

Better late than never! Sounds like the rallying cry for procrastinators and the chronically challenged alike. [I would have *no idea* what that's like.] Some of us get so caught up in what we're doing. We just want to squeeze just a little more time doing it. Others suffer from being "time blind" and never look at a watch.

Some cultures have a loose concept of time. Everybody knows things only start once everyone arrives. While others need to "feel" when the time is right.

Now if reading the previous descriptions made your skin crawl, chances are you're wired for a more structured order of time. A schedule suits you.

These are the folks what you want in charge of the train schedule. These are the kind that actually look at their watched—who function better with an efficient, ordered way of living. How would they respond to the "*better late than never*" sentiment?

Time is a funny thing. The more time we have, the less we want of it. The less we have of it, the more time we want.

This year, we have a longer time to wait for Easter to come—longer than normal. Easter comes quite late this year.

The seasons of Lent and Easter run on a different schedule. Timing is dictated by the lunar calendar (rather than Christmas and other holidays that follow the sun). Easter waits for the Festival of Passover to arrive. It's called a "moveable feast." It runs late this year. In fact, it's the latest it can possibly be.

Better late than never. New life, new growth, seasons of rebirth and change often come much later than we want in life. Healing has its own timetable. The kingdom of heaven comes on its own accord. Waiting is more commonplace than we might want in the spiritual life.

There is much we can learn during a season of waiting. Patience is a virtue not easily obtained. It seems to me, "late" is in the eye of the beholder. Depends on who's timeline it comes. There is still much to be done in the waiting. Trusting it will come is itself an expression of faith.

In this season of waiting (whatever you are waiting for), I pray you find what you need. Better late than never...in Jesus' name. Amen.

Peace,

Chris

Sunday Childcare

We continue to welcome children to Pierce Hall during the service with a parent/guardian. We pair them with a Safe Sanctuaries trained adult from the congregation. More trained volunteers are needed to keep childcare working and available for our kids.

Safe Sanctuaries training is again being offered. It's a 3.5-hour basic trainings for clergy, and laity working with children, youth or vulnerable adults. This helps protect everyone involved. The next set of sessions starts:

Saturday, February 1, 2025 9am - 12:30pm

Registration Opens January 8, 2025 @ Midnight & Closes January 29, 2025 @ Midnight (no exceptions)

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/5E57smM2k3buegg19>

Saturday, May 3, 2025 9am - 12:30pm Registration Opens April 1, 2025 @ Midnight & Closes April 30, 2025 @

Midnight (no exceptions) Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/UGSg1m3ASA9yLsqW8>

For more information regarding Safe Sanctuaries please visit our

website: <http://www.unyumc.org/resources/safesanctuaries> or email us at: safesanctuaries@unyumc.org

Financial Gifts



Offering plates are located near the entrances to the Sanctuary.

They are marked "free will," because we never want anyone to feel an obligation to give. For those who want to give, we offer a variety of other options:

- **Online giving:** visit our website and click the "Give Now" button. You can give a one-time gift or set up *recurring* giving at a frequency and designation of your choice through Tithe.ly.

- **Mail your offering:** Stephenstown Federated Church

Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 10, Stephenstown, NY 12168

- **Designated giving:** mark on envelope or memo of your check if you wish to give to other than the general fund (examples include: *Manse Building Maintenance Fund, Memorial, heat or utilities, Angel Fund*).

- **Thank you:** for your gifts—financial & with your time and service.

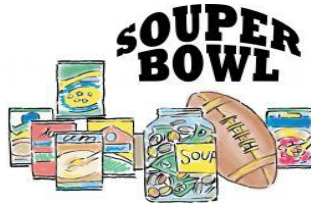
The church is indeed grateful for all the giving everyone has done to not only meet the budget but also, supporting the campaign to raise funds for the improvement of the outside of the manse. We raised enough to pay for the siding, and we have some extra for the painting that is needed to finish the project.

