



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

September 2021

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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Clothed with Compassion:

¹² "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

-Colossians 3:12-14

Ready or not here it comes! As we greet the month of September, for most of us it marks a change. Not just a turning of the calendar but a new routine, a return to school, a start up of new activities and events, as well as the changes that begin to take place in the beauty of nature. The air begins to crisp a bit more, the apples redden a bit deeper, and the colors that beautify our part of the world begin to emerge.

As a church family we are looking forward to a wonderful celebration of our 300th anniversary



this year. There are lots of great activities to be a part of from cupcakes, to a chicken BBQ to historical worship services, and more. Please look for events in this newsletter and in the months to come! In addition to the anniversary celebration, we are also hoping to begin some activities for our youth and an Adult Bible/book study this fall.

We have a lot to celebrate...and we also know there are still lot of hard things we are dealing with as a society. We continue to face the griefs and challenges of this on-going pandemic that we all probably hoped would be well behind us by now. The fatigue and exhaustion over masks, vaccinations, hospitalizations and deaths, not to mention all of the politics wrapped up in it, brings us renewed trauma to what has been an already difficult year. The additional news of war, and natural disasters, as well as our own 10-year anniversary of Hurricane Irene also have an impact on the feelings and emotions of many of us that include grief and joy. Not to mention the changes and challenges within our own lives and in the lives of those we love.

All of this can bring about what is known as “Compassion Fatigue,” the inability for us to tolerate, love, and care for the needs in our lives and our world because we are too overwhelmed by all that is going on around us. Perhaps you have feel the desire to distance, or to separate from the pain of others, or you feel yourself expressing more judgment and blame rather than seeking empathy, or you have feel an increasing desire to seek out convenient coping mechanisms rather than having the energy to practice healthy self-care. These can all be signs of compassion fatigue.

In these verses of Paul’s letter to the Colossians, we are invited by God into deeper ways of caring for ourselves so that we can better have compassion for others and for the world. Like a large fall sweater soft and warm, let us clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. When we clothe ourselves with compassion God reminds us that we are holy and dearly loved, and that those we might struggle to love are also holy and dearly loved. Clothed in these ways we can give ourselves permission to be gentle and kind with ourselves and to explore what we are feeling and what is going on inside of us. We can be humbled to recognize our own limits and needs, as well as ask for help and reach out to others. We can also be patient with ourselves and know that there are no “quick fixes” or “easy solutions” but that healing will take time. In our relationships with ourselves and others we are to remember and reconnect to our own stories of forgiveness and grace so that we can be more mindful to forgive and to bear with one another, expressing love especially when it is hard.

When we practice this way of living both within ourselves and with others, we can develop a greater capacity to stay engaged, to not look away, and build our ability to stay present in the face of pain with love and empathy to bring hope and healing. Clothing ourselves as God invites us is not just about “getting-over” anything or simply about “doing more.” It is not about trying to achieve some sense of greater perfection. Rather it is about being more “fully human” and as more fully human people drawing closer to God, we can love, care, and heal, as we help others who are also fully human become more of who God created them to be.

Family, as we watch the trees being clothed with beautiful color, and as we celebrate the ways God has blessed us for 300 years. May we seek to be clothed more fully in God’s goodness to us that we might help others discover the beauty and goodness of God already at work in our world and in all people.

Seeking to be clothed with Compassion,

Pastors Mike and Sherri



Awakening by Pastor Sherri

Renewing our souls and spirits is work. For me, it has always included intentionality on my part. I often fall into the default of thinking that ceasing from "work" activity will bring rest and renewal, but it doesn't. While rest and ceasing at times is really important and a part of it, I find I have to make time for the soul-filling and spirit renewing activities, including grieving, feeling my pains and losses, and reflecting on my joys and gratitude... For me, prayer, song, art, nature, good conversations and community are all important to fill my soul. Appreciating and seeing beauty is a spiritual practice.

