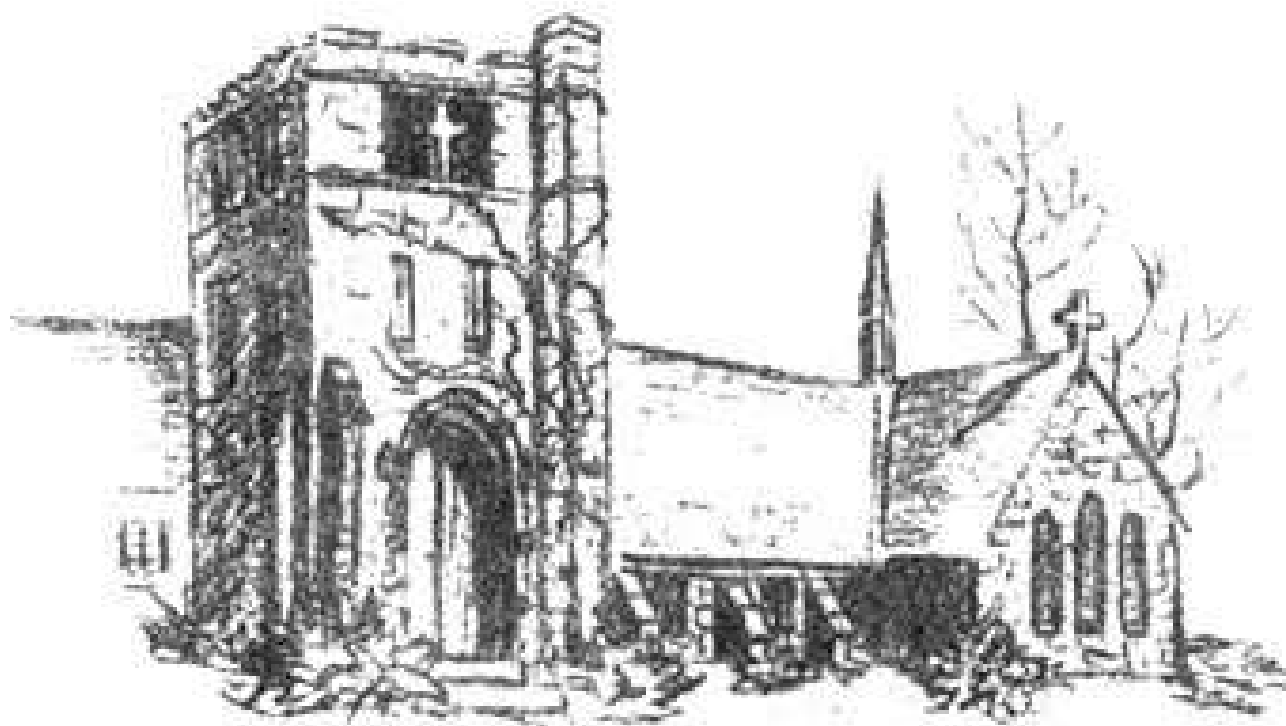


# **The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 26, 2025**



**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
1935 The Plaza  
Parish Office: 1229 Baker Avenue  
Schenectady, New York 12309  
518-346-6241; [office@st-stephens.church](mailto:office@st-stephens.church)

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**  
**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Proper 25**  
**October 26, 2025**

**The Entrance Rite**

**The Prelude**

*A Quiet Prayer*

Martin

**The Processional Hymn**

Hymnal #680

**The Word of God**

**The Opening Acclamation**

Page #355

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People:* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Collect for Purity**

Page #355

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.  
*People:* **Amen.**

**Gloria in Excelsis**

Hymnal S-280

*All:* **Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**The Collect of the Day**

Page #235

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.  
*People:* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*People:* **Amen.**

