

## Newsletter February, March, April

### *A Christ Centered New Year's Resolution* *by Lyn G. Derenski*

Resolutions are driven by recognizing our imperfection. Repentant hearts demonstrate we are Christians and this is the genesis of our resolutions.

Where to start?

**Stop Complaining** – Look outside of self-interest. We will quickly see, there is always someone who is worse off.

**Keep the Sabbath** – I don't think this was just a suggestion. This commandment was meant to keep us in touch with God, to support and be supported by our faith community.

**Pray and Study** – These activities lead us to reflection. This is where we find the answers to our questions through Christ teaching.

**Begin Volunteering** – In our community we often think we've already done our part. I would suggest if there is an opening and unless there is a new member to pass the task to, we're not done yet!

**Start Tithing** – Scripture clearly calls us to be generous. If you haven't been tithing, don't jump off the cliff! Start slow by increasing your giving by 1 or 2 % a month or quarter of the year, rising the percentage each period until you reach your goal.

**Perform Random Acts of Kindness** – This is the most fun! If you are struggling to think of what to do, pause and think about what you would like someone to do for you and do it for someone. For instance, simply hold a door open for someone.

**God permeates our lives** in incomprehensible ways that reflects His love and goodness. When we admit that God accepts us for who we are today, we enable His will to change our lives. This allows us to focus on the joy of the work or sacrifice we make. God will equip us to achieve His will.



This Photo hv

### **BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY TO BE OFFERED**



TL:--

**Please respond by Sunday, February 23** to Joy Lowenthal at [joylow69@gmail.com](mailto:joylow69@gmail.com) or call her home number at 518-621-7313. Let her know if Mondays at 10am or Fridays at 10am will work for you. We will start the Monday (March 2<sup>nd</sup>) or Friday (February 28<sup>th</sup>) after Ash Wednesday. A wonderful resource on the Lord's Prayer called *Becoming Jesus's Prayer* by 3 authors': Gregory Palmer, Cindy McCalmont, and Brian Milford will serve as a guide to our journey until Easter! (\$6 or less on Amazon I will order for you! Where 2 or more are gathered in my name so look forward to hearing from you.

### **CONFIRMATION**

**Also, attention parents of teens, Mary Schnyer and I hope to offer a confirmation class!**

The time frame for meeting is extremely flexible accommodating today's family schedules!

A lot of field trips, independent study and experience learning! We will cover materials from both the Presbyterian and United Methodist church as well as explaining Stephentown unique "Federation" **Please contact Joy (above) or Mary at 518-733-6475 by April 1.**

We look forward to serving in this way to promote learning to love to love as Christ taught us!

### **NEW MEMBERS**

**If you are considering becoming a member of our church, please Larry Eckhardt or Janet Atwater know. We will be having classes soon.**



Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> was Rev. Dan Daniels last service with us. We celebrated after church with a Buffalo Bills cake and decorations. Cards and gifts were given to Dan & Genie with our heartfelt thanks for all that he has done for our congregation the past three years. They will be sorely missed.



Dear people of the Stephentown Federated Church,

Genie and I want to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you for extravagantly giving to us in the same manner as our Lord extravagantly loves each of you. We were simply overwhelmed by your generosity in the kind words you shared with us, the beautiful cards, the candy, the flowers, the homemade breads, the Bills' hat, and a cake that was simply spectacular as it was unexpected.

The monetary gift was simply over the top in generosity and it is so very much appreciated. Believe me, every bit will be well spent. But most of all, the greatest gift you gave us was yourselves; for just being you, for your fellowship, your friendship, your support and care for us. We are indeed the richest people in the world for knowing you.

May the Lord God bless each of you in all your ways and in all that you do. Though we are apart, we will always be together in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Dan and Genie Daniels

## SonShiners

Meetings:

February 16th at 8am - bring a dish to share

We have had some ideas on how to put our monies to good use. If you want input, please be at the February Meeting.

March 15th at 8am - Ioka Valley Farm, ALL ARE WELCOME - bring a tip - **SonShiners will buy breakfast**



April 19th at 8am - bring a dish to share

May 17th at 8am - bring a dish to share

June 21st no meeting - Father's Day

## Stephentown Federated Church Officers 2020

### Members of Presbyterian Session

Larry Eckhardt (Clerk of Session) 518-733-5137  
Heather Eckhardt (2021)  
Paul McMillan (2021)  
Marge Feathers (2022)  
Larry Eckhardt (2022)  
Judy Leland (2023)  
Helen Wallbank (2023)

### Members of Methodist Church Council

Janet Atwater (2021) Chairperson 518-733-9042  
Georgi Bebee (2021)  
Jean Bolen (2022)  
Bonnie Bates (2022)  
Donna Densing (2023)  
Tom Foody (2023)

### Nominating Committee

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

## Members of the General Committee

### Vacancy, Pastor

Arlene Longo, Secretary 732-841-3457  
Kate Beach (SonShiners) 518-935-8536  
Heather Eckhardt (Session) 518-733-5137  
Bev Westfall (Choir)(Worship)(Search) 518-658-2529

