



Summer is in full-swing in Stephentown. I don't know why, but I am more keenly aware of the changing seasons since living here. Sitting out on the manse porch, I enjoy the summer's night air. The birds are singing. The sun stays out longer before setting in glorious splendor. The farmstand is open again, and the gardens are producing their harvest after a long winter's nap and rollercoaster spring.

This is the season that begins the harvest. This summer in worship, we've been exploring the harvest of Fruit of the Spirit. The *Fruit of the Spirit* is what is produced in us—when we live intentionally with holy habits of relationship. Each fruit grows out of the *Love* of God for one another. Each is nourished in *Self-control*—to counter our natural instinct to defensiveness or only thinking of our own needs. We reap the harvest of:

- *Patience* even with those who have hurt us, walking with love and grace without condemnation.
- *Peace*—or wanting others to flourish and grow, even when we disagree.
- *Joy*—or celebrating when we've been through hard times, and taking pride or delight in the ones we love.
- *Kindness*—or benevolence, serving to ensure the needs deep within each of us are honored.
- Generosity of attitude or extending grace to those who do nothing to deserve it.
- *Faithfulness* and *Gentleness* round out the list. We'll hear more about the toward the end of summer.

If you've ever been a gardener, you know some crops fare better than others. You can almost always expect zucchini to be coming out your ears. (The only good use for zucchini is in chocolate quick bread, in my opinion—but you didn't ask me). While it may take years for blueberry bushes or strawberry plants to produce a bumper crop. Likewise, some Fruit of the Spirit comes easier than the others. Some relationships are rich and fertile. Other relationships make harder for us to see any growth at all.

Here's what I see when I look over the fields of Stephentown. I recently attended an event at the library for new residents. It seems the people this town attracts are those who will grow where they're planted. But I think we all long for a connection and community (even those grew up here, and are surrounded by family). We have the opportunity to provide a harvest to the entire community. It is a harvest to meet the basic hunger for connection and spiritual meaning.

Every growing season requires a little faith and trust. We till the soil, add the nutrients, add water that gives life, and look to the light of the sun. We provide all the conditions for growth. But it is the faithfulness of God who gives the growth.

"Sun, moon, and winter, and springtime and harvest. Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above. Join with all nature in manifold witness—to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love."

Chris

2022 SONSHINERS GARDEN/BAKE SALE IS BACK!

To Be Held With

SHS 3rd Annual Car Wash

Please join us on Sunday, August 14th for our annual SonShiners Garden/Bake Sale – our first since 2019! This year we will join with the Stephentown Historical Society at their yearly Car Wash to be held at the Scrub Board Laundromat and Car Wash located on Route 22 just south of Route 43. This fund raiser for the SonShiners will run from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

We need your help! Please help us to make this event a big success by donating fresh veggies from your garden and baking some goodies for sale. If you have any questions, please contact Kate at 518-935-8536 or Barb at 518-527-0182.

Please note: In the event of inclement weather, the rain date will be Sunday, August 21st.



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, 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, Don 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 O., John & Terrianne Koepf, Lori, Trygve Tomlinson, Nancy & Malcom Beal, Linda P., Susan & family (Skip's sister), Heidi L., Adrienne & family, Sandy & John, Tracy & family, Wanda, Kay Sessor, Isabella, Carter & family, Molly & family, Mary's brother and his family, Sue Freihoffer & Hanley Palmer, Debbie Knapp, Bonnie & Rick, Barbara (Leland's daughter), H.R. Bears, Dottie Meppan, Larry Eckardt's cousins in NM, Gene Sawin, Denny Roberts, Joe Longo, Liane, Liam (Beal's grandson), Sal, those from the Ukraine and all who are helping them, Shannon & Scott Adams, Perry, JoAnn (Pastor Chris' mom), Joan (Ellie's grandma) & Brittany (Ellie's mom), Laurelyn & Doug's daughter-in law's mom

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!

