

November/December 2019

**COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.**

As we enter this season of Blessings, let us give thanks to all who work so hard to keep our church running. We are blessed with people “who wear many hats”. We are also blessed with the services of Rev. Dan Daniels, Rev. Bob Lowenthal and Rev. Betsy Mowry who continue to serve us with our worship services. And gratefully, Rev. Bonnie Bates is visiting our shut-ins and praying for your concerns that you put in the blue prayer jar in Pierce Hall near the bulletin boards.

The General Committee is working on keeping our church community safe in these uncertain times. We have a representative working with the community about Active Shooter Awareness and we are looking into how best to adapt this knowledge as it fits our church. There will be an Active Shooter Awareness meeting, Sat., Nov. 9th 8:30-10:00am at the Stephentown Memorial Library if you are interested. We are announcing the following at the beginning of each service:

“We are implementing a new procedure to protect our congregation. At the beginning of the service, the two outside doors into Pierce Hall are being locked for our protection. There is no problem for anyone to exit thru those doors at any time. Please feel free to use the entrance door by the pulpit if you need to use the facilities. If you enter Pierce Hall during the service using the lock code, please be sure to close the door upon entering and exiting. Be advised there are two doors to exit the sanctuary. The front door and the one by the pulpit into Pierce Hall. We are looking into other ways we can be proactive and keep us safe.”

We have installed some additional insulation on the Pierce Hall doors on the manse side of the building which make closing this door even more challenging. Please use extra care to make sure the doors are completely closed so you cannot pull/push them open. We’ve recently had incidents on both sets of lockable doors into Pierce Hall not being closed properly. This should be done for the safety of individuals using our facility.

At this time of year, we as a church do a little extra giving for the community. Please read the notices about the food pantry and angle tree giving.

May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving & Advent Season.



NEW DIRECTORY...almost ready

Our new 2020 Directories will be ready shortly. We ask that you check your name off the list when you pick yours up on Sunday. There are a couple from some distance away that I will mail out. I appreciate all the help from Arlene Longo in getting info and taking pictures for the directory program. Many thanks the Joanne Hennig for printing the insides of our book. Special recognition to Tom Foody for his beautiful sunset picture of our church on the back cover. We hope you all enjoy your new directory and hopefully it will help to keep us connected and in touch with each other. Bev



from the front
of the choir

CHOIR

Choir has been invited to be the entertainment for the Historical Society's Christmas gathering on Dec 1, 2019. Bev McClave and Larry Holder from the Immaculate Conception Church choir have joined us in rehearsals in preparation for this festivity. We have been rehearsing from 6:00 -6:45 each week for the Holiday music. From 6:45 -8:00 is rehearsal for our church music.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Our next meeting will be November 10th following the church service. We will be meeting with Rev. Dan Daniels to discuss and plan for the Hanging of the Greens, the Advent season and the Christmas season. Rev. Bonnie Bates will be our minister for Christmas Eve this year.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

We are still actively looking for our own half time minister. There are very few ministers that are available for full time let alone the half time that would meet our needs. We are very grateful to the three ministers who continue to serve our church this past year. In the newsletter you will see their schedule for the remainder of the year. We invite you to come and be a part of our service on any or all of these Sundays. We are very blessed. We continue to work with both the Presbyterians and the Methodists for our ongoing search.

Ministers for November-December 2019

November 3.....Rev. Bob Lowenthal

10.....Rev. Dan Daniels

17.....Rev. Dan Daniels

24.....Rev. Betsy Mowry

December 1.....Rev. Dan Daniels

8.....Rev. Betsy Mowry

15.....Rev. Dan Daniels

22.....Rev. Bob Lowenthal

24.....Christmas Eve ...Rev. Bonnie Bates

29.....Rev. Dan Daniels



FOOD PANTRY

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

We will be celebrating Thanksgiving at church on Sunday, November 24th. We take this time to help replenish our Food Pantry. They are in need of spaghetti sauce (preferable not in glass), Soup other than tomato or chicken noodle, canned fruit, baked beans, canned tuna, canned chicken, COFFEE!, toilet paper (very popular with everyone), toothpaste, toothbrushes. Please bring your items and/or cash donations on the 24th.



ANGEL TREE

I can't believe it is time to start thinking about Christmas. Over the years with your kind help we have given to numerous families.

I will have the Angels ready the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 24th and would like gifts back by Dec. 15th so we can sort them. If you have any questions, let me know. I can always use some help.

Thank you, Nancy Beal



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR ALTER

We are doing things a little bit differently this year. The cost is \$10 for each plant.

Please send your check payable to Stephentown Federated Church c/o Joanne Hennig, PO Box 10, Stephentown, NY 12168 by December 8th.

List your name and the names of your loved ones you want to remember and whether you will be taking a plant home after Christmas Eve service or you would like them to go to one of our shut-ins?



