



# The Visitor

*Schoharie Reformed Church*

*August 2019*

*Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri*



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*September Newsletter Deadline  
August 27th*



### Taking to the "High-Way"

*"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all the peoples of the earth will be blessed through you.'"*

*-Genesis 12:1-3*

We all know the phrase, we've heard other people use it, and maybe we have even used it ourselves a time or two. It is a phrase that evokes a sense of absolute power, supreme authority, and dominant control whenever it has been uttered by a fed-up parent, a fired-up coach, a frustrated teacher, or anyone else who has felt the need to declare...ITS MY WAY OR THE HIGHWAY! But while this phrase may find a voice at different times in our lives, and even more and more it seems today to be echoing the divisive voices of our culture, it seems clear from Scripture that the voice of God is ever-calling us

as disciples to take the “High-Way”! But what does this mean? The High-Way of God and the High-Way of the Holy Spirit is not the way of cutting off, separating, or distancing ourselves from people with whom we don’t agree, or get along, as we see so much today in our “either/or” culture. It is not either/or, but instead, a deeper way of connecting and relating with God, and with people in the world that moves us from a perspective of privilege to one of service, love, and generosity! On July 21<sup>st</sup> we got to hear a great sermon from Rev. Josh Bode who visited us as our missionary guest as a part of our partnership with the historic RCA mission in Oman. He preached on Jeremiah 29:1-14. One phrase that really stuck out to me (Pastor Mike), from his sermon was, “God will take your power, privilege, and control to bring you peace. God loves us that much!” I hear a similar truth being spoken to Abram when God calls him in Genesis 12 to, “*leave your country, your people, and your father’s household and go the land I will show you.*” Abram was called to leave his livelihood, his sense of community, his safety, his privilege, his future inheritance, his entire sense of belonging and security to follow a God he did not know. Abram was being called by God out of a reality where his wealth, his worth, his identity, and his power were all based on who he was, what he had, and what he could do, and into a reality based on faith, trust, and dependence on God found in a promise.

In this promise from God there is the hope of becoming great, in numbers and in name, but all of this is intended “to be a blessing” for “all the peoples of the earth.” While we often take them for granted, most of us recognize on some level that our lives are blessed. But do we see our blessing as opportunities and resources for blessing others? Often our perspectives of privilege lead us to a worldview that gives us permission to take what we want because the opportunities are equal, and the playing field is level. But human greed, and our own dark history tell us this is just not the case. God has created us and called us to a “High-Way” that is less about taking, and more about blessing. If this is so, then how do I bless the people suffering across the world I don’t know? How do I bless my neighbors who seem to be struggling to make ends meet? How do I bless the person on social media who has very different political ideologies than I do? How do I bless the person who has suffered unjustly because of their nationality or race? What needs to change in me so that I can more faithfully take God’s “High-Way”?

This summer our theme in worship has been “Catching the Spirit.” As we look and listen for the Holy Spirit at work all around us let us find courage and faith to wonder together, how is God calling us out of lives based on our own security, power, and productivity and into deeper relationships of obedience, trust, and dependence? How is God also calling us to use our positions of privilege “to be a blessing” to “all the peoples on earth”? Or to put in another way, how is God calling us to let go of our own way and take “The High-Way”? Not a way of cut-off, or distancing that reflects our divisive “either/or” culture, but the High-Way of learning to live more deeply in relationship with the Spirit in the world, and in love with all people!

Seeking the “High-Way,”

*Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri*



## *Service of Prayers for Healing*

A special service of prayers for healing is being planned for Wednesday, September 11, 2019. Whether you are in need of healing, or know someone in need of healing, or want to pray for the healing of our world, you are invited to join us for this special service.

## Announcements



**Consistory**-will meet Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Heritage House.

**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 tasks please talk with Vince Smith or Jim Callahan. This is a great way to learn and offer assistance to your church family.



## Our New Fall Worship Time

The consistory has received feedback from the congregation and has decided to move the time of our regular worship to **9:30am** for the fall season. The consistory will again review this change in late December/early January. As our Sunday school leaders prepare to offer another year of quality Christian Education for the children and youth of our church, they have come up with a creative idea to try out along with the 9:30am worship time change. If you have any questions please speak with a member of Consistory.



