



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

March 2022

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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Running on Empty:

"What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way God works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how God works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met."

-Matthew 6:31-33 The Message

*Gotta do what you can just to keep your love alive
Trying not to confuse it, with what you do to survive
In sixty-nine I was twenty-one and I called the road my own
I don't know when that road turned into the road I'm on
Running on (running on empty)
Running on (running blind)
Running on (running into the sun)
But I'm running behind*

-Jackson Browne, Running on Empty

If you drive, then it has probably happened to you. You get into the car to go somewhere and you never think to check. You just hop in, you never think to check. You just hop in, buckle up, and go on your way. You are driving along

for a while happily listening to the radio, or talking on the phone (hands free of course), or watching the world go by lost in thought when it happens – the light comes on, the car beeps, all to let you know that you are low on gas.

At that moment we immediately assess where we are, quickly calculate how far it is to our destination, and imaginatively guess at how much fuel is actually left in our tank. Then we decide if we should start looking for a gas station to refuel, or if we just keep going.

Wouldn't it be great if our lives came with a "low-fuel" light or something in us beeped, to let us know that we needed to refuel our lives, nourish our souls, or deepen our faith. Well...we do! What do some of your "low-fuel" signals look like? Perhaps some of those signals have been made more-clear during this extended time of pandemic? Signals can be things like an inability to focus, a lack of empathy, a physical and emotional fatigue, and an increasing desire to "check-out," a shorter temper, a struggle to put the necessary effort into things or to simply put things off.

The other thing to wonder about is why we are sometimes resistant to our own refueling? Why do we instead choose to continue – as Jackson Browne so wonderfully sings it – running on empty?

There can be any number of reasons for this. For some of us it can be fear. Fear of what might change, fear of letting others down, fear of things not getting done, or fear of losing our sense of worth. For others of us it can be the avoidance of doing hard work. It is work to tend to our souls, it is work to care for ourselves, it takes effort and energy that we just don't have, or we just don't want to give, and it doesn't come as easy or as satisfying as just "soothing" or "escaping" does. Not that these are bad things in themselves. Sometimes soothing and escaping are very necessary but these things by themselves will not refuel our lives. For others it can be a lack of knowing. We have been running on empty for so long we just don't know what it looks like to do anything different, so we just keep on going doing what we've only ever known to do hoping this time it will work the way we desire.

As we enter into this Season of Lent our journey this year is entitled, "Full to The Brim." It is the reminder that we are loved by a God of "Lavish Love and Abundant Beauty" as the hymn reminds us. We are invited during Lent to notice where our "low-fuel" light has turned on and to stop running on empty, that we might encounter the God of abundance who desires to fill our lives with hope, love, mercy, justice, kindness, peace, joy, and goodness. This same abundance filled the life of Jesus and directed him throughout his ministry leading up to the cross and his death and resurrection.

Lent invites us to take up Jesus' words as beautifully paraphrased by The Message to, "*Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions.*" Here is how the authors of our Lenten series, "Full to the Brim" describe it:

"Full to the Brim is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path."

We look forward to sharing in this journey of Lent with all of you and experiencing the God who calls us to stop running on empty, that our lives may be full to the brim with all that God desires to pour out into our lives that it may overflow to a world in need.

Seeking God's Abundance,

Pastors Mike and Sherri



A Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.
May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.
Amen.

Written by: CAFOD – Catholic Agency for Overseas Development



A Warm Welcome

We would like to welcome our new church secretary, Kirstie Fidler, Kirstie began February 15, 2022. Kirstie will be in the office Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:30am-1:30pm, please feel free to contact her at the church office 518-295-8177 with any questions or if in the area feel free to stop in the office to welcome Kirstie. When Kirstie is not in the office she enjoys spending time with her dog Piper.



Communion Class



Want to learn more about Communion? Our third Communion Class for elementary age children will be held on Sunday, March 6th at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All children are encouraged to join us. Don't worry if you missed the first two classes! We can catch you up! Future classes will be held on March 27th and April 3rd. If you have any questions, please contact Liza Toborg at (518) 295-8554.

The Communion program is entitled "We Gather Together". It is a fun, hands-on, creative, and Biblical way to help kids understand the meaning, importance, and celebration of communion. The program teaches the meaning of the bread and cup, and the ways they relate to Jesus, our faith, and God's great love for us. On Sunday, April 3rd the children will meet with the elders of the church during their review class. Then, they will get to help celebrate communion during the 10:00am worship service.

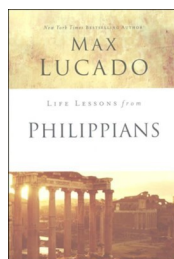
At the Schoharie Reformed Church, as a part of the Reformed Church in America, we believe that all children are welcome at the Lord's Table, and the integrity of the table is the responsibility of the elders. We believe it is important for every child who comes to the Lord's Table to have a basic understanding of what the sacrament of Holy Communion is and what it means for us to receive it. We hope that many of our children will be able to participate in this exciting opportunity! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Mike or Pastor Sherri at (518) 295-8177 or by email: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com.

