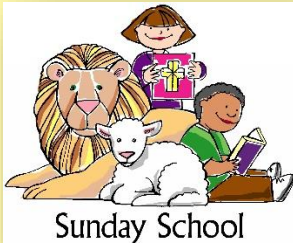


The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church –September 2017
Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri
Interim Pastor Betsy



Sunday School

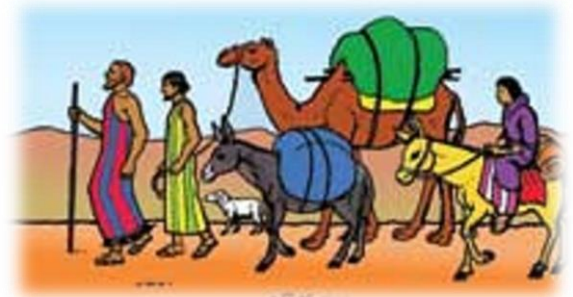
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There's No Place like Home?

"Go from your country, your people, and your father's household to the land I will show you."

-Genesis 12: 1



Let's face it, in Genesis 12:1-5 Abram, as he was then known, was leading and living a quiet and contented life as far as we know. God calls Abram to leave his father's house and the country and go to a place probably unknown to him; a place where God will lead him to settle and become a nation.

For that matter, let me also include Moses in Exodus 3:1-12. Moses is tending the flock of sheep of his father-in-law Jethro when angels approach him and God calls him to lead his people, the Israelites, out of their bondage in Egypt. They are on their way to a new home, the Promised Land.

While we read that Moses in verse 11 questions God and wonders, "Who am I to do this task and bring the Israelites out of their captivity," we don't read that in the Abram text. With Abram, he went and did as God directed. Abram trusted God.

Life is good. We see that phrase printed on hats and t-shirts. After all, with life being so good, why fool around to make life better? But while we may think, "Life is good and flowing smoothly, the rhythm of our days is ordered and in sync; let's leave well enough alone," God has a call for each of us and as Christians, God has a better place for us. There are times where life is a struggle and we long for something better, or we might balk or make excuses, like Moses, and question what God is doing with our life to disturb the peace. Do we see God's calling us to a better place as disturbing the peace, or as an opportunity for something better?

In Abram, we find that he trusts God and answers the call to become a great nation. His journey was not always easy and neither is ours. Will we trust God to lead us to where God needs us to be? Will we trust God to bring us to a place that is better than what we know, to a place that is more perfect? Jesus went ahead and has prepared a place for us to be with God.

As we move into a new season, let God guide you, answer the call of God, and trust in what God is doing in your life to bring you to a more perfect place; a home and place better than you ever could have imagined.

Peace be with you,

Betsy



Updating the Prayer and Praise Lists:

If you would like to add someone to the Prayers or Praises (or update a previous post), please call or e-mail Jennie at the church office. Thank you!

Testimonies: We would like to celebrate the work God is doing in the life of our congregation. If you are feeling led to share a brief testimony about what God is doing in your life, please speak with one of the Pastors.



Upcoming Events & Announcements

September 3 we will return to our regular worship time of **10:30am**.

September 10 at 9am: Celebrate the start of the Sunday School year with a free Pancake Breakfast in the Heritage House! We'll serve pancakes, sausage, applesauce, coffee, juice, and milk. Paul Schultz will be singing some songs with the kids. **All are welcome.** If you would like to help, please contact a Consistory member or just come early. The worship service will include a Litany for Celebrating a New Season of Faith Formation.

September 17, 9:15am: Sunday School classes start.

Donations for "Things of My Very Own" may be placed in the box in the narthex; details on page 6.

The Food Pantry needs your help! Volunteers are needed to receive the food delivery on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-10:00am, and to help distribute the food Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 noon-2pm. If you would like to help, please contact Diane Walion at 868-4629.

Book Study begins Sept. 18, 7pm: Please join us to read and discuss "If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat" by John Ortberg. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Consistory meets September 20.

September 23 at 9am: SRC work day. We'll finish the loose odds and ends in the church fellowship hall and any other projects that need finishing. For details or to sign up, please contact Dave Toborg at 295-8554.

Faithwalking Retreat Sept. 23 & 24 in Holmes, NY. Early bird discount good through Aug. 25, registration deadline is Sept. 8. For info/registration, go to <http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org/engage/faithwalking/fw101retreat>.

