



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

May 2021

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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A Fruitful Life That's APPEALING:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other."
- Galatians 5:22-26 NIV

What makes a fruit tree produce good fruit? A little while after we moved into our house on Fair Street many years ago, we had a small clump of pine trees removed from our back yard. The plan was to replace them with some fruit trees. We decided to plant two Asian Pear trees and two cherry trees. I learned that you can't only have one fruit tree to produce fruit but you need at least two in order for them to cross-pollinate. Over the past several years since then, we have been blessed many times over with good crops of pears, but our cherry trees, despite the fact that they continue to grow have never produced any fruit.



What helps make a fruit tree to bear fruit? We can probably all name the obvious list of answers such as, water, sunlight, good soil, pruning, protection from pests and diseases, and time. Most of us already know these things. We know you can't put a fruit tree in a dark closet and expect it to grow fruit. You can't put a tree in cement and expect it to grow fruit, and you can't feed a fruit tree cans of diet soda and expect it to grow fruit, and you can't place a fruit tree in isolation and expect it to grow fruit.

The lessons of growing a fruit tree are also really important for us to plant into our own hearts and lives. It is surprising to me how often I (Pastor Mike) can miss these truths when it comes to living by the Fruits of the Spirit that come to us through the Holy Spirit. Sometimes I act as though the fruits of the Spirit, *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*, are things I am to produce through my own energy and efforts. While it is true that we are all participants in growing and developing these fruits within ourselves, it is important to remember that they are and always will be the fruits "of" the Spirit and not fruits "like" the Spirit. God has a wonderful heavenly habit of doing everything through the relationship with God's creation! Like a fruit tree that needs water, soil, and sun, we need our relationship with God to grow and produce this fruit in us. It is out of the tending to our relationship with God through the Holy Spirit that these fruits take root and have life in us.

Franciscan Priest, Spiritual Director, and author Richard Rohr writes,

The goal of the spiritual life is to allow the Spirit of Christ to influence all our activity, prayer as well as service. Our role in this process is to provide conditions in our lives to enable us to live in tune with [Christ's] Spirit. Our effort is not a self-conscious striving to fill ourselves with the important Christian virtues; it is more getting out of the way and allowing [Christ's] Spirit to transform all our activities. Christ will do the rest. His Spirit has joined ours and will never abandon us.

As we explore the fruits of the Spirit during this Season of Easter and on into Pentecost let us find ourselves drawing closer to God through the Holy Spirit that we may continue to see these fruits growing in us and giving us life to share with the world! Let us plant ourselves more deeply in our relationships with God and tune our lives to the presence and the work of the Holy Spirit in us, and beyond us! Let us seek the light of God's wisdom in times of reflection, and in worship together. Let us be fed by the water of God's goodness and grace by giving thanks, and practicing forgiveness. Finally, let us also remember, like the fruit tree, that our relationship with God cannot grow in isolation, but instead we need the community of each other as followers of Jesus to help us grow into the people God created us to be! So let us deepen our relationships through practicing deep listening and working to share more authentically with one another.

We have been blessed by a Holy Spirit that has come to nurture our lives in relationship with God, and through our relationships with each other, to grow good fruit in us, and invites us to join with that same Spirit in sharing that fruit with the world! Let us tend to the orchard of our hearts and lives that God's Spirit may grow us into a truly fruitful people! Amen.

Cultivating a Fruitful Life in the Spirit,

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri





Thank You

Dear Friends in Christ: Thank you so much for the choir presentation you've been sharing with our congregation. It has been such a blessing to hear your voices. Sincerely, Ethel Robinson.

Houston Responds: We would like to thank the Schoharie Reformed Church for their generous donation to Winter Storm Uri . Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
Sincerely, Houston Responds, Texas, USA

SRC Spring Clean-up: Thank you to all who assisted in the SRC spring clean-up on April 17th. The grounds look great!

Consistory Members: Thank you for the additional duties you are assisting with during Sunday worship.



Online!



Amazon Smile Will Donate to SRC

Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "Schoharie Reformed Church" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. Amazon will donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to SRC.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Schoharie Reformed Church" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app





300th Birthday



of

Schoharie Reformed Church

Time to celebrate! Don't let this special year go unnoticed, 300 years is amazing!

Want to help plan the celebration event(s)? Your ideas may be the perfect solution about how to recognize this special year.

If interested in joining this planning group please contact Emily Fagnani (518-231-4420 cell or emily.fagnani@yahoo.com). Meetings will be scheduled soon. Prepare for some fun!



Love raising money?



Love events that bring together our members in the community while also raising funds? This is your opportunity...

A committee is being organized just for you! Contact Emily Fagnani (518-231-4420 cell or emily.fagnani@yahoo.com) to share your name so you will be included in this exciting group.

