



# The Visitor

*Schoharie Reformed Church*

*May 2019*

*Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri*



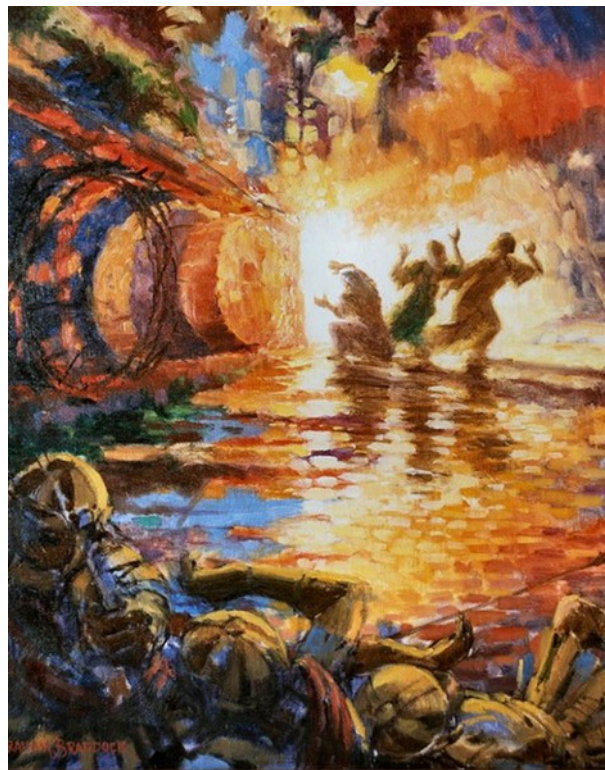
## What's Inside

<i>Pastor's Message</i>	1-2
<i>A Note From Pastor Sherri</i>	3
<i>Sunday School/</i>	
<i>Church Picnic</i>	4
<i>Church Flowers</i>	4
<i>Good Friday Movie Night</i>	4
<i>Food Pantry</i>	5
<i>Thank Yous</i>	5
<i>Day Camp</i>	6
<i>A New Goal</i>	7
<i>Faith Walking</i>	7
<i>Announcements</i>	8

*June Newsletter Deadline  
May 27th*



## Living Resurrection!



*"Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be frightened!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified, but he isn't here! For he has come back to life again, just as he said he would. Come in and see where his body was lying... And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and that he is going to Galilee to meet them there. That is my message to them."*

*- Matthew 28:5-7NLT*

In each Gospel account there are things that are unique to that storyteller's perspective of the events that occurred on that first Easter morning at the tomb. One of the things I (Pastor Mike) find interesting about Matthew's account is the invitation of the angel to the women to come and take a look inside the tomb

(because the word of a divinely illuminated cosmic being wouldn't be enough to convince them!). But it makes sense when you think about the fact that what happened through Jesus' death and resurrection completely rewrites our entire understanding of reality as it relates to death and life. None of them had any concept of this even being a possibility, which is why they could not understand his words to them about this while he was alive. Nothing like it had happened before or would ever happen again. Then the women are sent on ahead to tell the rest of the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and that he is going to Galilee to meet them there. Imagine receiving that news! Not only is Jesus alive, but he is coming to see you!

For most of us Christians, Easter is a glorious day of celebration where we sing the great uplifting hymns of our tradition and hear the familiar story, and then later we may hunt for eggs and stuff ourselves on good food. All of this is truly a wonderful time of celebration. But in the life of the church, Easter is not just a day – it is a whole season. In fact, the season of Easter lasts all the way up until Pentecost – 50 days! During those fifty days we often reflect on the stories of Jesus' appearances following his resurrection.

Why do we need a whole season of Easter? It is for more than just finishing off the leftovers! I am continually learning resurrection as a new reality. It isn't something we are meant to just believe. It is more than a "knowledge" we claim for our lives. It is a new reality we are called to intentionally live into as a way of being!