Learn about Long Term Care Resources on Sept. 29: see page 4 for details.

Regional Synod of Albany presents:

October 6 – 7: Enneagram with Ian Cron at the Community Reformed Church of Colonie. Friday dinner, Saturday lunch are included. Scholarships are available.

October 17-18: Faith for a Fair NY Conference, Binghamton.

For more information about these and other programs, go to the Regional Synod of Albany website: www.albanysynod.org, or contact their office by phone: 518-374-4573 or e-mail: synodalbany@gmail.com

Food Pantry Report - August 2017

The Schoharie Community Food Pantry continues to be utilized on a regular basis by 60 to 80 families per month. Donations of food are always appreciated, especially such items as peanut butter and jelly, tuna fish, pasta sauce and soups. As a reminder, financial donations can be made directly to the Regional Food Bank, designating the money to the Schoharie Community Food Pantry.

The food pantry has some volunteer needs as well. We are in need of volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from approximately 8:30 until 10:00. These volunteers are responsible for receiving food that has been donated from Hannaford. The food needs to be weighed, shelved and recorded. Training is provided, and volunteers do not have to commit to every week. We also need a driver who would be willing to pick up food from Hannaford and bring it to the food pantry on the 1st Thursday of every month.

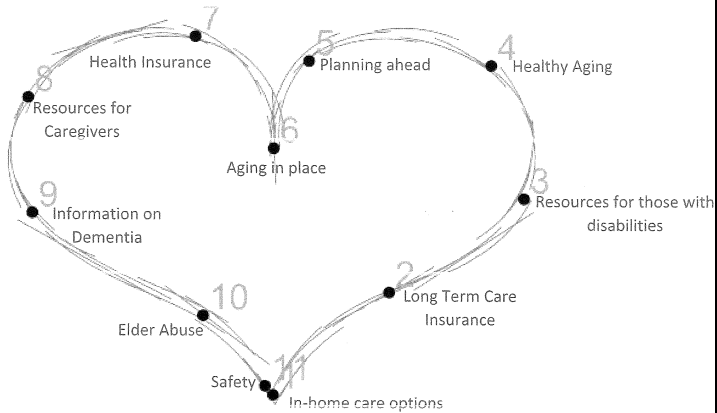
A volunteer is needed to work at the pantry on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Additionally, we could use some more substitute drivers, receivers and pantry workers to fill in as needed from time to time. Finally, it would be nice to have someone in charge of cleaning the pantry on a monthly basis, basically mopping the floor and cleaning the refrigerator. Potential volunteers should call contact Diane Walion for more information – Dswalion@gmail.com, 518 868-4629. As always, thank you for your faithful support of this ministry!

Pastor Colleen Quirion



Schoharie County Office for the Aging
and NY Connects Present:

READY, SET, CONNECT!



Join us for a day of learning how to connect the dots of Long Term Care services and supports!

September 29, 2017

Quality Inn and Suites, Schoharie NY
160 Holiday Way, Schoharie, NY 12157

9 am – 3: 30 pm
Breakfast at 8:30 am
Breakfast and lunch are included

Representatives from: the Alzheimer’s Association, Albany Law, Farmnet, The Eddy, Catskill Center for Independence, Schoharie County OFA, as well as other vendors!
Celebrity Introduction Speaker: Heather Kovar from News Channel 6, weekend news anchor

OFA Director will be hosting our annual Public Hearing at this event

Suggested Audience; Caregivers, professionals, AAA Staff, Family Members....etc.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
RSVP to 518-295-2001
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
RSVP to 518-295-2001

Thank You from

Schoharie Promotional Association

Dear Church members:

The members of the Vietnam Remembrance and Recognition Day committee want to express their sincere appreciation to you for your assistance with the use of your chairs for the ceremony held on Sunday, May 28, 2017.

Your assistance greatly contributed to the success of the day.

Sincerely,

Darlene Patterson
Darlene Patterson
Co-Chairman

Nancy Wolfe
Nancy Wolfe
Co-Chairman

Building & Grounds

Fellowship Hall Renovations

The Fellowship Hall is nearly ready. Currently, we are painting (trim, doors, and touch-up) and “poly’ing” wood doors. Once done, the floor will be stripped, buffed, and sealed; plus a few other minor items finished.

