

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

SUMMER, 2015

All of my senses are greeted in the prayer garden by nature these mornings. Colorful flowers, birdsong, honeysuckle, fresh strawberries, sun on my face. Every single summer these things delight as though it is the first time I'm experiencing them. Every single summer I am in awe of how Creation inspires and heals.

There is a wonderful meditation on strawberries that I read some time ago; it encouraged one to truly see, smell, feel, touch and taste the amazing fruit.



It encourages us to look closely. See the beautiful color, the contrast of the green leaves, the tiny seeds.

Then smell it. Wonderful!

Feel the juice on our tongues, taste the sweetness and let the softness heal us. In this blessed Strawberry season, I encourage you to do this, and to take in all of the marvelous visions, smells, feelings, tastes and touches remind us of the generosity of our Creator.

Take just one minute each morning to notice the sky. The sound of birds. The multitude of the colors of green on our mountains. The feel of the sun on your face. The smell of freshly cut grass or hay. The roughness of a poppy leaf. These are all gifts, my friends.

They are gifts which God has placed right in front of us.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Loving blessings,

Rev. Susan



Bible Study



MONDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP

All are welcome to join this growing group.

We are presently discussing and praying with the 23rd Psalm.

Discussions are always enriching, challenging... And sometimes funny!

We meet in Pierce Hall at 10AM every Monday; coffee, tea, water (and sometimes sweet goodies) are provided.



Looking for engaged persons to work our sound ministry during worship services and other special services as they arise. Training provided.

See Rev. Susan, Barb or Bev

Church Repairs

We were blessed to have Malcolm and Nancy Beal power wash and stain the front porch. And repairs were made to the railing on the porch when it met with a strong force – Thanks to Malcolm and he painted the front doors so they match the porch! Yea!

SonShiners

Breakfast meeting at 8am:

July 19th

August 16th

September 20th

October 18th

Upcoming Events:

Garden/Bake Sale and Silent Auction - July 25th 9am - 3pm

(Community Tag Sale, Gardiner's Field)

We are looking for silent auction items. Please try to get your donation information to Barb by July 12th (this will give time to organize).

Also need baked goods, veggies/fruit, help.



Ice Cream Social- Tag/Craft Sale - September 26th

10am - 3pm at Ioka Valley Farm, Hancock

Space needs to be reserved for vendors. If you know anyone who may be interested please contact Kate or Barb.



Italian Dinner - October 17th

Election Day Luncheon -



November 3rd

Hard to believe we are half way through the year.

Summer Rehearsals for Oct 4th Dedication service

Good morning everyone!

After talking with the group yesterday before church we came up with the following rehearsal times. Hopefully it will work for all of you. I will send out an email the night before each rehearsal and I would ask that if it is a problem that you just send me an email so we can make adjustments if needed. I know people will be on vacation etc but hope that this works for most of you.

I would like to welcome Betty Hartnett to our choir group. She will be singing alto. It has been a while since she sung in a group but is looking forward to being a part of our choir.

We also welcome the members of the Immaculate Conception Choir. They will be singing with us for dedication of our sound system and our new robes.

We look forward to their voices and their fellowship.

I am excited about the music. There are four numbers and currently I am working on making a cd of all four. I have two done and still waiting for one more to come in the mail... (and yes we have one that we need drums for as well, Marge.) That way you can listen to them at your leisure during the summer. I handed out the music yesterday on Sunday and those that were not present were put in your music box in Pierce Hall.

Dedication Service Rehearsal for Oct 4th program

Tuesday July 14 6:30 p.m.

Sunday July 19 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday July 28 6:30 p.m.

Sunday Aug 2 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday Aug 18 6:30 p.m.

Sunday Aug 23 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday Sept 1 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday Sept 8 6:30 p.m.

Sunday Sept 27 10:45 a.m.

Saturday Oct 3 10:a.m dress rehearsal

We will need rehearsals in September other than Tuesday night so be thinking on that. Again many thanks for your dedication and support to the music and worship of our church.

Enjoy your summer!

Bev

Sound System Update

We have completed almost everything connected to the sound system. The first Sunday we recorded the sermon was the Sunday Janet Atwater was our lay speaker for the day. We thank her for allowing us to use her wonderful sermon to be the first on our website. You will find the sermon under pastor's sermons. As always we appreciate any feedback you give us. We encourage anyone that would like to try the hearing loop or ear buds during the service to see the ushers or Barb Terpening . Those that are using it find it VERY helpful. Give it a try if things are not as clear as you would like. It will work with or without hearing aids depending on what you have or do not have. We can work with you.

SAVE THE DATE: October 4th Dedication service...@ 4 p.m.



On October 4, 2015 we will be having a special dedication service for our new sound system and our new beautiful robes. The robes have been graciously donated by Janet Atwater in memory of our two former choir members Audrey and Fran Foody. The plaque for the sound system has been ordered and has arrived. It is beautiful and will be dedicated at this service. The service will include much music from our choir and the Immaculate Conception Choir. It is always a joy to have them sing with us. The service will begin at 4 p.m.

Put it on your calendar and come and join us.

The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group

Summer 2015 Schedule of Events

Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month until June. We re-start again in October. Gather with us for good food and great fellowship. The 2015 schedule is:

October 4, 2015..... All Church Breakfast – First gathering of the new season.

Discussion & Planning for Year's events. Catch up from the summer. All are welcome to join us at 8:00am

November 1, 2015..... Breakfast at 8:00am Elections of leaders for the new season

December 6, 2015..... Breakfast at 8:00am

January 3, 2016..... Breakfast at 8:00am Plan for Men's Group Dinner

Happy New Year!!

The officers for the group are: President-Larry Eckhardt, Secretary- Rich Terpening, Treasurer-Ted Bears, Men's Rep to the General Committee-Malcolm Beal



Many thanks to all the great bakers who supply us with goodies for coffee hour!!! If you would like to participate, just sign up on the calendar in Pierce Hall!



July-August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:45 Choir Rehearsal 7/19,8/2,23	10:00 a.m. Monday Morning Prayer Group	9:30 a.m. Heavenly Quilters				9:00-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry
	7:00 p.m. Gen Com 4th week of month	Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm 7/14,28, 8/2,18	6:00 p.m. AA			July 25 Gardiner Field 9-3 Bake/Produce Sale Silent Auction 9-2

Each month: 1st Sunday ---Communion
2nd Sunday---Hymn Sing
3rd Sunday---Healing
2nd and 4th Sunday---Contemporary Service
5th Sunday---Surprise!

July 25th Sonshiners Community Yard Sale

9-3 Bake Goods/Produce Sale

9-2 Silent Auction -- Come check out our great items to bid on!