

The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 190

Mission Statement: As disciples of Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to join together to worship God, to study his Word, and use our gifts to extend God's grace and love to others.

January 2018

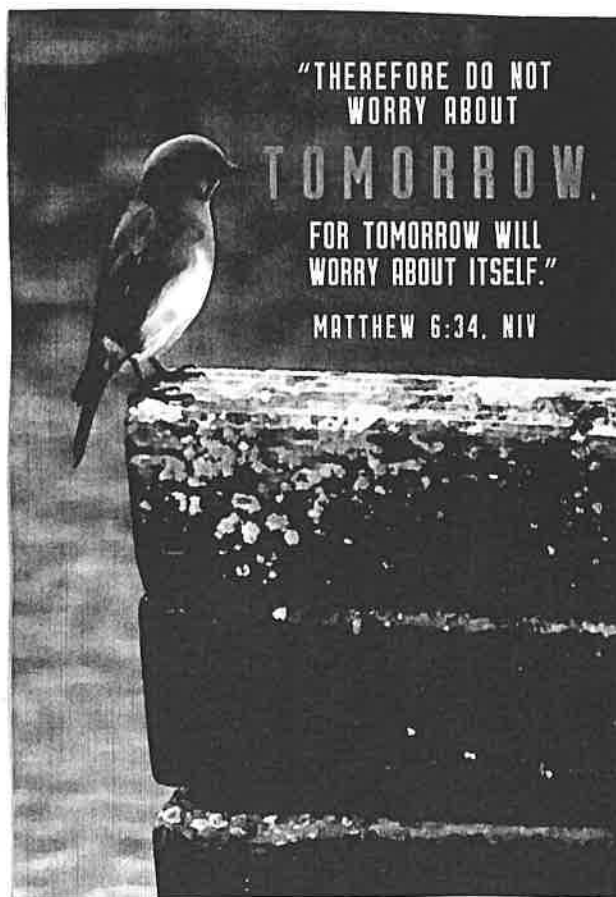
What's Inside:

Interim Pastor's Page
Church Review
Calendar of Events
Children's Fun Page
Birthdays-Anniversaries

LRC - Church Service
9:00 A.M.

SRC - Church Service
11:00 A.M.
Sunday School
9:30 A.M.

Rev. Paul Ferenczy



Resolve to "be there"

Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

Special dates

- New Year's Day, January 1, 2018
- Epiphany, January 6, 2018
- Baptism of the Lord, January 7, 2018
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance, January 15, 2018
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2018

Did you know this? The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ. -Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments. -Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love. -The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. -The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of ...the Old Testament. -The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation..... -Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. -The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes. -Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. -The ten lords a-leaping are the ten commandments. -The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples. -The twelve drummers drumming symbolizes the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed. So there is your history for today. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!** ♡ yes, I said **MERRY CHRISTmas** because Christmas is not without **CHRIST!**



Prayer Requests

Church

Kathy Venette/health issues
 Tina Ward/foot surgery/recovery
 Jean Wormuth/home bond
 Chris Hibbard/healing broken leg
 Jan Liberti/new chemo treatments
 Joe King/nursing home
 John Stanton/need to heal
 George Stanton/neck surgery

Family/Loved Ones

Carol Coltran/set back/improving
 Margaret Springstead/health issues
 Marjorie Clem/back surgery
 Nadine/acute care unit
 Charlotte/cancer (Meta's friend)
 Joe Garufi/4th surgery recovery
 Hal Buddle/long term health issues
 Nancy Blencoe's father/recovery
 Gary Bishop/MS
 Thelma Turner/Palliative Care
 Jan Liberti/cancer treatment

Those homebound/in nursing homes:

Helen Holmes (LRC)
 153 Hansen Rd.
 Cherry Valley, NY 13320

Muriel Holmes (LRC)
 St. Johnsville Nursing Home
 7 Timmerman Ave.
 St. Johnsville, NY 13452

