

January/February 2021 Newsletter

The General Committee had their first meeting of the year via Zoom on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. Since no one person was willing to be the chairperson, it was decided that each member of the committee would take a turn being in charge of running a month's meeting. If you have any church concerns, please let one of the members know or you can always contact Bev Westfall or leave a message on the church's phone 518-733-5813 or on the church email at: church@stephentownfederatedchurch.org.

Stephentown Federated Church Officers 2021

Members of Presbyterian Session

Larry Eckhardt (2022) (Clerk of Session)
Heather Eckhardt (2024)
Paul McMillan (2024)
Marge Feathers (2022)
Judy Leland (2023)
Helen Wallbank (2023)

Members of Methodist Church Council

Janet Atwater (2024) Chair
Georgi Beebe (2024)
Tom Foody (2023)
Bonnie Bates (2022)
Donna Densing (2023)
Jean Bolen (2022)

Members of the General Committee

Vacancy, Pastor
Arlene Longo, Secretary
Jean Bolen, (Council)
Malcolm Bears (Men's Breakfast)
Heather Eckhardt (Session)
Bev Westfall (Choir, Worship Comm.)

Kate Beach (SonShiners)
Barbara Terpening, Treasurer
Larry Eckhardt, Facility Chair (Session)
Joy Lowenthal/Mary Schnyer (Christian Ed.)
Tom Foody (Council)

Pastor-Parish Committee

Larry Eckhardt, Presb. – Chair
Malcolm Beal, Presb.
Tom Foody, Meth.
Bev Westfall, Meth.

Men's Breakfast Group

Larry Eckhardt, Chair
Richard Terpening, Scribe
Ted Bears, Treasurer

SonShiners

Kate Beach, President
Barbara Terpening, Treasurer
Joanne Hennig, Secretary

Worship/Tech Committee

Bev Westfall, Chair
Joanne Hennig
Tom Foody
Janet Atwater
Rev. Bonnie Bates
Barb Terpening
Laurelyn Mayen
Arlene Longo
Helen Wallbank

Denominational Treasurers

Paul McMillan – Presbyterian

Donna Densing – Methodist

Nominating Committee

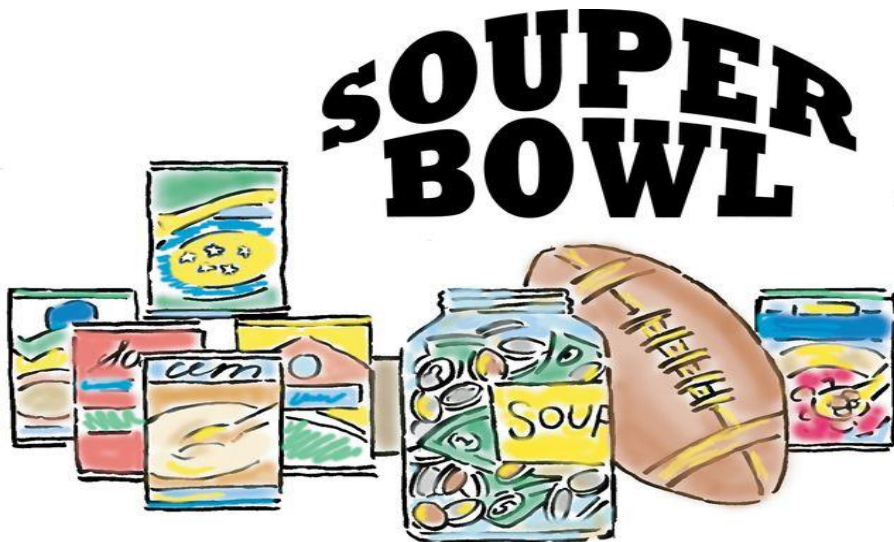
Malcolm Beal, Presb. – Chair

Donna Densing, Meth.

Heather Eckhardt, Presb.

Mary French, Meth.

Kate Beach, Meth.



REMINDER! It's that time of year again, time for the Stephentown Federated Church's food drive for "Souper Bowl Sunday" to help the Food Pantry replenish their shelves. Donations of both food or money are gratefully accepted. Items that are always in need are: tuna, coffee, tomato sauce, pasta, canned soup and toilet paper.

PLEASE NOTE: Even though we are still worshipping remotely through our website, we are planning to continue to support our Food Pantry. We plan to continue this tradition **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH** from 10 am to noon. We will gather offerings of food and monetary support at the entrance to Pierce Hall on the kitchen side of the church. Bring soup or any kind of food you would like to contribute. Pull up to the door, bring your items to the alcove, and someone will be there to take them from you. Thank you so much for your care and support for our community. God bless you.

