



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

March 2021

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



What's Inside

| | |
|--|-----|
| Pastor's Message | 1-2 |
| Holy Week Schedule | 3 |
| Food Pantry | 3 |
| SRC 300 th Anniversary | 4 |
| Care Elders Thank You | 4 |
| Testimonies | 4 |
| Wednesday Lenten Worshipping Together | 4 |
| Updating Information | 4 |
| Buildings & Grounds | 4 |
| Thank You's | 5 |
| Announcements | 5 |
| Easter Plants | 6 |



Confronted by The Cross:

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it." - Mark 8:34-35

I imagine that many of us, no matter our age, can recall those familiar scenes from the Disney movie *Snow White*, where the queen goes to her magic mirror and calls to it by saying, "Mirror, Mirror, on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?" As I reflect on those scenes and the character of the magic mirror and its relationship with the queen there are two things that I think are true. The first is that no matter how intimidating the queen tried to be, no matter how angry she became, and no matter what question she asked of it, the mirror always told the truth. The second is that for the queen, this truth at times was really, really hard to hear. After all, it led to creating a poison apple for Snow White!

I think the relationship between the queen and the magic mirror from *Snow White* illustrates for us how hard it is to be challenged, confronted, or to have truth spoken into our lives. The reality is that for many of us we prefer to live life from the safety and security of our own comfort zones rather than be challenged by the truth. We don't often make



space to be challenged in our lives. It is more common to seek out and surround ourselves with voices that agree with us, or affirm us, or flatter us rather than make room with courage and curiosity for voices that confront us.

The truth is that we need voices and places in our lives where we are challenged and able to be confronted in order to experience growth, change, and transformation in our lives. In the work of Faithwalking part of the process of coaching is called, "holding up the mirror." It involves us opening ourselves with courage and curiosity to places where we are feeling challenged or confronted by God.

I imagine it must have been really hard for Peter to hear, "Get Behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things" (Mark 8:33). Yet I believe Jesus did not intend to shame, or condemn, or to reject Peter, but to strongly confront him in his need to change his thinking about what it meant for Jesus to be the Messiah. I wonder what you or I would have needed to hear Jesus clearly, without defensiveness or shame in that moment?

Jesus then goes on to say, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." In many ways, following Jesus means growing our capacity to be challenged, confronted, and to create space and opportunity for God to speak truth into our lives for our own transformation as disciples.

How often do we approach God with open hearts to be confronted, or intentionally create space to allow God to show us what needs to be changed or challenged? Similar to how David prayed in the Psalms, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24). What keeps you from being authentic and vulnerable with God? How do you open your own life to being more fully examined by God with courage and curiosity, without shame or blame?

Growing our capacity to allow God to speak truth into our lives is important for our own growth, change, and transformation. AND at times it is really hard work. For myself (Pastor Mike) I need to keep confronting my own voices of shame that tend to keep me stuck. I need to confront the lies that say, "There's something wrong with you." Or "You are not enough," when wants to God speak truth into my life. We might also be tempted to think that God will reject us, or abandon us, or be mad at us if we open ourselves up to meeting God in this way. But in these times, we can remember that God desires not our hurting but our wholeness.

This year our theme for Lent is entitled, "Confronted by The Cross." Jesus does a lot of confronting on his journey to the cross and all of it is meant to grow, challenge, and change the hearts and minds of the disciples, the religious leaders, and all of the others that Jesus encounters. Lent is a season of repentance and prayer where we have a special opportunity to be confronted by God for our own growth and transformation. How will you open your heart to being confronted by the cross? How might you approach God with courage, compassion, and curiosity to explore the places where you might be confronted, challenged, or changed? We don't have magic mirrors, but we have something even better. We have a God who desires us to grow and to become our best selves by following the way of Jesus!

Confronted by The Cross,

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri





Tentative Holy Week Calendar:

The Consistory along with input from the pastors is working hard to try and offer some special in-person and virtual services for Holy Week. All of this is conditional on the status of the pandemic but we are praying and preparing to try and offer some or all of these worship experiences for Holy Week!

Palm Sunday, March 28: Worship at 10:00am both in-person in the sanctuary and on Zoom. The in-person worship will require temperature checks, sign-in, masks, physical distancing, and no singing. It will also require a reservation to ensure a place in the sanctuary as there will be a limited number of spaces available.

Maundy Thursday, April 1: A video service created in conjunction with the churches of the Albany Presbytery similarly to Ash Wednesday service will be available for you to use anytime on Maundy Thursday. There will also be a Zoom gathering for reflection and fellowship at 7:00pm.

Good Friday, April 2: A video service will be available for you to use for worship anytime on Good Friday. The Sanctuary will also be open from 9:00am to 7:00pm for people to come wearing masks and distancing for prayer and to put a nail in the cross.

Easter Sunrise, April 4 – A video service will be available for you to use for worship at sunrise or anytime during Easter.

Easter Worship, April 4: An in-person worship service will be held at 8:00am and a dual, in-person and Zoom worship service will be held at 10:00am. The in-person worship will require temperature checks, sign-in, masks, physical distancing, and no singing. They will also require reservations in order to ensure a seat for either service as there will be a limited number of spaces available.

