



Stephens City United Methodist Church

Welcoming ~ Jesus-Centered ~ Mission-Oriented

THE MESSENGER

APRIL 10, 2026

This Week's Worship

Easter ~ 2nd Sunday of Easter

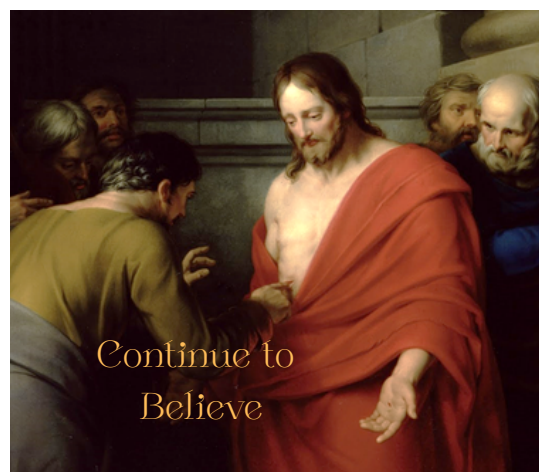
"Continue to Believe"

[John 20:19-31](#)

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

April 12, 2026
10:00 AM Worship
Bulletin

[CLICK TO OPEN](#)



WORSHIP

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

Starting April 12, Christy Wintrose will lead the Adult Sunday School Class in Season 3 of a Discipleship Series from Focus on the Family by Ray Vander Lan. This season focuses on Jesus as a man, who chose to reveal Himself as a first century rabbi to a first century Jewish audience.

In addition, Joe Staggs will intersperse some lessons from the History and Archaeology of the Bible. On April 19, he will present the chapter on "The Ministry of Jesus"

Come and join the discussion and fellowship on Sundays at 8:45-9:45 am in Room 200.



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; website: <http://www.stephenscityumc.org>

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.

Prayer Concerns

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



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, 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

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



**Sign-up sheets to help with the
Lady Bug Cafe
are in the Gathering Space**

The SCUMC Daycare~Preschool will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair in the Gathering Space, April 19 – 26. Books for Children, Grandchildren, even Great-grandparents will be available for purchase throughout the week and after the worship service on Sunday. For more information, contact Heather Austin at 540-866-2132 or scumcd daycare@stephencityumc.org





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		
April 12	7:30am	United Methodist Men (Fellowship)	April 19	Daycare~Preschool Book Fair April 19-26	
	8:45am	Sunday School		8:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)		10:00am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	11:15am	Trustees Meeting (Gathering Space)		6:00pm	Quilting Group (Rm 102)
	6:00pm	Quilting Group (Rm 102)			
April 13	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)	April 20	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)
				6:30pm	United Women in Faith (Rm 102)
April 14	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)	April 21	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)
	11:00am	Food Pantry Distribution		11:00am	Food Pantry Distribution
	6:00pm	Lions Club (Fellowship Hall)			
April 15	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)	April 22	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)
	11:30am	Lunch Bunch (Longhorn)		7:00pm	Praise Band (Sanctuary)
	6:30pm	Prayer Group (via Zoom)			
	7:00pm	Praise Band (Sanctuary)			
April 16	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)	April 23	8:00am	Seniors First SAAA (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00pm	Apple Valley Ringers (Sanctuary)		7:00pm	Apple Valley Ringers (Sanctuary)
April 17	9:00am	Lions Club Breakfast Setup	April 24		
April 18	7:00am	Lions Club Pancake Breakfast	April 25	10:00am	Movie & Book Club (Rm 101)
	10:00am	Caregiver Support Group		10:00am	Flower/ Garden Festival (Commons)

[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