



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

September 2018



What's Inside

<i>Pastor's Message</i>	1 –2
<i>Health News</i>	3
<i>Church Library</i>	3
<i>After School Program</i>	3
<i>New Chairs</i>	3
<i>Thank You's</i>	4
<i>Announcements</i>	4
<i>Mission Trip</i>	5
<i>Fall Book/Bible Study</i>	5
<i>Buildings & Grounds</i>	5
<i>Pancake Breakfast</i>	6
<i>Sunday School</i>	6
<i>Garage Sale</i>	7
<i>Bake Sale</i>	7
<i>Family Retreat</i>	8



October Newsletter Deadline
September 24

Finding Our Faith

*"Why do you say,
O Jacob, and speak,
O Israel,*

*'My way is hidden from
the Lord,*

and my right is disregarded by my God'?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

*The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.*

God does not faint or grow weary;

*God's understanding is unsearchable." Isaiah
40:27-28*

This year during our time of worship with our youngest group of Morning Campers in our week of Day Camp we sang a fun song with these words:

My God is so big, so strong, and so mighty,

There's nothing my God cannot do.

The mountains are his,

The rivers are his,

The stars are his handiwork too.

My God is so big, so strong, and so mighty,

There's nothing my God cannot do – for you!



In some of my reflections this summer I have been challenged by a question I am asking for my own life – “How big is my God?” Now obviously, we all know the Bible tells us that God is great, and all-powerful, God created the heavens and the earth, God parted the seas, God rained bread from heaven, God even came as Jesus who lived, died, and rose again. God can do anything! But how much does this reality really translate into my own life and the way that I live? To put it another way, how much do I settle for living a “religious life” or a life of “belief,” in comparison with how much I venture out, taking risks with God to live into a life of “faith?”

What’s the difference? Psychologist and transformational coach Dr. David Benner describes it this way, *“Belief is conviction of the trustworthiness of a proposition. . . . Faith, on the other hand, can never be reduced to beliefs or thoughts. . . . Beliefs are often simply objects of attachment that provide a misleading sense of certainty.” Faith welcomes unknowing and mystery. Unfortunately, Christianity has settled for dogma, rituals, and tribal belonging, losing sight of the transformative way of faith.*

I want to live my life more by faith. Seems funny to hear from a Pastor (believe me, it feels funny to say as a Pastor!). But the truth is it has become all-to-easy for us, especially in our Christian culture today, to define the sincerity of our faith, and also to judge the sincerity of the faith of others by our “beliefs.” As a result, we get lost in our religious battles only to see our “faith” – the mysterious and transformational power of God - get smaller and smaller in our own lives.

For me, beginning this fall, I am hoping to find some more of this faith that Brenner describes: faith that brings real transformation; faith that lives and delights in mystery; faith that seeks God and the things God calls me to that are WAY bigger than I could ever do or become on my own. I want to know a God who baffles me, a God who challenges my long-held understandings, and a God who welcomes my questions, my confusions, my angry-rants, and my humble and awkward prayers of help and thanksgiving.

In order to do this, I recognize that I need the church. I need a community of people who are also seeking to live lives of faith. People who are also looking for something greater than this world offers. I also need church because if I say, “I’ll get to it sometime later this week.” I know I am just lying to myself because I will always be too busy, too distracted, or too lazy to do it later. ***I need a time during the week where I can step out of the life I am exhausted trying to make and manage for myself. A time where I can instead come to a place where I am reminded that I am not in-charge (and that is a really good thing!).*** And I need a place where I am continually reminded that I am a beloved child of God, that I am intended to live a really big life, and that God has given me transformational power to live that life, as well as people to challenge me, love me, and join with me in that same reality.

Friends, we can live by our beliefs, a lot of our world does, but I think that is a really small, anxious-filled, and exhausting life. I want to live by faith! I invite us as a church family together to learn to live more by faith in letting go of our false certainty that we might together discover the greatness of our God in the deep and wonderful life God is continually inviting us into together!

