

Stephentown Federated Church Newsletter November/December 2025

Ministers from November – January

**Nov 2 Rev Kathi Jones
 9 Rev Robert Lowenthal
 16 Rev Susan Schultz
 23 Rev Robert Lowenthal
 30 Rev Kathi Jones**

**Jan 4, 2026 Rev Kathi Jones
 11 Rev Robert Lowenthal
 18 Rev Andrea Joy Holroyd
 25 Rev Kathi Jones**

**Dec 7 Rev Kathi Jones
 14 Rev Robert Lowenthal
 21 Rev Andrea Joy Holroyd
 24 ??? Rev Kathi Jones
 28 Rev Kathi Jones**

Search Committee

We have had one organizational meeting. Bev Westfall and Mary Schnyer are working together as co-chairs. Our next meeting is on October 27 at 4 p.m.

We were blessed with a Presbyterian member Meg Knight who brought a lot of wisdom and suggestions on how to begin this process. We are at this point recommending choosing to stay with the half-time minister. Since we are a federation of Methodists and Presbyterians we need to meet with our Methodist side as well. That is in the planning stages. We are currently looking at what we want and need in a new minister. We are using the newsletter as a form of communication to you, our congregation.

Choir

Choir continues to meet on Thursdays at 6 pm with one exception. The third week of each month Front Pew Band meets from 5:30 -6:30 then choir meets from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We are starting to work on Christmas and Advent music. There is always a chair open for anyone wanting to come and sing with us. Also on the website is a place where you can listen to our Sunday anthems.

Reminder: Time Change, Sat., November 2nd



Turn your clocks back an hour or you'll be late for Community Breakfast!



Thanksgiving Services

Sunday, November 23rd 9:30 am. We celebrate thanksgiving with a food drive for the Stephentown Emergency Food Pantry. Here's a list of items always needed:

peanut butter, jelly, cold cereal, tuna, canned chicken, condiments such as ketchup, mustard, cooking oil, salad dressing, mayo, maple syrup, canned fruit, canned soup, canned vegetables, pasta and pasta sauce, dessert mixes (not much baking mix is used), coffee, baked beans (other beans are not very popular)

They have the supplies they need for the holiday dinner bags they provide. They do add a treat bag for each client which includes candy kisses, candy canes, and hot cocoa mix which would be used for the Christmas bags.

VALLEY FAITH COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Community is invited to a Thanksgiving Worship Service at the Canaan Congregational Church Nov. 23rd at 4pm located at the major intersection of County Route 5 and State Route 295 in Canaan, NY.

There will be a food drive, and donations will be split between the Stephentown Emergency Food Pantry and Charlie's Pantry in New Lebanon. Members of our congregation will be participating along with the Canaan Congregational Church and the Church of Our Savior(Episcopal) in New Lebanon.



ANGEL TREE 2025

It's that time of year again – time to plan for the 15th Annual ANGEL TREE donation for local families in need. Last year we helped make Christmas special for 9 families thanks to your generous gifts. The schools have provided me with the families, 8 this year, and the angels are ready. Remember, if you prefer not to shop yourself, I will be happy to go for you – please have your donation to me by November 16th. Those who shop themselves, please remember not to wrap the gifts for the New Lebanon families (at their request) and to bring your gifts to church on Sunday, December 14th.

As always, thank you for your kindness and support.

Blessings, Nancy

SonShiners



We want to thank everyone that helped and came to eat at our annual Italian dinner.

It was well attended (exceeded any other year).



Special thanks to the Food Pantry for bailing us out.

See you at our Election Day Luncheon, November 4th 11 - 2

Meetings:

November 16th – 8am

December 21st – 8am

January 18th 2026 – 8am

Bring a dish to share. Hope to see all there.

The Community Breakfast Group News

Late Fall – Early Winter 2025

Our October 5th breakfast meeting had 37 people (Ted thinks it's a record number) in attendance for a great meal prepared by Matt Eckhardt, Bryan McMillan and Malcolm Beal. Thanks everyone for attending. We discussed some church projects that might need funding help. The group voted to contribute \$1,300 to the church general fund for washing the church siding. Bryan Shoemaker of East Nassau did a great job with soft brushes and the whole church looks marvelous. We will continue to help in the community whenever we can, with financial contributions and physical work when needed.

Our End-of-Summer BBQ, held on September 20th was a successful event despite a less than stellar turnout. Food was great, the afternoon weather was spectacular, and the fellowship was very enjoyable. We had a few other community events that day which certainly pull people in different directions. After expenses, we had revenue to split with the SonShiners of \$475. We discussed the End-of-Summer BBQ at our October 5th breakfast and will decide later if we should continue with the event in the future.

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—come one, come all.