## The Lessons

### The First Lesson

Sirach 35:12-17

*Lector:* A reading from the book of Sirach.  
Give to the Most High as he has given to you,  
and as generously as you can afford.  
For the Lord is the one who repays,  
and he will repay you sevenfold.  
Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it  
and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice;  
for the Lord is the judge,  
and with him there is no partiality.  
He will not show partiality to the poor;  
but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged.  
He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan,  
or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### The Psalm

Psalms 84:1-6

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

### The Second Lesson

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

*Lector:* A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.  
I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.  
At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the

glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Sequence Hymn**

Hymnal #517

### **The Holy Gospel**

Luke 18:9-14

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*Celebrant:* Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### **The Sermon**

The Rev. Lisa Busby

### **The Nicene Creed**

Page #358

*All:* **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **The Prayers of the People Form III**

Page #387

*Intercessor:* Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*People:* **That we all may be one.**

*Intercessor:* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*People:* **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

*Intercessor:* We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*People:* **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

*Intercessor:* We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*People:* **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

*Intercessor:* Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*People:* **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

*Intercessor:* Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*People:* **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

*Intercessor:* Give to the departed eternal rest.  
*People:* **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Intercessor:* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*People:* **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

*Intercessor:* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

### **The Confession of Sin and Absolution**

Page #360

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All:* **Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

*People:* **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

Page #360

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People:* **And also with you.**

## The Announcements

## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory Anthem

*Elegy*  
Bell Choir

Krug

### The Doxology

V.3, Hymnal #380

### The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A

Page #361

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.  
*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People:* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*(The celebrant continues with a Proper Preface)*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## Sanctus

Page S-129

*All:* **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant:* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All:* **Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant:* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and

thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*People:* **AMEN.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Page #364

*Celebrant:* And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*All:* **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Page #364

*Celebrant:* Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

### **The Fraction Anthem: Agnus Dei**

Hymnal S-161

*All:* **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.**

### **The Invitation**

Page #364

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Celebrant/Minister:* The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**  
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

### **The Communion Hymn**

Hymnal #314

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Page #365

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*All:* **Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food**

**in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **The Concluding Rite**

**The Blessing**

Page #366

**The Recessional Hymn**

Hymnal #555

**The Dismissal**

Page #366

*Celebrant:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Postlude**

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*  
Bell Choir

arr. Krug

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Our Intercessions for the week of October 26, 2025**

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church in Wales.

Our Leaders: Donald Trump, President of the United States; Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York; and Gary McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady.

Our Church Leaders: Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop of Albany; and Lisa Busby, Rector.

The Church of England, the Anglican Communion and The Right Reverend and Right Honorable Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in need of strength and healing: Mary Ann Harrington, Marilyn Causey, Vincent Avila, Peter Nelson, Basil Dewdney, Austin Spang, Don Regula, Chris Morin, Helen Perkins, Perrin, Denise Crates, William O., Mtr. Sally Heiligman, Linda, Ann M., Jean V., and Bill Frank.

For all public employees that they may continue their work for justice, peace, and the common good, for those who have lost their jobs, and for all those who live in fear.

For those in the Military: Zachary.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Announcements

### October 26, 2025

|                |                       |                                 |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Serving Today: | Altar Guild:          | Carolyn Morin                   |
|                | Ushers:               | Dave Crates<br>Marilyn Humphrey |
|                | Eucharistic Minister: | Basil Dewdney                   |
|                | Acolyte:              | George Woodzell                 |
|                | Lector:               | Mildred Gittinger               |
|                | Intercessor:          | Dave Crates                     |
|                | Counter:              | Bob Brockway                    |
|                | Coffee Hour:          | Ruth Basantes                   |

**Today's Altar Flowers** are given by Basil Dewdney to the glory of God and in loving memory of his mother, Elizabeth, and his brother, Keith.

**The YWCA talk on antiracism** by Kim Siciliano is postponed until Sunday, December 7.

**The Social Action** Committee will meet today during coffee hour in the youth lounge.

**Today, October 26th at 3:00 p.m.**, Alfred Fedak will present an organ recital at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 547 Saratoga Rd., Glenville. The program will feature music in celebration of the legacy of the Protestant Reformation. Freewill offering.

