

Stephentown Federated Church  
2025 Annual Report  
January 18, 2026

# Stephentown Federated Church

## Stephentown Federated Church Officers for 2026

### Members of Presbyterian Session

Larry Eckhardt (Clerk of Session)  
Heather Eckhardt (2027)  
Paul McMillan (2027)  
Marge Feathers (2028)  
Larry Eckhardt (2028)  
Judy Leland (2029)  
Helen Wallbank (2029)

### Members of Methodist Church Council

Janet Atwater (2027)  
Georgi Bebee (2027)  
Jean Bolen (2028)  
Joanne Hennig (2028) Chair  
Donna Densing (2029)  
Kate Beach (2029)

### Nominating Committee

Malcolm Beal, presb - Chair  
Donna Densing, meth  
Heather Eckhardt, presb  
Joan McMillan, meth  
Kate Beach, meth

### Members of the General Committee

Pastor	Marianne Smith (SonShiners)
Arlene Longo, Secretary	Barbara Terpening, Treasurer,
Jean Bolen (Council)	Tom Smith (Facility Chair)
vacancy (Christian Ed)	Jonathan Koepp(Community Breakfast Group)
Heather Eckhardt (Session)	Larry Eckhardt (Session)chair
Bev Westfall (Choir, worship com)	Joanne Hennig (Council)

### Pastor- Parish Committee

Larry Eckhardt, Presb Chair  
Malcolm Beal- presb  
Joanne Hennig – Meth  
Bev Westfall - Meth

### Community Breakfast Group

Larry Eckhardt, Chair  
Kirk Kellogg, Scribe  
Paul McMillan treasurer,

### Son Shiners

Kate Beach, Pres.  
Barbara Terpening, Treasurer  
Joanne Hennig, Secretary

### Worship/Tech Committee

Joanne Hennig	Barb Terpening
Bonnie Bates	Arlene Longo
Bev Westfall - Chair	Janet Atwater

### Denominational Treasurers

Paul McMillan- Presbyterian

Kate Beach- Methodist

Facility chair: Tom Smith

**2026 Annual Meeting Agenda  
Stephentown Federated Church  
January 18, 2026**

**Welcome and Introductions:** Larry Eckhardt

**Opening Prayer:** Rev. Andrea Joy Holroyd

**Call to order:** Larry Eckhardt

**Review of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes**

**General Treasurer's Report:** Barbara Terpening

**Presentation of the proposed budget 2026:** Barbara Terpening

**Vote on Budget for SFC for Fiscal Year 2026**

**Reports from Denominational Meetings:**

**Reports of Committees:** see packet for all reports

**Report of Nominating Committee:** Malcolm Beal

**Elections:**

General Treasurer: **Barbara Terpening**

Church Secretary: **Arlene Longo**

United Methodist Church Council members

**Donna Densing (2029)**

**Kate Beach (2029)**

Presbyterian USA Session members...

**Judy Leland (2029)**

**Helen Wallbank (2029)**

Denominational Treasurers (2)

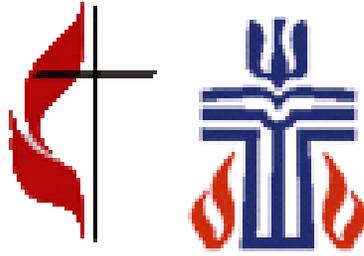
**Kate Beach-Methodist Paul McMillan-Presbyterian**

Facility Chair: **Tom Smith**

**Other Business**

**Closing Prayer-** Rev. Andrea Joy Holroyd

**Adjournment**



STEPHENTOWN FEDERATED CHURCH  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
Held January 12, 2025

### Session and Council Elections

Methodist Church Charge Conference 1/12/25

Barbara Terpening opened the meeting with prayer at 10.:43

She asked for volunteers to fill the two open positions on the Council. Jean Bolen had already accepted the slot for term ending 2028. The second slot for the term ending 2028 was vacant and the term of Doug Meyen ending in 2026 need to be filled.

Kate Beach accepted the term ending 2026 and Joanne Hennig accepted the term ending 2028.

A motion was made to accept the three volunteers. A unanimous vote was taken to accept the three positions.

Members of the Council voted Joanne Hennig Chairperson.

