



The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church

October 2019

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



What's inside

<i>Pastor's Article</i>	1-2
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	3
<i>Trunk or Treat</i>	3
<i>Sunday School</i>	4
<i>Fund Raising/Fellowship Committee</i>	5
<i>Buildings & Grounds</i>	5
<i>Creating Healthy Boundaries</i>	6
<i>Food Pantry</i>	6
<i>Fall Bible Study</i>	7
<i>Thank You's</i>	7
<i>Testimonies</i>	7
<i>Announcements</i>	8



Are you plugged in?

"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

"It doesn't work!" He declared to me most assuredly. "Watch." He turned the knob on the lamp back and forth several times but no light came on. My first response was to ask, "Did you check the bulb?" So, he removed the bulb from the lamp and went and found a new one. He screwed in the new bulb and turned the knob again several times but still no light came on. "I think we should just throw it away." He said frustrated. "Stupid piece of junk! All I wanted to do was move it from one corner of my bedroom to the other and now it doesn't work!" "Maybe the knob is broken?" I wondered. I examined the knob but sure enough it clicked on and off appropriately, but still there was no light. "Just forget it," he said, giving up on any hope of getting it to work. "Could there be a short in the cord?" I followed the cord from the base of the lamp back to... and there it was, the reason why the lamp wasn't working. I laughed when I saw the plug lying lifeless

on the floor, disconnected from the outlet, the power source. It wasn't plugged in! All of that time, all of that frustration, all to discover it wasn't plugged in. The lamp had gotten moved across the room but then distractions happened and it never got plugged in!

Perhaps you can relate somewhat to this situation in your own life. Have you ever wondered why some electrical appliance wasn't working, only to discover that it wasn't plugged in? It probably happens more than we'd like to admit. What about when it comes to being "plugged in" with regards to our best lives, and especially to the living out of our faith? Our faith connects us to our greatest source of power, the center of our hope, confidence, peace, joy, gratefulness, and balance for our lives found in God. But only if it remains plugged in! Have you ever declared that something in your life wasn't working, tried to change some things around but to no avail, put yourself down, and then said, "forget it" and given up? I wonder...were you "plugged in"?

When it comes to being our best selves, living fully alive, and becoming the people God created us to be, we need to be plugged in. We need to be plugged in to the voice that reminds us we are beloved children of God. We need to be plugged in to the God who has power to change and transform our lives. We need to be plugged in to the hope and grace that can lift us out of our struggle and despairs. This is not easy, or simple, it requires hard work to change from who we learned to be in order to protect ourselves from harm in the world, to who we have been created to be in Christ, but it can only happen when we are plugged in!

The Apostle Paul writes his letter to the church in Colossae to remind them to remain "plugged in" to the source of their truest and best life, which is Jesus Christ. As a young church of Gentile (non-Jewish) believers, the Colossians are experiencing all kinds of pressure to adhere to other additional practices, rituals, and beliefs beyond their faith in Jesus Christ and the Gospel they have been taught in order to truly be considered among the people of God. Paul's letter is meant to remind them that they already have been given all that they need for living their best life of faith and he wants to encourage them to remain "plugged in" to Christ!

What are the ways you are currently plugging in to Christ to discover your best life and the life of your faith? Perhaps it is through your devotional life, time in prayer, books you are reading, meditation or another spiritual discipline. Or maybe it is through Bible Study, or acts of service you are involved in, or conversations with others, or spiritual direction, or even coaching. If nothing comes to mind, then what is getting in the way? We want to encourage you to wonder and to make an intentional plan about how you are going to live plugged in so that, as Paul writes to the Colossians, you too may, *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.* This is NOT the religious life, or even the morally good life. Paul is in fact speaking against the moralistic and religious life that focuses solely on the "do's and don'ts." His desire for the Colossians and for us is to connect to the fullness of "real life" found in relational connectivity to God in Christ, where we take on intentional practices and ways of being that help keep us plugged in to God! Because being plugged in is the real life you were created to live as your best self, fully alive in Christ to whom and through whom we all belong.

