



# The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

January 2022

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



## What's Inside

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <i>Pastors Message</i>                                    | 1-2 |
| <i>FaithWalking</i>                                       | 3   |
| <i>Food Pantry</i>  | 3   |
| <i>SRC Creates a New Time Capsule</i>                     | 4   |
| <i>With Deep Gratitude, Love, and Appreciation</i>        | 4   |
| <i>Advent Worship Service</i>                             | 5   |
| <i>Schoharie Christian After School Program</i>           | 5   |
| <i>Thank You's</i>  | 5   |
| <i>Vince Smith Honored</i>                                | 6   |
| <i>Scho-Wright Ambulance Service Honored</i>              | 6   |
| <i>A Celebration of Our Youth</i>                         | 6   |
| <i>Youth Christmas Program &amp; Birthday Celebration</i> | 7-8 |
| <i>Congregational Meeting</i>                             | 8   |
| <i>We Invite You To Share</i>                             | 8   |
| <i>Red Cross Blood Drive</i>                              | 8   |



## Wonder as We Wander!

*"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."*  
 – Matthew 2:2 NIV

The season of Epiphany invites us into a time of Wonder as we celebrate the journey of the Magi who followed a star beyond the expected palace of Herod to the place where they met the new born king, the child Jesus. Then having worshipped him with their gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh, and being warned in a dream, they went home by another way. We celebrate Epiphany as the culmination of the 12 days of Christmas. Epiphany reminds us that the promise of "Emmanuel – God with us," is for the whole world, all nations, every person. It is a time for us to celebrate, rejoice, and ponder this wonderful reality for our lives and our world. This is the season of Epiphany. This is the season of light! So, as many of us go about the traditional work of "de-Christmasing" our homes of trees, lights, and decorations, and as we enter into this New Year, and this winter season, we want to invite you to wonder with us, "How will I stay alert and keep my life open to experiencing, being transformed by, and sharing the wonder of God going on around me and within me?"

To help us reflect on this further, here is a thoughtful story told by Rabbi-Yisroel Bernath of a real experiment done by the Washington Post in 2007:

In Washington DC, at a Metro Station, on a cold January morning in 2007, a man with a violin played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, approximately

2000 people went through the station, most of them on their way to work.

After about four minutes, a middle-aged man noticed that there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds, and then he hurried on to meet his schedule.

About four minutes later, the violinist received his first dollar. A woman threw money in the hat and, without stopping, continued to walk.

At six minutes, a young man leaned against the wall to listen to him, then looked at his watch and started to walk again.

At ten minutes, a three-year old boy stopped, but his mother tugged him along hurriedly. The kid stopped to look at the violinist again, but the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk, turning his head the whole time. This action was repeated by several other children, but every parent - without exception - forced their children to move on quickly.

At forty-five minutes: The musician played continuously. Only six people stopped and listened for a short while. About twenty gave money but continued to walk at their normal pace. The man collected a total of \$32.

After one hour:

He finished playing and silence took over. No one noticed and no one applauded. There was no recognition at all.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5 million dollars. Two days before, Joshua Bell sold-out a theater in Boston where the seats averaged \$100 each to sit and listen to him play the same music.

This is a true story. Joshua Bell, playing incognito in the D.C. Metro Station, was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and people's priorities. This experiment raised several questions:

In a common-place environment, at an inappropriate hour, do we perceive beauty?

If so, do we stop to appreciate it?

Do we recognize talent in an unexpected context?

One possible conclusion reached from this experiment could be this:

If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, with one of the most beautiful instruments ever made... How many other things are we missing as we rush through life?"

What do you need to do, or not do, in order to experience more of God's wonder in creation, in relationships with others, in time with God, and in the expressions and experiences of your own life?

Our hope for the beginning of this New Year is that we would more deeply open our lives to experiencing, being transformed by, and sharing with one another the true Wonder of Emmanuel – God with us in our lives and in our world!

Have a blessed Epiphany Season!