Old business: Several years ago the Methodist Council had sent out letters to members who had not come to church or shown any interest in being a member of the church. Per Bev Westfall, there were several that did not answer. Bev has the letters from those that did answer, and those letters that were returned to her unanswered. She will look for the paperwork and work with the current Council to make a list for the council to follow up to finish the process of removal of these members. Motion to do so made by Jean and seconded by Kate. All approved.

### **Members of the Methodist Church Council**

Janet Atwater (2027)   Georgi Bebee (2027)   Jean Bolen (2028)

Jeanne Hennig (2028) Chairperson   Donna Densing (2026)

Kate Beach (2026)

Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Barbara at 10:48

Presbyterians met in Pierce Hall. Pastor Chris opened the meeting with prayer. Marge Feathers and Larry Eckhardt were elected as session members for the next three years (terms to end 2028). Larry and Heather Eckhardt will remain as representatives to the General Committee. Paul McMillan will remain as Denominational Treasurer. After hearing no other nominees for clerk of sessions, which Larry has assumed for 12 years, Larry was elected to another term (with a motion by Malcolm, a second by Paul and approval by all present). A recommendation will be made to General Committee that the procedure for Communion allow the minister to continue to break a ceremonial bread and pour a ceremonial cup. The servers will hand out previously prepared pieces of bread and cups of juice along with the choice of taking a hermetically sealed chalice containing a wafer and juice. Chalices will be available at the entrance to the sanctuary as well. Also, a discussion was had about reviewing and updating the Presbyterian member list, which was provided by Larry. Members were asked to review the list, looking for additions or deletions. Chris closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting was adjourned with a motion by Larry, a second by Ted, and approval by all present.

### **Members of the Presbyterian Session**

Judy Leland (2026)   Helen Wallbank (2026)   Heather Eckhardt (2027)

Paul McMillan (2027)   Marge Feathers (2028)   Larry Eckhardt (2028)

**Opening Prayer** – Pastor Chris opened the meeting with prayer.

**Larry – Welcome and Opening Remarks** – Larry welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the annual meeting. It was noted that there were no officials present or participating this year.

**Call to Order** – the meeting was called to order.

**Review of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes (from the year 2023)** – the Minutes were approved as written with a motion by Barb, a second by Mary S. and approval by all present.

**General Treasurer’s Report** – (Highlights below, full reports attached)

- Last year’s finances: We ended year in the black. There were some unexpected expenses – dehumidifier, copier, required insurance improvements, and this was first year paying for lawn mowing.
- Very successful Fundraising campaign for the manse siding project.
- Manse project – is almost completed – still some painting to be done.
- Church Sign replaced by Kevin Doherty – replacement value \$4000. Keith Westfall donated new posts and installed sign
- Members of the congregation, as always, are very generous – and this year some are giving more.

A motion was made by Kate , and a second by Paul, to accept the treasurer’s report as written – motion approved by all present.

**Budget 2025** – was accepted by the General Committee. A question was asked – why is the technology line down? – it is because not all licenses renew every year, so it varies.

A motion was made to approve the budget for 2025 by Larry, seconded by Bev, and approved by all present.

**Committee Reports** – Attached – Nothing added. A motion was made by Jean and seconded by Kate to accept all Committee Reports as written. Motion approved by all present.

**Report of Nominating Committee:**

**Slate of Elections:**

General Treasurer	-	Barbara Terpening
Secretary	-	Arlene Longo

United Methodist Council Members:

Jean Bolen (2028)	Joanne Hennig – Chair (2028)
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**Council Reps to General Committee: Jean and Joanne**

Presbyterian USA Session Members:

Marge Feathers (2028)

Larry Eckhardt (2028)

**Council Reps to General Committee: Larry and Heather**

**Denominational Treasurers: (2)**

Kate Beach – Methodist

Paul McMillan – Presbyterian

**Facility Chair:**

Tom Smith

A motion was made by Judy and seconded by Nancy to vote one ballot for all nominations. This motion was approved by all present.

Hearing no other business, a motion was made by Marianne and seconded by Kate to adjourn at 11:27.

Pastor Chris Closed the annual meeting with a prayer.

