



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

July 2018

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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*August Newsletter deadline
July 19*

Made to Belong:



"True belonging is not something you negotiate externally, it's what you carry in your heart. It's finding the sacredness in being a part of something."

— Brené Brown, *Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone*

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." - Ephesians 2:10

Having story time with our daughter Sophia the other night I came across a story we hadn't read in a long time. It is one of my favorite children's stories written by Max Lucado. It is entitled, "You Are Special." Reading it again with Sophia, I was struck by the beauty of its message and how much it speaks to our theme for this summer of "Belonging." The story is about a village filled with small wooden people known as the "Wemmicks." Everyday the people do the same thing: they give stickers to one another. The good, talented, and beautiful ones get stars, while the chipped, awkward, and untalented ones get dots. One of the wooden people covered with dots is named "Punchinello." Punchinello is always getting dots, sometimes he even gets dots, just for having dots! But as the story goes on he learns that he does not have to be defined by his dots. Instead, he learns that he is special because he was made by the woodcarver Eli, and that is the only thing that really matters.

At one point in the story Punchinello asks the woodcarver, “Me, special? Why?” To which, the woodcarver Eli tells him, “Because you’re mine. That’s why you matter to me.” We hear this same truth in that first question and answer of The Heidelberg Catechism when it asks, “What is my only comfort in life and in death.” To which the answer is given, “That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to my faithful savior, Jesus Christ.” Then later on it also states, “He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.”



Priest and Author Henri Nouwen once said that we often measure our lives by three things – 1.) What we have. 2.) What we can do. 3.) What other people say about us. But then he goes on to say that our reality is not actually in any of these things but rather in the truth that we are beloved sons and daughters of God – that we belong!

Our hope this summer is that each of us will discover our belonging in God, and our belonging to one another. We believe that it is out of the truth of our belonging that we are able to live into our best selves. We truly are “God’s workmanship.” May that be the belonging we claim for our lives and for one another. If you are looking for some good summer reads we encourage you to read Brene Brown’s “Braving the Wilderness.” And if you are looking for a good children’s book we encourage you to read, “You Are Special,” by Max Lucado. But above all, we encourage you to read the truth of God’s Word and remember – “You Belong! Because God made you!”

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



Worship Schedule

July and August 9:30am

coffee hour to follow in the Fellowship Hall

There will be no Sunday school during July and August. September 9 we will host the Sunday School Pancake Breakfast kickoff.

Announcements

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

The Food Pantry needs volunteers - The summer is an especially busy time of year for the Food Pantry. If you would like to help, please contact Diane Walion at 868-4629. **Also needed are donations** of food (including fresh produce); peanut butter & spaghetti sauce are always in demand, as well as cereal, pasta, tuna fish, soup and other canned goods, plus paper products, personal care & cleaning products such as toothpaste & laundry detergent. Empty egg cartons are also accepted. Donations may be dropped off here or in the SUPC Christian Ed building. Monetary donations are appreciated as well, checks may be made out to Schoharie Valley Food Pantry. **The Food Pantry is open Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12-2pm.**

Summer Worship-during the months of July and August worship will be at 9:30am with coffee hour following worship service in the Community Room.

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.

Aluminum Tabs for the Shriners - John Nixon and Ron Filmer began the collection of aluminum can tabs for the Shriner's Hospital. Please continue to bring can tabs to the church and you may leave them in the Narthex, we will be sure they are delivered to Shriners Hospital. The tabs collected are used to offset patient transportation cost.

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.

Consistory-The next consistory meeting will be held August 22, 6:30 pm in the Heritage House. There is no July meeting scheduled.

Community Day Camp-We always welcome volunteers and it is never too late to offer your service. Volunteers can volunteer for just one morning, one day or several mornings/days or for the week. This is a great opportunity to provide a service and receive the love our young campers give. Camp is held the week of July 16-20th at the Schoharie Presbyterian Church from 8:30am— 4:00pm. This year our theme will be "Discovering Your Strength in God" If you would like to volunteer or have questions please call the church office at 518- 295 -8711.

Camp Fowler Scholarships

The church will be offering scholarships for children who would like to attend camp but due to financial restrictions would not be able. A scholarship form may be obtain from the church office. This is separate from the Camp Fowler registration. Any questions please call the church at 518-295-8177.



Thank You

Ronald McDonald House

Dear Friends,

The need for a "home away from home" for families with seriously ill children is greater than ever. Your wonderful gift received on May 29, 2018 allows us to offer families a place to stay, home cooked meals, the service of caring volunteers, and the help with the many needs that arise when a child is seriously ill. These families are at the heart of all we do.

On behalf of everyone at Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Capital Region, and especially the children and families we serve: Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Forever Grateful,

Jeff Yule, Executive Director

Marathon for a Better Life would like to Thank you for your donation given on June 2, 2018. Every cent of your donation will go to help cancer patients in Schoharie County.

