

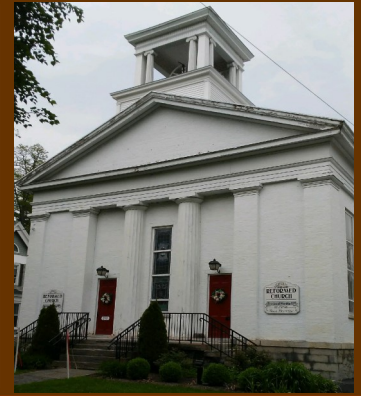


The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

November 2021

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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We Are an Offering:

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering."
 -Romans 12:1 The Message

One of the praise songs I (Pastor Mike) have recently come to love is "We Are an Offering". The lyrics in the second verse declare, "Lord use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives they are yours; we are an offering." Then the chorus sings, "All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering, we are an offering."

What would be the impact on your life and mine to really believe this to be true? Even more so, what would change if we attempted to live into this truth of God that we are an offering? How might it impact the ways you view your ordinary, everyday activities? Or how you view yourself? Or how you spend your time? Or what you do with your resources? Our human tendency is to want to compartmentalize our stewardship. We sometimes limit it only to a certain portion of our money, or to our specific volunteer activities, or to a limited allotment of our time. Now all of these are wonderful and important pieces of our engagement in stewardship, but what if we could view the whole of our lives as an offering for God's glory?

If we lived into God's truth that we are an offering, then one of the impacts is learning to see our lives and our very selves; as well as the lives and selves of others; as a gift! If we are an offering, then who we are, not just what we have or what we can do, is a blessing to the world and a gift of God. How does it impact you to think of yourself as a gift – an offering of God and a blessing for the world simply by you, being

you? God delights in you! You are God's beloved child, and God wants to share in every part of your life. God doesn't just want to be pacified with gifts, or to be given attention only one hour a week. God wants to laugh with your family at the dinner table. God wants to hear about your bad day. God wants to be with you while you're cooking dinner. God wants to ride along with you on your morning commute. God wants to play outside with you. God wants to sit with you in your loneliness because God loves you! You are a GIFT!

If we lived into God's truth that we are an offering, then one of the impacts is learning to see our lives and our very selves; as well as the lives and selves of others; as a gift! If we are an offering, then who we are, not just what we have or what we can do, is a blessing to the world and a gift of God. How does it impact you to think of yourself as a gift – an offering of God and a blessing for the world simply by you, being you? God delights in you! You are God's beloved child, and God wants to share in every part of your life. God doesn't just want to be pacified with gifts, or to be given attention only one hour a week. God wants to laugh with your family at the dinner table. God wants to hear about your bad day. God wants to be with you while you're cooking dinner. God wants to ride along with you on your morning commute. God wants to play outside with you. God wants to sit with you in your loneliness because God loves you! You are a GIFT!

Another impact could be discovering new purposes that God has for us that we never thought to be possibilities. Perhaps God will use you as a caring voice on the phone for someone who needs it, or a ride for someone who can no longer drive themselves, or a helper for someone who feels overwhelmed, or a lunch date for someone who is lonely. If we can keep learning to more fully live the whole of our lives as an offering than we will discover God using us in ways we never thought could be, and we and others will be richly blessed by all that God does. If you reflect back on this past year, who are the people God blessed you with in unexpected ways? AND how did God use you in unexpected ways?

Another impact can be an increase in our generosity because seeing all of who we are as an offering can lessen our need for control and our possessiveness over what we have because we can rest in the truth that everything belongs to God! Richard Foster helps us understand the impact of this perspective when he writes, *"God's ownership of everything also changes the kind of question we ask in giving. Rather than, 'How much of my money should I give to God?' we learn to ask, 'How much of God's money should I keep for myself?'"* (The Challenge of the Disciplined Life. Pg. 42). Living our lives as an offering can help us grow and live in the perspective that everything we are and everything we have belongs to God! This can move us to greater freedom in our generosity and lessen our anxiety over what we possess.