Caught Up in the Mystery,

Pastor Mike



Health News

Thank you all for your prayers, cards, messages, and meals. It has certainly been a strange and unimagined journey the last twenty months, leading up to three major surgeries within a little over 5 months. The good news is that I am healing. The unfortunate part is that it is taking a long time, and not all of the issues have resolved themselves at this point. Overall my health is greatly improved. As far as we know, all of the infections are gone! Hallelujah! And overall, my pain levels are greatly reduced from where they had been. Praise God! The most recent resection surgery states an expectation of 10 weeks for healing. I am now 5 weeks into that timeframe. I continue to have follow up appointments. Thank you for your prayers that I will make a complete recovery, including living into a less painful future!

Pastor Sherri



After School Program

Beginning Wednesday, September 5th the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church will be hosting the after school program. For information about the after school program you may visit:

www.schohariepresbyterian.org or you may call The Schoharie United Presbyterian Church office at 518-295-8931 with any questions you may have regarding the program.



Church Library

The Church offers a library upstairs in Heritage House for your pleasure. Please come, sit and enjoy some quiet reading time or you may wish to sign out a book(s) which you would enjoy reading at home. We only ask that you sign the books out on the sign out sheet in the library and return them to the library or the church office when you are done. A great way to be close to God, relax



New Chairs

Fourteen worship chairs (upholstered to match the pews) were received the end of August. The comfortable chairs replace a row of pews, provide some flexibility in our seating layout, and can better accommodate the needs of certain folks.

Thank You

Josh Bode- I write to say thank you for your hospitality and engagements with me and my family on Sunday. A heartfelt thank-you to Pastors Mike and Sherri for opening the invitation for s to visit, to share about the Oman mission, and for me to preach. Many in the congregation that gathered were really curious and interested, which is a blessing. It was truly a lovely day for us Bodes. I am really grateful for your contribution to our life and mission as well.

I look forward to being able to share with you details and stories from the mission once we get to Muscat and start our work.

If there is anything further I can be or do to help your congregation's discernment regarding partnering with us in the Oman mission, I invite you to contact me at any time. I will give you a call as well, in a few weeks, to see if there are any questions I can help with.

In meantime, with thanks and peace, in Christ,
Josh Bode

Community Camp-A thank you to all who made Community Day Camp a success. Regardless of how big or small the donation (monitory, material or time) given, this helped to serve 160 children and 70 volunteers. This camp would not be possible without you. Blessings.

The Reformed Church of America thanks you for your generous contribution to the Oman Fund-Joshua and Erica Bode. With deep gratitude.

Announcements

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.

Consistory-the next consistory meeting will be held September 19, 6:30pm in the Heritage House.

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.

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.

The Schoharie Christian After School Program - seeks volunteers to assist with snacks, Bible lessons, homework, recreation, crafts, mentoring, etc. This is a joint project of the churches in Schoharie, and is located at the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church. Application forms are in church.

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!

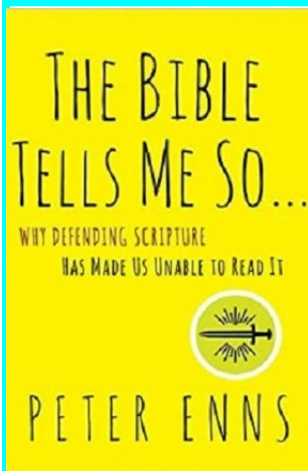
Mission Trip

Dear Schoharie Reformed Church,

Thank you for your support of my mission trip to Guatemala. We had a very blessed time. We built 5 houses and all 5 families accepted Christ. We also helped out at medical clinics and played with the kids and adults. We showed a movie and the preachers shared a message. At the end of the message the people were invited to accept Jesus and they were lead in the forgiveness prayer. We saw almost two whole villages come to believe in Christ those days.

Thanks to you, these people were able to receive a Bible and learn about the amazing love and hope of Jesus Christ. Included is a picture of our Guatemala group, and me playing with one of the children at one of the medical clinics.

