



# Stephens City United Methodist Church

*Welcoming ~ Jesus-Centered ~ Mission-Oriented*

THE MESSENGER

APRIL 3, 2026

## This Week's Worship

Easter ~ Resurrection Sunday

*"Hear the Good News"*

[John 20:1-18; Acts 10:34-43](#)

[Please sign-up to read scripture](#)

April 5, 2026  
10:00 AM Worship  
Bulletin

[CLICK TO OPEN](#)



WORSHIP

[Click to see the  
Worship Road ahead](#)

The Adult Sunday School is discussing the [Lenten Study, An Unlikely Lent](#), by Rachel Billups. Class meets at 8:45 AM in Room 200. All are welcome.

The **SCUMC Online Prayer Group** meets the [FIRST](#) and [THIRD](#) Wednesdays of the month via Zoom for a time of intercessory prayer. Click the links to join.



## **Stephens City United Methodist Church**

5291 Main Street, P.O. Box 428 Stephens City, Virginia 22655

(540)-869-2348

540-869-9574 (fax)

• e-mail: [office@stephenscityumc.org](mailto:office@stephenscityumc.org); website: <http://www.stephenscityumc.org>

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March 31, 2026

Dear Church Family,

This church has been a place of refuge, worship, and community for generations. Weddings, baptisms, funerals, and first steps of faith have all taken place within these walls. That legacy is worth protecting.

Today, I am writing to you with honesty and with hope. Like many congregations, we are facing a financial gap that — if left unaddressed — could threaten our ability to continue the ministry you love. We are not in crisis, but we are at a crossroads. The decisions we make together in the coming weeks will shape the future of this church for years to come.

We, the Finance Committee, are asking each member of our congregation to prayerfully consider two things:

1. A one-time gift to the general fund — any amount — to help strengthen our immediate financial foundation.
2. Increasing your recurring tithes and offering to the general fund, even by a small amount each week or month.

If every family gave just a little more, the impact would be profound.

We believe in this church. We believe in you. And we believe that together, we can turn this moment into a milestone — not a setback.

This isn't about obligation. It's about belonging. It's about saying, "This place matters to me, and I want to be part of keeping it alive."

We are grateful for every prayer, every hour of service, and every gift you've given this church. Now we're asking you to give once more.

Thank you for your faithfulness to this church and to one another.

If you have questions or would like to speak with someone personally, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are your leadership team, and we are here.

With faith and gratitude,  
Jacquetta Owen  
Finance Committee Chair

**Friends, prayer is powerful and should be purposeful. Please take a moment to review our active Prayer Concerns for those who are living out their healing. If it is reasonable, please inform the office of any names that may be removed.**

<b>Prayer Concerns</b>		
Michael Arnold	Rebecca Downs	Sue Mink
Audrey Atkins	Vickie Duncan	Brenda Muniz
John Paul Atwell	Ed	Sandra Murff
Arlene Beard	Asher Evans	Pauline Nichols
Family of Anna Mae Bell	Roberta Evans	Elizabeth Ochampaugh
Butch Bennett	Dr. Richard Fieo	Brenda Perry
Joyce and Ronnie Blevins	Lisa Gillman	Cheryl Reames
Karry Bower	Cathy Gunn-Wels	Mark Rhodes
Carrie Bullock	Kim Hampton	Sharon Ritenour
Tamara Burdom	Amber Hearty	Steve Ritenour
Doug Chapman	Atticus Hearty	Abbie Ritter
Charlotte	Bayley Hochradel	Stephens Rogers
Edna Chestnut	Ron Hougham	Susan Ryker
Karen Clawson	Kenzie, Gaylene's granddaughter	Lucy Sesman
James Clawson	Faye Kerns	Craig Smith
Barbara Clevenger	Kathryn Koerner	Family of Henry Snider
Barbara Collis	Landen	Pat Staggs
Nancy Comer	Lilly	Gary Steele
Brian Cook	Family of Frank Litavec	Joe Taylor
Joy Costello	Stanley Long	Mary Thomas
Eddie and Janet Crites	Nanette Long	Diane Thomas
Wade Custer	Teresa Long	Nancy Valors
Tom Czerwinski	Luis	Victoria
Mark Davis	Dale, Molly Luther and Family	Family of Tom Waddell
Joe Delozier	Earl Luttrell	Nancy Washington
Tim Dillow		Victoria Zabala



