



# The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

January 2021

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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### Welcoming the Light

Photo: "A Glasgow Nativity Scene" taken from [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com).

*"After the Magi had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when they were in the east went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy." (Matthew 2:9-10NIRV)*

I (Pastor Mike) really enjoy seeing modern interpretations of the nativity scene like this one entitled, "A Glasgow Nativity Scene." It helps me connect more deeply to the reality that is Immanuel – God with us. It helps me to visualize the truth that the nativity story is not just something we celebrate that happened thousands of years ago. It is also a reality for us here and now. God is with us! The light is shining in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it (John 1:5). This is the Good News of Christmas that leads us into the season of Epiphany and the beginning of this New Year. As we journey through the twelve days of Christmas leading to Epiphany and the coming of the Magi who traveled



afar to worship the child Jesus, we are reminded that God's hope, peace, joy, and love, is for the whole world here and now! The story of the Magi challenges me to think about what it means to welcome Jesus as the light the world anew in this time into my own heart and life? How do I and how do we hope to receive Jesus anew as we celebrate Epiphany and enter this New Year?

Perhaps some good practice can be found in following in the footsteps of the Magi who welcomed the light by first having courage to take a journey. Is God calling you to take a journey? It could be a literal journey to a new destination (although that is probably not the case for a lot of us in the midst of this pandemic), or it could be a journey into a new relationship, a new job, or discovering a new way of being. It could also be a journey of leaving behind something that has been routine and familiar for something new and uncertain. Journeys can be scary, and at times we may face our own resistance, but we can also learn to look and follow our own "stars" of God's presence to help us on our way.

At the first stop of their journey the Magi went to Herod's palace because where else would you expect to find a newborn King? Yet Jesus was not there so they had to change their assumptions and keep searching in order to find him. Perhaps welcoming the light anew means opening our eyes and our hearts to the possibility that God can and will be found in some unexpected places. How might welcoming the light anew be calling you to set aside some unhelpful narratives about yourself, or others in order to become curious, to ask good questions, to listen well, and to look for the good instead of assuming the bad.

Once the Magi reached the child Jesus, they worshipped him with their gifts. Is God challenging you in this New Year to share gifts that you have been holding back, or too afraid or uncertain to express with others? Does welcoming the light anew for you mean sharing yourself more courageously believing that you too are a gift of God for the world?

In whatever ways we experience God calling us to welcome the light anew this Epiphany season we are all invited to continue learning what it means for us to journey home by another way. We believe as the people of God that it is through this other way that we will find our healing, hope, and help as we continue through this New Year. In this other way we are invited to walk with confidence in God's presence with us, along with courage and curiosity to explore all the ways God will bless us, teach us, challenge us, and change us. Let us be a people who continually seek to welcome the light and let it shine courageously and compassionately through our lives into the darkness of our world!

Welcome the Light,

*Pastors Mike & Sherri*

## 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 Pastor Mike; 518-231-6185 or Pastor Sherri; 518-231-2151 or contact the church office at 518-295-8177.



## Announcements

**Aluminum Tabs:** Please continue to save can tabs for donation to Shriners Hospital. You may leave them at the church office or when we return to in-person worship they may be left in the Narthex. The tabs will then be processed, proceeds will be used to offset patient cost. Thank you

**Consistory:** Will meet Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm.

**Cancer Services Program:** Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Oneida, Herkimer and Madison Counties are offering FREE Mammograms, Breast Exams, Pap Tests & Pelvic Exams to uninsured & underinsured women 40 or older, insurance billed for those with insurance. Colorectal Cancer Screening Take-Home kits to uninsured & underinsured men and women 50 or older.

Free cancer screening events near you: Oneonta Southside Mall, Mon. 1/11/2021; Cherry Valley next to Post Office, Tues. 1/19/2021; Schoharie Apple Barrel Country Store, Thurs. 1/28/2021; West Winfield Bassett Clinic, Thurs. 2/4/2021; Oneonta Southside Mall, Tues. 2/16/2021; Dolgeville Bassett Clinic, Thurs. 2/25/2021; Delhi Price Chopper Parking Lot, Thurs. 3/11/2021  
Call 1-888-345-0225 for your FREE appointment! Also call to learn more about our program, enroll for free cancer screening or find a participating provider in your are.



## Congregational Meeting

We are happy to announce the following nominations to our Consistory: Sarah Goodrich to serve as Elder; Michael Jaqueway to serve as Deacon. A Congregational meeting is being planned to be held in January thru Zoom, additional information will be sent thru the church email. If you have any concerns please speak with Pastor Mike, Pastor Sherri, or any current member of consistory.





