



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

February 2018

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



February

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Deadline for March Newsletter



Following Jesus

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

-Matthew 16:24-25 NRSV

"We are not so much human beings trying to become spiritual. We're already inherently spiritual beings and our job is learning how to be good humans! I believe that's why Jesus came as a human being: not to teach us how to go to heaven, but to teach us how to be a fully alive human being here on this earth."

- Richard Rohr



"It's not the journey, it's the destination." Or, "It's not the destination, it's the journey." Which is it? How do you often think about that phrase? I (Pastor Mike) used to always travel as a "destination" person. What that means is that I would travel on most of our vacations with the mindset that my vacation started when we got to the place where we were going. As a result, I was often moody during the travel, I would get annoyed at delays or hold-ups, and many times I would just "check-out" and distract myself with something like music, or a book, food, or naps, until we finally got to where we were going, when in my mind everything would "start."

However, I have learned over the years how to become much more of a “journey” person when I travel. What I realized was that I was choosing to waste a lot of time, conversations, and experiences that I could have been having if I had taken the time to enjoy the journey. Sure, it is always wonderful to reach the destination, but I have learned that the journey to get there is just as much of an important part of the trip, in fact, I was missing out on all that God might have had for me along the way. Sometimes, when we are open to it, God speaks to us in ways along our journey that change our destination all together!

All of this makes me wonder if we don’t feel some of this same tension during the season of Lent? With our eagerness for Spring, and the promise of warmer, and greener weather, with the consumer culture quickly jumping from Valentine’s Day, to St. Patrick’s Day, to Easter, and maybe even with some of the more uncomfortableness that seems to surround Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, there can be a tension to want to move too quickly into the season of Easter.

Now Easter is the best destination for which we could ever hope! Jesus rising from the dead, victory over the grave, the promise of eternal life, it truly is the Good News! But what about the rest of Lent? Is it only a countdown to Easter? Or a time to discipline ourselves as we try to give something up; be miserable now so we can experience delayed gratification? Or an opportunity to plan more church events to help pass the time until spring? Or is there something more for us in this journey we call Lent? I started realizing that sometimes we have this same mentality of “destination focus” in church, and miss the journey. For example, a lot of our liturgy and the promises we claim focus on events that will take place in the future: when God makes all things right, when we experience full shalom with God in heaven, and when the world is fully redeemed. What if it were true that Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, has as much to say to us about our life right now, as it does about our after-life? What if the lessons Jesus taught to his disciples were meant for us in our discipleship as well? What if Jesus’ relationship with God had a lot to say about our relationship with God? How would all this change how you journey through Lent? Our friend and colleague John Sparks puts it this way,

*“If Christianity is only about missing hell and arriving in heaven, and discipleship is a special classification reserved for a special few Super-Christians, no wonder there is so little interest in hearing and obeying Jesus. Without discipleship, Christianity centers on getting people into heaven when they die rather than **getting heaven into people while they live.**”*

I’m learning what this might mean, and how good it is for us to focus more on the journey and more on what it

means to recognize God’s work in our world and lives now, not only in the future. This Lent we want to invite you on a special journey together as a church family as we look at journeying with Jesus. Recognizing the fundamental truth that in his life, we find our lives, and that discipleship is not just knowing how to “get to heaven,” but it is also about growing in our relationships and our life with God in the world here and now.

In addition to our Lenten worship services, you are invited to a special book study of Max Lucado’s book, “Just Like Jesus.” There are opportunities to be part of a small group on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings throughout Lent. You can sign-up in the sanctuary or by contacting the church office. All are welcome. If you’d like to donate towards the cost of a book, they are \$10 each. We will also have a special Ecumenical Ash Wednesday service to begin Lent at 7:00pm on February 14, at Schoharie United Presbyterian Church. What better day to share in the hope of God’s love for all of us! Please join us for this Lenten journey that it may deepen our relationships and enrich our lives. Have a blessed Lent!

Journeying with Jesus,

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



Announcements

Ridder Church Renewal: The current Schoharie Reformed Church "Ridder" team has completed the program part of Ridder, and celebrates the growth and learning we've noted in ourselves and in the congregation through Ridder over the past 5 years.

Another new round of Ridder is just beginning in our region. Given the deep and significant journey it has been for each of the team members, the Ridder team would like to invite you to consider joining a NEWLY FORMING team. If you have questions, or would like more information, please speak with one of the pastors, Cindy Parks, Maryann Foland, Buck Berdan, or Luke Jacobs.

Yarn opportunity: If you would like to help some patients heal and help others in the process, please bring in any yarn, knitting needles and especially crochet hooks (they crochet more than knit). Your donations will go to patients at the New Choices Recovery Center in Schenectady. They make scarves and leave them around the area for the homeless or anyone who needs them. It also keeps their anxiety under control by keeping their hands and minds busy. I will drop them off. Thank you & God Bless, Cindy



My Offering: The new Weekly Offering for my Church envelopes are located in the back of the Church, please help yourself to those created for your household. Thank you for all your support.

