

# The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches

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**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.

April 2016

## 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.**

**Sunday School**

**following worship**

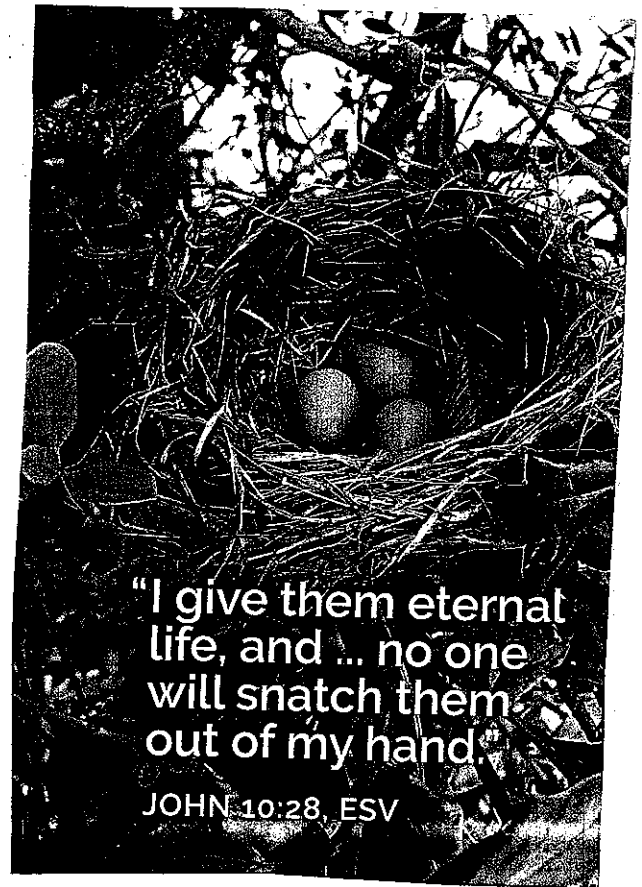
**SRC - Church Service**

**11:00 A.M.**

**Sunday School**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Rev. Paul Ferenczy**



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## Heavenly showers

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All God's blessings go together, like links in a golden chain. If he gives converting grace, he will also give comforting grace. He will send "showers of blessing." Look up today, O parched plant, and open thy leaves and flowers for a heavenly watering.

—Charles H. Spurgeon



## Lessons I learn In My Garden

(by the Interim Minister)

Two of the main branches on my peach tree had snapped. There were so many peaches on it that it could not hold the weight. This was the sixth year that I had been nurturing that tree along through several seasons of difficulties vowing to see it produce an abundant harvest. The first two years it did nothing. It was too young. The third year it had six peaches on it. I watched and waited for them to ripen like an expectant father waits for the birth of his child. That year the squirrels got them. I know because they took one bite out of each and discarded the rest on my lawn. The fourth year showed promise. A bushel of blossoms appeared but that was all. A tiny little critter named *conotrachelus nenuphar*, otherwise known as circulio (sounds Italian to me) visited every blossom and left a bundle of eggs in each one. A few weeks later her offspring were eating their way out of my peaches.

The next year I concluded would certainly be the year for enjoying some tasty fruit. I shared my excitement with the tree in the middle of February as I stood beside it, pruning shears in hand, a cold wintry wind howling around my ears, while I talked to the branches This would be the year.

My trim and tender tree greeted springtime with a bevy of blossoms each one the promise of a tasty fruit to come. At the most crucial time, however, along came Jack Frost (sounds English to me) and managed to put an end to any hopes for a harvest that year. He killed every blossom.

You can imagine my joy and expectation as springtime came and went the following year with mild temperatures, a little too much moisture but all in all a great year for peach growers. Jack Frost was on a Canadian tour. The squirrels were on vacation.. Circulio was out of town and the blossoms on my peach tree were spectacular. I couldn't believe how many peaches began emerging on each tender branch. The tree is loaded with fruit.

You would think I would have remembered my Grandmother propping up the branches of her fruit trees with long sticks with a "Y" at the end of them. I had forgotten all about that till the branches on my tree snapped. I viewed the scene with sadness as the tree stood there silently looking as if it had broken its arms. But I noticed something. A small part of the bark was still attached to the broken part. The leaves were still very much alive. Through that slender piece of bark, the tree was giving life to its wounded arms. Gently I trimmed off as much weight as I could, propped up the remainder of the branch and the peaches continue to grow. I had an abundant harvest after all.

