

PASTOR'S LETTER – JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 2016

Greetings and Happy New Year!

Mist and fog abound on this day, which seems appropriate as we begin a new calendar year. Although I can barely see the creek, I know it is there. The sound of its flow reaches to the house, and reminds me that, as the song says, "Life flows on."

No one knows what the turning of the year will bring; we enter it with trust and faith, not always seeing clearly, but knowing God's presence is with us.

We faced many personal and communal challenges this year. Through it all, God's compassion and the Body of Christ held us together, served hundreds in this area and kept singing God's praises.

With the beauty of the earth all around, the love of church family and the grace of the Spirit with us, "How can we keep from singing?"

I wish each of you a faith - filled, hope - filled and love - filled New Year. May we always sing....

Blessings,

Rev. Susan



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

Fourteenth Annual Church Dinner

You are cordially invited to join your church family and friends for fellowship and a delicious Turkey meal with all the trimmings!!! Mashed potatoes, stuffing, squash, peas and carrots, and our famous Homemade pies!!

When: Saturday February 20, 2016

Time: 6:00pm

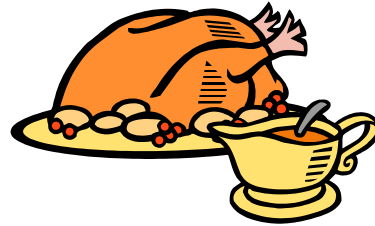
Where: Stephentown Federated Church Hall

Who: You and Our church family and all our friends

Goodwill offering only – Sponsored by the Men's Breakfast Group.

For Information call:

**Larry Eckhardt 733-5137 or
Paul McMillan 733-5110 or
Pastor Sue Shultz 733-5813**



SonShiners

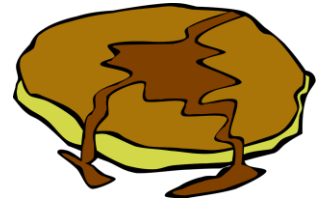
Meetings:

February 21th 8am Bring a dish to share

March 20th 8am

Everyone is invited for breakfast at Ioka Valley Farm

April 17th 8am Bring a dish to share



Don't forget the Men will be looking for pies for the annual Turkey Dinner

At our January meeting we elected:

Kate Beach, President; Barb Terpening, Vice-Pres.; Joanne Hennig, Sec.; Pat Coon, Treasurer; Libby Osganian, Gen. Commt. Rep.

The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group

Winter 2016 Schedule of Events

Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month until June. We re-started again in October. Gather with us for good food and great fellowship.

The 2016 schedule is:

- February 7, 2016..... Breakfast at 8:00am Final Planning for Dinner**
- February 20, 2016..... Annual Friends and Family Dinner 6 pm**
- March 6, 2016..... Breakfast at 8:00am**
- March 27, 2016..... Breakfast after the Sunrise Service**
- April 3, 2016..... Breakfast at 8:00am**
- May 1, 2016..... Breakfast at 8:00am Plan spring clean-up activities**
- June 5, 2016..... All Church Breakfast – Everyone come and join us for a really big breakfast meal! This is the last breakfast meeting ‘till fall! 8:00am**

The officers elected at the November meeting for the group are:

President-Larry Eckhardt, Secretary- Rich Terpening, Treasurer-Ted Bears, Men's Rep to the General Committee-Malcolm Beal

“Souper Bowl” Sunday

Sunday, February 7th We will be collecting food and donations for the Food Pantry as we celebration the Super Bowl. Bring your items to church to show your support!



Stephentown Federated Church Officers 2016

Members of Presbyterian USA Session

Larry Eckhardt (clerk of Session) (2018)
Malcolm Beal (2018)
Marge Feathers (2019)
Larry Eckhardt (2019)
Nancy Beal (2017)
Ted Bears (2017)

Nominating Committee

Malcolm Beal, Presb.
Heather Eckhardt, Presb.
Mary French, Meth.
Kate Beach, Meth.
Donna Densing, Meth.

Members of United Methodist Church Council

Janet Atwater (2018)
Bev Westfall-Chair (2018)
Kate Beach (2019)
Don Leab (2019)
Donna Densing (2017)
Barb Terpening (2017)

Members of the General Committee

Susan Schultz, Pastor	Kate Beach(Council)
Bev Westfall, Secretary	Don French, Treasurer
Libby Potter(Son-shiners)	Nancy Beal (Session) Chairperson
Larry Eckhardt (Session)	Don Leab (Council)
Malcolm Beal (Men's Breakfast)	Ted Bears (Facility Chair)
Bev Westfall (Choir)	Joanne Hennig (Christian Ed)

Pastor- Parish Committee

Larry Eckhardt, Chair
Patricia Coon
vacancy meth
Bev Westfall

Men's Breakfast Group

Larry Eckhardt, Chair
Richard Terpening, Scribe
Ted Bears, Treasurer

Son Shiners

Kate Beach, Pres.
Barbara Terpening, Vice Pres
Joanne Hennig, Secretary
Pat Coon, Treasurer

Worship/Tech Committee

Rev Susan,	Barb Terpening
Tom Foody	Laurelyn Mayen
Bev Westfall, chair	June Ross
Pat Coon	Helen Wallbank
Arlene Longo	

Denominational Treasurers

Pat Coon- Presbyterian

Barbara Terpening- Methodist

Christmas Letter Response

The response to the Christmas letter was outstanding! We so appreciate everyone who so generously contributed toward the general fund of the church, to the fuel oil in keeping the church and Hall warm as well as the special paint fund. Bids for the painting will go out the first part of the year. It is important to take care of the physical building that allows us to worship as community. We thank you for your support!



Recordings of the Sermon

If you follow us on our website at www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org, you can click on the tab Pastor's Sermons and listen to the Gospel and sermon from each Sunday. So, if you were not in church or want to hear it again check it out. We have been working on recording directly through our new sound system and not just through the speakers of the computer. We thank Keith Westfall for his persistence in making this happen. We think we finally have it. We now have had two weeks in a row of good sound from the recording and it is our plan to have it continue. It is our hope that in the near future we can add the anthem. Many thanks for your patience.

In connection with this, we would like to especially thank Barb & Richard Terpening for the donation of a new computer that will be used for recording the sermons so we can send them to our web master. This will make a huge difference in the ability to share our weekly mission with the world.



As we begin our new year we have a few changes. We welcome Barb back, wish Laurelyn a wonderful change of scenery in Phoenix, and send prayers with Tom as he has a sabbatical from choir. As always though, no matter the changes these dedicated choir members make the necessary changes to continue to provide music leadership for our weekly services. I appreciate their dedication and service to our church community.

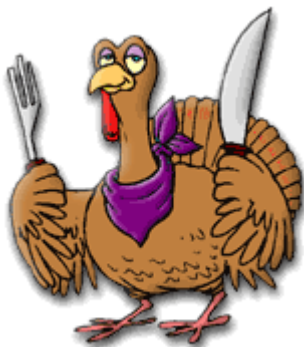
To God Be the Glory

Bev

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 a.m. choir rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour Mar 20th 8am Breakfast Ioka	10:00 a.m. Monday Morning Prayer Group	9:30 a.m. Heavenly Quilters				9:00-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry
	7:00 p.m. Gen Com 4th week of month	Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m. AA			Turkey Dinner Feb 20 6 p.m.

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



Friends & Family Turkey Dinner Feb 22 at 6 p.m.

SonShiner's Breakfast at Ioka Mar 20th 8 a.m.