## Food Pantry

Last week the Food Pantry served **36** families with **144** individuals.  
Contact Cookie Shank, Food Pantry Manager, at 540-313-5673 or email:  
[foodpantry.scumc@outlook.com](mailto:foodpantry.scumc@outlook.com), for more information and how you can help.

### **Stephens City UMC Book/Movie Club**

2nd Saturday of the month 10:00am to 12:00pm Stephens City UMC, 529 Main St.,  
Stephens City (parking and entrance in back of Church)

- No Meeting in April
- May 9th—Angela's Ashes—Frank McCourt
- June 13th— Miracles from Heaven: A Little Girl and Her Amazing Story of Healing—  
Christy Wilson Beam
- July 11th—Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone —J.K. Rowling
- August 8th—Overcomer—Alex & Stephen Kendrick
- September 12th—Dune—Frank Herbert
- October 10th — Skipping Christmas (Book) Christmas with the Kranks (movie)—John  
Grishem

[Click for Entire 2026 Reading Schedule](#)

For more information please contact Kathie at  
[kathieczerwinski@gmail.com](mailto:kathieczerwinski@gmail.com)

**~ Tickets On-Sale NOW ~**

# FOUR SEASONS LADIES TEA

Saturday April 11, 2026

12:00pm



**Tickets \$20.00 each and will  
be available March 1st**

Ladies dust off your hats and gloves, put on your pearls and come join us for an afternoon of fellowship, refreshments, music and an inspirational speaker

**5 Tickets left!! See Debbie Jones  
or Donna Steward for tickets.  
Checks Payable to SC-UWF**

Sponsored by  
Stephens City UMC  
United Women in

UWF will also head up the annual Mother's Day UMCOR kit drive. People may donate money for a hygiene kit in memory of, or in honor of individuals and the names will be placed in the bulletin on Mother's Day. Also UWF plans to have a sale of hanging flower baskets on Friday, May 8th and Saturday, May 9th in front of the church for a fundraiser.

# Save the Date

## FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

April 25, 10 am – 3 pm

Stephens City United Methodist Church

### Items to Purchase

Bedding flowers  
flower arrangements  
garden vegetables  
flower/veggie seeds  
houseplants  
Boy Scout mulch  
garden supplies  
baked goods

### Activities

fairy garden making  
birdhouse building  
landscape services  
facepainting  
gnome homes  
art lessons  
planting instructions  
games

Also – Music, Michael the Balloon Man

Lolo, the Clown

Smokey the Bear



Register for Training Day! Shenandoah River District is offering a training day on Saturday, April 25, 2026. Offered at Bridgewater UMC and Macedonia UMC, we will learn from Tim Ward and his keynote presentation and offer breakout groups for other ministries. This event costs \$20/person and lunch is provided

[Register Today!](#)

## [Click to View Shenandoah River District Newsletter](#)



What is happening throughout the Virginia Conference? Find out in the Virginia Conference Quarterly Report, “The Q”.

[Click here](#)

## SUMMER CAMP

**It is hard to believe that while we are in the midst of moving snow and ice, we are preparing for Summer Camp, but here we are. We are gearing up for another fun filled summer camp season. We will be starting off the summer on June 15. The first week of the summer will be Day Camp for all ages. We will have our regular Elementary (Grades 1 – 5) Day Camp as well as an Art Day Camp and Sports Day Camp for grades 3 – 12. We will begin our Overnight sessions on June 21. Throughout the summer we will have multiple sessions of Chriskids (grades 3 – 6), Voyagers (grades 6 – 9), Pioneers (grades 8 – 12), and Adventure Quest (grades 9 – 12). We will also have one session of Horse Camp (grades 6 – 9) and Night Flights (grades 8 – 12) and Mini Camp (grades 1 – 5).**

