



# The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

August 2018

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



## What's Inside

Pastor's Message	1-2
Food Pantry	3
Thank you to The Bodes'	3
Announcements	4
Sunday School	5
Camp Fowler Family Retreat	6
Garage Sale	6
Baccalaureate	7
Buildings and Grounds	7
Community Camp	8

September Newsletter Deadline  
August 27th



### A Work in Progress:

*"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do."*

-Philippians 3:12,17NIV

We are all a work in progress. That is what I have come to believe being human is all about. But I didn't always think this way. I grew up thinking that the person who is loved and valued is the one who shows themselves to be "the finished product." So, for a long time in my life I did my best to hide and even lie about all of my faults and my failures. What I believed about the world was that if people saw my mistakes, my struggles, and especially my sins, or anything of the real, and imperfect "me," then I would not be worthy of love and belonging. So, while I knew that I was and always would be a work in progress, I saw that as something to hide. I believed that the best life I could live for myself and for those I loved was to do everything in my power to only let them ever see the finished product.

Like an artist who wants to keep their work a secret and “under wraps” until they can make a big reveal, we can be tempted to think that the best and only beauty is found in the finished product. But the truth is, this side of eternity, the finished product is a myth. We are all a work in progress, and it is in being a work in progress that we experience beauty, find our best lives, and witness the love and transforming power of God! How do we do this? I believe it is living into the truth of our belonging to God. Belonging has been our theme all summer long as we have unpacked the first question and answer of the Heidelberg Catechism that speaks to our only comfort in life and in death as our belonging, “body and soul in life and in death to our faithful savior Jesus Christ.” Belonging is what gives us the freedom to live courageously as the people God created us.

I love Paul’s words in the third chapter of his letter to the Philippians! I would encourage you to take some time to read and reflect on the whole chapter (and even the whole letter!). In these verses Paul makes it very clear to the Philippians that his own life and faith are a work in progress. He writes to them saying, “not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal.” Then he goes on to write about his belonging saying, “I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.” It is out of his belonging that Paul is striving to press on, and to live into the fullness of his life as a work in progress.

But then he even goes one step further. While Paul sees himself as work in progress he sees his life as something for the Philippians to emulate as he writes, “join together in following my example.” Wow! I used to think that Paul said this because he is “the finished product.” But no! Paul commends them to follow him as an example of being “a work in progress.”

I recently finished a Faithwalking 201 course, and as I reflect back on my what I have learned one of the biggest lessons for me was coming to the understanding that my best self, and my best life are not found in the finished product, but in courageously living my life as a work in progress. That is the life that will bless my wife. That is the life that will inspire my kids. That is the life that will witness to others. That is the life that will allow me to experience the transforming power of God. But to be honest, the temptation to be the finished product is still very much present for me, so I need to keep coming back to the truth of my belonging to God, and in m belonging find the freedom, the joy, and the wonder of being a work in progress.

I have often heard people in the pews say things like “I shouldn’t be here. I have made so many mistakes.” Or, “I don’t belong here. You don’t know what I have done.” This saddens me, but it also challenges me and makes me wonder if we as the church sometimes get caught up in trying to look like “the finished product” for others? I wonder how it would impact our church, our community, and our world if we could claim our belonging and learn to live into the joy, freedom, and wonder of being a work in progress? Lord, let us all find our belonging and our being in you! Amen. Have a blessed remainder of your summer!

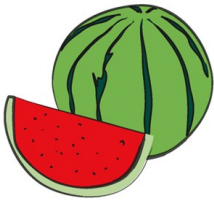
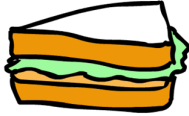
Works in Progress,

*Pastors Mike & Sherri*



### Church Library

There is a library upstairs in Heritage House for your pleasure. Please come, sit and enjoy some quiet reading time or you may wish to sign out a book(s) which you would enjoy reading at home. We only ask that you sign the books out on the sign out sheet in the library and return them to the library or the church office when you are done. A great way to be close to God, relax and enjoy.

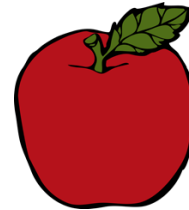


## Food Pantry

Schoharie Community Food Pantry Report  
July 2018

It has been a busy summer at the food pantry, with between 60 and 80 families visiting per month. As I write this, the shelves are virtually bare, due to a busy couple of weeks, but a large order from the Regional Food Bank will arrive tomorrow. We have been blessed the past few months with receiving a great deal of meat from Hannaford in Esperance. We are one of only a few pantries who distribute meat. Donations are always needed, especially in the categories of tuna and other canned meats, cereals, spaghetti sauce and peanut butter. Our clients are truly thankful for this pantry. We are hoping to acquire a chest freezer thru donation or small cost. This will provide us with some "overflow space" when we get large unexpected donations of meat. If you know of a freezer that is available, please call Pr. Colleen Quirion at 518 295-8102. We also are in need of volunteers, since our longtime volunteer Marguerite Stanley has retired and another longtime volunteer is out due to illness/injury. A big thank you to all our volunteers, for this ministry would not be possible without them. If you would like to volunteer, even on an occasional basis, please call Diane Walion at 518 868-4629.