Often during times of failure or struggle I (Pastor Mike) all too easily return to old stories of shame, deficiency, and powerlessness, where my reality gets distorted through lenses of blame and shame. For me it is not enough just to "tell a new story" because the old stories have too much history, power, and sway over my being. So, what do I do? I am finding that I am in need of not only trying to convince myself of a new story – but I am in need of the daily practice of living into a new story. As Richard Rohr says, "*We don't think ourselves into new ways of living. We live ourselves into new ways of thinking.*" On Easter Sunday, Pastor Sherri's sermon also included a video clip from Richard Rohr who spoke about the reality that we as human beings are more naturally inclined towards the telling disempowering stories and running away from resurrection (the two heavenly beings at the tomb in Luke's Gospel ask – "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Luke 24:5). Instead, Rohr goes on to state, we as people need to continually and intentionally turn our lives towards the hope of resurrection.

That is why the angel doesn't just say, "Jesus is Risen!" And then leave them with that bit of good news – as glorious as it is! They are to go and tell the story and to be prepared to meet Jesus because Resurrection is not only the good news we celebrate, it is the good life we are invited into through lives lived out in love, forgiveness, generosity, service, and justice with God and others.

Friends, during this Easter Season, may we come to know more deeply this reality of resurrection that has rewritten our reality. May we know it not just in our heads, or in our hearts, but through our lives that we may grow into being resurrection people who live a new story of life from death. This is the hope that is given to each of us through the power of Christ's resurrection. It is not just a new life after this one, it is a real and practical hope that is meant to give power to our lives here and now as we live our lives!

Living Into the Hope of Easter,

*Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri*





## *A Note From Pastor Sherri*

This has been such a strange season of life for me these last two and half years as I've struggled with my body, including having 4 surgeries. Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, emails, text messages, phone calls, and all of the ways you have been caring for me. I appreciate it so much, and feeling your love and knowing I am surrounded in prayers truly sustains me and helps me heal.

The recent surgery was successful, finding and removing two adhesions. I am on the road to recovery and "back to work," working from home this week as I am able. The doctor has cleared me, with the exception of 6 weeks of lifting restrictions and to rest as needed.

Some of you have been honest enough to share that your concern for me has meant you have "not wanted to bother you." Please know that meaningful work and relating with others has been a part of what keeps me going! I will continue to discern what I am able and unable to do, given my physical condition, which we are praying will continue to improve. Please give me that opportunity! You are good medicine! It is not possible for you to "bother me!" I want to hear what is happening with you, and your life as we all continue to "Live in Love and Grow in God" together.

In Deep Gratitude and Appreciation,

*Pastor Sherri*





## Sunday School /All Church Picnic

May 5 – Special Activity

May 12 – No Sunday School (Mother’s Day)

May 19—Regular Sunday School

May 26 – Regular Sunday School

**June 2—Last Day Sunday School with  
Children’s Program & Church Picnic**

Note: Since May 26th is during the Memorial Day Weekend we have changed the last day of Sunday School & Church Picnic.



**Church Picnic-All Invited**

**Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Following Worship

Table setting, beverage, hamburgs, hotdogs and all the fixings will be provided.

Please bring a dish to pass if able.  
A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex

**We look forward to seeing you!**



## Church Flowers

Our weekly altar flowers are a ministry of the church that provide our congregation with an opportunity to celebrate, honor, or remember a loved one, celebrate an event, or just to bless and beautify our sanctuary during a Sunday Worship Service. There is a sign-up sheet with an opportunity for you to provide flowers for a particular week or occasion in the Narthex. You may then make your donation for the flowers by placing it in the offering plate or by sending it directly to church (PO Box 635, Schoharie). Following the service, the flowers are yours to take home to enjoy, or give away to someone else. Beginning this month, we are going to only have altar flowers for Sunday Worship Services when they are requested. We hope you will all continue to take part in the gift of our altar flowers whenever you have occasion. Thank you.