The Joshua Project would like to thank you for your generous donation. It will go a long way to help the people of Schoharie County in need of our assistance. The Joshua Project focuses on the neediest in our communities. Located throughout the Schoharie Valley, we are an ecumenical group of volunteers who strive to improve the lives of others. Again, thank you.



Ordination Service

You're invited to the ordination service of Betsy Westman as Minister of Word and sacrament on Sunday, July 22, 2018 at the Reformed Church of Canajoharie, 15-19 Front Street., Canajoharie. The service will begin at 4:00pm and there will be a reception after.

Betsy served last summer as our sabbatical pastor while the Meyer-Veens were on sabbatical. She continues to serve with us as the Schoharie Valley Community Camp Director.

Thank you and peace be with you!
Betsy

Church Garage Sale

Check your closets, attics and basements! A great opportunity to clean out and get rid of those unwanted items. Turn them into a treasure for someone else.

SRC is going to have a garage sale the day of Schoharie Village-wide sale in September. Anything that is gently used will be accepted.

There will be a sign up sheet for setting up, tearing down and working during the day in shifts.

Any questions or suggestions see Cindy



Sunday School Calendar 2018 - 19

September 9 – Pancake Breakfast Sunday School Kickoff

September 16

September 23

September 30 - Liza Project

October 7 – No Sunday School

October 14

October 21

October 28 - Liza Halloween Activity

November 4 - Lisa Thanksgiving Activity

November 11 – Practice for Christmas Program

November 18 – Practice for Christmas Program

November 25 – No Sunday School

December 2 – Practice for Christmas Program

December 9 - Last Practice for Christmas Program

December 16 – Dress rehearsal & Christmas Program

December 23 – Liza Christmas Activity

December 30 – No Sunday School

January 6

January 13 – Liza Activity

January 20

January 27

February 3

February 10 – Liza Activity

February 17 – No Sunday School

February 25

March 3

March 10

March 17 – Liza Activity

March 24

March 31 – No Sunday School

April 7 – Liza Activity

April 14 – Palm Sunday Parade

April 21 – No Sunday School (Easter)

April 28

May 5 – Liza Activity

May 12 – No Sunday School (Mother's Day)

May 19

May 26 – Last Day Sunday School with Children's Program & Church Picnic



We are looking for Sunday School volunteers for next fall. You do not need to be available every week, but we would love your presence and participation. There is no special training needed. We just ask that you be part of our church ministry to our youth. The time and the love you offer will show our youth that God is Great. Please see Cindy Parks or Luke Jacobs regarding your availability. God Bless you for your service to our youth.



Community Day Camp

July 10, Tuesday 2:30—4:00 at Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church; we will be writing letters that will be given to our campers during Community Day Camp the week of July 16-20th. These letters always put a smile on their face, so please plan to join us for this fun writing event.

Volunteers are always needed for Community Day Camp morning sign-in from 8am—9am. Volunteers can volunteer for just one morning , several mornings or for the week.

For complete day camp/volunteer information visit: schohariereformedchurch.org or E-Mail: schoharievalleycommunitycamp@gmail.com or call 518-295-8177

Thank you to all volunteers who make our Community Day Camp possible.



July 2018 Prayer Calendar for Schoharie Valley Community Camps

Please pray for...

1... families whose children will be participating in camp	2 ... donations of materials and food and for those who will prepare materials and the facilities	3 ... worship leaders and directors	4 ... recreation leaders	5... arts and crafts leaders	6 ... nature leaders	7 ... camp nurses and EMTS
8 ... first-time counselors and volunteers	9 ... returning camp leaders and staff	10... hearts to be open to the Good News about Jesus	11... inspiration from the Scriptures	12 ... children who will be experiencing camp for the first time	13 ... those who will plan and prepare snacks and Friday's picnic lunch	14 ... safe travel for volunteers coming from a distance
15 ... effective training	16 ... good weather and a smooth first day of camp	17... God's love to be shown among staff and campers	18 ... strength and inspiration for staff and volunteers	19... safety and good health for everyone	20... the camp's service projects	21... safe journeys for those traveling to their homes
22... rest and recovery for leaders, staff, and volunteers	23... campers to seek ways to continue to grow in faith	24... campers' families to find God's path for their lives	25... campers to reflect on what they learned	26... those who benefit from the service project	27... continued inspiration from the Bibles campers received	28... all participants to see God at work in their lives
29... A Sabbath filled with worship and rest	30... our communities to be blessed by our camp experience	31... campers to live what they learned				



Schoharie Reformed Church
Camp Fowler Family Retreat 2.0

August 24—26, 2018



Ask anyone that attended our retreat last summer and you'll hear about a relaxing time of fellowship in a setting that can't be beat.

Check-in starts at 5:00pm on Friday the 24th. We leave after lunch on Sunday the 26th.

