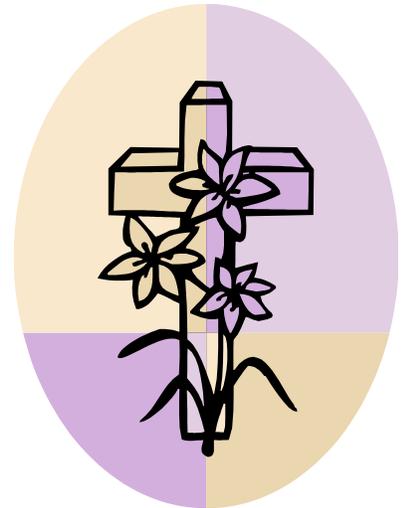


PASTOR'S MESSAGE – EASTER, 2013

There are many different things which evoke joy. Seeing the sap buckets in place, seeing the first red-winged blackbirds, crocus peeking up out of the earth.

This year it takes faith to believe that Easter and Spring are really here. Today it is snowing – again. The temperature is freezing - and so am I. The calendars, both liturgical and temporal, assure me that it is the time of new life, of new beginnings, of warmth and growth. This is not always supported by the view out my window.



There were happy glimpses of Spring earlier, with maple trees being tapped and the beauty of the birds, but now it is as though the earth is saying, “Not yet!”

And yet we will celebrate. We will join in the joyful Hosanna! of Palm Sunday. However, we will then go into the silence and reflection of Good Friday before the Alleluia! of Easter. March has been a mini-reflection of how we celebrate and mourn at the same time; how we welcome birdsong in the midst of storms.

Neither life nor faith is either/or. It is both/and Learning this can bring peace of heart no matter what a day might hold.

I wish you peace IN the chaos, warmth IN the blizzard and Alleluia! IN the darkness of difficulty. THAT is what faith brings. THAT is what the presence of God assures.

**Blessings to all,
*Rev. Susan***

Reverend Susan will be on vacation – April 7th and April 14th. We will be having guest ministers. Anyone needing pastoral care should continue to call 733-5879

Rev. Susan has had an increase in pastoral counseling and grief/family counseling – end of life issues. The Food Pantry reported that a family who had a fire with no heat is being helped by Unity House and the Food Pantry and the Angel Fund will fill their tank with gas. There is a jar usually on the coffee hour food table for any contributions to the Angel Fund. Rev. Susan has the use of the funds for any emergency in the community. Feel free to contribute to it.



General Committee

Nancy Beal has accepted the position of General Committee Chair. Thank you Nancy!



Window Replacement in Pierce Hall

The General Committee voted to proceed with the contract with Champion Windows for \$5023.00 to install 8 windows without grids and to test for lead in the paint on the outside framing of the windows. After the signing, Champion will have to schedule a time to come out and obtain final measurements for the 8 windows to be replaced so they can make the final order with the factory.

Coming Soon ...Your New Church Directory!!!!

Our new arranged and updated church directory is almost completed. Currently I'm working on everyone checking their information. Our book is only as good as we make it by making sure all our info is accurate. I will have it for your perusal after church for the next few Sundays. I am looking to add pictures of the church groups as well. I would like to have this completed by Sunday, May 5. This new book is based on a program that I purchased that will keep all our church info up to date very easily. All the data has been put in the program. This will also be available for your smart phone should you want this. Please let me know if this is something that interests you.



Also a word of caution....some folks have shared their info with us, as far as emails, some choose not to. Please do not use the emails in the church directory for anything, but church business. That means please don't send you favorite jokes, or solicit info for businesses. I will never sell or give anyone this list of names and info. It is for church use only.

If by chance you are reading this and would like to be a part of our church community and directory, please email me at morg104@aol.com. Thanks so much.

Bev Westfall

SonShiners

Meeting dates – bring a covered dish to share:

April 21st at 8:00am

May 19th at 8:00am

June 16th at 8:00am

July 21st at 8:00am



April 13th Vendor Day Fundraiser – 1p.m. Pierce Hall

The Community is Welcome to come. Light refreshments will be served. Handicap accessible.

Our vendors are: *Thirty-One* – Laura Coon; *Tastefully Simple* – Carissa Sears; *Photographs by Beth-Anne Steele* ; *Crafts* by local artists and *Avon* - Carli Drake:

Carli has put out a notice on her personal Facebook page to help with sales too. If the Sonshiner members have Facebook pages, please have them put the following on their status so they can share with all their friends!

Cut and paste the following to your Facebook Profile Status and share with your friends and family!

Stephentown Federated Church Avon Fundraiser ~ March 10 - April 13

Browse the Avon Brochure at www.youravon.com/cdrake (click link below)

* Click on Online Events

* Click on Shop My Online Event

* Enter **CHURCH78** at checkout so the church gets credit for your order

Non-Local customer orders are delivered right to your door.

Local customers (Berkshire, Columbia, and Rensselaer counties please call, email or FB message me and the church receives a higher percentage!

