



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

August 2021

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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Consider the Lilies (or the Butternut Squash):

"Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here

today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will God clothe you, O you of little faith!" - Luke 12:27-28.

I remember it happened so quickly that it was over before I even realized it. I was in a hurry, with a lot of other things on my mind and I remember at the time, feeling frustrated and resentful that the lawn needed to be mowed (as if it couldn't have been more considerate of my busy schedule!). In my haste I had gone too quickly without paying attention and I unintentionally mowed over the vine that connected a large plant of Butternut Squash. By the time I realized what had happened it was too late, the plant was cut and the life of multiple growing gourds that were on their way to being beautiful and delicious were cut short – a squash, tragically mowed down in its prime.

I wish I could say I learned a valuable lesson that day, but honestly, I still find myself hurrying too much through many parts of my life, especially when I am feeling anxious or stressed, which almost always ends up making things worse and taking more time in the end.

I find a lot of wisdom in the quote attributed to The White Rabbit from Lewis Carol's famous book, Alice in Wonderland. The White Rabbit who says continually, "I'm late! I'm late, for a very important date." At another point in the story he says, "The Hurrier I go, the behinder I get." That is really true for me in my times of hurrying. When I am in a hurry because of my stress or anxiety I stop paying attention

like I should. I choose to ignore or am blind to important things that need to be attended. I get sloppy, I don't think things through, and because of this I end up taking more time or doing unnecessary things because I am in a hurry. I also leave messes behind because the story I tell is that I don't have time to put things away as I should and that I will take care of it "later when I am less busy," which almost never happens.

As we continue to find our way through and out of the pandemic, I find myself at times speeding up to get "back to normal" as fast as possible, or to try and catch up as quickly as I can with all that has been missed. Life (at least for me) seems to be getting faster and faster, busier and busier. In this last part of summer, I want to find practices to "Consider the Lilies" and perhaps save a Butternut Squash or two along the way, as well as renew my own soul, which like yours, has probably been through a lot over this past year and a half. So, I am hoping to take some time to pray, to listen, to reflect, to be nourished by nature and family, and things I love like fishing, and walking, and reading, and making art. In all of it, I hope to hear God's voice and feel God's Spirit doing a good work in me.

We wonder what "slowing" in an intentional way, looks like for you? For me (Pastor Sherri) it is an essential part of spiritual formation. Taking time for slowing means staying connected to God through wonder and curiosity like that of a child. In Matthew 18:3 Jesus says, "*Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven*". When we take intentional time to wonder and be curious like children, or to consider the lilies, we keep ourselves from getting too caught up in all the things of the world and we can stay better connected to the heart of God. It means cultivating the discipline of a reflective life. May we all find the gifts of slowing down when and where we can, to be renewed in our souls, refreshed in our bodies, and inspired in our lives. Here is a special poem written by Pastor Sherri entitled, "Bored."

Bored by Pastor Sherri

You do not visit often,
but when you do
at first you are unwelcome
and I greet you with a grumpy attitude.
I am so used to
go,
go,
go,
that sitting still and being
unscheduled at first
feels wrong and heaven forbid
unproductive
and a waste.
But then I settle in,
and feel
my privilege
of being able
to sit
and rest
and then I remember
my Belovedness.



And that I am called
to rest
and to be
not to do
and I repent
of my hyper productivity
and I repent
of my need to be needed
and my savior complex
and I sit and rest
and I apologize
for being so grumpy
and I welcome you.

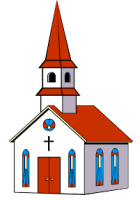
You are a great privilege.
Oh, the joy that I may actually
welcome your presence more often.

Bored.
You are beautiful.

Considering the Lilies - Pastors Mike & Sherri

Announcements

SRC 300th Anniversary Committee: Will meet Monday, August 9, 2021 at 6:30pm in Heritage House. We invite all to join; your ideas and help are greatly appreciated as we plan the SRC 300th anniversary celebration.



Consistory: Consistory will meet Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Recycling: Please continue to save your used printer cartridges and cell phones for recycling. These items may be left at the church office.

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 table in the Narthex.

Clothing Shed: The clothing drop-off shed is open. This 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.



Amazon Smile: Please remember SRC when ordering on Amazon. Amazon Smile will donate a portion of your eligible purchases to Schoharie Reformed Church at no cost to you! "What a great way to help financially support our church".



Thank You



Thank you so very much. Thanks for all the well wishes, warm thoughts, and wonderful gifts! We are so lucky to have such caring friends. The Shaw Family.

Schoharie Reformed Church
300th Anniversary Committee

invites you to the movie showing

“Secondhand Lions”

Friday, August 27, 2021

Doors open: 6:30pm Movie Starts: 7:00pm
SRC Community Room

Popcorn & Soda will be available for purchase.

Movie is Free-Will Offering



All proceeds will go toward the Stained-Glass Window Project of the SRC Sanctuary.

Bring Your Friends—All Ages Are Welcome!

