

The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church – June 2017
Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri Meyer-Veen
Interim Pastor Betsy Westman



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July/August Deadline – June 19

The July and August newsletters will be combined, so please include August news and events in your July submissions. Thank You!



A Pentecost Message

“Peace be with you.” Jesus greets the gathered disciples twice with these words in John 20:19, 21 and later in verse 26, he extends the same greeting to Thomas. In between, he breathes the Holy Spirit onto them with the instruction that they too are being sent, just as he was sent by the Father.

We enter into the season of Pentecost on Sunday, June 4, a season that will take us up to Advent. In this time we too, filled with the Holy Spirit, are called on to go and minister to others. We are called to go and share God’s love with our neighbor. This is a time of sending, for the disciples and for Pastors Mike and Sherri. They have been blessed and sent by this congregation to go and we say, “Peace be with you.” As Jesus greets the disciples with “Peace be with you,” I enter into your midst and I often use Jesus’ greeting as a blessing as we go out. Perhaps we can use Jesus’ greeting in both ways; a coming and a going.

As I come to be with you during this sabbatical I look forward to our time together as we worship, pray, serve, and care for one another and the greater Schoharie community. We have many opportunities to serve and love as you will notice in this newsletter.

So you may know my family better, my husband James (Jim) and I live in the Town of Glen just off 30A as you’re heading north. We have two sons, James and Daniel. James is a 2015 graduate of Alfred State, where he received his Associates Degree in Diesel and Heavy Machines. He works for Daime Logistics in Fultonville. Dan is a student at SUNY Oneonta, is majoring in Geography/Geology, and is on the Cross Country and Indoor and Outdoor Track teams. He will be working on staff at Camp Fowler this summer, so if you are at camp, say hi to Dan. I too will be at Fowler July 2-7.



My husband is retiring this month from the Greater Johnstown School District and is looking forward to it, with no immediate retirement plan, although Dan does have him out hiking a few high peaks in the Adirondacks. He is an assistant coach for Fonda-Fultonville Schools in Cross Country and Outdoor Track. I rejoice in being here and spending time serving with you.

Peace be with you,

Betsy Westman



Upcoming Events

June 10 & 11, and June 17 & 18: Gas Up! Antique engines, draft horses, music, and food on Drebitko Road in Gallupville. Come join your church family at the food booth, make a salad or bake a pie. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex and Heritage House dining room. For more info, contact Dottie Vojnar or Buck Berdan.

June 11 is Toilet Paper/Paper Towel Sunday! (AA batteries needed, too!) Please bring your donations of TP, paper towels, and AA batteries for Day Camp to church. Collection boxes will be in the church back entryway and the Heritage House foyer.

August 25-27: Camp Fowler Congregational Retreat – NOW is the time to reserve your place for a weekend of connection and reflection! A sign-up sheet is in the narthex, ask Paul & Edie Schultz for details.

Schoharie Valley Community Camp is looking for volunteers – there are so many ways you can contribute! An “I Can Help” form is enclosed with the bulletin. Counselor applications are available in the narthex and on our website.

Lily Festival July 15: If you would like to help tidy up the Lily Park, including the Ecumenical Reflective Area, donate to the project, or have a booth or table at the Lily Festival on July 15, please contact schohariepromo@yahoo.com 295-7801 or 295-8118.

September 28-30: Room for All National Conference in Holland, MI. The theme for RfA’s conference, “A Kaleidoscope of Intersections,” focuses on the multiple identities that LGBTQ people embody and which shape their experiences; specifically, the intersections of LGBTQ identity and race, faith expression, and life journey. Full details are at <https://roomforall.com/events/national-conferences>, including a link to online registration. If you need help with registration, please call 201-364-4538.

Early bird discount registration deadline: July 28. Final deadline: August 25.



The 50th Annual Gas Up

Come celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Gas Up on June 10-11 and June 17-18! Check out all the fascinating antique power tools and engines, great music, homemade ice cream, and the delicious food.

Join your church family as we serve the hungry hordes! The Schoharie Reformed Church Food Booth has lots of volunteer opportunities. And we can use more food, as well!

If you can help out at the booth, or provide a potato or macaroni salad or a non-refrigerated pie, please contact Dottie Vojnar at **(518)424-1737** as soon as possible! Sign-up sheets are also in the Heritage House and narthex.

Shifts available:

Saturday, June 10:

8-12: Kitchen & soda table

12-4: Soda table

Sunday, June 11:

8-12: Kitchen & soda table

12-4: Register, counter, kitchen, soda table

Saturday, June 17:

8-12: Kitchen, soda table

12-4: Register, counter, kitchen, soda table

Sunday, June 18:

8-12: Register, counter, kitchen, soda table

12-4: Soda table

Our primary goal is to ENJOY working with each other while serving the community and raising funds for the church. So come on and join the fun! The Gas Up is located on Drebitko Road just east of Gallupville, near the corner with Rte. 443.

