

# The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 191

**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.**

February 2018

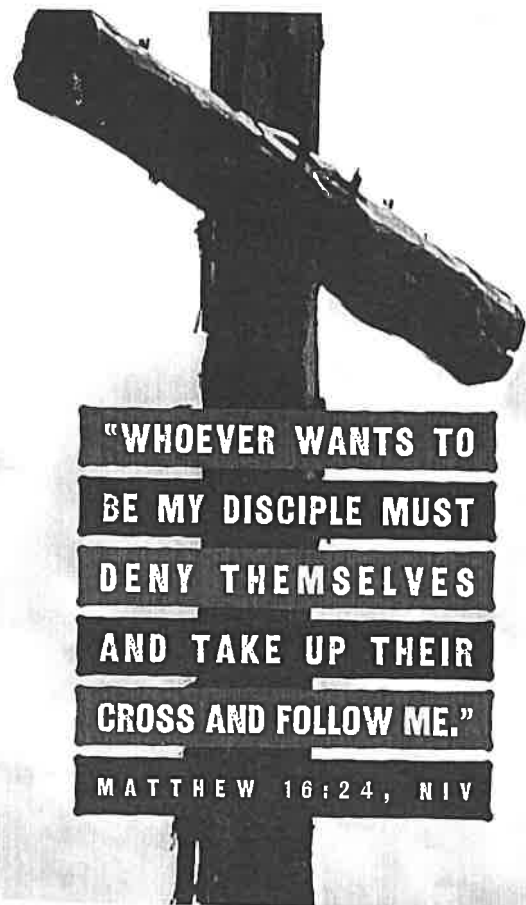
## What's Inside:

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**



## Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 11, 2018
- Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2018
- First Sunday in Lent, February 18, 2018
- Presidents Day, February 19, 2018
- Second Sunday in Lent, February 25, 2018

## Letting Others Help You by the Pastor

*Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."*

As many of you know, for several weeks I have been "under the weather" as they say. An interesting expression in light of the fact that the weather has been severe and I believe has contributed to the respiratory illnesses that many are suffering through right now. Being under that kind of weather was horrible. I had one of those old fashioned colds that started in one area and wound up in my chest with me coughing my head off, Well, not literally but it sure felt like it. I even had the Doctors befuddled who kept saying that a lot of people were suffering the same. That news brought me little comfort.

The result of all this was that I lost my voice a few times, could not speak a full sentence without a cough in it, and had a voice that sounded like an out of sync motorcycle with an attitude. I had just exactly what a preacher ought not to have. I found myself with Sunday coming on fast and the growing realization that I was not going to be able to lead worship. What was I going to do? On similar occasions I was well enough to muddle through but not this time. I needed help. In both congregations there were those who graciously offered and I found myself humbled as I accepted the offer. My helpers did a wonderful job and brought to mind past times when someone needed assistance and I was given opportunity to help out. How great that felt. I also thought about times when I would not give in and refused the help I needed and times when others in need told me they did not want my help.

Well, I learned something about the way God works through all of this. This is it. There are times when your situation gives opportunity to others to help you and when they do they see it as opportunities to fulfill what God is calling them to do, - to reach out to anyone in need and exercise their God given abilities. If I had said no to the help, which I am guilty of doing in the past, I would have stood in the way of what God can do through others. I certainly would not have had concern for the interests of others and would have been thinking myself to be more significant. In other words, acting as if the world cannot get along without me. I discovered it can. Not only that, I saw how God works through others especially in times when I am in need.

Well, all of this has brought me to reconsider what Paul the Apostle meant by telling us not to look only to our own interests but to that of others. I am so grateful for the kindness of others and how willingly they stepped up to help me. Have you ever had the experience of seeing God at work in those who so graciously are willing to help you? Be careful about turning down such help and doing it out of pride or for the sake of trying to prove how independent you are.

I am back to work now and feeling better. With a grateful heart and appreciative attitude I know it is because there are those willing and waiting for a chance to help me when I need it. Lesson learned. Thank you , Lord.

**JANUARY 2018**

**Pastor: The Rev. Paul Ferenczy**

**Lawyersville Reformed Church**

109 Philip Schuyler Road  
P. O. Box 421  
Cobleskill, NY 12043  
Office: 518-234-2387

**Sharon Reformed Church**

6858 St. Rte 10  
P.O. Box 92  
Sharon Springs, NY 13459

Web site: [www.lrcandsrc.org](http://www.lrcandsrc.org)

**Lawyersville Consistory**

ELDERS

- \*Christine Hibbard – 339-0695
- ++ Kelly Sperbeck – 294-7198
- Bonnie Tryon - 234-9130