## Thank You

**Thank you all:** whom have blessed our church with a donation or a beautiful poinsettia to grace our sanctuary during our Christmas Eve Worship Service.



**City Mission:** Dear Friends, Thank you for your gift received on December 3, 2020. Your concern and kindness are making a difference for our neighbors in need during this holiday season. In the midst of the busyness there are also many moments that are extra special. One of these took place on Thanksgiving Day when a father came to the Mission for dinner with two small children. The little girl was wrapped in a blanket for warmth, and we soon learned that none of the family had winter coats. One of our staff members—a formerly homeless individual who knows the struggles of being poor—took the family to our clothing room. They returned to the Dining Center dressed for the season in “new” winter coats. The little girl was beaming with excitement and said, “Look, I even found a pink one!” Thanks again for caring. May God bless you in this holiday season.  
Together Giving Hope, Michael Saccocio, Executive Director



**Regional Food Bank:** Dear Friends, Thank you for your generous donation to support the Regional Food Bank’s mission. Our current focus is to feed and bring comfort to our neighbors whose livelihoods and communities have been devastated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Your generosity will make a real difference in their lives, as they strive to endure and recover from this unprecedented health and economic crisis. The food and other resources we provide would not be available without the support we receive from so many caring people. Thank you for your kindness and concern for your fellow New Yorkers.

Yours truly, Mark Quandt, Executive Director



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



**Toasty Toes:** 2020 a year unlike any other, but we pushed forward. We also made the difficult decision to pass along the project, with a new identity. This project has meant the world to my mom and me. We (and especially my mom!) have spent hundreds of hours counting, sorting, labeling and shopping for pajamas. We ensured that every single dollar donated was stretched as far as possible and every request, no matter what, was fulfilled. Roughly 8,500 pairs of pajamas have been collected and donated in our 8 years as Toasty Toes. 8,500 bellies have been warmed on Christmas night with a cup of cocoa. 85,000 tiny toes have been kept warm and most importantly, 8,500 hearts have smiled. So as we close this chapter, we wanted to genuinely thank each and every one of you. Your donations are the only way this was made possible. Opening the doors to your small businesses for donations allowed us to continue to operate. Donating food for wrapping days, supplies for packaging, boxes and boxes of cocoa- whenever we had a need, someone always stepped up to fulfill. So again, with tears in my eyes, thank you for making my wish and dream a reality and more than I could have ever imagined.  
With a Warm Heart and Toasty Toes, Trista and Mom





## Schoharie Community Food Pantry Report for 2020

What an interesting year 2020 has been in so many ways! In March the Christian Education Building at SUPC, where the Food Pantry is located, was closed to everyone but volunteers. This move was necessary to keep everyone safe. So, we switched to a drive-up pantry, where volunteers take orders at the car and then bring food out to our guests. We did not close at all on account of the pandemic, but continued to help feed our community.

In 2020 we served 525 individuals in 197 families. Of those individuals, 152 were children under the age of 18, 282 were ages 18-64 and 91 were Seniors ages 65 and older. Most guests live within the Schoharie School District. We are considered an emergency food pantry, and it would again appear that most people utilize us that way. Over 30% of our guests came only once during the year. Only 18% of our guests visited 12 or more times throughout the year. We are seeing some new faces, with approximately 5-10 new families coming just in December. Our guests are allowed to visit twice per month.

People always ask where the food comes from. We receive food from a number of different sources. We participate in the Retail Partner Agency program through the Regional Food Bank. Our partner store is Hannaford in Esperance, and we pick up food from them every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. In 2020 we received over 48,000 pounds of food from that source. In addition, we purchase food from the Regional Food Bank, using their grant money or our own funds. For 2020 I estimate that we will have purchased over 26,000 pounds of food in that way. Additionally, many, many organizations and individuals donate food and/or money to the Food Pantry each year. Thank you one and all for your generous hearts!

It takes many volunteers to operate the Food Pantry, and our folks are the best! These 25 or so people have stepped up, masked up and continued to serve the public. They have taken orders and brought out food in downpours and frigid conditions. They have picked up food deliveries that weigh 1500 pounds or more. They have shown up and served others cheerfully and reliably. How blessed we are to have them!

With God's help, we will continue to serve our community in 2021. All glory belongs to Him.



Pastor Colleen Quirion

### Collection Envelopes

If you have not received your envelopes for 2021 and would like to pick them up or make arrangements to receive them, please contact the church office at 518-295-8177. When we return to in-person worship the collection envelopes will be placed in the Narthex. Thank you.

### Save the Date

Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp 2021  
July 19—23, 2021

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





A Warm Holiday Wish



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*January 2021*



**Sunday  
Worship Service  
Zoom and Pre-Recorded**