



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

November 2018



What's Inside

Pastor's Message	1-2
Church Flowers	4
Operation Christmas Child	3
Announcements	4-5
Buildings and Grounds	6
Thank You's	6
Toasty Toes Pajama Project	7
Keys for Kids	7
Sunday School	8

December Newsletter Deadline
November 26th



Stewardship *a way of life*

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of God's own purpose God gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of God's creatures."

James 1:17-18

In the Old Testament the "first fruits" were meant to be set aside as gifts of stewardship that the people of God would bring to the priests for the praise of God and for the blessing of those who could not provide for themselves. We find the practice of first fruits and tithes in Deuteronomy 26. In the opening verses the author writes, "When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for God's name" (Deut. 26:1-2). given a verbal response to say to the priests.

They were to dedicate the tithe of a tenth of their "first fruits" to God and then share it with one another. But that's not all! They were also given

a verbal response to say to the priests. This response was a reciting of the history of their deliverance from Egypt by God. Why was all this necessary? Well, it wasn't because God needed it, or was particularly hungry after 40 years of wandering in the desert with the Israelites. Instead it was so God's people did not forget God once they arrived in the Promised Land, in the land of abundance, the land described as "flowing with milk and honey."

I wonder if we haven't lost some of this in our own understanding of stewardship today? It can be very tempting, especially in the affluence of our American culture, to forget about our story with God. The danger of forgetting is that our stewardship changes from being a part of our core identity into a begrudging task of religious observance. When this happens, we come to view of our gifts as less of "first fruits" and more as "left overs," remembering God and God's mission in the world only after we have taken care of ourselves by our own means (or so we think). There is a wonderful line in one of our prayers of confession that says, *"We have become so busy trying to make a living that we have missed the life you set among us."*

So how can we change this? In his epistle James, the brother of Jesus, gives us a wonderful reminder that while we may no longer give our literal "first fruits" we are, because of Christ, a type of first fruit of God's creatures. What James is conveying is that our whole being is a gift of stewardship! James doesn't see it solely as something we "do" but rather a part of the core identity of who we are in Christ.

What would it mean to see your whole life, your being, as a gift of stewardship to God and to the world? How would it impact the ways you use your material and monetary gifts, your spiritual and physical gifts, your time, and your relationships with others? These are the things we will wonder about together in our worship this month.

November is our annual stewardship month. Together as a church family we want to discover the deeper reality that stewardship is "a way of life." We are, as a part of our core identity a type of "first fruits" of God's creatures. This year, as we consider stewardship together and as we prepare to bring our pledges to God, let us be challenged to see our very lives as gifts from God, for God, and for the blessings of others! Let us find the freedom to live into this reality in powerful ways that God may be praised and we might be blessed.

Ripening in our Redemption,

Pastor Mike and Pastor Sherri Meyer-Veen





Church Flowers

You may wish to grace our sanctuary with flowers for a Sunday Worship service . This may be to celebrate, honor or in memory of a loved one. The church flowers are a wonderful way to share beauty and blessings with your church family. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for your week(s) of choice. There is no individual cost for these arrangements but you may choose to make a donation towards your selection. If you have any questions or need assistance to sign up, please contact the church office.



Operation Christmas Child

The Schoharie Reformed Church has a long standing tradition for participating in this worthwhile project, we will be dedicating our shoe boxes on **Sunday, November 11th**. This project allows us to 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. Since 1993 shoe boxes have been lovingly packed with items and prayers and delivered to boys and girls in more than one hundred countries and territories. We thank all and give blessings to all who participated in this project by letting a child know they were loved by God.



Announcements

Thanksgiving Baskets-The Joshua Project with Schoharie County Catholic Charities are collecting food to provide Thanksgiving Baskets to our needy neighbors. The goal is to assist between 200 – 250 families this Thanksgiving. The items that are needed are: boxes of stuffing mix , gravy, instant potatoes, applesauce, juice, and cans of vegetables. Monetary contributions are always welcome. A donation box has been placed in our Narthex. Food donations will need to be received by Wednesday, November 14th.

Referral forms are also available in our Narthex for anyone that would like to request a basket for their family or a family they know that is in need.

Volunteers are always welcome: To assist with packing the baskets; Saturday, November 17th @9am, St. Marks Lutheran Church, 326 Main St., Middleburgh, NY 12122 Or

To assist with the delivery of the basket; Call - The Joshua Project 518-937-2422

Thank you for your Contribution!



