



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

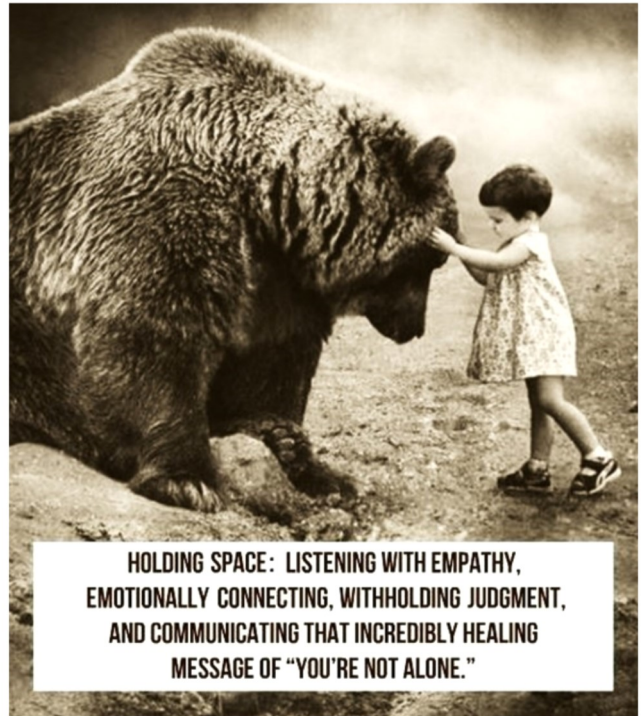
April 2019

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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**HOLDING SPACE: LISTENING WITH EMPATHY,
EMOTIONALLY CONNECTING, WITHHOLDING JUDGMENT,
AND COMMUNICATING THAT INCREDIBLY HEALING
MESSAGE OF "YOU'RE NOT ALONE."**

Holding Space :

"Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." – Luke 7:47

In all four Gospels you can find the story of Jesus being anointed by a woman with a bottle of perfume. While the place in Jesus' ministry and the voices of opposition change from one to the other, the heart of the picture remains pretty much the same in all four Gospels.

One of the interesting aspects of this story, especially in Luke's telling of it (See Luke 7:36-50) is that there is actually nothing really "extra-ordinary" about it. There is no miracle of healing that takes place, there is no special restoration for the woman

to a place of value in her society, there's not even the promise of riches in heaven for her investment in such a valuable jar of perfume (Mark tells us it could have been sold for more than a year's wages). But what there is, is what we want to be sure not to miss. While it is truly wonderful that the story ends with Jesus declaring that the woman's sins are forgiven and that her faith has saved her, what is perhaps the most beautiful part of the story is that Jesus makes room for the offering her gift in the first place. Jesus makes room for her heart, her tears, her gift, and her very self, even as a sinner. She was simply there for Jesus and Jesus received her presence as a gift, even when the Pharisees and disciples thought it was inappropriate.

When it comes to being with others in grief or pain, or in moments of desperation we often feel inadequate. We struggle to feel like we have to "do" something or to "fix" something. In reality that is more often about our own needs for validation and self-worth. But one of the greatest gifts of healing we can offer to others in our lives is the gift of holding space for them to be who they need to be in those moments, to be heard, and to be known.

The definition of "Holding Space" from the picture comes from Brene Brown who reminds us that "Empathy has no script." It is simply (yet not easy at all) the courage to be with someone in their pain to allow them to be who they need to be without trying to fix it! One of my (Pastor Mike's) favorite pictures of holding space comes from a book by Walter Wangerin Jr., *The Book of The Dun Cow*. In one particular scene, Chauntecleer, who is a Rooster, experiences the tragic death of his children in the barnyard at the hands of a weasel. As he is lost in the hopelessness of grief the Dun Cow (who serves as the Christ figure) comes to comfort him -

"Chauntecleer watched his own desolation appear in the brown eyes of the Cow, then sink so deeply into them that she shuddered. Her eyes pooled as she looked at him. The tears rose and spilled over. And then she was weeping even as he had wept a few minutes ago – except without the anger. Strangely, Chauntecleer felt an urge to comfort her; but at this moment he was no Lord, and the initiative was not in him. A simple creature only, he watched – felt – the miracle take place. Nothing changed: The clouds would not be removed, nor his knowledge plished. But there was this. His grief had become her grief, his sorrow her own. And though he grieved not one bit less for that, yet his heart made room for her, for her will and wisdom, and he bore the sorrow better."