Josephine King (SRC)
 c/o Edward Wilkinson Facility
 4988 St. Hwy. 30
 Amsterdam, N.Y. 12010

Richard Nirschl (SRC)
 St. Johnsville Nursing Home
 7 Timmerman Ave.
 St. Johnsville, NY 13452

Community

All Teachers and students
 Family situations impacting students' performances in school
 Children and parents relocate and adjust to new surroundings
 Grand-parents serving as guardians for their grand-children
 All families impacted by alcoholism and/or substance abuse
 Increased heroin addiction in our county
 All families and marriages in crisis
 All children suffering from physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse
 All God's children impacted by hunger and food insecurity
 All soldiers (esp. those deployed) and their families
 Farmers struggling with weather issues

Nation and World

Wild fires in California recovery
 All those affected by all the hurricanes
 Crisis of refugees and migrants
 Extremists' intolerance and violence
 Persecuted Christians
 The global economy
 All unrest in God's world
Local, state national and world leaders
 Peacemaker groups

Please let me know of any updates or additions so we can direct our prayers to them.

Winter gift

"God ... does great things beyond our knowing. He says to the snow, 'Fall to the earth'; likewise to his heavy, drenching rain. He shuts up all humankind indoors, so that all people may know his work" (Job 37:5-7, NABRE).

Snow, ice and cold can make winter a hassle. "Snow days" due to a blizzard may thrill students but usually inconvenience parents. But now and then, winter blankets the earth so heavily that it seems to quiet everything. We're granted permission to hunker down at home, snuggle close with family or pets, enjoy a book or movie, make cocoa or cookies, and rest. It's like a surprise sabbath — the gift of grace-time — when no one's expected to get out the door or the driveway.

Perhaps indeed, as Job declared, God sees fit on such days to put our busyness on hold and shut us all indoors so we pause and remember his work — his place — in our lives. Praise God for snow days!

LRC/RCWM: December 2017

Each year the RCWM does 2 rummage sales and a Christmas Bazaar to raise monies for our missions that we support. This is a list of the missions:

SALT: Schoharie Area Long Term, Inc.	\$300
Lawyersville Reformed Church	\$200
Animal Shelter of Schoharie Valley, Inc.	\$200
Cobleskill Regional Hospital	\$200
City Mission of Schenectady	\$300
Doctors Without Borders	\$400
American Bible Society	\$100
Vellore CMC Foundation, Inc.	\$100
Life Line – Cobleskill Regional Hospital	\$200
Farano Center for Children	\$200
Catskill Area Hospice	\$300
RCA – Board of Pensions	\$200
Catholic Charities of Schoharie County	\$50
Covenant House	\$50
Christmas collaboration – Joshua Project	\$200
Best Year To-date	Total: \$3000

Three questions

There's a tale of a traveling priest who was confronted by a soldier in pre-revolutionary Russia. Rifle in hand, the soldier barked, "Who are you? Where are you going? Why are you going there?"

Instead of answering, the priest asked how much the soldier was paid — and offered double if the soldier would challenge him with those three questions each day as he passed by.

Those three important questions can guide us on our journey through the new year ahead. For Christians, thankfully, the answers are clear:

- Who are you? "I'm a child of God!"
- Where are you going? "I'm going out into the world!"
- Why are you going there? "I'm going out of love for Jesus, who died for me."

Place these questions and answers in a spot where you can see them each day. Then go forward confidently, knowing "whose" you are and what your purpose is.

"The Book Our Mothers Read"

We search the world for truth; we cull
The good, the pure, the beautiful,
From graven stone and written scroll,
From all old flower-fields of the soul;

And, weary seekers of the best,
We come back laden from the quest,
To find that all the sages said
Is in the Book our mothers read.

—John Greenleaf Whittier

From the correct perspective

A child sat at his grandmother's feet as she embroidered. Looking up, he saw a mishmash of threads and ugly knots but no discernible picture or words. "Nana," he said with concern, "that's not very pretty."

