



# The Visitor

*Schoharie Reformed Church*

*October 2020*

*Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri*



## What's Inside

<i>Pastor's Message</i>	1-2
<i>Reopening</i>	3
<i>Church Flowers</i>	4
<i>Announcements</i>	4
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	5
<i>Buildings &amp; Grounds</i>	5
<i>RCA Global Mission</i>	6
<i>Book Study</i>	6
<i>Food Pantry</i>	6



### Defining Ourselves in The Detours:

*"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."*

*-Joseph (Genesis 50:20NIV)*

Perhaps it has been a while given the infrequency of travel for many of us during this pandemic, but I wonder if you can recall the last time you found yourself in a detour? How did you feel when you realized it was coming? How had you felt beforehand? What triggered your reaction? (traffic slow down, break lights, construction signs, workers, cars cutting each other off, etc.). How did you react in the midst of it? How did you manage yourself in the midst of it? How did you react to your kids, or to others in the car? How did you react to the traffic around you? How did you feel when you were finally out of it?

I imagine we can all relate with traffic detours in some way. I also imagine we can relate with the reality of "emotional detours" that come up during our day as well! Especially in this time of heightened anxiety around pandemic, politics, and

polarization. Maybe in the recent past you found yourself having a perfectly fine start to your day until somebody said something really stirring for you, or complained about something you had done or not done, or the car won't start, or the cows got out, or there's no more hot water or coffee, or you or a child is sick, and just like that your day has taken a detour. Or maybe you are scrolling through social media and happily enjoying funny cat videos or silly memes when all of a sudden you find yourself reading a ranting post that sends your anxious reactivity swirling. As a result, you end up spending more time than you want thinking of the perfect reply and dreaming of the feeling emojis you wish you could use to display your true feelings about what was said.

The hard reality in all of this is that we often don't get warning signs about our spiritual or emotional detours. In fact, we often don't realize we're on one until we are a ways down the road. But while we often cannot prevent our detours, we can decide how we will show up within them.

In the Old Testament there is perhaps no greater "detour" story than that of Joseph. Joseph, one of the sons of Jacob receives visions from God. He also continually receives the praise and favor of his father (much to the anger and jealousy of his older brothers). Fed up with their spoiled brother they fake his death and sell him into slavery. Eventually, after many ups and downs, twists and turns of his own detour Joseph finds himself in Egypt and in the employment and favor of Pharaoh when a famine strikes the land, and now his brothers must come begging for help. After he is revealed to them, recognizing their guilt and position, they plead with Joseph not to punish them, but to help them. And this is Joseph's response to them:

*"But Joseph said to them, 'Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.' He reassured them and spoke kindly to them"* (Genesis 50:19-21 NIV).

For all that Joseph might have been justified in saying or doing to them based on the retributive justice of our world the Bible says that Joseph *"reassured them and spoke kindly to them."*

I (Pastor Mike), would really love to be defined as "reassuring and kind" during my literal and emotional detours. However, the reality is that when I find myself on a "detour" in my own life I usually find myself consuming far too many calories, distracting myself with screens, and overall hiding myself from the world, and having a short temper and a high level of reactivity. How are you in your detours? What can you see in the ways you show up in these times? How do you want to show up?

One practice I am trying on this week is to start my day by answering two questions: 1.) Who am I in the eyes of God? 2.) Where can I see God in the world around me? Joseph never forgot who he was in relationship to God. It was his view of God's role and God's intention for blessing that he used to define himself over the attitudes and actions of others. Even the most influential people like his brothers, Potiphar's wife, and even Pharaoh himself. In the story, Joseph was able to see, even in the midst of his brother's cruel intentions, the good plans and blessings of God.

I am hoping that reminding myself of who I am, and looking to God with expectation and gratitude will help me manage my own reactivity during my detours. I desire to be, and am working at becoming the person God has called me to be in the world at this time. As you deal with your own detours, how will you seek to remind yourselves of who God has made you and called you to be? May you too look for what God has done and is doing that you also may be people of reassurance and kindness, as well as people of love, hope, and shalom (wholeness), serving God for the saving of many lives!

Defining Ourselves in The Detours –

*Pastors Mike and Sherri*





# Schoharie Reformed Church

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

258 Main Street, PO Box 635

Schoharie, NY 12157

SchoharieReformedChurch@yahoo.com

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

(518) 295-8177 office

September 27, 2020

Dear Schoharie Reformed Church Family, and Friends,

Your consistory has been hard at work at developing a plan, along with the Department of Health, that will allow us to return to worship inside our sanctuary. While COVID-19 may have kept us out of the building, it has not stopped us from worshipping together through the technology of Zoom and then in-person outside in our church parking lot.

The consistory takes great pleasure in inviting you to join us for **in-person worship back in the sanctuary, beginning Sunday, October 4, 2020, at 10:00AM!**

We will be following all the Health Department guidelines set up by the county for reopening.

- You will need to wear a mask,
- Answer a few simple health questions.
- Have your temperature taken.
- Be guided to a socially distanced seat by the ushers.
- Windows and doors will need to remain open so you may want to wear/bring a sweater or jacket depending on the weather.
- We will enter through the front door of the sanctuary and exit out the rear door, unless you are in need of using the lift, which will be available for you to use.

Hand sanitizer will be provided and extra masks will be available if you forget yours. The seats are required to be 6' apart and only family members will be allowed to sit together. Unfortunately, we do not have the space to accommodate enough distance for singing at this time but music will be a part of the service. There will also be no food and no fellowship time downstairs following the worship service. Sunday school also continues to be on hold for now.