Once again, please remember these are our tentative plans and hopes for Holy Week. Stay tuned for more information to follow later in March.



Food Pantry



The Food Pantry continues to serve many families in our community. Special items of 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, are item always needed. With many schools having spring break the week after Easter; 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 SUPC 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!



SRC 300th Anniversary



This year the *Schoharie Reformed Church* will be celebrating its 300th Anniversary. We are looking for people to serve on an anniversary committee to help plan our celebrations for the church and community. If you are interested in being a part of planning this special celebration please speak with a member of consistory or Pastor Mike or Pastor Sherri . *Let's make it the best celebration we can!*

Care Elders

A thank you to our Care Elders: Cindy Parks, Larry Poulin, Liza Toborg and Sarah Goodrich for reaching out to our Church families during this difficult time with concerns for our families and event updates. Please feel free to contact your care elder at any time regarding any questions, concerns, or ways the church can minister to you, or contact the church office at 518-295-8177.

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 Pastor Mike; 518-231-6185 or Pastor Sherri; 518-231-2151 or contact the church office at 518-295-8177.

Updating Information

We want to stay in touch with you and our church family. 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 to stay in touch during these difficult times.

Wednesday Lenten Worshipping Together

All are invited to us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm through the season of Lent you are invited to join an evening of worshipping together via zoom or telephone.

The worship bulletin and Zoom link will be sent through the church email or the Wednesday zoom meeting id: 646-709-5356 or by phone 646-876-9923.

Buildings & Grounds

Grant \$ for rebuilding the Heritage House ramp

Last month, Schoharie Area Long Term (SALT) awarded us a \$300 grant through their Community Development Fund to help rebuild the Heritage House accessibility ramp. The money is intended to purchase pressure treated lumber, hangers, and fasteners. We will be doing the work ourselves. Thank you SALT.



Thank You

World Vision: Dear Friend, Thank you for generously empowering kids and families in 2020, an especially difficult year for us all. Your faithful support is equipping people to create lasting change for themselves and their communities and build resilience for the future. This year, so many cried out for a miracle. Thank you for walking with God and being part of His plan to care for the most vulnerable. With deep gratitude, Edgar Sandoval Sr., President, World Vision U.S.



Announcements



Consistory: will meet on Thursday evening, March 18th at 6:30pm.

Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp: Save the date, July 19-23, 2021. Updates will be posted to the SRC website: www.schohariereformedchurch.org/camp/

Clothing Shed: The clothing drop-off shed has reopened. This provides a convenient and clean donation program that serves the community while helping the SRC financially.

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 downstairs table in Heritage House Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday; 9am-1pm or on the bench on the front porch of Heritage House.

Covid 19 Vaccine: With the Covid 19 vaccine currently being distributed and as more phases begin to be offered you may find making an appointment on-line for a NYS run vaccination site frustrating and unsuccessful. You might also have questions like am I eligible? We would like to share the NYS Dept. of Health hotline phone number 1-833-697-4829 to assist with the scheduling of a Covid 19 vaccine shot. You may also visit the NYS Dept. of Health website for complete information regarding eligibility and availability of the vaccine. www.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov. You may also find assistance at Price Chopper-www.pricechopper.com/covidvaccine/, CVS-www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine, www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp, Hannaford-www.hannaford.com/pharmacy/covid-19-vaccine, Schoharie County Dept. of Health-www4.schohariecounty-ny.gov/departments/public-health/.

Newsletter: As we do our best to keep our newsletter reaching all, we do ask for your assistance to keep your mail and email addresses up to date. If you or someone you know is not receiving our newsletter please contact the church office at 518-295-8177 or email the office at: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com. You are invited to visit our church website: www.schohariereformedchurch.org to view our past newsletters.

Electronics Recycling Continues: Please continue to save your used printer cartridges and cell phones for recycling. These items maybe left on the downstairs table in Heritage House Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday; 9am-1pm or on the bench on the front porch of Heritage House.





Easter Plants

We will be offering Easter plants to decorate the sanctuary, celebrate and memorialize loved ones again this year. The cost will be \$10.00 per plant. Orders will need to be received by **Wednesday, March 24, 2021**. If you have any questions you may contact the church office.

Orders may be submitted by:

- completing & mailing this form with payment to: Schoharie Reformed Church, PO Box 635, Schoharie, NY 12157
- emailing the church office at: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com and mailing your payment to the church office
- calling the church office at 518-295-8177, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 8:30am-1:30pm

Name: _____

Phone Number _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of _____

In celebration of: _____

Number and color of plants:

Easter Lilies: White _____

Tulips: Red ___ Orange___ Yellow___ Pink___ Purple___ White___

Hyacinths: Pink,___ Blue___ White___

Daffodils: Yellow___ White___

Total Number of Plants _____ Amount Paid \$ _____ Amount Owed \$ _____

Make checks payable to 'Schoharie Reformed Church'

Thank you for helping to beautify our Easter services while remembering special loved ones.



Schoharie Reformed Church
258 Main Street
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

March 2021



**Sunday
Worship Service
Zoom and Pre-Recorded**