

St. Stephen's United Church of Christ

2024 JULY 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

END OF JUNE REMINDERS...

We will be hosting the Orange Congregational (who has stayed several times with us) on the evening of June 29th. These youngsters are enroute to do mission work in other parts of the state. *We invite any helpers with feeding and accommodating the young church members and leaders. We will be serving dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday a.m.*

Happy birthday wishes to Zachary Breeden, June 30th.

- **Fifth Sunday Brunch - June 30th @ 8:30 a.m.!!** We will gather for the Fifth Sunday Brunch at the same time we will be serving the youth group. *To accommodate their travel plans we will coordinate our brunch in conjunction with our visitors. This allows us a special opportunity for fellowship.*

Please contact Nancy Cornwell with any questions, and thank you in advance for your much appreciated assistance.

JULY EVENTS

- **'Jesus at the Movies', July 1st @ 6:30** - "Jesus Christ Superstar"
- **First Fridays of the Valley, Friday, July 5th starting @ 5 - 7 p.m.** - St. Stephen's Church will proudly host **Andrew Magruder**. Further details below.
- Additional events scheduled throughout downtown can be found [here](#).
- **Communion Sunday, July 7th @ 10:30**
- Council Meeting, **July 21st @ 9:30 a.m.**

FEATURE ARTIST FOR FIRST FRIDAY -
JULY 5, 2024, 5 - 7 p.m.

A multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and producer based in Richmond, Virginia. Andrew is a storyteller of music: spanning styles of Country, Folk, and Gospel to Soul, R&B, to hits over the decades. He recently graduated from James Madison University where he was an active member in the music community. Andrew grew up playing violin and guitar in his local church and is now a consistent performer in bluegrass circles, country bands, and folk groups.

You won't want to miss this special evening of fun, family entertainment.

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



“Without music, life would be a mistake.” Friedrich Nietzsche

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

Saturday, July 20 - Community Lunch at our church. Hot meal being served at 10:30.

Saturday, November 2 - Community Lunch at our church. Hot meal being served at 10:30

Saturday, January 4 (2025) - Community Lunch at our church. Hot meal being served at 10:30

Also, this year the Department of Social Services has asked for donations of coloring books and crayons for their December Christmas party. In addition, our church will once again provide \$25 gift cards to be distributed to families for their holiday gift-giving season.



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:

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, Ray Clary, and Amy Snider.

Please share any updates as appropriate.

July Birthdays

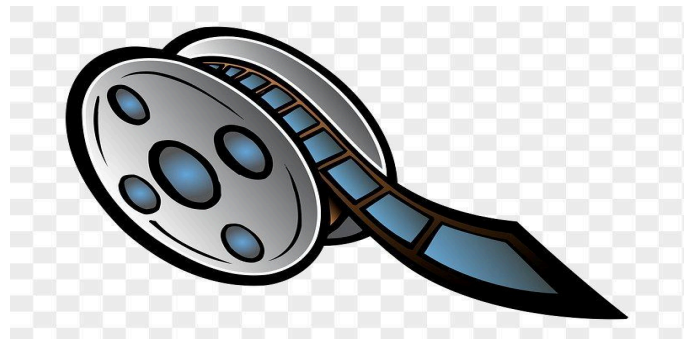
Melode Daisy - 10	Olivia Rudacille - 14	Cody Frye - 14
Tim Newberry - 16	Barb Frye - 17	Linkin Smith - 24
Hunter Woodard - 26	Tish Leeth - 30	

News from the Christian Education Committee...

Looking Ahead! Christian Education

Please mark your calendars for some exciting studies during the summer, Advent, and Lent, 2025. For the summer, we have planned a movie study entitled “Jesus at the Movies.” We will meet every other Monday from 6:30 – 9:00 PM to view movies from the 1970’s – 2023. Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

- June 17 – “The Young Messiah”
- July 1 – “Jesus Christ Superstar”
- July 15 – “Mary Magdeline”
- July 29 – “The Last Temptation of Christ”
- August 12 – “The Shack”
- August 26 – “Jesus Revolution”



For the fall, Pastor Craig will be leading a study on the book, Life Together, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. (\$13.00)

Heaven and Earth by William H. Willimon will be the four week Advent study. (\$14.00)

Tentatively, we are trying to schedule a one day seminar in January to study Women of the Bible.