*Pastor Mike and Pastor Sherrí*

## *FaithWalking*

Foundations Module 2: **Authenticity and Shame**  
Tuesdays 3-4:30PM EST Beginning Tuesday, January 25th

In Module 2 you will learn how shame and your own sense of self-worth are impacting you in negative ways. You will get tools for addressing your shame and for moving beyond it. You will learn that we all live out of three “selves.” You will learn how to increasingly live as one integrated self. You will be given tools for sharing your story in life-giving ways. You will learn how to put your negative vows behind you. Visit: [www.schohariereformedchurch.org/engage-faithwalking](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org/engage-faithwalking) to register **by January 10th.**

Foundations Module 3: **Anxiety**  
Thursdays 5-6:30PM EST Beginning Thursday, January 27th

In Module 3 you will learn how to see and manage anxiety. You will learn what anxiety really is and how it impacts you. When we get anxious, we get stupid! In this module you will learn how to deal with anxiety in life-giving ways. You will be provided with tools for responding based on your best thinking. You will learn how to take responsibility for self, more consistently. You will learn some practices for slowing the pace of your life. You will learn how to become less anxious. Visit: [www.schohariereformedchurch.org/engage-faithwalking](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org/engage-faithwalking) to register **by January 10th.**



## *Food Pantry*



Many families are in need of extra help; the Food Pantry is continuing to work hard to serve the many families in our community. With many families facing the high cost of winter heating expenses, 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, canned vegetables, 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!



## SRC Creates A New Time Capsule

As a part of the 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration, we've opened time capsules from 1971 and 1996! They contain some very interesting items, including letters, poems, pictures, bulletins, and flyers. Be sure to check them out after church each Sunday AND be sure to add items to the new 2021 time capsule that we will be sealing soon. Write a letter to your future church family. Talk about what life is like now. Insert a picture of your family, of the area, your village or a special event, etc. to show what it is like now. You may also include a small handmade item(s) that represent you, your family, your faith, etc. Share a story of what God is teaching you and what faith has meant to you to encourage future generations. *You are an important part of our church family, put something in the time capsule!!*

We ask for your submission to be received by January 23<sup>rd</sup> or you may mail your submission to the church office: Schoharie Reformed Church, PO Box 635, Schoharie, NY 12157

### **From our 1996 Time Capsule which we opened December 12, 2021:**

The Church has had its "ups and downs". Hopefully and prayerfully things are on the "upside" at this time.

My love for the Schoharie Reformed Church involves me as deacon of the consistory; president of Ladies Aid and Missionary Society" later named "Guild for Christian Service", of which I was both president and later treasurer for many years. Also a choir member for over twenty years.

I pray that some member of this family may still be an active member of the Schoharie Reformed Church at this later time as my husband Samuel Scranton and I have been for so many years. Samuel passed away in 1993 and is greatly missed by all.

Submitted by Viola Scranton—11/15/1996

Today, as of May 1996 I am a member of the Reformed Church of Schoharie, NY. I was born in Schoharie on 1/7/1914, my father was Edward E. Vroman, my mother was Mary Sharp Vroman; a brother; Edgar Vroman, a brother Nelson Vroman.

Submitted by Jeanette V. Schoolcraft



## With Deep Gratitude, Love, and Appreciation

Pastors Mike and Sherri would like to say a heartfelt and heart-full thank you for the very generous Christmas gift given by the consistory and the members of the Schoharie Reformed Church Family. Being the body of Christ is the life we live together in hope, faith, and love and we could not do it without all of us working together. We thank you for your prayers and your on-going support and we look forward to another year of worship, ministry, and life together as the Schoharie Reformed Church in these challenging times. Celebrating with you year 301! With thanks and praise to God!





## Advent Worship Services

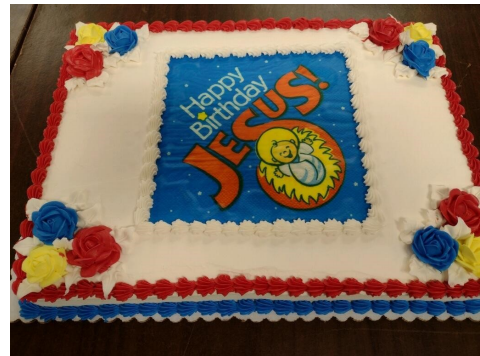
To celebrate the Season of Advent our church family gathered on Wednesday evenings for soup & bread followed by a Family Advent Worship Service.



## Schoharie Christian After School Program

The After School children studied the 4 Advent candles...Hope, Love, Peace and Joy and how that these affect the gifts we give to others from our hearts. It is not about what we receive.

