

PASTOR'S MESSAGE – SUMMER 2013

Greetings and blessings from this gorgeous (and very wet) corner of God's creation!

This land always keeps me in a state of wonder; lately the water has been the teacher.



The creek always speaks to me; looking at it gives a thumbnail picture of what is happening in nature, and its sound matches its mood.

Today it is roiling. Recent rains have lifted it up to its banks and it moves with a troubling speed. Tree branches or limbs are carried along, looking like sea-serpents! The rushing sound and dark, muddy face warn of its dangers, discouraging any wading. Today the creek is a force to be respected and admired from a distance.

In dryer weather, it simply sparkles, meandering along. One has to be close by to hear its voice, and I gladly oblige, sitting on a rock or walking in it to cool off in its clear water.

Once again, God's presence is clearly in this place, leading to awareness of the bigger world. Hearing the rushing sounds and seeing the power of the water, I cannot help but think of our brothers and sisters who have been devastated by storms in the last year. Our postponed picnics of this weekend cannot begin to approximate what they have experienced.

I believe that God's care and concern are in all places at all times, sometimes sharing a gentle breeze with us, sometimes weeping with us in times of horror and fear. I believe that our awareness, prayer and assistance to those in need beyond our borders reflect that compassion. We are the heart, hands and love of God in physical form.

I pray that this summer provides inspiration to us all to give thanks and also give help. In whatever way we can, may we be the warmth, light and gentle voice of God coming through us to those who need it.

We are stewards of this earth – and of one another. In the end, we are all connected to it and to every one of God’s children. God’s voice speaks to and through us; we can hear it right now.

What a wonder.

Lovingly,

Rev. Susan

☐ *Rev Susan plans to take vacation the last two weeks in July, Mary Schnyer will be finding people to do the service.*

SonShiners

June 16th – No meeting (Father’s Day)

July 21st – 8:00 am

August 18th – 8:00 am

September 15th – 8:00 am

Everyone is welcome to join us for breakfast. Bring a dish to share

Upcoming Events:

July 20th – Garden/Bake Sale – Gardiner’s Field 9 am till 3 pm

September 21st – Italian Dinner

Our Vendor Day was profitable. Thanks to all who attended and helped to make it a success.



New Spiritual Support Group to Begin in June

In response to several requests, Rev. Susan will begin an evening discussion group beginning on Monday, June 3rd.

This group will be held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7PM in Pierce Hall.

The beginning focus of this group will be Spiritual Discussion and Support. Themes of loss, life transitions and scripture will guide discussions, but the direction will be determined by those who attend. All are invited!

Meeting Dates Will Be:

June 3

June 17

July 1

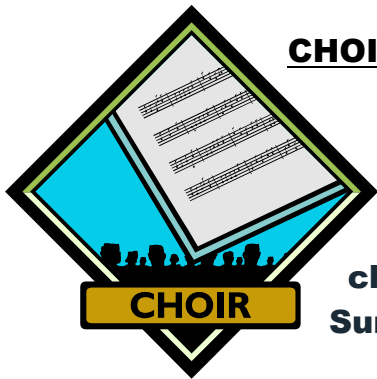
July 15

August 5

August 19

This is a six-session group, but will continue through the winter according to need or desire of the group. Feel free to attend some or all of the meetings; it is open to all.

For further information, please contact Rev. Susan at 733-5879.



CHOIR UPDATE

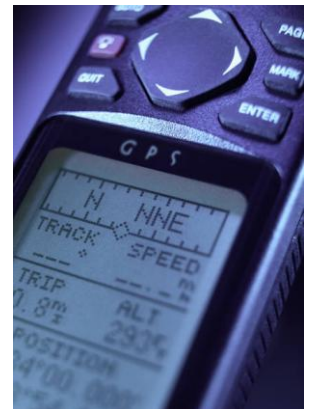
Memorial Day Sunday was the last formal choir Sunday until the fall. That being said, as usual June is the month for the golden oldies. Choir spent a little time choosing music to go along with the theme for each Sunday in June.