I also had a reminder of what Jesus said about the word of God that falls into the good soil and takes root and grows and yields a harvest a hundred fold.....to which he added the words — with patient endurance. That's it! Patient endurance. That's what my tree required of me and so does keeping the word of God growing someone's heart.. It needs to be nurtured it in your life, patiently, sometimes enduring hardship but with persistence. It takes time to take root. It needs to be fed and watered and weeded. Sometimes things do not go the way you plan but God's plan keeps moving towards His purpose. If I am careful and diligent and persistent I will have a harvest of peaches every year. And if I treat God's word with the same kind of persistent diligence, I will have an abundant harvest of his grace and blessings.



Prayer Requests

Church

Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home  
 Lois Wright/Bells Palsy /Florida  
 Kathy's Aunt Agnes/heart  
 Debbie Stanton/knee surgery/recovering  
 Steve DiCicco/hip pain/pending surgery  
 Nancy Hammond/gland surgery  
 Jean Wormuth/bronchitis  
 Jo King/Pneumonia/bronchitis  
 Jan Liberti/chemo treatments

Family/Loved Ones

Margaret Springstead/cancer on face  
 Matt and Zawisza (Living Gospel Ministries)/  
 health issues

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)  
 418 Ridge Rd.  
 Broadalbin, NY 12025

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

Community

Our sisters and brothers in Christ from the Dorloo,  
 Hyndsville, Mineral Springs United Methodist and  
 Warnerville United Methodist Church  
 All Teachers and students  
 Family situations impacting students' performances  
 in school  
 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 inse-  
 curity  
 All those impacted by Irene, Lee and Sandy  
 Schoharie Area Long-Term Recovery (SALT)  
 Concerns about the economy, unemployment and  
 foreclosures  
 All soldiers (esp. those deployed) and their families

Nation and World

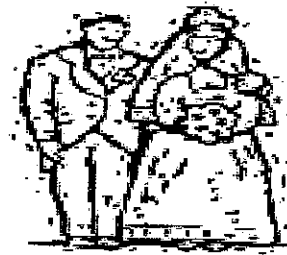
Crisis of refugees and migrants  
 Extremists' intolerance and violence  
 Persecuted Christians  
 The global economy  
 All unrest in God's world  
 Local, state national and world leaders  
 Peacemaker groups  
 Government dysfunction

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



APRIL

20 James Keaney  
 22 Hunter Cullen  
 22 Daniel Parsons  
 23 Kathy Venette  
 27 Jim Bixby  
 27 Melissa Makarowski  
 30 John Tryon



*Happy Anniversary!*

APRIL

NONE



### Healing and community

In [the] healing texts, Jesus does not just cure people's diseases and cast out their demons and then say, "Mission accomplished." He's always after something more than that because the healing is never fully accomplished until there is a restoration to community. People are healed of disease, and then he tells the folks just standing around watching to go get them something to eat. The widow's son is raised from the dead and then [Jesus] gives him back to his mother. And ... the man healed of demons is then told to stay with his people and speak of what God has done. In the Jesus business, community is always a part of healing. Even though community is never perfect.

—Nadia Bolz-Weber, *Accidental Saints*



**ONLY  
 JESUS  
 CAN HEAL  
 THIS  
 HURTING  
 WORLD!**

### Look to Christ

The man who has struggled to purify himself and has had nothing but repeated failures will experience real relief when he stops tinkering with his soul and looks away to the perfect One. While he looks at Christ, the very things he has so long been trying to do will be getting done within him.

—A.W. Tozer

**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: April 20th.** Thanks to all for your information and contributions.

**MEMO BOARD**

April  
3,10,17,24

30 @ May 1

6-7

12

18

LRC Worship 9:00 A.M.  
SRC Sunday School for all ages 9:30 A.M.  
SRC Worship 11:00 A.M.  
Doors open for donations for LRC/RCWM Rummage Sale  
Hall open for donations for sale/Sat & Sun  
LRC Rummage and Bake sale – Fri – 9-3 Sat – 9-1  
Help needed Mon & Tues to set up Baked goods needed for Fri  
SRC Consistory meeting: Elders/Deacons @ 5 P.M.  
Total consistory @ 5:30 P.M.  
SRC/RCWM @ 6:30 P.M.