In between you will enjoy:

Group games

Waterfront activities including swimming, fishing, canoeing & kayaking

Hiking

Crafts

Campfires with stories and singing

Opportunities to **Be Still and Know that God is Great!**

Registration will be available on the church website or by paper in the Church Narthex. Please let us know how many in your party and would you prefer a room at Chi Rho House or Rustic Cabin. You will be given the opportunity to include a contribution with your registration.

See you at Camp!

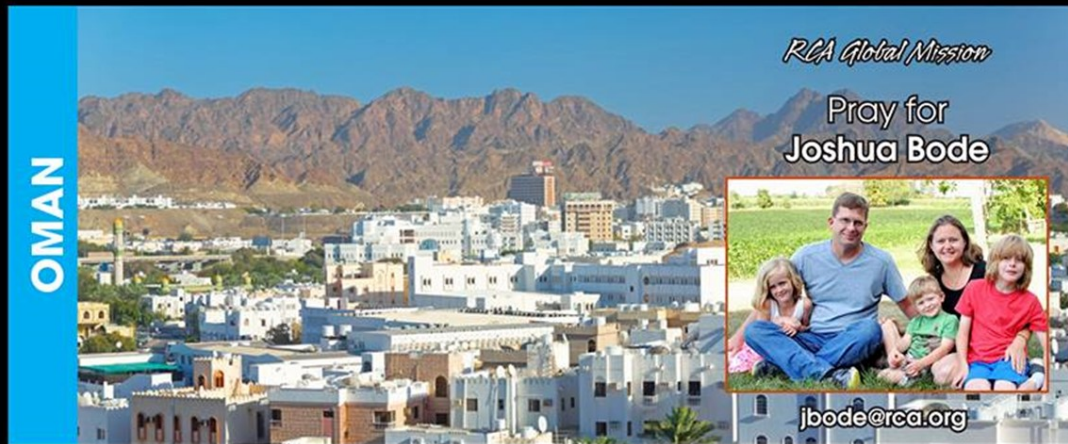


The Bode Family

will be joining us for our Sunday Worship on July 22nd.

We look forward to sharing our prayers and support with them.
Pastor Josh Bode will also be giving the Sunday message.

Please join us!



connect • pray • donate

www.rca.org/bode

Joshua's ministry

God calls Christian communities to bear witness to the gospel of peace and reconciliation through service and discipleship. In Oman—a Muslim-majority nation—this call is lived out, in part, through the Protestant Church in Oman (PCO). The PCO was founded by the RCA and has been charged with the stewardship of all Protestant Christianity in the country, comprising more than 50 Protestant congregations. Josh has been called to be the RCA shepherd to this diverse and international body of believers in Muscat, Oman, as they seek to build bridges and love their Muslim neighbors. His role is to support, empower, care, preach, teach, and learn on behalf of the sent and gathered church in Oman while sharing the fruits of their labor back home.

Please pray:

- That the PCO would offer Christians in Oman a spiritual home.
- For continued trust, goodwill, and partnership between the PCO, the government, and the people of Oman.
- That Christians in the West would find ways to connect with churches in Oman.
- That Josh and his wife, Erica, would foster global-mindedness in their children, Gabriel, Ruby, and Alex.



MSN1830

Buildings & Grounds

The new pew cushions were received the third week of June.



Waggoners' deliveryman John sorting and unpacking.

A set of loose worship chairs (upholstered to match the pews) were ordered; delivery is expected in August.



Much smoother approach over the sill.

Our addition contractor finally returned to trim the three doors to the vertical platform lift and patch the outside door's concrete sill. This is a big improvement. They need to come back one more day then we can finish painting the inside of the addition.



The Narthex double doors have had the final coat of polyurethane and been rehung with most of their hardware installed. There were no



Dave's G and T working on the doors.



An AA fellow replaced the broken treads on the outside stairs leading to the Heritage House's side door. After he finished, however, we saw that the broken treads concealed the fact that the stairs had sunk and now need to be levelled or otherwise repaired. This should be done later this month.



The final \$2,500.00 grant payment toward rebuilding the Fellowship Hall was received from the O'Connor Foundation.

Dave Toborg continues to follow-up with other contractors to wrap up balcony work, final pew repairs, and acoustic mitigation in Fellowship Hall.

Building & Grounds

Painting Help- You belong. To the Church painting crew. Various things need to be painted:

Balcony handrail (steel)
Narthex doors and walls
Stairway walls downstairs (after contractor finishes)
Outside handrails (front and back doors)
Inside the addition
Touch-up inside the Sanctuary

Be encouraged to take on any of these tasks either yourself or with other people;
and at your own schedule.
See Dave T. for details.

Sealing the Parking Lot The parking lot needs to be sealed, but we are only going to do a portion this year. The plan is to work two evenings (Monday and Tuesday, August 20 and 21) 5:00 pm. We will prep the first night then apply the seal the second night. Workers need to RSVP to Dave T. (dtoborg@midtel.net, 295-8554) or this won't get done.

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



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