

True Greatness



by *Eugenie Daniels*

What does the word great mean? “Have a great day.” “Boy, retirement is great. I’m really enjoying it.” “I just landed a great job. More money and a better title.” “Our vacation was great. First time at the Grand Canyon.” According to the dictionary, these folks had a beyond average experience, one that was markedly superior in quality, or just excellent.

That is a worldly way of thinking about greatness. Christians have something in their lives that is truly great. “Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised...” (Psalm 48:1) God’s greatness gives new meaning to the word.

So what is so great about God? One thing is He took a band of nobody slaves in Egypt and made them His people. They were making bricks without straw (a necessary component) and were beaten every day. They cried out in their suffering and He heard them. He set them free from Pharaoh, and gave them a land flowing with milk and honey. They sang in celebration: “Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?” (Exodus 15:11) Now that is great.

But He went beyond even that. He has set us free from sin and death. We have been given “...the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 1:1) We are no longer slaves of sin, but possessors of new life. We have it now. Then, when we die, like a seed that goes into the ground, but possesses life to make it sprout and grow, we still have life in us. The life in us is what raises us at the resurrection and continues forever. That goes way beyond the meaning of great as we commonly use it.

Great new jobs can be downsized. Great retirements can be downsized too, by boredom, health problems, and financial woes. Vacations are not always great. God never changes. “Great is our Lord and of great power.” (Psalm 45:3) We can sing a song of celebration of God’s greatness with the Israelites, that we are free from slavery to sin and death and have eternal life with Him.

Eugenie Daniels is the wife of Rev. Dan Daniels, who is doing regular pulpit supply at the church and has been a Christian writer since the late 1980’s. She enjoys hiking and birdwatching with her husband.



We welcome choir back for rehearsal on Thursday, September 7th at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday for worship September 10th. It is always wonderful to have a respite from our normal activities, but then it is always wonderful to get back together again in the fall. We will be preparing for the regular services each week as well as the special services such as Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. If you are at all interested in singing with us, please come to rehearsals on Thursdays and try us out even for just a season.



Website

As always, we encourage you to look at our website for any information you might be looking for as well as the weekly services that you might miss. We record our service each week and put it on our website: www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org. We do our best to keep the information all current and the list of activities and ministers are there for the fall.

Worship Committee and Current Guest Ministers

There is a Worship Committee meeting planned for Thursday, September 14th at 5:30p.m.

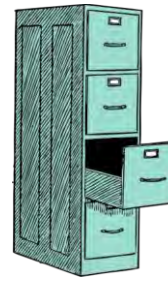
Worship committee continues to have guest ministers through October at this point. Rev. Dan Daniels has offered to do two Sundays a month until we get a pastor as well as doing a third Sunday for those months that have five weeks. We are very thankful for this blessing. Below is a list of the ministers through the end of October as we know it now:

Sept. 3...Rev. Dan Daniels
Sept. 10...Rev. Bob Lowenthal
Sept. 17...Rev. Dan Daniels
Sept. 24...Rev. Betsy Mowry

Oct. 1...Rev. Dan Daniels
Oct. 8...Rev. Dan Daniels
Oct. 15...
Oct. 22...Rev. Dan Daniels
Oct. 29...Rev. Betsy Mowry



WANTED



We are in need of a five drawer lockable letter size file cabinet. If you have or know of one, please contact Barbara at 518-527-0182 babst3@verizon.net.

SonShiners

Women's Breakfast Meetings @ 8:00am Bring a dish to share!

Sept 17th
Oct 15th
Nov 19th



Mark Your Calendars For Our Events:

Sept 23rd – Craft-Tag Sale/Ice Cream Social @ Ioka Valley Farm 10 am to 4 pm
Check out the website for the applications to rent your space! Cost \$20 for 10'X10' space.
Note: new time for event. We will be located in a different area of the farm next the Calf-A.
Lots of parking available. Come join us to check out the vendors and have some ice cream.



Oct 14th – Italian Dinner – free will offering 5:30 p.m.



Nov 7th – Election Day Luncheon 11a.m. – 2 p.m.



Communion Servers for 2017-2018

September 3, 2017 Laurelyn & Doug Mayen
October 1, 2017 Jean Bolen and Ted Bears
November 5, 2017 Nancy & Malcolm Beal
December 3, 2017 Joe & Judy Leland
January 7, 2018 Donna & Skip Densing
February 4, 2018 Larry & Heather Eckhardt (Kate Beach)
March 4, 2018 Mary Schnyer and Helen Wallbank
April 1, 2018 Don & Judy Leab
May 6, 2018 Paul & Joan McMillan
June 3, 2018 Barb & Richard Terpening
July 1, 2018 Joanne Hennig and Ted Bears
August 5, 2018 Donna & Skip Densing
September 2, 2018 Laurelyn & Doug Mayen

As a communion server for a specific Sunday we request the following items: Gluten free bread, Grape juice. ***Serving gluten free bread only is a change that was made to better serve our congregation. It can be purchased at Target and Hannaford and most grocery stores now. You only need a small loaf. Leave a couple slices whole on one tray with the rest cut and on the second tray with cut only. Use gloves when cutting the bread into small cubes.

Please come up at the beginning of the communion hymn to remove the cloth and replace cover after communion is served.

Communion needs to be prepared and on the table by 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. It is the responsibility of the servers to both set up and clean up following the service. If you find this an impossibility for your month, please contact any one on the list as a substitute. If no one is available to take your place, please contact Bev Westfall at 658- 2529. Thank you for being an integral part of our congregation.

AED Monitor Training

The first training session is planned for Wednesday, September 6th at 7:30 in Pierce Hall. If you are interested in taking the training, please contact Janet Atwater.

The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group

Fall 2017 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 2017 schedule is:

October 1, 2017.....**All Church Breakfast** – Everyone come and join us for a really big breakfast meal! This is the first breakfast meeting of the season! 8:00am

November 5, 2017.....Breakfast at 8:00am looking forward to planning the activities of the upcoming winter season.

December 3, 2017.....Breakfast at 8:00am Begin planning for the Annual Turkey Dinner to be held February 24, 2018

Search Committee

The search committee is meeting on Tuesday, September 12th at 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 a.m. choir rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour Oct. 1 8am All Church Men's Group Breakfast		9:30 a.m. Heavenly Quilters				9:00-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry Sept. 23 10am – 4pm Craft/Yard Sale/Ice Cream Social Ioka Valley Farm
	7:00 p.m. Gen Com 4th week of month Sept. 25 Oct. 23	Sept. 12 Search Committee Mtg. 7p.m.	6:00 p.m. AA Sept. 6 AED Monitor Training 7:30p.m.	Choir 6:30 p.m. Worship Commt. Mtg Sept 14 5:30pm		Oct. 14 Italian Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Each month: 1st Sunday ---Communion – Open to all

2nd Sunday---Hymn Sing at beginning of service

2nd and 4th Sunday---Contemporary Service – Visual screen used for readings and hymns

Sept. 6th AED Monitor Training 7:30pm

Sept. 12th Search Committee Meeting 7pm

Sept. 14th Worship Commt. Mtg. 5:30pm

Sept. 23rd Craft/Yard Sale and Ice Cream Social at Ioka Valley Farm 10am – 4pm

Oct. 14th SonShiners Italian Dinner 5:30 pm

Sunday Worship Services available on our website:

www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org