



# The Visitor

*Schoharie Reformed Church*

*June 2018*

*Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri*



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## "Belonging!"

*"God destined us for adoption as God's children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of God's will."*

*-Ephesians 1:5*

*July newsletter deadline  
June 26*

### The Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 1:

Question: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Answer: That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from the tyranny of evil. 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.



Belonging. Woven into the fabric of every human heart is the deep desire to belong. We first experience belonging in our families of origin. In our relationships with parents, siblings, and extended family, through positive and negative experiences, we felt this desire to belong. We felt it in friend groups and peer relationships where we developed ways of being in order to “fit in.” For those of us who are adults today the desire to belong is why we seek out companionship, join clubs, tour groups, gyms, civic organizations, and churches. The desire to belong is a part of being human.

Often times what drives our desires to belong and also impacts our being in the places where we belong is our own sense of worth. Think of the places where you experience belonging in your life right now. How does your own sense of worth impact the ways you show up in those places? Sometimes when our own sense of worth feels threatened we react in one of two ways. On one hand we might cut ourselves off by putting up walls, going silent, or withdrawing altogether in order to protect ourselves. Or on the other hand we change, or give up self so that we no longer show up as our true selves but instead we seek to adapt more of the manners and the mentality of the group in order to better “fit in.”

But what if there was another way for us to experience and to live out “belonging” in the world? What if our sense of worth was not found in our circles of belonging but in something deeper? And what if this deeper sense of belonging allowed us to stay connected even to people with whom we experience difficulty and disagreement? Or what if it could allow us to stand completely alone out of our deepest convictions and still know that we belong?

The answer we believe to all of this is found in the deeper belonging that God desires for us to experience in our lives. It is this belonging that Paul writes about in his letter to the Ephesians when he tells them of how God has “destined us for adoption through Jesus Christ.” It is the same good news we find in the first answer of the Heidelberg Catechism to the question of “What is your only comfort in life and in death?” “That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death, to my faithful savior, Jesus Christ.”

God desires us to live our lives out of this deeper sense of belonging that is found in God’s love and claiming of our lives for God’s self. We belong because of God’s love! Nothing can qualify us for it, and nothing can disqualify us from it. It is fully and completely the choice and the action of God’s love for us! How does it impact you to think about living your life from a place of knowing that you already belong? I love how the answer ends when it says, *“Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.”* Does the belonging you are experiencing in your own life right give you comfort in your own sense of worth? Is it inspiring you to live “wholeheartedly” for God? Author Brene Brown writes about belonging in her book, *“Braving the Wilderness.”* While writing from a secular perspective she has some great, well-researched, insights about belonging. This is one of her quotes and we have edited to include how the faith perspective would say it:

*“True belonging is the spiritual practice of believing in and belonging to yourself (**God**) so deeply that you can share your most authentic self with the world and find sacredness in both being a part of something and standing alone in the wilderness. True belonging doesn’t require you to change who are; it requires you to be who you are (**in Christ**).”*

During worship this summer we are going to look at the “belonging” that God intends for our lives to be experienced in our relationship with God and to be lived out with one another in the world. **Just a reminder that in July and August we will be moving worship to 9:30am in the sanctuary.** Please come join us whether you have been doing so for a long time, or whether you have gotten out of the habit, whether you see yourself as a good church member, or a seeking soul, whoever you are, and whatever your experience has been you belong to God, and there is a place for you to belong with us as well.

Belonging in Christ,

*Pastor Sherri and Pastor Mike*

## Announcements



**Nursery volunteers needed**-This is a great opportunity to enjoy spending time with 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** - 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. **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.

**Consistory**- The next consistory meeting will be held Wednesday, June 13, 6:30—8:00pm in the Heritage House.

**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 wedding anniversary month & day.

**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.



## Thank yous

**Gas-up-**Hello, On behalf of the Hudson Mohawk Chapter of the Pioneer Gas Engine Association, Inc "Gas Up," We would like to say a special thank you to your members for everything you have done for us over the years. We are truly thankful! A member shared the small blurb you had written in your newsletter and I shared it with our fans on Facebook. It was beautifully written and positive. We have had so many comments wishing you all well. You will truly be missed! We want to wish you all the best! We hope that your members will continue to join us in all the fun at Gas Up.

Sincerely,  
Amanda LaForte, Gas Up Facebook Administrator  
& The Hudson Mohawk Chapter of the Pioneer Gas Engine Association, Inc.

**Scho-Wright Ambulance Service**-would like to express our sincere thanks for the recent contribution made to our organization. It is gratifying to know the work we do merits the support of our many friends.

