

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Blessings and greetings of the season!

The wind is whipping; trees are dripping and true November descends.

At this time of year I wish I were a bear and could crawl into my cave of comforters and sleep until Spring! However, that is not our call as humans in this world, so I try to welcome the darkness and let my soul take its times of rest.

I know it is difficult to pay attention to the dark and quiet at a time when our culture is pushing us to put up more lights, join the noisy "Jingle music", fray of shopping malls and slide into the inevitable stress that they cause.

May I suggest an alternative?



Use November for Thanksgiving.

Use December for seeking Peace.



Take time every day to sit for an hour. Yes. Just sit.

Don't even try to pray; don't make lists in your head or think about all the tasks at hand. Give yourself permission NOT to worry or plan or become overwhelmed... just for one hour a day. Be in the Presence of our God of Life. Be comforted; be calmed. It will make a huge difference.

Advent is about waiting, confident that God's Presence is about to manifest, so let us commit to showing up, waiting and listening for that gentle, soft Voice to speak to us.

Blessings and Peace!



Susan

SonShiners

Meeting Dates

November 17th 8am

December 15th 8am

January 19th 8am

Bring a dish to share in Pierce Hall. All are welcome!

We just had another successful Election Day Luncheon. Thanks to all who helped and donated.



The SonShiners are offering an opportunity to make your own **Thanksgiving Floral Centerpiece** on Sunday, November 24th at 11:30 am. Cost is \$30.00 per person includes materials, instruction and a lite lunch. Space is limited so reservations required. Please call Barb at 518-527-0182 email: babst3@verizon.net or Kate at 518-935-8536 email: kate.beach@atlantisequipment.com

P.S. The flowers may not be exactly as in the picture.
Max 20 persons Early reservations would be appreciated.

Investigating a New Sound System

During the October 28th General Committee Meeting, the General Committee approved a request to discuss and gather information concerning a new sound system for our sanctuary. Our current system is extremely antiquated and is not working dependably as noted by Rev Susan's mic or lack of mic on Sunday morning. We would like to form a committee to do gather information. The information we are looking for has to do with speakers in the sanctuary, video taping, playing CD's and music, streaming church services, computer integration, microphones for the service, sound board and hearing devices. If you are interested in being a part of this committee please email Bev (morg104@aol.com) or see her at church.



Bev Westfall

To God Be the Glory

OUR CHOIR sang two anthems to the Glory of God at the First Reformed Church in Wynantskill on Sunday, Nov. 3rd. They were one of ten groups that participated in the Methodist fund raising concert for second hand or gently used furniture for Rensselaer County families. They did a fantastic job and they really enjoyed it as well. They were wonderful ambassadors for our church. They had chocolate samplings and all kinds of goodies following the concert. A good time was had by all.

We are now into our rehearsals for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas Seasons. See our article concerning the second Sunday in Advent. You won't want to miss this!

SPECIAL MUSIC WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 8TH!

Please join us on Sunday, December 8th, at 9:30 AM when Jessica Roemischer will join Rev. Susan and the choir for a special Worship Service!

Jessica combines her music with dialog, creating a holy atmosphere of prayer and peace. Music from her CDs HAVEN and IN DUET WITH GOD will be playing before Worship for the next few weeks so people can hear and get a sense of her unique and extraordinary talent.



Her CDs will be available during coffee hour after the service.

What they're saying...

"It's like Jessica is saying to all the dark cynics of the world:

'Look! The light of Beauty shines in every human being!'" Susan Leigh Babcock

"Jessica Roemischer is both an extraordinary pianist and an evocateur of beauty. Very few people in the world can express themselves with such authenticity and elicit that quality from others."

Elza Maalouf, author and futurist, CEO, Center for Human Emergence Middle East

Jessica's warm, loving presence is expressed so beautifully in her music - its gentleness and strength, its balance and propensity, its forthrightness and its unassumingness

Dr. Di Shearer, Strathalbyn, South Australia

THANKSGIVING GIFTS TO THE FOOD PANTRY

We will be collecting non-perishable food products for the Food Pantry throughout November during Worship.

They do NOT need Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberries or pasta, as they have a surplus of these items.

What they have a great need for:

Coffee

Canned tuna fish

Canned soups



Other non-perishable products are welcome as well. Thank you all!

GIVING TREE DURING ADVENT

Nancy Beal will once again coordinate our Giving Tree program! We will be providing families with gifts of necessities and fun things for Christmas.

Paper ornaments/tags will be on the tree; they will list gender, age and size of one person and they will be color coded according to family.