Need painters. As we are doing the painting ourselves, more help from the congregation would speed the process along. If you can do fine trim painting or staining then please contact Dave Toborg (295-8554, dtoborg@midtel.net).



Work Day. Starting at 9 am Saturday, September 23 will be a multi-purpose work day. How much is accomplished beforehand will determine exactly what we’ll be doing that day. An announcement will be made in, but likely tasks include:

- Painting
- Dusting and vacuuming Sanctuary
- Moving tables and chairs to Fellowship Hall

Sanctuary

Refinishing the pews is taking much longer than the contractor estimated. There is no definite target date at this time.



Schoharie Valley Community Camp

Schoharie Valley Community Camp flew by this year! We had an amazing turn out of over 150 campers and over 90 volunteers. Camp was a success with children learning about Jesus' love and how he guides us through life. The children were able to walk on water, build bat houses, explore a cave, and learn about how God is the light of our worlds.

Thank you to everyone who helped with camp this year! You were greatly appreciated and hope to see you all again next year.

Make sure to mark your calendars for next year, July 16-20, 2018!



Postcard from
Pastor Sherri & Pastor Mike

Dearest Church Family,
We have been on Iona for just
under a week now with Christians
from all over the world in this
ancient place, praising God and living
in community. It is an experience
I wish all could have and has
nourished my soul greatly!

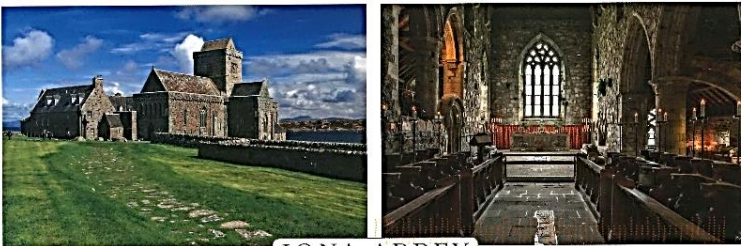
We had a great time in London
and with our UK family... Next,
we head to Zimbabwe.

We pray God is filling your soul
with even a drop of the love, peace
and community we are experiencing

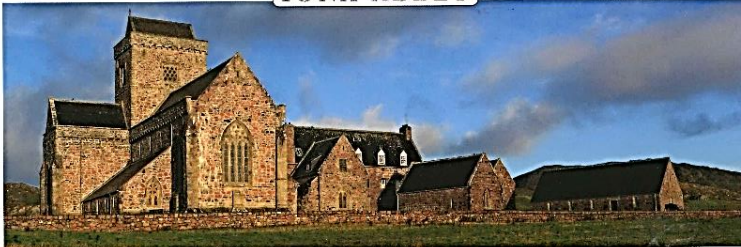
Much love!

Pastors Sherri & Mike

Project exclusively for the Iona Community's Shop by Ness Publishing 01343 54944. Photos © Colin



IONA ABBEY



Pulpit Schedule

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 ☺

Things of My Very Own Needs Your Help!

This is an urgent plea to the community for donations of
new and gently used clothing for children in crisis. A
collection box will be in the narthex.

The donations we have collected will be dropped off at
Things of My Very Own's Crisis Intervention Center
located at 249 Green Street in Schenectady any
Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 9am-
noon. They accept donations of gently used or new
clothing in sizes preemie- adult 8XL*. Your donation can
prevent a child having to be removed from their non-
abusive family member, solely because they lack items
necessary for sustainability. No donation is too small!

They are also dangerously low or out of the following
items:

- Laundry Detergent-100% Depleted
- Boys and Girls Deodorant- 100% Depleted
- Feminine Hygiene Products (pads specifically)
- Juice Boxes- 100% Depleted
- Boys & Girls Undergarments (Must be new)-
Most Sizes Depleted
- Conditioner- 100% Depleted

Monetary donations can be made on their website at
<http://thingsofmyveryown.org/donate-today/>

* Please note that the organization works with children
who are extremely vulnerable and often traumatized by
what they have endured. Donated clothing must be free
of rips, tears, stains, and pilling. It is their mission to
provide children who have been impacted by extensive
abuse and/or neglect with clothing that they can be
proud to wear. Thank you in advance for your support.





It is almost time for Sunday School to begin! This year we will be learning about Joshua, Gideon, and Joseph using more of the Veggie Tales Videos. We invite all children ages 4 and up to join us each Sunday at 9:15 AM in the Heritage House for a time of singing, video clips, stories, crafts, snacks, and games to learn about God. In November and December we will be practicing for our annual Christmas program.

