



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church –November 2016

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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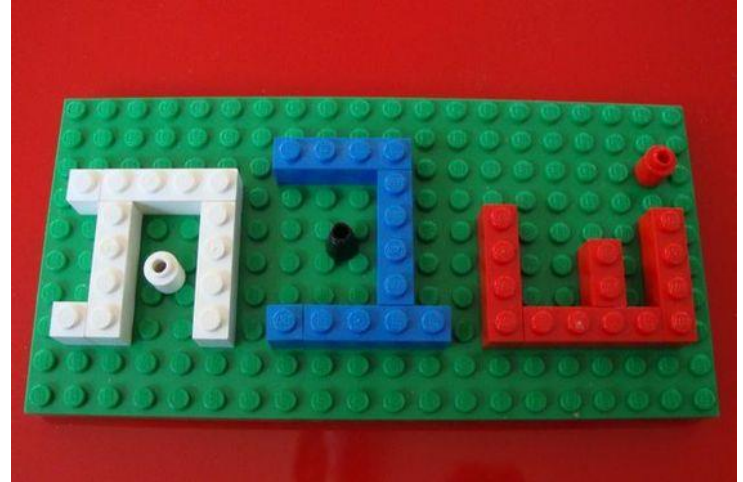
Sunday School is at 9:15am

Worship Service is at 10:30am

December Deadline –November 21



From the Pastors



“From him (Christ) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

– Ephesians 4:16

This fall, we have been exploring together that great Hebrew word from the Bible, “Shalom.”

Commonly translated as “Peace,” it means more than the absence of conflict; it is the fullness of God’s presence with us. Shalom also means “wholeness,” and a sense of being “complete.” In our worship, we explored how God’s work of Shalom and restoring wholeness is God’s desire for all of creation, and for every aspect of our lives. This work of Shalom is also what God desires to work into us through our attitudes and our perspectives, as well as what God desires to work through us by partnering with God in the work of Shalom for the world.

Now as we prepare to turn our attention once again this November to our annual theme of stewardship, we are going to be invited to wonder together about what this means for our lives. How does a Shalom perspective translate into the ways we connect to God, to ourselves, to others, and to the world? In

other words, what does it mean for us to be “Stewards of Shalom?”

Throughout this next month you will hear wonderful testimonies of God’s work in the lives of some of our congregation. There will be special music, and at the end of the month, a wonderful celebration of the ways we have been able to witness God’s Shalom as a congregation. You will also receive your annual stewardship mailing, and you will have the opportunity to make your pledge to the ministry of the Schoharie Reformed Church as we work together as members of the body of Christ to be good and faithful “Stewards of Shalom.”

In his book, “Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ” author Dallas Willard writes,

Giving is the highest expression of potency. In the very act of giving I experience my strength, my wealth, my power. The experience of heightened vitality fills me with joy. I experience myself as overflowing, spending, alive, hence as joyous. Giving is more joyous than receiving, not because it is a deprivation, but because in the act of giving lies the expression of my aliveness.

I think we all want to feel that joyousness, and aliveness in our own lives. For Dallas Willard, those things are tied to our generosity, and we would add that the key to this kind of generosity is found in the reality of God’s Shalom.

This month we will explore together what being “Stewards of Shalom” means in how we view God as the source of all our blessings and abundance, how we view ourselves as beloved children of God, belonging to God and created for a purpose, how we view one another with openness and vulnerability as we share in life together, and how we view the world by loving and sharing, not out of what we have, but rather out of God’s Shalom.

Come and grow with us as become Stewards of Shalom!

Pastors Mike & Sherri.



Upcoming Events & Announcements

Bible Study Mondays at 7pm: We will meet weekly until Advent, continuing our study through the book of Genesis. All are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!

Saturday, November 5, 9:00 AM : Fall Clean-Up
General outside clean-up in preparation for winter. Bring rakes, brooms, gloves, pruners, loppers, etc. Could also use a couple pick-up trucks. Please let Dave Toborg or John Nixon know if you intend to be there. Rain date is the following Saturday, November 12.

Sat., Nov. 5, 9am-3pm, The Joy Girls: Gallupville Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rte. 443. Faith inspired day for women; music, singing, skits, presentations, worship. Donations accepted for lunch, ministry, the Joshua Project. Doors open at 8:30am.

November 13: Operation Christmas Child Dedication
Please bring your shoeboxes to church on that day. Details on page 4.

Thanksgiving baskets: We will be collecting for thanksgiving baskets for the month of November. A list of items needed and a collection box will be in the narthex.

