



**Can you believe how good the siding and steeple look on the church? Random people are stopping to take pictures. It's truly a remarkable difference. The more I go past it, the harder it is to remember how it used to look. Just goes to show what you can get used to.**

**Same is true for any type of needed repair. You walk past it once and make a mental note. 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> time you walk past, you remind yourself of it. By the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> time, you don't even notice it anymore. It's become part of the architecture. Just another piece of the scenery. It's amazing what we can get used to.**

**Same is true for necessary maintenance or repairs in a relationship. A comment gets made. An attitude develops. A certain behavior rubs you the wrong way. Instead of addressing it in a healthy way, you simply make a mental note of it. After some time, it becomes part of the status quo. Hard to remember when it wasn't this way. You stop noticing. You just get used to it.**

**Same is true for our spiritual lives. We can defer maintenance or necessary repairs. We might get a notion some Sunday morning, or we read something inspiring, or have an epiphany of something we should do or change. We make our mental notes. But those mental checklists are so easy to ignore. We get used to things a certain way—even if it's not the best for us.**

**That same pattern definitely repeats in the Exodus story. The children of Israel were used to living in bondage. It's all they ever knew. They would have never changed if the Spirit hadn't been in their midst to lead them out.**

**The Spirit is in our midst, too. The Spirit leads us to give and to serve. I'm grateful for all the donations given to this point for the siding and steeple. It's a not-so-subtle sign to our community that we care, we're still alive and active, that we take pride in who we are in the community, that we'll work on what needs to be done.**

**There's always more work to be done. Is there something in your life that needs some attentive repair? The work may appear daunting at times, but you're not alone. The Spirit is in our midst—ever working behind the scenes. If we follow the Spirit's leading, it may just be an encouragement to others around us—a sign we're still alive.**

**Chris**

## Mission Giving – Church Outreach

### WORLD COMMUNION SERVICE GIVING – Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

We are having two special offerings. Through the Presbytery we will be working at shares for a Garden Well - A well & hand pump to provide drinking, bathing, washing & irrigation water. The second is supporting UMCOR's US Disaster Response effort.



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### THANKSGIVING SERVICE      Food Pantry

This service will be held on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. *As usual we are collecting food for the food pantry that is housed in our church.* We ask that you bring any food donations up to the designated place at the front of the church before the service begins. These will then be given to the food pantry following the service. This is an ongoing mission that supports our community.

The Food Pantry can always use: canned fruit, canned tuna, spaghetti sauce, chicken noodle soup, dry cereal, biscuit mix, coffee. And during the holiday season: stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy



### SCHOOL SUPPLIES

I would like to thank all those who contributed to the school supplies this year. The schools were very pleased & told me how much they were appreciated.

Your generosity was overwhelming again in helping those in need. Nancy



### ANGEL TREE

I can't believe it's already that time of year to think about the Angel Tree. This will be the 12th year we have done it.

Last year we provided a Merry Christmas to 10 families, thanks to you all.

As soon as I get families from the schools, I will have my Angels ready for those who like to shop early.

As in the past for those who don't like to shop, if you give me a donation I will shop for you.

Thank you for your support.

Nancy

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** October 29<sup>th</sup> We would like to do a slide show before and after church of your deceased loved ones you would like to honor. Please send pictures with the people's names to Arlene by Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> at [alongo6177@fairpoint.net](mailto:alongo6177@fairpoint.net).

### Treasurer's Report

We are grateful for all of you who have donated towards our Siding/Painting of the church project. We have raised \$63,807.69 or about half of the approximately \$122,000.00 cost of the project. It's never too late to give. Remember you can always give via the **GIVE NOW** button on our webpage. THANK YOU!!!!!!!



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**Don't forget to turn your clocks back on November 5<sup>th</sup> Daylight Saving Time Ends.**



**ADVENT**

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**HANGING OF THE GREENS** November 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be having a hanging of the greens to decorate our church following the service.

**Our first Sunday in Advent begins on December 3<sup>rd</sup>** Each Sunday in Advent we will be discussing the songs of Christmas. *Advent devotionals will be sent out the week before. Please watch for your copy in the mail.*

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Beginning Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>** for the four weeks of Advent we are asking anyone, any family, or couple that has an interest in lighting the advent candles for a Sunday to let Pastor Chris or Bev know you are interested in being a part of this weekly advent celebration.



