

STEPHENTOWN FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER JANUARY – MARCH 2026

Search Committee Update

The search committee continues to meet on Mondays at 2 PM a couple of times a month. We now have completed the required paperwork for the Presbyterians. Our session and our clerk of session Larry Eckhardt have approved our paperwork. It next goes to COMAC which is the local group out in Albany, Troy, Schenectady area. Following that, it will go to the national in Kentucky for their approval.

On February 9 at 2 PM we will be meeting with Debbie Earthrowl, Albany District Superintendent, for a consultation to begin our paperwork with the Methodists. The good news with that is much of the paperwork that we have used for Presbytery we could reuse the same info for Methodist. We appreciate your patience and your prayers as we continue through both of our denominational steps towards a new spiritual leader.



We celebrate the NFL's Super Bowl with our own "Souper Bowl" on Sunday, February 8th. 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 are a few 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)

MINISTERS FEBRUARY/MARCH

February 1st. Rev. Kathi Jones
8th. Rev. Bob Lowenthal

15th Rev. Susan Schultz

22 Rev Kathi Jones 1st Sunday in Lent

March 1st Rev. Kathi Jones 2nd Sunday in Lent
8th Rev. Bob Lowenthal 3rd Sunday In Lent
Daylight savings begins

15th Rev. Andrea Holroyd

22nd Rev. Susan Schultz 5th Sunday in Lent

29th Rev. Kathi Jones Palm/Passion Sunday

Choir

The weather has not been cooperating with our choir rehearsals. We have been trying to rehearse on Sundays following church, but of course this past Sunday there was no church because of this big storm so we will go back to our Thursday night, so we don't miss a rehearsal. It is our intent for the month of February to have rehearsals on Sunday morning following the church service in place of Thursday night rehearsals. We hope for more cooperation from the weather.

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:** Stephentown Federated Church
Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 10, Stephentown, 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: *Generator Fund, Memorial, heat or utilities*).
- **Thank you:** for your gifts — financial & with your time and service.

This year we need to collect \$1076.00 @ week to meet the projected expenses.

Denominational Apportionments for 2026

We appreciate members of each of the denominations paying their amount due to keep your membership valid.

Presbyterians is \$46.00

Methodist is \$134.00

Stephentown Federated Church Stephentown Federated Church Officers for 2026

Members of Presbyterian Session

Heather Eckhardt (2027)
Paul McMillan (2027)
Marge Feathers (2028)
Larry Eckhardt (2028) Clerk of Session
Judy Leland (2029)
Helen Wallbank (2029)

Members of Methodist Church Council

Janet Atwater (2027)
Georgi Bebee (2027)
Jean Bolen (2028)
Joanne Hennig (2028) Chairperson
Donna Densing (2029)
Kate Beach (2029)

Nominating Committee

Malcolm Beal, Presb. -Chair
Donna Densing, Meth.
Heather Eckhardt, Presb.
Joan McMillan, Meth.
Kate Beach, Meth.

Members of the General Committee

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| Pastor (vacant) | Marianne Smith (SonShiners) |
| Arlene Longo, Secretary | Barbara Terpening, Treasurer |
| Jean Bolen (Council) | Tom Smith, Facility Chair |
| vacancy (Christian Ed) | Jonathan Koepp(Community Breakfast Group) |
| Heather Eckhardt (Session) | Larry Eckhardt (Session) Chair |
| Bev Westfall (Choir,Worship Commt.) | Joanne Hennig (Council) |

Pastor- Parish Committee

Larry Eckhardt – Presb., Chair
Malcolm Beal- Presb.
Joanne Hennig – Meth.
Bev Westfall – Meth.

Community Breakfast Group

Larry Eckhardt, Chair
Kirk Kellogg, Scribe
Paul McMillan, Treasurer

SonShiners

Kate Beach, Pres.
Barbara Terpening, Treasurer
Joanne Hennig, Secretary

Worship/Tech Committee

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Joanne Hennig | Barb Terpening |
| Bonnie Bates | Arlene Longo |
| Bev Westfall - Chair | Janet Atwater |

Denominational Treasurers

Paul McMillan- Presbyterian

Kate Beach- Methodist

Facility Chair: Tom Smith

The Community Breakfast Group News

Winter 2026

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 - 36 in October, 34 in November, 30 in December and 28 again in January. Many thanks to our great cooks. Our annual "All Church Turkey Dinner" will be on February 21, 2026.