DEACONS

- +Lola Fletcher – 234-2283
- Lisa Boss – 361-7797
- Debbie Stanton – 234-3238
- Lois Kemmer – 234-2048

**Sharon Consistory**

ELDERS

- \*Dan Fiske – 705-1461
- Linda DiCicco - 284-2250
- Jill Cullen – 864-5890
- ++Laura Davenport – 705-0860

DEACONS

- +Nancy Blencoe MacFadden – 708-4411
- Barbara Mereness – 284-2474
- Kathy Parsons – 284-2332
- Adrienne Cullen – 294-4363

- \*Vice President
- +Chairman of Deacons
- ++Elder Chair

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Lawyersville Treasurer – Kelly Sperbeck.....  | 294-7198 |
| Lawyersville Clerk/Secretary – Lisa Boss..... | 361-7797 |
| Lawyersville Organist – Bev Buddle.....       | 823-4465 |
| Lola Fletcher .....                           | 234-2283 |

Home e-mail: [lola756@wildblue.net](mailto:lola756@wildblue.net)  
Address: 756 Loonenbergh Tpk.  
Sharon Springs, NY 13459

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Sharon Treasurer – Barbara Mereness.....              | 284-2474 |
| Sharon Clerk/Secretary – Nancy Blencoe MacFadden..... | 708-4411 |
| Sharon Organist – Nancy Blencoe MacFadden.....        | 708-4411 |



Prayer Requests

Church

Margret Becker/cellulitis in leg  
 Kathy Venette/health issues  
 Tina Ward/back to work  
 Jean Wormuth/home bond  
 Chris Hibbard/healing broken leg  
 Jan Liberti/new chemo treatments  
 Joe King/nursing home  
 John Stanton/need to heal

Family/Loved Ones

Margaret Springstead/health issues  
 Marjorie Clem/back surgery  
 Nadine/acute care unit  
 Joe Garufi/back to work  
 Hal Buddle/long term health issues  
 Gary Bishop/MS  
 Thelma Turner/Palliative Care

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

For care givers helping people in need  
 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 grandchildren  
 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 and captivity  
 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.**

**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.**



Office Phone #: 234-2387  
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**Deadline: February 21st** Thanks to all for your information and contributions.



**MEMO BOARD**

**February**

4,11,18,25

11  
14  
15

LRC Worship Service @ 9:00 A.M.  
SRC Sunday School @ 9:30 A.M.  
SRC Worship Service @ 11:00 A.M.  
LRC Boy Scout Sunday & 4 Chaplain's Program  
Ash Wednesday Service @ LRC @ 7:00 P.M.  
LRC Consistory @ 5:15 P.M.

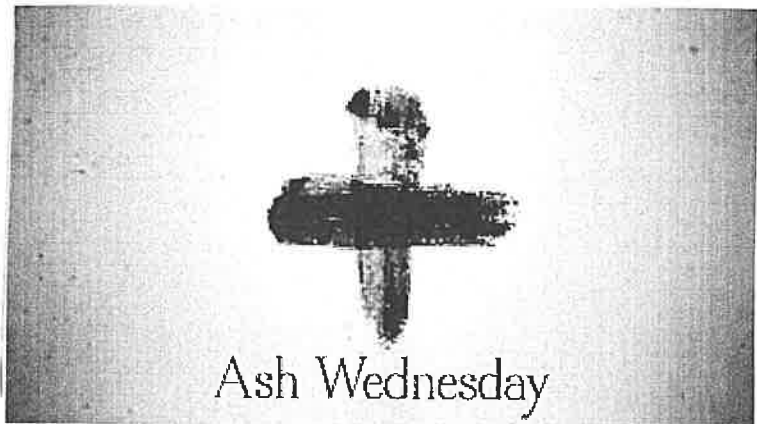
**Mondays – Fridays 6:00 to 6:45 a.m. morning exercise group. SRC Hall.**  
All welcome – easily modified movements to meet your specific needs.  
Contact Laura with any questions – 518-705-0860

**LRC -Would you like to donate items to use for coffee hour and other events? Items we could use are coffee, half & half, pastries, paper towels and bathroom paper. Please leave items on kitchen counter. Thank you.**



The Four Chaplains: Sacrifice at Sea

Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM at LRC



Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM at LRC



# February

BIRTHDAYS

## FEBRUARY

- 3 Rena Cooper
- 3 Gina Proctor
- 4 Betty Cullen
- 7 Harold Hall
- 9 Lauren Prezorski
- 23 Heather Kamal



# February

ANNIVERSARIES

## FEBRUARY

- 14 Jeff & Adriene Cullen



"The heart-shaped communion wafers were a nice touch for Valentine's Day."