Thank you for making this fundraiser a success!

Stephentown Federated Church Avon Fundraiser

Campaign 7 & Campaign 8

Browse my online brochure at www.youravon.com/cdrake

Non-local customers:

Click on ONLINE EVENT

Click on SHOP MY ONLINE EVENT

Enter **CHURCH78** at checkout for church

to receive credit (if you do not use code church will NOT receive any money!)

Local customers

**(Berkshire, Columbia & Rensselaer Counties)
Browse my online brochure
CALL or EMAIL me with your order and
the church will receive a higher percentage!!**

**Lots of Avon products on hand to purchase!
Proceeds from Avon Sales to benefit the fundraiser**

**Carli Drake
(518) 733-5805 carli@fairpoint.net**

Website Update



I hope you are still are using and enjoying our website. Bob is doing a fantastic job of keeping us updated. Again the web site is a good as you make it. If you are a part of an organization in the church and you want something shared there is a place to do that on our web site. If you see something that is not correct, please don't hesitate to let me know so I can let Bob know... morg104@aol.com

Currently we have come across a problem that I would like to explain. Sometimes it looks like info is not updated. Before you do anything else please look at the top of your page and find the refresh button and use it. If you use the website a lot it will come up with old info until it is refreshed. Bob has tried to write code in to fix that, but there is only so much code it will take. Currently we found an old old piece of our old web site that keeps coming up through google. We are trying to take care of this, but not always is it easy. If you have any pictures that you would like to share of activities please feel free to send them to me for our photo op page.

Many Thanks

Bev Westfall

morg104@aol.com

The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group

Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month until June. Join us for good food and great fellowship. The remainder of the 2013 schedule is:

March 31, 2013..... Easter Sunday – Continental breakfast after Sunrise service

April 7, 2013..... Breakfast at 8:00am

May 5, 2013..... Breakfast at 8:00am

May 18, 2013..... Church Cemetery and Grounds work day. *Details to follow*

June 2, 2013..... All Church Breakfast – Everyone come and join us for a really big breakfast meal! This is the last breakfast meeting 'till fall! 8:00am

October 6, 2013..... First breakfast of the new season of meetings.

Everyone is welcome for the “All Church Breakfast”

November 3, 2013..... Breakfast at 8:00am The end of “Daylight Savings”

December 1, 2013..... Breakfast at 8:00am

The officers for the group are: President-Larry Eckhardt; Secretary- Rich Terpening; Treasurer-Ted Bears; Men's Rep to the General Committee-Malcolm Beal

Our annual Church Family and Friends dinner was a great time!! Held on Saturday February 23 at the church hall, turkey and all the fixings were enjoyed by more than 70 people. It was truly inspiring to have such a wonderful opportunity to gather for fun, fellowship, a great meal and service to our friends and community. Everyone was very grateful for the meal and gracious in their donations for the Men's Group efforts in supporting church needs and activities. After expenses for food and supplies were paid, the proceeds from donations were \$690. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, talents, pies and supplies. In a winter season that seems to be longer than we want to bear – the Family and Friends dinner is a nice respite. Thank you all.

NOTE: The large stainless steel mixing bowl found it's way out of the kitchen. If anyone has forgotten to return it, please do so as it is missed by the men's group.

Our group will again this Easter Sunday, March 31st help with a continental breakfast immediately following the 6:30 am sunrise service. Please join us for coffee, juice and light refreshments at Pierce Hall.

Church grounds workday is scheduled for May 18th at 9:00am. We will begin by sprucing up the Presbyterian Cemetery and move down to the church to pick up and repair from the winter. Everyone is invited to help in any way you feel comfortable. Refreshments are always appreciated if you'd like to help in that endeavor. Call Larry Eckhardt (733-5137) or Ted Bears (728-9326) with any questions.

CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 a.m. choir rehearsal	10:00 a.m. Faith Sharing	9:00 a.m. Heavenly Quilters				9:00-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry
9:30 a.m. service	7:00 p.m. Gen Com Apr 22 May 27	6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. AA			April 13 1 p.m. Vendor Day for SonShiners
10:30 a.m. coffee hour						May 18 9 a.m. Presbyterian Cemetery Clean-Up - Men's Group

Other Dates to Remember

Men's Breakfast: 8 a.m. April 7, May 5
SonShiner's Breakfast: 8 a.m. April 21, May 19

Each month: 1st Sunday ---Communion
2nd Sunday---Hymn Sing
3rd Sunday---Healing
2nd and 4th Sunday---Contemporary service
5th Sunday---surprise!

Palm Sunday: March 24

Good Friday, March 29: ... Noon - 3:00 p.m. church will be open with soft music for meditation. Come and go as you wish

Easter: March 31: ...6:30 a.m. Sunrise service at Garfield Cemetery
...If raining we meet at the church

...Easter Breakfast follows the sunrise service in Pierce Hall
...Easter service: 9:30 a.m.