



# The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

April 2021

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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## Among the Living

Art from: [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)

“<sup>5</sup>In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:”  
– Luke 24:5-6 NIV

### The Magdalene's Blessing For Easter Day

You hardly imagined  
standing here,  
everything you ever loved  
suddenly returned to you,  
looking you in the eye  
and calling your name.

And now  
you do not know  
how to abide this hole  
in the center  
of your chest,  
where a door  
slams shut  
and swings open  
at the same time,  
turning on the hinge  
of your aching  
and hopeful heart.

I tell you,  
this is not a banishment  
from the garden.



This is an invitation,  
a choice,  
a threshold,  
a gate.

This is your life  
calling to you  
from a place  
you could never  
have dreamed,  
but now that you  
have glimpsed its edge,  
you cannot imagine  
choosing any other way.

So let the tears come  
as anointing,  
as consecration,  
and then  
let them go.

Let this blessing  
gather itself around you.

Let it give you  
what you will need  
for this journey.

You will not remember  
the words—  
they do not matter.

All you need to remember  
is how it sounded  
when you stood  
in the place of death  
and heard the living  
call your name.

—Jan Richardson  
from [\*Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings  
for the Seasons\*](#)



*“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”* This familiar line from the resurrection story always stirs in me during the Easter season. Why? Because I (Pastor Mike) am continually amazed by my own propensity to continue in old and unhelpful habits despite knowing the negative impact they have on my life. I continue to turn to unhelpful ways of soothing stress and anxiety in my life, especially during this pandemic, with things like too much food, or too much television. I know these things tend to leave me more stuck than motivated, yet that is what I still tend to do. Pastor and Author Craig Barnes writes in his book, *Pastor As Minor Poet*, *“I am always amazed at how people will choose the misery they know over the mystery they don’t.”* Now, of course, I am NOT saying the food or television are bad in any sense. I have and will continue to enjoy my Easter candy, but I am also on a journey right now to discover the difference between “soothing” and “self-care.” I think it has something to do with looking for the living among the dead. So, a question I am trying to ask myself during times of stress and anxiety is “What will give you life?”

I wonder how you would answer that question in this Easter season, or perhaps it is actually two important questions? What is giving you life AND how are you taking, or how will you take time to receive that life? Some things that I know give me life are art, playing basketball outside, or taking a hike in the woods. Music also gives me life. These things I know. I also know I don’t tend to take the time for them that would be helpful. I also know I (Yes, even pastors) need to be better about spending time with God.

The Good News in all of this is that Jesus is risen! New Life is a continual invitation given to us by God. Each day has many moments to choose soothing or self-care, things that lead to death or to new life. There is grace in all of it to keep us from shame and to help us find courage, and there is also joy and life, even when it feels more like work than pleasure.

My prayer in this Easter Season, as I am confronted by the cross, is to move my life more and more among the living! I want to create more space and time in my life to receive the real life that God has for me. It is this life that will also help me bring life to all of the other places and relationships in my world. I desire this life for my own growth and transformation, for the good of the world, and ultimately for the glory of God. By the grace of God it is mine, and YOURS to receive!

Jesus is Risen! Receive your life!

*Pastors Mike & Sherri*

## Classis Report



Schoharie Classis met on Sat., March 13<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. The meeting was led by Pastor Mike Meyer-Veen, Classis President.

We had a wonderful time of worship and devotions led by Deb Silvernail.

Currently there are 8 Reformed Churches within our classis without installed pastors.

We had a Fowler report submitted by Laura O'Brien. Construction on a new shower house is underway. They have had a couple successful fundraisers. The "Fall Scattering" event in October resulted in \$52,589 being raised. A February "Cabin Fever" event took place at Wolf Hollow brewing company and allowed for people to gather outside for s'mores and snowshoeing.

Pastor Sherri spoke about upcoming Churches Learning Change programming. New opportunities for learning are being offered to all churches. Courses will be offered for church teams of 4-6 people or to individuals as well.

Sherrie Gray, Classis Treasurer, presented our 2020 Financial Report. The classis is financially strong and reduced the amount that churches paid in assessments for 2020.

Linda Gold will be installed as Fonda Reformed Church's new pastor on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Our next classis meeting will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup> at Fonda Reformed Church.

Regional Synod will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at Camp Fowler. This will likely be followed by a virtual meeting.