This year for Stewardship all of us are invited to see the whole of our lives as an offering to God. Through this perspective we can grow deeper in our faith to more clearly see our lives and the lives of others as a gift of God. We can be blessed by the discovery of new and unexpected purposes. We can also be free to share our lives generously with one another in the good news that everything belongs to God's love and wisdom.

In addition to our regular pledge sheets that are included in this newsletter we have also added other ways we can practice stewardship through giving our word to putting our time and energy into action. In addition to considering your financial gifts to the church, we invite you to also consider your personal gifts of time, service, and energy because YOU ARE A GIFT!

Please fill out the pledge sheet in this newsletter and bring it with you to our consecrations service on Sunday, November 21st during our 10:00am worship service. If you can't attend, please consider mailing your pledge sheet to the church (PO Box 635, Schoharie, NY 12157).

Let us lift our voices, our hands, and our lives because we are an offering!

Offering ourselves as gifts of God, for the purposes of God, for the glory of God,

Pastor Mike and Pastor Sherri.

Schoharie Reformed Church
P.O. Box 635
258 Main Street
Schoharie, New York 12157

2022 Commitment



My pledge to the Schoharie Reformed Church for 2022 is:

Current Expenses: \$ _____ (per wk/mo/yr)
(Church ministry, building expenses and mission commitments) circle one

Benevolences: \$ _____ (per wk/mo/yr)
(Allocated as needed to families in need, emergency relief, circle one
local and global organizations)

In addition to my financial pledge, I also give my word:

_____ I give my word to participate regularly in worship and to help serve in the ministries where I am gifted and passionate as a part of the Schoharie Reformed Church.

_____ I give my word to help the church be a welcoming place by participating in fall and spring clean-up days, and/or helping to provide food for potlucks, receptions, or other church gatherings.

_____ I give my word to support the summer Day Camp ministry in the ways that I am able, through actions such as prayer, writing camper letters, gathering materials, and volunteering.

_____ I give my word to pray regularly for the pastors, consistory members, leaders, missionaries, and the overall ministry of the Schoharie Reformed Church in the community and in the world.

_____ I give my word to reach out and help keep our church family connected through actions such as visiting, making phone calls, and sending special-occasion cards to others in our church family.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

-Romans 12:1 NIV

Percentage Giving Guide

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Monthly Gift if Percentage is 2%	Monthly Gift if Percentage is 5%	Monthly Gift if Percentage is 8%	Tithe	12%
\$6,000	\$500	10	25	40	50	60
7,200	600	12	30	48	60	72
8,400	700	14	35	56	70	84
9,600	800	16	40	64	80	96
10,800	900	18	45	72	90	108
12,000	1,000	20	50	80	100	120
14,400	1,200	24	60	96	120	144
16,800	1,400	28	70	112	140	168
19,200	1,600	32	80	128	160	192
21,600	1,800	36	90	144	180	216
24,000	2,000	40	100	160	200	240
26,400	2,200	44	110	176	220	264
28,800	2,400	48	120	192	240	288
31,200	2,600	52	130	208	260	312
36,000	3,000	60	150	240	300	360
40,800	3,400	68	170	272	340	408
45,600	3,800	76	190	304	380	456
50,400	4,200	84	210	336	420	504
60,000	5,000	100	250	400	500	600
69,600	5,800	116	290	464	580	696
79,200	6,600	132	330	528	660	792
88,800	7,400	148	370	592	740	888
98,400	8,200	164	410	656	820	984
108,000	9,000	180	450	720	900	1,080
120,000	10,000	200	500	800	1,000	1,200
144,000	12,000	240	600	960	1,200	1,440
160,000	13,333	267	667	1,067	1,333	1,600

To determine yearly giving, multiply monthly giving by 12

Monthly Financial Update From Consistory

Through September we have through regular income brought in \$95,211.69 and spent \$138,967.60; \$20,000.00 of income was ppp loan which was forgiven. This puts us at a net loss of \$63,755.86. We did earn monies from our Fam Funds but we need to get away from relying on them. With regards to the Stained-glass window fund we have earned \$72,000.00 so far towards the \$220,000.00 goal.

