



The “Elephant(s)” in the Room

Here we are since mid-March not sharing time with one another in church. Hope all of you are doing well whether you are Sheltering At Home, an essential worker out there taking care of business and our wellbeing, working from home or schooling from home.

May I suggest when you are preparing to view and participate in the service, it is easy to get distracted so take time to make sure the area around you is calm without distractions. Don't look at this as entertainment. Yes, it's a video and you can stop, pause, rewind, fast forward. Allow the service to continue so that you can get the flow like when you are in church. Take a few cleansing breaths and begin to watch. It's not the same as being together in person but God is always with us even in these different ways. We are called to follow Him even when things are challenging.



Masks

[This Photo](#) by Unknown

Last Sunday if you watched on the website www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org you would have seen a few of our congregation in masks. According to the New York State law if you cannot distance from people by 6 feet you must wear the mask. There are mixed feelings on this I realize, but I feel that God helps those who help themselves. As I said on the screen on Sunday, our doors may be closed, but our hearts are open. God gave us scientists that are beginning to understand this virus and what we need to do to help ourselves. God keep each of you safe as we continue on this new journey. Bev



Coffee Hour

We've all missed each other so, beginning next Sunday, May 24th at 10:30 am bring your cup of coffee or tea to our first **Zoom Coffee Hour**. It's a chance to greet and talk with folks you haven't seen in a bit. Arlene has agreed to be the host. You will be sent an invitation to join at that time. So, at 10:30 click on the invitation and join us for coffee hour. Hope to see you then. If you don't get an invite, send Arlene an email to have her include you at: alongo6177@fairpoint.net

Please remember to get your Memorial Day pictures to Bev at morg104@aol.com

Finances

We so appreciate all the folks that have sent in their offerings to keep us going. You can still send your tithes and offerings Attn: Treasurer, Stephentown Federated Church, P.O. Box 10, Stephentown, NY 12168 until further notice. The finances will be listed in the bulletin like normal starting this week on our website.

Devotion by Bonnie, music by Bev

From April 15th through the month of April there were daily devotions that were posted on the website and to each person with an email. In the first part of May we did the devotions twice a week along with the Sunday service. These are available online. Bonnie will be starting a different meditation once she has been given permission from the publisher to use the materials. Thank you, Bonnie!

Worship Committee met in a new format on Zoom to discuss our Sunday morning service and how we continue to go forward. We decided to go back and try to incorporate more parts of our service that we used when we were worshipping in our sanctuary. Starting last Sunday we will be using the bulletin on line. Bob uploads it so you can see it to follow the service.

We discussed how we can continue to add music. Currently we are using piano that I record each week. I am also using some of the cd's that the choir recorded. We are going to try and record layers of voice and piano for more variety. We are always open to suggestions and encourage you to share any ideas that you have. We will continue to meet through Zoom.

General Committee

General Committee has not met in the last couple of months. We will begin meeting through Zoom on the 4th Tuesday of May. Everyone has been continuing to do the necessary things to protect the buildings and grounds. The bills are being paid through our treasurer. The food pantry continues to serve the needs of our community for those who need food.

The Governor still states that we have a way to go to be able to worship in the sanctuary again. The Presbyterian have sent their recommendations. On Monday we are to get the recommendations from the Methodists. It is the job of general committee to take these recommendations and make the appropriate decisions to keep our people safe when they gather to worship. In the meantime, we will continue to worship online. We thank you for your notes, your prayers, your suggestions, your cards, your offerings, your telephone calls and the list goes on how we all care for each other.

God bless.



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Choir

To our choir people...we miss you and know we are all in the same boat. It is impossible to sing near people without the risk of getting or giving Covid 19. As time goes on, we will get directions on how we can use our music with less risk or no risk. Music is very important to us and to our congregation. So, we use what we can to worship for the time being.



BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

3rd Joann William
7th Skip Densing
8th Keith Westfall
14th Matthew Eckhardt
14th Paul McMillan

JULY

5th Heather Eckhardt
11th Patience Westfall
13th Shannon Adams
18th Don Leab
24th Joe Leland

AUGUST

1st Tammy Madden
7th Don Lewandoski
17th Maureen Saxby
19th Catherine Beach
26th Bev Westfall