

Newsletter September – November 2021



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Thank you for the warm welcome to your church community. I appreciate all the baked good, and gift certificates, and baking pans, produce, and furniture for the manse. Thanks to those who labored to get the manse in shape for me to move in. I am beginning to feel at home, if not a little bit organized.

The first weekend of September marked the first time I've been called pastor in 7 years. I am incredibly fortunate to return to the role in Stephentown. Having been a pastor in the past, I recognize one of the biggest parts of pastoral effectiveness has to do with expectations and assumptions. I find it helpful to communicate expectations openly. We all know what happens when we assume things...we often get disappointed.

Here is my proposal for pastoral expectations. You tell me what you need. I'll tell you what I need. That way, there is no mind reading or assumptions necessary. If you want a pastoral visit, let me know. If I've done something to offend you, please let me know. If you need a listening ear, let me know and I'll be there.

So much of my pastoral experience in the past was sorting out and fixing problems. My expectation for role here is to be more about community and relationships. I'm by no means an expert, but I want to be a spiritual resource to help others—in relationship to their own self or soul, in relationships with partners, family, other members of the church, relationships with members of the local and global communities, and last but not least their own relationship with God.

In this particular calling in this particular community, I am grateful the opportunity to focus more on people more than programs or problems. At least, that's my expectation. Thank you again for welcoming me to my new home.

Chris



Choir, Music and Singing

We seem to progress slowly with the singing but as always, we remember that we are here to protect one another. We have gone to having the words of three hymns during the service put up on the screen. That way as the music is played you can hum to yourself and meditate on the words. We have added the Doxology as well for you to hum to. We are trying to add what we can do safely. We are discussing each month at General Committee and Worship Committee as to what changes we can make according to the degree of COVID we have in our area.



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World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday is October 3, 2021. We are planning on doing a display as part of our Communion celebration. We are looking for different chalices from around the world, and different cloths from around the world. If you can help us with any of these, would you please let Joanne know and bring your items by September 26 so she can plan the communion table for World Communion.



Website

We are also continuing to update our website and please stay tuned for all the new changes. As always, our Sunday morning service is still available on the website each week at www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org



Apportionments

A special thank you to those who have sent in your share of the apportionments for this 2021 year. These apportionments are assigned yearly to us from our respective larger denominations. It works out that Methodists are charged \$87 dollars per member and the Presbyterians \$46 dollars per member annually. If you haven't had a chance to participate in this part of our church, please consider doing so. You may send it to:

Stephentown Federated Church, PO Box 10, Attn: Treasurer, Stephentown, New York 12168.



FOOD PANTRY

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

We will be celebrating Thanksgiving at our church service on Sunday, November 21st. That morning, please bring your donations to help replenish our Food Pantry.



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It's with glad hearts that we thanked and said goodbye to the most amazing people who have supported our congregation while we were searching for our new minister. The SonShiners and Men's Breakfast Group each donated \$300 toward the thank you gifts the church gave our guest ministers. Rev. Bob Lowenthal was given cash and a gift card to Dicks. Rev. Betsye Mowry was given cash and a gift of cash to be used for opera tickets. Rita Pickett was given cash and an engraved walking stick to take on her walks. We wish you God's Love on your new journeys.



Prayer List

Long – term Prayer Concerns:

Holly Wheeler, Carol, June Ross, Brendan Hoffman, Rusty Melancon, Makayla & Julie, Kathy Carringer, Sean Northrup, Georgie, Peggy, Mike, & Greg, Lance, Kelly, James & his family, Garrett, Brenda & Bob Mathew, Emma Richardson, Connie (FL), Pat Sample, Del Wise and his sister Vicki, John L., Bev & Jerry, Bob Vincent, John & Danielle, Julie Burdick-Snow, Melaney, Jenna Fenander, Colleen P., Norm, Tanya Joyes, Tasha-Chris & family, Sal, Karen, Christina, Linda Lee, John Anello, Mary Martin, Sherry & Joe Ciliberti, Carolee, Toby, Kelly, Kevin, Angelica, Jim & Ann Peck, Radley family, Jenny, Rick Newton, Jim Chambers, David Berry, Michael Monyahan, Judy & Joe Leland, Geralyn, Pat B., Joy, Bob & Ben Lowenthal, Susan G., Peter, Samantha, Owen McGinnis, Shannon W., Pattie Lewis, Sahara, Cindy Hennig, Hal, Family of Judy Leab, Frank, Janice, Donnie, Sue, Bob & Deb, Dorothy Zuckerman, Sally Guimarra, Jerry (AZ), Stephanie & Devin, Dan & Nancy, Dennis L., Eckhardt's friend going through depression, Jennie, John & Terrienne Koepp, Lori, Trygve Tomlinson, Nancy & Malcom Beal, Linda P., Susan & family (Skip's sister),

As always . . . we pray for:

Our farmers, Pastor Chris & family, those with emotional/mental/physical illnesses, the unknown addict, those being cared for & the caregiver, those in transition, those suffering from addiction(s), Emergency Responders, youth of today, those in weather ravaged places, those who don't get where they are going who are cold/alone, the Military and their families, our Veterans, & our elected leaders, those imprisoned, Citizens of Lesothos & the student we sponsor, organ donors, those who mourn, those persecuted for their faith, those who have no one to pray for them, those not mentioned out loud, the unemployed. Safe travel for all

THANK YOU, GOD, FOR OUR MANY BLESSINGS!

Please let Joanne Hennig know who should come off the list or be put on.

BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sept. 17 th Alicia Jacobs | Oct, 3 rd Tom Smith | Nov. 2 nd Kalee Hennig |
| 24 th Bob Lowenthal | 6 th Joanne Hennig | 9 th Mark Morris |
| 27 th Gene Jacobs | 7 th Janet Atwater | 11 th Judy Leland |
| 27 th Gene Sawin | 12 th Mary French | 11 th Aliza Berry |
| 28 th Dorothy Zuckerman | 16 th Jessica Rontey | 19 th Valerie Sandstrom |
| | 20 th Stephen Schnyer | 19 th Lynn Morris |
| | 26 th Richard Terpening | |
| | 28 th June Ross | |

September- November 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 9:30 am Service | | 9:30 am Heavenly Quilters | | | | 9:00-11:00 am Food Pantry |
| Hanging of the Greens after church Nov 28 | | 7:00 pm Gen Com Mtg - Zoom 4th week of month Sept 28 Oct 26 Nov 23 | 6:00 pm AA | | | |

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

Hanging of the Greens



We will do a limited amount of decorating of the church for the Advent season on Sunday, November 28th which is the first Sunday in Advent.



It's that time of year when we start thinking about the holidays.

I would like to do the Angel Tree again this year. Even last year during the pandemic we were able to make families' Christmas special thanks to your generosity.

**If you know any family that could use a little help, please let me know.
As we get closer, I will be asking for some help.**

**Thank you
Nancy**