Historical Worship Service

Will continue to be held in the Sanctuary of SRC:
 Sunday, November 14th at 10:00am;
 set in 1955
 Sunday, December 12th at 10:00am;
 set in 2001-congregational family birthday party to follow. The opening of the 1996 time capsule and the creation of a new time capsule for a future event.
 We are looking forward seeing all!

Christmas Memorial Plants and Donations

Christmas memorial poinsettias will be available again this year. Complete information will be forthcoming. If you have any questions please contact the church office at 518-295-8177.



Classis Update

Schoharie Classis met on October 12, 2021, at the Cranesville Reformed Church. After a time of worship led by Dan Fiske and Deb Silvernail, Classis President Mike Meyer-Veen led us through the business portion of our meeting.

After completing coursework through the Albany Synod School of Ministry and examination with the classis Ministry Care Committee, Dan Dan Fiske and Deb Silvernail were both approved for commissioning as Preaching Elders. Tom Flanders was approved for commissioning as a Commissioned Pastor. You may remember Deb Silvernail as she preached here recently.

Classis voted to set the minimum salary for ministers in our classis at \$35,500 for 2022 and the clerk's salary at \$3,550. There is also an increase of \$180 in the assessments our church will be paying for the upcoming year.

We shared a wonderful spaghetti dinner put on by the Cranesville Reformed Church and a time of fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Liza Toborg, Elder representative to Schoharie Classis

Announcements

Consistory: will meet Thursday, November 18th at 6:30pm in Heritage House.

Catholic Charities & The Joshua Project Thanksgiving Baskets: if you or someone you know is in need of assistance with a Thanksgiving Dinner; applications may be found in the Narthex with complete details for assistance or applications can be completed by texting the word "Turkey" to 518-254-5955, or you may contact the church office with questions, 518-295-8177. Deadline is Tuesday, November 16, 2021. Baskets will be delivered on November 20th.

Fall Bible Study: continues Monday, November 8th, 15th & 22nd at 7:00pm in Heritage House. All are invited to attend.

Youth Christmas Play: If anyone has pictures of any of the children's Christmas plays from over the years we ask if you would be willing to share them. You may email pictures to the church email: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com or bring your pictures to the church office to be scanned. We look forward to seeing times past.

Thank You

Dear Friends,
We're grateful you have responded to God's call to support and grow the global church through RCA Global Mission. Please know your partnership is invaluable to the individuals near and far who receive your gift. Thank you for serving with us. It is an honor to do this work with you!
Sincerely, JP Sundararajan, Director of RCA Global Mission

Thanksgiving Collection for the Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry, that is housed at Schoharie United Presbyterian Church, is a partnership between SUPC, SRC and Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church. Currently there is a need for cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items. We are asking people to donate any of the following items between now and November 21st. There will be a box in the narthex of the church for you to leave your donations in. You may also contact the church office at 518-295-8177. On November 21st we will bless the donated items prior to delivering them to the food pantry. The Consistory felt this would be a special way to celebrate our thankfulness for all God has given us, by sharing with others.

Items needed:

Paper towels	Kleenex
Toilet paper	Toothpaste
Toothbrushes	Soap
Laundry detergent	Deodorant
Shampoo	Dish soap



Youth Christmas Program

We are excited to begin practicing for our Sunday School Christmas Program. In celebration of the church's 300th Anniversary, we will be doing a special Christmas play and sharing memories from other Christmas programs throughout the years. Sunday, Nov. 21st will be the date of our first play practice for the Christmas program. Children of all ages are encouraged to participate!! The more people we have, the more fun and creative we can be! We will practice from 9:30 – 10am each Sunday from Nov. 21st through Dec. 19th.

On Sunday, December 19th, during the worship service which begins at 10am, we will present the Christmas Program to our congregation. This Christmas program is an adaptation of one done in the 1970's under the direction of our own Vince Smith.

We invite all and look forward to seeing you for this special presentation.



Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

We are hosting a packing party for the youth on Sunday, November 14th following the worship service. There will be tables set up in the Heritage House with items that have been donated by the congregation and we will be spread out to encourage social distancing. While we work, everyone is asked to wear a mask. Children will be assembling boxes and then choosing items to fill those boxes based on the age and sex of the child receiving the box. Boxes can be packed for boys or girls ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. They can write a letter or bring a photo of themselves to include in the box. We will not be serving food during this event.





Operation Christmas Child

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

We invite you to share the experience of showing 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.

This year we are offering 3 options to participate in OCC.

1. Donate shoebox items and leave them in the box in the Narthex no later than November 14th. Your donated items will then be packed into shoe boxes by the Sunday School students after church on November 14th. Donations toward the shipping of the OCC boxes (\$9.00 per box) are welcome. Donations may be labeled and placed in the collection plate, sent to the church office, or given to Liza Toborg.
2. Pack your own shoebox & bring it to church by November 21st.
3. Go online to: www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/ to virtually fill a shoebox.

Shoe boxes and shipping labels are available in the Narthex. A complete list of shoe box items for boys and girls based on their age is posted in the Narthex. The shipping cost this year is \$9.00 per box, to be included with the shipping label.

For more information about OCC or how to track your box please visit: www.samaritanspurse.com

Dedication of Shoe Boxes will be
Sunday, November 21st

Any questions please contact Liza Toborg at 518-295-8554 or the church office at 518-295-8177.

Thank you for being part of bringing joy and the love of
Jesus Christ to children throughout the world.



Operation Christmas Child

It was a simple idea that became the worldwide ministry of OCC – to minister to children in war-torn and famine-stricken countries. In just two decades, Operation Christmas Child has inspired everyday people to provide more than 100 million gift-filled shoeboxes to needy children in 130 countries. Schoharie Reformed Church has participated in this project for many years and we would like to continue the tradition. During the month of October and beginning of November, purchase and/or make gifts that are age appropriate (2-4 years old, 5-9 years old, 10-14 years old) for a boy or girl. We would like you to donate items from the listed gift suggestions below and leave them in the OCC box located in the Narthex. You are also welcome to fill your own box with items! Shoeboxes are available. All OCC boxes (those packed at home & those packed during the party on Nov. 14th) will be blessed during the worship service on **Sunday, November 21st**. Please be a part of bringing joy and the love of
(continue on next page)

Jesus Christ to children throughout the world by donating items or by filling a shoebox (or two). To learn more about project Operation Christmas Child please go to: www.samaritanspurse.org.

Gift Suggestions

Wow items: Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls, toy cars, a small instrument (such as harmonica or woodwind recorder), stuffed animals, an outfit of clothing to wear, backpack, etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils, small manual sharpeners crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar powered calculators, coloring and picture books, colored pencils, pencil case, blank index cards, scissors, ruler, protractor, glue stick (do not include liquid glue), small adhesive tape, etc.

Personal Hygiene Items: toothbrushes, combs, washcloths, hairbrush, bar soap (packaged and/or in a container), adhesive bandages (colorful ones can help a child be more willing to wear a bandage, do not include liquid antibiotic ointment), reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils (consider filling an empty container with non-liquid items such as hair bows, bracelets, sunglasses, or washcloths to maximize the space), blanket, non-liquid lip balm, flashlight (solar-powered or hand-crank; if battery operated, be sure to include extra batteries of the type needed), compact mirror, nail clipper and file, stick deodorant, etc.

Clothing and Accessories: socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), shirts and pants, pillowcase dress (loose-fitting sundress), underwear, shoes and socks, flip-flops, hat/scarf/mittens, decorative hat, wrist watch, sunglasses, tote bag/purse, bead jewelry/bead kit, hair accessories (hair clips, hair ribbons, elastic hair bands, etc.), etc.

Toys: foam ball, kickball (make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be re-inflated), yo-yo, small frisbee, small kite, etch-a-sketch, kaleidoscope, marbles, baseball and mitt, tennis ball, hacky sack, toy cars.

A Personal Note: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. If you include your name and address, the child may be able to write back.