Schoharie Reformed Church Cookbook seeks contributions: The Capital Campaign is creating a cookbook to raise money for Building the Kingdom, and we need your help! Please print or type your favorite recipes as soon as possible, bring them to church on white paper or e-mail to Sue Smith: vinsue@midtel.net
Cindy Parks: cjparks7@midtel.net.

Nursery volunteers still 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!

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

Fellowship: The Fellowship Committee wants to hear from you! Do you have any special events you would like to see happen in our church? Contact Cindy 295-7419 to discuss. God Bless!

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!



Building the Kingdom Capital Campaign

November 2016: Can you believe it has been less than a year since we began our Capital Campaign? It is important to take a step back and reflect on how far we have come in a year! Since September, we have received an additional \$3774. This brings our total received to \$499,288 with an additional \$81,904 in remaining pledges!! When we consider that this is all additional to our regular operating income and expenses, we have much to celebrate! We can see the light at the end of the tunnel! We are back in the sanctuary, the new playground is being utilized regularly, the lift is working and being utilized, the bell is ringing, the railings are up in the balcony and the back entrance – God is good!

We are so thankful for the response to the Capital Campaign, and also recognize the funds are going out the door as quickly – or even more so – than they are coming in. We have paid for many of the major expenses recently. We also know some of the pledged funds will not come in soon. Additional funding is welcome and needed. While we celebrate the funds that have come in, we also recognize an additional \$168,808 to go in order to reach our goal.

Exciting things are happening as we begin to live into our dreams of open and flexible space, in anticipation of the children's Christmas program, more musical options, and all that it will mean for us. We celebrate new members and a growing Sunday School. We celebrate the new after school program and an ever growing Day Camp program. Recently a community member said to me, complimenting the playground, "The Reformed Church really is at the heart of this community!" Please give as generously as you are able to help us finish the Capital Campaign and continue to live into the vision.

Thank you,

Pastor Sherri

This month, gifts have been received from Schoharie United Presbyterian Church, Niskayuna Reformed Church, Carl Stefanik, Woodhaven Reformed Church, Liz Kosier, Jennifer Pandolfo, Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church, The Mission Team of the First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains, and New Hope Reformed Church.



Operation Christmas Child

From Africa to Asia to the Americas, Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes spread the joy of the Gospel to millions of children. On Sunday, November 13th, shoeboxes you have lovingly filled with gifts for boys and girls around the world, will be gathered and dedicated at our morning worship service.

Anyone can pack a shoebox. You may use shoeboxes (that can be easily assembled) available in the narthex of the church, any average size shoebox you might have at home, or purchase plastic ones available in stores. As you shop for gifts, decide whether you will pack a box for a girl or a boy, and the age category: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14. Then fill it with a "wow" gift (stuffed animals, toys, dolls, musical instrument, outfit, shoes), other fun toys, school supplies, non-liquid hygiene items, crafts, and if you choose, a personal note including your name and address (the child may be able to write back). Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift. Finally, place a donation of \$7 per shoebox (used to send your gift overseas) inside the box (or donate on line) and place a label (also available in the narthex or on line) on the outside of the box indicating the age and sex of the child your gifts are intended for.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse and you can learn more about it, and additional information on what to pack in a shoebox, at samaritanpurse.org/occ. If you have any questions, you can give me a call at 827-4598.

Every shoebox shares the good news of Jesus Christ and blesses children with joy, hope, and love. Please be a part of this worthwhile project and bring your box(es) to church on Sunday, November 13th.

Jody Meinsma

Gift Suggestions

- **Toys:** Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls, toy cars, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc.
- **School Supplies:** pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

- **Non-Liquid Hygiene Items:** toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc.
- **Accessories:** t-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.
- **A Personal Note:** You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. If you include your name and address, the child may be able to write back.

Do Not Include: Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Food Pantry Report September 30, 2016

Greetings from the Food Pantry!!

The children are back in school and the startup of fall activities has started. The leaves are turning and the lazy, happy days of summer are gone. The pantry is busy and the shelves are beginning to have fall choices, like soup, hot chocolate mixes, hot cereal and such.

As far as the numbers served we have been pretty steady. In September we fed 274 people and that is consistent with the last few months.

We are in need of a driver to pick up at Hannaford's every Tuesday AM and we also need volunteers for the second Thursday of each month to serve our clients from 12 to 2 pm. We know that the economy has made it more difficult for the working poor to keep things going. If anyone can help in either of these areas it would really be appreciated.