Food Pantry Report

April 2017: In April, the Schoharie Community Food Pantry was visited a total of 80 times, providing food to over 220 individuals. We continue to be grateful for donations of food, and this month want to especially thank Junior Girl Scout Troop 2368 who collected food for the pantry. All donations are always gratefully accepted, including non-food items such as toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, etc. Thank you on behalf of those who visit the pantry – they express their gratitude to the volunteers on a continual basis!

We are also blessed with many volunteers who give of their time to pick up food and weigh it, volunteer when the pantry is open, handle the finances and support the pantry in so many other ways. We held a recent in-service for the pantry day volunteers, going over the duties of those signing people in, as well as the duties of those helping people to shop. Many of our pantry day volunteers have been working at the pantry for many years. All of our volunteers are incredibly committed to helping others! As volunteer appreciation week draws to a close, let me say a sincere “Thank You” to all the volunteers who keep the pantry operating. You are truly a blessing!

May 2017: Earlier this month the US Postal Service collected food for local food pantries. All food collected by the Schoharie Post Office was donated to the Schoharie Community Food Pantry. A literal ton (2000 lbs.) of food was received by the food pantry. What a blessing! Needless to say, our shelves are very well stocked at this point, which puts us in good shape going into the summer months. Many thanks to the Post Office staff and all the people who donated food through this initiative.

We continue to serve 60 to 80 families per month, so the pantry will not stay full for very long. Some of the families served are quite large, so an enormous amount of food can leave the pantry on any given day. Additionally, there is always a need for non-food items, such as toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, laundry detergent and similar items. The folks we serve constantly express their appreciation for the pantry and how it makes a difference in their lives. Thanks to all who donate of their money, food or other items, or their time to make this ministry happen. You are truly helping our community!

Colleen Quirion



Sabbatical Plans

Christian Theological Seminary, as an agent of the Lilly Endowment, chooses only a small number of the congregational proposals they receive, and then fully funds those few proposals. The Schoharie Reformed Church is extremely fortunate to be recipients of the Sabbatical Grant. This year, we were the only recipients in the region! The Endowment believes wholeheartedly that healthy pastors make for healthy congregations and healthy communities. They invest in congregations, and invite congregations to work with their pastors in this special way. The overall theme of the grant is “what would make your heart sing?” And applicants are invited to propose a themed “trip of your life” with a rhythm of individual retreat, couples retreat, and family retreat. Most of the proposals include international travel. The congregation is also invited to dream about the time from the congregational perspective, and propose activities the congregation will undertake.

Creating the proposal was an effort of the consistory and a writing team, with the pastors, including Karen and Bill Olewnick, Dusty Putnam, Maryann Foland, Liza Toborg, Cindy Parks, Sue Herchenroder, Sue Smith, Jessie Griffin, Paul Schultz, and Buck Berdan. They shared ideas and developed the congregational plan; some also wrote portions of the proposal. Thank you all again for your work!

Our overall theme is “Reconnecting with ourselves, God, and Others.”

Pastoral Plan:

Mike intends to reconnect with self, God, and others through music and food; Sherri through creation and relationships. We both are seeking to be open to what God would have for us in this time and not put too many expectations on it, while at the same time we would like to exercise more, spend time reading and journaling, spend time playing music, and enjoying being together. We also would love to make some headway on projects that have long been put on hold, such as finishing cleaning out and up some of the flood mess in our barn, and clean out some piles that have accumulated in our house.

Please pray for us as we work at sabbath and establishing new rhythms in our lives for added spiritual and physical health and vitality during this special time.

Please pray for safety in travel, and health that we might fully enjoy each phase, as we continue to expectantly seek what God will show and teach us in it.

Our sabbatical begins slowly on **May 29** as we spend the week slowing down, doing some house cleaning, and getting ready for all that is to come.

Individual retreats: Pastor Sherri – Alexandria Bay; Pastor Mike – The Guest House, Chester, Connecticut, a beautiful retreat center.

Family heritage trip to London, England, Conwy, Wales, and possibly other locations.

Pastors’ retreat at the ecumenical monastic Abbey on the isle of Iona, in Scotland. We both studied monasticism and have always dreamed of going to Iona in particular, as it is known for its music and ecumenical community. You can learn more about it at <https://iona.org.uk/island-centres/the-abbey/>.



