



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

December 2021

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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Adventing!



Let all that I am praise the LORD;
with my whole heart, I will praise God's holy name.
Let all that I am praise the LORD;
may I never forget the good things God does for me.
³ God forgives all my sins
and heals all my diseases.
⁴ God redeems me from death
and crowns me with love and tender mercies.
⁵ God fills my life with good things.
My youth is renewed like the eagles!
-Psalm 103:1-5 NLT

As we journey together through this Advent season the theme of our worship has been "Come to your senses." As the Psalmist prays to God saying, "Let all that I am praise the LORD." We are reminded that all of who we are, especially as "multi-sensory" beings, can be used to connect and experience the wonder of God. We can experience God through all that we are in our spiritual, emotional, mental, AND physical selves – including our five senses (sight, smell, taste, hear and touch). After all, God created us in God's image. God created this beautiful world and us in it to care for and enjoy as we praise God with our whole being!

The season of Advent offers us many different opportunities and ways to connect to the hope,



peace, joy, and love of God through our senses in whatever state we might find ourselves this time of year.

The sight of holiday lights in a store window or on a front lawn can connect us to the hope that God is the light the darkness cannot overcome. The sound of Christmas carols can give voice to feelings we may have trouble expressing and remind us of the Good News that God is with us as our peace so we can, *“rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.”* The smell of fresh pine or freshly baked food can bring back joyful childhood memories we cherish or help remind us that God is the giver and sustainer of life, especially in hard times. The taste of sweet treats or a hot meal can help connect us to the wonder of God’s love and remind us that we are both gracious receivers and givers of that love. The touch of holiday card or a simple gift can connect us to the reality that we can be, and others can be for us, the very presence of God to heal, bless, and inspire. Advent is a season that awakens us in the darkest of times to the light of God’s presence with us as our hope, peace, joy, and love!

In what ways are you experiencing and connecting with God this Advent season? In what ways is God connected with you? How are you longing to experience God this Advent season for yourself or the world around you? Take some time to share with God your gratitude and/or your longing this Advent Season.

It is no accident how our five senses help draw us into the Advent season. The ways our bodies engage with the world helps us to engage our faith as well. We experience all of our world through our senses, and because God is our *“Emmanuel” (God with us)*, not just a long time ago, but still today, we can experience God through our senses. Engaging the sights, sounds, tastes, smells and touches of Advent can connect us with God, and offer us not just fond memories, or joyous experiences, but also holy moments with our Savior as well as opportunities to bless others.

This work of connecting and engaging our senses with God is what we are to do during Advent. Advent is not meant to be a time to simply sit back and observe and it is not something that just happens to us because it is *“the most wonderful time of the year.”* It is something we are to actively engage in as God’s beloved children. *“Let all that I am praise the LORD.* Advent is not just a noun. It is a verb. We are to be *“Adventing”* throughout this season as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ and as we look with hope to Christ’s coming again. Adventing by growing our awareness of the darkness in our lives and in the world, repenting of our role in it, and seeking to bring more of God’s light through prayer and action. Adventing by giving generously to one another, as well as practicing asking for what we need, and be gracious receivers of the gifts of others. Adventing by showing compassion to one another, especially those who are on our own *“naughty”* lists. Adventing by making time for God to comfort, challenge, and change the places in us that need it most. Adventing by sharing the love and hope of God with others as people of God’s presence.

This Advent let us engage in *“Adventing”* together using all our senses to connect and experience the wonder, and praise the God who comes to us as Emmanuel, God with us, and the light the darkness cannot overcome. Let us see, touch, taste, smell, and hear the good news!

Adventing Together,

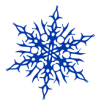
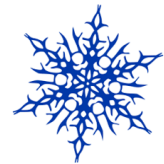
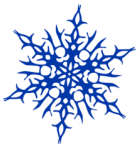
Pastors Mike & Sherri





November Blessings

If you were able to worship with us on Sunday, November 21st, you could hardly miss the huge pile of items that were collected! During the service, we blessed 25 Operation Christmas Child (OCC) boxes and stacks of paper products, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items for our local food pantry. This was just a part of the outreach ministry of our church. The OCC boxes will be delivered to children around the world along with discipleship materials and an invitation to take part in a program entitled, "The Greatest Journey". The paper, cleaning, and hygiene items for our food pantry, which we operate in conjunction with the Presbyterian and Lutheran churches, are much needed items that are often overlooked. Thank you to all who contributed to these important ministries!