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!

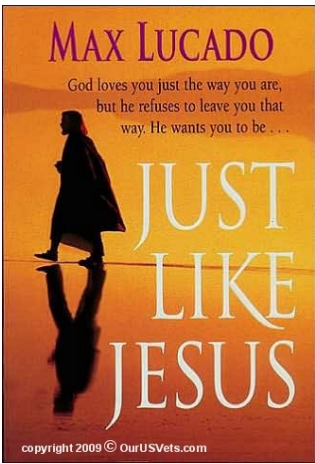
Aluminum Tabs for the Shriners: Please continue to bring can tabs to the church. John Nixon and Ron Filmer will deliver them to help Shriners' Hospital.

The Food Pantry needs volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact Diane Walion at 868-4629. **Also needed are donations** of food (including fresh produce); peanut butter & spaghetti sauce are always in demand, as well as cereal, pasta, tuna fish, soup and other canned goods, plus paper products, personal care & cleaning products such as toothpaste & laundry detergent. Empty egg cartons are also accepted. Donations may be dropped off here or in the SUPC Christian Ed building. Monetary donations are appreciated, as well. **The Food Pantry is open Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12-2pm.**



City Mission - Members of the Schoharie Reformed Church have made deliveries to the City Mission in Schenectady. Warm items including coats, sweatshirts, hats, scarves and socks were taken to help those in needs. Shannon Hughes collected more winter clothes from staff at Middleburgh Central school and these will be delivered in the near future. If you have items that you would like to donate, we would be glad to deliver them on behalf of the Church. Please contact Shannon Hughes or Kim Charboneau for details.





“Go loves you just the way you are, but he refuses to leave you that way.”
 -Max Lucado, Just Like Jesus.

Just Like Jesus

This Lent you are invited to be part of a weekly small group book study as we explore together Max Lucado’s Book, “*Just Like Jesus.*” We are currently offering two small group book studies, one on Wednesday evenings and another on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour. You can sign up in the sanctuary or you may call the church office 295-8177. The books will be free, but if you would like to donate towards the cost, each book is \$10.00.

Please join us as we explore together the life of Jesus, and discover our own lives in the process!



ECUMENICAL ASH WEDNESDAY POT LUCK

SOUP & BREAD DINNER



(Bring a soup to share if you can)

Wednesday, Feb. 14th 5:30PM - 6:30PM

@Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church

289 Main Street, Schoharie

To be followed by an Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service

7:00PM @ Schoharie United Presbyterian Church

Camp Fowler

As we begin to look ahead as the sun becomes brighter and the days become longer we can begin to think about the summer. Again this year the Schoharie Reformed Church will be offering Camp Fowler Scholarships for children who would like to attend camp but due to financial restrictions would not be able to. Within the newsletter there is a Camp Fowler Request for Scholarship form which you may complete and return to the Schoharie Reformed Church, or you may place the completed form in the offering plate on Sunday. This is separate from the Camp Fowler Registration which needs to be done directly with Camp Fowler,

Camp Fowler & Retreat Center

1790 Grand Blvd.

Schenectady, NY 12309

518-631-6789 or

campfowler@rca.org

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Church Office at 518-295-8177.



Camp Fowler Request for Scholarship

Name of Camper:

Name of Parent:

Address:

Telephone Number: _____

Amount Requested up to \$200.00: _____

Need more? Please speak with one of the pastors or a member of consistory.
Thank You.



Go for it.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM

To: The Schoharie Reformed Church
P. O. Box 635
Schoharie, New York 12157

Or place it in the offering plate.

Thank Yous

Capital City Rescue Mission-Because of your compassion, lives will continue to be touched and transformed. The hungry are fed, the outcasts are sheltered, those without clothing are provided for and hopeless, hurting souls are cared for and comforted. Thank you for making a difference one life at a time! God bless you.

City Mission-Thanks for keeping a place in your hearts for City Mission and those we serve. May God give you a great year of ministry in 2018! In Christ Mike

Faith Walking-Through your support, Faith Walking celebrates changed lives in 2017: Faith Walking continued to grow and to expand globally with groups forming in Spain and Southeast Asia. We raised almost \$18,000.00 in gift cards and contributions for Harvey relief. We celebrated our 10-year anniversary.

Fowler Camp & Retreat Center - Fowler is a place where we encourage people to "show up" and be themselves. Thru your generous donations we are able to accomplish this goal. I bow in deep admiration and gratitude for your gift and once again say, "Thank you."

Greetings, Pastors, Project Leaders, Drop-off Site Volunteers, and Friends of OCC!

