



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

February 2020

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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More to this life:

Photo Credit: Ryan J Lane

“And now the Lord says – the one who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to God, and gather Israel for God’s self, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength – the Lord says:

It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”
- Isaiah 49:5-6

When I (Pastor Mike) was a teenager (a long, long time ago) there was a popular Christian song at the time by an artist named Steven Curtis Chapman. The song was entitled, “More to This Life” and the chorus goes:

*But there's more to this life than living and dying,
more than just trying to make it through the day;
more to this life, more than these eyes alone can see,
and there's more than this life alone can be.*

I remember that song well and yet it hasn't been until recently, at the age of 43, that for the first time in my life I am starting to realize that it is actually true. In the work of Faithwalking that Pastor Sherri and I are involved in we take time to talk and wonder about our “first formation.” This helps us see the ways we were shaped in our earliest relationships that have impacted how we tend to show up in the world as adults. We are then invited to see the fully human, fully alive, and abundant

life that Jesus lived with God while he was on earth and to wonder about the life God has designed for us to uniquely live in a similar way.

As we end the first month of the New Year I have been continually brought back to these verses from Isaiah 49:5-6, and the reality of God's Word declaring to the prophet Isaiah, to the people of Israel, and to you and I – *"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."*

God desires you and I to live a really BIG life with God! Now this does not mean God wants us to live a consumer-driven life. It is not a BIG life of more stuff, more money, more accomplishments or prestige, or whatever "more" we might be tempted to desire. Rather it is a BIG life, with God, being a light to the world. It is a BIG life of discovering the uniquely true "self" that God created in me and in you. Then, aligning that self with the ways that God is working to bring wholeness, restoration, healing, and Shalom to the world in which we are a part.

God deeply desires your life and mine to be so much more than just "trying to make it through the day." This is true whether you are 8, 28, or 98! Yet for a lot of us this can seem like too big a step, especially when life is already so demanding, exhausting, and frustrating in so many different ways. So how can we begin to claim for ourselves, like Isaiah, the BIG life God has for us today?

The first thing is to actually believe that God created you and I to live a BIG life. It begins in recognizing and claiming the truth of our "Belovedness" – that we are the beloved sons and daughters of God! Isaiah begins these verses by recognizing that this God who calls is the one who formed the prophet and that the prophet is "honored in the eyes of the Lord." Is that how we see ourselves – formed by God and honored? This is where living a BIG life begins, by recognizing and claiming the very truth of our belovedness that calls us into a new way of being.

Once we recognize more of our belovedness we can be freer to practice more courage and curiosity to see our obstacles. What are the old stories that have kept us stuck? What are the things we are telling ourselves about our current reality that may not actually be true? What ways are we defining ourselves and others without verification? In other words, where are we tempted to make our lives "too small" and to settle for a life of trying to make it through the day and miss out on our literal God-given potential!

Living more out of our belovedness and seeing our places of stuckness, we can then look for an opening. Is there one part of your life, one relationship, one activity, one place where you can begin to live a bigger life? A friend and colleague of ours, Ken Shuman, tells the story of how he would always check-out at some of the meetings he was a part of and not contribute because he didn't believe he had anything of value to offer. But feeling compelled to live a big life he decided that he was going to make an effort to pay more attention, to speak-up, and to participate more fully at the meetings he attended. This was one simple way he was stepping into living a big life. What is a way God may be calling you to step into a bigger life? What might be your opening? Maybe your opening is in a relationship with a neighbor, maybe it is showing up differently with your kids, maybe it is stepping into a ministry or group at church, maybe it is getting involved in something in the community, or taking on a new way you want to show up differently in your everyday life.

Lastly, we want to say that living a BIG life doesn't necessarily mean that we have to do something more or something different. It certainly can mean that, but it can also mean showing up more fully, confidently, engagingly, as the unique person God created you to be in the things you are already doing. Whatever it looks like for you or for me, the call of God through the prophet Isaiah, and the song of hope from Steven Curtis Chapman reminds us that there is more to this life. May we not settle for "too small" a life but courageously step into the BIG life God created us to live in this New Year!

Seeking a BIG life with you and God –

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri

Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Please join us for an ecumenical Ash Wednesday service of worship including the sign of ashes to be held on Wednesday, February 26th at 7:00pm at the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church, Main Street, Schoharie.



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.





Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is continuing to serve families in the area. With the colder weather and increased heating cost for families there are several items of need: paper towels, toilet paper, laundry and dish soap, toothpaste, shampoo and shower soaps. Items which are always needed are: tuna fish, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, canned fruit, granola bars, cereal, canned ravioli/beef stew/soup/spaghetti o's/chili with beans. 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 from the Schoharie Community Food Pantry-the food pantry was blessed to receive a donation of 330 pounds of ground beef from At-Ease Acres. We also thank SUNY Cobleskill for processing the meat free of charge! Our clients are so appreciative. Pastor Colleen



Automated External Defibrillator Training



Sunday, February 23, 2020 at noon in the Community Room
(new training date)

Have you seen it? An AED machine has been placed in the fellowship room of church. Thank you to Georgia Van Dyke and the "Darrel Van Dyke Memorial Fund."

Where is it located? On the wall to the right of the kitchen door as you enter the kitchen. It is housed in an easy to open metal box.

What is the purpose of the AED machine? It is used to revive a person who has collapsed from an apparent heart attack. It is an immediate resource while waiting for first responders to arrive. They will take over the person's care when they arrive.

Remember, call 911 first before any other action is taken!

Who should use the AED? Anyone who has had basic training in the use of the machine. The machine is simple to use and includes specific directions in the box. The most important action is to *call 911 first!*

Can anyone be trained? Anyone who is 18 or older and who attends a short training session. This training is open to any adult who would like to attend.

If you have any questions please speak with Sarah or Dave Goodrich.

Sunday School

February 2 – Regular Sunday School
No Sunday School for Grades 5-9

February 9 – Regular Sunday School

February 16 – No Sunday School

February 23 - Regular Sunday School

March 1 – Regular Sunday School
No Sunday School for Grades 5-9

March 8 – Regular Sunday School

March 15 – Regular Sunday School

March 22 – Regular Sunday School

March 29 – Regular Sunday School

April 5 – Palm Sunday Parade. –
No Sunday School

April 12 – No Sunday School - Easter

April 19 – Regular Sunday School

April 26 – Regular Sunday School

May 3 – Regular Sunday School –
No Sunday School for Grades 5-9

May 10 – Regular Sunday School

May 17 – Regular Sunday School

May 24—No Sunday School

May 31 – Sunday School & Church Picnic

Consistory Welcomes

Sunday, January 26th two members were voted to join our Consistory: Larry Poulin as Elder and Emily Fagnani as Deacon. We are blessed to have these members join in leading our Church into the future. Thank you to all for your dedication to our church family.



Thank You



Schoharie County Christmas for Kids Program, The Joshua Project would like to thank you for your generous donation. Your thoughtfulness has contributed to brightening the holidays for children and families throughout our County. Entirely through your donations and those of other caring citizens and businesses throughout the area, we assisted more than 570 Schoharie County children. Thank you again for your support and generosity. Sincerely, Patrick Costello, SCC for Kids Administrator.



Schoharie Valley Community Camp

July 20-24, 2020

Schoharie Valley Community Camp is a Christian day camp sponsored by the Schoharie United Presbyterian, Christ the Shepherd Lutheran and Schoharie Reformed Churches of the village of Schoharie with assistance from many other churches.

Open to all children from age 4 through those entering 8th grade.

Morning Camp = Age 4 through entering Grade 2 (8:30am - 12pm)

Full Day Camp = Entering Grade 3 through Grade 8 (8:30am - 4pm)

AfterCamp Care for Full Day Campers is Available on a limited basis (4pm - 5:30pm)

All persons entering 9th grade and up are invited to use your gifts as *volunteers* for camp.

Visit: www.schohariereformedchurch.org/camp for more information.



Registration for Schoharie Valley Community Camp 2020 will open by March 2020, stay tuned!

Day Camp 2020 Volunteers & Staff can now apply!

Thank you for your interest in helping with Day Camp. Now you can apply online to be a volunteer counselor or junior counselor, volunteer for camp in another role (I Can Help Form), or apply to be a part of the Young Leaders Mentoring program!

Through the young leaders mentoring program the Schoharie Valley Community Camp offers paid opportunities for some of our young people to grow in their leadership skills. For a small stipend, each of our young leaders gets to work alongside the pastors and other volunteer leaders as a part of the planning process and to lead a specific part of the community camp program. This opportunity allows them to add their gifts, talents, and fresh energy to the life and health of our community camp, as well as gain valuable leadership and employment experience that can bless them now and in the future. Young leaders fill out applications, obtain references, and are interviewed for each position. Each young leader is a valued part of the leadership team and is a blessing to the adults they work with and especially the kids they serve. Please consider applying for one of these positions!