**World Renew**-Thank you for contributing to the development of families and communities all around the world. Your support allows people to make small changes that greatly improve their lives. Your gift to World Renew makes way for change. Thank you for partnering with World Renew in ministry.

## To our dear church family,

Our family wants to thank you for donating to this year's March for Babies and Jacob's team! We have raised over \$1,400 for The March of Dimes and donations are still coming in!

As many of you may know, our lives were profoundly affected by the effects of prematurity. Our grandson Jacob is now a thriving soon to be 12-year-old who overcame a very complicated medical history. We are forever grateful for the March of Dimes!

It was a damp, cool day for a walk; however, we love the prospect of supporting other families with your Help!

XO Karen, aka, Nana

## Sunday School

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.

There will be no Sunday School during the summer months. The first day of Sunday School will be announced in the future. We look forward to seeing you in September.

## Retirement

Pastor Steffen A. Zehrfus of the Bethany Lutheran Church retired effective June 1, 2018. A thank you for 42 years of dedication to the church family and community he served. Please extend your prayers and blessings to Pastor Zehrfus and his family.



## Day Camp



Planning is continuing for Day Camp 2018!



This year our theme will be

**“Discover our Strength in God”**

Save the dates – July 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.

Schoharie Valley Community Camp is a Christian day camp sponsored by the Schoharie United Presbyterian, Christ the Shepherd Lutheran and Schoharie Reformed Churches of the village of Schoharie with assistance from many other churches. Open to all children from age 4 through those entering 8th grade. All persons entering 9th grade and up are invited to use your gifts as volunteers for camp. There are many positions available for volunteers and paid positions. Like us on Facebook or visit the Church website at:

[www.schohariereformedchurch.org](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org) for complete camp information, a preliminary schedule, registration, camper forms, volunteers & staff, young leaders mentoring program, and young leader’s reference online form. Want to be involved with the planning? Visit: [www.schohariereformedchurch.org](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org) or Call 518-295-8177 or E-Mail: [schoharievalleycommunitycamp@gmail.com](mailto:schoharievalleycommunitycamp@gmail.com)

### Children 4 years old through entering grade 2

morning camp 8:30am -noon

Based on developmental needs and age appropriate activities, there are two different sections of Morning Camp: one for Pre-Kers and Kindergarteners and another for first and second graders. Be sure to register early as there is limited space and these two sections have filled very quickly in the past!

### Children entering grades 3 through 8

will enjoy all day camp from 8:30am-4:00pm

### Cost

We work hard to keep camp affordable and thank our many neighbors and local businesses who help make this possible! We would like to see every interested child at camp!

\$30 for the first child and \$25 for each additional child with a \$70 family maximum.

Is this inexpensive for you? Please consider giving an additional donation!

Is this expensive for you? Scholarships are available, please contact us to request what you need.



### Aftercare

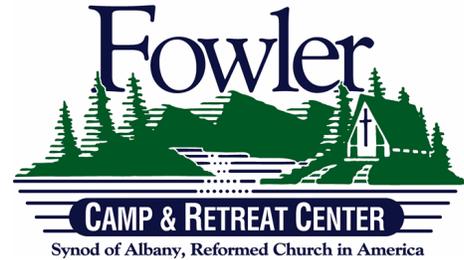
A limited number of spaces are available for childcare after Day Camp from 4:00pm - 5:30pm at no additional cost. Spaces will be filled on a first to register basis by contacting Pastor Colleen Quirion or E-Mail: [pastor@ctslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@ctslutheranchurch.org) or call 518-295-8102.





*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 24<sup>th</sup>. We leave after lunch on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**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!**



## 2018 FW101 retreats

### Where & When

Church on the Hill, Flushing, NY—September 8 & 15 (two Saturdays, no overnight, morning through late afternoon)

Holmes Presbyterian Camp & Conference Center, Holmes NY—September 29—30 (Saturday morning through Sunday afternoon, overnight)

The details for the retreats above are subject to change, please visit our website for up to date information .

### Contacts

**Greg Town**  
Co-Leader for RSNY  
518-779-9406  
gnbtown@gmail.com

**Sherri Meyer-Veen**  
Co-Leader for RSA  
518-231-2151  
pastorsherrimv@gmail.com

**Wesley Joseph**  
Retreat Logistics  
845-549-0104  
wt.joseph@gmail.com

**Nancy Ryan**  
Head Coach  
reverend.nancy.ryan@gmail.com

Visit our website:

[www.nyfaithwalking.com](http://www.nyfaithwalking.com)



## Glory Day

Great Escape Upstate New York Christian Family Day

June 16, 2018

A Day Full of Great Entertainment



Glory Day Buffet Menu—noon to 2:00pm  
hamburgers, chicken tenders, macaroni & cheese, tossed salad, dill pickle spears, potato chips,  
assorted coca-cola beverages, ice cream novelties

\$42.99 plus tax- theme park admission, parking, live concerts & buffet

\$13.49 plus tax– season pass holders and members—includes Glory Day live concerts & buffet

\$29.50 plus tax– Glory day, theme park admission & parking only

Tickets may be purchased individually, tickets not purchased prior to June 16 will have an increased cost of \$5.00 per ticket day of the event.

