



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

September 2019

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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October Newsletter Deadline

September 27th



Voices

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him. Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

-Colossians 2:6-7

One of our favorite family songs for the last couple of years has been a song by the band Mercy Me entitled,

“Greater.” Part of the lyrics of this song read,

*“Every day I wrestle with the voices
That keep telling me I'm not right
But that's alright*

*'Cause I hear a voice and He calls me redeemed
When others say I'll never be enough
And greater is the One living inside of me
Than he who is living in the world.”*

We all “wrestle” with those voices at different times in our lives. It can be the voice of shame telling us we’re not enough, we don’t belong, and we aren’t deserving of love. It can be the voice of fear telling us not to try, who to avoid, or it won’t get better. It can also be the voice of perfectionism telling us mistakes are bad, we can’t say no, and smile no matter what. But the good news of God is that there is another voice – the voice that calls us “redeemed.” It is this voice that truly is “greater” than all the other voices living in the world. It is this voice that we are to “root” our lives in as the source of our best life and the fullness of our faith.

The Apostle Paul had a similar message for the church in Colossae. The Colossians were a congregation that was made up of mostly Gentiles (non-Jews) and they were experiencing pressure from the voices of their world to include extra beliefs and different practices to their faith in order to live their best life. Paul's letter to them comes as a reminder that having received Christ, they already have everything they need to live into the fullness of their faith. Their best life, according to Paul, is in being rooted, built up, and strengthened in Christ and overflowing with thankfulness.

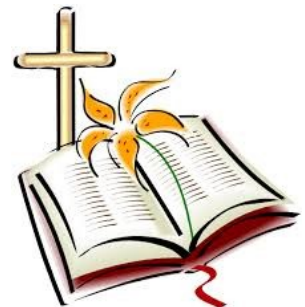
Amidst all of the voices of our world today telling us what it means to be faithful, or how to live our best life, Paul's letter to the Colossians has an important message that is worth revisiting. In our divisive times we are constantly hearing voices of pressure to think, be, or do things to fit in, to be successful, or to be "enough" in the eyes of others. But like the Colossians, we too can find our best life and the fullness of our faith through centering ourselves on the image of God placed on us, the presence of Christ dwelling in us, and the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives and in the world. This fall, Paul's letter to the Colossians will be the focus of our Sunday worship, as well as our weekly fall Bible Study. Together as we explore this brief but important letter, may we too discover the voice that calls us redeemed. The One that is greater than all the other voices living in the world.

Growing in God. Living in Love.

Pastors Mike & Sherri

Service of Prayers for Healing

A special *Service of Prayers for Healing* will be held Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 7pm in our Sanctuary. Whether you are in need of healing, or know someone in need of healing, or want to pray for the healing of our world, you are invited to join us for this special service.



Congratulations Gabby & Drew

Gabby Toborg and Drew Seel were married Saturday morning, August 31st, by Pastors Mike and Sherri. Following a garden party reception at Lasell Hall, next door, they rode Amtrak to New York City where they saw some sights for a couple of days and are now honeymooning in Portugal.



Pancake Brunch
Sunday, September 8th after Worship



(Fall Worship 9:30am)

Please join us for a FREE pancake brunch 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. To be held in our community room immediately following Worship. We look forward to seeing you!



Sunday School 2019-20

The Sunday School will have a time of praise singing (begins Sept. 15th for all “Regular Sunday School” days) before the church service from 9:00 am—9:20am upstairs in the church sanctuary.

All are invited to join us!

