



I am not a cat person. No disrespect to those of you who are. (And I know who you are.) Those little hairballs are just not for me...their fierce independence, only come around when they want, mischievously playful at times. Ever read *Cat In the Hat*? That kind of behavior could be seen as either good or bad. It depends upon your particular point of view.

Have you ever heard of Schrodinger's cat? It's a quantum mechanics brain teaser (posed by man named Schrodinger, a contemporary of Einstein's). If you put a cat in a box—with a single atom and a flask of poison, and closed up the box—the cat would have an equal chance of being alive or dead. Actually, he said the cat would BOTH be *alive and dead*—that is until an observer opened the box to confirm the cat's condition.

I don't claim to know a thing about quantum mechanics. But it can be a useful illustration. Schrodinger's cat shows that something can simultaneously be two things at once.

The Season of Lent begins next month. Lent is the time for contemplation, reflection, and self-examination. If we reflect long enough on what drives our thoughts and behaviors, we might discover they often can be two things at once—either good or bad, or even both at the same time.

Our Lenten theme this year will focus on the *7 Deadly Sins* [aka vices] as ~~we~~ read through Luke's Gospel. Vices include things like: *pride, envy, wrath, sloth, greed, lust, or gluttony*.

The root of every one of those sins is some sort of Desire. The Church has long held that Desire is bad. We should rid ourselves of Desire.

Not all *desire* is bad. We may be driven by the Desire to honor others, be generous, show kindness, work hard, appreciate the beautiful, and do good. Yet even the Desire to do good may come from questionable motives. It all depends on the condition of the heart. Who knows the heart's condition until we open the box and look inside.

Join us this Lenten season. We'll not examine the heart of our good and bad intentions. We'll learn what it means to live a life of virtue in the face of every vice. And I promise no one will try to put you in a box.

**Thanks,
Chris**

REMINDER – EASTER FLOWERS

Submit your flower orders and money by March 23rd. Order forms in the last newsletter. Make a check payable to Stephentown Federated Church and mail with form to: Stephentown Federated Church, Attention: Treasurer. PO Box 10, Stephentown, NY 12168.



Souper Bowl Sunday ----- Food Drive for The Stephentown Emerg. Food Pantry

Since church was cancelled Feb 9th please bring in your donations for the food pantry on Sunday, March 2nd or leave them in Pierce Hall in the back by the door to the pantry. And thank you for your generosity.

Daylight Savings Day

Reminder to turn your clocks ahead so you arrive at church on time on March 9th

SONSHINERS

Meeting schedule at 8am – Bring a dish to share

March 16th Join us at Ioka Valley Farm no earlier than 8am

April 20th Cancelled Easter

May 18th Cancelled – bring In your garden and baked goods for sale

Events for the year

May 18th – Garden/Bake Sale

Sept 20th – Community BBQ

Oct 18th – Italian Dinner

Nov 4th – Election Day Luncheon

Choir

This winter has been difficult for choir rehearsals. Hopefully In March we can get back to our normal Thursday rehearsals at 6:30 p.m.

Choir is practicing for special music for Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter.

Service Videos

The services that were canceled are on line. If you would like to worship go to <http://www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org> and you will find them there.

LENT AND EASTER SERVICES



A Litany for Lent - March 9th at 4 pm

Join us at the Church of our Saviour in New Lebanon for a Valley Faith Community Service. We will honor the beginning of the Lenten season with the Great Litany. A litany is a series of prayerful petitions read in a call and response fashion. The Great Litany has a rich history in the English tradition and was compiled long ago in the Book of Common Prayer. It's the same litany used during the black plague in the 14th century, when a priest would walk around the town continually praying. Those who pray the litany ask together for the Lord's mercy. The service will include periods of music and reflection.

Following the service, there will be a simple meal of soup and bread (feel free to bring soup or bread to share). Church of Our Saviour is located at: 14660 NY-22, New Lebanon, NY 12125.

Palm Sunday Service, April 13th 9:30am beginning with a Processional



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Easter Sunrise Service, April 20th 6:30am at Garfield Cemetery, Continental-style breakfast after service in Pierce Hall



Easter Service April 20th 9:30am with music by the choir and the Front Pew Band

The Community Breakfast Group News
Late Winter – Early Spring 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.

Many thanks to our great breakfast and turkey dinner cooks. Our annual "All Church Turkey Dinner" will be on February 22, 2025. You might get this newsletter after the dinner. If not, please, come and join the festivities. No reservation required.

Some other activities for the upcoming months:

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

March 2nd - Breakfast at 8:00am.

April 6th – Breakfast at 8:00am. Work on plans for Easter Sunrise service breakfast.

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

May 4th – Breakfast at 8:00am. (Star Wars Day – (“May the Forth be with you, always”)) Planning for our annual spring yard clean-up and Cemetery Pick-up Days.

If you'd like to be on our e-mail list or know of someone who would like to receive our church newsletter in the mail, please reach out to Paul McMillan, Larry Eckhardt or Ted Bears. Everyone is invited – come one, come all.

Long – term Prayer Concerns:

June Ross, Georgie, Kelly & Joe, Mary & Frank Hamilton, Betty Ann Hanlon, Don Leab, Marge 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 Eckhardt'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, Terrienne 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

**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!



March	6	Laurelyn Mayen
	21	Bill Whipple
	23	Barbara Terpening
	24	Arlene Longo
April	2	Tom Foody
	5	Desiree Williams
	6	Carolyn Gokey
	7	Leigh Lewandoski
	8	Mary Hamilton
May	3	Betty Whipple
	5	Andrew Eckhardt
	7	Anthony Williams
	11	Larry Eckhardt
	11	Adrienne Gundrum
	12	Lillian Dette
	29	Jonathan A. Koepp
29	Doug Mayen	

