



# The Visitor

*Schoharie Reformed Church*

*December 2019*

*Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri*



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## Be Still

*"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations I will be exalted in the earth!" – Psalm 46:10*

The holiday season is fully upon us. This time of year always seems to bring with it an increased level of stress and anxiety, as well as busyness. From decorating to shopping, from baking to wrapping, from parties to programs, the holiday season is full of so many wonderful things to see and do with hardly enough time to do it all. Yet, as the people of God, we recognize that this time of year is more than just a holiday season, it is a holy season. It is the season of Advent! The word "Advent" comes from a Latin word meaning "coming." We are in a season of anticipation and preparation for God's in-breaking into our world. We celebrate Christ's coming, and we

anticipate Christ's coming again. Advent is a time for us to rekindle our hearts and lives with the light of the world that the darkness cannot overcome!

During Advent we take intentional time to reflect, to repent, to pray, and to prepare our hearts and our lives to join with the reality of God alive and moving in our world. This Advent season, our theme is "Be Still and Know." This verse from Psalm 46 invites us into a different posture than perhaps we are used to amid all the hustle and bustle of the holidays. To be still and know is to take intentional time out of all the busyness to align our hearts and lives with the true reason for the season, and to let God's in-breaking remake our hearts and lives anew.

It is important to recognize that to be still and know is not the same as being static, or stuck. It is not about being the "Frozen Chosen," as the common criticism of Christians who go to church, but do not live out their faith in the world. It is not about taking a back seat while saying, "God will take care of it, please pass the eggnog." Instead, it is just the opposite, to be still and know, is to intentionally choose to not get all-wrapped up (pun intended) in the holiday hoopla that we miss the power and purpose of Advent to reorient our lives around the truth of God.

There are lots of ways we can "Be Still and Know" throughout this Advent season. We can take time to be still and know through an Advent devotional, or time set aside for prayer. We can be still and know through our corporate worship together or through intentional practices of solitude or simplicity. We can also be still and know through participating in acts of service, or in making special gifts for others. As Pastor Sherri mentioned in her sermon for the first Sunday of Advent, we can even be still and know in baking the cookies and wrapping the presents by sharing with God why we are thankful for each person who will receive them and pray for them. Whatever ways you choose, the purpose is to connect with God in ways that help to reshape our being and our living. Advent is a season of coming and every year at this time we remind ourselves and one another once again of the truth that Christ has come and Christ will come again. May we continue to build our hearts, lives, and church community to grow evermore fully into the hope, peace, joy and love that Christ's coming brings.

One of Pastor Sherri's favorite songs is by a group called Watermark. The song is entitled "Still" and here are some of the lyrics to that song that speak to the theme of be still and know really well –

*Of this world, it falls around me  
and flutters all its beauty in my eyes  
but let me choose the solitude  
simplicity has always simply changed my life  
cause even stillness makes me move  
cause that's when my heart  
learns to dance with you.*

Our hope and prayer for you and for all of us in this Advent season is that we will make room for and choose intentional moments and practices of stillness that our hearts may learn to dance with God, drawing us into God's presence to empower all of our being and living.

Be still and know,

*Pastor Sherri and Pastor Mike*



*You are cordially invited to an  
Advent Party at the Meyer-Veens*

*131 Fair Street, Schoharie, NY 12157*

*Sunday, December 15, 2019*

*5:00—8:00 p.m.*

*An informal gathering of friends & neighbors.*

*All are welcome.*

Those who are able; please park  
at church lot (258 Main St.)  
limited parking at our home.



### *The Jesse Tree*

Be Still and Know.” That is our theme for Advent this year and as a part of this theme we want to encourage every person and each family to take some intentional time during Advent for stillness to wonder, pray, and listen for God’s in-breaking into our world. One of the fun and creative ways we can do this is through participating in a “Jesse Tree.” Hopefully you have already received your Jesse Tree packet and are enjoying it. If not, please let us know and we can get you a packet to follow for the remainder of the Advent Season. Or you can also go to this link:

<https://network.crcna.org/faith-nurture/might-be-best-jesse-tree-set-ever>  
and download a free PDF version for yourself or your family to use. Whatever ways you find time for stillness in this season we hope and pray you have a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas!



## *Soup and Bread Advent evenings*

We will begin on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Heritage House. We will have a light soup and bread dinner followed by a brief worship service and reflection on the Advent Season. Our two other Advent evenings will be held on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the 18<sup>th</sup>. These evenings are open to all ages! There is a sign-up sheet for soup and bread in the Narthex.



## *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm

Schoharie Reformed Church

*All are Welcome!*



## *Sunday School Christmas Program & Pot Luck*

*Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>*



Our Sunday School children will present their Christmas Program during our 9:30am Worship Service.

Following Worship we invite all to join us in the Community Room for our pot luck. Please bring a dish to pass if able, we have been blessed with a ham in which will be served. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

*We look forward to seeing all!*



## *Christmas Memorial Plants*

Christmas memorial poinsettias will be available again this year. The cost of the plants are \$10.00 each. You may choose from red, white or pink. There are order forms available in the Narthex and you may place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office as soon as possible (the earlier, the better). Please make checks payable to "Schoharie Reformed Church". We will accept orders until Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please contact the church office. Thank you for helping to beautify our Christmas services while remembering special loved ones.

## *New Worship Time Update*



We want to thank everyone for their feedback regarding our fall experiment of changing our worship time to 9:30am. Consistory sincerely reviewed the feedback that was given and they have decided that out of concern for the winter months that **worship in January and February will be at 10:00am in the sanctuary.** Sunday school will remain during the worship service and there will NOT be praise singing before church. Instead we are working on some other creative ways to bring the more contemporary music of Sunday school into our Sunday services. We look forward to worshipping you through December at 9:30am and then at 10:00am beginning on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>!