Malcolm Beal (Men's Breakfast) 518-794-0306

Barbara Terpening, Treasurer 518-527-0182  
Larry Eckhardt (Session) Facility Chair 518-733-5137  
Bonnie Bates (Council) Chairperson 518-223-2727  
Jean Bolen (Council) 518-728-9326  
Joy Lowenthal (Christian Ed) 518-621-7313

### Pastor- Parish Committee

Larry Eckhardt, Presb Chair  
Malcolm Beal- Presb  
Tom Foody - Meth  
Bev Westfall - Meth

### Men's Breakfast Group

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

### Son Shiners

Kate Beach, President  
Barbara Terpening, Treasurer  
Joanne Hennig, Secretary

### Worship/Tech Committee

Joanne Hennig      Barb Terpening  
Tom Foody          Laurelyn Mayen  
Bev Westfall - Chair      Arlene Longo  
Janet Atwater      Helen Wallbank  
Bonnie Bates

### Denominational Treasurers

Paul McMillan- Presbyterian

Donna Densing- Methodist



Stephentown Federated Church would like to invite children from ages 3 to 14 to join us for Sunday School.

**When: Third Sunday of each month      Time: 9:30 a.m. – Children will start in church, then go to Pierce Hall for age appropriate lesson and project. We look forward to seeing you!**

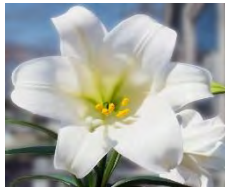
## The New Church at Stephentown, New York 1869

Written by Miss Georgia Ostrander in 1868

Copied by Horace Bateman April 19, 1940

Retyped & read at church by Marjorie Feathers January 2020

Towering pines crown the Stephentown hills,  
Echoing the music of murmuring rills.  
Vocal each bough with a wild bird's free song  
Or loud swelling anthem as storms sweep along.  
Grandly they stand wrapt in mantles of green.  
Preaching of shores ever verdant I seen.  
Yet bring the axe, and with vigorous blow  
Strike at their roots – lay the mightiest blow.  
Say to the one who to spare them may plead,  
“Suffer it now, for the master hath need.”  
Strip off the bark; hew the round to a square.  
Shape every timber with greatest of care.  
Build up a temple, and gather within  
Those that are burdened with trespass and sin.  
Tell them of wrath and a judgement to come.  
Show them the way to a glorious home.  
Speak of the Savior who died for our race.  
Say that salvation is of God's free grace.  
Teach them a faith and repeat once again.  
Urge them today the new life to begin.  
Pray that their hearts may be cleansed in the blood  
That flows from the side of the slain lamb of God.  
Ask that the spirit of truth may come in,  
And fill every soul till there is no room for sin.  
Wrestle like Jacob; let not the Lord go  
Till the blessing is given – it is promised, you know.  
Then let those chimes sound with glad songs again;  
The dear name of Jesus fill up the refrain.  
Let the wings of the wind spread your triumphet alway  
As you shout “Hallelujah” and “Glory to God on high!”  
Then will the wilderness bloom as the rose.  
Then will the church live, where now the pine grows.  
God bless the church that in Stephentown stands.  
God bless the preacher, who with his own hands  
Hewed its first timber, and grant that he may  
Hew much of the stronghold of Satan away.



**EASTER FLOWERS**



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Send your check payable to: Stephentown Federated Church, Treasurer, PO Box 10, Stephentown, NY 12168. **Plants will be \$10 each.** **List:** Who you want to be remember with the flowers; Whether you want Lilies or Spring Bulbs; And if you are taking flowers home or donating them to shut ins. **Deadline is Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group  
Winter 2020 Schedule of Events**

Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month. Gather with us for good food and great fellowship. The 2020 schedule is:

February 2, 2020.....Breakfast at 8:00am Finalize plans for the Annual Turkey Dinner to be held Saturday, February 22, 2020

February 22, 2020..... Church Family and Friends 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Dinner  
Starting at 5:00pm Details in this newsletter or be on the lookout for a postcard reminder.

March 1, 2020..... Breakfast at 8:00am Plans for spring cleanup. Recap the Turkey Dinner.

April 5, 2020..... Palm Sunday - Breakfast at 8:00 am. Planning for Easter Sunday Breakfast after sunrise service

April 12, 2020.....Easter Sunday - **Continental Breakfast after Easter Sunrise Service**



May 3, 2020.....Breakfast at 8:00am Plans for spring cleanup.

June 7, 2020.....All Church Breakfast. 8:00 Am. Last breakfast until October 4, 2020.

We really hope to see you all for the Annual Turkey Dinner on February 22nd.



