

News travels fast—whether good or bad. When the news pertains to any church community, it travels much faster. You’ve probably already heard my news. But in case you missed it, I made the following announcement on the last Sunday of July.

“It’s with a lot of love and appreciation, and a lot of prayerful discernment, that I announce that I will not be renewing a 5th year contract to be your pastor.”

I’ve been in this pastoral role for a total of 4 years now. Before starting here, I was already doing work with a mental health therapy practice in Pittsburgh to help with their business operations. The practice has grown to three locations. As a result, my professional role has grown.

Along with it, a personal relationship has grown as well. My current plan is to move to Pittsburgh in early October for both the professional and personal growth. [Admittedly, one has more pull on me than the other]. In this case, the old line is true. ***“It’s not you, it’s me!”***

I was very intentional with the wording of my announcement. This decision does come with much *love and appreciation* for all of you. Many times, such announcements start by saying, “It’s with a great deal of sadness, that I regret to inform you...” While I do have a lot of feelings about leaving this place and will miss you all truly, the predominant feelings I have are love and appreciation for you.

You have been my family. You provided the perfect place to land to create a home (a Sanctuary really) in the Manse, a place for me and my daughters during a great time of change and transition. In addition to that, you provided a safe landing place for me spiritually. I have often joked that this is the place I could stand up and work out my own spirituality in front of you all. It was a Sanctuary for me, too. And I had a lot of fun doing it. At least, you laughed at MOST of my jokes—or perhaps groaned appropriately.

To be honest, I’ve not always been proud to say that I am pastor. [Too many people have a bad stereotype of what that means for my taste. Or they have expectations for me to be someone I’m not.] But in my time with you, I’ve been proud to tell people I’m your pastor. This has been a place of spiritual healing for me.

I’ve been deeply moved by the comments about how much I’ve helped you as a congregation. I can’t think of anything I’ve done besides just being myself. But you’ve allowed me to do just that—be myself, as well as share in the joys and sorrow of your lives.

I believe one of you said it best, ***“I think you needed us just as much as we needed you.”*** Those words certainly ring true! As much as I’ve done for you, you’ve done for me. I am incredibly grateful to have been your pastor. It’s been an honor.

My last Sunday will be October 7th, so there will be plenty of time to say our goodbyes. You’re not rid of me yet. My prayers go out to those who will be conducting the search for your next pastor. I pray you find someone who is perfect for you. In my prayers, I trust in the words of Jeremiah the prophet, ***“For surely I know the plans I have for you,’ says the LORD, ‘plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.’”*** (Jeremiah 29:11)

Gratefully,
Chris



This Photo by Unknown

ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a special charge conference on Sunday, Sept. 7th immediately after the service to install the Search Committee.

After we confirm the committee, they will start the job of searching for our next minister. Please send prayers to support them in their work.



Choir

Choir returns next week. Yay! Our first rehearsal is Thursday Sept. 4 th at 6 pm. New folks are most welcome. Hope to see you then.

Website

If you miss a Sunday, you can get caught up online at www.Stephentownfederatedchurch.com. Beginning the second week in October the ministers that will share their message with us each week will be posted on this website.

Hope to see you each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for morning worship.

Moving forward after Chris leaves us, Reverend Kathi Jones will be doing the first Sunday of each month, which is our communion. And she will be doing the last Sunday of each month, the fifth Sunday when there are five Sundays and the fourth when there are four Sundays. Reverend Robert Lowenthal will be preaching the second Sunday of each month.

We have others in the works, but not definite yet. Stay tuned for updates.

Directory

Arlene has been hard at work updating your information for a new directory. If you haven't gotten your picture taken and updated your information, see Arlene at church.

We are planning to take a new picture of the congregation on the front porch after the charge conference on September 7th. Be sure to be there to be included.



World Communion Sunday

We are celebrating on Sunday, October 5th. We will be taking special collections to support missions for both the Presbytery and Methodist.

SonShiners

Meetings: Bring a dish to share

September 21st 8am

October 19th 8am (possible cancel)

November 16th 8am

Coming Events:

September 20th Community BBQ 4:30pm – 7:00pm

October 18th Italian Dinner 5:00pm – 7:00pm

November 4th Election Day Luncheon 11:00am – 2:00pm

The Community Breakfast Group News

Early Fall 2025

Our June 1st breakfast meeting had 35 people 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.

We continue to work on yard clean-up and hope to do some work at the Presbyterian Cemetery.

October 5th, the first breakfast after summer break. Breakfast starts at 8:00am sharp. Attending church after breakfast is not required, however, we'd love to have you for both! Come and join us.

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:

September 20th – End-of-Summer BBQ. See details at the end of this report. Watch the church website, this newsletter and a special mailing. Great food, fellowship, and say “goodbye” to summer and our “snowbirds”.

October 5th – First breakfast of the new season. Can't wait!!!

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

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

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 Pork & Turkey B-B-Q with all the fixin’s!!! Baked beans, coleslaw, corn-on-the-cob and delicious watermelon for dessert. Last chance for a 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. (And support the church!)

When: Saturday September 20th, 2025

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!!

Proceeds will go towards our church special projects.

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

For Information call:

**Larry Eckhardt 518-573-2565 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!



September	6	Jay Hennig
	8	Madison Rontey
	8	Georgee Bebee

	9	Karen Volpi
	9	Bonnie Bates
	17	Alicia Jacobs
	27	Gene Jacobs
	27	Gene Sawin
October	3	Tom Smith
	6	Joanne Hennig
	7	Janet Atwater
	16	Jessica Rontey
	18	Chris Garrison
	20	Stephen Schnyer
	26	Richard Terpening
	28	June Ross



Long - term Prayer Concerns:

June Ross, Georgie, Kelly & Joe, Mary & Frank Hamilton, Betty Ann Hanlon, Don Leab, Marge, Adrienne & family, Tom Foody, Paul & Joan McMillan, Sherry Ciliberti, Michael Monyahan, Rick Monyahan, Nancy & Malcom Beal, Fiona (Beal's granddaughter), Liam (Beal's grandson), Liane, Ella (Beal's Granddaughter), Sarah (Beal's daughter), Ron & Lois Beal, Bonnie & Rick, Theresa Terpening, Trygve Tomlinson, Joe & Arlene Longo, Tony Longo & his partner Dana (praying for the blessing of a baby), Sal Longo, Denise -Joe Longo's sister-in-law, Tammy Madden, Martha Lagerwahl, Karen Volpi, Judy & Joe Leland, Barbara (Leland's daughter), Angelica (Leland's granddaughter), Debbie Knapp, Gene Sawin, Alan Eckhardt, Jackie Eckhardt, Larry Eckardt's cousins in NM, Dwight & Devon Peterson, 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, Doris & Arnold Sours, Laurelyn & Doug's daughter-in law's mom, 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 (Terese Hatch's sister), Deb & Don Chaffee, Sherry & Mel Gallup, April - Rob Fronsman's mom, Josie - Kathleen's mom,

The Eckhardt Family, Sue, Judy & John Harper, Phil & Annie Trowbridge & family, Dot Meppen, David (Joy's brother-in-law), Heather & family, Richie (Skip's friend), Ron Thompson (Paula's dad), 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, 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, all refugees and the nations locked in conflict

Safe travel for all

THANK YOU GOD FOR OUR MANY BLESSINGS!