Donations may be dropped off in our Church Narthex or in the SUPC Christian Ed building. Monetary donations are appreciated as well, checks may be made out to Schoharie Valley Food Pantry. **The Food Pantry is open Tuesday & Thursdays, 12-2pm**



## Thank you

We would like to thank The Bode Family for joining us and giving the message on Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Follow the Bodes and the Mission in Oman:

[www.facebook.com/groups/BodesInOman](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BodesInOman)



Sign up to receive their email newsletter:

[Bit.ly/BodesInOman](https://bit.ly/BodesInOman)



Visit their page on the Reformed Church's website for info, prayer cards or to donate:

[www.rca.org/joshua-and-erica-bode](http://www.rca.org/joshua-and-erica-bode)

## Announcements

**Summer Worship**-during the months of July and August worship will be at 9:30am with coffee hour following worship service in the Community Room. **Please Note: August 26<sup>th</sup>**, the Sunday Worship will be held at Camp Fowler during the Family Retreat 2.0. If you are not able to attend worship at Camp Fowler please feel free to attend Worship service at a church of your choice.

**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.

**Consistory**-the next consistory meeting will be held August 22, 6:30pm in the Heritage House.

**Camp Fowler Scholarships**-the church will be offering scholarships for children who would like to attend camp but due to financial restrictions would not be able. A scholarship form may be obtained from the church office. This is separate from the Camp Fowler registration. Any questions please call the church at 518-295-8177.

**Contact Information**- please contact the church office at 518-295-8177 or e-mail: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com to update your contact information, if you have changed your mailing address, phone number or email address. If you are new to our church family, in addition to the above information please be sure we have all family members month & day of birth and your wedding anniversary month & day. This will help everyone stay in touch.

**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.

**Paint & Sip**- August 6 at 6pm there will be a paint & sip, snacks & beverage (non alcohol beverage) will be served. It will be the gray/white cow, the cost is \$30.00 per person. Space is limited. You do not need any painting experience. Contact Marion at 295-7320 or 514-8442 by August 4. Please join us, it will be a great time.

**Aluminum Tabs**-after reading last month's newsletter Michael Derry sent me an e-mail with some additional background information on how the collection of aluminum tabs began in our Church. Thank you, Michael.

*" I have been a Shriner since 1993. Two of our goals are to "help children" and to "spread the cement of fellowship among men of good character". We have 22 Shriners Hospitals in North America, including one in Canada and one in Mexico. Now that we have become international in scope, we operate outreach clinics in various countries in the world. When I was a member of the Consistory some ten years ago, I asked if the church body would be interested in taking on a project to help my local Shrine Center assist in the mission of helping children. That project continues to this day. When I was living in Schoharie, I used to collect the aluminum tabs. When I moved, John Nixon and Ron Filmer offered to collect the tabs in my stead.*

*The tabs benefit the Shriners care program, but not directly. The Hospitals do not have the volunteer staff to process the tabs, but my local Shrine Center in Glenmont does all of the processing; sorting the tabs to remove all tabs that are not aluminum and taking the aluminum tabs to a recycling center to be paid for their value. The proceeds then are used to help the children."*

Please continue to collect your aluminum tabs and leave them in the Narthex, the processing will be completed to help the children.

**Back to School Supplies Drive**-Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc., will be collecting school supplies to be provided to low income Schoharie County students. Donations will be accepted throughout the summer until Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. **Needed items:** Backpacks (no wheels please), Number 2 pencils, Pens (black or blue ink), Colored pencils, Highlighters, Glue & glue sticks, Pencil cases, Index cards, Insulated lunch bags, Protractors, Scientific calculators, Erasers, Multi-subject notebooks, 1 & 1/2 inch binders, Markers, Colored 2-pocket folders, Loose-leaf paper (both college & regular lined), Marble composition notebooks, Scissors, Mechanical Pencils.

For more information, please call Melissa Pawlak at 518-234-2568 x3035 or visit us at 795 East Main Street, Suite 5, Cobleskill, NY 12043 or [www.sccapinc.org](http://www.sccapinc.org).

There will be a collection box for you donated items in the Narthex, thru Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> or you may leave them in the church office.





## Sunday School Calendar 2018 - 19



September 9 – Pancake Breakfast Sunday School Kickoff

September 16 - Regular Sunday School

September 23 –Regular Sunday School

September 30 - Special Activity

October 7 – No Sunday School

October 14—Regular Sunday School

October 21—Regular Sunday School

October 28 - Holiday Activity

November 4 - Holiday Activity

November 11 – Practice for Christmas Program

November 18 – Practice for Christmas Program

November 25 – No Sunday School

December 2 – Practice for Christmas Program

December 9 - Last Practice for Christmas Program

December 16 – Dress rehearsal & Christmas Program

December 23 – Holiday Activity

December 30 – No Sunday School

January 6—Regular Sunday School

January 13 – Special Activity

January 20—Regular Sunday School

January 27—Regular Sunday School

February 3— Regular Sunday School

February 10 – Special Activity

February 17 – No Sunday School

February 25—Regular Sunday School

March 3—Regular Sunday School



March 10—Regular Sunday School

March 17 – Special Activity

March 24—Regular Sunday School

March 31 – No Sunday School

April 7 – Special Activity

April 14 – Palm Sunday Parade

April 21 – No Sunday School (Easter)

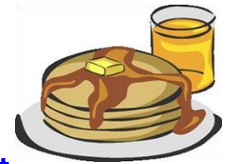
April 28—Regular Sunday School

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



### Pancake Breakfast

### Sunday, September 9th at 9:15AM

Please join us 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. We are switching it up this year with some new and exciting changes.

