

St. Stephen's United Church of Christ

2024 NOVEMBER 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

A Special Message from Church Secretary, Maria:

Job Opportunity at Bridge of Hope

Bridge of Hope is an organization located in Harrisonburg/Rockingham that stresses Churches Respond, Homelessness Ends, and Hope Begins. At this time, Bridge of Hope continues to search for an Executive Director to lead daily operations, expand and manage financial resources, make important decisions on our future in collaboration with the Board of Directors, and affirm that decisions adhere to the mission and values of the organization.

If you are interested in the above, contact Deborah Raynes, Board Chair, at Deborah.raynes11@gmail.com or to the current Executive Director at EDbridgeofhopeinc.org

Updates of Current Church Activities

END OF OCTOBER REMINDERS...

- Halloween is Thursday, October 31. Get ready for those Trick or Treaters!!



NOVEMBER EVENTS

- **First Fridays of the Valley**, Friday, November 1, 2024; 5 - 7 p.m. - Join us for a Chrismon Ornament Making Workshop at St. Stephen's Church. Chrismons ("Christ monograms") are beautiful symbols that tell the story of Jesus Christ and placed on Christmas trees. This workshop will include guided tutorials on creating Chrismons using mixed media with plenty of hands-on creativity, encouragement, and fellowship. All are welcome to explore this tradition together. Light refreshments will be served immediately after the event. Other venues and events scheduled throughout downtown can be found [here](#).

-
- **Community Lunch/Breakfast**, at St. Stephen's, November 2nd, preparation @ 9:30 a.m., serving @ 10:30 a.m.; please come to serve & visit our guests
 - **Communion Sunday**, November 3rd @ 10:30
 - **Fall Congregational Meeting**, November 10th immediately after worship service; election of new Council members and acceptance of budget. Coffee Hour to follow.
 - **Youth Sunday School**, November 10, 2024, 9:00 a.m. & November 24, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
 - **Council Meeting**, November 17th @ 9:30 a.m.
 - **Decorate Christmas Trees**, in sanctuary, November 25th @ 10:00 a.m
 - ***Sneak Peak early in December; Hanging of the Greens***, December 1st @ 10:30 a.m.; **Communion**, December 8th @ 10:30 a.m. service

Council Elections

It is now time for nominations for two candidates for the St. Stephen's United Church of Christ Council for the 2025-2028 term. The election will be held at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 10, 2024 immediately following the church service. Please consider who you would like to nominate that you feel would make good Council members for St. Stephen's. Prior to nominating them, please be sure they agree to serve. Forms will be in the bulletins or you can send your nominations to www.saintstephensucc.com The following members of the Church Council whose terms expire on December 31, 2024 are not eligible for re-election: Nancy Cornwell and Tom Dawson. Members serving unexpired terms are: Kay Acker, Jane Garber, and Patti King. These people should not be nominated. If you would like a copy of the proposed budget, notify the office at the website above, and a copy will be sent to you. Copies will also be available in the rear of the sanctuary.

Coffee hour will be held following the congregational meeting while the ballots are being counted.

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, 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

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, Eric Ruple, Howard Pratt, Gerald Roddy, Ray Clary, Ellen Hicks, Scott Zane Smith

Please share any updates as appropriate.



November Birthdays

T.C. Frye - 3	Jerilyn Monts - 5	Nicole Newberry - 5
Ginger Newberry - 8	Ray Clary - 13	Melinda Loeblich - 13
Danielle Bennington - 16	Maria Blair - 21	

News from the Christian Education Committee...

Christian Education Update

Our Book Study of Life Together continues to meet following the service. We hope to finish the study by the first Sunday in November.

Beginning December 1st , the Advent Study begins with Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation by Will Willimon. The study will last for the first four Sundays in December following the service. We invite everyone who would like to take part. We enjoy having many different views! The cost of the book will be around \$15 +/- . I will take orders the first week of November.

We are actively planning a one day, January study, on Women of the Bible. Hopefully this will take place on a Saturday later in January. We hope to have the Reverend Katherine (Katie) Low work with us in this endeavor.

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/>



“Tell me something Good...”

By Jeanie Cupp

“Flowers are the earth’s endless effort to speak to the listening heaven.” – Tagore

My husband, Tim, and I began worshipping at St. Stephen’s this year but have not yet met many of you who may be reading this. We hope to get to know more of you soon. Several years ago, Tim and I moved to the farm in western Rockingham County where he grew up and where his ancestors have lived for generations. The land surrounding the 150 year old farmhouse had only been used to grow hay for a local farmer for many years until our son, Timothy, decided to restore the land and establish a flower and vegetable farm. He will be moving here permanently this fall with his new bride, Stephanie, to bring his dreams for Snapp Ridge Gardens to life. In the process, he is creating for me a backyard full of beautiful flowers. I’m sure heaven will be listening.



“You Handled It So Well.” Did I?

Did I really handle it well, or did I just hide it well enough for you to think I’m okay?

I wonder what they would say if they knew how often I’ve cried out to God, “Please, just help me get through this.”

Maybe I look strong to the world, but inside, I know I’ve only made it this far because of God’s grace. He’s the one who’s been holding me together when I thought I would fall apart.

So, no, I didn’t handle it well. God did. And He’s still handling it, because without Him, I know I wouldn’t have made it this far.

Source Unknown (as seen on the Internet)



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)

Rejoice, our Redeemer Lives!