Save Your  
Items for Our  
Rummage Sale



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## Evangelism tip

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We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.

—Madeleine L'Engle



[image above: CANDLE\_13776, CANDLE\_13776C]

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## Find rest

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I have read in Plato and Cicero sayings that are wise and very beautiful; but I have never read in either of them: Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden.

—St. Augustine

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## “His Glory”

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God sends rainbows after showers  
arching 'cross the freshened skies.  
Every rainbow shows God's glory.  
Every wonder tells his story.

God sends Jesus down from heaven  
offering mercy, hope and life.  
On the cross he showed God's glory.  
Every blessing tells his story.

God sends me forth into this world  
sharing love that offers life.  
And I hope to show God's glory  
In the way I tell his story.

—MaryAnn Sundby

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## A love explosion

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“Mommy, if Jesus comes to live inside my heart, will I explode?” One of missionary Katie Davis' adopted daughters surprised her with that question as they headed to the Nile River for some baptisms.

Although Davis immediately replied, “No!” she later realized: “That is exactly what we should do if Jesus comes to live inside our hearts. We will explode with love, with compassion, with hurt for those who are hurting, and with joy for those who rejoice. We will explode with a desire to be more, to be better, to be close to the One who made us.”

—adapted from *Kisses From Katie*

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## Avoiding temptation

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Our 10-year-old loves playing on his father's tablet but may use only the touchscreen because he's misused the keyboard and stylus. One day, after receiving permission to play, he detached and handed over the forbidden objects. His dad said, “Just leave them there,” but our son replied, “No, I might be tempted to use them.”

We routinely pray, “Lead us not into temptation,” hoping God will almost magically keep us out of trouble even as we stray close to enticements: We buy high-calorie treats while intending to “eat healthy.” We visit big-box stores and spend money we don't have. We gather with gossipy friends, fully aware that such talk is sinful and harmful.

Perhaps we should be more proactive about removing temptations. Perhaps “Lead me not into temptation” means “God, help me keep *myself* away from that which tempts me toward poor choices.” Amen!

—Heidi Mann

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## A shepherd's role

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While traveling in Iran, writer Eric Bishop asked a villager about an earthen enclosure topped with dry thorns. The man said sheep stayed in the round space at night for safety. “What are the thorns for?” Bishop asked. “If a wolf tries to break in and attack the sheep,” the man replied, “he'll knock against the thorns, and they'll make a noise, and the shepherd will wake up and drive off the wolf.”

Pointing out the enclosure's doorless entrance, Bishop asked why a wolf wouldn't just enter there. Because, replied the villager, “that's where the shepherd sleeps; the shepherd is the door.”

Suddenly Bishop understood why in John 10 Jesus calls himself first the door, or gate, for the sheep and then the Good Shepherd. Because Jesus is the shepherd, he's also the door that keeps us, his sheep, safe within his care.

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## Staying sharp

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The English word *character* comes from Greek for a sharp-pointed instrument. Much of this original meaning is implied in the word as we use it, for isn't character the means by which we make an impression on the world? To be sure, the instrument itself is not a finished product [but] a mere tool; but, like many a fine instrument, character improves with use. Our actions and reactions temper the blade and make the edge powerful or impotent. We each must forge our own character, be responsible for keeping it in condition and be responsible for its results.

—Author unknown

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# Kid's Page

## SHAVING CREAM EARTH

God created this wonderful world and told us to care for it. Remember that by making a unique painting.



### What you need:

- A cookie sheet
- White shaving cream
- A wooden craft stick
- Paint (blue and green)
- A straw
- A paper plate

### What you do:

1. On the cookie sheet, spray shaving cream in a circle (the same size as the bottom of the paper plate). Smooth it out with the craft stick.
2. Squirt the blue and green paint on top of the shaving cream in loopy, squiggly patterns. Swirl the paint around with the straw.
3. Place the bottom of the paper plate on top of the paint. Press it down gently so the whole plate bottom is covered in paint.
4. Lift up the plate and gently remove excess shaving cream with the stick.
5. After the painting dries, hang it on your wall.

## PUZZLE

### A SPECIAL GIFT

Give thanks to God for this amazing planet, which he filled with people, animals and plants.

*Directions: Following the code below, fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse. Then color the earth.*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



The \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, and  
 \_\_\_\_\_, the  
 \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 24:1, NIV

Answer: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1, NIV