## Family Retreat 3.0

August 23-25, 2019

**Please Register Soon! Deadline is Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>!**

Our church family invites yours for a relaxing time of fellowship in a setting that can't be beat.

Check-in starts at 5:00pm on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We leave after lunch on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup>.

In between you will enjoy:



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



Many opportunities to **Be Still and Know that our God is Great!**

The total cost of the camp is \$3,500. A fee of: (please note change in cost)

\$80 for a family or \$40 for an individual, this covers your room for two nights and meals.

If you are unable to attend for the weekend, but would like to join us for the day on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, please contact Paul Shultz at 518-295-7292.

There are two choices for accommodation. Please let us know if you would prefer:

*Cabin* - rustic camping, no heat, 1/2 bath in cabin, shower house separately or

*Chi Rho* - motel style, full bath in room.

Light snack is provided on Friday evening. Please eat before arriving.

There is room for 50 reservations.

To registration visit: [www.schohariereformedchurch.org](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org)

If you have any questions please contact Paul Shultz at 518-295-7292 or the church office at 518-295-8177



***We hope to see you at Camp!***



## Summer Worship

Our summer worship service is at 9:30am with coffee hour to follow in the Community Room.

**Please Note: August 25<sup>th</sup>**, the Sunday Worship will be held at Camp Fowler during the Family Retreat 3.0. If you are not able to attend worship at Camp Fowler please feel free to attend a service at a church of your choice.





## Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp 2019



The week of July 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> was an amazing week with over 150 campers and 40 staff. Each day was filled with crafts, recreation, nature, and the opportunity to see God in our every day lives. Each day provided a new conversation always ending in the importance that God is Good!



Save the dates  
**July 20—24, 2020**  
We look forward to seeing you!



## Thanks Yous

Thank you to the Congregation for the beautiful floral arrangement which we received. We feel blessed to have such a wonderful church family. Blessings, Vern & Ron Filmer.

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Joshua Project. It will go a long way help the neediest people of Schoharie County. As a 100% volunteer, 100% privately funded, ecumenical organization, The Joshua Project is truly blessed to receive the support of our community. Again, thank you for your generous donation. The Joshua Project.

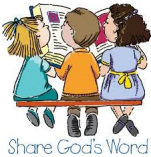


## Thanks Yous

Dear friends in Schoharie, What a delight it was to be with you all on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of July! We are deeply grateful for your hospitality and for the engagement we had that day about the RCA's mission in Oman and our work in, with, and through the Protestant Church in Oman. We loved being back in Schoharie! Thank you for allowing us space to be with you, for your support, and for your partnership with us in the mission. Peace, Erica & Josh Bode

We continue to invite communication and partnership: email address: [bodesinoman@gmail.com](mailto:bodesinoman@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/BodesinOman](http://www.facebook.com/groups/BodesinOman) or receive our newsletter: [bit.ly/BodesinOman](http://bit.ly/BodesinOman)

Greetings from Wyoming! I just wanted to say thank you for the graduation money I received as a gift. I've been putting the money to good use on my road trip from D.C. to Charleston, St. Louis, Denver, Grand Tetons, and Rushmore! Thanks again! Morgan Henry



## Sunday School

### A Time & A New Plan for Sunday School

The consistory has received feedback from the congregation and has decided to move the time of our regular worship service to 9:30am for the fall season. The consistory will again review this change in late December/early January. As our Sunday school leaders prepare to offer another year of quality Christian Education for the children and youth of our church, they have come up with a creative idea to try out along with the 9:30am worship time change.

When Sunday school begins there will be three different age groups offered for Sunday school. The first group, Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will go downstairs to the community room following the children's time during the worship service. There they will have their Sunday school lesson until the end of the worship service. The other two groups will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> graders, along with 5<sup>th</sup> and beyond. They will come over to the Heritage House following the sermon and their Sunday school time will run until approximately 15 minutes past the end of the worship service. Then parents will be able to get their kids and bring them home. In addition to this change there will be no Sunday school on communion Sundays (the first Sunday of every month), so that families can celebrate communion together. There will also be a time of praise singing for kids and adults who wish to attend prior to the prelude and the beginning of the worship service.