## Save the date for our Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual Schoharie Reformed Church Congregational Meeting will be held after our 10:00am worship service on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> in the Community Room. Please plan to stay after worship to celebrate God's faithfulness to us in this past year and to share together in the hopes and plans for the coming year!



## Buildings & Grounds

### Fall Clean-Up

Clean-Up on November 2 went well. John Niklas wore out his leaf blower; and the young folks enjoyed lubricating the bell.

### Miscellaneous Stuff

We need approximately six child outlet plug covers for certain Fellowship Hall electric receptacles. If you have any laying around, give them to Dave Toborg.



There are numerous "little" jobs (install door sweeps, weather stripping, vacuum, painting, building shelves, etc.) that you can do yourself at your convenience. Contact Dave (295-8554, dtoborg@midtel.net) if you can help out.

### Winter stuff

**Snow**-After a 1" snowfall, our snow plow contractor plows the parking lot and shovels the steps, ramp, and street sidewalk. Lesser amounts, however, are our responsibility - so please be encouraged to grab a broom and/or shovel for the nuisance snows that pop up all winter long. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Especially keep the steps and ramp clear so the sun can do its thing thereby reducing usage of ice melting agents.

Note that we use plastic shovels (without steel edges) to minimize damage to the wooden steps and ramp. When necessary, there is a beige plastic tote full of magnesium chloride on the Heritage House porch. Compared to rock salt, magnesium chloride is less corrosive to the steel fasteners holding together the wooden steps and ramps.

**Heat**-Both buildings have programmable thermostats. If you need to raise the temperature for an event, simply press the up arrow until the desired temperature shows (typically 68°). And remember to turn it down when you leave. If the schedule needs permanent adjustment AND you are comfortable doing so, then go ahead and change the program. If not, contact Dave Toborg.

## *Clothing Drop-Off Shed*

We are now hosting a St. Pauly Textile, Inc. clothing drop-off shed. Delivered Thanksgiving week behind the Heritage House, this used clothing company 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.

**What does the company do?** St. Pauly empties the shed weekly/biweekly depending on volume and pays us 4 cents per pound of clothing.

St. Pauly sells the clothing in bulk to other companies that, in turn, contract with government agencies, relief organizations, and private companies that redistribute the clothing around the world. The geographic destinations depends on what is happening in the world at any given time.

**Can the SRC use the clothing?** If there is ever a need, the SRC can sort through donations to pick out items for a specific need or event (i.e. family in need, rummage sale).

Please tell your family, friends, and neighbors about the shed. See Dave Toborg or Jim Callahan if there are any questions.



Dave and Jim drop the "ceremonial" first bag thru the chute.



## *Food Pantry*

With the holiday season upon us and heating cost the Food Pantry is continuing to serve many families in the area. The items of need are: eggs, tuna, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, canned yams/vegetables/gravy/cranberry sauce, box stuffing, canned ravioli/beef stew/soup/spaghetti o's/chili with beans. Other items of great need are laundry & dish detergent, paper products and cleaning supplies. In addition to our Food Pantry box in the Narthex items may be dropped off at SUPC on Tuesdays thru Fridays from 11:00am till 3:00pm. Monetary donations are appreciated as well, checks may be made out to Schoharie Valley Food Pantry. *Volunteers are needed to help with the Food Pantry, if able, please contact Diane Walion at 518-868-4629.* Thank you all for your continued support.

**The Food Pantry is open Tuesday & Thursdays, 12-2pm**



## Thank You

**Mission Project**-We would like to take this opportunity to send out a **HUGE THANK YOU** for the snacks you have provided for our Mission Project. We are well on our way to making this project a success. We will continue to collect snacks until after the holiday break and then they will be delivered to the school. So if your able, please keep them coming.

Thank you again and God Bless, The Consistory

**On behalf of Camp Fowler** we thank you for the generous donation— words of encouragement—and prayers of support—for our participation in the “46 for 46” Campaign for Camp Fowler. We hiked with perseverance the trail set before us-and couldn’t have done it without your support! God Bless You All ! Paul & Edie Shultz



**Kindness is Foundation, Inc.** would like to thank you for your generous gift. Your support helps us fulfill our mission to spread kindness and compassion to children and families in their time of need. Kindness is contagious. By donating to the Kindness Is Foundation, Inc. you are helping us with projects such as the Kindness Cart. The Kindness Cart was created to provide smiles but also necessities to children and families in the hospital. The Foundation provides and stocks the cart with items including candy, chips, granola bars, drinks, activity books , cards and puzzles; but also necessities like soap, shampoo and other toiletries—all at no cost to families. Again, thank you for your generous support.

Together, we can make a difference because Kindness Is...Contagious!

Sincerely, Christopher J. Fain, President.



## Announcements



**Consistory**– will meet Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in Heritage House. (location has been moved from the Community Room to Heritage House.)

**Church Flowers**-were temporarily unavailable as Little Posy Place was closed from November 15<sup>th</sup> thru December 2<sup>nd</sup>, due to the owner having surgery. Our weekly altar flowers are an opportunity to celebrate, honor, or remember a loved one, celebrate an event, or just to bless and beautify our sanctuary during a Sunday Worship Service. There is a sign-up sheet with an opportunity for you to provide flowers for a particular week or occasion in the Narthex. You may then make your donation for the flowers by placing it in the offering plate or by sending it directly to church (PO Box 635, Schoharie). Following the service, the flowers are yours to take home to enjoy, or give away to someone else.

**Aluminum Tabs**-Please continue to bring can tabs to the church and you may leave them in the Narthex. The tabs will then be processed, proceeds will be used to offset patient cost.



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*December 2019*

