



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

December 2018



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*January Newsletter Deadline
December 24th*



Unwrapped by Advent



"Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'"

-Luke 2:34-35

I recently came across this prayer attributed to Sir. Francis Drake, an English sea captain, privateer, slave trader, naval officer and explorer of the Elizabethan era. While it is true that he was not the kindest of human beings, and he did not lead a very exemplary life, by the grace of God he has given us a very powerful and moving prayer that I find to be very fitting for this Advent season. This is going to be my prayer for this Advent season and I want to challenge you to make it your prayer as well, as we prepare our hearts to be unwrapped by the in-breaking of Christ into our world at Christmas!

Disturb Us, Lord

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
when our dreams have come true
because we have dreamed too little,
when we arrived safely
because we sailed too close to the shore.



Disturb us, Lord, when
with the abundance of things we possess
we have lost our thirst
for the waters of life;
having fallen in love with life,
we have ceased to dream of eternity
and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision
of the new Heaven to dim.



Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
to venture on wider seas
where storms will show Your mastery;
where losing sight of land,
we shall find the stars.

we ask You to push back
the horizons of our hopes;
and to push into the future
in strength, courage, hope, and love.

Amen.

This Advent season we want to share the coming light of Christ's Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love through our experience of being "Unwrapped by Advent." During our worship together on Sunday morning, and during our special Soup and Bread Advent evenings on Wednesday nights in the Heritage House, we will explore this theme together. Being unwrapped by Advent is not something we do ourselves, it is not our unwrapping of God, but rather it is God's unwrapping of us. Think about it for a moment, in fact close your eyes and picture a child excitedly opening their gift on Christmas morning. There is a disturbance, a tearing apart, a breaking open of what was neat, orderly, shiny, and beautiful on the outside in order to get to what is good, enjoyable, life-giving, and love-shaped on the inside. While it is not easy, or neat, or comfortable, especially when it comes to our own lives, isn't this really what we hope for in Christ's coming? That the reality of God's love would help us to tear down our false selves, to take off our fake masks, to remove our walls of fear, and to shine a light into our hidden places, that we may discover the gift of who God made us to be! Then with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love be able to live courageously and freely as God's beloved people and experience the deeper purposes and abundance for which God created us!

This Advent may Christ's coming (God's in-breaking into our world) truly disturb us! Then in that holy disturbance may we find the adventure of a deeper, richer, and fuller life with God. "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it" (Jn. 1:5).

Disturb Us, Lord,

Pastors Mike and Sherri



You are cordially invited to an:
Advent Party at the Meyer-Veens
Friday, December 7, 2018
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**An informal time of sharing as friends & neighbors.
All are welcome.**

**Soups, Hors d'oeuvres
& punch served,
additional beverages
welcome.**

**Those who are able; Please park at the
church lot (258 Main St.).
Limited parking at our house.
Questions? Need Directions? Message Us**



Christmas Memorial Plants

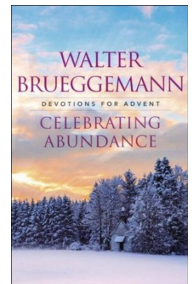
Christmas memorial poinsettias will be available again this year. The cost of the plants are \$10.00. You may choose from red, white or pink. There are order forms available in the Narthex and place in the offering plate or send you may sent it to the church office. Please make checks payable to "Schoharie Reformed Church". You may also contact the church office for assistance with placing your order. We will accept orders until Wednesday, December 12th . Thank you for helping to beautify our Christmas services while remembering special loved ones.



Season of Advent

As the season of Advent begins, we will once again be holding our Soup and Bread Advent evenings. We will begin on Wednesday, December 5th 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 12th, and the 19th. These evenings are open to all ages! There is a sign-up sheet for soup and bread in the narthex.

This year during the season of Advent we are offering special devotional books. "Celebrating Abundance" by Walter Brueggemann is a great devotional book to read on your own or as a family each day of the Advent season. The books are free to you, but if you would like to donate, the cost of each book is \$15.00. We will have several copies available at the start of Advent, but to help us make sure we have enough please sign-up for a book in the Narthex or email the church office to request a copy. These are great ways to celebrate the Advent season, especially for busy families!



Buildings and Grounds

Snow After a 1" snowfall, our snow plow contractor plows the parking lot and shovels the steps, ramp, and the 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.