Again, enjoy the fall and all the colors that will be coming to the trees.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Sparks



Building & Grounds

Fall Clean-Up Saturday, November 5, 9:00 AM. The focus will be on raking leaves, sweeping the parking lot, cleaning out the flower bed, trimming shrubs, and general outside clean-up in preparation for winter. Bring rakes, brooms, gloves, pruners, loppers, etc. Could also use a couple pick-up trucks. Please let Dave Toborg or John Nixon know if you intend to be there. Rain date is the following Saturday, November 12.

Sanctuary Check out our new railings on the rear stairs and the balcony.



Below is a list of “little” jobs that you can do. The tasks can be done at your convenience weekdays, evenings, or weekends. By yourself or with a friend. Each job done is one less item on the “things-to-do” list and/or we have to pay to have done. Contact Dave Toborg if (295-8554, dtoborg@midtel.net) for details if you can make one of them happen.

	<u>Skill Level</u>
a. Balcony – Pull carpet tacks and nails from areas that had wall-to-wall carpet.	Low
b. Balcony – Pull up the remaining old blue carpet. Pull those carpet tacks and nails.	Low
c. Balcony Pews – Shim and tighten certain units.	Moderate
d. Balcony Pews – Fill nail holes and prep for paint. Paint.	Low
e. Organ – Finish vacuuming floor and furniture alongside the organ.	Low
f. Rear Doors (upper & lower) – Install door levers. Clean paint off interior brass door lever.	Low
g. Rear Door (upper) - Wash spill stain off aluminum threshold and concrete floor.	Low
h. Rear Door (interior) – Fit and install oak threshold on concrete floor.	Moderate
i. Rear Doors (upper & lower) – Install door stops. <i>Requires research.</i>	Moderate
j. Lift Door (exterior) – weather strip door perimeter. <i>Requires research.</i>	Moderate
k. Rear stair railing – Prime and paint.	Low
l. Basement – Disassemble homemade work platforms (no longer needed).	Low
m. New Balcony Rail – Clean mill scale and trim any sharp welds. Remove any surface rust. Fill holes. Mask, prime and paint. <i>Long, tedious, but rewarding.</i>	Moderate

Winter is coming: Snow - After a 1" snowfall, our snow plow contractor plows the parking lot and shovels the steps, ramp, and the street sidewalk. Lesser amounts, however, are our responsibility - so please be encouraged to grab a broom and/or shovel for the nuisance snows that pop up all winter long. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Especially keep the steps and ramp clear so the sun can do its thing thereby reducing usage of ice melting agents.

Note that we use plastic shovels (without steel edges) to minimize damage to the wooden steps and ramp. When necessary, there is a beige plastic tote full of magnesium chloride on the Heritage House porch. Compared to rock salt, magnesium chloride is less corrosive to the steel fasteners holding together the wooden steps and ramps.

Heat - Both buildings have programmable thermostats. If you need to raise the temperature for an event, simply press the up arrow until the desired temperature shows (typically 68°). And remember to turn it down when you leave. If the schedule needs permanent adjustment AND you are comfortable doing so, then go ahead and change the program. If not, contact Dave Toborg.

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***Schoharie Christian After School Program***

Things have been going well. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Billy plays the guitar while we sing. We also ask the children whom they want to pray for and add them to our prayer list.

The kids have been playing outside in the nice weather. They have been very innovative in making up things like a campground with a camp fire and a grill they made with an old grill and two sticks. They made camp pizza as well on a slate stone with leaves.

Pastor Sherri Meyer-Veen made Star Wars cupcakes for her son Sam's birthday, they were a big hit. With the cooler weather coming, we are doing some crafts inside. This week we are painting mini pumpkins.



Painted Pumpkins

Camp Pizza

Homework Help

Star Wars Cupcakes - yum!

## Love Challenge

I've been thinking a lot about love this fall. We've had lots of premarital counseling sessions, some couples counseling, and I'm preparing to give a presentation about love, all adding to my reflection and pondering. In the reading, reflecting and prep work, one quote has stayed with me and I've continued to ponder comes from Dallas Willard, in *Getting Love Right*. He confronts our notion that we "just can't love so and so" and challenges us to recognize and grow our love disposition in such a way as to "seek to become the kind of person that would love" so and so. We know we are supposed to love and pray for all, including those whom we don't like, even those we might recognize as enemies and adversaries. Yet, we don't always act so loving.

This election season has been the worst I can remember in terms of bad behavior. It seems that most people are voting against someone, more so than voting for someone, and strong opinions abound. I have heard the word "vitriol" used often, as the nation seems polarized, resorting to name calling, dehumanizing, over characterizing the other as "evil" or close to it. I wonder what place radical love has in the midst of all of this fear, bitterness, anxiety, and chaos?

