



by *Eugenie Daniels*

Summer seems to be a time of hope. I hope that my garden will have a good harvest. Others hope that family will come for a long visit. Some hope for the perfect house to move into during the summer. But what if bugs and disease destroy the harvest, the family goes to Disney Land instead, and the deal on the house falls through. Our hope was in the wrong place.

Christian hope is in eternal life with God. Don't you hope for peace, for no more tears and sadness, and for the wicked to stop prospering and the righteous to live in joy? If so, you are hoping in Christ's saving power that gives you eternal life and all you really hope for. Your story will have a happy ending.

What about life here? That is where redemption comes in. Things will not always come out the way we want, because of sin and evil. However, God is always redeeming what is going on in our lives in unexpected ways.

Let me show you what I mean. Some years ago my husband and I had a terrible experience in a church. We left and were unemployed and living in a very small house with my parents. It was a very difficult time. Our hopes and dreams were in ruins. For over a year, neither of us could find work.

Then one day my husband got a phone call. He was hired as a teacher again on the Navajo Reservation. We moved to New Mexico and for a year and a half he worked as a teacher. We saw a part of the country I had never seen, met people that we would never have met, had adventures we would never have had, and healed from our experience in the church. Eighteen months later, we returned to ministry in another church with our hopes and dreams redeemed.

So this summer, wish for your garden to do well, wish for the grandchildren to visit, and wish for the new home to be found and moved into before fall, but HOPE in Christ and His redeeming power and mansion waiting for you in heaven.

*Eugenie Daniels is the wife of Rev. Dan Daniels, who is doing regular pulpit supply at the church and has been a Christian writer since the late 1980's. She enjoys hiking and birdwatching with her husband.*

## Choir

June 4th marked the last Sunday service that the choir will sing with their robes on.

On June 11<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be a pick up choir that will meet at 9 a.m. It is open to anyone who would like to sing. July and August will be a time of rest and renewal for choir.

We look forward to being back in September. If you are interested in singing with us, plan on coming and being an integral part of the music for the Congregation beginning Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Summer Music

There is a signup sheet on the piano for those that would like to share a song or an instrument or a special CD piece during July and August. If you have a special piece on the CD, perhaps you would share why it is so special to you. Please have these in the Sunday before the Church service so Joanne has the information for the bulletin.



## Church Policies

The General Committee has spent a considerable amount of time in updating and writing down policies that have been used in the past twenty or so years. It is important for people to know what they are.

The updated version of these policies were unanimously passed May 22, 2017 at the last General Committee Meeting. These policies are now on the website as well as posted on the announcement board in Pierce Hall. We hope you find these written policies helpful.

## Church and Pierce Hall Weekly Hours

There are two times during the week that the church and hall **are not** available for use due to the confidentiality for both of these groups. We ask that you refrain from visiting the church premises on **Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** for AA and **Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** for Food Pantry unless you are directly involved in those groups. We thank you for your cooperation in honoring our obligations for these two weekly times.

## Update on Manse Furnace

The furnace has been installed in the manse and we are waiting for the completion of electrical hook up thanks to Mac Bears. This will happen as soon as possible. This is a busy time for contractors. We are very grateful to Don Lewandoski for his expertise in this area.

## Worship Committee and Current Guest Ministers

Worship committee continues to have guest ministers through August at this point. Rev. Dan Daniels has offered to do two Sundays a month until we get a pastor as well as doing a third Sunday for those months that have five weeks. We are very thankful for this blessing. Below is a list of the ministers through the summer as we know it now:

June 11...Rev. Kathy Duhon  
June 18...Rev. Alexandra Lusak  
June 25...Rev. Kathy Duhon  
July 2...Rev. Dan Daniels  
July 9...Rev. Betsye Mowry  
July 16...Rev. Dan Daniels  
July 23...Rev. Dan Daniels  
July 30...unknown at this time  
August 6...Rev. Dan Daniels  
August 13...Rev. Betsye Mowry  
August 20...Rev. Dan Daniels  
August 27...Unknown at this time  
September 3...Rev. Dan Daniels



## We Are Looking for Help

The **first** is someone who will be willing to change our colors for the altar and podium. Many people have expressed an interest in returning to the colors and we are trying to do that but we need help. There is a yearly calendar that is available to follow. If you are interested in taking on this responsibility please see Bev Westfall or Barb Terpening for more information. There are a couple of people that are willing to help, but it takes two people to complete this task easily.

The **second** is we are looking for a person to do **Child Care** beginning July 9<sup>th</sup>. It is a paid position and more info will follow. Watch the web site as well. We are currently working on a job posting and job description for this vacancy.

The **third** is we are looking for people willing to help **paint and clean** the Manse. It is in need of a lot of work. If you are able to help in this area please contact Ted Bears.



## Church Calendar

On the announcement board in Pierce Hall, we have a calendar that has the dates and times of all groups using the hall /or church for that month.

Also on the calendar, you can sign up for coffee hour. If you are interested in this weekly mission of the church, please feel free to sign up. We ask that you be responsible for setup and cleanup.

If you want to use the hall for a meeting, please check with our facility chair or General Committee and then put it on the calendar so no one else uses that time slot.

## SonShiners

Women's Breakfast Meetings @ 8:00am Bring a dish to share! No meeting in June.

