

September/October 2018

MANSE  UPDATE

With only few minor details to be completed, the manse is nearly ready for long awaited occupancy.

For two months much scrubbing, sanding, plastering, staining, priming, painting, and basically refurbishing the interior of this building was accomplished in anticipation of housing a new minister. During this time, we had people volunteer and we wish to thank those who made our job easier. Whether you took items home to renew, or worked with us at the manse, we appreciate your efforts. Volunteer tasks included: struggling with contact paper and tight painting places, moving ladders and furniture, staining the porch, setting up scaffolding, scrubbing shower doors, priming walls, vacuuming, restoring the front door, and being a “Go For”. All of these jobs helped to cut our time and saved us energy. We also appreciate those who stopped by to check on the safety of a solo worker. This project couldn’t have been done without the constant help of Ted and Doug, who used their tools and talents to help us.



The “Manse Sweat” Team

Laurelyn, Barb, & Kate

The new furnaces for the sanctuary and Pierce Hall are being installed. Thanks to everyone who has been giving over the years we were able afford this major purchase. Thanks to Ted for mowing the lawn with an assist from Doug when he was away. And thanks to all who have kept up the church and its property.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30!

Deuteronomy 4:9 states: "Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them."

Please join us for Homecoming Sunday on September 30. We will be celebrating the rich history of the church as well as honoring past and present members.

Over the years, many, many people have given of their time and resources to help make our church a vibrant, supportive and loving community. We should not forget those people or the wonderful Christian work that took place.

If you would be willing to share pictures or stories, please call Janet Atwater at 518-733-9042.

Welcome back Choir September 2018

Welcome back choir! We have missed you this summer. We trust you have had a well deserved break this summer. We are looking for some additional voices to join us. If you are interested, please come Thursday at 6:30 p.m. for our rehearsals.

SonShiners

Meeting Dates: bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and a meal.

September 16th – 8am

October 21st. – 8am

November 18th – 8am



We thank everyone who supported our bake/garden Sale and Silent Auction on July 28th. Because of YOU it was a huge success.

Our next event is our Fall Festival Craft/Yard Sale & Ice Cream Social, September 22, 2018, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Ioka Valley Farm, 3475 Route 43, Hancock, MA. *Booth rental is \$20.* We welcome all of you to *bring* your family and friends and joint us at the ice cream booth and check out our venders.

October 13th starting at 5:30p.m. we will be serving our *Eighth Annual Italian Dinner*. Post the enclosed post card on your calendar to remind you or pass it on to a friend.

Election Day Luncheon – November 6th 11am – 2pm Join us for lunch with your friends and neighbors.

Worship Committee

We have met and are currently making plans for the fall, for Advent and for Christmas. The ministers for the fall are listed below. Once again, we thank them for their guidance and their service to our church. We are truly blessed!

September	2	Rev Bob Lowenthal
	9	Rev Bob Lowenthal
	16	Rev Dan Daniels
	23	Rev Betsy Mowry
	30	
October	7	Rev Dan Daniels
	14	Rev Bob Lowenthal
	21	Rev Dan Daniels
	28	Rev Betsy Mowry
November	4	Rev Dan Daniels
	11	Rev Bob Lowenthal
	18	Rev Dan Daniels
	25	Rev Betsy Mowry
December	2	Rev Dan Daniels
	9	Rev Bob Lowenthal
	16	Rev Dan Daniels
	23	Rev Betsy Mowry
	24	Christmas Eve - Rev Dan Daniels
	30	



SUNDAY BULLETIN

YOU'LL PROBABLY NOTICE.....that the Sunday bulletin looks a little different! Somehow our "little" worship guide became 8 pages long! After some discussion, the Worship Committee determined that certain things need not be repeated every week. You'll note that we've rearranged some things and removed others. Any information that was removed is available through other venues. For instance, the "Prayer List" will be separate and available at the front of the church and in the newsletter. Committee Members, Church Council and Session Elders' information have been removed as well. You can this information on the bulletin board in Pierce Hall. Revamping the program will greatly cut down on the amount of paper required (saving trees!) and will reduce recycling tonnage. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to touch base with one of the Worship Committee members. Thank you.



Search Committee

I want to share a little about our search for a minister this morning. Several people have asked where we are and do we have any candidates. I would like to explain a little of the process we have been going through. The search committee has spent many hours filling out the paperwork that went to the General Assembly in Kentucky. The ministers do their paperwork for a call and put their info in as well. The general assembly match like responses and send us names when any come available. I print the resumes out and our committee decides if they will fit our needs. If they do, I then send a note asking if they are interested in meeting with us.

The biggest problem we have had is the fact that we want a half time minister as opposed to a full-time minister. There are full time ministers available but not many half time. People cannot afford to take a half time position unless a spouse has another job or they themselves have an additional occupation.

We have had three people that our search committee deemed a possibility. I then contacted each of them to see if they might be interested in us. One person decided she no longer wanted a call. A second person read our information and decided they would not be a good fit for them or for us. The third person simply has not answered so that in itself tells me something about that person.

If you are interested in seeing the qualifications that the search committee has come up with, you will find them on the website. Please feel free to read them. In keeping with the articles of our confederation, we must alternate conferences but that does not mean we have to only consider Presbyterians. We are free to look at Methodists and other qualified people but simply have to hire through the presbytery.

If we find someone to interview, we are prepared to interview first on line through Skype or face time since we have to pay all travel for any interviews. If and when we find someone to seriously be our pastor, then we would invite them to visit us and we would then pay for their travel.

In the meantime, we feel very blessed to have three very special guest ministers that for twenty months have travelled with us, prayed with us and ministered to us. We feel very fortunate to have Rev. Bob, Rev. Betsy and Rev. Dan. We are very appreciative of their presence with us.

