



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

June 2021

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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"In Step with The Spirit"

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."-Galatians 5:25

Have you ever bought a piece of fruit in the store that you were really excited about? You bought it because it just looked so delicious, it was bright and shiny, full of life and color, and smelled really good! Then you got it home, placed it on the counter assuring yourself that you would enjoy it soon.

But then...

Life got busy and it seemed like every time you looked at that piece of fruit on the counter it just wasn't the right time to sit down and enjoy it. "Later." You told yourself. "I will enjoy it much more later." But then when later came you felt more like ice cream, or popcorn, and not fruit. Then after a while in all the distractions and the busyness of life you forgot about it.

Until...

You notice fruit flies fluttering about your counter. You swat them away and look for the source, and there it is on your counter. What was once bright and beautiful and smelled so delicious is now brown, wrinkled, molded, and rotting. The piece of fruit that you looked forward to enjoying in your stomach is now only good to be fed to the compost bin or the trash can.

Maybe this has never happened to you with edible fruit, but this illustration is meant to help us (pun intended) plant the seeds to remind us it can happen with the fruit of the Spirit if we don't attend to them or to our relationship with the Holy Spirit in our lives. I (Pastor Mike) have greatly enjoyed our journey through the fruit of the Spirit over these past several weeks. (If you are interested you can check them out on our church website: www.schohariereformedchurch.org.) Each Sunday we have gathered for worship and have focused on a specific fruit of the Spirit. We have learned about what each one means, why they are important, and we have wrestled with some challenging questions about what it means for us to grow and to live by these fruits in our lives. It has (here comes another pun) been a very fruitful time! This series was inspired by a Faithwalking podcast series of conversations led by our friend Ken Shuman. We invite you to listen to these conversations and you can find them at: <https://www.faithwalking.us/series/fruit-of-the-spirit/>

Growing the fruits of the Spirit in our lives is something that is our responsibility to take on as beloved children of God and as faithful followers of Jesus. While it is the fruit "of" the Spirit, it is not something we simply sit back and receive from God and are then set for life. Growing and nurturing these fruits and our relationship with the Spirit is our work to do. It is our work to decide how we will live by these fruits in our lives. It is our work to open ourselves to the work of the Spirit in us. It is our work to confront the voices of shame telling us "You're not enough" and the voices of pride telling us "You don't need this." It is our work to admit with honesty, courage, and compassion when we have not lived by these fruits in ways we desired and have made messes because of it. It is our work to ask for the help when we need it, and it is our work to encourage one another as we live and work together in Christ's shared mission of bringing wholeness to the world.

Leaving the Fruit of the Spirit on the counter of our lives will rob us of the joy of living "in step with the Spirit" as Paul writes in Galatians. It will also leave us hungering for the fuller life God desires to give us. Let us seek not just to learn about the Fruit of the Spirit (as good as that is), but also seek to make our relationship with the Spirit, and the fruits that grow from it a part of our everyday lives. It will take some patience (just like the fruit) because change isn't easy and doesn't come right away, and we will never do it perfectly. It will take hard work, courage, and compassion along the way. But the more we can engage in living in the Spirit, the more this fruit will become a part of our lives as a blessing to us and to the world around us. To me (last pun I promise) that sounds very "appealing"!

Working to stay in step with the Spirit,

Pastors Mike and Sherri





Summer Worship & Special Worship

Worshipping during the month of July and August will continue in the sanctuary at 10:00am with coffee hour to follow in the community room.

Sunday, July 4th, worship will be held outdoors, please bring your lawn chair; in the event of in-climate weather worship will be held in the sanctuary.



Schoharie Reformed Church

to celebrate our
300th Birthday

The 300th Anniversary Committee is working hard on making this 300th birthday celebration exciting and a fun time. Below is a list of just some of the things we are planning:

- a car wash and bake sale for the kids to run
- a drive-thru chicken bbq
- participating in the village-wide garage sale
- a different sermon (one a month Sept – Dec) on the 1700s – 2000s
- outreach basketball tournament and dedication of a gift to our community

Come to our meetings. We need your creativity and help.