To order tickets in advance online go to:  
[www.sixflags.com/gloryday](http://www.sixflags.com/gloryday)  
use promo code SRC

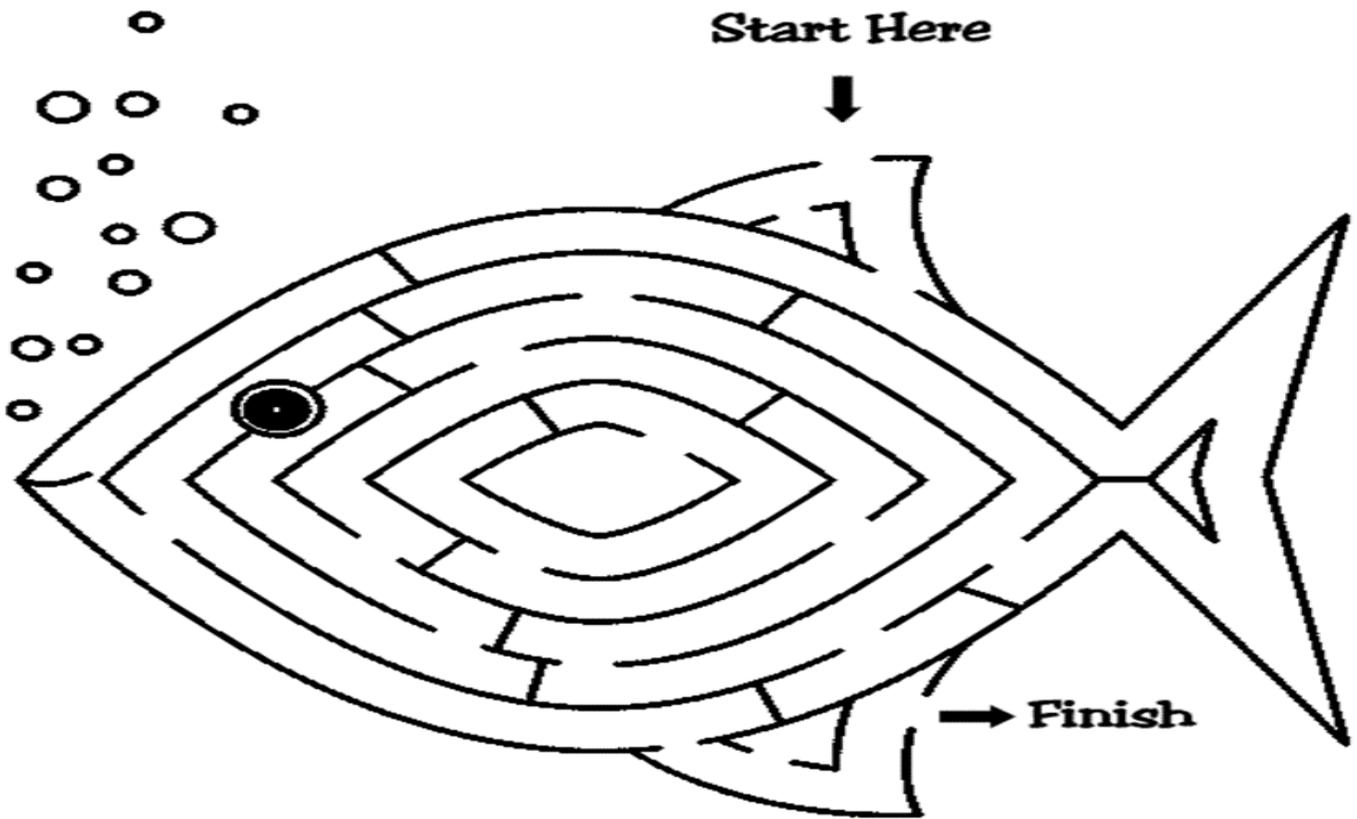
For more information:  
[www.sixflags.com/gloryday](http://www.sixflags.com/gloryday)  
518-824-8923





## Kids Fun

Complete the maze and then color the fish your favorite color.  
Then bring your finished picture to hang up in the Narthex.



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