

St. Stephen's United Church of Christ

2025 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



A special thanks to Virginia Fulginiti and Jay for this new church photo.

[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

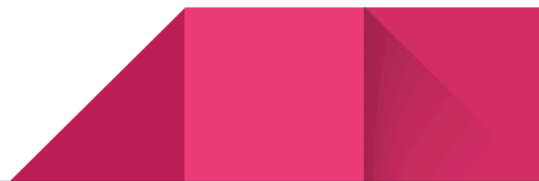
FEBRUARY EVENTS

- **Communion Sunday**, February 2nd @ 10:30
- **Youth Sunday School**, February 2nd and 16th
- **Annual Meeting & Lunch** (no coffee hour), February 9th immediately following worship
- **Church Clean Up Day**, Saturday, February 15th from 10 a.m. to noon
- **Council Meeting**, February 16th @ 9:30 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

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

Following is an update from Scott Smith, emailed to Sarah Jones, to be shared with the congregation:

Dear friends at St. Stephens:

Thanks so much for the prayers, the cards and the positive thoughts for me these last few months. After being diagnosed over the summer with an autoimmune disease, it has been a journey to find the correct doctor, the correct treatment and even the correct medication. My health has improved greatly from a network of doctors from Martha Jefferson Hospital in Charlottesville. I'm convinced your prayers helped guide me to a place of healing. I am finally playing the piano again and feel so much better.

My very best to each of you and sincere thanks. You are such a warm, considerate and caring congregation.

Scott Zane Smith

February Birthdays

Craig Anders - 15	Craig Janney - 25
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News from the Christian Education Committee...

Women of the Bible – A One Day Study – Saturday, March 1, 2025

Join us for a day of inspiration, learning, and reflection at the Women of the Bible Conference hosted by Saint Stephen's United Church of Christ!

When: Saturday, March 1, 2025 **(Please note the updated date.)**

Where: Saint Stephen's United Church of Christ

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Katie Low, Professor of Religious Studies and Chaplain of Mary Baldwin University.

This one-day event offers an enriching journey through the lives and testimonies of biblical women who shaped faith and changed history.

Conference Schedule:

9:30 a.m. – Continental Breakfast
10:00 a.m. – Seminar 1: Matriarchs
10:50 a.m. – Short Break
11:10 a.m. – Seminar 2: Royal Women
12:00 p.m. – Lunch
1:00 p.m. – Reflection Walk
1:20 p.m. – Seminar 3: Wisdom Women
2:10 p.m. – Short Break
2:30 p.m. – Seminar 4: Women of Witness
3:20 p.m. – Theological Reflection
3:30 p.m. – Conclusion



The \$10 registration fee includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks throughout the day. Enter promo code MEMBER for your free registration.

Space is limited, so secure your spot and register today!

[ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Lenten study will begin the first Sunday of Lent, March 9th . More to come closer to the event.



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/>

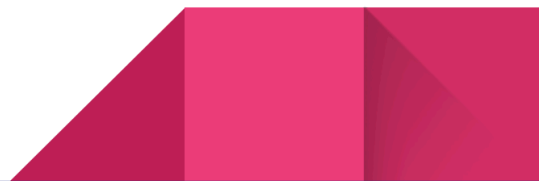
Open Doors - <https://www.valleyopendoors.org/>

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



“Rerun” A Thin Slice of Joy

We enjoyed so many holiday events during Advent, we thought a photo journal would be a fun way to revisit some of the excitement.

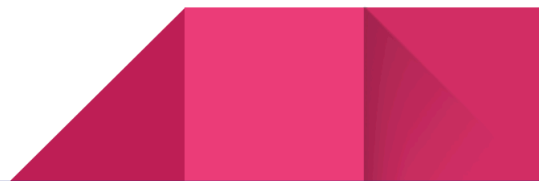




Our youth (and our pastor and his wife) represented us well by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at the Burgess Road Walmart on December 21.

Left picture from L to R: Olivia Rudacille, Ashby Woodard, and Amy Janney

Right picture from L to R: Tinsley Janney, Zachary Breeden, and Josephine Rudacille



“Tell me something Good...”

A message of Happiness, from Sarah Jones...

WOW... A professor gave a balloon to every student, who had to inflate it, write their name on it and throw it in the hallway. The professor then mixed all the balloons. The students were then given 5 minutes to find their own balloon. Despite a hectic search, no one found their balloon.

At that point, the professor told the students to take the first balloon that they found and hand it to the person whose name was written on it. Within 5 minutes, everyone had their own balloon.

The professor said to the students: "These balloons are like happiness. We will never find it if everyone is looking for their own. But if we care about other people's happiness, we'll find ours too.

Credit - original owner (respect 🍌)



A break in the gender stereotype was recognized on the first Coffee Hour of 2025. Steve Jones graciously hosted the January event and did a great job...with a little help from his friends :)

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to DD for her patience and continued help in making this newsletter better each month.

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!