Our next meetings are planned for Wednesday, June 9th and Tuesday, June 29th at 6:30 to be held in the Heritage House.



Thank you to all the church walkers for helping spread the word during the Schoharie Memorial Day Parade, Thursday, May 27th.

Schoharie Christian After School Program

The advisory committee for the After School Program met on May 4th to discuss end of the year plans. Thankfully, we have received a 2nd PPP loan to help cover our employee's salaries. We decided to hold an end-of-year celebration for the children on June 22nd. Due to COVID restrictions, we felt that it was best not to invite all the families this year. Instead, the children will enjoy cookies, watermelon, and lemonade. We are so grateful to each of our staff members who have worked to keep our children safe and healthy throughout the past school year!



Have a great

Summer
Vacation!



Amazon Smile

With fathers day, graduations, weddings and other summer events please remember SRC when ordering on Amazon. Amazon Smile will donate a portion of your eligible purchases to Schoharie Reformed Church at no cost to you!" What a great way to help financially support our church when you visit: www.smile.amazon.com



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Congratulations Graduates

Schoharie Reformed Church would like to congratulate:



Autumn Parks
And
Justin Lawyer



The class of 2021



Bode Family News



June 2021

The Bode family will be in the States this summer. Josh isn't vaccinated yet, which is limiting in-person visiting plans, but for starters we want to invite you all to...

Join us for conversation over Zoom about what's been going on in the mission in Oman.

Please spread the word! All are invited.

Log on to any of the following sessions. Each session will begin with the same presentation. 60-90 minute gatherings. If you can't stay the whole time, just come by for a bit!



Via Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84447908200?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84447908200?pwd=ei9XdnhJQm10bENjRDkxM28weWFYdz09)
[pwd=ei9XdnhJQm10bENjRDkxM28weWFYdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84447908200?pwd=ei9XdnhJQm10bENjRDkxM28weWFYdz09)

Meeting ID: 844 4790 8200
Passcode: bodesoman

Tuesday, June 22, 7:00pm EST
Thursday, June 24, 7:00pm EST
Tuesday, June 29, 7:00pm EST
Thursday, July 1, 7:00pm EST



Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp



July 19—23, 2021



The Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp Planning Committee is counting down the days until we welcome back in-person campers for the week of July 19-23! We only have a few openings remaining for campers, so be sure to register on the website ASAP

<https://www.schohariereformedchurch.org/camp>

We are also still in need of volunteers to help us pull off a great week! If you might be interested in serving as a counselor, or helping with maintenance and cleaning, traffic control, or snack preparation, please reach out to our Directors, Kathryn and Michaela, at:

schoharievalleycommunitycamp@gmail.com

Please keep the day camp team in your prayers as we work to create the safest environment for our campers, volunteers, and staff. It has been a challenging year, but we are so excited to bring a little bit of normalcy back to the village this summer!



Camp Supplies Drive

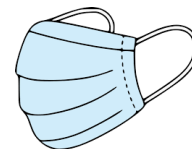
Sunday, June 27th



Wish List:



- * Toilet Paper
- * Paper Towels
- * Disinfecting Wipes
- * Latex Gloves
- * Disposable Masks



Donations can be placed in the box in the Narthex. We appreciate your generosity and support! Any unused supplies will be donated to the Food Pantry.



Thank You

Dear Prayer Warriors,

Berta, Ryan, Dave and I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your prayers and support of Brendan's birth and growth. We do not know what we would have done without you at such a difficult and traumatic time; most especially during the pandemic. Brendan is, without a doubt, a miracle and testimony to the power of prayer! From his 2lbs, 3oz. birth to his amazing growth and development. He is now 5 months old and weighs 13+ pounds and is indeed a blessing. Thank you again for sharing this journey with us; we could not have made it through without your love and support. With love and Blessings! Stacey DeLaney .