If you know anyone with an instrument that would like to provide music for the special music spot in the service for July and August please let me know. There will be a sign up sheet available. Also, that includes a special track on a CD that means a lot to you. Let Rev Susan or Bev know. We have three members of choir that are forming a trio to provide a couple of Sundays.

Lastly I would like to say thank you to the choir who come every week to prepare music. I appreciate their dedication to our church. I also appreciate Barb Terpening and Helen Wallbank for standing in for me when I have been absent. Have a restful and wonderful summer!
Bev

To God Be the Glory (a summer meditation)

One vacation we had flown across the country from New York to California. We rented a car and headed to one of the places on our "bucket list". We had downloaded the MapQuest directions and set the GPS. We knew where we were going. After successfully and confidently following all the directions going down Rt 215, the road turned to the right, but the GPS said nothing. Well, it must be ok...We decided to keep blindly following the GPS route. Sure enough it brought us back quicker than the MapQuest directions would have given us. It really made me think...Here we are following and trusting a mechanical device to get us somewhere. Have we really ever thought of where we really were going?



Have we ever thought of God as the GPS for our life? Should we not trust God to give us the right directions? What would our tools be? Prayer, scripture and meditation are three of the important tools to aid used for a productive life. "Ask and Ye shall receive, Seek and Ye shall find." Do you know where you are going and how you will get there? Do you use God as your GPS?

Prayer: Lord, help me to use you as the GPS in my life. Help me to make better choices and depend on you for guidance. Amen.

Happy and safe travelling wherever the roads take you this summer and to God be the glory!
Bev Westfall

Church Maintenance



New windows have been installed in Pierce Hall. Now you can open windows but be sure to close and lock them when you leave.

Trees have been removed from the side near the kitchen door of Pierce Hall.

Some of the cabinet doors on the kitchen cabinets have been installed and look beautiful. Thanks to Ted and Paul.

The lower boards of the exterior of the church need to be painted. It was discussed that they should not be scraped but pressure washed before painting. If you'd like to help, see Ted.

Ramp to the front door of the church has an issue with a drop at the end. Ted is working on remedies. If you have a suggestion or fix speak to Ted.

Ted and Malcolm have been doing work on the Manse both inside and outside. Thanks! New ceiling tiles for the kitchen are needed.



COFFEE HOUR

Thanks to everyone who has supplied us with goodies. Please continue to sign up on the calendar for the summer months.

In May, there was a session meeting with Stark Jones. The updating of the church's membership was discussed and how best to contact

people. The serving of communion was also discussed. Mary Schnyer is creating a form to schedule who will be serving communion. Instruction will be given on how set-up and serve communion. Pat Coon will be calling to remind people that they are serving. The next session meeting will be the same night as the Aug. Gen. Committee meeting.



Lynn Minderman will be coming on Sunday, July 7th to give a presentation during worship about her work and the students we sponsor in Lisotho.

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:

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

June, July, August 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 a.m. pick up choir - June 9:30 a.m. service 10:30 a.m. coffee hour June 2- 10:45am presentation-Prevent Falls	10:00 a.m. Faith Sharing -7:00 p.m. 1 st and 3 rd Mondays Spiritual Discussion & Support	9:00 a.m. Heavenly Quilters	6:00 p.m. AA			9:00-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry
	7:00 p.m. Gen. Commt. June 24 July 22 August 26	6:30 p.m. Worship Commt. Jun 11				July 20 th Garden/Bake Sale – Gardiner's Field 9 a.m.

Other Dates to Remember



June 2, 10:45 Prevent Falls by Patience Westfall

Spiritual Discussion & Support Dates:

June 3, June 17

July 1, July 15

August 5, August 19

SonShiner's Breakfast: 8 a.m...none in June-Father's Day

....July 21

.....August 18

Everyone is welcome to join us for breakfast. Bring a dish to share.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Each month: 1st Sunday ---Communion

2nd Sunday---Hymn Sing

3rd Sunday---Healing

2nd and 4th Sunday---Contemporary service

5th Sunday---surprise!

Lynn Minderman...July 7th , 9:30 a.m. African Presentation

SonShiner's Garden/Bake Sale...July 20th

SonShiner's Italian Dinner.....September 21st