"Come up here," Grandma invited, "and look at it from this side. You have to see it from my perspective."

"Oh!" the boy exclaimed then. "It's beautiful!"

Seeing the world from our human, earthly viewpoint, we can't grasp the masterpiece that God is completing. But when we finally see it from his perspective, we'll discover that the threads and knots all contribute to a beautiful work of art. That work won't be finished until Jesus returns, but in the meantime, may God grant us an occasional glimpse of the work in progress — from God's side!

- "The greatest act of mercy that God performs is giving the gift of faith."
—R.C. Sproul

- "A smile is a curve that sets everything straight."
—Phyllis Diller

- "Ye know not what the Lord is working out of this, but ye shall know it hereafter."
—Samuel Rutherford

The freedom of forgiveness

Martin Luther King Jr. called forgiveness "a permanent attitude," as opposed to "an occasional act." Maintaining a forgiveness mind-set leads to peace and freedom.

Author and pastor Max Anders experienced that freedom in seminary. After cheating on a Hebrew final, he was distraught and confessed his sin to God and the professor. "I felt deeply cleaned. Pure. Holy," Anders writes in *21 Unbreakable Laws of Life*. "I wanted to laugh and cry at the same time. I wanted to run and jump and dance. The burden was lifted. ... I was free!"

By contrast, he writes, "If we don't ask for forgiveness when we wrong someone, we lose our moral authority; the debris of sin begins to accumulate in our hearts, choking our conscience Others know when we sin against them, and if we don't make it right, it hurts our reputation as well as God's."

Prayer for a new beginning

Dear Lord, touch me with your Spirit of truth so I may be honest about my sins and failures. Forgive me for treating your covenant lightly and at times ignoring it completely. Help me truly seek and know forgiveness for all the hurts I've caused, for harboring ill will and for any hardness of heart I may have. Please renew a right spirit within me that I may become more Christ-like and that my life may daily reveal your love and light. In your name. Amen.

United in diversity

Although early Christians had much in common, they also dwelt in diversity. Each of their leaders emphasized certain parts of the gospel and favored certain worship styles. They all believed in the resurrected Jesus, and they all celebrated the Lord's Supper and baptism. But Christians in Corinth had a unique approach, as did those in Ephesus, Philippi, Galatia, Rome and so on.

It might be boring if we all believed and practiced completely alike. Variations don't need to be an impediment to Christian unity. As pastor Charles Best said, "If we're going to be in heaven together, we might as well get along now."

Come back to Christmas

When January comes along, we can continue that sense of comfort and warmth that comes at Christmas by returning to the Christmas story, which gives us two great promises: God understands you, and God can redeem you. I encourage people to make it a point to reread the Christmas story every month, and allow Christmas to be Christmas every month. We need to keep coming back to it.



JANUARY

**9 Warren Van Deusen
19 Dan Fiske
21 Margaret Bixby**

JANUARY

18 Dan & Laura Davenport



**Kindness
Is like
Snow
It
Beautifies
Everything
It
Covers.**

A new you

The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective.

—G.K. Chesterton

Food donations

Thank you to all who contribute donations of Food for the Food Pantry, held at the Baptist Church. We know, due to the economy, that there is an increase in requests. Some who have donated in the past find themselves in need of help. Please continue to give as you are able. Thank you for participating in this ministry of care. First Sunday of each month.



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Deadline: January 24th Thanks to all for your information and contributions.

MEMO BOARD

January

7,14,21,28

LRC Worship Service @ 9:00 A.M.

SRC Sunday School @ 9:30 A.M.

SRC Worship Service @ 11:00 A.M.

7

LRC Orientation & Installation of Consistory Members

18

LRC Consistory Meeting @ 5:15 P.M.

Mondays – Fridays 5:30 to 6:30 a.m. morning exercise group. SRC Hall.

All welcome – easily modified movements to meet your specific needs.

Contact Laura with any questions – 518-705-0860