July 19<sup>th</sup>

Aug 20<sup>th</sup>

Sept 17<sup>th</sup>

Oct 15<sup>th</sup>

### **Mark Your Calendars For Our Events:**

Aug 19<sup>th</sup> – Garden-Bake Sale/Silent Auction – Gardners' Field, Rt 22 9 am to 3 pm

*We are looking for donations for our Silent Auction. You can donate a gift certificate, basket of items, handcrafter item. Deadline is July 30<sup>th</sup> so we have time to set them up in church for a week before the 19<sup>th</sup>. Please give them to Barbara or Kate.*

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> – Craft-Tag Sale/Ice Cream Social @ Ioka Valley Farm 10 am to 4 pm

*Watch the website for applications to rent your space! Cost \$20 for 10'X10' space.*

*Note new time for event. We will be located in a different area of the farm right up front on the right of the farm's selling area. Lots of parking available.*

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> – Italian Dinner

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> – Election Day Luncheon

A donation of \$500 was made to the church towards the purchase of the AED Monitor.



## Communion Servers for 2017-2018

During the month of August, I will be planning the list for Communion servers. If you want to make any changes for next year, now would be the time to make them. If you wish to remove your name or add your name please see Bev Westfall. Many thanks for your participation in this important part of our church life together.

# The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group

## Summer-Fall 2017 Schedule of Events

Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month. We take the summer months off. We re-start again in October. Gather with us for good food and great fellowship. The 2017 schedule is:

July, August, September.....No breakfasts scheduled – summer vacation.

October 1, 2017.....All Church Breakfast – Everyone come and join us for a really big breakfast meal! This is the first breakfast meeting of the season! 8:00am

November 5, 2017.....Breakfast at 8:00am looking forward to planning the activities of the upcoming winter season.

December 3, 2017.....Breakfast at 8:00am Begin planning for the Annual Turkey Dinner to be held February 24, 2018



Winter had not been kind to the driveway or lawns. It was going to be quite a clean-up effort to remove the dirt and gravel from the grass. Thanks to Brian McMillan for his hard work in repairing the damage and using his tractor and rake to get things fixed up. We had a great work crew clean up the Presbyterian Cemetery and straighten a few head stones.

We also donated money to help purchase a used riding lawn mower for the church. Ted Bears does the mowing and likes the replacement. Great job, Ted.



The group also voted to donate \$500 towards the purchase of an AED (defibrillator) for the church hall. Many have commented that this is a great idea with hopes we never have to use it.

Our last breakfast was well attended by many church members and friends. We really hope to see you all in the Fall for the October 1<sup>st</sup> breakfast meeting.

## The Centers for Disease Control offer the following reminder for summer health

Studies show more than a million cases of the most common forms of skin cancer are diagnosed each year, and that even a few serious sunburns can increase your risk of getting skin cancer. You can protect yourself during the time of day when the sun's UV (ultraviolet) rays are strongest – between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. – by wearing long sleeves and pants, and by applying sunscreen and a protective lip balm with an SPF of 15 or higher. Be sure to reapply frequently especially after swimming.

Heat exposure caused 8,015 deaths in the United States from 1979-1999. Most heat-related deaths occur in the hot summer months, and the elderly, the very young and people with chronic health problems are most at risk. Because even healthy people can fall victim to summer heat, take the following precautions to reduce your risk:

Drink plenty of water or other non-alcoholic beverages;

Wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothing that is light in color;

Reduce strenuous activities or do them during the cooler parts of the day.

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### Funding for an AED Approved

At the May meeting of the General Committee, funding to purchase an Automatic External Defibrillator (an AED) was approved. Many people have questions starting with “What exactly does an AED do and why should there be one in the church?”

According to the Centers for Disease control about **610,000 people** die of heart disease in the United States every year—that’s **1 in every 4 deaths**. According to the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association:

*Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of death among adults over the age of 40 in the United States. In the U.S. alone, approximately 326,200 people of all ages experience ...SCA each year and nine out of 10 victims die. In fact, the number of people who die each year from SCA is roughly equivalent to the number who die from Alzheimers disease, assault with firearms, breast cancer, cervical cancer, colorectal cancer, diabetes, HIV, house fires, motor vehicle accidents, prostate cancer and suicides combined. SCA is a life-threatening condition-- When bystanders intervene by giving CPR and using automated external defibrillators (AEDs) before EMS arrives, four out of 10 victims survive.*

As noted above defibrillation (which is what an AED does) has proven to be an extremely valuable tool in saving lives of those experiencing Sudden Cardiac Arrest. An AED is basically a computerized medical device that can check a heart rhythm. It can recognize a rhythm that requires a shock and advise the AED user when a shock is needed. The AED uses spoken word or lights and/or written messages to tell the rescuer what to do and when to do it. Modern AEDs won't allow you to shock a victim that has a heartbeat, reducing the risk of doing harm.

Consultation with local Emergency Medical Service personnel has been present since the inception of this project and will be on-going. Training will take place for members of the church and members of groups using the church. CPR classes will also be scheduled. Dates for these trainings will be announced when scheduled.

**JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2016**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>9:00 a.m. choir rehearsal 6/11 &amp; 6/18</b>  <b>9:30 a.m. Service</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour</b>		<b>9:30 a.m. Heavenly Quilters</b>				<b>9:00-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry</b>  <b>Aug 19<sup>th</sup> – Garden-Bake Sale/Silent Auction – Gardners’ Field 9 am to 3 pm</b>
	<b>7:00 p.m. Gen Com 4<sup>th</sup> week of month</b>		<b>6:00 p.m. AA</b>			

**Each month: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday ---Communion – Open to all**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday---Hymn Sing at beginning of service**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday---Contemporary Service – Visual screen used for readings and hymns**

**Aug 19<sup>th</sup> Garden-Bake Sale/Silent Auction – Gardners’ Field, RT 22 9 am to 3 pm**

**Sunday Worship Services available on our website:**

**[www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org](http://www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org)**

**Since we are losing our local newspaper, frequently check out our website and our facebook page for news. We will do our best to keep you informed.**

**We will also use email to send notices.**

**If we don’t have your email address, please give it to Bev Westfall or Barb Terpening.**