**The *Forward Day by Day*** daily devotional publication for November/December/January is available (in the pocket size version only) on the table in nave extension.

**Wednesday Mornings:** You are invited to join Mother Lisa in reading and reflecting on the upcoming Sunday's bible readings from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. No prior study is required, and you can take part on just those mornings when you are able to come for this hour.

**This Wednesday morning, October 29**, is the deadline for submitting the names of those persons you wish to have memorialized in the All Souls Day bulletin to the office. Ensure that names are given exactly as you wish them to appear. All dedications will be assumed to be "In memory of," unless otherwise indicated.

**Next Sunday is Change Day**, when we set our clocks back and donate our change to Things Of My Very Own (TOMVO). This is a local non-profit organization that provides crisis intervention services to children impacted by extensive abuse or neglect. Their goal is to keep children together with non-abusive family members and out of the foster care system. We have decided to leave the collection container out every Sunday; you can find it in the nave extension. Please donate your change (coins and bills accepted) to help children in crisis.

**Episcopalians are invited** to join a churchwide Veterans Day Holy Eucharist service **at 7 p.m. ET Nov. 11**—via livestream or in person at the Church Center chapel in New York City—to honor those who have served in the military and specially recognize the Episcopal chaplains who support them. The livestream—from the Chapel of Christ the Lord at 815 Second Ave. in New York City—will air on The Episcopal Church's website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. Those wishing to attend in-person need to register in advance on The Episcopal Church's Office of Public Affairs website.

**Upcoming events sponsored by Schenectady Clergy against Hate:**

**Transday of Remembrance:** Thursday, November 20 at 7 pm at Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church, 943 Palmer Avenue, Schenectady.

**Interfaith Thanksgiving service:** Sunday evening, November 23 at 5 pm at the Union College Old Chapel, Library Lane in Schenectady.

**Care packages for our college students:** The stress of exams before the Christmas break is lightened with a box of treats from St. Stephen's. We are requesting donations such as candy and treats, \$5 gift cards to Star-

bucks or Dunkin' or money to help cover the cost of shipping and purchasing needed items. Another really important part of this project is short notes of encouragement. They love reading them! Please leave your contributions in the basket in the nave extension by November 23.

**Safe House Contributions:** We are collecting personal care items for at-risk youth. Please use the labeled basket in the nave extension for your contributions.

**Christmas Cards for Jail:** Please bring in unused Christmas cards (with envelopes!) for those in the Schenectady County Jail to send to their loved ones. Donations of stamps are also very much appreciated!

**Thank you** to all who have volunteered to sponsor flowers and/or to host coffee hour. New sign-up sheets will be available soon.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **At Saint Stephen's**

**Wednesday, 10/29, 10:00 a.m.:** Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.  
**Deadline** for submitting Memorial names for All Saints Day bulletin.

**Thursday, 10/30, 7:00 p.m.:** Chancel Choir rehearsal.

**Sunday, 11/2, 9:30 a.m.:** All Saints/All Souls Day Holy Eucharist.

**Wednesday, 11/5, 10:00 a.m.:** Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

**Sunday, 11/9, 9:30 a.m.:** Holy Eucharist.  
Service Committee meeting in the Youth Lounge following the service.

**Monday, 11/10, 7:00 p.m.:** Vestry meeting.

**Tuesday, 11/11, 1:00 p.m.:** Book Club meeting.

**Wednesday, 11/12, 10:00 a.m.:** Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

**Sunday, 11/16, 9:30 a.m.:** Holy Eucharist.

**Wednesday, 11/19, 10:00 a.m.:** Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

**Sunday, 11/23, 9:30 a.m.:** Holy Eucharist.

**Wednesday, 11/26, 10:00 a.m.:** Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

**Thursday, 11/27, 9:30 a.m.:** Thanksgiving Day service with Holy Eucharist.

**Sunday, 11/30, 9:30 a.m.:** Holy Eucharist.  
Pastoral Care Committee meeting following the service.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Church Staff & Lay Leaders:**