We will be contacting Sunday school families prior to the start of Sunday school with a program schedule and complete information regarding each of these changes. **We invite all children to attend our program and to please feel free to share this information with their friends and invite them to join along!** If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Elder Cindy Parks (295-7419) or Pastor Mike (295-8177). *We are really excited for a new and creative year together!!!*



## Church Lawn Sale



The Fundraising/Fellowship Committee's first event will be participating in the Village Wide Garage Sale

**Saturday, September 7, 2019**

Details to follow, but we need good stuff.

Start identifying your unused items that someone else needs.

Drop off clean sale items at the Heritage House commencing September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Use the side room that faces the DAR Lasell Hall.

Contact Maryann Foland or Dave Toborg to make other arrangements.

Sorry – no clothes, VHS tapes, old computers, or CRT type TVs.

Canopies are needed to set up on the lawn.

Unsold items will not be returned unless you pick them up following the sale day.

*Proceeds go toward rebuilding the stained glass windows.*

*Thank you for your donations!*



## Food Pantry



The Food Pantry continues to serve an increased number of families over the summer months, a difficult time for many. The items of need for August are: canned spaghetti-spaghetti o's-ravioli, pasta sauce, tuna fish, canned chicken, peanut butter, jelly, paper towels, toilet paper and cleaning supplies. All food items are always welcome. In addition to our Food Pantry box in the Narthex items may be dropped off at SUPC on Tuesdays thru Fridays from 11am till 3pm. Monetary donations are appreciated as well, checks may be made out to: Schoharie Valley Food Pantry. If you would like to volunteer to help man the Food Pantry please contact Diane Walion at 518-868-4629.

The Food Pantry is open Tuesday & Thursdays, 12noon to 2pm.

Donations are appreciated to help others in need.



## Church Grounds

During the summer months our church is in need of volunteers to help maintain the beauty of the Church. Volunteers are needed to pull weeds and tend to the landscaping in front of the Church and Heritage House. We ask that if able would you periodically spend some time to help maintain the landscape. Thank you for assisting with the beautification of our Church grounds.







## Back to School Supply Drive



Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc.  
is preparing for the upcoming school year  
and looking for your assistance in our *Annual Back to School Program*.

School supplies to be provided to low income Schoharie County students.

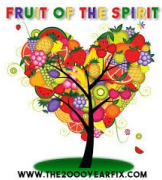
Needed items:

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, Rulers, Scientific calculators, Erasers, Multi-subject notebooks, 1 & 2 inch binders, Markers, Crayons, Colored 2-pocket folders, Loose-leaf paper (both college & regular lined), Marble composition notebooks, Scissors, Mechanical Pencils.

Please provide any items you wish to donate by Sunday, August 18th.  
A donation box has been placed in our Narthex.



*Thank you for your continued support!*



## Campfire Worship



Join us for blessings on the lawn!

Wednesdays in August

**6:30pm** fellowship & camp food      **7:30pm** worship on the lawn

**Glen Reformed Church, 1526 State Highway 161, Glen, NY**

Come to a casual worship service around the campfire on the lawn behind Glen Reformed Church. Guest speakers and guest musicians will share messages of the **"Fruit of the Spirit"**. Casual attire, campfire food, and good fellowship. Bring the whole family, your neighbors & friends. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

**Aug. 7-**6:30pm Baked Potato Bar; 7:30pm Preaching Elders Sharon & Ken Palmer with Sharon on keyboard  
**Aug. 14-**6:30pm S'mores & watermelon; 7:30pm Rev. Peggy Traester with musicians Sue Casler & Ron Burch  
**Aug. 21-**6:30pm Make Your Own Sunday Bar; 7:30pm Rev. Bert Mayne with his guitar  
**Aug. 28-**6:30pm Hot dogs & rolls and S'mores; 7:30pm Preaching Elder Kay Turnbull

In case of rain fellowship & worship will take place downstairs in the church.

Questions? Call 518-853-3088 or 518-922-6624



*All are invited to attend!*





Schoharie Reformed Church

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*August 2019*