On the last day before Christmas vacation, December 22<sup>nd</sup> they celebrated Jesus' Birthday with good food, cake and gifts to the After School Program. They returned to session Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## Thank You's

Thank you to all in blessing our church with a donation or a beautiful poinsettia which graced our Sanctuary, while remembering special loved ones, during our Christmas Eve worship service.

Dear Schoharie Reformed Church,

Thank you for your generous donation to the Joshua Project for Thanksgiving baskets. It will go a long way to help the neediest people in Schoharie County. Again, thank you for your generous donation. Sincerely, The Joshua Project

Good Morning!

Thank you so much for sponsoring the blood drive yesterday! We exceeded our goal!!!

# of presenting donors-27; # of whole blood donors-21; # of power red donors-3 Total units collected-27; Blood drive goal-20. Thank you so much for your part and support of our blood drive! We honestly can't do what we do without sponsors like you.

Anne Philippi, Account Manager, American Red Cross Blood Services

To Our Church Family,

As a church family we adopted a family with (4) children along with the mom and dad for Christmas, from the Joshua Project. Every gift requested by the family was able to be fulfilled.

A big thank you from myself and the Joshua Project.

Cindy, Benevolence Treasurer





## Vince Smith Honored

Sunday, December 19, 2021 during our Worship Service The Consistory honored Vince Smith with a proclamation representing 43 years of service to our church, family and community. Though Vince dedicated many hours to our church in various roles we will always remember him as our Organist.

L to R: Susan Smith, Vince Smith, Sarah Goodrich, Cindy Parks



## Scho-Wright Ambulance Service Honored

Sunday, December 12, 2021 during our Historical Worship Service The Scho-Wright Ambulance Service was honored with a proclamation of service for 50 years serving our community.

We thank them for all their dedication and hard work.



## A Celebration of Our Youth

A special word of thanks to Liza Toborg for all her work in coordinating this special presentation, along with all who assisted her; Marion Jaqueway; Laura Stevens; Erin Niklas; our narrator, Darcee Jacobs; Jim Callahan on lighting; Paul Schultz on audio-visuals; Pastor Mike for creating the star and for his audio-visual support; parents/grandparents/family & friends who devoted their time and love to the children in preparation and presentation of this event.

This Christmas program was presented on December 19<sup>th</sup> from a slide show created in 1978 by Vince Smith.

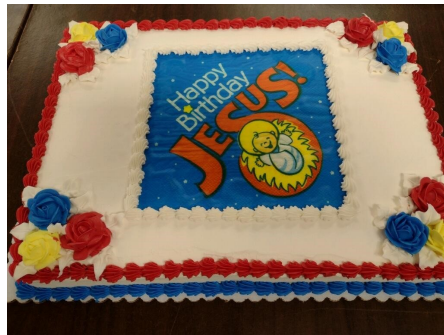
We are blessed for all who joined us in the Birthday Celebration of Jesus and joined in the cookies and craft time following worship service.

(please see pictures on next page)





Youth Christmas Program  
& Birthday Celebration  
December 19, 2021





## Congregational Meeting

A Congregational meeting will be held Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> in the community room following worship service. Packets will be sent by e-mail with more information and will be available in the Narthex.

This year Dave Goodrich has been nominated to serve as a Deacon of Consistory.



## We Invite You To Share

With all of the recent events our church has been hosting; 300th Anniversary Celebration events, Historical Worship Services, Proclamations of dedicated services, Youth Christmas Program, Crafts and Cookies, Birthday celebration for the birth of Jesus, Soup/Bread & Worship along with any other gatherings you have shared with your church family. Please share your pictures and/or stories with others by submitting them to the church office by email or dropping them off to the church office. This will be a great addition to our newsletter and preserve the history of our church.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

### Save The Date

Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 1-6pm.



The Red Cross will be holding a blood drive in the Community Room of SRC. For complete information and to schedule an appointment please visit: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).



Schoharie Reformed Church  
258 Main Street  
PO Box 635  
Schoharie, NY 12157

Rev. Mike & Rev. Dr. Sherri Meyer-Veen  
Phone: (518) 295-8177  
Fax: (518) 295-8105

email: [schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.schohariereformedchurch.org](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org)

*January 2022*

