



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

March 2019

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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April Newsletter Deadline

March 25th



*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day*



Healing for Wholeness:

A Lenten journey from hurting to hope

"Jesus answered them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.'"

– Luke 5:31

One of the hardest parts of being human in the world is dealing with the wounds that weigh us down and the struggles we all share. We are all in need of healing, and not just physical healing, but healing from things like perfectionism, busyness, shame, disillusionment, judgementalism, loss, and other realities for our hearts, and our lives.

The more we look out at the state of our world today, and the state of how we are living our lives and treating one another as human beings, the more I am convinced that we are a society in need of deep healing. So often we attribute healing mainly to our physical needs, and that type of healing is certainly important to many of us. But other types of healing for our lives can also be equally important to us. Many of us need healing from a past that has left us continually struggling with the shame of not feeling like we're enough. Or perhaps we are in need of healing from the belief that our worth is dependent on what we produce and so we keep ourselves endlessly and exhaustively busy. Or maybe it is healing from a hardened heart from which we react with judgementalism towards "others." Some of us may need healing from disappointment with God that has left us disillusioned, or healing from a fear of failure that is driving our perfectionism, or

perhaps just the pain and loneliness that comes from loss we experience as a part of being human.

As we follow Jesus during this season of Lent on his way to the cross, we will encounter the ways in which Jesus experiences in himself and in others the struggles of perfectionism, busyness, shame, disillusionment, judgementalism, and loss. Our hope is that you will be able to experience some level of healing and wholeness for your life and for your relationships as we look at our lives and our world through the lens of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

During this season of Lent our tradition often looks at spiritual practices that involve giving something up like chocolate, or fatty foods, or Facebook. If this is an important and helpful practice for your own journey through Lent then we definitely want to encourage you to take part in it. But if you are looking for a new way to engage the journey of Lent this year, we want to invite you to think about taking on a practice that might bring some healing to your life. What might be something you could try on for this season of Lent that would help some healing and "Wholeness" to your life with God?

I (Pastor Mike) have come to recognize that both exercise and art bring a stronger sense of wholeness to my own life so I have been thinking about what it might mean for me to make these things more of a disciplined and spiritual practice for Lent. This may mean setting a more intentional time of exercise or perhaps praying while I exercise each day of Lent. It may also mean keeping an art journal for Lent or drawing a prayer each day, I'm not fully sure yet, but I think you get the idea. So, what is it for you as you think about your own life? It could be a walk each day, or contacting friends, it could be time alone, or music, or cooking. What helps you connect more of who you are with more of who God is, and then see how that might be practiced during Lent, because again, the reality is, we are all in need of healing!

The words below are from a hymn written by John Bell and it comes from the Iona Community in Scotland where we spent a week in retreat during our sabbatical. We will be singing it as a part of our Ash Wednesday service and we hope you will get to hear it a couple more times during this season of Lent. It is entitled, "We cannot measure how you heal." We pray and hope that we will all experience God's healing for our bodies, hearts, minds, souls, and lives through the love and mercy of Jesus Christ during this Lenten Season.

*We cannot measure how you heal or answer every sufferer's prayer;
Yet we believe your grace responds where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross, survive to hold and heal and warn,
To carry all through death to live and cradle children yet unborn.*

*The pain that will not go away, the guilt that clings from things long past,
The fear of what the future holds, and present as if meant to last.
But present too is love, which tends the hurt we never hoped to find,
The private agonies inside, the memories that haunt the mind.*

*So some have come who need your help and some have come to make amends,
As hands which shaped and saved the world are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here to mend the body, mind, and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain, and make your broken people whole.*

Have a Blessed Lent,

Pastor Mike and Pastor Sherri



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 6th our Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service will be held at Schoharie United Presbyterian Church; 6pm Soup & Bread Potluck, 7pm Worship Service with Sign of the Ashes. Table setting will be provided, please bring a soup or bread if able. All are invited to attend.

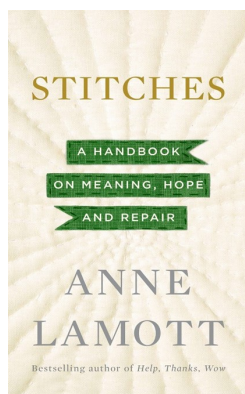


Choir for Lent



Are you interested in being part of a choir for Lent? Pastors Mike and Sherri are hoping to get together a choir to sing one small, simple song for each Sunday of Lent. No previous choir experience is necessary, just a desire to sing. We will meet to practice our first song briefly after worship on Sunday, March 3. Then we will practice again briefly on Sunday March 10th then we will figure out what works as we go forward into Lent. All are welcome!

Join us for a special small group this Lent!