Some activities for the upcoming months:

November 2nd – Regular breakfast meeting. 8:00am

December 7th - Regular breakfast meeting. 8:00am

January 4th, 2026 – Happy New Year - Regular breakfast meeting. 8:00am Preliminary planning for the Big Turkey Dinner in February.

February 1st - Regular breakfast meeting. 8:00am Finalize plans for the Turkey Dinner on February 21st.

February 21st – The Big Event – Annual Turkey Dinner. Watch newsletters and your mail for detailed information.

Any questions or need additional information, contact Larry Eckhardt at 518-573-2565.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under

Treasurer's Report

Giving envelopes are available for 2026 in Pierce Hall. Please sign your name on the sheet that corresponds with the box you take so I can identify you. If you are giving once a year or by check, envelopes are not necessary. Again, you can always setup giving thru the **GIVE NOW button on our webpage: stephentownfederatedchurch.org. Thank you for your generous donations to keeping our church open and running. Barbara**



HANGING OF THE GREENS November 30th Please sign up to help decorate our church following the service. All are welcome to help. Soup will be available.

Beginning Nov. 30th 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 Bev know you are interested in being a part of this weekly advent celebration.



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE, December 21st - 4pm. When nights are long, when darkness lasts longer than the day, we can trust in the fact that light will dawn another day. Join us for our Longest Night Service, welcoming the Light. We can't force the days to be longer, but we can share the coming Light with one another. It will be a service filled with music, prayers, poems, candlelight, and reading. This is a community event, and we invite anyone in the community to bring a refreshment/dessert to share at the end of the service, and/or a poem or song to share with the community to welcome the light during the service. Think of it as a service with an open mic and potluck afterwards. No obligation to bring anything to attend.



CHRISTMAS EVE

Join us on December 24th at 7:30 pm for our Christmas Eve Service. Some stories never get old. Even the ones we know by heart. We can hear them over and over again. Join us on Christmas Eve for a celebration of Christ's birth. Come hear the familiar songs and story of Christmas. This is a story of hope for all ages. Join us for music from the Front Pew Band and the Choir.



Long - term Prayer Concerns:

June Ross, Georgie, Kelly & Joe, Mary & Frank Hamilton, Betty Ann Hanlon, Marge, Adrienne & family, Nancy & Malcom Beal, Fiona (Beal's granddaughter), Liam (Beal's grandson), Liane, Ella (Beal's Granddaughter), Sarah (Beal's daughter), Garrett & Family (Beal's grandson), Ron & Lois Beal, Bonnie & Rick, Bev, Portia, Joy & Bob Lowenthal, Theresa Terpening, Trygve Tomlinson, Sal Longo, Denise -Joe Longo's sister-in-law, Steve Schnuyer, Tammy Madden, Martha Lagerwahl, Karen Volpi, Judy & Joe Leland, Barbara (Leland's daughter), Angelica (Leland's granddaughter), Debbie Knapp, Kathryn & the twins, Sam & Ben, James & his family, Garrett, Peggy, Mike, & Greg, Janice, Melisa/Lou/Jake/Brett, Shannon Adams, Cindy Hennig, Titi Lourdes (Jay's aunt), Terrienne Koepp, Becca Fenander, Margie Fenander, Jane Lancaster, Jessica Morris' mom, Nancy Rogers, Zack Hanson, Deb Pentak, Pat Breen, Kathi Jones, Edna May and family, Peter Hamilton, Jerry & Paula Robinson, Fred King, Avin Mayette, Denise (Therese Hatch's sister), Sherry & Mel Gallup, Josie - Kathleen's mom, Sue, Judy & John Harper, Phil & Annie Trowbridge & family, Dot Meppen, David (Joy's brother-in-law), Heather & family, Rick (Mary S nephew),
Joanne & Mimi (Kate's friends), Ruth Culver (Kate's friend), and the LGBTQ community

Please pray for our prayer partner church and their Pastor
Dios Viviente Aldea Pueblo Nuevo, San Juan Ostuncalco, Pastor Martin de Leon Juarez

As always . . .we pray for:

Our farmers, 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, 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!



November	1	Laura Cushing
	9	Mark Morris
	10	Rob Fronsman
	11	Judy Leland
	21	Sopha Corral

December	5	Marianne Smith	January	14	Malcolm Beal
	5	Acelyn Plouffe		17	Mary Schnyer
	17	Janice Walther		17	Portia Westfall
	18	Fred Wallbank		23	Cynthia Weber
	19	Lynn Morris		24	Richard Beckwith
	21	Joy Lowenthal		25	Stewart Pease
	25	Donna Densing		25	Marge Feathers
	26	Nancy Beal		27	Jean Bolen
	28	Malik Plouffe			
	31	Joan McMillan			
		Helen			
	31	Wallbank			



Our annual meeting will be held on January 18th, 2026 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 no later than Dec 15th 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.

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 November 30th. 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 \$_____