Voyage to Africa: We intend to land in Nairobi and catch a connection to Lusaka, and then to Harare, Zimbabwe. We will be guests of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Zimbabwe. Church members will meet us as we get out of customs, and then we will take a bus trip across the county to Bulawayo. We will be staying with the family of the bishop for a week! He plans to take us into the countryside to visit some of the villages, a mission hospital and school. After the first week, the General Secretary, who has been making most of the plans for us, will travel with us as we slowly travel north. He intends for us to stay on one of the game reserves and go on a safari! We will end up in Victoria Falls, where we will stay for a few days, before returning to Harare. In making all of these plans, we have already been reconnecting with our Cross-Cultural mission training. Please pray for cultural understanding, for our health and safety, and for a wonderful time of relationship and community building! Please also pray for extra

patience for Sam and Sophia, as we anticipate long church services and times when they will need to listen to adults for long periods. Pray for some friends for them, and their own safe, yet fun, learning and growing experience.



Congregational retreat: We will we will join the congregation in the retreat at Camp Fowler!

Pastors' time of reflection: Mike and Sherri will conclude ALL of their trips with one last couples' trip. They will be traveling to Kauai, Hawaii! This will be a slower and relaxing time of reflecting on all of their travels and spending some special time just the two of them.

September 24 we will be fully back!

Thank you for your prayers!

Congregational Plan:

While the pastors get to go on some pretty fabulous trips, the congregation is invited to also engage the work of "re-connecting" with self, God, and others. The planning team composed a great plan for the congregation, including inviting some of your favorite speakers. As a part of this reconnecting, the planning team has also asked members of the congregation to use their gifts to lead worship.

We are very privileged to have Betsy Westman as our Sabbatical Leave Intern Pastor. Many will remember Betsy from volunteering at Camp Fowler, or from when she preached for us when she was becoming a preaching elder. Betsy is a preaching elder. She also opted to continue her schooling and is just completing all of the requirements to be an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament!

Remember, there are still lots of things happening in the life of the Schoharie Reformed Church this summer, and we hope you will continue to pitch in, so they can each be a blessing and you can continue to experience all that God would have for you, as well.

Here is the current line-up, which may change slightly:

June 4, 2017 – Pentecost Sunday. Rev. Dr. Tony Campbell, who is the associate General Secretary and Director of Missional Engagement for the Reformed Church in America. Tony was a part of Pastor Sherri's doctoral covenant group, shares a passion for recovery and mission, and is an excellent and engaging preacher, come be a part of the experience!

June 11, 2017 – Our own Paul Schultz will bless us by using his gifts! [Gas Up Weekend]

June 18, 2017 – Father's Day – Dave and Sarah Goodrich have something special planned! [Gas Up Weekend]

June 25, 2017 – Betsy Westman, our Sabbatical Pastor will have her first opportunity to preach.

July 2, 2017 – Perry Jones from Capital City Rescue Mission

July 9, 2017 – Paul Schultz

July 16, 2017 – Rev. Kent Busman will help us get Day Camp week started off right. [Day Camp Week]

July 23, 2017 – Liza Toborg

July 30, 2017 – Rev. Gail Wolling, a Lutheran pastor and friend of Pastor Sherri's who has been to Zimbabwe will lead in worship and then share about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe and her own travels to Zimbabwe after church.

August 6 – Betsy Westman

August 13 – Cindy Parks

August 20 – Mike Saccocio, Executive Director of the Schenectady City Mission

August 25 – 27, 2017 will be the congregational retreat at Camp Fowler, [sign up now to reserve your preferred sleeping arrangements!](#) Those who are not able to travel to Fowler are invited to join the Presbyterian Church for worship.

September 3 – Betsy Westman

September 10 – Paul Schultz

September 17 – Betsy Westman

September 24 – Betsy's last Sunday. Mike and Sherri are present, but not preaching.

October 1 – Mike and Sherri 😊

Upon our return, we look forward to taking and creating many opportunities to share with you our adventures, experiences, and learnings, as well as hearing what God has done in the life of the Schoharie Reformed Church while we move forward together in ministry!

Prayers and blessings,

Pastors Mike and Sherri



Building & Grounds

Fellowship Hall Renovations

Ceiling and walls are painted (thanks to the SRC retired painters guild). Vinyl floor tile has been installed in the new rooms and pieced-in around the main room. Doors are being installed; and electric outlets, switches and lights are being installed. By the time you read this, the kitchen cabinets and countertops will have been ordered.



Cutting and gluing floor tile. The style and color match the existing tile.



Installing door frames.

Painting As mentioned above, once the doors are hung, the SRC retired painters guild will regroup to paint fire doors and stain/poly wood doors. Dave Toborg will contact you.