We are always looking for volunteers to help alongside Cindy, Marion and Liza. You do not need to be available every week, but we would love your presence and participation. There is no special training needed. We just ask that you be part of our church ministry to our youth. The time and the love you offer will show our youth that God is Great. Please see Cindy Parks or Luke Jacobs regarding your availability. God Bless you for your service to our youth.

**See you at breakfast!**





*Schoharie Reformed Church*  
*Camp Fowler Family Retreat 2.0*



August 24—26, 2018

Ask anyone that attended our retreat last summer and you'll hear about a relaxing time of fellowship in a setting that can't be beat.

Check-in starts at 5:00pm on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>. We leave after lunch on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>.

In between you will enjoy:

- Group games
- Waterfront activities including swimming, fishing, canoeing & kayaking
- Hiking
- Crafts
- Campfires with stories and singing



Opportunities to **Be Still and Know that God is Great!**

Registration will be available on the church website or by paper in the Church Narthex. Please let us know how many in your party and would you prefer a room at Chi Rho House or Rustic Cabin. You will be given the opportunity to include a contribution with your registration.

[See you at Camp!](#)



*Schoharie Reformed Church*  
*Garage Sale*



Saturday, September 8, 2018

(Schoharie Village Wide Garage Sale Day)

Volunteers are needed to help set up, tear down and to work in shifts the day of the sale.



Check your closets, attics and basements! A great opportunity to clean out and get rid of those unwanted items and make a donation to the Church. Turn your items into a treasure for someone else.



Any questions or suggestions contact Cindy at 518-295-7419 home, 518-248-1334 cell or E-Mail: [cjpark777@gmail.com](mailto:cjpark777@gmail.com)



A Sign-up Sheet is in the Narthex.



## Baccalaureate Ceremony



Time to share a few memories .



Pastor Mike delivers his message and prayers for the future.



## Buildings and Grounds

### Opportunities to help with our buildings:

**Weed the landscaping** -Every few weeks, the weeds need pulling.

**Painting Help** - Various things need to be painted:

- Balcony handrail (steel)
- Narthex doors and walls
- Stairway walls downstairs (after contractor finishes)
- Outside handrails (front and back doors)

Inside the addition  
Touch-up inside the Sanctuary



Be encouraged to take on any of these tasks either by yourself or with other people; and at your own schedule. See Dave T for details.

**Sealing the Parking Lot** - The parking lot needs to be sealed, but we are only going to do a portion this year. The plan is to work two evenings (Monday and Tuesday, August 20 and 21) 5:00 pm. We will prep the first night then apply the seal the second night. Workers need to RSVP Dave ([dtoborg@midtel.net](mailto:dtoborg@midtel.net), 295-8554) or this won't get done. *So far, I have received only one tentative "yes". More help is necessary or it won't get done.*





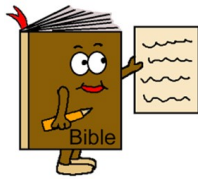
## Schoharie Valley Community Camp 2018



This camper wants to see YOU at camp next year, July 15th - 19th!



Happy campers!



It's hard to believe that Schoharie Valley Community Camp has already come and gone! 160 campers between the ages of four and fourteen and over 60 volunteers came together for a SUPER week! This year, we were blessed with a group from Wyckoff Reformed Church of New Jersey, who worked alongside local teens and adults as counselors and junior counselors. Additionally, for the third year in a row, we graciously welcomed back a group of five young ladies from Muskegon, Michigan who brought tons of positive energy and smiles. During the week, campers learned that God's superheroes have heart, courage, wisdom, hope, and power and were encouraged to be superheroes as they enter the upcoming school year. They also enjoyed playing games, singing songs, and creating tie-dye t-shirts, picture frames, and superhero gear. Our annual service projects included decorating reusable shopping bags for patrons of the local food pantry, in addition to collecting and packing over 40 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all who supported camp through prayers, donations, and time. The planning team is already looking forward to camp next year, which will be held July 15th through July 19th. We encourage everyone to take part as you feel led!



Campers leading each other through a blindfolded obstacle course.



Fun for ALL!



Campers spent time digging into the Word, learning how God's superheroes have heart, courage, wisdom, hope, and power.





Schoharie Reformed Church  
260 Main Street  
Schoharie, NY 12157

Rev. Mike & Rev. Dr. Sherri Meyer-Veen

Phone: (518) 295-8177

Fax: (518) 295-8105

email: [schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.schohariereformedchurch.org](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org)

August