**BIRTHDAYS**

**FEBRUARY**

8<sup>th</sup> Rev. Dan Daniels  
13<sup>th</sup> Jane McCumber  
27<sup>th</sup> Joe Longo

**MARCH**

6<sup>th</sup> Lauralyn Mayen  
21<sup>st</sup>. Bill Whipple  
23<sup>rd</sup> Barbara Terpening  
24<sup>th</sup> Arlene Longo  
25<sup>th</sup> Genie Daniels

**APRIL**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Foody  
2<sup>nd</sup> Judy Leab  
5<sup>th</sup> Desiree Williams  
6<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Gokey  
7<sup>th</sup> Leigh Lewandoski  
7<sup>th</sup> China LaJuene  
8<sup>th</sup> Mary Hamilton  
18<sup>th</sup> Neal Traux

## **Eighteenth 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 22, 2020**

**Time: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Where: Stephentown Federated Church Hall**

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

**Goodwill offering only!!**

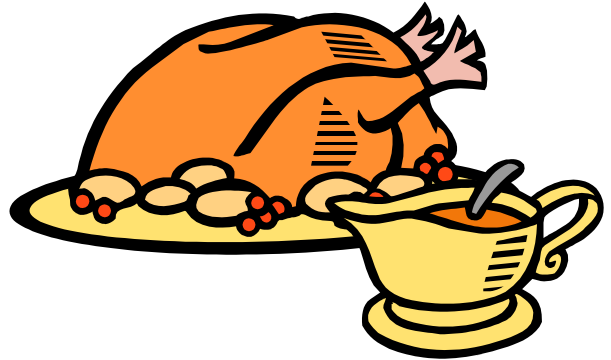
Sponsored by the Men’s Breakfast Group.

**For Information call:**

**Larry Eckhardt 518-733-5137 or**

**Paul McMillan 518-733-5110 or**

**Ted Bears 518-728-9326**



**Would you like to have your meal with someone who can't be with us on Saturday night? Grab a take-out meal for them and yourself and deliver it, so they can enjoy the dinner and your company!**

**Take-Outs available starting at 4:30 pm Let us know early so we can have them ready!**

### **Ministers**

February 2, 2020	Rev. Bob Lowenthal
February 9, 2020	Rev. Bob Lowenthal – transfer of member
February 16, 2020	Rita Pickett
<u>February 23, 2020</u>	<u>Rev. Betsy Mowry</u>
March 1, 2020	Rev. Bob Lowenthal
March 8, 2020	Rev. Bob Lowenthal
March 15, 2020	tentative
March 22, 2020	Rev. Betsy Mowry
<u>March 29, 2020</u>	<u>tentative</u>
April 5, 2020	PALM SUNDAY Rev. Bob Lowenthal
April 12, 2020	EASTER Rev. Bob Lowenthal
April 19, 2020	tentative
<u>April 26, 2020</u>	<u>Rev. Betsy Mowry</u>
May 3, 2020	Rev. Bob Lowenthal
May 10, 2020	Rev. Bob Lowenthal
May 17, 2020	tentative
May 24, 2020	Rev. Betsy Mowry
<u>May 31, 2020</u>	<u>tentative</u>

## Long – term Prayer Concerns:

Holly Wheeler, Carol, June Ross, Brendon Hoffman, Rusty Melancon, Makayla & Julie, Kathy Carringer, Sean Northrup, Georgie, 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, Tanya Joyes, Roy Hamilton, Travis Chuck, Tasha-Chris & family, Nancy, Sal, Karen, Christina, Linda Lee, John Anello, Mary Martin, Sherry & Joe Ciliberti, Carolee, Toby, Elizabeth Hare, Kelly, Kevin, Angelica, Jim & Ann Peck, Radley family, Amanda, Jenny, Mel Feathers, Rick Newton, Jim Chambers, David Berry, Michael Monyahan, Lois Hartnett, Judy & Joe Leland, Esther Koepf, GERALYN, Pat B., Ben Lowenthal, Susan G., Peter, Samantha, Sarah (Beal's daughter), Owen McGinnis, Shannon W., Pattie Lewis, Sahara, Cynthia LeBeau, Cindy Hennig, Hal, LeeAnn Harrison, Judy & Don Leab, Frank, Janice, Donnie, Sue, Bob & Deb, Dorothy Zuckerman, Sally Guimarra, Steve Dessereau, Becky & Luke Kessler, Jerry (AZ), Stephanie & Devin

### 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 Lesotho & 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, Reverend Susan. Rev. Dan & Eugenie, peoples in Australia, Puerto Rico, & Iran

## FEBRUARY – APRIL 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>8:30 am choir rehearsal</b> <b>9:30 am Service</b> <b>10:30 am Coffee Hour</b> <b>10:45 Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>April 12<sup>th</sup> Sunrise Service Garfield Cemetery</b> <b>6:30 followed by Continental Breakfast</b> <b>Easter Service 9:30am</b> <b>Sunday School 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month</b>		<b>9:30 am Heavenly Quilters</b>				<b>9:00-11:00 am Food Pantry</b>
		<b>7:00 pm Gen Com 4<sup>th</sup> week of month</b>	<b>6:00 pm AA</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal starting March</b>		<b>Feb 22 18<sup>th</sup>. Annual Turkey Dinner 5-7pm Take-outs 4:30pm</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**