Thank you for your patience and we would appreciate your continued prayers as we continue to move forward.

Website

We are encouraging you to visit our website and keep up to date with the goings on of the church. We have added a new feature. When you listen to the church service, you now have a bulletin to follow. We hope this makes our service more meaningful to you. Thanks to our wonderful web master Bob Phelps for always supporting us in our endeavors.

Don't forget... Sunday Worship Services available on our website:

www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org



Communion Servers

Communion Schedule for 2018-2019

September 2, 2018 Laurelyn and Doug Mayen

October 7, 2018 Jean Bolen

Ted Bears

November 4, 2018 Nancy & Malcolm Beal

December 2, 2018 Joe and Judy Leland

January 6, 2019 Donna and Skip Densing

February 3, 2019 Larry & Heather Eckhardt (Kate Beach)

March 3, 2019 Mary Schnyer

Helen Wallbank

April 7, 2019 Don & Judy Leab

May 5, 2019 Paul and Joan McMillan

June 2, 2019 Barb and Richard Terpening

July 7, 2019 Joanne Hennig

Ted Bears

August 4, 2019 Donna & Skip Densing

September 1, 2019 Laurelyn and Doug Mayen

As a communion server for a specific Sunday please bring Grape juice. The gluten Free crackers will be purchased by the church.

*****Serving gluten free crackers only is a change that was made to better serve our congregation. Please use gloves when placing crackers on the communion plate. In order to avoid the crackers sliding on the floor, place a napkin on the plate, then put the crackers on the napkin, then place another napkin on top to cover the crackers. Please come up at the beginning of the communion hymn to remove the cloth. Following communion please recover the communion table.**

Communion needs to be prepared and on the table by 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. It is the responsibility of the servers to both [set up and clean up](#) following the service. If you find this an impossibility to serve for this month, please contact any one on the list as a substitute. If no one is available to take your place, please contact Bev Westfall at 658 2529.

Thank you for being an integral part of our congregation.



COFFEE HOUR

We are blessed with the people who bake and serve the food for coffee hour and supply the coffee. Please sign up on the calendar on the bulletin board in Pierce Hall to offer your gifts of food.

The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group

Fall 2018 Schedule of Events

Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month. Gather with us for good food and great fellowship. The 2018 schedule is:

October 7, 2018..... Start of the new season of Breakfast meetings. All are invited to eat and meet at 8:00am.

November 4, 2018.....Breakfast Meeting 8:00am

We continue to enjoy a great group for breakfast meals. Come join us for the fellowship as we plan for events and work duties to help keep the church and grounds looking fantastic. Thanks to all the wonderful cooks each month. Keep up the good work

SEPT-OCT 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Service 10:30 am Coffee Hour		9:30 am Heavenly Quilters				9:00-11:00 am Food Pantry
	7:00 pm Gen Com Sept 24 Oct 22		6:00 pm AA	Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm		Sept 22nd 10-4 Fall Festival – Ioka Oct 13th Annual Italian Dinner starting 5:30pm Nov 6th Election Day Luncheon 11am-2pm

Each month: 1st Sunday ---Communion – Open to all

2nd Sunday---Hymn Sing at beginning of service

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

Prayer List:

PRAY FOR PEACE and HOPE Long – term Prayer Concerns:

Melissa Murray, Holly Wheeler, Carol, Betty Hartnett, June Ross, Brendon Hoffman, Rusty Melancon, Makayla & Julie, Kathy Carringer, Sean Northrup, Georgi, Peggy, Mike & Greg, Lance, Kelly, James & his family, Garrett, Brenda & Bob Mathew, Emma Richardson, Ann Marie & family, Connie (FL), Pat Sample, Del Wise and his sister Vicki, John L., Bev & Jerry, Bob Vincent, John & Danielle, Julie Burdick-Snow, Melaney, Jenna Fenander, Colleen P., Norm, Ken (Beal's Friend), Tanya Joyes, Roy Hamilton, Jean Clain (Judy's mom), Pat Coon, Travis Chuck, Tasha-Chris & family, Nancy, Sal, Karen, Christina, Linda Lee, John Anello, Mary Martin, Mary French, Sherry & Joe, Ciliberti, Carolee, Toby, Elizabeth Hare, Kelly, Kevin, Mary Schnyer, Angelica, Jim & Ann Peck, Radley family, Amanda, Barb & Rich Terpening, Harold & Jenny, Marge & Mel Feathers, Rick Newton, Jim Chambers, David Berry, Richard Monyahan, Lois Hartnett, Judy & Joe Leland, Art & Esther Koepp, Marjorie Beal, Geralyn, Pat B., Ben Lowenthal, Susan G., Peter, Samantha, Mary Hamilton, Sarah (Beal's daughter), Owen McGinnis, Shannon W., Pattie Lewis

For the family & friends in loving memory of:

As always . . .we pray for:

**Our farmers, those with emotional/mental/physical illnesses, those being cared for & the caregiver, those in transition, those suffering from addiction(s), Emergency Responders, youth of today, those in weather ravaged places, those who are cold, those who don't get where they are going who are cold/alone, the Military and their families, our Veterans, & our elected leaders, those imprisoned, Citizens of Lesothos & the student we sponsor, organ donors, those who mourn, those persecuted for their faith, those who have no one to pray for them, those not mentioned out loud, the unemployed, and the unknown addict, the honeybees,
Safe travel for all**

THANK YOU GOD FOR OUR MANY BLESSINGS!

Poster found in a Church in France...(translated):

**"When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God". However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones.
If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him.
If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving."**