



# The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

July 2022

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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### Believing in Beginnings:

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In God's great mercy, God has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*

-1 Peter 1:3

"Each day is a new beginning." A member of the church we served in Southern California had "new every morning" stenciled on her wall as a reminder of the great faithfulness of God and the mercies of each new day. I believe "each day is a new beginning" is a wonderful phrase of hope that bears a lot of truth, especially for those of us who live in the hope and grace of God. Each day is a new beginning. It is a chance to be different, an opportunity to change, and the possibility for us to take on new attitudes and new ways of being for ourselves in the world. Yet, despite this wonderful gift of hope that God gives us in each of our new beginnings, the struggle we often have as human beings is to BELIEVE and live into such beginnings.

All too often we tend to get held back by the failures of yesterday tainting our hope for today with false and fearful stories. Perhaps we get overwhelmed by all that needs to be addressed and we figure there is just no time, no room, and no energy to live into something different, even when we desperately desire it. Perhaps we don't know how to begin our new beginning, or we are afraid to fail, or want everything laid out before we are willing to start, so we wait for a sense of certainty and assurance before we are able to take that first step and time passes without us taking any steps.

New beginnings are wonderful opportunities, but they can also be scary and uncertain. New beginnings take courage to set aside old stories, and long-believed lies. They take courage to change familiar patterns, and to disrupt our own comfort zones - even if they are ones we don't like and aren't serving us well. New beginnings take courage to risk, to be imperfect, and perhaps even to fail at what we hope to do and become. We have to remember failure is a part of our learning and a part of our growing.

Yet, the good news of God is that new beginnings are endless. God has a wonderful heavenly habit of constantly seeking to help us become who God created us to be! What beginning are you currently facing? What change or transformation do you desire? Where are you struggling to find hope for a new beginning in your life? We invite all of us to read, reflect, and pray again this prayer by Ted Loder from his book, "*Guerillas of Grace*" that we may more fully step into the hope of the new beginnings God has for us and for the Schoharie Reformed Church. Thanks be to God!!

## *Pastor Sherri and Pastor Mike*

### *Help Me to Believe in Beginnings - a prayer by Ted Loder*

God of history and of my heart,  
so much has happened to me during these  
whirlwind days:  
I've known death and birth;  
I've been brave and scared;  
I've hurt, I've helped;  
I've been honest, I've lied;  
I've destroyed, I've created;  
I've been with people, I've been lonely;  
I've been loyal, I've betrayed;  
I've decided, I've waffled;  
I've laughed and I've cried.  
You know my frail heart and my frayed history –  
and now as one chapter ends and another is  
about to begin.

O God, help me to believe in beginnings  
and in my beginning again,  
no matter how often I've failed before.  
Help me to make beginnings:  
to begin going out of my weary mind  
into fresh dreams,  
daring to make my own bold tracks  
in the land of now;  
to begin forgiving  
that I may experience mercy;  
to begin questioning the unquestionable  
that I may know truth  
to begin disciplining  
that I may create beauty;  
to begin sacrificing  
that I may make peace;  
to begin loving  
that I may realize joy.

Help me to be a beginning to others,  
to be a singer to the songless,  
a storyteller to the aimless,  
a befriender of the friendless;

to become a beginning of hope for the  
despairing,  
of assurance for the doubting,  
of reconciliation for the divided;

to become a beginning of freedom for the  
oppressed,  
of comfort for the sorrowing,  
of friendship for the forgotten;

to become a beginning of beauty for the  
forlorn,  
of sweetness for the soured,  
of gentleness for the angry,  
of wholeness for the broken,  
of peace for the frightened and violent of the  
earth.

Help me to believe in beginnings,  
to make a beginning,  
to be a beginning,

so that I may not just grow old,  
but grow new  
each day of this wild, amazing life  
you call me to live  
with the passion of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## *Operation Christmas Child*

NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK  
NOVEMBER 14-21, 2022

When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, ‘anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’” Mark 10:14-15

## *Worship Update*

For the month of July, worship service will be held at 10am. Consistory would like to hold some services outdoors if the weather is conducive. Please keep alert for any updates regarding outdoor worship services. Thank you!

## *Announcements*



- Returnables to Righi’s Redemption Center in Middleburg for fundraising.
- Aluminum can tabs that will be donated towards Shriners Hospital for Children. Any aluminum tabs you wish to donate, you can leave in the Narthex to be picked up by church staff.
- Lily Festival in Lily Park on July 9<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm. Please see the following site for more information: <https://schohariepromo.org/lily-fest>.
- St. John Reformed Church is hosting a gospel event with special guest Mark Bolos on July 13th from 6pm-7pm at 68 West Main Street, St. Johnsville, NY.
- “Books and Chocolate” is held on July 20th from 6:30pm-8pm. Sign-up for it is located at the Schoharie Free Library site under “Programs & Calendar” at the bottom of the page.

## *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. 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 snacks, granola bars, fruit snacks, juice packs, and snack crackers. Additional items of need are cleaning supplies, 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 the SUPC on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 12pm until 2pm 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 at 518-868-4629. **The Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 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!



## *Day Camp Donation Supplies*

If you would like to help with Day Camp this year, you can by donation. Below is a list of items that can be donated towards Day Camp. Thank you!

### *Supplies for Donations:*

- Egg Cartons
- Oatmeal Containers
- Yogurt Containers (cleaned & large tubs please)
- Ice Cream Pints (cleaned & only round containers please)
- Any cylindrical container
- Toilet Paper Rolls
- Plastic Bottle Caps
- Cardboard boxes (thicker boxes like Amazon boxes are preferred)

\*Donations may be left in a box in the Narthex or at the church office

\*Please provide all donations by Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

# Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp July 18-22, 2022

## Volunteers:

Camp needs YOU this summer to join us as a volunteer or staff member.

Volunteers must be 14 years or older and available from 7:30am to 4pm during the week of camp.

Individuals with required volunteer hours can receive them throughout the week.

\*Particular Church affiliation is not necessary\*



## Registration:

Camper welcome from ages 4-8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Morning camp: Age 4 through entering Grade 2 (8:30am-12pm)

Full day Camp: Entering Grade 3 through Grade 8 (8:30am-4pm)

We work hard to keep camp affordable for all families. \$50 for the first child with a \$90 maximum for families.

Scholarships are available for families who cannot afford the week of camp. Please reach out to the camp email.

Questions or Concerns regarding volunteers and registrations for campers?

Email: [schoharievalleycommunitycamp@gmail.com](mailto:schoharievalleycommunitycamp@gmail.com)

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*July 2022*