## LOVE IS A FRIENDSHIP SET TO MUSIC

### Our new home



A preacher who had always feared death felt powerless to comfort others who were facing it. Toward the end of his life, he moved to another house. When all the furniture had been packed, he lingered in the home where he'd raised his children and prepared many sermons. An assistant interrupted those reflections by saying, "Everything's gone, sir, but the new house is better than this one. Come away."

The preacher never forgot this lesson. God has prepared for his children a home infinitely better than earth — "an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands" (2 Corinthians 5:1, NIV).

- "Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not."

—C.S. Lewis

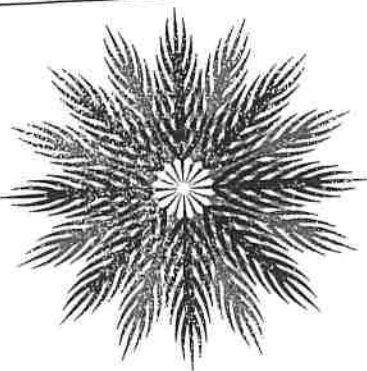
- "Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile."

—Franklin P. Jones

## Ash Wednesday prayer

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism.

Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.



### “What Do I Have?”

What do I have, Lord, that you would need me as a servant?

Eyes, he said,  
to see the beauty in all that I’ve made —  
and my children as they travel life’s highway.

Hands, he said,  
to reach out and touch hurting souls,  
to give a hug or encouraging pat on the back.

Feet, he said,  
to lead my children through this world of strife  
and to help them run from sin and follow me.

Mouth, he said,  
to lift up your voice and sing praises to me  
so others may hear the joy in your heart.

Ears, he said,  
to listen to my still, small voice of love  
and to hear my children when they cry for help.

Heart, he said,  
so you may know the full love of my Spirit  
and love my children as I have loved you.

### Meeting needs

“My neighbor’s material needs are my spiritual needs,” said 19<sup>th</sup>-century theologian Israel Salanter. In other words, when someone else suffers hunger and poverty, when people endure a natural disaster and lack shelter, when another human being is sick or injured — in all such cases, God calls us to action. And God knows that whatever we do to meet those material needs will meet our spiritual needs at the same time.

It might be our spiritual need to expand our horizons into neighborhoods, cultures or situations where we’re uncomfortable. We might need to grow in love for people different from us. By serving others, we might find our own sagging spirits nurtured with a sense of well-being or even joy. And as we reach out to help, surely we’ll notice others doing the same thing, and our spiritual need for

# Puzzle!

Search in all directions to find these words from the first seven chapters of Proverbs.

**WORD LIST:** covenant, delight, discipline, evil, father, fool, forsake, fountain, fruit, heart, honest, humble, insight, listen, Lord, love, neighbor, path, pleasant, poverty, protect, rebuke, sleep, son, teaching, tongue, walk, wisdom, youth

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M I C W L O O F Y C C M N C T
D S K A C X J X H M K I P P N
E N I L P I C S I D A Y R E A
E J H K T O T R N T W O Y K S
D E L I G H T E N O T U R A A
E U G N O T G U A E S T C S E
H T A P N Y O N C C D H O R L
A U J L X F Z T E C H Y V O P
E Q N E I G H B O R T I E F W
T H G I S N I F L R T L N J I
H O N E S T A O E I B S A G S
E V I L I T R V I M S R N T D
V M X U H D O A U M I T T A O
O E R E Y P Y H E K U B E R M
L F R K S L E E P H C N P N R
    
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### 10 biblical ways to love

1. Listen without interrupting. “To answer before listening — that is folly and shame” (Proverbs 18:13).
2. Speak without accusing. “Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19).
3. Give without selfishness. “The righteous give without sparing” (Proverbs 21:26).
4. Pray without ceasing. “We have not stopped praying for you” (Colossians 1:9).
5. Answer without arguing. “Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife” (Proverbs 17:1).
6. Share without pretending. “Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of ... Christ” (Ephesians 4:15).
7. Enjoy without complaining. “Do everything without grumbling or arguing” (Philippians 2:14).
8. Trust without wavering. “[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:7).
9. Forgive without punishing. “Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (Colossians 3:13).
10. Promise without forgetting. “A longing fulfilled is a tree of life” (Proverbs 13:12).

# Kid's Page



## heart sandwich

Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.



### What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)

### What you do:

1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
4. If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.



## A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:34, Jesus offers important instructions for his followers.

*Directions: Figure out the pattern in each vertical line of letters. Then add the next letter in the sequence to the blank underneath, completing John 13:14, NIV.*

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCD...

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| H | M | T | A | I | L | A | Y | H | K | R | D | Y | P | S | M | G |
| J | N | U | C | L | M | C | Z | K | M | S | F | B | Q | W | P | H |

" \_\_\_\_\_ "

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JOHN 13:34, NIV