General Synod will be held in October of 2021. Pastor Sherri Meyer-Veen will be attending.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liza Toborg, Elder Delegate to Classis

## Spring Worship

WELCOME

Sunday morning Worship continues to be both in-person and on Zoom at 10:00am. In-person worship still includes masks, temperature checks, sign-in, physical distancing and no singing. Bulletins for adults and kids are provided. If you prefer to worship on Zoom you can find the links for the bulletins, music, announcements, and the service in your church email each week. We look forward to worshipping with you each Sunday!



## After School Program

The advisory committee for the Schoharie Christian After School Program met on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Our current enrollment is up to 27 students. Recently, the After School Program that was run by 4-H at Schoharie Central School closed, due to this recent closure our enrollment increased by a few students.

Sadly, we will be losing one of our employees, Annie Vigilante, as she has taken another position at a law office. While we will miss Annie deeply, we wish her well as she follows her career path. Recently, we were able to hire Seth Sholtes for a few hours a week., the children love having a young man who actively plays with them!

We are still looking for donations of the following items:

- Paper towels
- Disinfectant wipes
- Pretzels
- Crackers
- Graham crackers
- Juice
- Gift card for Walmart or Price Chopper to help buy weekly fresh produce and other perishables

There is a box in the SRC Narthex to place your donations.

There is also a need for more Legos. If you or anyone you know is getting rid of old Legos, please consider donating them to the ASP. Keep your eyes open for Lego's as lawn sales and garage sales begin popping up with the arrival of spring!

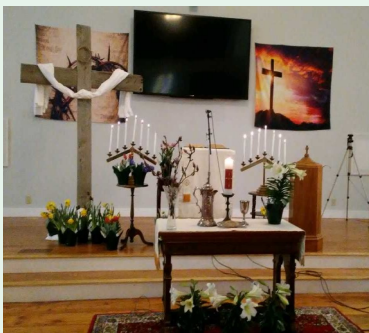


Our first PPP loan was forgiven, and we have been approved for a 2<sup>nd</sup> loan.

Unfortunately, we did not receive the Catskill Mountain Education Cooperation Grant that we applied for, but we have been encouraged to reapply next year. We are still waiting to hear about the Stewart's grant that we applied for to purchase outdoor mats for under some of our play equipment.

Thank you for your continued support of our After School Program. It truly is a blessing to many of the families in our community.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Liza Toborg



## Easter Plants

Thank you to everyone who purchased Easter flowers which added to the beauty of our sanctuary during our Easter celebration. These flowers were purchased in memory of loved ones and to glorify God as we celebrate the glory of the resurrection! Any remaining Easter Flowers after this week will be used to bless someone else.



## Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp 2021

The Day Camp team met on March 17<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup> to continue preparing for summer 2021. Day Camp will run from July 19 – 23. The decision has been made to hold camp in person. We will be using all three church sites: Schoharie Reformed Church, Schoharie United Presbyterian Church, and Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church. This will allow us to maximize the number of campers we are able to have while adhering to COVID protocols regarding distancing.

Online registration is now open for campers. Camp is open to all children from age 4 through entering 8th grade.

Morning Camp = Age 4 through entering Grade 2 (8:30am-12pm)

Full Day Camp = Entering Grade 3 through Grade 8 (8:30-4pm)

Aftercamp Care for Full Day Campers aftercamp care is available on a limited basis (4pm-5:30pm)



Day Camp price is \$50 for the first child, with a \$90 family maximum. To register your child, please go to [www.schohariereformedchurch.org](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org) and look for the Camp heading at the top of the page.

Enrollment numbers will be limited to 50% of capacity, so please register early.

We are always looking for people to step into leadership roles! There are openings for leaders in Arts & Crafts, Recreation, and Nature, as well as Assistant Directors. If you know of anyone in 10th grade or up that might be interested in a paid position, please have them check us out on Facebook under Schoharie Valley Community Camp. Job descriptions and applications are also available at [www.schohariereformedchurch.org](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org). Applications are due by **April 15th** and interviews will be held the following week.

Volunteers will also be needed to help with everything from snacks, to preparing materials, to working with campers. We are blessed to have a group of volunteers coming from Michigan as well.

Please pray that God will provide us with all the necessary resources to make Day Camp a wonderful time for children of all ages to learn just how much God loves them!

We would love to have more people involved in planning for this summer. If you are interested, please contact Liza Toborg at [ltoborg@midtel.net](mailto:ltoborg@midtel.net) for the Zoom link to our next meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.