Thank you,
Rose



Fall Book/Bible Study

If you've been debating about being a part of a book study or a Bible study, why not do both? This fall we will be offering an 8-week journey through the book, The Bible Tells Me So by Peter Enns. Each book study will involve looking at a passage or passages from the Bible and learning how to look at the Bible in a way that is sure to challenge and hopefully deepen our faith in and our love for God's Holy Word. The books will be provided for you and all you need to bring is a Bible if you have one (but we also can provide those too!) and an open heart to what God might have to say to you. The book study will begin Monday, September 10 @7pm in the Heritage House. If you are interested please contact the church office for more details.

Buildings and Grounds

Good news. The O'Connor Foundation of Hobart, NY just approved a \$4700 matching grant to partially fund two building improvements: (a) install an assistive hearing loop system in our Sanctuary for people using hearing aids and (b) install acoustic mitigation panels in our Fellowship Hall/community room.

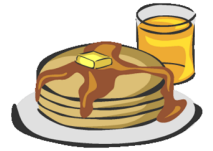
Assisted Hearing Loop - To help hearing impaired people to better hear worship services and eclectic performance activities held in our Sanctuary, a modern electronic hearing loop will transmit our sound system audio directly to an individual's hearing aid.

Acoustic Mitigation – The Fellowship Hall's acoustics are loud and "lively" making it difficult to hear speech and conversations in large groups. Acoustic panels (2'x4' cloth wrapped rigid fiberglass panels) in strategic locations on the walls and ceiling will absorb low frequency sound and reduce sound wave reflection.

With the approved grant, we will move forward with finalizing the design of both projects and raising the SRC's half of the cost. At this point, the implement dates are unknown.



Pancake Breakfast Sunday, September 9th at 9:00am



Please join us for a FREE pancake breakfast to kick off the year! This is open to all members of the congregation and especially to our Sunday School families. Come eat, visit and learn a little more about our Sunday School program. We are switching it up this year with some new and exciting changes.

We are always looking for volunteers to help alongside Cindy, Marion and Liza. 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.

See you at breakfast!



Sunday School Calendar 2018-19

September 9 – Pancake Breakfast Sunday School
Kickoff

September 16 - Regular Sunday School

September 23 –Regular Sunday School

September 30 - Special Activity

October 7 – No Sunday School

October 14—Regular Sunday School

October 21—Regular Sunday School

October 28 - Holiday Activity

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



Schoharie Reformed Church Garage Sale

Saturday, September 8, 2018 @ 9am
(Schoharie Village Wide Garage Sale Day)



Check your closets, attics and basements!

A great opportunity to clean out and get rid of those unwanted items and make a donation to the Church. Turn your items into a treasure for someone else.

Volunteers are needed to help set up, tear down and to work in shifts the day of the sale.

A Sign-up Sheet is in the Narthex.

Any questions or suggestions contact Cindy at 518-295-7419 home, 518-248-1334 cell or E-Mail: cjparks777@gmail.com



Schoharie Reformed Church Bake Sale

Saturday, September 8 @ 9am at Heritage House
(Garage Sale Day/Schoharie Village Wide Sale Day)



Baked goodies are need

Please bring your baked goodies to the
Heritage House
the evening of September 7 (Friday) or
early Saturday am (September 8)



Any questions or suggestions contact Cindy at 518-295-7419 home, 518-248-1334 cell or E-Mail: cjparks777@gmail.com

Family Retreat at Camp Fowler



All those present at the end of the retreat, with our Fowler Staff Aunt Miranda, Adrianna, and Nicole. Not pictured: Marion Jaqueway and Christine; Matt and Emily Fagnani; Helen and Maureen; and Peter Enders.



Honoring Vince Smith for his 40+ years of service as our organist with an engraved pocket watch containing a picture of organ pipes inside and "celebrating 40 years of faithful service" on the outside.

Let's all sing along



Enjoying the evening camp fire



Children's time during our worship service



Schoharie Reformed Church

260 Main Street

Schoharie, NY 12157

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

Phone: (518) 295-8177

Fax: (518) 295-8105

September