Recently, a blog post suggested that some are so divided already in their candidates of choice that the other candidate can do no right, and regardless of the outcome of the election, pointing to the other person's failures will still be the only story that is told. I thought to myself, how could they? That is horrible. And then I took a look in the mirror and thought, *what story will I tell if those I do not want to be elected are?*

Will I pray for whomever is elected with the same fervor? Will I try to live into the positive future I want to see happen, regardless of who is leading us? Or, will I constantly be looking for ways to prove that I was right and this person is actually ill-equipped to lead? Will I wish the person to fail? Or will I live into my values of radical love and pray that we will all "win" in some way? Granted, some outcomes will be more difficult for me than others, but all the same, that is my problem and it is good for me to recognize it and choose now what I will seek to live into. I invite us all to ponder such things.

Pastor Sherri



## Ridder Church Renewal Sharing

I propose a new support group called BHA: Being Human Anonymous. Some days I get really tired of being human. I get tired of making the same mistakes. I get tired of broken relationships and hurt feelings. I get tired of emotions that sometimes got the best of me. I get tired of hard decisions to make, things I should have done, things I shouldn't have done.

I get tired of worry; for futures that never came true, for issues blown out of proportion. I get tired of times where I should have been more supportive and I didn't see it. I get tired of being discouraged and failing to put all my faith in God.

But then I realize that BHA is not needed with Jesus, the Word of God and the church. Through Ridder renewal and the tremendous support of some great people in my life, I have an increased arsenal at my fingertips to get through this exhausting condition called being human. As I ponder the topics of Ridder and the topics of small groups we've done, I think wow, what great tools have been given to us. I see the books on my shelf of Crucial Conversations, The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers, The Five Dysfunctions of a Team, The Gifts of Imperfection and the Leader's Journey. So many conversations over such critical topics that help us all migrate through the everyday challenges of life.

I find myself often walking into meetings and groups weary from being human, but then I leave feeling re-energized, being filled with the fuel I need to battle the human condition another day. My husband says I am always in such a great mood when I come home from meetings. The Ridder Church Renewal is demonstrating not only how we navigate through our challenges as a group, but I think we all feel it's been influencing how we navigate through being human as an individual, human, child of God. I see myself being transformed from feeling like I need a support group, to being able to celebrate the human condition through the grace of God!

Maryann Foland



### Pastors' Sabbatical

We are thrilled to announce Schoharie Reformed Church was named a recipient of the

2016 Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program administered through Christian Theological Seminary! You may have seen this announced in the Times Union as our pastors were selected as the "Faces of Faith" for this past weekend, highlighting this national honor. We are one of 147 congregations across the United States who were selected, and the only congregation in the Capital Region.

While the consistory had already agreed to give our pastors sabbatical time away next year, this grant will allow the pastors and congregation both to do some creative and renewing activities during that time. \$15,000 will go toward the congregational plan, which will include providing for leadership while the pastors are away, as well as some special guests and an all congregation retreat at Camp Fowler. Save the dates: August 25-27, 2017!

The additional funds will allow the pastors to travel and experience various renewal activities, related to their theme of "reconnecting to God, themselves, and each other." Mike will focus on food and music as a means for reconnection, and Sherri will focus on relationships and nature. The sabbatical time will begin at the end of May and will conclude the middle of September.

We are thankful to the planning team, which included last and this year's consistory, the grant writing team, and some additional congregants, including Paul Schultz. Well done to the grant writing team, including Dusty Putnam, Karen and Bill Olewnick, and the pastors!

We have a rough plan and have received the funds! Would you like to be a part of the implementation team to further develop and help the plans become reality? This will include planning for the retreat, planning dinners, organizing pastoral coverage and worship, and any other special events. Please let the pastors know as planning with begin soon.



### *Reminder: Schoharie Reformed Church Cookbook Seeks Great Recipes!*

The Capital Campaign is creating a cookbook to raise money for Building the Kingdom. There's still time to share your favorite "go to" recipes – including those special holiday treats!

If you need more info or have questions call Sue Smith @ 518-390-3263. Please print or type your favorite recipes as soon as possible, bring them to church on white paper or this form (please print), or e-mail to:

Sue Smith: [vinsue@midtel.net](mailto:vinsue@midtel.net) or  
Cindy Parks: [cjparks7@midtel.net](mailto:cjparks7@midtel.net).

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone, e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Recipe name: \_\_\_\_\_

Serves: \_\_\_\_\_ Oven temp: \_\_\_\_\_

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