This year we need to collect \$1554.00 @ week to meet the projected expenses.

Denominational Apportionments

The 2025 annual amount of apportionment for Presbyterians is \$46.00.

The Methodist apportionment amount is \$127.00.



This Photo by Unknown

We celebrate the NFL's Super Bowl with our own **"Souper Bowl" on Sunday, February 9th**. Bring to our service the groceries and monies you would like to donate to the Stephentown Emergency Food Pantry which we house at our church. If you are giving with a check, please make it payable to Stephentown Emergency Food Pantry.

Here is a list of things they always need.

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)

The Community Breakfast Group News

Winter 2025

The monthly breakfast meetings of the Community Breakfast Group at the Stephentown Federated Church are in full swing. First Sunday of every month, now thru June. 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. Bring a friend, there's always plenty to eat.

Our breakfast meetings (October thru January) were very well attended - 38 in October, 31 in November, 28 in December and 28 again in January. Many thanks to our great cooks. Our annual "All Church Turkey Dinner" will be on February 22, 2025.

Some activities for the upcoming months:

February 2nd - Breakfast at 8:00am. Work on final plans for the turkey dinner.

February 22 - Annual Turkey Dinner. Don't miss it!!

March 2nd - Breakfast at 8:00am.

April 6th - Breakfast at 8:00am. Make plans for Easter Sunrise service breakfast.

April 20th - Easter. Continental-style breakfast after the early morning service at the Garfield Cemetery.

Now for The Big Event....

It's the

Twenty-first Annual Church Turkey Dinner!!

When: Saturday February 22, 2025

You are cordially invited to join your church friends and family for fellowship and a delicious Turkey Meal with all the trimmings!!! Mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, squash, peas and carrots, and our famous homemade pies!!

Time: Start Serving at 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm

Where: Stephentown Federated Church Hall

Who: You, bring your family and your neighbors and friends

Goodwill offering only!!

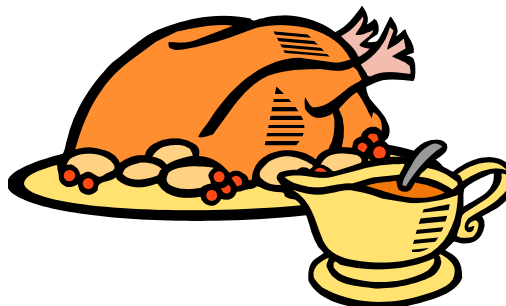
Sponsored by the Community Breakfast Group with lots of help from the SonShiners.

For Information call:

Larry Eckhardt 518-573-2565 or

Paul McMillan 518-733-5110 or

Ted Bears 518-728-9326



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

Take-Outs are available starting at 4:15 pm

Let us know early so we can have them

ready! Call Larry at the number above. Any questions or need additional information, contact Larry Eckhardt at 518-573-2565.

SonShiners

Meetings – 8am bring a dish to share

January 19th

February 16th

March 16th (@ Ioka Valley Farm)

February 22nd Turkey Dinner – We need your donations of Pies, Pies, Pies!!



Choir

There are still open seats and extra robes for anyone that would like to come and join our group. We have just started new music and we will be rehearsing for special music for lent and Easter.

For January and February, we will be rehearsing after coffee hour on Sundays. In March we will go back to our regular Thursday night at 6:30 p.m.

We will be fitting band in, in announced times as well.

Hope to see some more new faces!

Worship

Check out the website for new changes. You can now listen to choir/band pieces separately from the service. www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org

Lenten Devotionals

There will be a sign up sheet on the piano if you would like a devotional booklet. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact Barbara by February 2nd.

More information about our Lenten services will be coming shortly.

