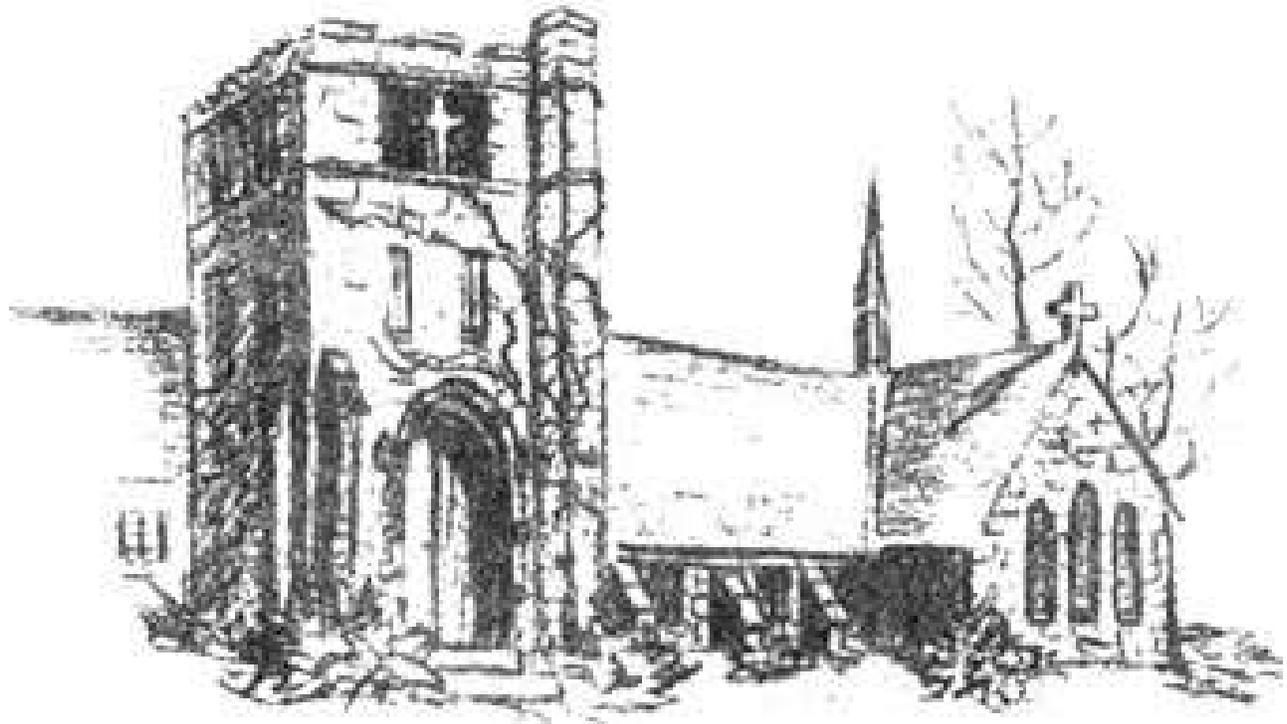


**The Last Sunday
after Pentecost
November 23, 2025**



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

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
The Last Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 29
November 23, 2025

The Entrance Rite

The Prelude

Beautiful Savior

Cherwien

The Processional Hymn

Hymnal #494

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 #236

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Lector: A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."
- 12 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

The Second Lesson

Colossians 1:11-20

Lector: A reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians.

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-- all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #483

The Holy Gospel

Luke 23:33-43

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

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

Celebrant: When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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

Autumn Carol

Schulz-Widmar

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 #324

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 #435

The Dismissal

Page #366

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

The Postlude

O Worship the King

Croft/Cherwien

* * * * *

Our Intercessions for the week of November 23, 2025

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

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, Mtr. Sally Heiligman, Linda, Ann M., Jean V., Bill Frank and Rick Morin.