There will also be tags for "Family Gift," something the whole family will enjoy.

Nancy will also accept monetary gifts which will be turned into gift cards so families can choose some gifts or get food for themselves.

PLEASE: Tape the tag on the gift after wrapping, so we know which family and member it is for. Monetary gifts may be mailed to the Church (PO Box 10, Stephentown, NY 12168) and please mention "Giving Tree." This is how we share the joy!

NOTE: We are asking people to have the gifts in by Sunday, December 15th.

This year, "Hanging of the Greens" will happen on Sunday, December 1st after



Worship. We hope everyone can join us in decorating the church for Christmas!

The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group

Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month until June. Gather with us for good food and great fellowship. The 2013-2014 schedules are:



**December 1, 2013..... Breakfast at 8:00am Discussion & Planning for Turkey
Dinner**

**January 5, 2014..... Breakfast at 8:00am Start the New Year with the
group!**

**February 2, 2014..... Breakfast at 8:00am Will the Groundhog see his
shadow?**

February 22, 2014..... Church family and friends Turkey Dinner 6:00pm

March 2, 2014..... Breakfast at 8:00am

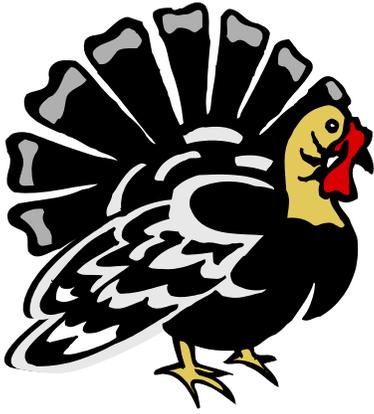
April 6, 2014..... Breakfast at 8:00am

**April 20, 2014..... Easter Sunday – Continental breakfast after Sunrise
Service**

May 4, 2014..... Breakfast at 8:00am

**June 1, 2014..... 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 for the group were elected at the November 3rd meeting. President-
Larry Eckhardt, Secretary- Rich Terpening, Treasurer-Ted Bears, Men's Rep to the
General Committee-Malcolm Beal**



The Big Event

The Men's Group Presents

The 11th Annual Church Family and Friends

TURKEY DINNER

Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

At the Church Hall

This dinner has *no ticket sales, just a free-will offering.* Break the mid-winter blues and get out and enjoy the company of family and friends of our church community and the community at large.

We will need volunteers to cook
pies,



We will need volunteers to cook

prepare food



turkeys,



bake

and help clean-up after dinner.



Let Larry, Ted, Malcolm or Paul know in what capacity you might be able to help. All hands on deck!!! Mark your calendar!!!

Blue Christmas Service December 15th 4 p.m.

A Memorial Service for all those whom we have lost, to honor the fact that the Christmas Season isn't all "Jolly" for everyone.

November/December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 a.m. choir rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	10:00 a.m. Faith Sharing 7:00 p.m. 1st and 3rd Mondays Bereavement Group until Nov 18	9:00 a.m. Heavenly Quilters		10 a.m. Yoga		9:00- 11:00 a.m. Food Pantry
Dec 1 Hanging of Greens Dec 15 at 4 p.m. Blue Christmas Dec 15 last day to bring gifts for Giving Tree	7:00 p.m. Gen Com Nov 25 Dec ?	6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal Dec 24th Christmas Eve Service 7:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m. AA			

Other Dates to Remember

SonShiner's Breakfast: 8 a.m...November 17

December 15

Thanksgiving Floral Centerpiece Class Nov 24th 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec 3rd Choir Rehearsal Supper with Jessica ...5:30p.m.

Sandwiches and soup -- choir rehearsal to follow

Each month: 1st Sunday ---Communion

2nd Sunday---Hymn Sing

3rd Sunday---Healing

2nd and 4th Sunday---Contemporary Service

5th Sunday---Surprise!

Men's Group: 8 a.m.....December 1

Sunday Dec 8th at 9:30 a.m. Service with Jessica Roemischer

Dec. 8th last date to order Poinsettias for Christmas

Blue Christmas: Dec 15th at 4 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service: Dec 24th at 7:30 p.m.

It's time to place your poinsettia orders in memory of your loved ones for our Christmas services. Please fill out the form below and send checks to Jessica Rontey at 1391 Garfield Rd. Stephentown, NY 12168. Please make checks out to [Angels Trumpet Flowers and Gifts](#). All orders should be placed by December 8th at the latest. This year each poinsettia is \$12.50. Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary in time for our Christmas services.

Your name (s) or family name (s)	In memory of:	Quantity
Total Amount Enclosed:		