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**LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE, December 17<sup>th</sup> 4pm.** Join us as we acknowledge the anxiety, pain, grief and suffering in the world while offering the comfort, love and grace of God to remind us we are not alone.

### *SonShiners*

We just wrapped up our joint BBQ with the Community Breakfast Group with great success.



On October 14<sup>th</sup> the SonShiners will hold their annual ITALIAN DINNER from 5pm to 7pm. Takeouts will be available at 4:30.

We will be serving Tomato sauce with penne and Alfredo sauce with fettucine. Add some meatballs and yum.! There will be lasagna, salad and bread. Dessert – ICE CREAM.



ELECTION DAY LUNCHEON November 7<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 2pm. Sandwiches, soup, chili, and chips and PIE.

#### Meetings:

October 15<sup>th</sup>

November 19<sup>th</sup>

December 17<sup>th</sup>

January 21<sup>st</sup>

8am – bring a dish to share

All are welcome!

#### ONLINE SERVICE

Weekly Sunday Service is still available each week normally by about 8 p.m. Sunday night at <http://www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org>

Also we try to keep all events updated there as well. There is also a place to support the church should you want to make a contribution towards its building upkeep and its programs.



## *The Community Breakfast Group News*

The Community Breakfast Group again joined forces with the SonShiners to sponsor the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fall BBQ dinner. The event was a great success, fun and enjoyable get-together held in Pierce Hall on September 16th. Great food, hardworking volunteers and a very supportive church and local community made for a great time.

On the menu was Matt Eckhardt smoked turkey and BBQ pulled pork. Corn on the cob, baked beans, coleslaw and watermelon rounded out the menu. Everything was delicious. We served approximately 100 meals and take-outs and had donations of approximately \$1,600!! Wow!! Contributions of food came from: Richard Beckwith of Hilltown Country Smokehouse, Hannaford Supermarkets, Kinderhook Creek Farm and Matt Eckhardt for cooking all the meats. Proceeds will be donated to the Church for the building painting fund.

The idea of our BBQ is to celebrate the end of the summer season and visit with those who travel south for the winter. The groups hope to make this a yearly event - like the mid-winter turkey dinner, with the great fellowship and a fantastic meal. So far, it's been just that!!

We are planning to host the turkey dinner again, Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Mark your calendar, more details to follow. Can't wait!

Our first breakfast meeting of the new season will be held on October 1st. Everyone is invited. We have already set dates for the upcoming year. Fall dates –November 5th and December 3rd. The January meeting will be held on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

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. Hope to see you at the October 1<sup>st</sup>, November 5th, December 3rd and January 7th breakfast. We eat at 8:00am sharp.



### **CHOIR**

Sept 14th was our first night of choir rehearsal. We are back with the red robes leading our congregation in song. We invite anyone who would like to sing to come and join us Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. for rehearsals.

We are preparing special music for World Communion Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday, and shortly will be beginning to learn Advent and Christmas music. Come and join us. We would love to have you!



### FRONT PEW BAND

A group of singers, guitar players and drummers are getting together to play music during the 4th Sunday of every month. If you have an interest and an instrument please come to the rehearsal the Thursday night before the 4th Sunday. The rehearsals are Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16 (Because of Thanksgiving), Dec 21 at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

### Long – term Prayer Concerns:

Holly Wheeler, Carol, June Ross, Rusty Melancon, Makayla & Julie, Kathy Carringer, Sean Northrup, Georgie, Peggy, Mike, & Greg, Lance, Kelly, James & his family, Garrett, Brenda & Bob, Mathew, Emma Richardson & her son Mike, 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 Ciliberti, Carolee, Toby, Kelly, Kevin, Angelica, Jim & Ann Peck, Radley family, Jenny, Rick Newton, Jim Chambers, 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, Tom Foody, Sally Guimarra, Jerry (AZ), Stephanie & Devin, Dan & Nancy, Dennis L., Eckhardt's friend going through depression, Jennie O., Terrienne Koepf, Lori, Trygve Tomlinson, Nancy & Malcom Beal, Linda P., Heidi Lockman, 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), Dottie Meppan, Larry Eckardt's cousins in NM, Gene Sawin, Joe Longo, Tony Longo & his partner Dana (praying for the blessing of a baby), 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, Beth, Kathy, Zack Hanson, Gladys (Nancy Beal's sister), Buggy & Josie Bates and family, Carol Baker, Edna May, Peter Hamilton, Tom & family, Leo & family, Karen, Peter, Jackie Eckhardt, Kathryn & the twins, Betty Ann Hanlon