“Miracle” Dogs & “Grace” Cakes

The 300th Anniversary Committee of Schoharie Reformed Church



will be holding a fund raising event

Saturday, September 11, 2021
(Schoharie Village Wide Garage Sale)

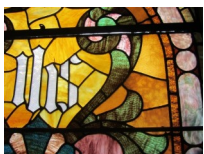


The committee is asking for your donations of dozen cupcakes (any flavor) with white icing & colored sprinkles. (with a goal of 300 cupcakes)

Please drop your cupcakes off at the Heritage House **Friday, September 10th**, leave on table inside-doors will be open.

All proceeds will go toward the Stained-Glass Window Project of the SRC Sanctuary.

Thank you in advance for your donations.



300th Anniversary Celebration for SRC!

300 years ago, 1721, the American colonies were under the rule of King George of England. The Schoharie Valley, on the western frontier, was being settled by the Germans and the Dutch. The settlers recognized their need to re-establish many of their norms in their new home, wild as it was. Foremost among these was their need for God and an established church. Thus, Schoharie Reformed Church was founded in 1721. We have been serving God and community continuously for 300 years. This deserves recognition and celebration!

Numerous events are scheduled to recognize this important milestone. Some will be for our church family exclusively; others will include the community. The committee will need your support in creating these exciting events.

Additionally, we are planning to utilize these celebratory events to earn money for our window fund in order to preserve the historic stained-glass windows in our sanctuary.

The following is a general outline of the planned events.

August 27th 7 pm - Movie night for the community. Free will offering collected; popcorn and drinks for sale. "Secondhand Lions" movie!



September 11th – Participate in Village wide garage sale by selling Hot Dogs, Chili, & Drinks

September 12th – Historic Church Service; set in 1775; first of four historic services that will pay tribute to the four centuries that SRC has served the Schoharie Community

September 25th 2 pm – Community Birthday Celebration and Fundraiser for preservation of our stained-glass windows. Plans include Bar-B-Que Delights, bake sale, silent auction, music, balloon art, face painting, and FUN!

October 10th – Historic Church Service; set in 1863



November 14th – Historic Church Service; set in 1955

December 12th – Historic Church Service; set in 2001; Birthday Party for church family; includes opening of 1996 time capsule and creating a 2076 time capsule



We look forward to seeing you!

1721

2021

Background Information for Historic Worship Service on September 12th

The people of Schoharie are well aware of what happened 5 years ago in Boston when several citizens were shot and killed by British soldiers – the first being Crispus Atticus – a black freeman. They have very recently heard of what happened in Lexington and Concord in April and Bunker Hill in June. (information travels approximately 2 miles an hour, when it travels).

Being heard around the village, especially in the taverns, is the word independence. Villagers are beginning to form into groups – Loyalists (those supporting the king), patriots (those supporting independence) and those that just wish to be left alone.

The congregation of the church includes all three factions and slaves and local Indians – the Schoharie Indians are Iroquois, which except for the Oneidas are siding with the British.

We are all here today to hear the Domini preach his thoughts. His problem is what is the position of the church? Can he even keep the church together and what about the relationship with the Anglican church? Does he take a side or remain neutral? The pulpit that he is preaching from is only 3 years old and was built by members of the congregation that fall into all three groups.

He's a man with a very large problem.

What the congregation doesn't know is that in 5 years virtually everything they have will be destroyed by the British and Indians.

For your listening purpose the sermon will be given in English. German was the main language of the village well into the 1800's.

Respectfully submitted by: Dave Goodrich



Food Pantry

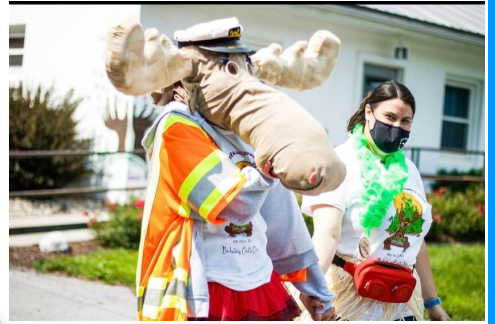


The Food Pantry is continuing to work hard to serve the many families in our community. Items of great need are cleaning supplies, paper products-paper towels/toilet paper. Personal hygiene items such as hand soap, toothpaste, shampoo and shower soaps are also needed. Non-perishable items such as canned 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. With school starting in September 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 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!

Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp

July 19—23, 2021

Radiating God's Glory



“Schoharie Valley Community Camp counselors and campers had an amazing week at camp. This year may have looked a little different but that did not change the spirit and excitement of the campers and counselors! “

We had 75 campers and 50+ counselors! A mission group from Muskegon, Michigan brought 31 individuals to help with camp this year as well! We were so blessed to receive their help! Another blessing was that the rain held off, and we only experienced a few drizzles in the mornings.

Our service project for the week was focused on brightening the days of individuals who are not able to get out. Campers made pillows and hand wrote letters!



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