<b>STEPHENTOWN FEDERATED CHURCH CASH FLOW 2025</b>		
	<b>1/1/2025- 12/31/2025</b>	
<b>INFLOWS</b>		
<b>Apportionment Paid by Members</b>		
Apportionment Paid by Members:Presbyterians	1,238.00	
Apportionment Paid by Members:Methodists	<u>4,566.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL Apportionment Paid by Members</b>	<b>5,804.00</b>	
Christmas Eve Donations	477.00	
<b>Donation</b>		
Donation:Church Bldg Heat	200.00	
Donation:Community Breakfast Group	1,300.00	
Donation:Easter Lillies	139.54	
Donation:Food Pantry	0.00	
Donation:Front Door Fund	251.00	
Donation:Generator Fund	480.00	
Donation:Manse Bldg. Maint. Fund	25.00	
Donation:Picnic Donation	55.00	
Donation:Repairs	4,000.00	
Donation:SonShiners	850.00	
<b>Donation:Use Of Pierce Hall</b>		
Donation:Use Of Pierce Hall:Food Pantry	<u>2,500.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL Donation:Use Of Pierce Hall</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	
Donation:Xmas Letter Donations	<u>1,950.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL Donation</b>	<b>11,750.54</b>	
Donation for Copier Use	17.55	
Donation For Poinsettias	78.52	
Interest Inc	6,204.13	
Members Offering	54,584.00	
<b>Memorial Offering</b>		
Memorial Offering:June Ross	250.00	
Memorial Offering:Mel Feathers	495.00	
Memorial Offering:Peter Lagenbeck	<u>20.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL Memorial Offering</b>	<b>765.00</b>	
World Communion Special Offering	510.00	
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>80,190.74</b>	

<b>STEPHENTOWN FEDERATED CHURCH CASH FLOW 2025 Page 2</b>		
<b>OUTFLOWS</b>		<b>Budget 2025</b>
Apportionments-Methodist Captial Expens	5,352.00	5352
Apportionments-Presbyterian Capital Exp	1,242.00	1242
Car Allowance - Supply Pastor	553.29	375
Choir Music	410.96	850
<b>Church Supplies</b>		
Church Supplies	905.57	
Church Supplies:Subscriptions	135.45	
<b>TOTAL Church Supplies</b>	<b>1,041.02</b>	1000
Cleaning	2,540.00	2560
<b>Insurance</b>		
Insurance:Comm. Pkg. Policy- Prop & Liab. Manse	2,282.00	800
Insurance:Comm. Pkg. Policy-Prop. & Liab Church	3,244.00	3300
Insurance:Umbrella Policy	<u>500.00</u>	500
<b>TOTAL Insurance</b>	<b>6,026.00</b>	
Methodist Retirement Fund	396.57	397
<b>Mission Offering</b>		
Mission Offering:Methodist	200.00	
Mission Offering:Presbytery	<u>610.00</u>	300
<b>TOTAL Mission Offering</b>	<b>810.00</b>	
Office Supplies-Newsletter-Xerox	628.32	900
Sunday School/Christian Ed		300
Organist Mileage & Subst. Organist	600.00	800
Nursery Supplies		100
Nursery Services		1040
Elders/Conference Expense		600
<b>Pastor's Pay</b>		
Pastor's Pay-Regular	18,074.00	23948
Pastor's Pay-Book Allowance		500
Pastor's Pay-Regular:Continuing Education-Minister	100.73	1000
Pastor's Pay-Regular:Health Insurance	4,056.38	5318
Pastor's Pay-Regular:Pension Benefits	2,369.15	3113
Pastor's Pay-Regular:Professional Reimburseable Expense	75.00	
Pastor's Pay-Regular:Social Security Offset-Minister	2,606.32	2382
Pastor's Pay-Regular:Supply Pastor	<u>3,395.00</u>	1680
<b>TOTAL Pastor's Pay-Regular</b>	<b>30,676.58</b>	
<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>		
Repairs & Maintenance:Church	1,482.97	2000
Repairs & Maintenance:Equipment	569.99	500
Repairs & Maintenance:Grounds Maintenance	960.00	1600
Repairs & Maintenance:Manse		2000
Repairs & Maintenance:Cemetery		300
<b>TOTAL Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>3,012.96</b>	
Sabbatical Support	1,000.00	

