



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

April 2020

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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Meeting Jesus

“At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus, He asked her, ‘Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?’ Thinking he was the gardener, she said, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means ‘Teacher’).”

-John 20:14-16

Artist: Fritz von Uhde, “Woman, Why Weepest Thou?”

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! It is the season of Easter, but it is a far different Easter for all of us



in this time of physical distancing and quarantine as we try to stem the tide of this global pandemic. It has been, and continues to be different, hard, and grief-filled in a lot of ways. We have been learning new ways of interacting with each other through screens and at distances. Our kids and teachers are adjusting to new ways of doing school and working hard to provide effective space for learning and being. Simple routines like going to the grocery store are more challenging with limited supplies, staff, time, numbers of people, and one-way aisles. Many of us are finding other challenges at work and at home, as well as the compounding grief as more and more things get postponed or cancelled. Others of us are dealing with job loss, worries about businesses, economic difficulties, struggles with addiction, needs for food or shelter, and an overall anxiety about the future. We also acknowledge other illnesses, and other losses that are unrelated but have been made much more complicated during these challenging times.

In our broader circles we continue to pray for those who are sick, or who have lost loved ones due to this virus. We also think of the many hospital workers and essential employees who continue to go out and do their work while trying to keep themselves and their families healthy.

We are also experiencing times of joy and new discoveries during this pandemic as well. Some of us are learning new skills and expressing ourselves in different ways. Many of us are visiting more online, and some relationships have even gotten stronger through this. Businesses are finding creative ways to stay open and meet needs. People across the country are making an effort to stay connected to one another. We are sharing more of the things that make us laugh and touch our hearts. All of these changing circumstances, challenges, new learnings, anxieties, griefs and joys bring a whole mix of emotions that we continue to face within ourselves and with each other each day.

Into all of this, Jesus is Risen! Easter doesn't keep its distance, and the resurrection isn't cancelled. You can't quarantine the good news! Jesus is risen in all the fullness of glory and power into our world and into our lives wherever and however we may be! In this beautiful resurrection scene from John's Gospel, we read Jesus asking Mary, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" He doesn't tell her to quit crying, or that she has no need to feel sad. Instead Jesus invites her to share her sorrows with him. I love the look of compassion and concern on the face of Jesus in the painting above. The beauty of Easter is that Jesus makes room for our tears, and our feelings whatever they may be on this day. We don't have to put on a fake smile, or dress ourselves up in pretty new clothes to hide our true selves away. Jesus meets us as we are and invites us to share with him what is on our hearts and in our souls. Some of us may be tempted to deny our feelings, telling the story that, "I am not as bad off as..." But Jesus invites each of us to meet him as we are, however that may be for us.

Then after she has shared her sorrows, he calls her by name. A simple yet wonderful revelation takes place in that moment and she recognizes it is Jesus and responds "Rabboni!" The powerful Easter hope for us in this humble interaction is that the God who has died on the cross for our sins and is resurrected in glory meets us as we are, knows our name, and reveals to us the promise and hope of new life. In this season of Easter, we too are invited to meet Jesus, to share our honest selves, our tears, our longings, our fears, and our joys. As well as to rest, delight, and be renewed in the resurrection hope that Jesus knows us by name. God desires to know what is in our hearts to reveal God's very self to us as our Lord, Savior, and Teacher! Here is a poem from Ted Loder from his wonderful book of poem prayers, *Guerillas of Grace*. We shared it as a part of our Good Friday Online Worship, but it also seems fitting here as we continue to meet Jesus in this Easter Season! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Meeting Jesus together in this Easter Season!

Pastor Mike and Pastor Sherri

Prayer continued on page 3

How Shall I Pray – Ted Loder, “Guerillas of Grace”

How shall I pray?
Are tears prayers, Lord?
Are screams prayers,
or groans
or sighs
or curses?

Can trembling hands be lifted to you,
or clenched fists
or the cold sweat that trickles down my back
or the cramps that knot my stomach?

Will you accept my prayers, Lord,
my real prayers,
rooted in the muck and the mud and the rock of my life,
and not just my pretty, cut-flower, gracefully arranged
bouquet of words?

Will you accept me, Lord,
as I really am,
messed up mixture of glory and grime?

Lord, help me!
Help me to trust that you do accept me as I am,
that I may be done with self-condemnation
and self-pity
and accept myself.