As we continue to journey with Jesus throughout this season of Lent and reflect together on "Healing for our Wholeness." Let us remember that one of the greatest gifts of healing we can offer is to practice the art of "Holding Space" for each other and to remind one another that we are not alone.

This week, Wednesday, April 3rd, we are going to hold a special Service of Prayers for Healing. There will be a soup and bread dinner in the community room at 6:00pm followed by the Service of Prayers for Healing at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. This service is to recognize the healing we all need in our lives, but also in our community, in our world, and in the earth itself. This service will be an opportunity to hold space for one another. There will be prayers for specific people and situations where prayers have been asked, and there will also be an opportunity for people who would like, to come forward to share in the ministry of the laying on of hands. God's love and healing presence is open to all of us, and as part of the body of Christ in the world we have been created to hold space for one another as we seek healing for our wholeness!

Have a Blessed Lenten Journey!

Pastor Mike and Pastor Sherri



Palm Sunday, April 14th - Palm Sunday Parade. We will meet in the church parking lot with our Sunday school kids at 9:15am and begin our procession down Main Street and return to the church in time for our regular worship service.

Maundy Thursday, April 18th – We will be having a Pot Luck Dinner and a service with communion beginning at 6:30pm in the Heritage House.

Good Friday, April 19th – Noon time service with nails in the cross. A bring your own lunch will follow the service next door in the Heritage House.

Good Friday Movie Night— You are invited back for a special showing of the new animated version of “Pilgrim’s Progress” beginning at 7:00pm in the sanctuary – all ages welcome! Wear your PJ’s and bring your own bean bag, blanket, or favorite cushion and enjoy the show!

Easter Sunday, April 21st – 6:30am Easter Sunrise Service at the home of Matt and Emily Fagnani, 491 Sunnyside Rd., Schoharie. A potluck breakfast will follow.

Easter Sunday, April 21st – 10:30am Easter Sunday Service with a Resurrection Egg hunt for the kids following the service. ***Please Note: There will be no Sunday School on Easter.***



Easter Memorial Plants

We will be offering the Easter plants to decorate the sanctuary, celebrate and memorialize loved ones again this year. An order form will be in your church bulletin. Please submit forms and payment by Sunday, April 7th. Please contact the church office with any questions.



Service of Prayer for Healing



Schoharie Reformed Church

Wednesday—April 3rd

6pm-Soup & Bread in the Community Room

7pm-Service in the Sanctuary

All are invited to attend.

You are invited to this special service because we recognize that we are all in need of healing. Not just physical healing, but also the social dimensions of healing. The healing of divided communities and nations, and the healing of the earth itself, have places alongside the healing of broken bodies, hurt minds, and wounded hearts, and of the hurts and divisions within ourselves.

In our service we will pray for particular people, places, and situations where prayers have been specifically asked. There will also be an opportunity for those who wish to come forward to receive or share in the ministry of the laying on of hands. God's healing purpose, the promise of God's fulfilling and sustaining love, is for everyone one of us.

We hope you will join us!



Announcements

Church Directory-please help yourself to a copy of the new church directory in the Narthex. If there is any information that is incorrect or needs to be updated please contact the church office.

Technical Support Volunteers-we are in need of volunteers to assist with the technical support of our church sound board and the church website. If you would like to volunteer for one or both of these task please talk with Vince Smith or Jim Callahan. This is a great way to learn and offer assistance to your church family.

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.

Aluminum Tabs-Please continue to bring can tabs to the church and you may leave them in the Narthex. The tabs will then be processed, proceeds will be used to offset patient cost.

Donations- There is a need for a good DVD/Blu-ray player to connect to the flat screen in the Heritage House and a large energy efficient refrigerator for the Fellowship Hall.

Recycling-currently we will only be accepting cell phones and ink cartridges for recycling. You may leave these items in the church office, please call the church office with any questions.



Let us Bless our Food Pantry for Easter

It has been a busy start to the new year at the food pantry. In January we had 97 families visit the food pantry and in February this number jumped to 104. To put that in perspective, for 2016 and 2017 our visits averaged less than 75 per month. In 2018 that number jumped to an average of 80 visits per month, and in the last six months the average has been 93 visits per month.