On Sunday, December 1st, the first Sunday in Advent, we will be hanging the greens – decorating our church for the advent season. Rev. Dan is working with the Worship Committee so dress for decorating and everyone can participate even if it's just directing where the decorations should go. Stay tuned for more details.

SonShiners

Invite your neighbors and join us November 5th for our Election Day Luncheon being served from 11am – 2pm in Pierce Hall

We thank all who came and ate and worked so hard to make our Italian Dinner a success!!!!

Meetings – 8am Bring a dish to share

November 17th

December 15th

January 19th - Elections

The Stephentown Federated Church Men’s Group
Fall - Winter 2019/2020 Schedule of Events

Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month. Gather with us for good food and great fellowship. The 2019-20 schedule is:

- November 3, 2019.....Breakfast at 8:00am looking forward to planning the activities of the upcoming winter season. Elections for new year’s officers.
- December 1, 2019.....Breakfast at 8:00am Begin planning for the Annual Turkey Dinner to be held February 22, 2020
- January 5, 2020.....Breakfast at 8:00am First meeting of the New Year. What resolutions are still intact!?? New year, new ideas! Continue planning for Turkey Dinner
- February 2, 2020.....Breakfast at 8:00am Finalize plans for the Annual Turkey Dinner to be held February 22, 2020
- February 22, 2020.....Church Family and Friends 18th Annual Turkey Dinner
Starting at 5:00pm Watch for details in next 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.

Our last All Church breakfast was well attended by many members, families and friends. We really hope to see you all for the November 3rd breakfast meeting.

Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We are blessed this year to have Rev. Bonnie Bates leading our worship. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ on December 24th at 7:30pm



[This Photo](#) by
Unknown Author is

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held on January 19th, 2020 following the church service. Please plan to attend this important part in the life of our church. Also, those responsible for group reports please have them into Arlene Longo at alongo6177@fairpoint.net no later than Dec 15th if possible. I know it's not quite the end of the year, but it takes time to create the report packet for the congregation by the first Sunday of the year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTIONS

Annual Meeting is January 19th. Please take time to think about how you might be able to help with the workload of keeping our church running so smoothly. Your gift of time is always welcome. We always need your input because it is your church. Our bylaws do state that you have to be a member of the church to serve on General Committee, Church Council, Session and Pastor-Parish. If you would like to become a member so you may serve, then speak to Larry Eckhardt or Bev Westfall.

The Nominating Committee is:

Malcolm Beal, Presby., Chair; Heather Eckhardt, Presby.; Mary French, Meth.; Kate Beach, Meth.; Donna Densing, Meth.

The vacancies that are available for the 2020 year are as follows:

- Members of Methodist Church Council...Donna Densing,... 3 year term
- Members of Methodist Church Council...Tom Foody...3 year term
- Members of Presby. Session...Judy Leland...3 year term
- Members of Presby. Session...Helen Wallbank...3 year term

The responsibilities of these positions is to attend at most quarterly meetings to be announced; each denominations will each elect two members to the General Committee; they shall appoint Communion Stewards; maintain the church membership records for the individual denominations; elect denominational treasurers for a one year term from each board who's function is to assist the general treasurer.

Please contact the Nominating Committee if you are interested in serving.

Happy Birthday

CHURCH BIRTHDAYS

November	2	Kalee Hennig
	19	Valerie Sandstrom
	11	Judy Leland
	11	Aliza Berry
December	5	Marianne Smith
	5	Acelyn Plouffe
	17	Janice Walther
	18	Mark Baker
	18	Fred Wallbank
	25	Donna Densing
	26	Nancy Beal
	26	Kelsey Hennig
	28	Malik Plouffe
	31	Joan C. McMillan
	31	Helen Wallbank



WEBSITE

Don't forget.....if you miss a Sunday you can catch up with us on stephentownfederatedchurch.org to get the latest info and Sunday service.

November/December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9 am choir rehearsal</p> <p>9:30 am Service 10:30 am Coffee Hour</p>		<p>9:30 am Heavenly Quilters</p> <p>SonShiners Election Day Luncheon Nov. 5th 11-2</p>				<p>9:00-11:00 am Food Pantry</p>
		<p>7:00 pm Gen Com Nov 25th Dec 16th</p> <p>24th Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm</p>	6:00 pm AA	Choir 6:30 pm		

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

THE U IN JESUS

*Before U were thought of or time had begun,
 God stuck U in the name of his son
 ..And each time you pray, you'll see it's true,
 You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.
 You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
 For U He was born, that's why he came.
 And His great love for U is the reason He dies.
 It even takes U to spell crUcified.
 Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
 He rose from the dead, with U in His plan.
 The stones split away, the gold trumpet blew,
 And this word resUrrection is spelled with U.
 When JesUs left earth at His Upward Ascension,
 He felt there was one thing He just had to mention
 "Go into the world and tell them it's true
 That I love them all—Just as I love U."*