- September 8 –Sunday School Kickoff Pancake Brunch Kickoff – Immediately after church
- September 15 –Regular Sunday School
- September 22 –Regular Sunday School
- September 29 - Regular Sunday School
- October 6 – Regular Sunday School PreK-2nd Grade; 3-9th Grade no Sunday school
- October 13 – Regular Sunday School
- October 20 – Regular Sunday School
- October 27 - Regular Sunday School
- November 3 – Regular Sunday School PreK-2nd Grade; 3-9th Grade no Sunday school
- November 10 – Practice for Christmas Program - All
- November 17 – Practice for Christmas Program – All
- November 24 – No Sunday School Thanksgiving Recess
- December 1 – Practice for Christmas Program - All
- December 8 – Dress rehearsal & practice for Christmas Program
- December 15 – Dress rehearsal & Christmas Program Performance
- December 22 – No Sunday School – Christmas Recess
- December 29 – No Sunday School – Christmas Recess



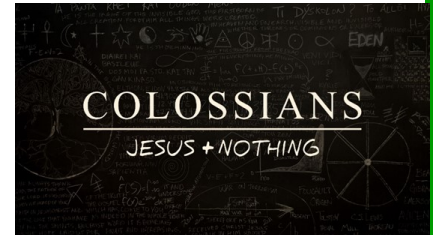
At this time, we will be reassessing how Sunday School is working along with the worship service time of 9:30am, therefore, a new calendar will be mailed out before Sunday School starts on January 5, 2020.



Fall Bible Study!

Our Fall, 8-week Bible Study will begin on Monday, September 16th at 7:00pm in the Heritage House. We will be studying Paul's letter to the Colossians. You are invited to come and explore what this short but powerful letter written to a church largely made up of Gentile (non-Jewish) believers has to say to them and to us today! Bible Study books will be provided for you free of charge, but if you would like to donate to this study the cost for each book is \$10.00. All you need to bring to the first Monday is a Bible if you prefer and an open heart to question, wonder, and explore God's Word together. Please sign up in the Narthex or you may call the Church office.

We hope to see you there!



A Prayer for the Start of School

Great God, Good Teacher, Loving Lord,
As another school year begins we say a prayer for all of our students and teachers, administrators and aids, coaches and custodians, nurses, and social workers, bus drivers and board members, and all of those who work so hard to create our community of learning we call school.
We especially ask you to bless our students of every age in their learning this year.
Teach them not just Common Core, but Common Sense,
Let them be brave enough to try new things,
Let them be curious enough to ask questions,
Let them be imaginative enough to wonder about you, and your world,
and your purpose for them in it.
Give them hearts of compassion, to welcome the new, to defend the bullied,
to make and be friends of encouragement and support for one another.
We also ask you to bless our teachers.
Bless them to be energetic, enthusiastic, and encouraging examples.
Make them passionate for the subjects they teach and the students they try to reach.
Let them be humble enough to learn from their kids,
Let them be sensitive enough to know the fragile hearts and impressionable minds of the young,
Let them be strong enough to challenge their students to be all you created them to be,
Let them be free enough to use the creative gifts you have given them,
Let them be awed by the talent they will discover, and help develop in the smallest hands,
in the quietest kids, in the least confident, in the most anxious,
Then let them rejoice in you, in the knowledge that they are an important part of shaping a life,
and changing the world.
Bless us all to be humble enough to learn, and wise enough to teach all that you reveal,
to our hearts, minds, and souls, by your love and in your Spirit.
Amen.

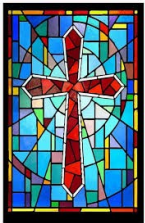




Thank You

Broome Animal Sanctuary - would like to thank Schoharie Valley Day Camp and all who donated for the generous donation. On behalf of Wattles the Pig and all of us at Broome Animal Sanctuary thank you and "Oinks of Love". Tony Frier, Broome Animal Sanctuary Principal Director

Graduation Thank You-I wanted to write you all to thank you for the recent graduation gift you gave me. It was a great help in starting this next chapter of my life and I can't thank you enough for your support. With moving across the country the past couple months have been a little hectic to say the least, but I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for the love and guidance the church gave me growing up. Even though I'm on the opposite coast now I know we will always be close through God. I hope all is well in the valley and thank you so much again for the graduation gift. With love, Cameron Schultz



Schoharie Reformed Church

Lawn Sale

The Fundraising/Fellowship Committee's first event will be participating in the
(Schoharie Village Wide Garage Sale Day)

Saturday, September 7, 2019 @ 9am—2pm

Set up—Friday, September 6th ; 5-7pm volunteers are needed.