Rev. Lisa Busby, Rector

George Woodzell, Senior Warden  
Carole Merrill-Mazurek, Junior Warden  
Susan Lohnas, Organist  
Douglas Lohnas, Director of the Choirs  
Jon Ewbank, Office Manager  
Denise Crates, Treasurer  
Theresa Fay, Clerk

### **Vestry**

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Ruth Basantes    | Denise Crates   |
| Basil Dewdney    | Linda Emaclaf   |
| Vicki Hoshko     | Stan Jakubowski |
| Deborah O'Connor | Jean Stefanski  |

# Welcome!

**We are glad you have chosen to worship and give thanks to God with us.**

**WORSHIP:** The Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Join us for refreshments most Sundays in Begley Hall after our service.

Members of the parish offer Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, and 8:00 a.m. on Sunday. Please contact the church office for the link.

Other services are announced.

**HYMNS:** Our hymns are posted on hymn boards and are listed in our bulletin. They are drawn from the blue *Hymnal* and the black-and-red *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. "Service music," indicated with an "S" before the number, comes at the beginning of the *Hymnal*. Hymns come in the second section. Hymns from *Lift Every Voice and Sing* are preceded by an "LEV."

**CHILDREN:** We are delighted to have children of all ages and love hearing their voices. We offer a children's sermon when children are present and post a brief children's message each week on our website. The greeters can give them an activity pack. There is a nursery with toys and a comfortable chair if you would like to take a break from the service with your child or find a quiet place to nurse. In the Episcopal Church it is customary for parents to determine the appropriate age for children to take communion. We can always offer "first communion" instruction to you/your children.

**COMMUNION:** All baptized persons may receive Holy Communion. If you do not wish to take the bread (wafer) or the wine, place your arms across your chest and a member of the clergy will ask God's blessing upon you and on any children not yet receiving communion. If you would like the elements brought to your seat, please speak with a greeter.

**FOR THOSE WITH ALLERGIES:** If you would like to receive communion wafers that are gluten-wheat-yeast-dairy-egg-soy-nut- and corn-free at Communion, please ask for one from the ministers distributing communion.

**OFFERTORY:** During the offertory, the greeters take up a collection for funds which support the church and our various ministries. Many people pledge annual support, which is helpful in developing our budget. All contributions are welcomed.

**MASKS:** The use of masks is optional. The greeters can provide you with one if you like.

**CONVERSATION / PASTORAL VISITS** are available. Please contact the Parish Office.

**MEMBERSHIP:** We welcome visitors from other churches as well as those for whom church is a new experience. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to talk with you about becoming a member. Please speak with a warden or fill out a pew card for someone to contact you.

**LABYRINTH:** Our labyrinth, in the courtyard between the church and Begley Hall, is an adaptation of the millennia-old classical type. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only one path in and out; there are no tricks or dead ends. The path winds from the exterior to the center and can become a mirror for our journey of life, touching our sorrows and releasing our joys. Walk it with an open mind and an open heart. Instructions are available at the back of the church.

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION:** Please be in touch with the parish office if you have suggestions for this ministry.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Prayer request sheets can be found on the lectern in the back of the church. You can place anyone on our "Prayer Chain" by contacting Suzanne Taylor at [popage@aol.com](mailto:popage@aol.com) or by contacting the parish office. Please get the permission of those you add for their names to be used. We will include your request for four weeks in our services of Morning Prayer and count on you to keep us updated.

**COMMUNICATION:** You may contact us at 518-346-6241 (Office Phone); [office@st-stephens.church](mailto:office@st-stephens.church) (e-mail); <https://st-stephens.church> (website); and <https://www.facebook.com/SaintStephensSchenectady>. The Parish Office is generally open Mondays-Fridays from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Mother Lisa Busby can be contacted at 518-637-7736 or [revlisabusby@st-stephens.church](mailto:revlisabusby@st-stephens.church).