<b>STEPHENTOWN FEDERATED CHURCH CASH FLOW 2025 Page 3</b>		
<b>Technology-Licenses</b>		
Technology-Licenses:Copyright Coverage-CCLI	165.00	
Technology-Licenses:Song Select Premium	180.00	
Technology-Licenses:Streaming Coverage-CCLI	167.00	
Technology-Licenses:Web Page Domain Name- GoDaddy	199.98	
Technology-Licenses:Web Page Expense	<u>3,090.00</u>	
<b>Total Technology-Licences</b>	<b>3,801.98</b>	
<b>Telephone &amp; Internet</b>		
Telephone & Internet:Church Phone	791.04	
Telephone & Internet:Internet	<u>665.01</u>	
<b>TOTAL Telephone &amp; Internet</b>	<b>1,456.05</b>	1400
Trash Removal	637.00	650
<b>Utilities-Heat &amp; Electric</b>		
Utilities-Heat & Electric:Electric-Church	2,368.69	2200
Utilities-Heat & Electric:Electric-Manse	1,838.28	1400
Utilities-Heat & Electric:Heat - Church	3,894.54	5000
Utilities-Heat & Electric:Heat-Oil Manse	<u>2,030.72</u>	2700
<b>TOTAL Utilities-Heat &amp; Electric</b>	<b>10,132.23</b>	
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>70,316.96</b>	<b>80807</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>9,873.78</b>	

<b>STEPHENTOWN FEDERATED CHURCH 2026 BUDGET</b>	
Apportionments-Methodist Captial Expense	5496
Apportionments-Presbyterian Capital Expense	1242
Car Allowance - Supply Pastor	1782
Choir Music	850
<b>Church Supplies</b>	
Church Supplies	
Church Supplies:Subscriptions	
<b>TOTAL Church Supplies</b>	<b>1200</b>
Cleaning	2800
<b>Insurance</b>	
Insurance:Comm. Pkg. Policy- Prop & Liab. Manse	2457
Insurance:Comm. Pkg. Policy-Prop. & Liab Church	3600
Insurance:Umbrella Policy	500
<b>TOTAL Insurance</b>	
Methodist Retirement Fund	424
<b>Mission Offering</b>	
Mission Offering:Methodist	
Mission Offering:Presbytery	300
<b>TOTAL Mission Offering</b>	
Office Supplies-Newsletter-Xerox	900
Sunday School/Christian Ed	200
Organist Mileage & Subst. Organist	800
Elders/Conference Expense	400
<b>Pastor's Pay</b>	
Pastor's Pay-Regular	
Pastor's Pay-Book Allowance	
Pastor's Pay-Regular:Continuing Education-Minister	
Pastor's Pay-Regular:Health Insurance	
Pastor's Pay-Regular:Pension Benefits	
Pastor's Pay-Regular:Professional Reimburseable Expense	
Pastor's Pay-Regular:Social Security Offset-Minister	
Pastor's Pay-Regular:Supply Pastor	9450
<b>TOTAL Pastor's Pay-Regular</b>	
<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>	
Repairs & Maintenance:Church	2000
Repairs & Maintenance:Equipment	500
Repairs & Maintenance:Grounds Maintenance	1600
Repairs & Maintenance:Manse	1000
Repairs & Maintenance:Cemetery	300
<b>TOTAL Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>	

<b>STEPHENTOWN FEDERATED CHURCH 2026 BUDGET Page 2</b>	
<b>Technology-Licenses</b>	
Technology-Licenses:Copyright Coverage-CCLI	
Technology-Licenses:Song Select Premium	
Technology-Licenses:Streaming Coverage-CCLI	
Technology-Licenses:Web Page Domain Name- GoDaddy	
Technology-Licenses:Web Page Expense	
<b>TOTAL Technology-Licenses</b>	<b>5000</b>
<b>Telephone &amp; Internet</b>	
Telephone & Internet:Church Phone	
Telephone & Internet:Internet	
<b>TOTAL Telephone &amp; Internet</b>	<b>1540</b>
Trash Removal	650
<b>Utilities-Heat &amp; Electric</b>	
Utilities-Heat & Electric:Electric-Church	2600
Utilities-Heat & Electric:Electric-Manse	1600
Utilities-Heat & Electric:Heat - Church	4500
Utilities-Heat & Electric:Heat-Oil Manse	2300
<b>TOTAL Utilities-Heat &amp; Electric</b>	
<b>TOTAL Budget 2026</b>	<b>55991</b>