Report from the Men's Group Breakfast

The Men's group last breakfast meeting was March 1st, 2020 then Covid canceled everything since. When we were able to meet, meals were provided by volunteer cooks - Ted Bears, Paul McMillan, Brian McMillan, Malcolm Beal, Doug Mayen, Matt Eckhardt and Josh Leab; set-up and clean-up led by Konnor McMillan, Braydon McMillan, Rich Terpening, Everett Madden and Ted Bears. Ordering of supplies by Larry Eckhardt. Both the spring and fall "All Church Breakfasts" also were canceled. We express our many thanks and blessings to all who have contributed to the success of our wonderful gathering over the many, many years.

We were praying that we could have another big turkey feast this year, 2021. However, with the recent flair-up of the Covid virus in the local area, we sincerely regret that we will not have our Nineteenth Annual Turkey Dinner this February. We are all sincerely disappointed but continue our prayers for things returning to more normal – whatever that may look like in the future!

Nevertheless, many people have donated to the turkey dinner in the past 18 years and the spirit of giving and sharing is what our dinner is all about. We are urging those who wish, to donate to our local food bank or to the church painting fund with a note of recognition of the canceled Men's group turkey dinner. Canned goods are always appreciated as well as any monetary donation. The Men's group and our Church congregation has been, and always will be, a sharing and generous group of God's people.

The group continues its commitment to community outreach and benevolence by donating money to the Christmas tree giving program for needy families. Nancy Beal purchased gift cards appropriate for the families on behalf of the Men's Breakfast Group. This is the ongoing effort to extend our good fortune to those in need in our community and reach out to others who might enjoy being part of our activities, fellowship and events.

Officers continuing their positions for 2021 are:

Larry Eckhardt – President

Richard Terpening – Secretary/Scribe

Ted Bears – Treasurer and Men's Rep to General Committee

**Yours in Christ,
Sincerely,**

Larry Eckhardt - President

Good news about 2020 Ministry Shares

January 26, 2021 / By Shannon Hodson / [Email](#)

The pandemic of 2020 brought many challenges to our local churches as well as the entire Upper New York (UNY) Conference. Most local churches had to stop in-person worship, which reduced giving. The Conference office was closed to outside visitors. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) had to create a revised reduced spending plan for all Conference Ministry Areas.

Despite these difficulties like none we have experienced before, there is still good news to share! UNY Conference Treasurer, Bob Flask said, "Although the year seemed long, the Lord still provided. Many local churches saw an increase in giving toward year end. The Conference and many local churches were able to secure a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan/grant that helped with cash flow through the year. By year end, through grace, resilience, and faith in God we had over 65 percent of local churches pay 100 percent of their Ministry Shares while many others reached at least 50 percent or more."

In addition to supporting local churches, local communities, and the UNY Conference, Ministry Shares enable the UNY Conference to pay General Church apportionments, which support the World Service Fund, the Ministerial Education Fund, the Black College Fund, the General Administration Fund, the Africa University Fund, and more.

Despite the overall decline in giving that the pandemic caused, CF&A voted to still pay 100 percent of the General Church apportionments for the fifth year in a row.

Flask said, "The increased giving toward the end of 2020, along with the Conference PPP and all Ministry Areas reducing expenses, the Conference was able to pay 100 percent of General Apportionments for a fifth straight year."

Flask expressed gratitude toward the local churches; he said, "Thank you to all the local churches who paid toward their Ministry Shares during this extremely challenging year. Trust in God and he will provide."

Lenten Devotionals

We will be posting a series of Lenten Devotionals on our website from the Presbytery. You will also be receiving in the mail a different set of Lenten Devotionals. We hope you will find one or both helpful in your celebrating the Lenten Season.

APPORTIONMENT FOR 2021

Each year the local districts of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches ask us to pay our share of their budgets. This year the Presbytery is asking for \$46 per registered member. The Methodist is a little bit more complicated based on our income and expenses. This year the amount per registered member is \$87. The General Committee is asking you to give your share as members of your denomination. This is one of the larger items on our budget and reimbursement would be appreciated.



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Online Worship Services

We will be continuing our online worship services. With the guidelines we have to follow the General Committee does not feel we can have in church services that are meaningful for everyone and still do online worship services. It takes a lot of work to create the online services. If you have and pictures you would like to share during the service, please send them to Bev Westfall.



February 8 Rev. Dan Daniels
27 Joe Longo

March 6 Laurelyn Mayen
21 Bill Whipple
23 Barbara Terpening
24 Arlene Longo
25 Genie Daniels

April 2 Tom Foody
2 Judy Leab
5 Desiree Williams
6 Carolyn Gokey
7 Leigh Lewandoski
7 China LaJuene
8 Mary Hamilton
18 Neal Truax