Beginning Wednesday, March 13 and continuing on for each Wednesday until, April 10 you are invited to come and share together in a special evening Lenten small group book study. We will begin with a light soup and bread dinner in the Heritage House at 6:00pm. Then we will follow with a small group book study concluding no later than 8:00pm. The book we will be reading together is entitled, "Stitches" by Anne Lamott. The books are at no cost to you but if you would like to make a donation there is a suggestion of \$12.00. Most of all we want to encourage you to come, fellowship, learn and grow with us as we undertake the journey of Lent through this unique and gifted storyteller.

There is a sign-up sheet for soup and bread and as well as a sign-up sheet for books in the narthex. If you can't make the Wednesday small group but would still like to read the book than please sign-up for a copy as well. We hope to have you join us Wednesday nights this Lent!

Consistory Welcomes

Sunday, February 10th four members were voted to join our Consistory: MaryAnn Foland & Laura Stevens will serve as Deacons; Cindy Parks & Liza Toborg will serve as Elders. We are blessed to have these members join in leading our Church into the future.





Register Online at:
www.nyfaithwalking.com

June 2 – 4, 2019

5 pm - 5 pm

Camp Fowler

152 Pelcher Road,
Lake Pleasant, NY 12108

FAITH WALKING

**A Journey to
Live a Fully Human,
Fully Alive Life.**

Faithwalking 101 is the beginning of a spiritual formation journey that leads participants to take steps toward an integrated, missional life by developing awareness of the obstacles to such a life – personal and cultural – and overcoming them by practicing growing authenticity with God and in community. It is our deep conviction that the fully human, fully alive life to which Jesus calls us is missional.

Contacts

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2019 FW101 retreats:

Where & When

NY-NJ Trail Conference Headquarters,
600 Ramapo Valley Rd, Mahwah, NJ
(Hosted by Wyckoff Reformed Church)

Saturday, March 2, 9am-6pm and
Saturday, March 9, 9am-5:30pm
\$125 to attend both days

Camp Fowler, Speculator, NY

Sunday, Jun 2 through Tuesday **June 4**
\$250

Questions? Visit www.nyfaithwalking.com
Contact Rev. Dr. Sherri Meyer-Veen
PastorSherriMV@gmail.com
(518) 231-2151

Buildings & Grounds

This article is a reprint from the February newsletter. It is repeated for folks who missed it last month; and to share that I have already received some good feedback. Dave.

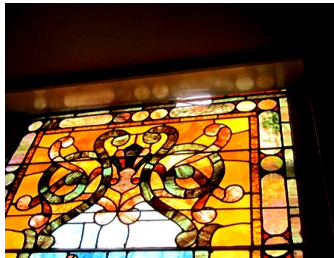
In my report at the Annual Congregational Meeting last month, I briefed folks on my initial research into maintenance and preservation of our nine stained glass windows. This is the largest building project on the horizon.

Our nine windows were a significant component of the 1894 major renovation of the Church building (which included the organ and pews). They are protected with circa 1980s wood-frame Plexiglass storm windows.

To date, one contractor has reviewed the windows and provided a proposal. He pointed out how age, gravity, and heat affect the windows – the lead lattice settles and sags to the point where gaps appear, glass cracks, and/or pieces fall out. This is easily seen on our windows. The five units with a southern or western exposure are particularly showing their age; and all the storm windows are rotting. That contractor proposed \$125,000 to completely rebuild the five worst windows, repair the other four (to extend their service life another 15 to 20 years), and install all new storm windows.



Cracked glass



Missing piece at top



Gap due to sagging

Obviously, this would be a significant undertaking and more research is necessary before any decision is made. My plan is to meet with other contractors, and identify alternatives such as doing nothing or installing plain glass windows.

The congregation needs to begin thinking and praying about our stewardship of the windows. What do they mean to our Church family? What is the best direction?

Fundraising will be needed. Are grants available? Are there unusual fundraising ideas that we don't typically think of? If this is important to you – ask God how you can help.

More to come.

In the meantime, please see me if you would like an in-person review of the windows.

David Toborg, 518-295-8554

Sunday School

March 3—Regular Sunday School
March 10—Regular Sunday School
March 17 – Special Activity
March 24—Regular Sunday School
March 31 – No Sunday School
April 7 – Special Activity
April 14 – Palm Sunday Parade
April 21 – No Sunday School (Easter)
April 28—Regular Sunday School
May 5 – Special Activity
May 12 – No Sunday School (Mother’s Day)
May 19—Regular Sunday School
May 26 – Last Day Sunday School with
Children’s Program & Church Picnic



Camp Fowler Family Retreat 3.0

August 23-25, 2019

Visit our Church website:

www.schohariereformedchurch.org

for more information and to register.