Interested?

Visit: www.schohariereformedchurch.org/camp/. Applications may also be downloaded and either emailed to: **SchoharieValleyCommunityCamp@gmail.com** OR mailed to Schoharie Valley Community Camp, c/o Schoharie Reformed Church (PO Box 635, Schoharie, NY 12157).

Please contact SchoharieValleyCommunityCamp@gmail.com with any questions.



We look forward to seeing you this summer!





Kindness Cart



During the month of February, we will be collecting items for the Kindness Cart. The Kindness Cart visits children and families at Albany Medical Center and they distribute items to families that are in need. Items that they are looking for include: travel sizes of soap, body wash, baby shampoo, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, and lotion. They also collect toothbrushes, deodorant and chap-stick. They also are looking for kids activities to help pass those long hours in the hospital. Suggested items include coloring books, crayons, activities books for all ages and cards (including Uno, Phase 10, etc.). If you would like to help a box has been placed in the Narthex. If you have any questions please speak with Kim Charboneau. Thank you in advance for your help!



Announcements



Fund Raising Committee-will meet Tuesday, February 4th at 6:30pm in the library of Heritage House.

Consistory-will meet February 27th at 6:30pm in the library of Heritage House.

Church Directory-has been updated, please help yourself to a copy of the new church directory in the Narthex. If there is any information that is incorrect or needs to be updated please contact the church office.

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.

Night to Shine Prom-is a nationwide FREE prom night experience happening in over 700 churches on the same night designed for precious people who have special needs or disabilities. This event will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020. Volunteers are needed to serve during this event, to sign-up please visit: churchteams.com/m/register. This event is a big gift of love from Schoharie County's Christ Followers collectively.

She Loves Out Loud-Free Livestream, February 15, 2020. Hosted at Fusion Community Church, 375 N. Grand St., Cobleskill. Join a Million Women in prayer across America. For healing hearts-the future of our children-that God would be honored in our country. To learn more visit: <https://shelovesoutloud.org/>; if you have questions please email: grow@fusioncommunitychurch.org; to register: text PRAYER at 518-254-5955.

Journey of the Heart-inspirational speaker-Elaine Miller. Monday, February 10, 2020 at 11:30am at the Holiday Inn, Route 30A, No. Comrie Ave, Johnstown. Pay at door \$17.50. Meal provided. For reservations, call Gloria 518-853-3126 or women2connect@yahoo.com. Sponsored by Christian Women Connection.



Announcements con't.

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.

Church Flowers-our weekly altar flowers are a ministry of the church that provide our congregation with 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. Thank you.



American Sewing Guild-a new neighborhood group is forming. Carole Martin will be co-leading with Stacey DeLaney. It will be coming to the Fonda Reformed Church, 19-21 Broadway, Fonda starting February 15th 2020 from 9:30-11:30am. We will have varied topics of interest for sewing enthusiasts. Our first meeting, along with introductions and icebreakers will include a discussion & video on sewing room organization. Janlynn, from the Quilted Boutique in Colonie will be joining us in April as a guest speaker. Meeting dates: 2/15, 3/21, 4/18, 5/16, 6/20, 7/18, 8/15, 9/19, 10/17, 11/21, 12/19/20. If you would like further information you may contact Carole at: aunt.spot@verizon.net or Stacey: Delaney.staceyal@gmail.com.



Church Website



If you have not visited the Church website recently *please* do. It will keep you up to date with the church events, current and upcoming. With our website you are now able to view and listen to our sermons with “**Watch Online**” in addition to “**Listen Online**”. A great way to re-watch a favorite sermon or one you may have missed. You may choose to re-listen to a sermon during a drive or a time of relaxation. This offers a great way to share our church family with other family members and friends. Visit: www.schohariereformedchurch.org.

Are you interested in technology? Currently Vince Smith is providing the uploading of all this information. More volunteers are needed with updating the sermons, assisting with the sound booth during services and keeping our website up to date. Please contact the church office or speak with Vince Smith, Jim Callahan or Pastor Sherri if you are able to assist. Thank you.

Schoharie Reformed Church

258 Main Street

Schoharie, NY 12157

Rev. Mike & Rev. Dr. Sherri Meyer-Veen

Phone: (518) 295-8177

Fax: (518) 295-8105

email: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com

Website: www.schohariereformedchurch.org

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