I often journal, but I have done very little of that during this season and that has been okay as I've allowed myself to feel dry for a time and simply rest in the poetry and prayers of others. Here is one of the journal entry poems that did come.... with visuals

Awakening

The birds announce the break of dawn before it even arrives.
Their simple tweets soon become an orchestra of sound,
as each variety of feathered friend joins,
adding their unique voice.
chirps, coos, chatters, pecks, whoops...

The sky begins to brighten
and the dark of night gives way
to gray and then blues and pinks
as the clouds become visible
and the lake begins to mirror
the color on the water.

The mist begins to rise.
The campground still sleeps,
but not the birds.
Geese glide across the water,
cutting through the mist and leaving
a gentle trail as they sound their good morning honk.
It is answered from across the waters and honks echo,
reverberating from lake to shore...
The sun peeks over the trees and splashes its golden rays across the water,
glistening and sparkling.
Flocks of small feathered friends dash back and forth,
greeting the rays,
diving and dancing,
chirping and singing.
My soul dances and sings with them.
I am filled with gratitude for this gift....
time, place, space, beauty, diversity,
God's music and art,
people...
life.





Announcements

300th Anniversary Celebration Committee: Will meet Monday, September 6th at 6:30pm in Heritage House. It's not too late, volunteers and donations are needed with the many events planned over several months as we celebrate 300 years of serving God and community. If able, Please contact Cindy Parks at 518-295-7419; email: cjpark777@gmail.com or Sarah Goodrich at 518-470-0014; email: sarahwg1004@gmail.com; or the church office at 518-295-8177; email: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com.

Consistory: Will meet Thursday, September 16th at 6:30pm in Heritage House.

Schoharie County Office for the Aging & NY Connects presents: Long Term Care Planning; Caregiving is in our future! How do you prepare for it? Thursday, September 16th in Progressland @ The Schoharie County Fairgrounds, 113 Sunshine Drive, Cobleskill, NY 12043. Breakfast & Registration at 8:30am. Program to begin at 9am. Lunch will be served. There is no cost to attend. Call 518-295-2001 to RSVP. At the forum we will discuss; Identifying yourself as a Caregiver, keeping yourself healthy, keeping your loved one safe, financial implication, as well as Long Term Care Options. This event is sponsored by: Marchand Manor, Helios Care, Nascentia Health.



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 starting in September 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!

300th Celebration Events

"Miracle" Dogs & "Grace" Cakes Breakfast Sandwiches-Made by Luke Chili-Made by Larry

Saturday, September 11, 2021
(Schoharie Village Wide Garage Sale)

300th Anniversary Committee Fund Raising
Event.

The committee is asking for your donations of 2 dozen cupcakes (any flavor) with white icing & colored sprinkles. (with a goal of 300 cupcakes). Please drop your cupcakes off at the Heritage House **Friday, September 10th** you may leave them on table inside-doors will be open.

On this day, any church family wishing, may set up a table of items to sell on the lawn of SRC-you will be responsible for your table and items. A donation from your proceeds would be greatly appreciated to go towards the stained-glass window fund.

Volunteers and donations are needed, if able, please contact Sarah Goodrich at 518-470-0014 or email: sarahwg1004@gmail.com or Cindy Parks at 518-295-7419 or email: cjpark777@gmail.com.

All proceeds will go toward the Stained-Glass Window Project of the SRC Sanctuary.



Historical Worship Services

There will be a series of four (4) Historical Worship Services to be held in the Sanctuary of SRC. Sunday, September 12th will be set in 1775; Sunday, October 10th will be set in 1863; Sunday, November 14th will be set in 1955 with a hymn sing; Sunday December 12th will be 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. All are invited to join with us in these special events.

*come worship
with us*

"Secondhand Lions"



The 300th Anniversary Committee invites you to the movie showing on,

Friday, October 15, 2021

Doors open: 6:30pm Movie Starts: 7:00pm

SRC Community Room Popcorn & Soda will be available for purchase. Movie is Free-Will Offering

All proceeds will go toward the Stained-Glass Window Project of the SRC Sanctuary.

Bring Your Friends—All Ages Are Welcome!





300th Celebration Events con't.