Please join us on Sunday, September 10th at 9 AM for a FREE pancake breakfast to kick off the year! This is open to all members of the congregation and especially to our Sunday School families. Come eat, visit, and learn a little more about our Sunday School program. Cindy Parks and Liza Toborg will once again be teaching the children, but are always looking for volunteers to teach alongside them.

A calendar of dates for the upcoming Sunday School year is below. Copies will be available at the pancake breakfast, along with Sunday School registration forms.



Sunday School Calendar 2017-18

September 10th – Pancake Breakfast & Sunday School Kick-off

September 17th – Regular Sunday School – Joshua and The Promised Land

September 24th – Regular Sunday School – Joshua and Jeric- Oh – No!

October 1st – Regular Sunday School – Joshua and God’s Game Plan

October 8th – No Sunday School – Columbus Day Weekend

October 15th – Regular Sunday School – Joshua and Walls & Breakthroughs

October 22nd – Regular Sunday School – Gideon and You’ve Got the Wrong Cucumber

October 29th - Regular Sunday School – Fall Celebration

November 5th – Regular Sunday School – Gideon and Getting Fleeced

November 12th – First Practice for Christmas Program

November 19th – Second Practice for Christmas Program

November 26th – No Sunday School – Thanksgiving Weekend

December 3rd – Third Practice for Christmas Program

December 10th – Final Practice for Christmas Program

December 17th – Dress Rehearsal and Performance of Christmas Program during Church

December 24th – Sunday School Christmas Party

December 31st - No Sunday School – New Year’s Weekend

January 7th – Regular Sunday School – Gideon and The Brain-Freeze Test

January 14th – No Sunday School – Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend

January 21st - Regular Sunday School – Gideon and Horns of Plenty

January 28th - Regular Sunday School – Joseph and Greens with Envy

February 4th - Regular Sunday School – Joseph and Miss Kitty’s Claws

February 11th - Regular Sunday School – Valentine’s Day Celebration

February 18th – No Sunday School

February 25th - Regular Sunday School – Joseph and Dreams & Droughts

March 4th - Regular Sunday School – Joseph and Justice of the Peas

March 11th - Regular Sunday School

March 18th - Regular Sunday School

March 25th - Regular Sunday School – Palm Sunday Parade with Schoharie United Presbyterian Church

April 1st – No Sunday School – Easter – Resurrection Egg Hunt following Worship

April 8th - Regular Sunday School

April 15th - Regular Sunday School

April 22nd - Regular Sunday School

April 29th - Regular Sunday School

May 6th - Regular Sunday School

May 13th - Regular Sunday School

May 20th - Last Day of Sunday School – Church Picnic

Let Me Tell You a Story

In the month of September, our worship will focus on just that, hearing God through four parables from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). This is a way for you to also participate in worship and place your story in the parable.

September 3: **REFLECTING ON THE PAST:** Matthew 13:1-16 // The Parable of the Sower

MAIN THEME: How are you sowing seeds in the kingdom of God?

September 10: **CELEBRATING THE WORK OF GOD:** Luke 15:11-32 // The Parable of the Prodigal Son and His Brother

MAIN THEME: What works of God inspire you to celebrate?

Our Worship will include Marylou Ryan representative for Operation Christmas Child.

September 17: **RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT:** Matthew 9:9-17 // The Parable of New and Old Wineskins Our worship centers on the radical nature of Jesus' teachings. One thing Jesus did was eat with people that were not popular, such as tax collectors and sinners

MAIN THEME: How has Jesus called you to follow in this season of life?

September 24: **PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY** Mark 13:28-37 // The Parable of the Fig Tree

This passage of Scripture tells us to keep alert for when God will break through in the world. **MAIN THEME:** How do we stay alert to the ways God is working in the world?

In keeping with the theme of staying alert, we will enter worship "shoeless." This came from a Time for Youth Message; we discovered that when Moses was in the presence of God, he was asked by God to remove his sandals as he stood on sacred ground (Exodus 3:5).

We'll leave our shoes in the Narthex and out of the way as we enter worship.

We hope you plan to join us for worship in September as we explore these parables. You are encouraged to share and place your story in each one.



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Interim Pastor Betsy Westman

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September 2017