Christmas Program—Sunday, December 19th



The youth of our church have been hard at work planning a very special Christmas program to be performed during the worship service on **December 19th at 10 AM**. Any child that would like to be a part of this performance is invited to practice with us on Dec. 12th and 19th at 9 AM. (Please note that we are meeting at 9 AM and not 9:30 AM as previously advertised.)

Following the worship service, everyone is invited to come down to the Fellowship Hall for additional festivities! There will be a slide show running with pictures from past Christmas programs in celebration of our 300th Anniversary. We will celebrate the birth of baby Jesus with a special cake, and there will be activities for the youth – crafts, cookie decorating, etc. (Please note that we are doing the Cookies & Crafts on Dec. 19th following worship and not on Dec. 18th as previously advertised.) There will be no Christmas Caroling on Dec. 19th.



*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*

*Friday, December 24th, 7:30pm in person
(mask required)*

Schoharie Reformed Church



Schoharie Christian After School Program December 2021

A joint meeting was held in the SUPC Christian Education Building on November 17, 2021, at 5:30pm. Our second PPP loan was forgiven, so no payments are required.

SUPC has not been billing the After School Program for water, cleaning, electric, gas or dumpster usage during COVID. The advisory committee agreed that we should begin paying for these items again, now that our enrollment has increased.

The children created cards that were mailed to shut-ins from both SUPC and SRC.

On Dec. 22nd the students will be having a Happy Birthday Baby Jesus party.

The next meeting was set for January 19th at 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted –
Liza Toborg





Christmas Memorial Plants and Donations

Christmas memorial poinsettias will be available again this year. The plants will beautify our Christmas services while remembering special loved ones. The plants are \$10.00 each this year or you may choose to make a donation only while remembering special loved ones. Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate, or mail to the church office, or contact the church office at 518-295-8177, or email: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com.

We will accept orders until *Tuesday, December 14th*. Thank you for helping to beautify our Christmas services while remembering special loved ones.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

In Memory of:

In honor of:

In celebration of:

Number of plants: Red ____ White ____ Pink ____ No plants but please accept my donation _____

Paid \$ _____ Owe \$ _____

Make checks payable to 'Schoharie Reformed Church'



Announcements

Consistory: will meet Thursday, December 16th at 6:30pm in Heritage House.

Aluminum Tabs for the Shriners: - Aluminum tabs are continuing to be collected to help offset Shriners Hospital patient cost. Tabs may be left in the Narthex. Thank you

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





Blood Drive

Can I help? Yes. In addition to their blood techs, the Red Cross needs 2 to 4 volunteers at each drive - one person to register donors as they arrive, the other to run the “canteen” for folks after they finish donating.

Two volunteers can work the entire 6 hours; or 4 volunteers can divide a 6 hour drive into two 3 hour shifts.

Volunteers simply arrive 15 minutes early. Red Cross staff will show you what to do.



Blood Drive **Schoharie Reformed Church**

258 Main Street, NY 12157
Community Room

Tuesday, December 14, 2021
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment call
1-800-733-2767 or go to
www.redcrossblood.org and enter
sponsor code: SchoharieReformedChurch



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

**Give and get: Come to give 11/29-12/16 for \$10 Gift Card by email,
thanks to our partners at Amazon!**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Dave Toborg is coordinating
volunteers.

Please contact Dave if you can
help at:

(518) 295-8554 or
toborg@mittel.net

Additional Blood Drives will be
held:

Thursday, February 17, 2022
from 1pm to 6pm

April 2022 at a date to be
determined.



[111] : Order ID: 120747 : Item ID: 5614880 : Qty: 4 of 6 : 901516882 : 2021-APR-1185 : AR01 : 210947



Historic Worship Service

We invite all to join us on Sunday, December 12th at 10:00am, in the Sanctuary of SRC for our final historic worship service. The setting will be December 12, 2021.

Sermon topic will be—Advent: Come To Your Senses, The Scent of Love— Is the church still relevant in todays world?

Less than 40% of all people in the US that identifying themselves as being Christians' attend church. As each age group gets younger the % drops.

At one time at SRC the pews were full and on the major Christian days you would find standing room only.

We are not alone. All too many churches of all denominations are experiencing the same problem. Are we seeing an end or a new beginning?

Respectively submitted:
Dave Goodrich aka Grumphard

Congregational Birthday Celebration



We invite all to stay after worship, if you feel comfortable, and join our congregational family birthday party, the opening of the 1996 time capsule and the creation of a new time capsule for a future event. All to be held in the community room. We look forward seeing you.