Community Birthday Celebration and Fundraiser

Saturday, September 25, 2021 Time: 2-6:00pm To Be Held On The Grounds Of SRC

Plans include: Bake Sale, Meat Raffle, Silent Auction, Basket Raffles, Chicken BBQ by Barbeque Delights Catering

Items of donation: Are needed for the silent auction and basket raffles. These items may be left on the table in the side room of Heritage House when doors are open or may be left in the box in the Narthex on Sunday mornings. If other arrangements are needed please contact the church office at 518-295-8177.

Bake goods: Are needed for the bake sale, bake goods need to be delivered to Heritage House on Friday, September 24th, or Saturday morning and left on the table – the doors will be open.

Chicken Barbeque Serving 3:00pm till sold out: Tickets are available for purchase from the 300th Anniversary Committee members. Complete dinners will be available or halves of chicken only.



Volunteers and donations are needed, if able, please contact Sarah Goodrich at 518-470-0014 or email: sarahwg1004@gmail.com or Cindy Parks at 518-295-7419 or email: cjpark777@gmail.com.

*All proceeds will go toward the Stained-Glass Window Project of the SRC Sanctuary.
We look forward to seeing all!*



Early History of The Schoharie Reformed Church

The Schoharie Reformed Church, aka The High Dutch Reformed Church of Schoharie, aka The German Reformed Church of Schoharie was first served by John Haeger from 1710-1724. The Church was formally approved in 1721.

One wooden structure and possibly two were built and in 1772, the stone structure was built is Schoharie – now The Old Stone Fort. In 1777 palisade walls were built around the church and the church was fortified to defend against a possible attack by the British and Indians.

That attack occurred in October 1780 as the valley was mostly destroyed. A skirmish took place with 2 cannon balls striking the church without major damage. Most of the people of the village had taken refuge in the church and they faced a bleak winter as most of their crops and live stock had been destroyed.

In the 1840s the village was moving to its current location and the church wishing to remain in the center of the village erected its current church at a cost of \$3-5,000. The new building was dedicated in

Early History of The Schoharie Reformed Church con't.

1844. The Old Stone Church remained vacant being used sparingly for Sunday School, etc. and was finally sold to the state of New York which used it as an armory during the civil war.

During the years between the civil war and 2000s the church remained central to life in Schoharie. The church installed two women in 1956 to the consistory being the first church in the denomination to do so. Today women serve on the consistory and in the pulpit.

In August 2011 hurricane Irene devastated the Schoharie Valley. The village of Schoharie was devastated with most homes uninhabitable. While the church was equally devastated the recovery effort for the village was started by two church members and was centered at the church. Even today recovery continues.

In its 300 years spanning 4 different centuries, the Schoharie Reformed Church has been here in the village. Its doors are open to anyone and everyone. It isn't the old church it was and not the new church it will be but with God's help it will.

Respectfully submitted by: Dave Goodrich

Background Information for Historic Worship Service on September 12th

The people of Schoharie are well aware of what happened 5 years ago in Boston when several citizens were shot and killed by British soldiers – the first being Crispus Atticus – a black freeman. They have very recently heard of what happened in Lexington and Concord in April and Bunker Hill in June. (information travels approximately 2 miles an hour, when it travels).

Being heard around the village, especially in the taverns, is the word independence. Villagers are beginning to form into groups – Loyalists (those supporting the king), patriots (those supporting independence) and those that just wish to be left alone.

The congregation of the church includes all three factions and slaves and local Indians – the Schoharie Indians are Iroquois, which except for the Oneidas are siding with the British.

We are all here today to hear the Domini preach his thoughts. His problem is what is the position of the church? Can he even keep the church together and what about the relationship with the Anglican church? Does he take a side or remain neutral? The pulpit that he is preaching from is only 3 years old and was built by members of the congregation that fall into all three groups.

He's a man with a very large problem.

What the congregation doesn't know is that in 5 years virtually everything they have will be destroyed by the British and Indians.



Background Information for Historic Worship Service on September 12th con't

For your listening purpose the sermon will be given in English. German was the main language of the village well into the 1800's. The Domini of the church between November 20, 1766 and April 16, 1779 was Johannes Schuyler. He died April 16, 1779. His great achievement was the building of the stone church now the Old Stone Fort.