For the Lenten study, we will be reading The Characters of Easter by Daniel Darling. (\$11.00) We will be looking at several disciples, religious leaders, the women at the tomb, and the executioners.

If you have ideas for the future, please let Maria w/Christian Education know; saintstephensucc@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at all or one of these events.

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' ...

The much awaited Confirmation Service occurred on Sunday, June 9, 2024, and what a moving and special occasion it was. Special thanks are extended to Pastor Craig and Amy who worked tirelessly to bring all these moving parts together. And, most importantly, the family of St. Stephen's Church extends honor and praise to each of the five confirmands who boldly walked this faith journey. Your faith statements were inspiring!

The entire church family extends a huge **thank you to Virginia, and her photography instructor/friend Jay**, for capturing these special moments. Virginia kindly emailed the photo gallery to all church members for their continued enjoyment.



June has been filled with activity and blessings. St. Stephen's Church hosted/will host two youth groups from CT, enroute to mission fields. The first group was from the Church of Christ Congregational which included 37 youth and adults. They were fed dinner on Saturday, June

22nd, bunked out overnight in the church, and departed after breakfast on Sunday, June 23rd. It was a joy to host and serve this wonderful group of mission workers.

A special **thank you to DD** for capturing these photos. I'm not sure why I don't see her in the "silly" group photo :(



At the time of drafting this newsletter our second youth group, Orange Congregational, has not yet arrived. Hopefully, we will have a few photos from their visit in our next newsletter.

“Tell me something Good...”

Words of grace and love, generously shared, by DD Dawson.

It's The Little Things

George Strait released a new song just recently entitled, "It's the Little Things." How do I know that? Because as I was coming to work at 7:10 on Friday morning, June 14, my nephew-in-law (Is that a real term? I think it is), met me in the parking lot, jumped out of his vehicle and gave me a big hug. As you all know, we are going through some health issues with my dad, who has always been so strong and vibrant. It is difficult to see him weak, unstable, and often non-verbal. As part of our family, Joel has been aware of all of this, and with aging grandparents himself, he is experiencing many of the same things. After Joel hugged me, he proudly showed me some cassette tapes (yes, cassette tapes) that he has been playing in his retro Ford truck. He loves George Strait, and his 11 cassette tapes that he found on EBay were all classic George Strait ones. Shortly after he departed, he sent me a text that said, "As we were talking, George Strait released this new single. Maybe it will bring you some encouragement." The link was to the music video to the song, "It's the Little Things." This really is a lovely song with some great sentiments in it. It made me think of those "little things" in my life that I'm so grateful for that may not seem like a lot on the surface, but truly make a difference in how I face the day. For instance, I mentioned one day to Tom that I hate backing out of my parking space at work because I think it slows me down. Tom now makes it a point to go out sometime during the day (sometimes several times a day if I'm in and out of the office) to back my car into the space so I can make that "quick getaway." A special friend sends me a text every day with words of encouragement. Another friend sends me a text with just a heart emoji, letting me know that I'm being thought of. My colleagues here at work are quick to offer

"non-work" help -- they are currently packing bags of goodies for our guests staying at our church in June on their way to mission work. It has been a joy lately just riding around the county with my mom and dad in the evenings, listening to him tell me the history of so much in this area. Truly, these little things are really BIG things when you really think about it. I leave you with this, the last lines in that George Strait song:

"I guess all I really want to say
Don't let the big get in the way
Of the little things"

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)

P. S. If you noticed the newsletter looked dressed up this month, it is with special **thanks and appreciation to DD** who taught me more computer techniques and tips!! It takes a village 😊

George Strait pretty much says it all in the words DD shared above, and as I paraphrase here...our greatest treasures are hidden in plain sight.

Rejoice, our Redeemer Lives!