Bible Study

Need more joy in your life? Come join us for a new Bible study exploring the book of Philippians and learning how Paul found joy even in the midst of extremely difficult circumstances. We will be using the book, Life Lessons from Philippians, by Max Lucado. Pick up your copy in the Narthex or contact Liza Toborg at (518) 295-8554. There is no charge for the books. We will meet beginning on Monday, March 7th at 7 PM in the Heritage House. On March 7th we will be looking at the first chapter of the book and discussing Philippians 1:1-11. We will continue meeting each Monday through May 23rd. To be led by Liza Toborg.

All are invited to attend.

Dessert will be provided.



Financial Update

In January 2022 the Church was at an operations loss of \$8,005.20.

The Stained-glass window fund to date is at \$75,275.00 cash received, a \$15,000 grant was approved.

We need fundraising volunteers to assist with fundraising events to be able to complete our goal for the stained-glass window repairs. Volunteers may contact Cindy Parks at 518-295-7419.

Submitted by: Maryann Foland



Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp

The Day Camp planning team met on February 10th. We are pleased to announce that we have selected a curriculum for this summer. We will be using Spark Studios by Lifeway which focuses on creativity shown through God's workmanship.

Registration for campers will be open in late March or early April. Please check out the church website: www.schohariereformedchurch.org or our Facebook page: *Schoharie Valley Community Camp* for updated information.

The push is on to find volunteers to serve in many capacities this summer. We are currently looking for counselors to guide the children through daily activities as well as a nurse.

There are also several paid positions that will need to be filled. We are looking for an Assistant Director for the overall camp as well as a Grade 1 & 2 Assistant Director and Pre-K/K Assistant Director. Other positions to be filled include Assistant Chaplain, Day Camp Recreation Leader, Morning Camp Recreation Leader, Day Camp Nature Leader, Morning Camp Nature Leader, Day Camp Arts & Crafts Leader, and Morning Camp Arts & Crafts Leader. Please check out the church website at www.schohariereformedchurch.org for the job descriptions and application forms.

Our next meeting will be on March 10th at 6:30 PM. Please contact Liza Toborg if you are interested in volunteering or would like the Zoom link to attend the meeting.



Food Pantry



Many families are in need of extra help; the Food Pantry is continuing to work hard to serve the many families in our community. With many families facing the high cost of winter heating expenses, non-perishable items such as canned fruits, boxed macaroni & cheese, tuna fish, pasta, pasta sauce, canned ravioli/beef stew/soup/spaghetti o's/chili with beans, canned vegetables, applesauce, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, jello packs, pudding packs, granola bars, fruit snacks, juice packs, & snack crackers. Additional items of need are cleaning supplies, paper products-paper towels/toilet paper, personal hygiene items such as hand soap, toothpaste, shampoo and shower soaps. Items may be left in our Narthex or 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". Volunteers are needed, 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!





SRC Bottle Drive—Fund Raiser



Please save your bottles and cans!

The SRC fund-raising committee is continuing with fund-raising events as we strive to meet our goal to repair the stained-glass windows in our Sanctuary. There will be an upcoming community-wide bottle drive for the whole community at a date yet to be determined. Please begin saving your bottles and cans and soon you will be able to bring them to church and we will store them in our shed. Volunteers will be needed for this event.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Cindy Parks at 518-295-7419.

Thank you!



Thank You



Dear Family & Friends of the Schoharie Reformed Church,
I would like to thank all for the opportunity I received to work with you during my time as secretary for the church. It has been a wonderful experience of learning and growth in God's eyes. As I may have known some of your prior, this offered a new experience for me. I will miss all of you very much, but I need to take this opportunity as I retire to enjoy time with my husband and family.

Blessings to all,
Stephanie

Dear Schoharie Reformed Church,
Thank you for your generous gift received on 1/31/22. Your gift to Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Capital Region will allow us to continue our mission of delivering and supporting programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and families.
Gratefully, David E. Jacobsen, Psy.D. Chief Executive Officer

Dear Schoharie Reformed Church,
Thank you for your generous donation to Houston Responds for Winter Storm Uri. Thank you for practicing the discipline of giving and investing in God's work for Houston Responds.
Sincerely, Houston Responds

Dear Friends,
In 2021, we continued programs including the Kindness Cart at the Children's Hospital, pajamas at Christmas, reverse trick-or-treating, and continued to grow the Lil' Craft Cart. Aside from these programs, we also continued to grow our reach into the community. Thank you for your continued support.
Tryon Family Foundation

Schoharie Reformed Church
258 Main Street
PO Box 635
Schoharie, NY 12157

Rev. Mike & Rev. Dr. Sherri Meyer-Veen

Phone: (518) 295-8177

Fax: (518) 295-8105

email: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com

Website: www.schohariereformedchurch.org

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