Thank You

Thank you from SALT: Dear Pastor Sherri & Pastor Mike, I want to thank you and the entire congregation for accommodating the NCCC. I can't find the words to express my gratitude to you and the church. I know that they weren't able to get to the painting project, so if there is anything that I can do to help, please let me know! Thank you again! – Jin

Summer Ministry Intern

We are pleased to welcome Michaela Johnson back as Summer Ministry Intern for 2017. She is the Director of Schoharie Valley Community Camp, as well as assisting with other projects. Michaela has just earned her Bachelor's Degree from Elmira College, and will be starting graduate school at the University of Rochester this fall.



Are you looking for **FUN, FREE** activities to do with your kids this summer?

Places throughout our community offer **fun activities and healthy meals, all at no cost.** There is no application—just show up when meals are served and enjoy!

Call your **Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP)** Coordinator to find a summer meals location near you.

Schoharie County
Community Action Program (SCCAP)
(518) 234-2568 x3035
Toll-free (866) 849-2402

Prepared by a project of Hunger Solutions New York; funded by NYSOTDA.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Schoharie Valley Community Camp

Summer is right around the corner, and so is Schoharie Valley Community Camp! Camp will begin on Monday, July 17 and run through Friday, July 21, 2017. Morning Camp (8:30am-12:00pm) is for children ages 4 through entering 2nd grade and Day Camp (8:30am-4:00pm) is for children entering 3rd through 8th grades. We will also offer free aftercare that will be available on a first come, first served basis, at no extra charge. To enroll in aftercare, please contact Pastor Colleen Quirion at 295-8102.

We took our gang of cavers to the rainy streets of Schoharie in the **Memorial Day Parade on Thursday, May 25.** Thank you to all who helped decorate the float, walked in the parade, and handed out "Save the Date" flyers! Special thanks to Kathryn Cipperly for organizing and creating an awesome cave and towing it through Schoharie!



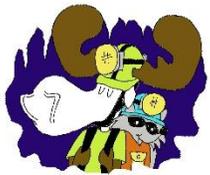
Volunteer Opportunities at Camp

Anyone over the age of 14 is invited to apply for a volunteer opportunity (additional age requirements relate to some positions as specified on the job descriptions). The volunteer positions include: Counselors, Junior Counselors, Maintenance Volunteers, Snack Volunteers, and Sign-In Volunteers, in addition to many others. Volunteer applications are due on or before Friday, July 1st. If you would like to volunteer, please fill out the "I Can Help" form in the back of the newsletter, or download the application materials from our website.

For more information, please contact the Schoharie Reformed Church Office at (518)295-8177, e-mail: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com. Job descriptions and application forms are available on our website.

The Planning Committee looks forward to seeing you at camp as a motley crew of cavers embark on the great adventure of "Seeking the Light!"





I can help make Day Camp Great!
July 17-21, 2017

I will pray for Day Camp

I can help with Maintenance – set up, during camp time or after hours.

I can help with Snacks – people are needed to solicit donations, pick up items, work on food prep during camp times.

I can help with Administration – needed areas are data entry, working at the registration table, writing letters to campers, writing thank you notes, etc.

I can help with traffic control – people needed for beginning and end of each camp day (7:45 – 9:00 or 3:30-4:30)

I can be a Counselor or Junior Counselor – Be with the kids and assist or lead activities – need to fill out application form!

I can help with Arts and Crafts

I can help with Music

I can help with Nature – need to fill out an application form!

I can be camp photographer for the week – can come and go from camp as needed.

I can help with Recreation – need to fill out an application form!

I can help organize Friday's all camp lunch!

I can make a financial contribution to help camp

I can be camp nurse for one or more days of camp – must be physically present for full day

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Please email to SchoharieReformedChurch@yahoo.com or return
To Schoharie Reformed Church, P.O. Box 635, Schoharie, N.Y. 12157
Please fill out the reverse side of this form



Schoharie Valley Community Camp
Volunteer Medical History & Background Information

As a Day Camp Program we are required to obtain the medical history and run background checks of all Day Camp Volunteers. *Please return this information by July 2nd so that the background checks can be completed before the first day of camp. Please know that this information will be kept confidential except in the case of emergency.*

Health Information:

Are all your immunizations currently up to date yes no

Please list any allergies, special dietary needs, or specific illnesses that we should be aware of:

Please list any Medications you are currently taking:

Background Information:

Full Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Driver's License # (if applicable) _____

Have you ever been convicted of a felony yes no

If yes, please explain and give date: _____

I hereby attest that the above information is up to date and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that failure to produce accurate information could result in my inability to be a staff or volunteer for Schoharie Christian Day Camp.

Signature _____ Date _____