Some activities for the upcoming months:

February 1st - Breakfast at 8:00am. Work on final plans for the turkey dinner.

February 21st – Annual Turkey Dinner. Start serving in house 5:00pm Take-outs available starting at 4:15 pm. Don't miss it!!

March 1st - Breakfast at 8:00am. Make plans for Easter breakfast after Sunrise Service.

April 5th – Easter. Continental-style breakfast after the early morning service at the Garfield Cemetery.

May 3rd – Breakfast at 8:00am. Make plans for Spring clean-up of the Presbyterian Cemetery and church grounds.

Now for The Big Event! Shake off the winter, cabin fever blues, and join us for the winter-time must attend dinner!

It's the
Twenty-second Annual Church Turkey Dinner!!

When: Saturday February 21, 2026

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

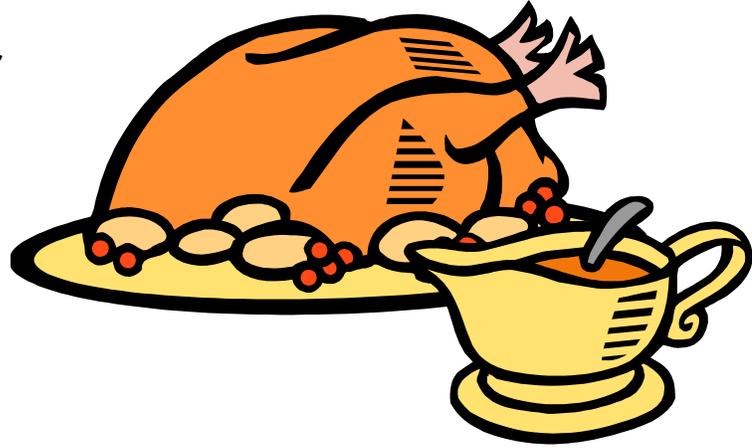
Goodwill offering only!!

Your generous donations help with many church and community needs. Thank you so very much.

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

For Information call:

**Larry Eckhardt 518-573-2565 or
Kate Beach 518-935-8536 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.

We would love to have a few more volunteers to help prepare, serve and help with clean-up after the dinner. Please give Larry or Kate a call and we'll get you scheduled. All part of the great time for fellowship and fun to shake off the winter cabin fever!!

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.

SonShiners

Meetings:

February 15th at 8am – bring a dish to share

March 15th at 8am – Ioka Valley Farm – All welcome – bring tip (donations towards expense appreciated)

April 19th at 8am – bring a dish to share

**February 21st Community Breakfast's Turkey Dinner – Pie donations appreciated
Please consider volunteering to help**

Lenten Devotionals

**Lenten Devotionals will be available on the piano, first come, first serve.
More information about our Lenten services will be coming shortly.**

BIRTHDAYS

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|-----------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| February | 6 | Steve Hatch |
| | 11 | Elizabeth Squires |
| | 22 | Debbie Knapp |
| | 27 | Joe Longo |
| March | 6 | Teresa Hatch |
| | 6 | Laurelyn Mayen |
| | 14 | Julianna Corneliuson-Barnes |
| | 23 | Barbara Terpening |
| | 24 | Arlene Longo |
| | 26 | Bea Gawron |
| | 28 | Jarrid Brazie |



Long - term Prayer Concerns:

Georgie, Kelly & Joe, Mary & Frank Hamilton, Betty Ann Hanlon, Don Leab, Marge, Adrienne & family, Tom Foody, 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, Joe & Arlene Longo, Tony Longo & his partner Dana (praying for the blessing of a baby), 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, Victoria, Sam & Ben, James & his family, Garrett, Peggy, Mike, & Greg, Janice, Melisa/Lou/Jake/Brett, Shannon Adams, Cindy Hennig, Titi Lourdes (Jay's aunt), Terrienne Koepf, 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, The Eckhardt Family, 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!

Easter Flower Order Form 2026 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 each and Spring Bulbs \$10.00 each. We are asking that you have your order in by **March 8th**. 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.

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| Your name or family name(s) | In memory of: | Specify your choice of: Lily \$15 or Spring Bulbs \$10.00 each |
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| 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 |
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Total number of Lilies at \$15.00 each _____ and/or

Spring Bulbs ordered at \$10.00 each _____

Our total amount enclosed \$ _____