## Good Friday Movie Night

On Good Friday we had a wonderful time with those who gathered from our church family to enjoy a special private screening of the wonderful new animated movie, “The Pilgrim’s Progress.” Both kids and adults alike got to enjoy popcorn, drinks, and a movie on the big screen in the sanctuary. This special movie also contained a wonderful message about the joys and struggles of trying to live as a follower of Jesus in the world that many talked about after the show. We are grateful to our church family for providing this unique opportunity to celebrate Holy Week in a fun and engaging way for families. Thank you to all of you for your donations to the Food Pantry and also to help translate this movie into other languages for the world to enjoy!



## Food Pantry



As the Food Pantry continues to serve an increasing number of families they are in need of tuna, peanut butter, cereal, toilet paper, dish detergent, laundry detergent, personal hygiene products, and tooth brushes (children's are always needed). All food items are always welcome. This is a difficult time for many families and donations are appreciated to help others in need. In addition to our Food Pantry box in the Narthex items may be dropped off at SUPC on Tuesdays thru Fridays from 11:00am till 3:00pm. Monetary donations are appreciated as well, checks may be made out to Schoharie Valley Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to man the food pantry on Tues. and Thurs. If interested please contact Diane Walion at 518-868-4629.

**The Food Pantry is open Tuesday & Thursdays, 12-2pm**

Kim Charboneau would like to invite anyone as a chicken owner, please consider a donation of surplus eggs that you may have to the food pantry. They no longer receive eggs from the Regional Food Bank and are always happy to receive them from the community. I can provide egg cartons if that helps and if I am in Church or if you let me know they are in the fridge downstairs, I will gladly make sure they get there when I drop off our donation. Or if you are out and about, the food pantry hours are noon to 2pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 518-416-3441. Thanks, Kim



## Thank yous

Thank you to Matt & Emily Fagnani for hosting our Easter Sunday Sunrise Service with the potluck breakfast that followed. As with the warm bright sunshine the service was enjoyed by many.

Thank you for all the Easter Memorial Plants that celebrated and memorialized love ones for our Easter Worship Service at 10:30.

Thank you for all your blessings to our Food Pantry during Lent and Easter. Our Food Pantry continues to serve the increasing number of families in need.

"The Western Theological Seminary would like to express deep appreciation on behalf of all of my colleagues for your recent gift to the Seminary Fund. Your gift and accompanied prayers help us to fulfill our mission to prepare Christians called by God to lead the church in mission". Grace and peace, Dr. Timothy Brown, President and Henry Bast Professor of Preaching.



## Community Day Camp



**July 15 – 19, 2019**

**Who:** Morning Camp: Children age 4 thru entering grad 2  
Day Camp: Children entering grades 3-8  
**When:** July 15-19, 2019  
Morning Camp: 8:30 to Noon  
Day Camp: 8:30AM to 4PM  
Friday, July 19: both camps end with closing program at 12 noon, family picnic immediately following.

**Where:** Schoharie United Presbyterian Church  
314 Main Street, Schoharie, NY 12157

**Price:** \$50 for first child (either camp)  
\$90 maximum per family

**Scholarships available**, call or email for more info

### 2019 Tentative/Sample Schedule

#### MORNING CAMP (Pre K - Grade 2)

- 8:30 Campers Arrive
- 9:00 Recreation Activity with Snack
- 9:30 Nature/Arts Activities
- 10:00 Discovery Time
- 10:45 Nature/Arts Activities
- 11:30 Lunch brought from home
- 12:00 Camper Pick Up

#### DAY CAMP (Grades 3 - 8)

- 8:30 Campers Arrive
- 9:00 Arts/Nature/Recreation Activities with Snack
- 10:00 Discovery Time
- 11:00 Nature/Recreation/Arts Activities
- 12:00 Lunch brought from home
- 1:00 Recreation/Arts/Nature Activities
- 2:00 Flextime/Snack
- 2:30 Afternoon Program
- 3:30 "Vespers"
- 4:00 Camper Pick Up

### Online Registration Now Available!

[www.schohariereformedchurch.org/camp/day\\_camp\\_registration.cfm](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org/camp/day_camp_registration.cfm)

**Aftercare: Limited slots for child care from 4-5:30pm at no extra charge.**

**For info, call Pastor Colleen Quirion at 295-8102.**

**Registration Deadline: June 30, 2019 (space permitting)**



Register Today to  
Ensure Your Space!