**Please save the dates and plan to
attend.**



Community Day Camp

July 15-19, 2019

Visit our Church website:

www.schohariereformedchurch.org

for more information and to register.

Announcements

Easter Egg Exhibit-will be open April 5-7, 12-14, 19-20, 2019 10am-5pm and April 21, 2019 12noon-5pm. Museum is located at the corner of Rte 30 & 443, Schoharie.

Community Day Camp-will be held July 15-19, 2019. Visit our Church website:
www.schohariereformedchurch.org for more information and to register.

Cobleskill Region Home & Garden Show-Sat., March 9th 10am—4pm, Sun., March 10th 11am-4pm. Cobleskill-Richmondville High School, 1353 NY Rte 7, Richmondville. For more information contact the Chamber at 518-295-8824 or admin@schohariechamber.com

Announcements

Perth Bible Church Women's Conference-“Breaking up with Perfect” will be held Saturday, March 23rd 9am-3:15pm. Speaker Amy Carroll will be examining how we get side tracked in the pursuit of working and meeting others' expectations. How to replace your best efforts with true goodness. Rejecting wrong beliefs that lead us to being over-worked or giving up. Developing a relationship with God that experiences joy and a closeness of acceptance. Cost is \$40 if purchased by March 13th or \$45 at the door. For more information contact Sherrie Gray.

Inviting All Women-Inspirational Speaker-Sharon Hagar, Monday, March 11th, 11:30am. Holiday Inn, Route 30A, N. Comrie Ave., Johnstown. \$16 (pay at the door-reservations needed). Chicken & Biscuits or Chef Salad, rolls, dessert, and coffee or tea. Special Music—Sharon Phillips. Complimentary child care is available upon request at time of reservation. For reservations, call Gloria 518-853-3126 or women2connect@yahoo.com Sponsored by Christian Women Connecting.

Women's Assembly-“Not all Traffic Lights are Green!”, Saturday, April 6th, 9am-2pm, doors open at 8:30am, lunch is included, Glen Reformed Church, 1526 St. Hwy. 161, Fultonham, NY. Keynote Speaker-Rev. Jan Hoffman, Capnote Speaker-Rev. Marcy Rudins, Music Leader-Rev. Karen Patterson. Registration fee of \$25 postmarked March 18th or earlier; Friends' Special: introduce a friend who has never attended & both of you come for \$40! Must be submitted together on separate forms and must be postmarked March 18th, 2019 or earlier. Late registration fee \$30, postmarked March 19-30, 2019. Additional information and registration forms in the SRC Church Narthex and Community Room or contact SRC office.

Church Directory-please help yourself to a copy of the new church directory in the Narthex. If there is any information that is incorrect or needs to be updated please contact the church office.

Technical Support Volunteers-we are in need of volunteers to assist with the technical support of our church sound board and the church website. If you would like to volunteer for one or both of these task please talk with Vince Smith or Jim Callahan. This is a great way to learn and offer assistance to your church family.

Offering envelopes— for 2019 are in the Narthex, please help yourself to your box. If you are unable to pick your offering envelopes up on a Sunday or have any questions please contact the church office. Thank you for your generosity.

Testimonies - We would like to celebrate the work God is doing in the life of our congregation. If you are feeling led to share a brief testimony about what God is doing in your life, please speak with one of the Pastors.

Church Flowers-You may wish to grace our sanctuary with flowers for a Sunday Worship service. This may be to celebrate, honor or in memory of a loved one. The church flowers are a wonderful way to share beauty and blessings with your church family. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for your week(s) of choice. There is no individual cost for these arrangements but you may choose to make a donation towards your selection. If you have any questions or need assistance to sign up, please contact the church office.

Announcements

Aluminum Tabs-Please continue to bring can tabs to the church and you may leave them in the Narthex. The tabs will then be processed, proceeds will be used to offset patient cost.

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

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 You

Our Congregation would like to thank Katherine Storms and Jim Ingleson for playing the organ during Vince Smith's absence. We were blessed to have them be part of our Worship Service. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome back Vince and Sue Smith.



The City Mission thanks you for your generous gift received in January 2019. Winter creates many challenges and opportunities at the City Mission. Because of partners like you we are able to help our neighbors with essential services. Together Giving Hope, Michael Saccocio, Executive Director.

Reformed Church in America would like to thank you for your commitment to the Partnership-in-Mission for Joshua and Erica Bode. In our we state that, as members of the RCA, our task is to "follow Christ in mission in a lost and broken world so loved by God." Our missionaries and mission partners are carrying out that call throughout the world. They need your prayers and your support as you come around them in their work and efforts. Blessings and Peace.



Schoharie Reformed Church

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