

# St. Stephen's United Church of Christ

## 2024 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

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## 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](mailto:saintstephensucc@gmail.com)

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# Updates of Current Church Activities

## END OF SEPTEMBER REMINDERS...

**September 29th @ 10:30 - Fifth Sunday Picnic** - covered dish picnic; all are welcome. Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life Together book study begins immediately following the church picnic

## OCTOBER EVENTS

- **First Fridays of the Valley**, Friday, October 4, 2024; 6 to 7 p.m. - Justin Hensley, 18 years old, from Elkton VA. Justin is a 2024 graduate of East Rockingham High School. When he was 15 years old, he taught himself guitar while his school was closed due to Covid. A year later, he played at his first open mc. Since then, he has started playing at different churches, breweries, college events, venues, and festivals in VA and WV. Justin currently works full time at Massanutten Resort while chasing his music dreams in the evenings and on weekends. We look forward to welcoming him to St. Stephen's Church. Refreshments will immediately follow his performance. Other venues and events scheduled throughout downtown can be found [here](#).
- **Communion Sunday**, October 6th @ 10:30
- **Council Meeting**, October 13 @ 9:30 a.m. (this was moved due to scheduling conflict)
- **Youth Sunday School**, beginning October 13th @ 9 a.m.
- **Dot Kasten Memorial Service**, Monday, October 14th @ 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family would like to invite donations to the Dot Kasten Scholarship Fund.
- **Skeleton Festival**, Saturday, October 19th @ 1 - 5 p.m. Set up will begin around 12:30 p.m. Candy donations from the congregation are welcome.
- **Children's Laity Sunday & Coffee Hour**, October 20th

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## 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](mailto:dddawson63@gmail.com)

**Currently**, we are accepting donations of school supplies on a rolling basis from now to the end of the year.

**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, Eric Ruple, Howard Pratt, Gerald Roddy, Ray Clary, Ellen Hicks, and the Family of Dot Kasten

Please share any updates as appropriate.

Following is a message from the Family of Dot Kasten...

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I am contacting Saint Stephen's UCC with the sad news that Dorothy Arey Kasten passed away peacefully about 5 AM on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. Dot has been a resident of the Bridgewater Retirement Community Nursing Household for almost six years.

A Memorial Service will be planned in the near future as the family is scattered throughout the states. More information will be provided when notified by the family

Her ashes will be interred in Holly Cemetery in Richmond with her husband, Dan Kasten.

Condolences may be sent to her family at the home of her son, Erick:

Erick Kasten  
1716 Rambling Road  
North Chesterfield, VA 23235

## October Birthdays

DD Dawson - 1	Patti King - 10	Amy Snider - 13
Jane Garber - 15	Jim Acker - 23	Faye Kersh - 25
Emily Giddens - 27	Shaila Solanki - 28	

News from the Christian Education Committee...



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## Looking Ahead!

### Christian Education Update

Beginning September 29 and continuing through November 3, we will be meeting after the service for a study of *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. I will be more than happy to order the book for you from Amazon (\$9.29, checks payable to St. Stephen's UCC). It is also available on Kindle for \$8.83. If you are ordering your own book, please let me know if you will be participating so I can create a group contact list.

Books for Fall, Advent and Lent are available for you to view in the office. And as always, if you have any suggestions, ideas, etc. for our studies, please feel free to let Christian Education or Pastor Craig know.

Our studies are open to one and all, if you can attend all or one, we welcome you. Please contact Maria Blair at [saintstephensucc@gmail.com](mailto:saintstephensucc@gmail.com), or 540-434-6290 for more information.

## 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/>



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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/>

DD brought to the attention of the congregation of a special collection currently underway for school supplies. Please bring your contributions to church and DD will distribute them.

## Rerun: 'A thin slice of Joy' ...

A photo rerun of the wonderful evening spent enjoying the first community concert presented by the Spotswood HS Choral Dept., under the direction of Dr. Jordan Davidson. The program was entitled "When You Wish Upon A Star" and consisted of tunes from the wonderful world of "Disney". It was enjoyed by many, as the First Friday event in September. We hope for a return visit!







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## A reminder from Pastor Craig ...

- We will kick off our Youth Sunday School on Sunday, October 13th at 9:00 a.m. in the downstairs conference room. Youth Sunday School will meet every other Sunday. Here is the schedule from now to the end of the year:

October 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Skeleton Festival, Saturday, October 19, 2024, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

October 27, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

November 10, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

November 24, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

December 8, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

December 22, 2024, 9:00 a.m., Youth Christmas Party

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## “Tell me something Good...”

### Doors of Daring

The mountains that enfold the vale  
With walls of granite, steep and high,  
Invite the fearless foot to scale  
Their stairway toward the sky.

The restless, deep, dividing sea  
That flows and foams from shore to shore,  
Calls to its sunburned chivalry,  
“Push out, set sail, explore!”

And all the bars at which we fret,  
That seem to prison and control,  
Are but the doors of daring, set  
Ajar before the soul.

Say not, “Too poor,” but freely give;  
Sigh not, “Too weak,” but boldly try,  
You never can begin to live  
Until you dare to die.

Henry Van Dyke



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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](mailto: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](mailto: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 in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." Romans 12:12**

**Rejoice, our Redeemer Lives!**