Respectfully submitted by: Dave Goodrich

2020 Jamaica Mission

New Windows for Mountain Assembly Church of God McAlpine District, Whitehouse PO Jamaica, West Indies.

Dear Pastors and congregation:

It is so regrettable that the team was unable to actually take the mission trip to participate ourselves and bring the VBS to McAlpine, and immerse our students from here in the experience. However, I was committed to getting the work done as promised, so I forwarded the donations from the three Schoharie Churches to the church in Jamaica.

Even though things didn't go as planned I consider this work a great success! To see the congregation down in Jamaica continue to grow and strengthen with our help is truly a blessing! I thank you so much or the support as do the congregants from McAlpine Mountain Assembly!

With sincere appreciation and blessings:
Amie Hausmann





Thank You



The SRC Church Family: Would like to thank Mike Saccocio, Executive Director, Schenectady City Mission; Deborah Silvernail, Preaching Elder; Josh Bode, our Mission Partner in Oman; Elders - MaryAnn Foland, Luke Jacobs, Cindy Parks & Sarah Goodrich as they lead us in worship during Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri's vacation with family.

Schoharie Valley Community Camp: Would like to thank all-paid staff, volunteers, (including our friends from Michigan), campers, families, clergy, directors, counselors, congregations, all who donated time, money, & products to help make Day Camp 2021 a wonderful time for all.

Schenectady City Mission: Thank you for your gift received on August 2, 2021. You are helping the children enjoy the summer-and giving adults the opportunity to engage in meaningful work. This August we are celebrating how our partners are making a difference for children and adults. As I write this letter, children are enjoying summer camp and other activities that are unique to summer. We are inspired by their smiling faces, and know that the good times of summer can lead to better results when they return to school. We are also celebrating the many residents and former residents of City Mission who are working hard to make life better for themselves, their families and their community. Together Giving Hope, Michael Saccocio, Executive Director.

Your Kindness: I will never forget all of your kindness during an extremely difficult time in my life! Please accept my donation to the SRC Stained-Glass window project. My regards to everyone in the church.

Sincerely, Chari DuMond.



Monthly Financial Update From Consistory

Income received without 20000.00 PPP loan 60,000.00.
Expenses 104,000.00. This is year to date.

Windows monies raised to date 63,239.00.
The goal is 220,000.00.



Registration is now OPEN for three Faithwalking Foundations Options

Foundations is an ALL ONLINE way of engaging Faithwalking in “modules” that meet for 60-90 minutes once a week for 10 weeks. ALL (clergy & non-clergy) are invited to register for any of the following Foundation courses. Those without Faithwalking experience are encouraged to start with Module 1, all others are welcome to any Module and are reminded that keeping transformation alive means going deeper in your own process; repetition is encouraged!

Module 1: Self Awareness and Self Discovery 4:00-5:30PM EST beginning Sundays, September 12th.

For more information and to register: <https://www.schohariereformedchurch.org/engage-faithwalking/foundations.cfm>

Module 2: Authenticity and Shame 2:30-4:00 PM EST Tuesdays beginning September 14th.

For more information and to register: <https://www.schohariereformedchurch.org/engage-faithwalking/foundations.cfm>

Module 4: Foundations Module 4: Self Differentiation 4:30-6:00 PM EST Self Differentiation Wednesdays, Beginning September 15th.

For more information and to register: <https://www.schohariereformedchurch.org/engage-faithwalking/foundations.cfm>

Fall 2021 FW101 Retreat

FW101 is a crash course overview of some of the main Faithwalking topics, often engaged over 2-3 days in a retreat format. This fall you are invited to this in-person retreat at Camp Fowler in beautiful upstate New York. This retreat is open to ANY interested person. Faithwalking mainly focuses on spiritual formation for adults, yet young adults are welcome.

Sunday November 7th - Tuesday November 9th

Sunday begins with dinner at 5PM we conclude on Tuesday, November 9th at 4PM

Deadline to Register is October 20th

For more information and to register: www.schohariereformedchurch.org/engage-faithwalking/fw101retreat.cfm

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