salads and other foods. They are so proud of the kindness, generosity, time, and products given by the congregation.

A big "Thank You" goes out to the Duaneburg Hannaford grocery store for their very generous donation. When you shop there, stop by Customer Service and ask for Diane or Tyler, and tell them how much we all appreciate their generosity.

Due to the hard work, organization, and contributions of the coordinators and their team, everything went smoothly to make for a fun and successful Gas Up. Even the weather cooperated! Thank you, everyone!



Schedule of Speakers for Sunday Worship Services

June 25, 2017 – Betsy Westman, our Sabbatical Pastor will have her first opportunity to preach.

July 2, 2017 – Perry Jones from Capital City Rescue Mission

July 9, 2017 – Paul Schultz

July 16, 2017 – Rev. Kent Busman will help us get Day Camp week started off right. [Day Camp Week]

July 23, 2017 – Liza Toborg

July 30, 2017 – Rev. Gail Wolling, a Lutheran pastor and friend of Pastor Sherri's who has been to Zimbabwe will lead in worship and then share about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe and her own travels to Zimbabwe after church.

August 6 – Betsy Westman

August 13 – Cindy Parks

August 20 – Mike Saccocio, Executive Director of the Schenectady City Mission

August 25 – 27, 2017 will be the congregational retreat at Camp Fowler, sign up now to reserve your preferred sleeping arrangements! Those who are not able to travel to Fowler are invited to join the Presbyterian Church for worship.

September 3 – Betsy Westman

September 10 – Paul Schultz

September 17 – Betsy Westman

September 24 – Betsy's last Sunday. Mike and Sherri are present, but not preaching.

October 1 – Mike and Sherri ☺





***I can help
Make Day Camp Great!
July 17-21, 2017***

I will pray for Day Camp

I can help with Maintenance – set up, during camp time or after hours.

I can help with Snacks – people are needed to solicit donations, pick up items, work on food prep during camp times.

I can help with Administration – needed areas are data entry, working at the registration table, writing letters to campers, writing thank you notes, etc.

I can help with traffic control – people needed for beginning and end of each camp day (7:45 – 9:00 or 3:30-4:30)

I can be a Counselor or Junior Counselor – Be with the kids and assist or lead activities – need to fill out application form!

I can help with Arts and Crafts

I can help with Music

I can help with Nature – need to fill out an application form!

I can be camp photographer for the week – can come and go from camp as needed.

I can help with Recreation – need to fill out an application form!

I can help organize Friday's all camp lunch!

I can make a financial contribution to help camp

I can be camp nurse for one or more days of camp – must be physically present for full day

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Please email to SchoharieReformedChurch@yahoo.com or return
To Schoharie Reformed Church, P.O. Box 635, Schoharie, N.Y. 12157
Please fill out the reverse side of this form



As a Day Camp Program we are required to obtain the medical history and run background checks of all Day Camp Volunteers. Please return this information by July 2nd so that the background checks can be completed before the first day of camp. Please know that this information will be kept confidential except in the case of emergency.

Health Information:

Are all your immunizations currently up to date ____yes ____no

Please list any allergies, special dietary needs, or specific illnesses that we should be aware of:

Please list any Medications you are currently taking:

Background Information:

Full Name_____

Date of Birth _____

Driver's License # (if applicable)_____

Have you ever been convicted of a felony ____yes ____no

If yes, please explain and give date: _____

I hereby attest that the above information is up to date and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that failure to produce accurate information could result in my inability to be a staff or volunteer for Schoharie Christian Day Camp.

Signature_____ Date_____