

St. Stephen's United Church of Christ

2025 MARCH 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

- **Ash Wednesday Service**, Wednesday, March 5th @ 6 p.m.
- **First Sunday in Lent; Coffee Hour**, March 9th @ 10 a.m.
- **Lenten Bible Study Begins**, March 9th immediately following worship service
- **Youth Sunday School**, March 2nd and 16th
- **Council Meeting**, March 16th @ 9:30 a.m.
- **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

A Sneak Peek at April & Lenten Season

Palm Sunday is April 13th and will include a Coffee Hour. This begins our holy week with Maundy Thursday on April 17th, Good Friday on April 18th, and Easter Sunday on April 20th.

Pastor Craig has scheduled an ***Easter Sunrise Service for 7 a.m. in the church garden***, weather permitting, followed by brunch. Other services will be determined and shared at a later date.



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

Hi All,

As part of Mission Outreach in our community, it may be helpful to provide food and other items to organizations in this area throughout the year rather than just around the holidays or during a special event.

To that end, I've been looking at the local Wednesday Food Lion ads and picking up BOGO (buy one get one) or sale items as they become available and providing them either to the pet food pantry, the little "Grab and Go" food closet at Harrisonburg Baptist Church, or the food closet at the Keezletown Ruritan Club.

If you are so inclined and at Food Lion and have a Food Lion discount card, please consider picking up items that are easy to "grab and go" (cracker packets, granola bars, etc.), canned goods or other non-perishable items for a person to fix, or dog or cat food (canned or dry). If you bring them to church, I'll be happy to distribute them next week.

BE SURE TO LOOK FOR THE BOGO OR SALE SIGNAGE when buying items to make sure those are the ones on sale. I've picked up the wrong items before!

Above are just some suggestions ... you may see other items and even items at other stores. Whatever you pick up, I'm happy to drop off and even happy for any of you to come along when I do drop off items. My schedule is pretty flexible during the week.

Thank you to each of you for your continued generosity.

DD

***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, and Kelly



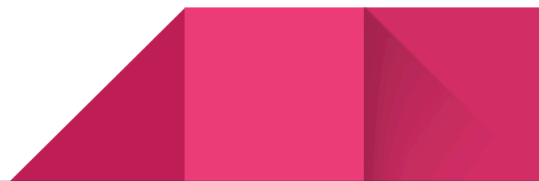
March Birthdays

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Kathy Starick - 8 | David Frye - 9 | Brenda Sullivan - 10 | Wes McHone - 12 |
| Logan Frye - 21 | Tom Dawson - 23 | Chuck Sellers - 27 | Denise Allen - 30 |



News from the Christian Education Committee...

Lenten Bible Study will begin on Sunday, March 9th and run for six weeks, ending on Palm Sunday, April 13th. The class will begin soon after worship service each Sunday. We hope many will participate in this Lenten journey.



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

What do you do when you're expecting company? You clean up, of course! And the clean freaks at St. Stephen's did just that on Saturday, February 15. The efforts of this group of ladies and gentlemen really made a difference in the social hall. They moved furniture, scrubbed down baseboards, re-organized supplies, repaired pews and other items, and just gave a general “sprucing up” to the place. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Katie Low for our workshop on March 1 and are proud of our beautiful little church. Thank you to all that helped – physically or spiritually.

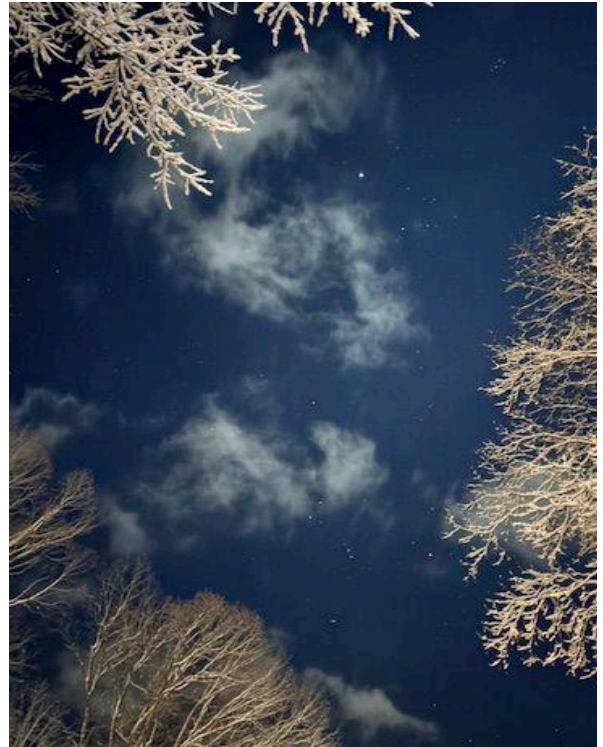


“Tell me something Good...”

To the Evening Star

By William Blake

Thou fair-haired angel of the evening,
Now, whilst the sun rests on the mountains, light
Thy bright torch of love; thy radiant crown
Put on, and smile upon our evening bed!
Smile on our loves, and while thou drawest the
Blue curtains of the sky, scatter thy silver dew
On every flower that shuts its sweet eyes
In timely sleep. Let thy west wing sleep on
The lake; speak silence with thy glimmering eyes,
And wash the dusk with silver. Soon, full soon,
Dost thou withdraw; then the wolf rages wide,
And the lion glares through the dun forest.
The fleeces of our flocks are covered with
Thy sacred dew; protect with them with thine influence.



P. S. “Tell Me Something Very, Very Good” ...



I apologize, shamelessly, for hijacking this platform to tell you about our personal “**Very, very good news**”. (obviously, I couldn't refuse :) Jim & I are proud to announce the birth of our 10th grandchild, and Sarah & Steve Jones' 10th grand niece/nephew; born two days ago.

Lily Josephine Gilbert

We are reminded... “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” La 3:22-23

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!