Mike, Rev. Betsy, Carter La Casse, Doris & Arnold Sours, Rick Monyahan, Bonnie Frank, and the LGBTQ community

As always . . .we pray for:

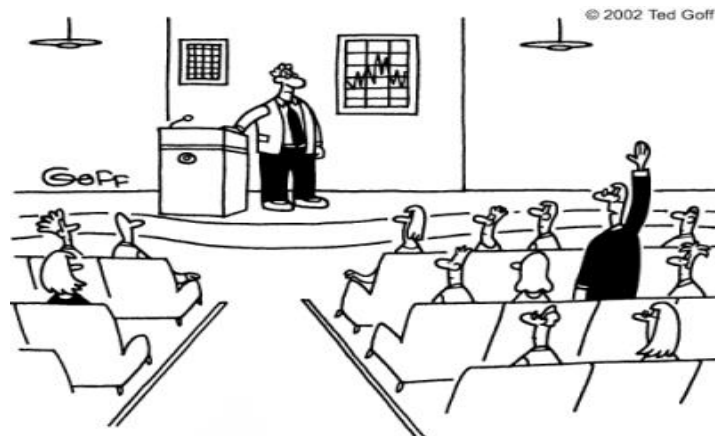
Our farmers, Pastor Chris & family, those with emotional/mental/physical illnesses, the unknown addict, those being cared for & the caregiver, those in transition, those suffering from addiction(s), Emergency Responders, youth of today, those in weather ravaged places, those who don't get where they are going who are cold/alone, the Military and their families, our Veterans, & our elected leaders, those imprisoned, Citizens of Lesotho & 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, all refugees and the nations locked in conflict

Safe travel for all

**THANK YOU, GOD, FOR OUR MANY BLESSINGS!**



October	3	Tom Smith	December	5	Marianne Smith
	6	Joanne Hennig		5	Acelyn Plouffe
	7	Janet Atwater		6	Jennie O'Brien
	12	Mary French		17	Janice Walther
	16	Jessica Rontey		18	Fred Wallbank
	18	Chris Garrison		19	Lynn Morris
	20	Stephen Schnyer		21	Joy Lowenthal
	26	Richard Terpening		25	Donna Densing
	28	June Ross		26	Nancy Beal
				26	Kelsey Hennig
November	2	Kalee Hennig		28	Malik Plouffe
	9	Mark Morris		31	Joan C. McMillan
	11	Judy Leland		31	Helen Wallbank
	11	Aliza Berry			
	19	Valerie Sandstrom			
	21	Sopha Corral			



"Could we extend the annual meeting? I still have a lot of complaining to do!"

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## ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 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 email: [alongo6177@fairpoint.net](mailto:alongo6177@fairpoint.net) no later than Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednes day</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>9:00 a.m. choir rehearsal</b>  <b>9:30 a.m. Service</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour</b>  <b>Oct 1<sup>st</sup> World Communion</b>  <b>Oct 29<sup>th</sup> All Saints</b>  <b>Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving - Food Pantry Donations</b>  <b>Nov 26<sup>th</sup> Hanging of the Greens – after church</b>  <b>Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 4pm Longest Night Service</b>		<b>Worship</b> <b>Cmt. Mtg</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Second Tues. 7pm</b>  <b>Gen Cmt. Mtg</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> week of month</b> <b>Zoom 7 pm</b>				<b>9:00-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry</b>
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup> Service 9:30am</b>  <b>7:30 pm Christmas Eve Service</b>				<b>Choir 6:30 p.m.</b>		

**Each month: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday ---Communion – Open to all**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday---Hymn Sing at beginning of service**



It is time to place your orders for poinsettias in memory of your loved ones. This year the poinsettias are \$10.00 each. We are asking that you have your order in by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. You can send your check and order form to: **Stephentown Federated Church, PO Box 10, Stephentown, NY 12168**. Poinsettias will be placed on the altar in time for our Christmas Eve service.

Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:
Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:
Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:
Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:



Total number of poinsettias ordered at \$10.00 a piece \_\_\_\_\_

Your total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_