<b>STEPHENTOWN FEDERATED CHURCH ACCOUNT BALANCES 12/31/25</b>			
<b>Account</b>	<b>12/31/2025 Balance</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Maturity Date</b>
BB CD Meth. Capital 162515332-1	15,158.88	4.0000%	6/6/2027
Includes Scholarship Fund \$909.27			
Berk Bank Check Acc. # 3286	1,425.99	0.0000%	
Broadview Checking 3084761-0090	8,160.69	0.1000%	
Broadview MoneyMarket 30847861-0097	13,709.00	1.1400%	
LOB CD Gen Savings #601262901121	8,107.28	4.1000%	9/2/2026
LOB Presby. Capital Fund CD 602672898604	34,599.33	4.7000%	9/11/2026
LOB Savings #402654600029	45,973.74	3.0000%	
Includes Memorial Fund \$42,456.57			
LOB Savings 1 yr CD 602628137624	21,854.31	4.3000%	2/7/2026
LOB Savings 12 Mo CD 602705659758	27,360.95	4.1000%	8/7/2026
Presbytery Cemetery CD #6004 Broadview	2,035.97	3.4400%	7/10/2026
Savings 847861-13 Broadview	5.00	0.0000%	
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>178,391.14</b>		
BB Berkshire Bank			
LOB Live Oak Bank			
Broadview Federal Credit Union			
<b>Front Door Fund</b>			
Front Door Fund prior to 2025	2,548.80		
Front Door Fund 2025	<u>451.00</u>		
<b>Total Front Door Fund</b>	<b>2,999.80</b>		
<b>Manse Building Maintenance</b>			
Bal. end of 2024	1,173.83		
2025 Donations	<u>25.00</u>		
<b>Total Manse Building Maint. Fund</b>	<b>1,198.83</b>		
<b>Generator Fund - Church</b>	<b>1,780.00</b>		
<b>Repairs Fund</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>		

## **2025**

### **Report from the Chairperson of the General Committee**

#### **Stephentown Federated Church**

The 2025 year for the Stephentown Federated Church General Committee was one of joys, sorrows, many accomplishments (great and small), a few disappointments and many decisions directing the future of our church. It is a real team effort, and many hands make light work. We often hear the comment that most of the work is done by a few dedicated volunteers. That may be how it appears, but not all appearances are reality. Yes, a few do put forth a great amount of time and effort, but many are behind the scenes contributing whatever and whenever they can. I really appreciate their help and really hope we can attract far more to our church community for support and leadership. Let's make the effort to invite people personally to our church for weekly service or other activity to revitalize our attendance.

You certainly can read the financial reports for the church and supporting groups and get an idea that we are really blessed with people's generosity. That's a great joy and something to celebrate. The concern is some of those who have been substantial benefactors for many years have joined the heavenly host and are now with God. We who are left to fill their shoes find that bringing in new members and attendees takes time, leadership, training and effort. The General Committee does spend time at each meeting to discuss potential pathways to more members and have had some success.

A disappointment and challenge was the loss of Pastor Chris Garrison to other employment and career opportunities. We experienced some growth during his tenure and were working on ways to capitalize on his abilities and charisma. It is not a full-blown crisis but certainly has some danger but also opportunity.

The physical well being of the church property – the sanctuary, Pierce Hall and the manse is very sound. Thanks to the facilities committee led by Tom Smith and assisted by Ted Bears, we have had several small projects finished or nearly completed to add to the beauty of our church and property. We had the church washed this past fall and what an improvement. The dust, grime and cobwebs dulled the exterior look and we were very fortunate to have a local man, Bryan Shoemaker from East Nassau do the work for a reasonable cost.

The manse is now empty. Although it has potential as rental income, it has greater appeal to pastor candidates for its utility as housing. Chris Garrison put tremendous value on having a perfect place to stay and we will use the house as an enticement to the right candidate.

We are moving forward with a proposed project of installing standby electric power for the church/Pierce Hall and the manse. We have several options to analyze and consider. A dedicated fund has been established specifically for this project.

The General Committee invites you to participate in the meetings to learn more about how the Federated Church operates. Better yet, become a member of the committee by volunteering to fill a position. Jump right in, the Lord blesses those who lend a hand.

Thanks, and may God's grace and mercy keep us all safe in 2026.

Prayerfully,

Larry Eckhardt – Chair, SFC General Committee

Stephentown Federated Church

Worship Committee

For the year 2025

Bev Westfall

During 2025 our worship committee continued to meet via Zoom except when we were preparing the sanctuary for services. We met the second Tuesday of each month.

We did special services and displays for All Saints Day, Easter, Palm Sunday, Thanksgiving, Longest Night of the Year, and Christmas Eve. It has been wonderful to have Pastor Chris a part of our group. We appreciate his spiritual guidance in our planning. Unfortunately, Pastor Chris moved on. His last Sunday was Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. We continue to plan with our substitute ministers for the coming year.