Due to the increasing number of families in need, our numbers being served has continued trending upwards, while our yearly grant from the Regional Food Bank has been decreased. The yearly grant which began last Fall, is now nearly entirely exhausted, we are therefore asking for donations to assist with our needs.

There is a current need for:

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Tuna and Cereal



These additional items may also be donated:

Spaghetti sauce/all kinds of tomato sauce

Rice (1# boxes or bags)

Vegetables and Beans

Powdered milk

Condiments (Ketchup, Mayo, Relish, Mustard, etc.)

Pasta

Canned fruits

Instant potatoes

Syrup

Monetary donations are appreciated as well, checks may be made out to:

“Schoharie Valley Food Pantry”.

For the next three Sundays we encourage you to bring any of these items to restock our Food Pantry as we continue to meet the needs of our families.



Thank you so much for your help!



Thank yous

Thank you all for the aluminum tabs, we were able to send a grocery bag full to the Shriners. The tabs will then be processed, proceeds will be used to offset patient cost. Collection of the aluminum tabs will continue.

The Board and Staff of The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region thank you for your recent gift into the Darryl West VanDyke Fund. We are privileged to help lead the Greater Capital Region into the future by supporting the organizations that strengthen our families and help our communities thrive. With deepest appreciation, John Eberle, President and CEO.



Sunday School

- April 7 – Special Activity
- April 14 – Palm Sunday Parade
- April 21 – No Sunday School (Easter)
- April 28—Regular Sunday School
- May 5 – Special Activity
- May 12 – No Sunday School (Mother’s Day)
- May 19—Regular Sunday School
- May 26 – Last Day Sunday School with
Children’s Program & Church Picnic



Palm Sunday Parade

To be held at the

Schoharie Reformed Church



Please come join us

Sunday

April 14th at 9:15 am

we will meet in the church parking lot, then we will begin our procession down Main Street, we will return to the church in time for our regular worship service. We look forward to having you join us.

Camp Fowler Family Retreat 3.0

August 23-25, 2019



Visit our Church website:

www.schohariereformedchurch.org

for more information and to register.

Please save the dates and plan to attend.

Community Day Camp



July 15-19, 2019

Visit our Church website:

www.schohariereformedchurch.org

for more information and to register.



Easter Egg Exhibit

April 5-7, 12-14, 19-20, 2019
10am—5pm

April 21, 2019 12 noon-5pm

Admission: \$5/adult, \$2/child,
\$10 for a family of up to 4 members

Museum is located at the corner of
Rte 30 & 443, Schoharie

Proceeds to benefits Schoharie Public Library



Buildings and Grounds

Spring Clean-Up



9:00 am, Saturday, April 20th

Help make our Church grounds beautiful and ready for Spring!

We need your help to: pick up branches, rake sycamore leaves, litter patrol, rake out gravel and dirt along driveways and parking lot, sweep the basketball area, prune/clean-up plantings in front of the Sanctuary, clean-up along the brook behind the playground, and haul away branches and leaves.

Bring: You, gloves, your favorite yard tool (lawn rake, garden rake, large bush broom, hand pruner, lopper, shovel, wheelbarrow, pick-up truck, chainsaw (just-in-case), etc.).

It is always a good time working together.

Please RSVP to Dave Toborg at 295-8554, dtoborg@midtel.net.

Rain date is April 27.





FAITH
WALKING ➔

**A Journey to
Live a Fully Human,
Fully Alive Life.**

June 2 – 4, 2019
5 pm - 5 pm
Camp Fowler
152 Pelcher Road,
Lake Pleasant, NY 12108

Contacts

Greg Town

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Co-Leader for RSA
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Wesley Joseph

Retreat Logistics
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Nancy Ryan

Head Coach
reverend.nancy.ryan@gmail.com

Faithwalking 101 is the beginning of a spiritual formation journey that leads participants to take steps toward an integrated, life by developing awareness of the obstacles to such a life – personal and cultural – and overcoming them by practicing growing authenticity with God and in community. It is our deep conviction that the fully human, fully alive life to which Jesus calls us is missional.

Where & When:

Camp Fowler, Speculator, NY

Sunday, Jun 2 through **Tuesday June 4**
\$250

Questions? Visit www.nyfaithwalking.com

Contact Rev. Dr. Sherri Meyer-Veen

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April 2019

