Stephentown Federated Church Newsletter

November/December 2026, January 2027

Ministers from November – January

Nov **1 Rev Kathi Jones, Presb.**
8 Rev Robert Lowenthal, Meth.
15 Rev Susan Schultz, Meth, Presb.
22 Rev Susan Schultz, Meth, Presb.
29 Rev Kathi Jones, Presb.

Dec **6 Rev Kathi Jones, Presb.**
13 Rev Robert Lowenthal, Meth.
20 Rev Andrea Joy Holroyd, Presb.
24 Rev Susan Schultz, Meth, Presb.
27 Rev Kathi Jones, Presb.

Jan **3, 2027 Rev Kathi Jones, Presb.**
10 Rev Robert Lowenthal, Meth.
17 TBA
24 Rev Kathi Jones, Presb.

Search Committee

The search committee met Oct 19th with a Presbyterian representative to discuss where we go from here being we have had little response.
We are meeting again on Oct 26th for discussion.
As always please keep our committee in your prayers.



Thanksgiving Services

Sunday, November 22nd 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 better, 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.

SonShiners



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



See you at our *Election Day Luncheon*,



November 3rd 11 – 2

Meetings ay 8am:

November 15th

December 20th - Election of Officers

January 17th 2027

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

Reminder: Time Change, Sunday, November 1st 2am



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

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The Community Breakfast Group News

Late Fall – Early Winter 2026-27

The first fall monthly breakfast meeting of the Community Breakfast Group at the Stephentown Federated Church was held on October 4th. We had 27 well-fed attendees. Many thanks to our cooks and helpers, Matt Eckhardt, Brian McMillan, Malcolm Beal, Ted Bears and Tom Smith and others who helped prepare food and do the dishes. We discussed our finances and had several suggestions for projects that we could help fund. We also made plans for the Annual Church Turkey Dinner. The 2027 dinner will be February 20th, 2027. More details in the next newsletter.

Breakfast meeting dates for the rest of the Fall and Winter season:

November 1st – Election of group leaders. Day after Halloween. Don't be late.

December 6th – breakfast at 8am.

January 3rd – planning for the Turkey Dinner.

February 7th – Finalize the big Event Turkey Dinner.

Mark your calendar!!!

February 20th – Turkey Dinner. Be there and bring your appetite, family and friends.

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 are very well attended. Many thanks to our great cooks.

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.



Treasurer's Report



Giving envelopes are available for 2027 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.

Reminder: Any mail sent to church should be mailed to: PO Box 10, Stephentown, NY 12168
Barbara

MUSIC News

Choir

Choir continues to meet on Thursdays at 6 pm with one exception. The Thursday before the second Sunday 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.

The Front Pew Band Returns

We're gearing up for another fun season of using our musical gifts to serve in worship. The band will play on the second Sunday of each month. We rehearse for one hour starting at 5:30 PM on the Thursday before our scheduled Sunday. The first rehearsal is on Thursday, November 5. We'll prepare a song for the following Sunday, November 8 and also spend time on pieces for December and beyond.

Band members will be encouraged to participate in the creative process as we work together on each piece. Song suggestions are welcome! Currently, there's a little gospel, a little contemporary and a touch of country in the mix as possible selections. If you're looking for a place to sing or play (or both) once per month, this might be a good fit for you. You do not have to be able to read music to participate. For more information, contact Jennifer Caswell, band leader.

For the most part, we don't bite, so if you want to give The Front Pew Band a try, please do!!

Truly, Jennifer

For the Front Pew Band





November 29th,

Please sign up to help decorate our church following the service. All are welcome to help.



Are you interested in being a part of advent services by lighting the advent candles??? We need volunteers – families, friends, couples - beginning Nov. 29th. There is a sign-up sheet by the piano. If you have questions, please talk to Bev.



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE, **December 20th - 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 if you have a poem or song to share with the community to welcome the light during the service please contact Bev Westfall @ morg104@aol.com.

We want to have everyone scheduled 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 with lessons and carols. This is a story of hope for all ages. Join us for music from the Choir.



Long – term Prayer Concerns:

Georgie, Kelly, Mary Hamilton, Betty Ann Hanlon, Don Leab, Marge, Lois Leab, Joane & Paul McMillan, 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, Trygve Tomlinson & family, Joe & Arlene Longo, Sal Longo, Martha Lagerwahl, Karen Volpi, Judy & Joe Leland, Barbara (Leland's daughter), Angelica (Leland's granddaughter), Debbie Knapp, Kathryn & the twins, Victoria, Sam & Ben, James & his family, Garrett, Peggy, Mike, & Greg, Janice, Melisa/Lou/Jake/Brett, Cindy Hennig, Laurelyn & Doug Mahen, Laurelyn & Doug's daughter-in law's mom, Becca Fenander, Margie Fenander, Jane Lancaster, Jessica Morris' mom, Nancy Rogers, Zack Hanson, Deb Pentak, Edna May and family, Peter Hamilton, Paula Robinson, Fred King, Avin Mayette, Denise (Therese Hatch's sister), Sherry & Mel Gallup, Sue, Janet Atwater, Judy & John Harper, Jonathan Koepp, Rob Fronsman & Family, Phil & Annie Trowbridge & family, David (Joy's brother-in-law), Heather & family, Richie (Skip's friend), Rick (Mary S nephew), Joanne (Kate's friend), Ruth Culver (Kate's friend), Linda Cook, Jonathan (Donna's nephew), the LGBTQ community, Pastor Chris & his mom JoAnne, Marianne (Jeans' sister), Karen Hatch, Skip & Donna Densing, Doug & Nancy Machler, Josh, Connie (Helen's friend), Alan (from Laundromat), Carolyn & Walt (Alan's sister/husband), Cameron (Joe-from laundromat- nephew), Ruth & David Wadsworth, Lois Leab, Peggy Brueckmann, Ruth & Bruce Culver, and Leslie (friend of Mary S.), Helen's family and friends

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!**

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held on January 17th, 2027 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.



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

December	5	Marianne Smith
	5	Acelyn Plouffe
	17	Sheryl Duncan
	17	Janice Walther
	18	Fred Wallbank
	19	Lynn Morris
	21	Joy Lowenthal
	25	Donna Densing
	26	Nancy Beal
	28	Malik Plouffe
	31	Joan McMillan
	31	Helen Wallbank

January	5	Silas Cushing
	14	Malcolm Beal
	17	Mary Schnyer
	17	Portia Westfall
	23	Cynthia Weber
	24	Richard Beckwith
	25	Stewart Pease
	25	Marge Feathers
	27	Jean Bolen

1st Sunday - Communion

2nd Sunday - Front Pew Band

3rd Sunday - Hymn Sing

Note

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 29th. 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 $_____