Our committee includes Bev Westfall (chair), Arlene Longo, Joanne Hennig, Janet Atwater, and Barbara Terpening.

Special thanks to this committee for their work in planning and following through for our congregation.

## Stephentown Federated Church

### Choir and Band Report 2025

Beverley Westfall - Director

Our choir members began meeting once again to rehearse music for Sunday services on September 4<sup>th</sup>. We meet each Thursday night from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. We have a total of ten members. July and August are months that the choir does not meet. During the summer, we had volunteers for special music each Sunday. It was wonderful to have people volunteer to share their talents during the service.

In the Fall we continued to lead the congregation in music responses from our Methodist book Songs and Praise, The Faith We Sing, our regular hymnal and of course our new Presbyterian hymnal. That way our congregation would slowly but surely add to their repertoire.

During the Advent/Christmas Season we meet to prepare special music for Sundays, Christmas Eve and this year, Christmas Eve falls on a Wednesday evening. This year the choir also presented music on the Longest Night of the year Dec 21 at 4 p.m. This was done with the Ecumenical Group The Valley Faith Churches. It was held at our church.

I am very grateful to the choir for their leadership in the weekly services. It is our hope and prayer that we enhance the worship meaning and glorify God through our music. As always, I am very grateful for our dedicated members who sing and rehearse and just do what's needed when it is needed. Thank you to each of you.

We also sang The New 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm at a former choir members funeral. We will miss you June Ross. You were a very special lady and choir member.

This year Jennifer Caswell took over the planning and presenting of music for the Front Pew Band. They meet on the Third Thursday at 5:30-6:30 and bring music to our congregation on the third Sunday of each month during Music for Reflection.

## 2025 Report from the Community Breakfast Group

We continued to hold our monthly breakfast meetings at Pierce Hall during 2025. January thru June with the traditional summer break with no breakfast meeting for July, August and September. We were back again in October, November and December.

Attendance this year has been:

January 5 <sup>th</sup>	28
February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	19 (really cold)
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	20
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	16 (raining 47 degrees)
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	30
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	35
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	36
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	34
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	30

We are so thankful for all the volunteers that help with set-up, preparation and clean-up at the monthly breakfasts. A special shout-out to: Matt Eckhardt, Bryan McMillan, Malcolm Beal, Tom Smith, and Ted Bears for their dedication each month to make the breakfast meal very satisfying for all who attend.

The Group, along with help and support from the SonShiners, hosted the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Turkey dinner on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Wow, what a great turn-out for a fantastic meal, enjoyed both at the church and another record of take-out meals. The community was extremely generous with donations and thanks to all the volunteers. We believe that around 160 meals were served. The donations were also generous and will be used to help with church and community financial needs.

The Community Breakfast Group joined forces again with the SonShiners to sponsor the 4<sup>nd</sup> annual end-of-summer BBQ dinner. The event was successful, fun and enjoyable get-together held in Pierce Hall on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Great food, hardworking volunteers and a very supportive church and local community made for a great time despite a less than stellar turn-out. Several other community events were held that day to compete with, nevertheless we were very blessed with generous contributions. We hope to continue making this an annual event.

Also planned is the 22<sup>nd</sup> Mid-winter, community Turkey Dinner to be held on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026. The SonShiners group will be collaborating hosts.

Decisions were made to provide monetary support to several community organizations and church needs. See the treasure's report for details. Next CBG meeting and breakfast will be on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 followed by February 1<sup>st</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Summer maintenance of the Presbyterian cemetery continues to be well managed by Jonathan Koepp. This past May and June's rainy weather made scheduling a Saturday group clean-up difficult. We'll try again next summer 2026. We will continue to do what we can to preserve this valuable piece of history for our church and town.

Several volunteers worked on the church and manse grounds to tidy up after the winter damage from wind, snow and plowing. Also, thanks to Charley Sears, who did a wonderful job mowing the lawns this summer.

Thanks to all who have donated time, talents and money to the various projects and community outreach. We will continue working diligently during 2026 to help facilitate upkeep projects for the church property. Bless you all for your dedication.