Do Not Include: Used or damaged items; Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Can I find out where my shoebox went? if you give your \$9 donation online, you will receive a tracking label that will allow you to discover the destination of your shoebox gift.

www.samaritanspurse.org

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 shoebox gift. With a few clicks of your mouse or swipes on your touchscreen, you can build a shoebox online. Make it your own by choosing from a list of gifts*, then add a personal letter and photo. We'll pack your shoebox and send it for you, for a suggested donation of just \$25.

From Virtual to Vital—Each shoebox gift becomes a tangible expression of God's love for a child in real need. Shoeboxes 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/



Survey Regarding Worship for the Future

Dear Fellow Congregation Members:

We have been blessed by Vince Smith's supplying inspirational and beautiful music for many years. During the pandemic Vince spent many hours recording hymns and blending voices so we could continue to have music, even during the Zoom services. Now however, since The Smiths have moved out of the area, Vince needs to back away from his time playing for us. Therefore we seek your input about the future of Sunday morning worship service music.

Please give Consistory feedback on what you would like for the Sunday morning worship music. Rank the options 1-4 below: 1 being most favorable, 4 being least.

_____ I would like to see a full time/part-time organist hired to play our historic organ.

_____ If an organist can't be found, music with an electronic keyboard would be acceptable.

_____ Alternative music such as guitars, other instrumentation, a guest musician (s), or pre-recorded music is fine.

_____ I have no preference as long as music remains part of the worship service.

_____ I have another idea for consideration. It is detailed below.

Please return this survey to the church office, (Schoharie Reformed Church, PO Box 635, Schoharie, NY 12157) or placing it in the collection plate on Sunday morning. In order for Consistory to best serve you please try to return your survey by Sunday, December 12th.

Thank you for your time and feedback!

Your Consistory



SRC Family Outing to the Pick-a-Pumpkin Pumpkin Patch

Friday, October 22, 2021



A small, but enthusiastic group of youth went to the Pick-a-Pumpkin Pumpkin Patch in Esperance on Friday afternoon, October 22nd. Many cider donuts were consumed as we explored a hay maze, saw tons of farm animals, got scared in the corn maze, giggled our way down the huge slide, rode pedal cars, raced rubber ducks, and climbed in the treehouse!



Heritage House Ramp



Schoharie Area Long Term (SALT) awarded SRC a \$300 grant through their Community Development Fund to help rebuild the Heritage House accessibility ramp. The money was used to purchase pressure treated lumber, hangers, and fasteners. Thank you Mike Jaqueway and Dave Toborg for completing the repairs.

Schoharie Christian After School Program

A joint meeting was held in the SUPC Christian Education Building on October 13, 2021, at 5:00 pm.

An email vote was taken on September 22, 2021, approving not charging families for days missed due to COVID isolation. We have had a few students in isolation due to COVID in their classrooms. None of our students have had COVID. We continue to practice the COVID protocols of the school.

Linda Mencucci has done background checks on all staff members.

JoAnne will set up a time for all staff to do the annual sexual harassment training.

There are a total of 35 students in grades Pre-K through 5th enrolled. Twenty-seven on Monday, 33 on Tuesday and Wednesday, 30 on Thursday, and 31 on Friday. We have 4 staff members that work every day in addition to our director, JoAnne Mayne. We also have 3 volunteers who each work 1 day a week.

There was a discussion on the Christian education and how many students attend a church. JoAnne follows the church seasons, also teaching love and kindness from the Bible. The students are learning about what prayer is and will continue to do a prayer chain this year. We would like the students to visit the church more, since some do not know what a church is. There was a suggestion that Bibles or a Bible story book be given to each child.

There was a discussion on ideas for Christmas. We will continue to give presents that the students can use and keep at the after-school program. Some suggestions were markers, and the plastic snow sleds.

Also, there was a discussion on applying for the Stewart's grant and ideas of what we need.

The students will continue to do cards for the holidays that will be mailed to shut-ins from both churches. The students will also write a note to someone in their life that they would like to thank.

The next meeting was set for November 17th at 5:30.

Respectfully Submitted –
Liza Toborg



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. With school in session 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!



Schoharie Reformed Church
258 Main Street
PO Box 635
Schoharie, NY 12157

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November 2021