Plugged in to Christ, the source and hope of Life,

Pastor Sherri and Pastor Mike



Operation Christmas Child

What do fun toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and prayer all have in common? They all go into packing a shoe box for a child through Operation Christmas Child. Since 1993 shoe boxes have been lovingly packed with items and prayers and delivered to boys and girls in more than one hundred fifty countries and territories. It has been a long standing tradition for Schoharie Reformed Church to participate in this worthwhile project.

Shoe boxes and packing labels will be available on **Sunday, October 6th**. The shipping cost this year is \$9.00 per box, to be included with the shipping label. More information about Operation Christmas Child is available in the Narthex or you can go to: www.samaritanspurse.org to learn more.

We will be dedicating our boxes **Sunday, November 17th**. Let us 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.

Any questions see Cindy Parks or Kim Charboneau or you may contact the Church Office.

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



Trunk or Treat

Thursday, October 31st, 5-7pm will be the annual Halloween Trunk or Treat in the Village of Schoharie. Our church will be participating in this event. Donations of individually wrapped candy will be needed to make this possible. A box will be placed in the Narthex for candy donations. We invite all to join us on Main St. Schoharie during this time. If you have any questions please call the church office.

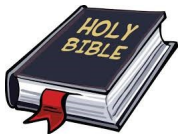
Thank you for helping to make this all possible for the children.





Sunday School 2019-20

- *October 6 – Regular Sunday School PreK-2nd Grade; 3-9th Grade no Sunday school so they may celebrate communion.
 - *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 so they may celebrate communion.
 - *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
- *The Sunday School will have a time of praise singing beginning at 9:15am in the Community Room.



All are invited to join us!

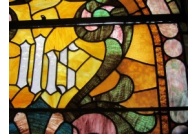


Happy
Halloween

Fundraising/Fellowship Committee

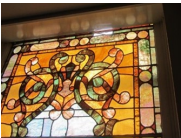
Stained Glass Window Fundraising Update

Recall that we are raising funds to rebuild our 125 year old stained glass windows that are slowly sagging, cracking, and breaking due to age, gravity, and heat. Two contractors respectively proposed \$125,000 and \$207,000 to rebuild them.



September was a very good month. First, \$1,300 was cleared at the Village Wide Garage Sale September 7. Many people worked Friday night sorting and setting up, then ran the sale on Saturday. It was a great time of fellowship not just among our church family but also with the community.

“Good” stuff donated by congregation members, great weather, and a good turn-out of visitors added up to a very successful fun day. In a profitable sideline, Luke Jacobs grilled and sold breakfast sandwiches out by the sidewalk. Many thanks for the canopies that were loaned.



The big news is that the A. Lindsey & Olive B. O'Connor Foundation of Hobart awarded the Church a \$50,000 grant toward the windows. This is a large chunk of our need; and will help build momentum and confidence as the Fundraising/Fellowship Committee develops additional events and programs as well as pursuing other grant opportunities.

The next fundraiser the Committee is looking at will be a Christmas event tied into the Village holiday celebration and tree lighting. Watch for details to be announced.

Anyone interested in an up-close, personal review of the windows can contact Dave Toborg. If you have any questions on the Committee, see Maryann Foland.



Building & Grounds

Fall Clean-Up

Saturday, November 2, 9:00 AM. The focus will be on raking leaves, cleaning out the flower bed, trimming shrubs, lubricating the basketball backstops, 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 9.



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.

Creating Healthy Boundaries

Saturday, November 9, 2019 from 9:30am to 3:30pm Registration begins at 8:30am

Schoharie Reformed Church, 258 Main St., Schoharie, NY

Healthy Boundaries are a gift. They are helpful guidelines that give shape to our relationships... Boundaries create safe spaces and help to build trust over time... Spiritual leadership is replete with boundary challenges. Often the lines between what is appropriate and what is not are unclear... even as we may have come to some awareness about the basics of healthy boundaries, the issues before us get more complex every day. (FaithTrust Institute)

Schoharie Classis invites Pastors, Elders, Deacons, Christian Educators and other ministry leaders to a safe space where we can explore where boundaries are beneficial in our ministry together and what the creation of healthy boundaries might look like in our own settings.