Election of officers was held and the following are the leaders for 2025-2026:

**Officers for 2025-2026 are:**

Larry Eckhardt – President

Kirk Kellogg – Secretary/Scribe

Jonathan Koepp – Representative to General Committee

Paul McMillan – Treasurer

Yours in Christ,  
Sincerely,

Larry Eckhardt - President

Community Breakfast Group.  
2025 Financial Report

Beginning Balance 1/1/2025        \$2450.00

Breakfast Donations                \$2099.00

Turkey dinner     \$1991.00

Turkey dinner     \$115.00

BBQ dinner        \$ 228.00

Breakfast Expenses                \$935.00

Checks written

318     \$200.00   Historical Society

315       200.00   SVFD

316       200.00   Food Pantry

317       200.00   Library

314       578.00   Turkey Dinner Expense Heather Eckhardt

319     1300.00   Stephentown Federated Church Washing Siding

321       300.00   Nancy Beal- Angel Tree Donation

320       300.00   Food Pantry

Total checks written                \$3278.00

Total Expenses                        \$4213.00

Ending Balance 12/31/24            \$2670.00

Paul McMillan   Treasure/ Community Breakfast Group

## SonShiners Report 2025

Kate Beach – President

The SonShiners, the women's Church group, holds monthly breakfast meetings on the third

Sunday of the month at 8am. All women of the Church and community are welcome to join us.

We each bring a dish to share at our breakfast and discuss how we would best be able to serve our

Church and community.

March was our all-inclusive breakfast at Ioka Valley Farm.

In May we held our Garden(plant)/Bake sale. September we held a joint BBQ dinner with the

Community Breakfast Group (last year). We held our annual Italian Dinner and Election Day

Luncheon with successful turnout.

With the raised proceeds donated to the TAUM Furniture Truck Program, Food Pantry and the

Church Generator Fund. We were able to continue our annual donation to the mission work of

the Methodist and Presbytery and purchase \$25.00 gift cards for each of the families the Church

sponsored this Christmas.

We are thankful for the support from the Church members and local com

	<b>SonShiners Annual Treasurer's Report 2025</b>			
		<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Beginning Balance 1/1/25</b>				<b>\$2,180.49</b>
3/16/24 Ioka Valley Farm	Community Breakfast Expense		\$213.08	
3/19/25 Donations twds Ioka Valley Brkf.		\$166.00		
5/18/25 Kate Beach	Italian Dinner exp. - tableclothes		\$311.16	
6/6/25 Plant/Bake Sale	at church	\$491.00		
6/9/25 Plant/Bake Sale	add. Donation	\$10.00		
8/17/25 TAUM	Truck for Furniture Program Donation		\$500.00	
9/21/25 Stephentown Federated Church	Mission donations \$300 Presb, \$300 Meth.		\$600.00	
9/30/25 BBQ 1/2 of Proceeds	Joint with Comm Breakfast Group	\$227.50		
10/21/25 Italian Dinner	Proceeds \$1809.50 less Exp. \$252.36	\$1,557.14		
11/6/25 Election Day Luncheon	Proceeds	\$998.00		
11/18/25 Steph. Emerg. Food Pantry	Donation		\$500.00	
12/19/25 Joanne Hennig	10 - \$25 Gift Certificates for Angel Tree Families		\$250.00	
12/21/25 Stephentown Federated Church	Generator Fund		\$250.00	
<b>12/31/25 Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$3,449.64</b>	<b>\$2,624.24</b>	<b>\$3,005.89</b>

Stephentown Federated Church

Search Committee

2025

Co-chairs Mary Schnyer and Bev Westfall

Submitted by Bev

Our former Pastor Chris Garrison's last Sunday was October 5, 2025. Our Congregation nominated and voted seven people to form the new Search Committee. They include Tom Foody, Jean Bolen, Ted Bears, Malcolm Beal, Mary Schnyer, Bev Westfall and Jonathan Koepp.

During their first meeting they elected Mary Schnyer and Bev Westfall as Co-chairs of the committee. Meg Knight from Presbytery volunteered to work with us to begin our search for a new Pastor through the Presbytery. This is only the first part of our search. Since we are a Federated Church we have two denominations to draw from. In early January we will begin the paperwork through the Methodists.

At first, we met on Mondays at 4 p.m. but with the changing of the days we changed it to 2 pm so we could get home before dark. We have finished our rough copy of the questions and now are beginning to enter the information onto the computer.

It is our hope by early spring we will have the paperwork completed for the search for our new minister through both denominations. We will keep you updated as best we can through both denominations.

