

January, February, March and April 2018



*We are called . . .*

**Hello to all and Happy New Year! We've been on a wild ride so far in 2018 with the weather. There have been several days of 20 below zero . . . days where it was warm enough to not wear a coat . . . days with lots of snow and ice (and you didn't want to have to drive in it), and days filled with pouring rain. Today we even had a rainbow; not really something you expect to see in January in the Northeast! The weather, however; is not the only thing that offers change in January.**

**January hosts a holiday that gives us all permission to set aside the old; and welcome in the new. We now have 365 days of promise and possibility. It's our clean slate; a place where we can begin our new story. New Year's Eve is that magical time where we can take the "things" from last year and put them away and just start all over on being who we want to be, doing what we want to do and creating the storyline that will take us there.**

**I encourage you all to do just that . . . put last year's "things" away. Give to God all that has happened in your life, your hopes and your dreams, your successes and your failures, your gains and your losses – say thank you and ask forgiveness. Bring to Him in this new year all your new hopes and dreams, your fears, concerns and anxiety. Make your lists, de-clutter your home, dispose of those items you no longer want. . . do what you need to do but remember to keep God in your new plan.**

**God wants us to be a happy, successful, social, forward-moving people. We are not meant to hibernate or be okay with the status quo. He doesn't want us to live week to week – dreading Monday's looking forward to Friday's. He doesn't want us to play it safe. He wants us to move forward in life. He wants us to use our talents and abilities to show others about His love. He wants us to achieve our God-given potential.**

**This does not happen by sheer design or accident – it happens on purpose. It happens with focus and perseverance. It happens by setting goals and monitoring them, so you do move forward. There will always be ways to waste time and there will always be distractions in life. Choose your goals wisely – follow them close and move forward.**

Let's take that wild ride through 2018. Choose goals that take you out of your comfort zone – try something new; don't just make task lists. Find opportunities where you can serve others. Find ways to use your God-given talents to help where and when needed. Seek God's blessing on your choices . . .move forward. Should we fall, remember, God always offers us a clean slate – every day.

Go . . . be those who bring peace, love, hope and joy. Here's to an amazing 2018!

*Joanne*

*Proverbs 16:9 "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."*



Souper Bowl Sunday



Here at Stephentown Federated Church we have our own version of Souper Bowl Sunday. On Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> we once again take time to help replenish our Food Pantry. They are in need of spaghetti sauce (preferable not in glass), Soup other than tomato or chicken noodle, canned fruit, baked beans, canned tuna, canned chicken, COFFEE!, toilet paper (very popular with everyone), toothpaste, toothbrushes. Please bring your items and/or cash donations.



Choir News

Our choir has been rehearsing on Sunday morning following church this winter instead of on Thursday evenings. We will go back to our Thursday evenings in April. It made sense to not heat the church in the severe weather as well as members could stay warm and cozy in their own homes those cold, slippery, and snowy nights. Also, there is an opportunity for more people to come to rehearsal on Sunday as well. We are looking for folks who would like to try something new to come and join us singing. We are just beginning the Lent and Easter music so now would be the perfect time. You do not have to read music but just be a willing learner. A number of our people are away during the next three months so I appreciate the extra effort on everyone's part to cover.



## Clothing Box

You may or may not have noticed that we have a clothing bin at our church. It started first on the parking lot side of the church and has been moved to the manse side of the church. Shortly it will be moved again so it is more visible to folks. The bin is sponsored by Charlie Muller. The clothes that are placed in this bin go directly to people in need in our community and the Albany area. It also supports a need for the missions in the capital district as well. It is not used and sold for material, but actually benefits those that need clothing. It is not a dumping ground for dirty, stained or torn clothing since they are looking for useable clothing. Please do not set boxes outside the bin. We have been assured that it will be emptied monthly. If you have any clothes that you are not using we would appreciate your donation in the bin.

## Website

Once again we are letting you know that we are still recording our weekly Sunday service. If you would like to listen to any of them, you will find them at [www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org](http://www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org). If you have anything you would like to see on the website, please contact Bev Westfall at [morg104@aol.com](mailto:morg104@aol.com). Similarly, if you see something or have something for our Facebook page, please contact Arlene Longo at [alongo6177@fairpoint.net](mailto:alongo6177@fairpoint.net). Thank you!