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation. You answered our call to walk alongside the people of India as they struggle with the overwhelming impact of Covid-19 on their healthcare system, on their economy, and on their lives.

All over the world, countries have faced the global impact of Covid-19. But right now, the scale of loss in India from this pandemic is heartbreaking and unfathomable. As God's faithful you have chosen, through your gift, to extend love to our brothers and sisters in India. You have answered God's call to love they neighbor.

I am confident that you will continue to keep the people of India in your prayers. May God bless you and your family always.

With hope for the future, Carol Bremer-Bennett, World Renew Co-Director

Dear Schoharie Reformed Church,

We would like to express our sincere thanks for your contribution to Scho-Wright Ambulance Services, Inc. It is gratifying to know that the work we do merits the support of many friends.

Very truly yours, Joanne; Scho-Wright Ambulance Services, Inc.



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry strives hard to serve the many families in our community. Items of great need are cleaning supplies, paper products-paper towels/toilet paper. Personal hygiene items such as hand soap, toothpaste, shampoo and shower soaps are also needed. Non-perishable items such as canned fruits & vegetables, boxed macaroni & cheese, tuna fish, pasta, pasta sauce, canned ravioli/beef stew/soup/spaghetti o's/chili with beans, applesauce, instant potatoes, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, jello packs, pudding packs. With school ending, many children will be home for the summer; kid friendly snacks such as granola bars, fruit snacks, juice packs, & snack crackers are great items to have available. Items may be dropped off at SUPC on Tuesdays or Thursday from 12noon till 2:00pm or they may be left between the doors of the educational building. Monetary donations are appreciated as well, checks may be written to "Schoharie Valley Food Pantry". If you would like to volunteer with the Food Pantry, please contact Diane Walion 518-868-4629. **The Food Pantry is open Tuesday & Thursdays, 12-2pm.** The Food Pantry would like to thank everyone for your support and donations, your help makes the Food Pantry successful in helping our community!



Announcements

Consistory: will meet Thursday, June 17th at 6:30pm in Heritage House.

Aluminum Tabs for the Shriners: - Aluminum tabs are continuing to be collected to help offset Shriners Hospital patient cost. Tabs may be left on the table in the Narthex, or at the Church Office. Thank you for your donations.

Electronics Recycling Continues: Please continue to save your used printer cartridges and cell phones for recycling. The printer cartridges are being submitted to a recycling firm which in exchange provides a donation to the church. These items maybe left at the church office.

Updating Information: We want to stay in touch with you. To continue to stay in touch we are asking you to update any new contact information for yourself or a family by contacting your Care Elder or our church office at 518-295-8177. If you have a new address, phone number or email address please share that information so we may stay in touch.

Clothing Shed: The clothing drop-off shed is open and located in the parking lot of Heritage House, it may be accessed at any time to accept your donations. This provides a convenient and clean program that serves the community while helping SRC financially. Thank you to all for your continued support.

Graduation: As we look forward to another school year ending, graduation commencements will be held on Saturday, June 26th for Schoharie Central School: Friday Evening June 25th for Middleburgh Central School & Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School. Please check individual school websites for complete details. We congratulate all!

The Lily Park: Will host it's 4th annual lily festival Saturday, July 10th, 10am to 3pm at the Lily Park. This event is open to all.



Camp Fowler

...Camp Fowler is at its best! We offer a variety of week-long sessions for different age groups, ranging from 3rd grade through 12th grade. Each week provides a different twist on a classic summer camp experience. Campers can choose from our two different programs: Residential Camp and Wilderness Camp.

For more information and to register visit: www.campfowler.org

Schoharie Reformed Church encourages and supports kids to go to camp! Camp Fowler in Speculator, NY is our overnight church camp. Partial scholarships from SRC may be available, contact us for more information at 518-295-8177



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June 2021

**COME
WORSHIP**
with us!