Operation Christmas Child- Thank for the role you played in the 2017 Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign. **Your efforts contributed to 11,012,840 children receiving much needed gifts and the opportunity to know Jesus!** Our simple gifts will have an eternal impact on the lives of many around the world. Live joyfully! Mary Lou

Adopt a family made a special Christmas - A dear friend, Pastor Sherri approached me to ask if your church could assist in making Christmas extra special for the five sibling foster children. To see the faces on these kids when they came into the living room and saw presents, bicycles, and more presents....well I'm pretty sure their smiles rivaled the brightness of the Eastern Star over Bethlehem!! Friends, these children had been through so much loss this year.....and while gifts can't bring back what they have lost, it gave them more hope and showed them more love and caring than anybody could have ever taken from them. They were wrapped in the love of God, and the love of a community that truly takes care of each other. So THANK you, from the bottom of my heart for your generosity, your love, your faith that God will see them through.

SALT- Thank you for your generous donation which provide support to our church including the programs of our church .

Building and Grounds

With winter fully ensconced, things are quiet. The pew contractor continues the refinishing. Once done, the pews will be set in place and reassembled. Our other contractor will return soon to wrap up a number of things including: handrails, balcony corner (for the small organ), door closures, door trim, etc.

Carpets - Doesn't the narthex look good? The same carpeting will be installed in the west end of the balcony when ready.

We also retrieved our carpets that had been in storage since Hurricane Irene. Turns out that two pieces did not clean up well (including the most important center aisle runner) and had been thrown away. To give folks a feel for the center, we temporarily laid out a short, narrow runner. The good news is that the vendor should be able to match (or get close to) our existing runners should we desire to get a replacement.

Why was Worship cancelled January 7? - Heat was intermittent in both buildings due to a propane line that would freeze with the extended cold. The furnaces were running at 6:30 am before the line froze again. The problem was addressed; and it should not be an issue in the future.



A warm welcome - I would like to thank everyone for all their help and warm welcomes over the last month as I began my new position as the church secretary. Thank you, Stephanie

Building Rededication

February 24 & 25, 2018

You are cordially invited to join us for the Building Rededication of the Schoharie Reformed Church on February 24 & 25, 2018. You are welcome to attend any or all of the activities listed below.

Kindly respond by February 14, 2018

Online at:

<http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org/engage/rededication.cfm>

Saturday, February 24

1-2:30 pm: Crafts for kids

1-2:00 pm: Organ Recital

2-2:30 pm: Organ Education

2-3:00 pm: Short Tours(3)

2:00, 2:20, 2:40

2-3:00 pm: Reception in the

Community Room

punch & hors d'oeuvres



Sunday, February 25

9:15 am: Sunday School

10:30 am: Worship

11:30 am: Coffee Hour

1:30 pm: Long Tour (detailed)

2:30 pm: Rededication

Special Music & Slide show

4:00 pm: Catered Celebration

Dinner

Growing in God, Living in Love

Schoharie Reformed Church

P.O. Box 635

Schoharie, New York 12157

(518)295-8177

E-mail: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com



Rededication Reception - On Saturday, February 24, 2018 a reception will be held in the Church's kitchen area. We will be serving finger foods and punch during this time. If you would like to contribute a goodie, there will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Charboneau, who thanks you in advance for your help!

Sunday School

We were so excited to have approximately 20 children participate in our Christmas program. Once again, we were blessed to have an original play created by our very own Pastor Mike entitled "The Greatest Gift".

On Sunday, December 24th, we had a special birthday party for baby Jesus and a Christmas celebration for all of the SS children. There were cake and gifts for all!!

There was no Sunday School on December 31st. We planned to resume on January 7th, but had no heat that week. We were finally able to meet on January 21st with more exciting adventures from the life of Gideon! Please see the SS calendar in this newsletter.

We have a couple exciting upcoming events. First, the children will be having a Valentine's Day Celebration on Sunday, February 11th at 9:15 AM. They will be making special gifts for members of our congregation and community to remind them just how much God loves them. We also have a special event planned for the children during our upcoming Rededication Weekend on February 24th and 25th. Look for more details in this newsletter.

After School Program

Up until recently, we have only had three staff members. Our director is JoAnne Mayne. Laura Weinhofer and Dezarae Kennedy do much of the day to day tasks, from running the homework room and providing snacks to playing with the kids and planning programming.

We have been blessed to hire two new staff members. One is Ella Scott. She will be working Monday through Friday from 3 – 5 PM. The other young lady, Melanie Mercurio, started on January 17th. She will be working on Wednesdays and Thursdays, which are our busiest days.

Day Camp

Planning is underway for Day Camp 2018! This year our theme will be Superheroes. Save the dates – July 16th – 20th. Like us on Facebook or look for upcoming articles in this newsletter about our plans for this summer! Want to be involved with the planning? Contact Liza Toborg at (518) 817-1540.



Sunday School Calendar

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

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



Schoharie Reformed Church
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Schoharie, NY 12157

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February 2018