Long – term Prayer Concerns:

June Ross, Georgie, Kelly & Joe, Mary & Frank Hamilton, Betty Ann Hanlon, Don Leab, Marge & Mel Feathers, Adrienne & family, Tom Foody, Paul & Joan McMillan, Sherry Ciliberti, Michael Monyahan, Rick Monyahan, Nancy & Malcom Beal, Fiona (Beal's granddaughter), Liam (Beal's grandson), Glady (Nancy Beal's sister), Liane, Ella (Beal's Granddaughter), Santo, JoAnn (Pastor Chris' mom), Joan (Ellie's grandma) & Brittany (Ellie's mom), Craig (Ellie's Uncle in MT), Bonnie & Rick, Joy & Bob Lowenthal, Trygve Tomlinson, Joe & Arlene Longo, Tony Longo & his partner Dana (praying for the blessing of a baby), Sal Longo, Theresa Terpening, Tammy Madden, Martha Lagerwahl, Karen Volpi, Judy & Joe Leland, Barbara (Leland's daughter), Angelica, Debbie Knapp, Gene Sawin, Lou 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, Tommy Castillo, Terriane Koepp, Doris & Arnold Sours, Laurelyn & Doug Mahen, Laurelyn & Doug's daughter-in law's mom, Becca Fenander, Margie Fenander, Jane Lancaster, Jessica Morris' mom, Nancy Rogers, Zack Hanson, Steve & Deb Pentak, Kathi Jones, and the LGBTQ community

* Holly Wheeler, Carol, Rusty Melancon, Makayla & Julie, Kathy Carringer, Sean Northrup, 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, Melaney, Colleen P., Norm, Tanya Joyes, Tasha-Chris & family, Karen, Christina, Linda Lee, John Anello, Mary Martin, Carolee, Toby, Kelly, Kevin, Jim & Ann Peck, Radley family, Jenny, Rick Newton, Jim Chambers, Pat B., Susan G., Peter, Samantha, Owen McGinnis, Shannon W., Lance, Pattie Lewis, Sahara, Hal, Frank, Donnie, Sue, Bob & Deb, Sally Guimarra, Jerry (AZ), Stephanie & Devin, Dan & Nancy, Dennis L., Eckhardt's friend going through depression, Lori, Linda P., Sandy & John, Tracy & family, Wanda, Kay Sessor, Isabella, Carter & family, Molly & family, Mary's brother and his family, Dottie Meppan, those from the Ukraine and all who are helping them, Perry, Beth, Kathy, Carol Baker, Edna May, Peter Hamilton, Tom & family, Leo & family, Karen, Peter, Mike, Carter La Casse, Jodie Doherty, Nancy Machler, Nancy & her brother John, Baby Gus, Rick Fosby, Ronnie, Alex, Kathryn, & Kathy Norton,

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!**

Please contact Joanne if you or your loved one, friend, neighbor should come off this list.



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January	14	Malcolm Beal
	17	Mel Feathers
	17	Mary Schnyer
	17	Portia Westfall
	24	Richard Beckwith
	25	Stewart Pease
	25	Marge Feathers
	27	Jean Bolen
	30	Linda Secor
February	27	Joe Longo
March	6	Laurelyn Mayen
	21	Bill Whipple
	23	Barbara Terpening
	24	Arlene Longo

Easter Flower Order Form 2025 It is time to place your orders for Easter Lilies and/or spring bulbs in memory of your loved ones. This year the Easter Lilies are \$15.00 a piece and Spring Bulbs \$10.00 a piece. We are asking that you have your order in by March 23rd. Please send your check and order form to: Stephentown Federated Church, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 10, Stephentown, NY 12168. The flowers will be placed on the altar in time for our Easter service.

Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:	Specify your choice of Lily \$15 or Spring Bulbs \$10.00 each
Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:	Specify your choice of Lily \$15 or Spring Bulbs \$10.00 each
Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:	Specify your choice of Lily \$15 or Spring Bulbs \$10.00 each
Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:	Specify your choice of Lily \$15 or Spring Bulbs \$10.00 each

Total number of Lilies at \$15.00 a piece _____ and/or

Spring Bulbs ordered at \$10.00 a piece _____

Our total amount enclosed \$ _____