## Annual Report 2025

### Pastor's Report

We never really know what each New Year will bring. We can make our plans. Set expectations. Make resolutions. But none of us have a crystal ball. We can never fully know what the future will hold. We can only wait until year end to look back, reflect, and see what the Lord had in store.

Looking back on the year 2025, it turned out to be a year of farewells. After 4 years of serving as your pastor, I believe it was my time to say goodbye and move to PA for a brand-new chapter. The decision came as a result careful prayer and deliberation—with a great sense of love and gratitude for you all.

I am filled with gratitude for my time at the Stephentown Federated Church. I am grateful for the way you sent me on my well. The generosity of your gifts, your words of appreciation for my service, the manner in which I felt your love and support still resonate with me now. Thank you. Those are the best words I say to conclude my time of ministry with you in my final pastor's report. Thank you.

I also give thanks for the warmth and welcome you consistently provided to visitors and newcomers to the church. I give thanks for the generosity in which you gave to any capital projects that are needed, to the local needs through the food pantry, backpack program, World Communion offering, and Angel Tree. I give thanks for how you adopted me and became family to me.

You not only said goodbye to me this year. Together, we said goodbye to beloved members of the congregation. We remember Mel Feathers and the wonderful service that brought drums and so many memories into our Sanctuary. With Rob Fronsman, we celebrated the life of his mom, April Vanderburgh. Most recently, I was honored to be able to join the service for June Ross online via Zoom. All these loved ones exemplified a life well lived.

It's not always easy to say goodbye. I've come to like the term "farewell" far better. Goodbye seems way too final. But *farewell* or *fare thee well* are words of blessing filled with a future and a hope. For those who have gone before us, we know they will fare well in their new home in the presence of God. Now I don't know what 2026 will bring or what the future has in store. But I fully trust that as a church community, you will fare very well with a hope-filled future.

May God continue to bless you and keep you, make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, lift his countenance upon you and give you peace...and hope...and love always. *Amen.*

Sincerely and with Great Thanks,  
Chris

# Stephentown Food Pantry Report to the Stephentown Federated Church

**2025**

We are grateful for wonderful community support for the Food Pantry. End-of-year donations have been very generous. We continue our mission of providing food resources for people in Stephentown and Hancock, and thank the Federated Church, and especially help from Ted Bears, for providing a welcoming space for this service.

We are open Saturdays from 9 to 11 am. We provide three days' worth of food for each household visit. Clients may get food weekly if needed. The Pantry provided food for 17,586 meals in 2025. We served 74 households representing 205 people. We provided holiday meal groceries at Thanksgiving (58 bundles) and Christmas (67 bundles).

We continue to gain hard-working energetic volunteers, who take turns staffing the Pantry with three people every Saturday, make Food Bank pickups or shop for inventory. Anita Henry leads the group.

We are recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

We are members of the Regional Food Bank of Northeast New York, which enables us to obtain free USDA surplus food and to purchase other foods at low prices. We order from the Food Bank and volunteers drive to Latham to haul the order to Stephentown, where it is unloaded and stored in the Pantry area. However, because of recent limited inventory at the Food Bank, much of our food must be purchased elsewhere.

**INCOME:** Income for 2025 from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, was \$41,224.51 from generous individuals and organizations including the United Sabbathkeepers, Averill Park Septic, Hancock Volunteer Fire Department, Metzwood Insurance Co., the Valley Faith Community, Stephentown Federated Church - Souper Bowl, Stephentown Historical Society members, Stephentown Seniors, and Stephentown Pantry volunteers. We have also received donations of food and other assistance throughout the year from individuals, businesses, and groups, most notably of holiday needs from an anonymous community donor, Kinderhook Creek Farm, Hilltown Pork, Sugar Hill Farm, Kilventon Produce, Stewart's Shops, Berlin Central School Student Government food drive, Indivisible Stephentown, Stephentown Historical Society, Blue Q, Dave's Market, Stephentown Volunteer Fire Department, Stephentown Memorial Library, Stephentown Federated Church, and generous home gardeners and egg producers.

**EXPENSES:** Total expenses for 2025 were \$27,824.81: \$22,176.46 for food, and other expenses of \$5648.35, which include postage and PO box rent, purchase of holiday gift cards for children mostly funded by Stephentown Senior Citizens, liability insurance, and a \$2500 donation to the Federated Church.

**BALANCE:** The Pantry's balance on December 31, 2025, was \$47,477.24.

Meredith Rhindress, Treasurer