Consistory-The next consistory meeting will be Wednesday, November 28th, 6:30-8:30pm in the Heritage House.

Veterans Day Service-A Veterans Day Service will be held on Saturday, November 10th, at 2pm in the Town of Florida Veterans Park, 214 Fort Hunter Rd., Amsterdam, NY. Please join us as we pay honor to all who have served and are serving in the armed forces of our Nation. We thank you for your support of the Veterans Park.

An evening of Praise & Worship-The Glen Reformed Church invites you to An Evening of Praise & Worship honoring All Veterans, Sunday, November 11th, 7pm at the Glen Reformed Church, 1526 St. Hwy. 161 in the hamlet of Glen. Guest Speaker: Honorable Joseph Sise, Special music by the praise team from Fonda Reformed Church. Fellowship time immediately following the service. You may call 518-853-3088 with questions, if no answer please leave a message.



Inviting all Women-Treasured Memories, Inspirational Speaker-Jean Steber, Monday, November 12th at 11:30am, Holiday Inn, Route 30A, N. Comrie Ave, Johnstown. The cost is \$15.00 (pay at the door). Sliced turkey over stuffing with mashed potatoes & vegetable or chef salad, rolls, dessert, and coffee or tea. How to Sell Your Antiques & Collectibles-Linda Eastman of Linda's Antiques, Broadalbin, 518-883-8306. Special Music by Pete Jorgensen. Complimentary child care is available upon request at time of reservation. For reservations, call Gloria at 518-853-3126 or women2connect@yahoo.com. Sponsored by Christian Women Connecting.

RCA Women Fall Gathering-Rev. Liz Testa together in the movement of the spirit and with the Niskayuna Reformed Church, warmly invites you to a regional fall gathering for RCA women! Please join other women in the area to connect, celebrate, and share your stories. With the rush of the holiday season before us, we want to provide a space to connect with God and what God is doing in each one of our lives. We also want to share with you some of the opportunities for spiritual growth and leadership development that the ministry of RCA Women's Transformation and Leadership has to offer.

Sunday, November 18th at 11:45am will be the gathering time; 12:15pm will be lunch; 4:15pm closing prayer. To be held at the Niskayuna Reformed Church Fellowship Hall, 3041 Troy Schenectady Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309



Announcements

Nursery volunteers needed-We are looking for volunteers to help serve in the nursery downstairs during morning Worship. This is a great opportunity to enjoy spending time with the little ones, while providing a service to your church family. Please see a member of Consistory regarding your availability to volunteer. Thank you!

Donations- There is a need for a good DVD/Blu-ray player to connect to the flat screen in the Heritage House and a large energy efficient refrigerator for the Fellowship Hall.

Recycling-currently we will only be accepting cell phones and ink cartridges for recycling. You may leave these items in the church office, please call the church office with any questions.

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.

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.

Food Pantry-recently received a large amount of items from the Food Bank, however we have had large families in need. Items still needed include canned vegetables & fruit, and tuna. 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, or you may arrange pickup by contacting Pastor Colleen at 518-231-8641. 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**

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 tasks please talk with Vince Smith or Jim Callahan. This is a great way to learn and offer assistance to your church family.

SALT-The SALT Development Board of Directors are pleased to announce that the SALT Community Development Project Fund application is now open. To learn more visit and download the application visit, <https://www.saltdevelopment.org/fallfund>.

Eligible applicants include local nonprofits, community organizations, service or faith-based groups, including but not limited to 4H, Scouts, Key Club, food pantries, etc. Applicants must be coordinating projects in Schoharie County that benefit the community.

Youth-Led Projects are eligible for up to \$250,

Community Development Projects for up to \$500.

Timeline:

October 12, 2018 – Grant Opens, Application posted on [SALTDevelopment.org](https://www.saltdevelopment.org)

October 29, 2018 – Questions Submitted to info@saltdevelopment.org by 5pm

November 5, 2018 – Q&A Posted on Website

November 30, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. – Grant Applications are due

December 10, 2018 – Grant awards announced

If you have questions, please contact Robin Alley at (518)-295-7258 or info@saltdevelopment.org by October 29, 2018.





Buildings and Grounds



Fall Clean-Up

Saturday, November 3, 9:00 AM. The focus will be on raking leaves, cleaning out the flower beds, trimming shrubs, 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 if you intend to be there. Rain date is the following Saturday, November 10.