### Lily Park



It's time again to clean up the Lily Park and personal gardens. If anyone has extra time, we could use help picking up the branches around the park. The lilies are growing quickly and the park is already getting lots of use thanks to this great weather. We welcome two new gardeners: Laurie O'Hearn and Alice Finch. The Promotional Association is still considering the Lily Festival dependent on Department of Health guidelines. As soon as a decision is reached, it will be announced on the Promotional website and on Facebook. Happy Spring! Darlene



## Spring Clean-Up

9:00 am, Saturday, April 17th

There should be a couple hours worth of work:

- Branches, rake sycamore leaves.
- Litter patrol (lawn, parking lot, playground).
- Rake out gravel and dirt along driveways and parking lot.
- Prune/clean-up plantings in front of the Sanctuary.
- Clean-up along the brook behind the playground.
- Haul away branches and leaves.



Bring: You, gloves, your favorite yard tool (lawn rake, garden rake, 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 24.

## Thank You

**Reformed Church of America:** Thanks you for your contribution!, Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

With deep gratitude, Eddy Aleman, General Secretary



**Dear Friends:** Thank you for your generous donation to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. This contribution will help the Food Bank provide food and key supplies to countless people throughout northeastern New York. Our current focus is to feed and bring comfort to our neighbors whose livelihoods and communities have been devastated by the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. Thank you for your kindness and concern for your fellow New Yorkers.

Your truly, Mark Quandt, Executive Director.



**Kindness Is Foundation, Inc.:** Thank you for your generous gift. Your support helps us fulfill our mission to spread kindness and compassion to children and their families in their time of need. The Kindness Cart was created to provide smiles but also necessities to children and families in the hospital. Again, thank you for your generous support. Together, we can make a difference because Kindness Is... Contagious!

Sincerely, Christopher J Fain, President.



## Announcements



**Clothing Shed:** The clothing drop-off shed has reopened. This provides a convenient and clean donation program that serves the community while helping the SRC financially.

**SRC Can Receive Donations From Amazon:** Schoharie Reformed Church is now enrolled in *Smile.Amazon*. The church will now receive a donation from every Amazon purchase made by you when you use the Smile link!! Access Amazon from your browser by typing in "[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)". Then select Schoharie Reformed Church from the "Smile" charities on the top left of the home screen and begin your shopping. After you proceed thru checkout the donation is automatically calculated and placed in the Schoharie Reformed Church fund.

Please share with family and friends, it's a great way to support our church while doing your online shopping.

**Sight & Sound Theaters:** Are introducing a new Sight & Sound TV, "Spectacular" Exclusive live broadcasts and encore performances on demand. Available on multiple devices. For complete information visit: [www.sight-sound.tv](http://www.sight-sound.tv).

**Aluminum Tabs for the Shriners:** - Aluminum tabs are continuing to be collected to help offset Shriners Hospital patient cost. Tabs may be left on the downstairs table in Heritage House Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday; 9am-1pm or on the bench on the front porch of Heritage House.

**Electronics Recycling Continues:** Please continue to save your used printer cartridges and cell phones for recycling. These items maybe left on the downstairs table in Heritage House Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday; 9am-1pm or on the bench on the front porch of Heritage House.



## Food Pantry

The Food Pantry continues to serve many families in our community. Special items of need are cleaning supplies, paper products-paper towels/toilet paper. Personal hygiene items such as hand soap, toothpaste, shampoo and shower soaps are also needed. Non-perishable items such as canned fruits & vegetables, boxed macaroni & cheese, tuna fish, pasta, pasta sauce, canned ravioli/beef stew/ soup/spaghetti o's/chili with beans, applesauce, instant potatoes, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, jello packs, pudding packs, are item always needed. Kid friendly snacks such as granola bars, fruit snacks, juice packs, snack crackers are great items to have available. Items may be dropped off at SUPC on Tuesdays or Thursday from 12noon till 2:00pm or they may be left between the doors of the SUPC educational building. Monetary donations are appreciated as well, checks may be written to "Schoharie Valley Food Pantry". If you would like to volunteer with the Food Pantry, please contact Diane Walion 518-868-4629. **The Food Pantry is open Tuesday & Thursdays, 12-2pm.** The Food Pantry would like to thank everyone for your support and donations, your help makes the Food Pantry successful in helping our community!



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*April 2021*

**COME  
WORSHIP**  
*with us!*

