



# The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

July 2019

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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August Newsletter Deadline

July 29<sup>th</sup>



### Calling on A Big God!

*"I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me. When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands and my soul refused to be comforted. Your ways, O*

*God are holy. What god is so great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples." - Psalm 77:1-2,13-14.*

I recently learned about "The Success Project" that was put together by Strayer University in Virginia and media company SoulPancake. As a part of their Success Project they created an event called, "Shout It Out." They placed a giant red megaphone in a busy city plaza and invited people to come and speak their dreams aloud as a way of helping to inspire them and others. The company SoulPancake says, "We all have goals and dreams that we want to accomplish in life, but sometimes we're reluctant to put them out into the world for fear of judgment or failure. So, we decided to build a giant megaphone and invite passersby to step up, and shout them out."

When I (Pastor Mike) first read about this my immediate thought was how great it would be to put up our own giant red megaphone on the front lawn of the church! What do you think Dave Toborg? Then we could invite anyone who wanted to "Shout It Out!" But my hope in this would be that we would shout out more than just our own personal dreams. I would love to see us shout out deep prayers, laments, joys, hopes, angers, frustrations, yearnings, confessions, needs, praises, blessings, and whatever else might be on our hearts and to speak them aloud before God and our community. The purpose of the giant megaphone is not because God has a hard time hearing us, but rather because we

believe in a really big God who takes our prayers seriously, and invites us to courageously step into big things!

I really love the honesty and boldness of the words of the Psalmist written above. As the Psalmist cries out in need to God, he/she declares, “and my soul refused to be comforted.” Then the Psalmist takes time to recall the greatness, the power, and the deeds of God. The refusal of the Psalmist to be comforted is not a resistance to God, but rather a resistance to anyone or anything but God. ***This Psalmist refuses to be comforted by anything LESS than the God of power, might, miracles, and redemption.***

Is this true of your life? There is a temptation for us in the church today to settle for the routines and the familiar comforts of religion. We gather together and sing the classic hymn, “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” but do we go out expecting God’s mighty power to shape our lives and impact the world? I often think of the quote by CS Lewis from his essay entitled, The Weight of Glory. *“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”*

This summer we are entitling our worship series, “Catch the Wind.” God’s Spirit of awesome power, generous love, extravagant grace, and incredible wonder is moving throughout our world. The Good News of this is that God is inviting us into an amazing life with this Spirit. But we must have courage to move beyond comfortable and familiar religion. We too, like the Psalmist, must step up to the megaphone of our hearts and our faith and call upon the greatness of our God, naming the dreams God has given us, and stepping into living our faith wherever God places us!

Catching the Wind

***Pastor Mike and Pastor Sherri***

## Summer Worship Service

Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, Worship Service will be held at 9:30am and will be held each Sunday at 9:30am thru Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> Worship Service will be held at Camp Fowler during the Family Retreat 3.0. If you are not able to attend worship at Camp Fowler please feel free to attend Worship service at a church of your choice.

## A Potential Change for The Fall

The consistory is currently considering making a change in the worship time from 10:30am to 9:30am for the fall. This would be for a trial basis that would run through the end of December 2019, and then be reevaluated for the new year. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns please speak with a member of consistory. They plan to make a formal decision in mid-July.

## Welcoming the Bode Family!

We are so blessed to be able to welcome the Bode Family to join us and share with us in worship on Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am. Rev. Josh Bode, his wife Erica, and their children are serving as RCA missionaries in Oman. They are back in the US this summer as part of their sharing and support raising for their ministry. We look forward to hearing from Rev. Josh Bode, and visiting with the rest of the family and celebrate Day Camp, all as a part of our service on the 21<sup>st</sup>. We really hope to see you there!!!

## Thank yous

Dear Church , Thank you so much for your support. I will be going to science camp. We also will be sending a large sum of money to Zimbabwe Africa. Thank you all so much for your support. - Sam

Reformed Church, Thank you so much for everything you have done for me and y family. Also thank you for the graduation gift I will be reading the book over the summer, it seem very interesting. So thank you for everything and for the gifts. - Vanessa Lawyer

John & Caroline Nixon wish to thank all for the beautiful floral arrangement they received. Bless you all for your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you to whomever is pulling weeds and helping maintain the landscaping.



## Announcements

**SRC Fund Raising Committee**-will meet Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm in Heritage House.

**Lily Festival**-will be held on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Lily Park, Fort Rd., Schoharie, NY.



*Schoharie Valley Community Camp*  
*July 15–19, 2019*

The Schoharie Valley Community Camp is seeking individuals age 14 and older to volunteer as a Counselor or Junior Counselor for Morning or Day Camp. There is still time to apply for these positions.

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: [www.schohariereformedchurch.org](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org) or E-Mail: schoharievalleycommunitycamp@gmail.com or call 518-295-8177

Anyone who wishes to write letters that will be given to our campers during Community Day Camp the week of July 15-19<sup>th</sup> may drop them off to SRC or SUPC prior to the start of camp. These letters always put a smile on a campers face.

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

**July 2019 Prayer Calendar for Schoharie Valley Community Camps**

**Please pray for...**

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





## Family Retreat 3.0



August 23-25, 2019

Our church family invites yours for a relaxing time of fellowship in a setting that can't be beat.

Check-in starts at 5:00pm on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We leave after lunch on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup>.