Led by members of the Regional Synod of Albany BAT (Boundaries Awareness Team) who are certified in Boundaries Awareness Training by the FaithTrust Institute we will explore some of the boundaries that can prove beneficial in our ministries in areas including: personal space and safety, finances, social media, personal relationships, sexuality and self-care.

Questions please contact:

Sherrri Meyer-Veen pastorsherrimv@gmail.com or

Janice Fitzgerald mediationcoord@gmail.com



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is continuing to serve families in the area. The items of need are: tuna fish, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, canned ravioli/beef stew/soup/spaghetti o's/chili with beans. 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.

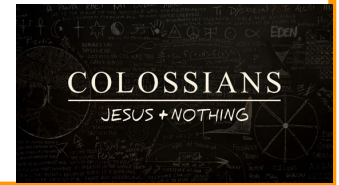


The Food Pantry is open Tuesday & Thursdays, 12-2pm



Fall Bible Study

On Monday, September 16th we began the study of Paul's letter to the Colossians. We are exploring 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! We will continue our journey thru Monday, November 4th.



Thank You

Camp Fowler would like to thank you for your continued support. We hope your church families enjoyed being on property. There is something very special about Fowler that lets you rest, relax, recharge, learn, grow and explore. It is unique. Happy Fall. Peace Lauren.



Family Retreat 3.0 August 23-25, 2019



Testimonies

We would like to celebrate the work God is doing in the life of our congregation. If you are feeling led to share a brief testimony about what God is doing in your life, please speak with one of the Pastors.





Announcements



Consistory– will meet on Wednesday, October 16th at 6:30pm in Heritage House.

Newsletter–as we do our best to keep our newsletter reaching all, we do ask for your assistance to keep our mailing and email addresses up to date. If you or someone you know is not receiving our newsletter please contact the church office at 518-295-8177 or email the office at SchoharieReformedChurch@yahoo.com

Recycle–your old fridge or freezer. National Grid will pick up your old fridge or freezer at no cost, recycle it responsibly, and they will send you \$100, 2 times the normal rebate now thru October 31st. Visit: www.arcincutility.com or call 1-888-740-8112.

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 task 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 years 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

Honest to God–Finding truth in a world of lies. A retreat for men...with keynote speaker Stan Key. November 15-16, 2019. Christ the King Center, 575 Burton road, Greenwich, NY 12834. For more information 518-692-9550 or visit: www.ctkcenter.org

Dare2Share LIVE–Saturday, October 12th at Fusion Community Church, Cobleskill, will be participating in a nationwide day of inspiring and equipping teenagers to share Gospel called Dare2Share LIVE...and this Live Stream Event is free for all teenagers. Designed for your Junior High and High School students. Doors open at 11am; lunch is served from 11:30am-noon; event begins at noon; there is an afternoon break with a snack; outreach begins at 3:30pm; return from outreach at 5:15pm; dinner is served 5:15-6pm; events ends at 7:30pm.
For questions please contact Pauline Ebert at students@fusioncommunitychurch.org or 518-332-0921.

Great Escape Fear Fest–October 12th, 19th & 26th. For complete information visit: SIXFLAGS.COM/GREATESCAPE and enter promo code: COMET3 or contact Dani Taylor at 518-824-8923 or daTaylor@sftp.com.

Cornhole Tournament–Saturday, October 19th (rain date October 20th); Check-in 11am; bags fly at noon. Fox Creek Park, Schoharie. All play subject to tournament rules. Cash Prizes. Food available onsite. 50-50 raffle. Pre-registration required (no walk-ins on tournament day). Open to ages 16 and up. Registration deadline October 12th. Mail registration and payment to: Schoharie Promotional Association, PO Box 306, Schoharie, NY 12157. visit: schohariepromo.org for information and registration form.



Schoharie Reformed Church

260 Main Street

Schoharie, NY 12157

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

Phone: (518) 295-8177

Fax: (518) 295-8105

email: schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com

Website: www.schohariereformedchurch.org