**This year’s Summer Camp theme is the “Missionary Journeys of Paul”. We will continue telling the story of the Early Church that we began last summer. We will travel with Paul as he visits and starts new churches, but that also means we will experience some of the hardships that he encounters.**

**Register for Summer Camp at <https://www.campoverlook.org/collections/summer-camp>. Register by April 1 and enjoy our Early Bird Discount. We also offer a sibling discount. All Churches are encouraged to sponsor one more camper than last year.**





Virginia Annual Conference  
June 17-20, 2026  
Atlantic Union Bank Center  
on the campus of JMU



Calling all Shenandoah Valley folks with gifts for kindness and hospitality:

We are searching for over **150 volunteers to help us host our first Shenandoah River District-area Annual Conference in Harrisonburg** this year. We need many folks (even non-UMC!) with lots of kindness, knowledge and/or stories of the area to make this an unforgettable experience full of Shenandoah Valley hospitality for all.

If you are interested in partnering with us at this Annual Conference, please indicate your willingness, abilities, and availability. Our District Team will continue working with the Annual Conference Planning Committee to determine what jobs are available and then we will reach out and work with you one-on-one to find a job that suits you.

Thank you for your willingness, excitement, and energy. You will be the reason this is a magnificent experience for our Annual Conference members!

Some areas of help that will be needed are:

- Help with set up of conference at the Atlantic Union Bank Center in the days before and take down after the event
- Help with golf carts as they arrive at the center in the days before AC
- Registration Table (signing in Laity and Clergy)
- Ushers (Wednesday through Saturday at noon)
- Hospitality
- Golf carts (driving and assisting persons into the arena)
- Tech Desk

The official sign up sheet is coming soon, but in the meantime, now is the time to be thinking about what you can offer by giving of your gifts and talents!.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS and ACTIVITIES

THIS WEEK			NEXT WEEK		
<b>April 5</b>	<b>Easter ~ Resurrection Day</b>		April 12	7:30am	United Methodist Men (Fellowship)
	6:30am	Sunrise Service (Newtown Commons)		8:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)		10:00am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	6:00pm	Quilting Group (Rm 102)		11:15am	Trustees Meeting (Gathering Space)
				6:00pm	Quilting Group (Rm 102)
April 6	<b>Church Office Closed</b>		April 13	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)
	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)			
April 7	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)	April 14	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)
	11:00am	Food Pantry Distribution		11:00am	Food Pantry Distribution
				6:00pm	Lions Club (Fellowship Hall)
April 8	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)	April 15	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00pm	Praise Band (Sanctuary)		11:30am	Lunch Bunch (Longhorn)
				6:30pm	Prayer Group (via Zoom)
				7:00pm	Praise Band (Sanctuary)
April 9	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)	April 16	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00pm	Apple Valley Ringers (Sanctuary)		7:00pm	Apple Valley Ringers (Sanctuary)
April 10	10:00am	UWF Tea Setup	April 17	9:00am	Lions Club Breakfast Setup
	10:00am	Caring Outreach Ministry (Rm 102)			
April 11	Noon	UWF Tea (Fellowship Hall)	April 18	7:00am	Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

**[CLICK TO VIEW THE CHURCH CALENDAR](#)**

### **Stephens City United Methodist Church**

**P.O. Box 428, 5291 Main Street, Stephens City, Virginia 22655**

**CHURCH OFFICE:** Mon-Fri: 8:30 am – 1:00 pm

540-869-2348 office@stephenscityumc.org

**Pastor:** Rev. Bertina J. H. Westley ~ bertinawestley@vaumc.org

**Daycare Office:** 540-866-2132 scumcdaycare@gmail.com

**Preschool Office:** 540-869-1368 stephenscitypreschool@gmail.com

**Food Pantry:** 540-313-5673 foodpantry.scumva@outlook.com



**[WWW.STEPHENS CITYUMC.ORG](http://WWW.STEPHENS CITYUMC.ORG)**