End-of Summer B-B-Q Bash

You are cordially invited to join your “church family” and many friends and neighbors for fellowship and a delicious **Smoked Pork & Turkey B-B-Q** with all the fixin’s!!! Baked beans, coleslaw, corn-on-the-cob and delicious corn bread. Surprise dessert. Last big bash before the “snowbirds” fly south for the Winter. Enjoy some great, home-cooked grub, see your neighbors and friends and enjoy the bounty of God’s great earth.

When: Saturday September 24th, 2022

Time: 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Where: Stephentown Federated Church

If the weather is nice, we might eat outside!

Who: You, our church family and all our friends

How much: Goodwill offering only!!

This dinner is hosted by the Community Breakfast Group and the Sonshiners of the Stephentown Federated Church.

For Information call:

**Larry Eckhardt 518-733-5137 or Paul McMillan 518-733-5110 or
Ted Bears 518-728-9326 or Kate Beach 518-935-8536**

Would you like to have your meal with someone who can’t be with us on Saturday? Grab a take-out meal for them and yourself and deliver it, so they can enjoy the B-B-Q and your company!

Take-Outs available starting at 4:00 pm Let us know early so we can have them ready!

Manse Roofs

We are under contract to have the roofs of the manse and it’s garage replace in August. The roofs will match the color of the church. The total cost is \$15,915.00. We have a fund of \$5,968.74. The balance will come out of our church funds.

If, you would like to help paying for this project, please write Manse Roof on your check or when you donate online chose Manse Roof. You can find our Giving Button on our website:

stephentownfederatedchurch.org

Mask Mandates

On Tues., Aug 2nd the General Committee voted to change the requirements to:

Masks are recommended but not required.

CHOIR

Come one, come all!
Choir is set to reconvene on
September 8 Thursday at 6:30p.m.

It has been a couple years since
we have had our regular choir.
We are all looking forward to it and
we invite anyone that has been
completely vaccinated to come
and join our group if you love to
sing.

We are continuing to follow the
suggestions from both the
Methodist and Presbyterian
denominations. Masks will be
encouraged but will be optional.

DEVOTIONS BY BONNIE & BEV

Keep checking the website
(stephentownfederatedchurch.org)
for the latest inspiration by Bonnie
& Bev. If you are having problems
seeing them, remember to refresh
your browser.

1st Sunday - Communion - open
to all

2nd Sunday - Hymn Sing at
beginning of service

BIRTHDAYS

August

- 1 Tammy Madden
- 7 Don Lewandoski
- 17 Maureen Saxby
- 19 Kate Beach
- 26 Bev Westfall

September

- 4 Don French
- 5 Eric Ross
- 6 Jay Hennig
- 8 Madison Rontey
- 8 Georgie Bebee
- 9 Bonnie Bates

- 17 Alicia Jacobs
- 27 Gene Jacobs
- 27 Gene Sawin
- 28 Dorothy Zuckerman

October

- 3 Tom Smith
- 6 Joanne Hennig
- 7 Janet Atwater
- 12 Mary French
- 16 Jessica Rontey
- 18 Chris Garrison
- 20 Stephen Schnyder
- 26 Richard Terpening
- 28 June Ross

The Community Breakfast Group News

We had our first "all church"
breakfast meeting June 5th and
we had a great time catching up
with each other. The major topic
for the discussion was holding a
picnic in the fall. After lively
conversation, we've decided to
join forces with the Sonshiners
to host a community BBQ.
Details are in this newsletter.

The idea was to celebrate the
end of the summer season and
visit with those who travel south
for the winter. The group hopes
to make this like the mid-winter
turkey dinner, with the great
fellowship and fantastic meal.

We also are planning to host
the turkey dinner again,
February 25th, 2023.

Our hopes are high that we can
meet again for breakfast for the
remainder of the Fall dates -
October 2nd, November 6th and
December 4th.

If you'd like to be on our e-mail
list, please reach out to Paul
McMillan, Larry Eckhardt or Ted
Bears. Everyone is invited to
join us -come one, come all. We
especially ask you to attend our
"All church" breakfast on
October 2nd. It will be after our
BBQ picnic so we can talk
about the event.