Help me to accept you as you are, Lord:
mysterious,
hidden,
strange,
unknowable;

and yet to trust
that your madness is wiser
than my timid, self-seeking sanities,
and that nothing you've ever done
has really been possible,
so I may dare to be a little mad, too. Amen.



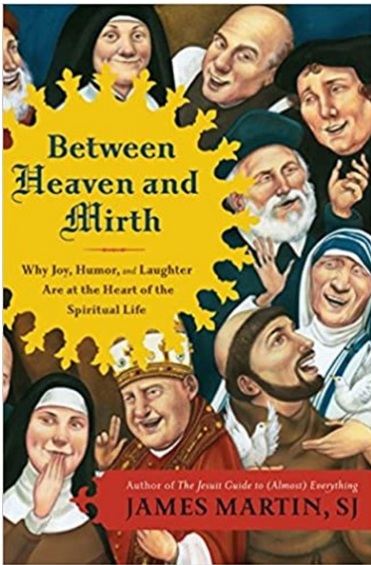
A Note from the Pastors

Have you been getting all of the church news? Please be sure the church has your email address! If you think we do and you have not been getting daily Holy Week emails, something is not working correctly! You can sign up and invite friends to sign up from the church website, click “contact us” and fill out the “join email list” on the right. Invite friends!

Don't have email and want bulletins and sermons mailed to you? Please be sure we know that too by leaving a message on the church voicemail, or calling one of the pastors' on their cell phone.

We miss you and would love to hear from you!





Wednesday Night Gatherings

Wednesday night gatherings continue at 6:30pm by ZOOM: Join us this coming Wednesday, April 15, for an informal prayer and check in time. Gather to greet your church family, share, and pray together.

Beginning Wednesday, April 22, we will engage “Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life” by James Martin in discussion. Please order the book now if you want a hard copy, as it will take extra time to arrive! Kindle edition is available. Please look for the link in your email.



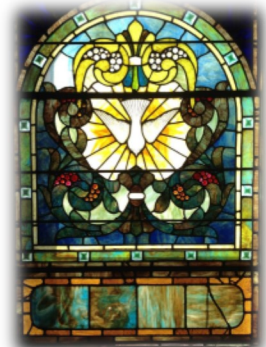
Faithwalking Opportunities



The NY Faithwalking Circle Pastor Sherri helps lead had been previewing and preparing a new all online way to engage the Faithwalking process called “Foundations” before the pandemic hit our area! We praise God we were already uniquely prepared for these strange times. Two – 10 week courses - are currently receiving registrations: “Self Awareness” Begins Monday, April 20 from 2-3:15pm (continuing on Monday afternoons for 10 weeks) and “Managing Anxiety” Begins Tuesday, April 21 from 1:30-2:45pm (continuing on Tuesday afternoons for 10 weeks). Register at www.nyfaithwalking.com under engage, foundations.



Holy Week





Building & Grounds

Spring Clean-Up



Looking to do something outdoors while maintaining proper physical distancing?

To maintain physical distancing, Spring Clean-up will be different this year. Rather than working as a group on a specific Saturday, congregation members are asked to do things on their own at their own time. Following are tasks needing attention:

Branches, rake sycamore leaves.

litter patrol.

Rake out gravel and dirt along driveways and parking lot.

Prune/clean-up plantings in front of the Sanctuary and around trees (check out the crocuses while you are there).

Clean-up along the brook behind the playground.

Haul away branches and leaves.

Use your own tools (lawn rake, garden rake, hand pruner, lopper, shovel, wheelbarrow, pick-up truck, chainsaw, etc.). If you can haul away the debris, great. If not, leave it in neat piles and notify Dave Toborg.

If any questions or when you are done, please contact Dave at 295-8554, dtoborg@midtel.net.



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is providing for families in the area during this special time of need. During this time there is a special need for cleaning supplies in addition to food item. Items of need are: paper towels, toilet paper, laundry and dish soap, toothpaste, shampoo and shower soaps tuna fish, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, canned fruit, granola bars, cereal, canned ravioli/beef stew/soup/spaghetti o's/chili with beans. Items may be off at SUPC on Tuesdays or Thursday from 12:00pm till 2:00pm or they may be left inside the front door of the SUPC educational building. Monetary donations are appreciated as well, checks may be made out to Schoharie Valley Food Pantry. *Volunteers are needed to help with the Food Pantry, if able, please contact Diane Walion at 518-868-4629.* Thank you all for your continued support.