We know this is a difficult time and if you do not feel comfortable attending in-person worship at this time we completely understand. Our worship services continue to be recorded and are available along with several other worship resources on our church website: [www.schohariereformedchurch.org](http://www.schohariereformedchurch.org). for use at any time.

Although we cannot hug or handshake on October 4, we look forward to being together and worshipping our glorious God in the sanctuary once again!

Sincerely,

Your Schoharie Reformed Church Consistory

## *Church Flowers*

As we return to our sanctuary for worship 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 the church (PO Box 635, Schoharie). Following the service, the flowers are yours to take home to enjoy, or give away to someone else. Thank you.



## *Announcements*

**Consistory**: The next consistory meeting will be held Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm thru Zoom.

**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.

**Building Work**: Anyone willing to assist with painting projects and other jobs needing attention, please contact Dave Toborg at 518-295-8554 if you would like to help.

**Clothing Drop-Off Shed** : The shed is *temporarily closed* due to the coronavirus, the operator has temporarily closed the Clothing Drop-Off Shed. This is unfortunate because the shed provided a nice



## Operation Christmas Child

*It has been a long standing tradition for Schoharie Reformed Church to participate in this worthwhile project.*

What do fun toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and prayer all have in common? They all go into packing a shoe box for a child through Operation Christmas Child. Since 1993 shoe boxes have been lovingly packed with items and prayers and delivered to boys and girls in more than one hundred fifty countries and territories.

Shoebbox gifts are needed! Now more than ever, children need to have the reassurance that they are loved by God. We believe in the urgency of reaching communities with the eternal hope of the Gospel, especially in these uncertain times. Shoebbox gifts—and our follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey—are powerful tools to share this Good News with millions of people around the world.

Shoe boxes and packing labels are available. The shipping cost this year is \$9.00 per box, to be included with the shipping label. More information about Operation Christmas Child is available in the Narthex or when you exit or you can go to: [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) to learn more. We will be dedicating our boxes **Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**. Let us show some children of the world how much God loves them through the goodness and love of others by packing a box or boxes full of "goodies" and prayer.

For questions please contact Cindy Parks at 518-295-7419 or the church office at 518-295-8177.

### **Something New:**

#### **Good News. Great Joy! Build a Shoe Box Online**

You can still help share God's love with children around the world even if you don't have time to shop for and pack an Operation Christmas Child shoebbox gift. With a few clicks of your mouse or swipes on your touchscreen, you can build a shoebbox online. Make it your own by choosing from a list of gifts\*, then add a personal letter and photo. We'll pack your shoebbox and send it for you, for a suggested donation of just \$25.

**From Virtual to Vital**—Each shoebbox gift becomes a tangible expression of God's love for a child in real need. Shoebboxes built online also allow ease of entry through customs, and help ensure Operation Christmas Child's continued presence in places that are hard to reach.

Visit: [www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/)



## Buildings & Grounds



### **Fall Clean-Up**

**Saturday, October 31, 9:00 AM.** The focus will be on raking leaves, cleaning out the flower bed, trimming shrubs, lubricating the basketball backstops, and general outside clean-up in preparation for winter. Bring rakes, gloves, pruners, loppers, etc. Could also use a couple pick-up trucks. Please let Dave Toborg know (295-8554, dtoborg@midtel.net) if you intend to be there.

Rain date is the following Saturday, November 7.



## RCA Global Mission

New this fall the RCA Global Mission newsletter will be available to all electronically, to be able to better share RCA Global Mission stories with you and the ways God is using your mission support around the globe. With the launch of this new endeavor, we recognize the great tool the RCA Today bulletin has been to help you stay connected to mission throughout the years.

If you wish to receive the RCA Global Mission newsletter electronically please visit: [www.rca.org/subscribe](http://www.rca.org/subscribe) to sign up to receive your copy. Copies of the newsletter will no longer be sent directly to churches. If you are unable, but would like to continue to read the newsletter, SRC will have copies available in the Narthex.

Thank you for your faithful support of RCA Global Mission. We are grateful to partner in mission together. Be well, friends.

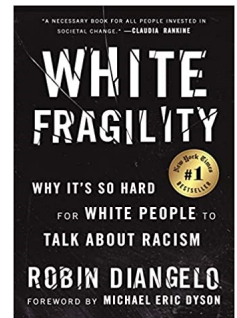
Grace and Peace,  
JP Sundararajan, Director of RCA Global Mission



## Book Study

Our fall book study, "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo continues Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm through Zoom. Anyone is welcome and we have a couple of books still available.

Please look for the link to be sent through Mail Chimp.



## Food Pantry

The Food Pantry continues to assist many families in the area. Special items of need are cleaning supplies, paper products-paper towels/toilet paper. Items needed include canned fruit, canned vegetables, tuna fish, pasta, pasta sauce, canned ravioli/beef stew/soup/spaghetti o's/chili with beans; boxed macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, jelly, granola bars, cereal, jello packs, pudding packs, snack crackers. Hand soap, toothpaste, shampoo and shower soaps are also needed. 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. Donations may be left in the Narthex of SRC on Sunday mornings. Monetary donations are appreciated as well, checks may be written to "Schoharie Valley Food Pantry". Volunteers are needed to help with the Food Pantry, if able, please contact Diane Walion at 518-868-4629.

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



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](mailto:schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com)

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

October 2020