Sale items may be dropped off at the Heritage House prior to September 7th.

Use the side room that faces the DAR Lasell Hall.

Contact Maryann Foland or Dave Toborg to make other arrangements.

Sorry – no clothes, VHS tapes, old computers, or CRT type TVs.

Canopies are needed to set up on the lawn.

Unsold items will not be returned unless you pick them up following the sale day.

Proceeds go toward rebuilding the stained glass windows.

Thank you for your donations!



Camp Fowler Family Retreat 3.0

We had a wonderful weekend again this year as a church family up at Camp Fowler in Speculator, NY for Family Camp 3.0! We enjoyed this unique time together kayaking on the lake, stand-up paddle boarding, hiking to a waterfall, playing carpet ball and Gaga ball, singing around the campfire, and worshipping in the chapel. It was a great time of reconnecting, playing in the beauty of nature, deepening our relationships, and growing our faith. Thank you to Camp Fowler and all those who had a part in organizing this special time once again this year. We hope more of our church family will be able to join us next year for this special weekend!



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry continues to serve an increased number of families, a difficult time for many. The items of need are: pasta, pasta sauce, tuna fish, peanut butter, jelly, and cereal. Other items needed are laundry & dish detergent, paper products and cleaning supplies. 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. Monetary donations are appreciated as well, checks may be made out to Schoharie Valley Food Pantry. *Volunteers are needed to help with the Food Pantry, if able, please contact Diane Walion at 518-868-4629.* Thank you all for your continued support.

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





Announcements

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.

After School Program-the after school program held at the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church has a large group of Pre-K and kindergarten children enrolled for this year's program. ASP is seeking volunteers to assist with and read to the children. If you are able and would like to volunteer, please contact SUPC at 518-295-8931. What a great way to spend time with our youth. Thank you



Catskill Area Hospice- is pleased to announce a support group series specifically designed for caregivers of individuals who are terminally ill, chronically ill or disabled. This group will meet for 6 consecutive weeks and provide information, education, and much requested peer support. Caregivers will have an opportunity to identify concerns, receive support from others, and locate community resources helpful for their unique situations. Each session will be held at The Community Library-Rie Lamont Community Room, 10 Union St., Cobleskill, NY 12043, Sessions will be Tuesdays 11am-12:30pm on September 17th & 24th, October 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd. Cost: Free but registration is required. Registration: Please call Catskill Area Hospice at 607-432-5525. For more information visit: www.cahpc.org and click on For Caregivers.

Antiques in Schoharie-September 21 & 22, 2019; Saturday 10am-5pm & Sunday 11am-4pm; 143 Depot Lane Center, Schoharie. On site free parking, Admission \$6.00. Presented by Schoharie Colonial Heritage Association.

Stone Fort Days 2019 – 1779-Living in the Eye of the Storm. Stone Fort Days returns to the Old Stone Fort Museum Complex on Saturday and Sunday, October 5th and 6th for a weekend full of immersive and family friendly living history re-enactments and activities. Hands-on workshops and programs provide the opportunity for visitors to roll up their sleeves and get in on the action, which helps bring the history of the New York frontier to life.

Christian Women Connecting-Sponsors "Stitching It All Together" Inspirational Speaker-Sharon Phillips. Monday, September 9, 2019 at 11:30am. Holiday Inn, Route 30A, N. Comrie Ave., Johnstown. \$17.50 (Pay at door). Roast beef sandwich with mashed potato and vegetable or chef salad, rolls, dessert, and coffee or tea. Diana Marshall of Gloversville Sewing Center, "Our Business in General" "Quilting in the Area" "Sewing in Today's Market". Special Music-Sharon Phillips. Complimentary child care is available upon request at time of reservation. For reservations, call Gloria, 518-853-3126 or women2connect@yahoo.com.

Consistory-will meet Wednesday, September 25th at 6:30pm in Heritage House.

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.



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