

St. Stephen's United Church of Christ

2025 APRIL 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

END MARCH REMINDERS

- **5th Sunday**, March 30th @ 10:30 a.m. We will gather at church and stroll downtown (or drive for those who prefer) and meet at the Broad Porch Coffee & Cafe, on the Square, for a drink, danish, and fellowship.

Updates of Current Church Activities

- **Community Lunch**, April 5th @ 9:30 a.m.
- **Council Meeting**, rescheduled for April 13th @ 9:30 a.m.
- **Palm Sunday Service**, April 13th @ 10:30 a.m.
- **Maundy Thursday Service**, April 17th @ 6 p.m.
- **Good Friday Service**, April 18th @ 7 p.m.
- ***Easter Sunrise Service, April 20th @ 7 a.m. in the church garden; Breakfast following service, Church Service @ 10:30 a.m.***

Update & Schedule of Mission Outreach Projects

Please mark your calendars and become a part of the joy of giving. Contact DD Dawson with questions and opportunities in which to serve or contribute; dddawson63@gmail.com

Blessing Boxes

If the swiftness by which items from the Blessing Boxes disappear is any indication, they are indeed a blessing to those in our community. Each week you all bring non-perishable items that are placed in the blessing boxes that are located in the parking lot of the Harrisonburg Baptist Church and in the southwest corner of the Keezletown Ruritan Club. As items are collected, they are distributed to the two boxes on Monday of each week. Due to your generosity, the boxes are well stocked. By Wednesday, you can see that items have been collected by those in need and it is time to re-stock. The most popular items at the Harrisonburg Baptist Church appear to be snack crackers, granola bars, small bottles of water, and Vienna sausages with the pull tops. In Keezletown, the boxes of macaroni and cheese and cans of beef stew appear to be most popular. As we continue to support this mission, please consider bringing items to church on Sundays and place them on the back pew. They will graciously be delivered to the local blessing boxes.

***A look ahead for Community Lunches being served at St. Stephen's Church are currently scheduled for **Saturday, April 5th** and **Saturday, June 7th**.



Prayers, Concerns and Praises



Let us continue to offer our prayers and well wishes to the following people in our church family and those associated with members of our church:

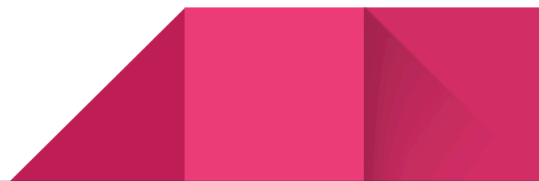
Sid Cornwell, Eric Ruple, Howard Pratt, Ray Clary, Justin Smith, Harvey Ansell, Kris Slocum, Debbie Price, Kelly, and Clay James

April Birthdays

Hunter Carter - 6	Crosby Stajduhar - 24	Josephine Rudacille - 29
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Something to think about ...

"Pain is weakness leaving the body."



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/>

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/>



"Rerun" A Thin Slice of Joy

March started with a bang! - On Saturday, the 1st, we enjoyed a wonderful day spent with Rev. Dr. Katie Low, lecturing on "Women of the Bible". If you weren't able to join us, perhaps you can join another time. It was a lively and enriching experience.

March 5th kicked off Lent with an "Ash Wednesday" service. We were treated to beautiful music from the choir and organist/pianist, Elizabeth Williams.



“Tell me something Good...”

We recently discovered this exciting news regarding our gifted organist/pianist, Elizabeth Williams.

Under the direction of Dr. Jo-Anne van der Vat -Chromy, I am one two piano accompanists that will be traveling with members of the JMU Chorale and The Madison Singers to perform “Triptych,” composed by Tarik O’Regan. In addition to the choir, we will also have a percussion ensemble and dancers performing as well.

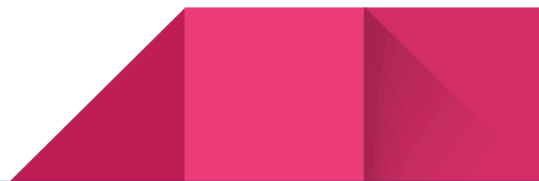
My job from the beginning of this new year has been serving as the percussion ensemble; I was basically the orchestra (and by that I mean playing everything the orchestra would play), until time for choir and all to finally rehearse with the percussionists, who will ultimately replace me (the accompanist) for the final performance.

While I’m in NY, my responsibilities will be to rehearse with the soloist (we will be using one from Carnegie!) and choir as needed up until their Carnegie debut, which will be on Saturday, March 22nd.

I am honored to be a part of this magnificent group, and although I will not actually be on stage when they perform (orchestra takes over), I will be listening out in the audience knowing that I did my part in helping to get JMU to NYC!

See you in church!

Elizabeth



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 an email.

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 2025 ...

- Kay Acker, President
- Hunter Woodard, Vice President
- Jane Garber, Secretary
- DD Dawson, Financial Secretary
- Patti King
- James McHone, Treasurer
- 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!