Miscellaneous Stuff

There are numerous “little” jobs (install door sweeps, weather stripping, vacuum, painting, building shelves, etc.) that you can do yourself at your convenience. Contact Dave Toborg if (295-8554, dtoborg@midtel.net) if you can help out.

Winter is coming



Snow After a 1” snowfall, our snow plow contractor plows the parking lot and shovels the steps, ramp, and the street sidewalk. Lesser amounts, however, are our responsibility- so please be encouraged to grab a broom and/or shovel for the nuisance snows that pop up all winter long. Don’t wait for someone else to do it. Especially keep the steps and ramp clear so the sun can do its thing thereby reducing usage of ice melting agents.

Note that we use plastic shovels (without steel edges) to minimize damage to the wooden steps and ramp. When necessary, there is a beige plastic tote full of magnesium chloride on the Heritage House porch. Compared to rock salt, magnesium chloride is less corrosive to the steel fasteners holding together the wooden steps and ramps.

Heat Both buildings have programmable thermostats. If you need to raise the temperature for an event, simply press the up arrow until the desired temperature shows (typically 68°). And remember to turn it down when you leave. If the schedule needs permanent adjustment AND you are comfortable doing so, then go ahead and change the program. If not, contact Dave Toborg.



Thank You

Scho-Wright Ambulance Services, Inc.— would like to express our sincere thanks for your recent contribution. It is gratifying to know that the work we do merits the support of many friends. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends involved in the tragic accident on October 6, 2018.

Reformed Church in America-thanks you for your recent contribution to USA Disasters 2018 Hurricane Florence. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. With deep gratitude, Ken Neevel, Director of Development and Facilitation.

Donations-Thank you so much for helping me. I really appreciate it! My recovery is going great. Thanks again, Katy Anthony. (in early summer 2018 a donation jar was placed in the Narthex for Katy)

Trunk or Treat-thank you all for the candy donations to help make this event a success for all the children, and for all those who participated during the event.





Toasty Toes Pajama Project



This year we are again participating in the Toasty Toes project. This is a non-profit bringing warm pajamas to those in need during the holiday season. If you would like to donate, please bring new pajamas with tags to Church by Sunday, November 25th and place them in the box made available in the Narthex. Many thanks in advanced for your help. Any questions please see Kim.



Keys for Kids Radio is here to help you.

Our mission is to ignite a passion for Christ in kids and their families through Biblical stories and music made just for them.

We're a Christian Internet radio station playing Christian songs and shows for your kids 24/7. By listening to Keys for Kids Radio your child will learn about God, will worship, and your whole family will have fun!



For your family

Allow Keys for Kids Radio to be your kids' safe radio station. Not only does your radio station change your child's life, but it changes kids' lives around the world.



Online, worldwide

Through online outreach, the Keys for Kids Storyteller, and worldwide radio distribution, Keys for Kids Radio is igniting a passion for Christ to the very ends of the earth.



Sunday School 2018-19



November 4 - Holiday Activity

November 11 – Practice for Christmas Program

November 18 – Practice for Christmas Program

November 25 – No Sunday School

December 2 – Practice for Christmas Program

December 9 - Last Practice for Christmas Program

December 16 – Dress rehearsal & Christmas Program

December 23 – Holiday Activity

December 30 – No Sunday School

January 6—Regular Sunday School

January 13 – Special Activity

January 20—Regular Sunday School

January 27—Regular Sunday School

February 3— Regular Sunday School

February 10 – Special Activity

February 17 – No Sunday School

February 24—Regular Sunday School



March 3—Regular Sunday School

March 10—Regular Sunday School

March 17 – Special Activity

March 24—Regular Sunday School

March 31 – No Sunday School

April 7 – Special Activity

April 14 – Palm Sunday Parade

April 21 – No Sunday School (Easter)

April 28—Regular Sunday School

May 5 – Special Activity

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

May 19—Regular Sunday School

May 26 – Last Day Sunday School with

Children's Program & Church Picnic

We continue and always welcome volunteers. You do not need to be available every week, but we would love your presence and participation. There is no special training needed. We just ask that you be part of our church ministry to our youth. The time and the love you offer will show our youth that God is Great. Please see Cindy Parks or Luke Jacobs regarding your availability. God Bless you for your service to our youth.



Schoharie Reformed Church

260 Main Street

Schoharie, NY 12157

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

Phone: (518) 295-8177

Fax: (518) 295-8105

November