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

November 23, 2025

Serving Today:	Altar Guild:	Carolyn Morin
	Ushers:	Dave Crates Doreen May
	Eucharistic Minister:	Basil Dewdney
	Acolyte:	George Woodzell
	Lector:	Carole Merrill-Mazurek
	Intercessor:	Linda Emaelaf
	Counter:	Judy Versocki
	Coffee Hour:	George & Richey Woodzell Linda Emaelaf

Today's Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and for positive change by Don and Joan Csaposs.

Final Stewardship Letter and 2026 Pledge Cards: Please pick your pledge packet which includes a 2026 Pledge card and the Treasurer's stewardship letter and proposed 2026 budget. It is available on the table in the nave extension (arranged in alphabetic order). If you do not find one with your name on it, please notify Jon in the office. As a reminder, the ingathering of pledges will be next Sunday, November 30 – The First Sunday of Advent.

Change collection for Things of My Very Own has reached \$433.76. Thank you!

Care packages for our college students: Donations are due in today to allow time for packing. 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 Starbucks or Dunkin' or money to help cover the cost of shipping and purchasing needed items. A really important part of this project is to include short notes of encouragement. They love reading them! Please leave your contributions in the basket in the nave extension.

Undies Sunday is today. Please donate women's plain cotton underpants, sizes 6-9, any color or cut. If you wish to take advantage of Black Friday sales, the basket for donations will be available next Sunday as well.

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!

Christmas Stockings: We will be collecting stuffed Christmas stockings for Things of My Very Own over the next few weeks. Stockings are available in the back of the church. Feel free to take one and stuff it with items appropriate for a child or teenager. There are index cards attached to the stocking for you to write whether it is for a boy or girl, and approximate age range (i.e., Boy - age 6 - 8). Suggested stocking stuffers are small toys/stuffies, crayons/markers, small pads of paper, children's toothbrushes/toothpaste, soaps/bath products, candy, small puzzles/games, jewelry, hair accessories, card games, etc. Most of these items can be purchased at the dollar store, Walmart, or Target. Due date for the stuffed stockings is December 7. If you have any questions, please see Linda Emaelaf or Debbie O'Connor.

Due to the holiday the Bible Reading and Reflections group will NOT meet this Wednesday morning (11/26). But 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. on the following and subsequent Wednesdays. No prior study is required, and you can take part on just those mornings when you are able to come for this hour.

Coffee Hour sign-ups - There is a new sign-up sheet in the back of the church which will take us through mid-February and we need volunteers! Please consider signing up to host a Sunday. If you have any questions, please see Linda Emaelaf or Carole Merrill-Mazurek.

Food for Pantry: Thank you for the food donations! There has been a 20% increase in the number of households served at the Sycamore Collaborative food pantry during the past two months. So far this month St. Stephen's has donated 151# of food. Please bring in peanut butter, cooking oil or any Thanksgiving items. To make your contribution go further, you may also donate online at <https://sycamorecollab.org>.

The Messenger Deadline: Items for inclusion in the December issue of the newsletter should be submitted by this Friday, November 28.

YWCA presentation by Kim Siciliano on their work on antiracism will be held during coffee hour on December 7.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 11/26, 10:00 a.m.: NO Bible Reading and Reflection today.

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

Friday, 11/28: Deadline for submission of items for the December newsletter.

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

Pledge Ingathering.

Deadline for collection of women's underwear and Christmas cards for the county jail.

Wednesday, 12/3, 10:00 a.m.: Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

Sunday, 12/7, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Deadline for filled Christmas Stockings for Things of My Very Own.

Monday, 12/8, 7:00 p.m.: Vestry meeting.

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

Sunday, 12/14, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Tuesday, 12/16, 1:00 P.M.: Book Club meeting.

Wednesday, 12/17, 10:00 a.m.: Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

7:30 p.m.: Blue Christmas service.

Sunday, 12/21, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Wednesday, 12/24, 10:00 a.m.: NO Bible Reading and Reflection today.

4:30 p.m.: Christmas Eve service (Early).

7:30 p.m.: Christmas Eve service (Late).

* * * * *

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 Emaelaf

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 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 (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.