

St. Stephen's United Church of Christ

2024 MAY NEWSLETTER



Church Calendar

When clicking the link above you will be directed to our church calendar. Maria will be maintaining the calendar of all church activities. Please notify her of events that you would like posted and/or any revisions needed. Remember, schedules remain a moving target so always check for current updates. Thanks, Maria.

You can reach Maria at saintstephensucc@gmail.com

Updates of Current Church Activities

- **First Fridays of the Valley**, Friday, May 3, from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Weather permitting, we will be hosting a potting party in the “Almost Secret Garden” at St. Stephens Church. Poseys are chanting “come and create a Mother’s Day pot of flowers.” Refreshments will be available. Contact Sarah Jones for further details, s.f.jones@comcast.net

Additional events scheduled throughout downtown can be found [here](#).

- **Confirmation Classes** are continuing with the following confirmands attending: Tinsley Janney, Ashby Woodard, Zachery Breeden, Olivia and Josephine ‘JoJo’ Rudicille. The confirmation service has been rescheduled for Sunday, June 9th @10:30 a.m. with celebration festivities immediately following the service.
- Council Meeting, originally scheduled for Sunday, May 19th has been rescheduled to the following Sunday, May 26th @ 9:30 a.m.

Prayers, Concerns and Praises

Frances Owens, Patti Rockhill & Brian Snider, Tom Snider, Allen Lee, Seth Arnold, Eric Ruple, Ainsley Woodard, Betty Snider, Dixie & Ed Courtright, Sylvia & Rodney Eagle, Paul Chowdhury, Howard Pratt

Maria recently learned of Faye Kirsh's new address for those who would like to contact her: Warwick Forest, 1000 Old Denbigh Blvd., Newport News, VA 23602.

May Birthdays

Grayson Newberry - 1	Addison Newberry - 17	Gavin Smith - 24
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Missions at St. Stephen's

At the core of the Christian faith is the call of Jesus to be servants in the service of others. At Saint Stephen's, our mission outreach extends to the community we call home. Among our missional efforts, there are several ministries to which we focus our attention:

Patchwork Pantry - <https://www.patchworkpantry.org/>

Saturday Lunch Program - Each Saturday between 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., a hot meal and a to-go meal are provided for the needy in our area. Saint Stephen's UCC hosts the community meal in partnership with Harrisonburg Baptist Church about once a quarter, serving a hearty and nutritious meal, packing a brown bag lunch, and providing personal hygiene items to guests.

St. Stephen's will be hosting this event on Saturday, May 18th. All are welcome to participate in the fellowship.

Alcoholic Anonymous - <https://harrisonburgaa.org/>

Community Counseling Center - <https://hbccc.org/>

Habitat for Humanity - <https://www.habitat.org/>

Open Doors - <https://www.valleyopendoors.org/>

People Helping People - <https://phpharrisonburg.org/>

'TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD' ...

On the evening of April 5, 2024, melodic tones were ringing from the rafters at St Stephens UCC. The frisson and smiles of delight was evident on all faces and the music virtuoso was Elizabeth Williams. She shared her talent by delivering the sweet tones of the baby grand along with the rich, round sounds of the organ.

James McHone graciously sponsored Ms Williams, gifting us an evening of sheer delight. Thank you James and Ms Williams, it was a THRILL!





Welcome Craig, Amy and Tinsley!

(even though you have been with us a while)

On Sunday, April 14, 2024, Saint Stephen's welcomed Craig Allen Janney as the sixteenth installed pastor. The Installation Service culminated the Spring Shenandoah Association Meeting that was held at our church. We were blessed by fifty attendees who ended the service by the laying on of hands. In attendance were eleven clergy from the Association, and Rev. Freeman Palmer and Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice from the Central Atlantic Conference.

The service was enhanced by organist/pianist Elizabeth Williams. Presentations were offered from Saint Stephen's members and Youth, Shenandoah Association members, and the Central Atlantic Conference. The sermon entitled, "On Priests and Peddlers", focused on 2 Corinthians 14-17, and was posthumously delivered by Daniel Goodman. Mr. Goodman, Pastor and Chair of New Testament Interpretation at Gardner Webb University, was an important influence in Pastor Craig's journey to ministry.

Following the Service of Installation, a welcoming reception was held in the Garrison Room.









Our Parish Life Chair, Nancy Cornwell, prepared a magical feast of homemade delicacies that dazzled all reception guests. Single handedly, Nancy conquered a feat normally created by a half of dozen caterers.

THANK YOU, to our gifted and gracious Nancy, with love from your church family.





A final joy recognized in April was a trip taken by many of the Bible Study class participants to The Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC. It is a wonderful museum filled with rich bible history, influences and ongoing engagement for continued growth in ones' pilgrimage. This experience is well worth your time to explore.

We were pampered with the privilege of being chauffeured by "Bit" with RideWithRog services in Staunton, VA. If not for this indulgence, most of us would not have made the trip. It was a delightful way to travel!



Message to All:

We invite you to share your personal activities/events/joys/memories under the 'Tell Me Something Good' section. Please send it to me, at kay.acker@comcast.net in a PDF file. Pictures are welcomed but need to be in a jpeg or png format.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please contact Maria at saintstephensucc@gmail.com; or respond accordingly to this email.

Serving St. Stephen's UCC in 2024 ...

- Nancy Cornwell, President
- Tom Dawson, Vice President
- Jane Garber, Secretary
- Patti King
- Kay Acker
- James McHone, Treasurer
- DD Dawson, Financial Secretary
- Craig A. Janney, Pastor
- Maria Blair, Church Secretary

Minutes of Council Meetings can be found posted in the Garrison Room. (Current Minutes are subject to approval and acceptance at the following Council meeting)

Rejoice, our Redeemer Lives!!

"Everybody wants to change the world, but nobody thinks about changing himself." Leo Tolstoy