**Questions:** Call 295-8177 (Schoharie Reformed)  
Or 295-8931 (Schoharie United Presbyterian)

**e-mail:** [schoharievalleycommunitycamp@gmail.com](mailto:schoharievalleycommunitycamp@gmail.com)

**website:** [www.schohariereformedchurch.org/camp](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org/camp)

## A New Goal

As you may have heard our stained glass windows are in bad shape and need repair as soon as possible. We have volunteers working on grants to pay for these but we don't know which grants we will be awarded. We also need to acknowledge the fact that Gas-Up is no longer bringing in funds and we need to make sure that our day to day operations financial state stays healthy. With these facts, I am starting up a fellowship/community outreach/fundraising committee. We will come up with a shorter name. I have called it this since fundraising often becomes fellowship. I included community outreach since many of the events we may be considering will be also matching community needs. I look forward to this committee bringing us exciting events and further engaging us in our community. We have a few volunteers to get us started. Anyone who is passionate about any of the 3 areas of fellowship, fund raising or community service is more than welcome to join us. Also if you have ideas and want to present them to committee please feel free to forward to me. I can be reached via email at [steviefaf@midtel.net](mailto:steviefaf@midtel.net) or phone 518-295-7312 in the evenings.

Maryann Foland



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

**FAITH**  
**WALKING** →

**June 2 – 4, 2019**

**5 pm - 5 pm**

**Camp Fowler**

**152 Pelcher Road,**

**Lake Pleasant, NY 12108**

#### **Where & When:**

Camp Fowler, Speculator, NY

**Sunday, Jun 2 through Tuesday June 4**

**\$250**

Questions? Visit [www.nyfaithwalking.com](http://www.nyfaithwalking.com)

Contact Rev. Dr. Sherri Meyer-Veen

[PastorSherriMV@gmail.com](mailto:PastorSherriMV@gmail.com)

(518) 231-2151

Faithwalking 101 is the beginning of a spiritual formation journey that leads participants to take steps toward an integrated, 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.





## Announcements

**Consistory**-the next Consistory meeting will be held Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm in Heritage House.

**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.

**Greeter/Coffee Hour/Liturgists**-volunteers are needed. Please consider being a Greeter, to welcome our church family; a Coffee Hour Host to offer a social time after worship for your church family; a Liturgist will help spread the word of God during our worship service. We invite everyone to take part. Please see Cindy Parks to be put on the schedule for one or several of the task thru-out the year. Blessings.

**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 your wedding anniversary month & day. This will help everyone stay in touch.

**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.

**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.

**Crop Walk**-will be held Sunday, May 5th at Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 109 Chapel St., Cobleskill, NY 12043. Sign in time 2pm, walk time 2:40pm. You may contact John Jarvis at johnjarvis12043@msn.com or visit: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/cobleskillny/>

**Memorial Day Parade**-The Annual Schoharie American Legion Auxiliary Memorial Day Parade will be on Thursday, May 23rd. Parade starts at 6:30 pm. All organizations, businesses, fire departments, etc. are welcome to attend. For information contact Parade Chairman Nancy Wolfe at 518-496-7770.

**Schoharie Free Library**- has many events planned which are open to the community, For a complete schedule of events and times please visit: [www.schoharielibrary.org](http://www.schoharielibrary.org)

**Cobleskill Regional Hospital**-Coffee Shop is in need of volunteers to staff it under the direction of Ms. Colleen Benson. These volunteers make a huge contribution to the hospital by cooking, serving and also donating baked goods for sale. If interested, please have your congregants contact the Human Resources Department at 518-254-3412 for an application.





Schoharie Reformed Church

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Website: [www.schohariereformedchurch.org](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org)

*May 2019*