Announcements

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

Food Pantry– Donations are always needed, especially in the categories of tuna and other canned meats, cereals, spaghetti sauce and peanut butter. 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, or you may arrange pickup by contacting Pastor Colleen at 518-231-8641. Monetary donations are appreciated as well, checks may be made out to Schoharie Valley Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to man the food pantry on Tues. and Thurs. If interested please contact Diane Walion at 518-868-4629. **The Food Pantry is open Tuesday & Thursdays, 12-2pm**

Nursery volunteers needed-We are looking for volunteers to help serve in the nursery downstairs during morning Worship. This is a great opportunity to enjoy spending time with the little ones, while providing a service to your church family. Please see a member of Consistory regarding your availability to volunteer. Thank you!

Donations- There is a need for a good DVD/Blueray player to connect to the flat screen in the Heritage House and a large energy efficient refrigerator for the Fellowship Hall.

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.

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.

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.

Church Library-There is a library upstairs in Heritage House for your pleasure. With the colder weather we are now spending more time indoors we invite you to 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.

Updating the Lists - As we do our best to keep our prayer list and praise reports up to date, we do ask for your assistance to provide any new or updated information to Pastor Mike, Pastor Sherri, Cindy Parks or the Church office. We thank you in advance for your assistance in keeping our church family informed and thought of during their time of need.

Announcements

Testimonies - We would like to celebrate the work God is doing in the life of our congregation. If you are feeling led to share a brief testimony about what God is doing in your life, please speak with one of the Pastors.

Schoharie County Christmas for Kids 2018-would like to ask that they be part of your gift-giving this year so that they can help ensure that families with children receive support, care and assistance through the holidays. No family should go without this Christmas. If you wish to make a monetary donation via check or gift card to "SCC for Kids" at PO Box 413, Middleburgh, NY 12122. Toys or monetary donations may also be dropped off at Schoharie County Child Development Council, 114 Lark Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043 or The Our Lady of the Valley Church Rectory (behind the Church) Monday—Friday between the hours of 10am and Noon, 111 Wells Avenue, Middleburgh, NY 12122 - 518-827-7772 or Schoharie Presbyterian Church Office, Tuesday—Friday between the hours of noon –2pm., 314 Main St., Schoharie, NY 12157 –518-295-8931. The Schoharie County Christmas for Kids is a collaboration of Agencies and Groups in Schoharie County working together to ensure a Happy Christmas Holiday is had by all families. Thank you for your generosity.

Paint & Sip--on Tuesday, December 4th 6:30-9pm in the Community Room will be a Paint & Sip by Nicole. The picture will be an old barn decorated for Christmas. If interested please see Marion Jaqueway for details including the cost of this event.



Camp Fowler

The grand opening for registration of summer camp 2019 is scheduled for December 1st at midnight. The first 150 campers to sign up for camp will be mail a free and exclusive t-shirt, as will the first 30 cabin counselors to apply to be volunteers. Complete details posted in the Narthex and Community Room. Camp Fowler scholarships are available thru the Church, scholarship forms are posted in the Narthex and Community Room, please contact the church office with any questions.





Thank yous



Dear Sisters and Brothers, Thank you for your participation in Operation Christmas Child in 2018. Your faithful support of the project means that more children will be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I look forward to our continued partnership in ministry to children in need. Serving together, Mary Lou, NY Greater Capital District Church Relations Coordinator for OCC.

Reformed Church of America thanks you for your generous contribution to the Care Network Fund for USA Disasters 2018 Hurricane Michael. Friends at Schoharie, Thank you for providing for those who have been affected by Hurricane Michael. Your gift is bringing hope for new beginning. Thank you, Amanda Bruehl, RCA Staff, P.S. Continuing to keep you and your community in my prayers.

A huge thanks to all members of the Church who donated new pajamas to the Toasty Toes Project. We collected over 20 pairs of pajamas in varying sizes for Children throughout Schoharie County. They were delivered on Monday and a group of Santa's elves will be making sure they get to the children in time for Christmas. Again, many thanks!!

Thanksgiving Baskets for the Joshua Project



Members of the Schoharie Reformed Church assisted volunteers from the Joshua Project. Donations were divided into Thanksgiving dinners for approximately 150 families in Schoharie County. We thank you for your donations!





Sunday School 2018—19



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 24—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



Please join us on Sunday, December 16th during our Worship Service for the presentation of our Christmas Program.

All are invited to stay after Worship Service to enjoy a Pot Luck Luncheon to be held in the Community Room. There will be activities for the children, and time to reflect back on memories of times past. The Church will provide the table setting and beverage, if able please bring a dish to pass. We look forward to seeing you.

Schoharie Reformed Church

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December 2018

