

St Stephen's Announcements Nov 23-29 2023

Prayer for Thanksgiving Day:

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

- **Thanksgiving Day Worship and Dinner** – Join us for a time to express our thanks to God for all the blessings we enjoy on **Thanksgiving morning, Nov 23rd at 10am**. We will then have a full Thanksgiving dinner to follow in the Parish Hall at 11:30am.
- **UTO Blue Boxes available with info on what the United Thank Offering is and prompts for November for giving thanks for the many blessings we enjoy.** We will gather the boxes on Thanksgiving Day and the weekend following.
- **Pledge cards should please be returned by end of November. Thank you. Save time do it online [here](https://ststephensaz.org/2024-pledge-drive/).**
- **Christmas “Go Bags” for Foster Kids** – Please take a canvas or nylon bag from the back pew of the church to fill with suggested items (shopping list in each bag with boy/girl, age, and sizes) to provide to our Cochise County social services people. These bags will help when social workers have to move a child to a foster home in a hurry. Kids who are moved to foster care often leave with only the clothes they are wearing and maybe a few items in a trash bag. These bags will give them sleepwear, change of underclothes, and next day outfits along with toiletries, a lap blanket, a stuffed animal and some sort of toy or drawing/coloring books to help them with their separation and time in transition. Bags with their contents should be returned to the church by Dec 15th. Thank you for your help with some of the least of these in our area.
- **Coats for Kids** - Last week to drop off gently used or new coats for kids is First week of December.
- **12 Steps for Christians meets on Wednesdays at 5pm in the Parish Hall.** New book “12 steps to a compassionate life” by Karen Armstrong will begin December 6th. Copies available from Rev. Allison for \$8.00.
- **Advent devotional books to use in your daily prayers are available for you on the back table.** Sat and Sun adult forum will discuss the weekly reflections and share our own thoughts. Wednesday worship at 9:30am will also use the reflection for their homily/sermon time.
- **Community Christmas Concert – Dec 1-2, Friday and Saturday** at the United Methodist Church doors open 6:30pm. Come hear three of our community choruses as they present a variety of Christmas themed choral pieces to celebrate the season. **Tickets are \$10** in advance or at the door. Free will offering to support the Warrior Healing Center which assist veterans with the help they need.
- **New Women’s Lectionary in use during the coming year:** Bishop Reddall has approved for our use a new Lectionary that explores some of the lesser known or used Scripture passages in the Bible that highlight women’s stories and also has a translation that tries to express God’s name and character in more neutral ways.
- **Please continue to drop off your aluminum cans and pull tabs** – We will continue to take to Animal Shelter to donate for them.
- **Christmas worship services:** This year 4th Advent falls on the same Sunday as Christmas Eve. We will have 4th Advent on Saturday Dec 23rd (with music) at 5pm but **no Sunday morning worship on Dec 24th**. We will have **Christmas Eve service on Sunday Dec 24th at 5pm**. We will also have a **Christmas Day service on Monday Dec 25th at 10am** with a short brunch to follow in the Parish Hall.
- **The Church Office will be closed between Christmas and New Years Day.** You can still call and leave a message or send an email if you have an urgent need to contact Rev. Allison or the church office. We will be monitoring those communications in case of emergency. After hours (7pm to 7am), please call Rev. Allison at her home number: 520-335-2436, her cell phone is turned off at night.