Your help will make the difference!



Help Us Reach Our Goals!





Schoharie Valley Community Camp will be taking place in person July 19-23, 2021. Camp will be at 50% capacity for campers with distancing and following Covid protocol. We will be using all three church sites: Schoharie Reformed Church, Schoharie United Presbyterian Church, and Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church. We still have openings in our PK/K cabins as well as grade 3-8 cabins. Registration is now open.

We are still looking for counselors and young leaders to join us. If you know of anyone in 10th grade or up that might be interested in a paid position, please have them check us out on Facebook under Schoharie Valley Community Camp or if you have any questions please reach out to: schoharievalleycommunitycamp@gmail.com. Job descriptions and applications are also available at www.schohariereformedchurch.org/camp/

Volunteers are also needed to help with everything from snacks, to preparing materials, to working with campers. We are blessed to have a group of volunteers coming from Michigan as well.

We would love to have more people involved in planning for this summer. If you are interested, please contact Liza Toborg at ltoborg@midtel.net for the Zoom link to our next meeting.

For complete camp details or to register visit.: www.schohariereformedchurch.org/camp/

Please pray that God will provide us with all the necessary resources to make Day Camp a wonderful time for children of all ages to learn just how much God loves them!



Buildings & Grounds

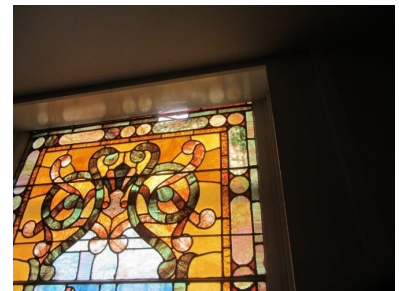
Sealing the Parking Lot

Dave Goodrich needs help. Saturday, May 15th at 9 am, he plans to seal a large portion of the parking lot and driveway around the Church. The materials have been ordered. Workers are needed. Please call Dave to let him know that you will be there. (518) 470-0015



Window Fundraising

In April, we heard from the New York Landmarks Conservancy that we were awarded through their Sacred Sites program a \$15,000 grant for rebuilding our stained glass windows. This is a nice boost for restarting our fundraising campaign. Huge thank you to Lisa Ovitt for applying for the grant and seeing it through.



Spring Clean-Up

Clean-up day April 17 was very successful with 12 people getting the grounds ready for spring. Sorry – no photographs this year.





Food Pantry



The Food Pantry is continuing to work 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. 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!



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.



Join Us In Worship

We invite all to join our Sunday morning Worship, we welcome you to join in-person or on Zoom both at 10:00am. In-person worship still includes masks, temperature checks, sign-in, physical distancing and no singing. Bulletins for adults and kids are provided. If you prefer to worship on Zoom you will find the links for the bulletins, music, announcements, and the service in your church email each week. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the church office at 518-295-8177. We look forward to worshipping with you each Sunday!

Announcements

Consistory: Will meet Thursday, May 20th at 6:30pm in the Heritage House.

After School Program: We are still looking for donations of the following items: Paper towels, Disinfectant wipes, Pretzels, Crackers, Graham crackers, Juice, Gift card for Walmart or Price Chopper to help buy weekly fresh produce and other perishables. There is also a need for more Legos. If you or anyone you know is getting rid of old Legos, please consider donating them to the ASP. Keep your eyes open for Lego's as lawn sales and garage sales begin popping up with the arrival of spring! There is a box in the SRC Narthex to place your donations. Thank you!



Sight & Sound Theaters: Are introducing a new Sight & Sound TV, "Spectacular" Exclusive live broadcasts and encore performances on demand. Available on multiple devices. For complete information visit: www.sight-sound.tv.

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, the Church Office or on the Heritage House front porch bench. Thank you for your donations.

Hello gardeners: It's time again to clean up the Lily Park and personal gardens. If anyone has extra time, we could use help picking up the branches around the park. The lilies are growing quickly and the park is already getting lots of use thanks to this great weather. We welcome two new gardeners: Laurie O'Hearn and Alice Finch. The Promotional Association is still considering the Lily Festival dependent on Department of Health guidelines. As soon as a decision is reached, it will be announced on the Promotional website and on Facebook. Happy Spring! Darlene



Clothing Shed: The clothing drop-off shed has reopened. This provides a convenient and clean program that serves the community while helping the SRC financially. The clothing shed is located in the parking lot of Heritage House so may be accessed at any time to accept your donations.

Electronics Recycling Continues: Please continue to save your used printer cartridges and cell phones for recycling. These items maybe left at the church office or on the Heritage House front porch bench.

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 to stay in touch during these difficult times.

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.



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

May 2021

**COME
WORSHIP**
with us!

