

St. Stephen's United Church of Christ

2024 JUNE 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

- **Communion Sunday**, June 2nd @ 10:30
- **First Fridays of the Valley**, Friday, June 7th from 5 - 7 p.m. - St. Stephen's Church will host Elisa Slater and her enchanting "Fairy Gardens". In her mesmerizing showcase, Elisa Slater invites you to explore her whimsical creations, from intricately designed fairy gardens to delicate tea cup terrariums, beautiful acrylic paintings, captivating mixed media pieces, and exquisite jewelry. Select pieces will be for sale.



Contact Sarah Jones for further details, s.f.jones@comcast.net

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

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- The long awaited **CELEBRATION OF OUR CONFIRMANDS** is soon upon us! Please mark your calendars and help us celebrate each one of these beloved, young adults on **Sunday, June 9th @10:30 a.m** with a memorable church service, immediately followed by a joyful reception in the Garrison Room. You won't want to miss this special event.
 - On two consecutive Saturdays in June, we will be hosting two separate church groups for overnight. Church of Christ Congregational will stay with us the evening of June 22th; and Orange Congregational (who has stayed several times with us) will be with us the evening of June 29th. Both of these young groups are enroute to do mission work in other parts of the state. *We invite any helpers with feeding and accommodating these young church members and leaders. We will be serving dinner and breakfast to both groups.* Please contact Nancy Cornwell with any questions, and thank you in advance for your much appreciated assistance.
 - Council Meeting, June 16th @ 9:30 a.m.
 - Fifth Sunday, June 30th - Plans are underway to, hopefully, combine our church brunch to include the visiting youth group before they head out Sunday a.m. Further details will be shared as schedules are confirmed.

Prayers, Concerns and Praises

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

June Birthdays

Julie Liskey - 4	Lindsay McHone - 5	Steve Jones - 11
Mike Baxter - 12	Mollie Sellers - 21	Zachary Breeden - 30


Dear St. Stephen's Church...

Dear Pastor Craig Janney & the Congregation of St. Stephen's United Church of Christ,

I wanted to personally thank you for welcoming me into the church. Every Sunday was a highlight of my years in Virginia, for every sermon and every song healed me more and more each week. When I first came to the Church, I was at a very dark time in my life. I was suffering from depression, a lack of community, and poor coping choices. I also grew up never understanding religion and faith, but St. Stephen's has changed my life and set me on the right course.

I have loved and will cherish the community of this church for all time. Each sermon held at least one point of wisdom I needed to hear, and I am eternally grateful for Pastor Janney's words, for the church, and the love from Jesus that helped guide me towards spiritual health and happiness. I would have never thought that joining the church would be the one thing I needed to heal, but these past four months showed just that.

I am going to deeply miss St. Stephen's and all of its lovely members, but I look forward to doing some searching back home for another church to sing with. I sincerely wish the best



for everyone, and bless you all for the love you have shown me. When I return to Harrisonburg one day, I look forward to joining in for another service.

Love,

Thomas "TJ" Oxbrough

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.

A note from DD...

In May we hosted the Saturday Lunch Program

Hotdogs, macaroni salad, calico beans, strawberry lemonade, brownies and ice cream -- oh my!!! On Saturday, May 18, our church served that hot meal to our guests as part of the Saturday Lunch Program for Harrisonburg and the surrounding area. Not only did we serve a great meal and handed out "to go" containers and bagged lunches, but we talked with and got to know our guests a little bit better. We all have stories to share, and it was so nice to hear many of them. Glen, one of our guests, joined us for church the following Sunday. What a delight it was to see him there.

Kathy Starick brought along her daughter, Lacy, and grandson, Jaxon, to help with this project. Pastor Craig, Amy, and Tinsley also provided the much needed manpower (and girlpower) to make this another successful lunch -- talking with guests, serving food, and clearing tables. Jaxon prepared hotdogs like a pro! And enough cannot be said about Tinsley's famous strawberry lemonade -- what a treat for our guests!

While the usual "suspects" are solicited for items to put in the bags and prepare the lunch, all are welcome to come help serve the hot meal and meet our guests. Won't you join us? The schedule for July through December has not been developed yet by Harrisonburg Baptist Church, but as soon as it is, it will be published in this newsletter.

All are welcome! Please join us as we continue to serve and make new friends in our community.

A huge "THANKS" to DD Dawson who manages these events. DD heads up our Mission Outreach Committee which makes it possible for us to contribute to our community in myriad ways. She is our inspiration!

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/>

'TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD' ...

DD Dawson kindly shared the following good story; it will make your heart happy. Enjoy!

A simple Turner country ham sandwich; a random text with lots of emojis in it, a bronze horse door stop, and a mason jar of wilted flowers. What do all these things have in common? While it appears they have nothing in common, they actually do. You see, all of these things individually given by different people at different times can just make your day.

A friend dropped off two country ham sandwiches to me at work and

said, "I was at Turner Ham in Fulks Run and remembered you liked country ham, I just picked you up a couple of sandwiches." What a feeling it is to know that someone was thinking about you at a particular time and just did something nice like that.

Hearing your phone ping while at work with a customer, wondering what it might be, checking it after a bit and finding a random text from a friend wishing me a fine day. How great is that feeling? Especially with a bunch of crazy emojis tagging along on that text -- a heart, a skyscraper, a rose, a bottle of wine, a smiley face! What a great respite from work to get that!

And, who doesn't love a random gift? A gift that is perfect for your home! Who knows you better than your sister who just happened to see a horse bronze door stop while visiting her daughter out of state? Isn't it just a wonderful feeling knowing that someone thought of you when they saw a trinket in a store? I know I feel that love.

And, truly there is no better feeling than being gifted with a mason



jar of wildflowers, slightly wilted from being picked with the small, warm hands of a child and haphazardly arranged in a jar.

How lucky am I to have had all of these things gifted to me in one day. I truly am blessed with the best friends and family anyone could hope for. I wonder what tomorrow holds ... What will I do to show the love? It's easy, isn't it? Let's give it a try!

P.S. from May

The First Friday event in May included numerous folks gathered together in the “Almost Secret Garden” of St. Stephen’s Church. Anytime you can be in this magical space is always a special treat!



Many thanks, and much appreciation, are extended to Rachel and David Frye for providing our church family and community this beautiful sanctuary!!



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)

"If we had a keen vision and feeling of all ordinary human life, it would be like hearing the grass grow and the squirrels' heart beat, and we should die of that roar which lies on the other side of silence." George Eliot

Rejoice, our Redeemer Lives!