## Worship Committee

It is with great appreciation that we announce that the three ministers that have been serving our congregation for most of last year have agreed to continue while we are still searching for a new minister. Rev. Dan Daniels preaches the first, third and fifth Sundays, Rev Bob Lowenthal preaches the second Sunday and Rev Betsye Mowry the fourth Sunday. We are grateful for their faithfulness. On March 18th during our Sunday service, Lynn Minderman from Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections will be sharing some news and pictures of the South African student that we support.

We welcome you to come and be a part of any of these services.



## Search Committee

Search committee is continuing its search for a new minister. We have completed the ministry information form (MIF) and it is currently up on the Presbyterian Website nationwide. We have permission to put this WIF up on our website and Facebook as well. We are currently working on that project. Larry Eckhardt has asked to be relieved from the duty of Chairperson for this committee. Bev Westfall has agreed to be the chair person moving forward. Larry, however will still remain on and be an active part of this committee.



**Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!**

As most of you know, January is the month that we have our annual meeting and any changes in leadership on the various committees, Session and Council are made at this time. Please check our information board and the list of folks in this newsletter for all the changes. We are very thankful to all the people who are willing to step up to do the jobs that are needed and to the ones that have completed their term. We especially would like to thank Larry Eckhardt for his leadership for being the chairperson of General Committee this past year.

Also, we would like to thank Janet Atwater for serving as Secretary for the General Committee this past year as well. It is so important to preserve the current history of our church.

While we are saying thank you, we appreciate all the gifts and Nancy Beal's time doing the Angel Tree. Also, we had generous giving in response to our Christmas Letter which helped both the Mold Remediation and the Heating System Fund. We still are short with replenishing the Mold Remediation cost and we may still incur more expenses for it. We are working on getting quotes to replace both of the furnaces in the church building. Keep your fingers crossed that both hold out thru this heating season.

*The Lenten Season begins on February 14<sup>th</sup> ; Daylight Savings Time is March 11<sup>th</sup> – turn your clocks ahead; March 25<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating Palm Sunday and April 1<sup>st</sup> we will have Sunrise Service at 6:30am at the Garfield Cemetery followed by a Continental Breakfast put on by the Men's Group with our regular Easter Service at 9:30am where we will also celebrate communion and April Fools Day. We have a busy season ahead of us.*

### SonShiners

**Meeting Dates: 8:00am, bring a dish to share.,  
At the January meeting, we elected Kate Beach, Pres., Joanne Hennig, Secretary and Barb Terpening, Treasurer.**



**February 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Everyone is invited to be our guests at Ioka Valley Farm for breakfast on February 18<sup>th</sup> no earlier than 8am. We would appreciate it if you would remember to tip your waitress.**

**March 18<sup>th</sup>**

**April 15<sup>th</sup>**



**HELP IS STILL NEEDED TO GET THE MANSE READY FOR HABITATION. DO**



**YOU HAVE A HOUR OR TWO TO SPARE?  
DO!!!**

**ASK TED WHAT YOU CAN**

**The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group**

**Winter – Spring2018 Schedule of Events**

Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month. Gather with us for good food and great fellowship. The2018 schedule is:

February 4, 2018.....Breakfast at 8:00am Finalize plans for the Annual Turkey Dinner to be held February 24, 2018. Special breakfast meal prepared by Matt E. and Josh L. Come find out what they have in store for us with their culinary skills.

February 24, 2018.....Church Family and Friends 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Dinner  
Starting at 5:00pm Be on the lookout for your letter reminder.

March 4, 2018.....Breakfast at 8:00am Plans for spring cleanup. Recap the Turkey Dinner.

April 1, 2018.....Easter Sunday. Continental Breakfast after Easter Sunrise Service. All are welcome to join us for a light breakfast of easy to prepare goodies.

May 6, 2018.....Breakfast at 8:00am. Spring planning meeting.

June 3, 2018..... All Church breakfast at 8:00am. Everyone is invited to join in the last Breakfast meal before the summer break.