The Food Pantry is open Tuesday & Thursdays, 12-2pm





Clothing Drop-Off Shed

We are now hosting a St. Pauly Textile, Inc. clothing drop-off shed, behind the Heritage House. This used clothing company provides a convenient and clean donation program that serves the community while helping the SRC financially.

What kind of items can be donated? Useable clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases, and stuffed animals. Items need to be in tied plastic bags.

Unacceptable items are electronics, books, household items, toys, garbage, pillows, rags, or fabric scraps.

What does the company do? St. Pauly empties the shed weekly/biweekly depending on volume and pays us 4 cents per pound of clothing.

St. Pauly sells the clothing in bulk to other companies that, in turn, contract with government agencies, relief organizations, and private companies that redistribute the clothing around the world. The geographic destinations depends on what is happening in the world at any given time.

Can the SRC use the clothing? If there is ever a need, the SRC can sort through donations to pick out items for a specific need or event (i.e. family in need, rummage sale).

Please tell your family, friends, and neighbors about the shed. See Dave Toborg or Jim Callahan if there are any questions or you may contact the church office at 518-295-8177.

We thank you for your support while helping others!





Schoharie Valley Community Camp

July 20-24, 2020



Schoharie Valley Community Camp is a Christian day camp sponsored by the Schoharie United Presbyterian, Christ the Shepherd Lutheran and Schoharie Reformed Churches of the village of Schoharie with assistance from many other churches.

Registration for Schoharie Valley Community Camp 2020 is now open.

Open to all children from age 4 through those entering 8th grade. Morning Camp = Age 4 through entering Grade 2 (8:30am - 12pm) Full Day Camp = Entering Grade 3 through Grade 8 (8:30am - 4pm) After Camp Care for Full Day Campers is Available on a limited basis (4pm - 5:30pm) All persons entering 9th grade and up are invited to use your gifts as volunteers for camp.

Visit: www.schohariereformedchurch.org/camp for more information and to register.

Morning Camp:

Children 4 years old through entering grade 2

Day Camp:

Children entering grades 3 through 8

Based on developmental needs and age appropriate activities, there are two different sections of Morning Camp: one for Pre-Kers and Kindergarteners and another for first and second graders. **Be sure to register early as there is limited space and these two sections have filled very quickly in the past!**

PRE-K/K CAMP PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

- 8:30 Campers Arrive @ Schoharie United Presbyterian Church
Morning Watch (with all of Camp)
- 9:00 Nature/Arts Activities
- 9:30 Snack & Bathroom Break
- 10:00 Nature/Arts Activities
- 10:30 Recreation
- 11:00 Discovery Time (tailored to the youngest campers)
- 11:30 Lunch (brought from home)
- Noon Pick-Up @ Schoharie United Presbyterian Church

GRADES 1 & 2 CAMP PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

- 8:30 Campers Arrive @ Schoharie United Presbyterian Church
Morning Watch (with all of Camp)
- 9:00 Recreation & Snack
- 9:30 Nature/Arts Activities
- 10:00 Discovery Time
- 11:00 Nature/Arts Activities
- 11:30 Lunch (brought from home)
- Noon Pick-Up @ Schoharie United Presbyterian Church

Aftercare:

A limited number of spaces are available for childcare after Day Camp from 4:00pm - 5:30pm at no additional cost. Spaces will be filled on a first to register basis. Please register for this directly with Pastor Colleen Quirion by contacting her at either (518) 295-8102 or pastor@ctslutheranchurch.org.

FULL DAY CAMP PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

- 8:30 Campers Arrive @ Schoharie United Presbyterian Church
Morning Watch
- 9:00 Arts/Nature/Recreation Activities
- 10:00 Discovery Time
- 11:00 Nature/Recreation/Arts Activities
- 12:00 Lunch (brought from home)
- 1:00 Recreation/Arts/Nature Activities
- 2:00 Flextime/Snack
- 2:30 Afternoon Program
- 3:30 Vespers
- 4:00 Pick-Up @ Schoharie United Presbyterian Church

Cost:

We work hard to keep camp affordable and thank our many neighbors and local businesses who help make this possible! We would like to see every interested child at camp!

\$50 for the first child with a \$90 family maximum. In order to process the family discounts, please use the following promotional codes: "2Campers" for two registered campers, "3Campers" for three, "4Campers" for four, and so on for five and six. If you have more than 6 contact us for a discount code.

Is this inexpensive for you? Please consider giving an additional donation!

Is this expensive for you? Scholarships are available, please contact us to request what you need.

Schoharie Reformed Church

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