

## **Pastor's Letter - Summer, 2016**

**Greetings and blessings of the Summer to you!**

**This morning I sat out in the Prayer Garden and marveled at birdsong, flowers and the rising sun; "How Great Thou Art" came to mind.**



**When I, in awesome wonder, consider all the things God's hands have made, I can scarcely take it in. I heard at least six different bird calls as well as the thrumming of a hummer at the feeder; plants of every color, some wild, some sown, grow happily together. I know that the fields and gardens nearby are providing us with abundant food which will last well into the winter, and they, too, display every color and shape.**

**As I sat, I wished that more people had the opportunity to experience this slice of heaven. Perhaps considering the harmony and beauty of nature would help us to step back from strife and fear; perhaps it would put things into perspective.**

**Suddenly I heard a motorcycle go by. Someone is headed off to work and the world is beginning its bustle of the day. It reminded me of the line from Bambi: "Man is in the forest."**

**I prayed for all whose days would involve stress and hurry, chaos, fear or danger. I prayed that they might have just a moment to consider the miracles that are all around them. I prayed that we humans, of all colors, sizes and songs might live in harmony.**

**Blessings,**

*Rev. Susan*

## SonShiners

**We are coming to the busy time of year for us with our fundraisers. Please support us in our work for the church.**

**Meetings: 8 am Bring a dish to share**

**August 21<sup>st</sup> – Organizing for the Ice Cream Social & Craft/Yard Sale**

**September 18<sup>th</sup> - Organizing for the Italian Dinner**

**October 16<sup>th</sup>**

**At our January meeting we elected:**

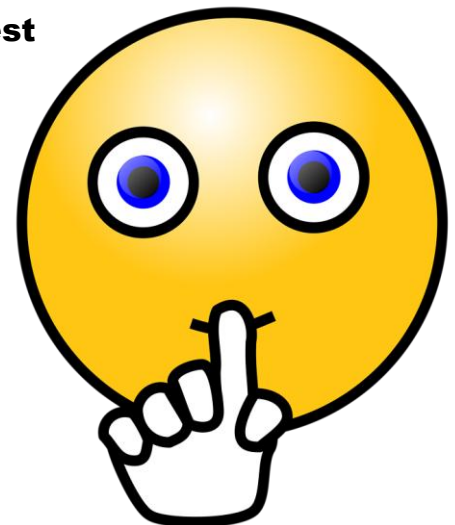
**Kate Beach, President; Barb Terpening, Vice-Pres.; Joanne Hennig, Sec.; Pat Coon, Treasurer; Judy Leab, Gen. Commt. Rep.**

### **BAKE PRODUCE SALE & SILENT AUCTION**

**August 6<sup>th</sup> 9-3 join us at Gardner's Field on RT 22, Stephentown for the Stephentown Historical Society's Community Tag Sale. We will be having a booth selling baked goods, can goods, fresh vegetables. Please bring any donations to the church and put by the Silent Auction items by Saturday 8 am or to Gardner's Field by 9 am.**

**Our other booth will be our Silent Auction which is currently set up in Pierce Hall for you to start making your bids on the great items we have. Check them**

**out. Just place your bid in the appropriate can. Highest bidder wins. We even have a steak dinner for 4 this year. The Silent Auction will end at 2 pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> and winners will be called to pick up their winnings. Good luck to all!**



## **FALL FESTIVAL**

**Our Ice Cream Social & Craft/Yard Sale is Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at Ioka Farm on Rte 43 Hancock, MA from 10 am to 3 pm. Reserve your 10 X 10 space for \$15.00. (You cannot beat the price) You provide your own table and chair. No food vendors please. Please give your applications to Barb Terpening or Kate Beach. Clean out your attic and basement and sell your items here.**



**We'll be selling make your own ice cream sundaes, banana splits and root beer floats. Doesn't that sound yummy? Join us for the day and browse the vendors and the venues available at Ioka Farm. You may find that one item you've been hunting for.**



## **ITALIAN DINNER**

**Mark on your calendars Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> to come have dinner with us.**



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

**Fall 2016 Schedule of Events**

**Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month. We re-start again in October. Gather with us for good food and great fellowship.**

**The 2016 schedule is:**

**October 2, 2016..... All Church Breakfast at 8:00am Start the new meeting season with everyone invited!**

**November 6, 2016..... Breakfast at 8:00am Election of Group leadership for 2017**

**December 4, 2016.....Breakfast at 8:00am**

**The officers elected at the November meeting for the group are:**

**President-Larry Eckhardt, Secretary- Rich Terpening, Treasurer-Ted Bears,  
Men's Rep to the General Committee-Malcolm Beal**



**Choir**

**Looking forward to the fall and the beginning of choir. We had discussed choir time changes last spring so this is a reminder that we are *moving from Tuesday night and going to a Thursday night* beginning with our first rehearsal, which will be Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. The summer has given us a time of respite and a time to recharge. We would welcome anyone that likes to sing to come and join us. We will be getting**

**right to work for our fall services, our chocolate concert (the Methodist Music concert that supports Rensselaer County people that need furniture for their homes), Thanksgiving and Christmas music. Come and join us.**



## Summer Music

I would like to thank all the people who participated in providing special music for the summer months. It has been wonderful and we appreciate all the ideas and special messages that each of you brought to Sunday Service. There are a couple of Sundays still open so check the availability on the sheet in Pierce Hall and sign up if you feel led to share some music with us.

**THANK YOU**



## Sunday Recordings

Just want to remind everyone that if you are away or know someone that cannot make it to church our services have been recorded each Sunday since the first of the year. Check our website: [www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org](http://www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org) then click on Sunday recordings. I would like to thank our sound engineers Skip Densing, Richard Terpening, Arlene Longo and Helen Wallbank for their help in learning to record this ministry each week. Also to Keith Westfall who has been editing and uploading the services to our talented Web master Bob Phelps. To all of you, it takes a village and Thank You.

## Church Painting

When you go by our church on Garfield Road you will see our building is getting a new coat of paint. The scraping began July 21st and we still have a need to add to the Painting Fund in order to preserve the buildings we use to worship. If you feel so inclined to support this mission, please send donations to our treasurer Don French at the Stephentown Federated Church, Box 10, Stephentown NY 12168. As always, we appreciate your support and prayers in the up keep of our church.



**July August September 2016**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>choir(Sept)</b> <b>rehearsal</b> <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <b>Service</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Monday</b> <b>Morning</b> <b>Prayer</b> <b>Group</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> <b>Heavenly</b> <b>Quilters</b> <b>- restart</b> <b>in SEPT.</b>				<b>9:00-</b> <b>11:00</b> <b>a.m.</b> <b>Food</b> <b>Pantry</b>
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>Gen Com</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> week</b> <b>of month</b>		<b>6:00</b> <b>p.m. AA</b>	<b>Choir</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Restart</b> <b>SEPT.</b>		

**Each month: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday ---Communion – open to all**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday---Hymn Sing @ beginning of service**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday---Healing Theme**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday---Contemporary Service**  
**Visual screen used for readings and hymns**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday---Surprise!**

**Bake/Produce Sale and Silent Auction August 6<sup>th</sup> 9 - 3**

**Ice Cream Social & Craft/Yard Sale September 24<sup>th</sup> 10 – 3**

**Italian Dinner October 15<sup>th</sup>**