In between you will enjoy:



Group games  
Waterfront activities including swimming,  
fishing, canoeing & kayaking  
Hiking  
Crafts  
Campfires with stories and singing



Many opportunities to **Be Still and Know that our God is Great!**

The total cost of the camp is \$3,500.

A fee of: (please note change in cost)

\$80 for a family or

\$40 for an individual, this covers your room for two nights and meals.

There are two choices for accommodation. Please let us know if you would prefer:

*Cabin* - rustic camping, no heat, 1/2 bath in cabin, shower house separately or

*Chi Rho* - motel style, full bath in room.

Light snack is provided on Friday evening. Please eat before arriving.

There is room for 50 reservations.

To registration visit: [www.schohariereformedchurch.org](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org)

If you have any questions please contact the church office at 518-295-8177

***We hope to see you at Camp!***





Share God's Word

## Sunday School

### A New Potential Plan for Sunday School!!!



The growing and maturing of our youngest disciples through the Christian Education ministry of the Schoharie Reformed Church

continues to be a priority for us. As we continue to consider moving our regular worship time to 9:30am beyond the months of July and August, our Sunday school volunteers are also working to be able to provide a wonderful program for our youth to fit with this possible change in worship time.

The new possible plan would involve splitting the Sunday school in three different groups. The first group, Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, would go downstairs to the community room following the children's time during the worship service. They would then have their Sunday school lesson until the end of the worship service. The other two groups, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>-beyond, would come to the Heritage House following the sermon and their Sunday School time would run 15 minutes past the end of the worship service (10:45am). Then parents could get their kids and take them home. In addition to this there would be no Sunday school on communion Sundays, so that families could partake of communion together (the first Sunday of every month). Also, there would be a time of praise, singing for kids and families 15 minutes prior to the start of the worship service.

If it is decided that the worship time should remain at 10:30am for the fall, then the current Sunday School design of 9:15 to 10:15 will remain in effect for the coming year. If you have any questions or concerns about this potential plan please feel free to contact Pastor Mike at 295-8177 or Cindy Parks at 295-7419



Children's Program  
Sunday, June 2, 2019



## Prayer for Healing Service



Is being planned for September 11, 2019. We invite all to save the date and to attend.



## Church Lawn Sale

The Fundraising/Fellowship Committee's first event will be participating in the Village Wide Garage Sale  
**Saturday, September 7, 2019.**



Details to follow, but we need good stuff.  
Start identifying your unused items that someone else needs.

Drop off clean sale items at the Heritage House commencing September 1.  
Use the side room that faces the DAR Lasell Hall.  
Contact Maryann Foland or Dave Toborg to make other arrangements.

Sorry – but no clothes, VHS tapes, old computers, or CRT type TVs.

Canopies are needed to set up on the lawn.

Unsold items will not be returned unless you pick them up following the sale day.

Proceeds go toward rebuilding the stained glass windows.



## Food Pantry

June 6, 2019 update -At the Food Pantry, May was again a very busy month. We had 138 families visit us in total, representing over 310 individuals served. As of this moment our shelves are quite bare. Also in May, we received and gave out over 4,300 pounds of food from Hannaford alone, which was supplemented by food that we purchased and other donations which we received. If you know a Food Pantry volunteer – there are some 25 of them – please thank them for the hard work and dedication to this ministry. Thank you to all the individuals and churches who make these numbers possible.  
To God be the glory!  
Pastor Colleen

As the Food Pantry continues to serve an increasing number of families for the month of July they are in need of: peanut butter, cereal, tuna fish, canned vegetables, cooking oil, white sugar and cleaning products. All food items are always welcome. The summer months are a difficult time for many families with the extra need for lunches. Donations are appreciated to help others in need. 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. 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**

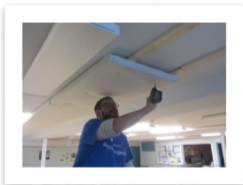
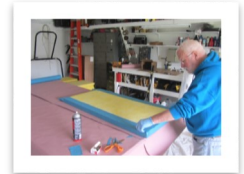


## *Buildings and Grounds*



Pews - The four benches that formerly wrapped around balcony posts have been patched; and the legs that were in need of shims have been done. With the arrival of warm weather, the final coat of polyurethane is being applied to all the pews (~ *looking for help*).

Fellowship Hall – The acoustics of the Fellowship Hall are much improved due the installation of strategically placed sound absorbing acoustic panels. Reduced sound wave reflection allows large gatherings of people to better carry on conversations. We purchased the materials and fabricated the panels ourselves, then installed them in strategic locations for maximum effect. An O’Connor Foundation 50% grant will help pay for the project.



Note: Acoustic panels are not bulletins boards. The panels are fragile; please do not pin anything to them.

During the summer months our church is in need of volunteers to help maintain the beauty of the Church. Volunteers are needed to pull weeds and tend to the landscaping in front of the Church and Heritage House. We ask that if able would you periodically spend some time to help maintain the landscape. Thank you for assisting with the beautification of our Church grounds.



## *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 Narthex or church office. This is separate from the Camp Fowler registration. Any questions please call the church office at 518-295-8177.

## *Keys for Kids*

It is with great sadness to announce that Bette VanderMeer, wife to the late Uncle Charlie, passed away in February 2019. We find our hope knowing that Bette is finally with her beloved Savior. Bette faithfully served Christ and loved Keys for Kids Ministries. Please be praying for the VanderMeer family as they mourn the loss of Bette so soon after losing Charlie.



Schoharie Reformed Church

260 Main Street

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)

*July 2019*