Historic Worship Service

November 14, 2021 set in 1955



NEW YORK STATE SENATE



Proclamation

CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOHARIE REFORMED CHURCH

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social, and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, I, New York State Senator Peter Oberacker, am proud to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Schoharie Reformed Church on November 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the storied history of New York State, there have emerged among its noble institutions, certain houses of worship which have become distinguished through their spiritual leadership and commitment to service, and therefore warrant special recognition; the Schoharie Reformed Church is one such institution; and

WHEREAS, The Schoharie Reformed Church has weathered many obstacles in its three hundred years; the Church, also known as The High Dutch Reformed Church of Schoharie and The German Reformed Church of Schoharie, was formally approved in 1721; in 1777, the Church was fortified to defend against a possible attack by the British and the Indians; and

WHEREAS, That anticipated attack occurred in October 1780, as the valley was mostly destroyed; a skirmish took place with two cannon balls striking the Church, thankfully without major damage; and

WHEREAS, Between the Civil War and the 2000s, the Church remained central to life in Schoharie; the Church installed two women in 1956 to the consistory, being the first in the denomination to do so, and continues to have women serve on the consistory and in the pulpit; and

WHEREAS, The Church faced a serious challenge in August 2011, when Hurricane Irene devastated the Schoharie Valley; most of the homes in the Village of Schoharie were uninhabitable, and the Church was equally devastated, with recovery continuing to this day; and

WHEREAS, Nevertheless, the Church remains steadfast in its service, with doors open to everyone; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of venerable institutions such as the Schoharie Reformed Church, commemorating a milestone of its glorious history, and recognizing its faithful ministry on behalf of its members; now, therefore, be it

PROCLAIMED, That I, New York State Senator Peter Oberacker, commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Schoharie Reformed Church, noting with gratitude and respect the ministry it caringly provides on behalf of its congregation; and be it further

PROCLAIMED, That a copy of this proclamation be transmitted to the Schoharie Reformed Church.

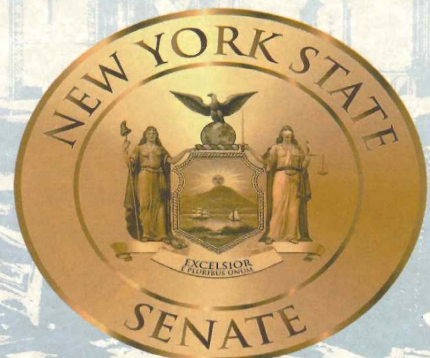
DATED:

NOVEMBER 14, 2021

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND SIGNATURE

PETER OBERACKER

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
51ST SENATE DISTRICT





Thank You

Greetings Schoharie Reformed Church, The experience children have at Camp Fowler doesn't come through magic. The profound impact that a week at camp can have is the result of three things: faith, hope, and love. Thanks for supporting this little camp with big dreams. For this we say, "Thank You." Thanks for allowing us to be partners in ministry!
 Walk in Balance, Rev. Kent Busman, Executive Director
 Sincerely, Josey Brady, Development Coordinator

Dear Sisters and Brothers, In faraway places, there are children who have yet to hear the Name of Jesus. The gift-filled shoeboxes you have given will open the door for them to hear the Good News of Jesus! Thank you for your generosity and your prayers for these little ones who are precious to Him.
 Yours in Christ, MaryLou, OCC Volunteer

The Reformed Church in America, We thank you for your contribution to the Care Network-USA Disaster Fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
 With deep gratitude, Eddy Aleman, General Secretary

The Schoharie County Community Thanksgiving Dinner would like to thank you for your generous contribution. Without you, this would not be possible!
 With Sincere Gratitude, The Thanksgiving Day Dinner Committee



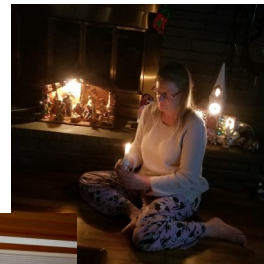
Food Pantry

With the Holidays approaching many families are in need of extra help; the Food Pantry is continuing to work hard to serve the many families in our community. As many families plan a special holiday meal items such as canned vegetables, canned yams, stuffing, gravy, instant potatoes. Non-perishable items such as canned fruits, boxed macaroni & cheese, tuna fish, pasta, pasta sauce, canned ravioli/beef stew/soup/spaghetti o's/chili with beans, applesauce, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, jello packs, pudding packs, granola bars, fruit snacks, juice packs, & snack crackers. Additional items of need are cleaning supplies, paper products-paper towels/toilet paper, personal hygiene items such as hand soap, toothpaste, shampoo and shower soaps. 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!





Christmas' From The Past



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email: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com

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December 2021