October 7, 2018..... Start of the new season of Breakfast meetings. All are invited to eat and meet at 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. Hope to see you at the February 24<sup>th</sup> Turkey Dinner!!

# **Sixteenth Annual Church Dinner!!**

**You** are cordially invited to join your “church family” and many friends for fellowship and a delicious **Turkey Meal** with all the trimmings!!! Mashed potatoes, stuffing, squash, peas and carrots, and our famous **homemade pies!!** Get out and shake off the cabin fever blues. Enjoy some great cooking – see your neighbors and friends.

**When: Saturday February 24, 2018**

**Time: 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

**Where: Stephentown Federated Church Hall**

**Who: You, our church family and all our friends**

Goodwill offering only!!

Sponsored by the Men’s Breakfast Group

**For Information call:**

**Larry Eckhardt 518-733-5137 or  
Paul McMillan 518-733-5110 or  
Ted Bears 518-728-9326**



**Note the earlier serving  
time, 5:00pm.**

**Do you know of someone who is “homebound” and unable to attend? Call us and we’ll try to help them with a home delivered meal.**

## Stephentown Federated Church Officers 2018

### Members of Presbyterian Session

Larry Eckhardt (2019) (Clerk of Session). Heather Eckhardt (2021), Paul McMillan (2021), Marge Feathers (2019). Judy Leland (2020), Helen Wallbank (2020)

### Member of Methodist Church Council

Janet Atwater (2021), Georgie Beebe (2021), Kate Beach (2019), Don Leab (2019), Donna Densing (2020), Tom Foody (2020)

### Nominating Committee

Malcolm Beal, Presbyterian – Chair, Donna Densing, Methodist, Heather Eckhardt, Presbyterian, Mary French, Methodist, Kate Beach, Methodist

### Members of the General Committee

Vacancy, Pastor, Joanne Hennig (Christian Ed) – Chair, Arlene Longo, Secretary, Bev Westfall (Choir), Barbara Terpening, Treasurer, Larry Eckhardt (Session), Heather Eckhardt (Session), Kate Beach (Council), Tom Foody (Council), Jean Bolen (SonShiners), Don Leab (Men's Breakfast)

### Pastor – Parish Committee

Malcolm Beal (Session) – Chair, Larry Eckhardt (Session), Tom Foody (Methodist), Bev Westfall (Methodist)

### Worship/Tech Committee

Bev Westfall – Chair, Joanne Hennig, Tom Foody, Janet Atwater, Barb Terpening, Arlene Longo, Laurelyn Mayen, Helen Wallbank

### Denominational Treasurers

Paul McMillan – Presbyterian

Donna Densing – Methodist

### SonShiners

Kate Beach, Pres.; Barbara Terpening, Treasurer; Joanne Hennig, Secretary

### Men's Breakfast Group

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

**JANUARY/APRIL 2018**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>8:45 am choir rehearsal</b>  <b>9:30 am Service</b> <b>10:30 am Coffee Hour</b> <b>10:45 am Choir Rehearsal</b>		<b>9:30 am Heavenly Quilters</b>				<b>9:00-11:00 am Food Pantry</b>
<b>Apr 1</b> <b>6:30 am Sunrise Service – Garfield Cemetery followed by Continental Breakfast at church</b>	<b>7:00 pm Gen Com 4<sup>th</sup> week of month</b>		<b>6:00 pm AA</b>  .			<b>Feb 24</b> <b>5 pm 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Church Dinner</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**

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

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

It is time to place your orders for Easter Lilies and/or spring bulbs in memory of your loved ones. This year the flowers are \$13.00 a piece. We are asking that you have your order in by March 18<sup>th</sup>. Please send your check and order form to: Jessica Rontey at 1391 Garfield Rd. Stephentown, NY 12168. **Please make checks out to Angels Trumpet Flowers.** The flowers will be placed on the altar in time for our Easter service.

Total number of lilies and/or spring bulbs ordered at \$13.00 a piece \_\_\_\_\_

Your total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:	Specify your choice of Lily or spring bulbs \$13.00 each
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